

The Descendants of Waters Nathan Waite

Waters Nathan Waite was an remarkable man. I've known this since the day the portraits of he and his wife arrived and were hung on the walls in my parent's living room. His eyes follow me as I walk around the room and I can almost hear the whispered request for me to solve his puzzle. Or do the laugh lines and the faint smile hidden in his beard conceal a chuckle as he watches me search for what he so carefully has hidden.

It has always been clear to me that Waters saw possibilities that others might have ignored and the fact that he searched for gold so often in his life showed his fascination with the end of the rainbow. Each new truth I learn about him makes me want to know more. Why did he leave home at such a young age? What motivated him to leave New England for California? I'm sure the lure of gold helped him decide his destination, but what demons drove him away from family and friends? Having step-children of my own makes me appreciate the remarkable feat he accomplished by raising four step-daughters as well as his own two children. What kind of man would make the trek to the Yukon Territory in search of gold when in his mid-sixties? How strong in body and mind he had to have been. What did he need to prove to himself and why?

For over twenty years I have searched for Waters' ancestry in the hope of understanding the answers to these questions. I have not met with much success and have often wondered in frustration if he may have sprung up, full grown, from the rocky soil of New England. Knowing that this is probably not the case, I persevere in the search and at the same time, grudgingly acknowledge that his ancestry and the answers to my questions may likely remain a mystery. Although I believe this may originally have been his desire, I strive to solve his mystery in the hope that even 95 years after his death; its acknowledgment may give him some peace. Perhaps in some way, my acceptance and respect for his life will allow him to accept it himself.

Reading This Narrative

This narrative has been written in order to document the life and descendants of an amazing man, Waters Nathan Waite. Because of it's limited scope, covering only the years from 1830 through 2004, and due to the fact that I can account for nearly all of Waters' known descendants, I do not expect that this narrative will be of much use to anyone in the immediate future. However, in an effort to preserve what little information I've uncovered over the past twenty-seven years, I've decided to go ahead and publish it both as a testimony to Papa Waters and just in case someone in the future is interested. Geographic areas covered include western Vermont, Wisconsin, and various counties in northern California as well as Dawson City in the Yukon Territory.

Primary documentation of all facts has been attempted wherever possible. If primary documentation was not found, US Census data; family records and personal knowledge of the informant; and secondary sources of information were used for corroboration of facts in that order. Each "fact" is followed by a citation in parenthesis. This coding is then listed in alphabetical order at the end of this book. For instance, the citation (CERT) when looked up, states that the fact came from a copy of a notarized birth, marriage or death certificate in my possession. The location of the event is given within the text. Therefore the statement, Susan Phelps Waite born 6 Feb. 1955 San José, Santa Clara, California (CERT) will inform the reader that a certified copy of this birth certificate, which occurred in San José, is in my possession. Had the entry been followed by a citation such as (V1PG92), the reader would be informed that although I do not possess the actual certificate, the record for it can be found in San José in Volume 1 on Page 92. As a final example, US Census data quoted within the text might be cited simply as USC1850. This refers to the year the census was taken, the location always having been mentioned within the text. All other citations should be self-explanatory, I hope. Should anyone interested in some of the more obscure sources wish to have a copy they should feel free to contact me with the request.

The numbering system is really quite simple. Waters Nathan Waite, as the first know member of this line is number 1. His step-children and children are numbered sequentially from the number two. Further information on an individual appearing later in the text is denoted by a "+" preceding their identification number. Persons appear under their own name, in order of their identification number, if they had children as of the publication date. A different chapter has been formed for each generation with the sequential numbering system

remaining consistent throughout. Step-children and adoptees are included throughout the line according to their birth order and as members of the family even though they are not biological descendants of Waters

I sincerely hope that anyone reading this narrative will find it informative and entertaining. The persons mentioned here are mostly common people. There's no one famous or even infamous in this group. But these people are my blood and without them I would not be me. I would like to apologize at this time to anyone who finds my elaborate use of transcribed wedding announcements and obituaries and other sundry articles cumbersome. They've been included here so that we all might get a better feeling for the lives that my ancestors have lived. Please read them in the spirit in which they are offered; as color for what could otherwise be a dull black and white photograph. A non-privatized version is available for immediate family members.

The First Generation



Waters Nathan Waite 1830/3 - 1901

Waters Nathan Waite was born between 1830 and 1833 in Vermont or Canada. The earliest documented reference to Waters found is his appearance in the 1850 US Census for Cornwall, Addison, Vermont taken 25 Oct. 1850. His age is given as twenty and his birthplace as Canada. Waters gave his occupation as blacksmith. At the time, Waters was residing with the Nelson Darling family. Nelson's family consisted of his wife Nancy; age 31 born England and daughters Emma age 2 and Ellen age 1; both born Vermont. Nelson gave his age as 23 and his occupation as blacksmith.

The church records of the Cornwall Congregational Church contain the only other mention of Waters in New England found to date. He was admitted to the church in 1851, member #1007, and was discharged 30 Jan. 1852. (CCR) This is most likely the date on which he left Vermont for California. The church records do not make any mention of where he was admitted from or discharged to.

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From The New York Daily Times 6 Apr 1852; SS Northern Light, commanded by Capt. Tinklepaugh, sailed from New York City 5 Apr 1852. The clipper ship Northern Light was running between Central America and San Francisco at this time. It arrived in San Francisco 25 May 1852. The passenger list was different and it was commanded by Capt. Loring. (See San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists, Vol. I by Louis J. Rassmussen and The Maritime Heritage Project for further information) Per the original

advertisement in the New York Times (read by John Ireland, erie44@pt5dome.com) the SS Northern Light was originally scheduled to leave on 10 Apr 1852 although it did leave on the 5th. The passengers were supposed to board the SS Lewis on the Pacific side for the final leg of their trip to San Francisco. It is likely though that this never happened. The SS Lewis was a new steamer which departed from New York on 6 Mar 1852 and headed directly for San Francisco where it arrived on 7 Jul 1852...112 days later. It made several stops along the way including one at Panama 26 May 1852...however; the passengers should have been, according to John, long gone by then.

According to notes from the SS Columbus which transported passengers from Panama to San Francisco; "Sailed from Panama 5 PM 20 May 1852. Arrived at the port of San Juan de Nicaragua at 10 PM 23 May 1852 and entered the port the next morning. There we found 900 passengers ticketed for the steamers "North America"

and "SS Lewis", the greater portion of whom came from New York. Received on board about 50 passengers and sailed from San Juan 27 May 1852 at 5 PM, having been detained there 3 days." According to John, there were no persons surname Wait/Waite on board and they could have been in the steerage of most any ship headed for San Francisco as there were reports of a lack of ships at Panama for The City.

An article from the NY Dailey Times dated 17 Feb 1852 originally published in The Panama Herald 26 Jan 1852 reads as follows:

"Our city is rammed, crammed, and jammed full of passengers for California, our hotels are full, our streets are full, and in fact we are full all over, with only one steamer in port to take them away. The Oregon leaves this afternoon with over 400 passengers. The Christiana, Margaret, Amphitrite, and Philena are all full and will be off today or tomorrow. These four sailing vessels carry about 600 passengers, leaving a balance of about 800 or 1000 on the Isthmus to wait for the next steamer. Other sailing vessels would be put up for San Francisco if it were not for the scarcity of provisions. We have vessels and passengers in abundance, but are wonderfully short of pork. In ten days, however, if the steamers which are expected make their appearance, we shall have an abundance of steam conveyance for all passengers." (JI)

Steamer Northern Light, Tinklepaugh, San Juan, D.B. Allen | cleared | Among the passengers were Wait (??), Waters. (www.pt5dome.com/nl040652.html)

Waters first appears in California in Nevada County. He is listed on The Nevada County, California Genwebsite in the transcribed version of [The Nevada County Business & Residential Directory](#) for 1856 as W.N. Wait; residing at 1 Broad Street; blacksmith. Also listed were two other Waite men; B.C. Waite; miner and E.G. Waite; senator. I've been able to tentatively identify them as Benjamin Case Waite and Edwin Giles Waite; both descendants of Thomas of Portsmouth. *(It's interesting that Waters, who we "know" used the spelling Waite, is listed as Wait and the two Thomas descendants are listed as Waite when this line typically used the Wait spelling. Just an observation.)*

Waters was enumerated in the 1860 US Census for LaPorte, Sierra, California on 9 Jun. 1860. He was residing with Francis G. Howell, age 28 born New York and George Corbett, age 26 born South Canada. All three gave their occupations as Master Blacksmiths. This same census also lists the family of his future wife: G.W. Tompkins age 33 born New York; Mary Jane, age 29 born Pennsylvania; Rosa Amelia Burelle age 6 born California; Mary Eliza Burelle age 4 born California and Fannie Tompkins age 1 born California

[The LaPorte Scrapbook](#) contains a listing for "William" Waite & Frank Howell, blacksmiths 1863. In 1867 it lists Waite & Kidder blacksmiths.

On 20 Apr. 1864 Waters married Mary John (Knotwell) Burelle Tompkins at LaPorte, Sierra, California. (CERT) She was the daughter of John & Mary J. (---) Knotwell born 12 Jun. 1832 Pottsburg, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania and died 16 Nov. 1904 Stockton, Sonoma California. (CERT) John Knotwell was born 1800 England and probably died by 1850 in Wisconsin. Mary J. (---) Knotwell was born 12 Oct. 1794 England and died 6 Aug. 1888 age 93y 9m 24d Cloverdale, Sonoma, California. (OBIT) At the time of her death she was the oldest resident of Cloverdale, having resided there since 1877. (OBIT) Mary J. (---) Knotwell was buried in the Waite family plot #590 Riverside Cemetery, Cloverdale, Sonoma, California.

Mary John married second 3 May 1858 Gibsonville, Sierra, California George Washington Tompkins (HMF) born 1827 (CALC) Starkey, Yates, New York died 31 Dec. 1862 LaPorte, Sierra, California. (OBIT) Mary and George had two daughters.

On 19 Apr. 1864 Waters and Mary J. Tompkins were granted a marriage license by W. Ford Thomas, Clerk of the Sierra County Court. They were married 20 Apr. 1864 at LaPorte, Sierra, California by Rev. R.M. Williamson. (CERT) Parthenia Melissa Waite, the first child of Waters and Mary John was born 9 Jan. 1865 at LaPorte, Sierra, California. Their second child, George Waters Waite, was born 6 Oct. 1867 at LaPorte, Plumas, California.

Waters and his family removed to Cloverdale, Sonoma, California in 1868. (OBIT) The 1870 US Census for Cloverdale Township, Sonoma, California shows the family together there: "Walter" N. Wait age 40 farmer born Maine; Mary J. age 38 born Pennsylvania and children all born California, Mary E. age 14; Fannie S. age 11; Edda E. age 9; Parthenia age 5 and George age 2.

The US Census for 1880 Cloverdale, Sonoma, California taken 12 Jun. 1880 lists the Waite family just as we would expect to see it, except for the fact that Waters is not in the household. In fact, I have not found Waters listed anywhere in the state of California in the 1880 census. According to Mary Jean HENDREN, Waters and Mary's primary residence was in Cloverdale, although he spent time in Gravelly Valley as well.

In 1884 Waters reappears in California records when he is listed in The Great Register as Waters N. Waite age 54, farmer, born Vermont. The date given was 8 Sept. 1884. Mary Eliza's wedding announcement indicates that she was married on her father's ranch in Gravelly Valley, Lake, California to Robert Fleming McMath 28 Dec. 1891.

The absence of Waters from the Waite household in 1880 raises some obvious questions about his relationship with his family. The 1890 Census would help to establish a better picture of Waters' home life if available, since once again in 1900, Waters was absent from the family home. An interesting item was found in his son, George's, obituary. It states that *"his early days were spent in Cloverdale and when 16 years old he came to Lake County and settled in Gravelly Valley..."* It appears from this statement that George, and presumably his family, moved to Gravelly Valley in 1883, two years prior to the marriage of his sister, Parthenia, in Cloverdale where her wedding reception was held *"at the home of her parents"*. Waters' obituary states that *"he moved to Gravelly Valley, Lake County about 15 years ago."* This would place the date of his move in 1885. Mary John's obituary in 1904 states that *"Mrs. Waite lived in Cloverdale a long time; leaving here about twelve years ago. Of late years she made her home at Gravelly Valley, but frequently visited Cloverdale, having many friends here"* This would place the date of her move at least, in 1892. So, it seems fairly accurate to state that Waters and his family took up residence in Gravelly Valley sometime between 1883 and 1886. I suspect that the 1892 date reflects the date when he finally sold his property in Cloverdale.

Since Waters was buried with his wife in the family plot in Cloverdale and since there has never been any indication in family history that he and Mary John were formally separated at any time, the most likely scenario to explain his absence from the family household has Waters traveling between the family home in Cloverdale and his "ranch" in Gravelly Valley. He might likely have been missed in the enumeration. It appears that Waters and Mary John maintained, at least for a time, two residences. There may have been some opposition between Waters and Mary John over the cosmopolitan lifestyle that she might have preferred and the more rural lifestyle that Waters seemed to favor. It seems, however, that Waters ultimately won this clash since Mary John's obituary states, *"Of late years she made her home at Gravelly Valley, but frequently visited Cloverdale..."*

A typescript sent to me by Carol Abercrombie provides some of the details of life in Lake County as well some very detailed descriptions of the geography and landmarks of the area during this time.

Waters "came into this county from the mining area of the Sierra Nevadas and had his home about a mile beyond Grave Yard Point. Here he put in an irrigation ditch to take water from the Eel River. The old ditch still shows when Lake Pillsbury is low. As this ditch was nearly level and over gravelly ground, much water was lost and it did not work out too well. His wife stayed on the ranch while he went to Alaska in the gold rush days. He returned but soon passed on in Gravelly Valley.

George Waite, for whom Waite Glade is named, took up a homestead in this area but it did not include the glades, although he ran cattle on it for lack of ownership by someone else.

Gravelly Valley cattlemen had their homes in the low lands and ran cattle back in the mountains. Rich Thomas brought in some sheep and ran them on Hull Mountain. This was resented by the cattlemen the same as in the rest of the West. These men formed a "Gravelly Valley Bull Ring Society". Fields Trammel was chosen as spokesman. A committee called on Thomas at his camp. They gave him three days to get out with his sheep.

He reached inside his cabin or tent, got his rifle and told them in no friendly language that he would give them just three minutes to get out. They did.

Further encroachment from outsiders was discouraged by individual Gravelly Valley men tearing up the camps of the intruders. ...

Archy McMath and family were living at and running the hotel at Hullville and the only one in Gravelly Valley, in 1895. The front end was quite modern looking; built out of lumber and the back part out of logs. It was about a ten bedroom hotel. A family by the name of Mann then took over, then Sherm Davis and William Hunter took over. Hunter then bought out Davis' share and the Snow Mountain Water and Power Company bought him out and the building was wrecked for the reservoir site. The hotel had no other businesses within the building. The post office was in a building by itself just across the road from the hotel. These two buildings were the only business houses in Hullville. When the valley was flooded, Hullville was moved to the north side of the dam site on the side hill. At the latter place a post office only was set up where it was abandoned after a few years. It is doubtful if the hotel business ever paid alone without the income from the ranch.

The Cabbage Patch Chromate claim contains only scattered chunks of chrome ore. McCloud Ridge contains chrome ore float. Many holes have been dug here for this purpose with no results.

The Gravelly Valley Manganese Mine on Erickson Ridge is an open pit type of mine. Ore is still there but not in paying quantities.

The only sawmill ever in Gravelly Valley was put in by the Snow Mountain Water & Power Company near the Hullville Hotel site and was used to saw up ponderosa pine from out of the valley for use of form lumber for the dam.

No Indians ever lived in the entire area of Gravelly Valley during this time. Only for a few years after 1895 did they come in for a short period to camp and catch steel head and gather basket willows. They were all from Upper Lake

About 150 yards west of Brown Gulch, on the northeast side of Gravelly Valley and right up against the mountain slope but in the level land is the site of an Indian village. The usual dark earth is here but no artifacts nor chips were noticed. Many cooking rocks are there and on the east end there are five well defined house pits. On the west end of this site are four possible house pits.

Henderson Spring is 200 feet southeast of where the Boardman Trail leaves Gravelly Valley. It is a small and poor spring oozing out of the side hill on a grassy slope, so close to the valley that some of the water grass, caused by the moisture, runs to the level land.

The Henderson cabin was immediately at the foot of the Boardman Trail about 150' from Henderson Spring. No sign is now left of the building.

The road between Fuller and Gravelly Valley Landing Field cuts across the south edge of an Indian site listed as Ellis Ranch. This site fills in the level land between the road and the edge of the mountain to the north. The site has twelve well defined house pits, with four more possible pits 150' northwest of the more prominent site. Between the two sites and across the road to the south, in earth that shows no Indian site color, are a possible three or four more house pits. At no part of this Indian village were any artifacts, nor chips found but there was an abundance of cooking stones. This well used site was about 150' northwest of winter water and 1/8th of a mile north of summer water.

Across the road, between Salmon Creek and the Indian site mentioned above, about 150 yards west by north of the latter was the Ellis home. A couple of apple trees, a walnut, and an old barn are still there, but no house. Starting upstream, between the road and the hill is an abandoned irrigation ditch used by Ellis in taking water from Salmon Creek to irrigate several acres of alfalfa.

On a sharp knoll east of the Ellis home and the road is where the Ellis family buried a baby.

The site of the old Fields Trammel home, was about 1/8th of a mile up from the mouth of Fuller Creek and on the east side of the stream, north and alongside a present rather large walnut tree. The first home built by the Simons family was on the other side of the walnut tree, about 100' from the Trammel home. This Simons home burned. The family then moved to the Ryan place which was on the east bank of Fuller Creek at it's junction with Salmon Creek. As W.P. Fuller was living with them, they sold some 10 acres to him including the Ryan house, and they moved to the last Simons family home which Simons Sr. and Claude built about 250 yards east of Fuller Creek at the foot of the hill to the north of Salmon Creek and about 39' above and the north of the road on a small bench of land. The house is now in good shape. Mr. Simons, Sr. made his living while in this area by running cattle, hogs and keeping summer campers.

Fuller Creek was formally called Al Farqua Creek. An al farqua is a sack or bag that goes on a pack saddle. At the head of this stream was, Al Farqua Spring and Al Farqua Camp, a hunters camp. Both the spring and camp were together. There is no known reason for its name.

Before 1895 someone about ¼ mile up from where Mill Creek and Fuller Creek come together and just up from a flat piece of land near this area started a mill site to saw lumber. A ditch was dug to use water out of the stream and a shaft out of an old steam engine was brought there to put the water wheel on. That was a far as the project got. It is not known who started this mill but from this it received the name Mill Creek." (HVK)

"Patent was issued to Waters N Waite by the United States on Feb. 10th, 1891, which was recorded on March 24th, 1902 in Vol. 7 of Patents, at page 234, Lake County Records, covering the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 13, T. 18 N., R., 10 West, M. D. M., and lots 2 and 3 and NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec. 18 T.18 N., R.9 W., M. D. M.

...By deed dated March 24th, 1902, recorded April 14th, 1904, in Vol. 37 of Deeds, at page 276, Lake County Records, Mary J. Waite conveyed the lands to her son George W. Waite, who by deed dated June 2nd, 1905 of record in Vol. 36 of Deeds, at page 283, conveyed the lands to W.W. VanArsdale, who was a representative of Snow Water and Power Company, a corporation. VanArsdale by deed of March 27th, 1906, of record in Vol. 36 of Deeds, at page 588, conveyed the lands to said corporation, and the lands were later acquired by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the present corporation operating the dam at Lake Pillsbury." (TWN)

USC1900 shows Mary J. Waite in Cloverdale, Sonoma, California residing with her daughter Parthenia and and her family. The record reads as follows. William C. Hunter born Mar. 1867 California; Parthenia M. born Jan. 1867 California; Alice C. born Dec. 1893 California; Gertrude M. born Jun. 1896 California; Fannie S. born May 1898 California; William C. born May 1900 California and Mary J. Waite born Jun. 1832 Pennsylvania. Living nearby was Mary E. (Burelle) McMath and her family.

A portion of the mystery of Waters' activities during the latter part of the 19th century was solved by a wonderful lady in Alaska who proved a family tale that Waters went to "Alaska to hunt for gold". Waters was listed in M.L. Ferguson's 1901 Gazetteer as a miner in Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada. My dad had said that Waters returned from "Alaska a broken man after having been cheated by his partners." Another story stated that he was beaten and robbed on the way home from Alaska. Who were his mining partners? Could their identification lead to a significant clue to Waters' ancestry? Was there a familial relationship between Waters and one of the Waite/Wait men who were also in the Yukon at this time? Or were Howell and Corbett, with whom he had resided in the mining town of LaPorte in California, his mining partners?

Thanks to the work of Ms. Cynthia O'Rourke, Resource Librarian at The Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, I now know that on 3 Jun. 1898 a G.H. Corbett arrived from Seattle, Washington in Tagish Lake. An A.M. Corbett arrived on the same day and also came from Seattle. Presumably they were related and traveling together. On 6 Jun. 1898, F.H. Howell arrived from Modesto, California. Although I cannot yet say conclusively, it certainly appears that "the boys" were all in the Dawson City area at roughly the same time. Since I know that Waters did find gold and now have determined that he apparently never filed a land claim, it may well be that he was cheated out of a claim. But again, the question remains, by whom?

According to his obituary, Waters died within a month of his return to California on 20 Oct. 1901 at Hullville, Lake, California. (CERT) He was buried in the Waite family plot #590, at Riverside Cemetery in Cloverdale, Sonoma, California on 22 Oct. 1901. The copy of Waters' obituary which I was given did not include the name of the paper from which it was taken.

"The funeral of W.N. Waite took place from the depot at this place Tuesday afternoon and was largely attended by his many friends who had learned to admire the deceased during his long years of residence in this place. The funeral was under the auspices of the A.O.U.W. lodge. The services at the grave being conducted by past Master W.D. Sink and the Rev. W.A. Lindsey

W.N. Waite was born in the state of Vermont and early in life started out for himself. He joined the tide of immigration westward and on arriving in California located at LaPorte, Plumas County. Here he successfully engaged in mining for some years. Leaving LaPorte he located a few miles below town (Cloverdale) sometime about 1868. He was a blacksmith by trade and conducted a shop on the county road near the Markell ranch. Some years after he moved to town, purchasing the property opposite Union Hall where he continued to work at his trade. About fifteen years ago with his family he moved to Gravelly Valley, Lake County, at which place he died last Sunday afternoon at the age of sixty-eight years.

Mr. Waite was a very energetic man and his early mining experiences still lingered with him. The Klondike excitement therefore found him among the first to brave the hardships of the country in search of wealth. He remained there for almost three years and only returned home about a month ago. He is survived by a widow and two children, Mrs. Parthenia M. Hunter and George Waite."

Like most other documents left by Waters, his estate papers offer little new information about his life and family. He unfortunately died intestate. On 19 Dec. 1901 Mary J. Waite petitioned the court to show Waters N. Waite had died on 20 Oct. 1901 leaving real estate valued at \$800.00. Mary stated that his heirs were Mary J. Waite aged 68 years, Mrs. Parthenia Hunter aged 35 years and George W. Waite aged 33 years all of Lake County. She claimed he died intestate and requested a court date which was subsequently set at 30 Dec. 1901. Notice was posted for anyone claiming debts owed and letters of administration were granted to Mary J. Waite 24 Mar. 1902. At this time she posted a bond of \$100.00. An inventory of Waters' estate was returned by A.H. Spurr, S.S. Russell and Jonathan P. Moom, court appointed appraisers. 155.92 acres were valued at \$500.00. On 7 Apr. 1902 the entire estate was awarded to Mary.

Mary John died 13 Nov. 1904 (OBIT) in Stockton, Sonoma, California and was buried 16 Nov. 1904 (CERT) in Cloverdale in plot #590 of Riverside Cemetery. (GS) Her obituary reads:

DEATH OF MRS. Waite

*Passed Away at Home of
Her Daughter*

Last Sunday Mrs. Mary J. Waite passed away at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. R.H. Sink, at Stockton, after an illness extending over nearly five months. Mrs. Waite lived in Cloverdale a long time, leaving here about twelve years ago. Of late years she made her home at Gravelly Valley, but frequently visited Cloverdale, having many friends here. Last July she was taken ill and later went to San Francisco for treatment and from there to Stockton. During the last two months her illness had been such as to cause her family and friends alarm and they were prepared for the sad news that came from the sick room. Dropsey was the cause of death. The remains were brought to Cloverdale Tuesday evening and taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. I.E. Shaw and the services were held at the Congregational Church on Wednesday morning. Rev. A.B. Spider assisted by Rev. W.L. Jones, conducted the services. For many years the deceased was a Congregationalist and was an active church worker. Mrs. Waite was a native of Pennsylvania and at the time of death was 72 years, 5 months and 1 day of age. Three daughters and one son survive her. They are: Mrs. Reuben H. Sink of Stockton, Mrs. Dr. Key of San Francisco, Mrs. Will Hunter and George Waite of Gravelly Valley. The interment was in Riverside Cemetery and the funeral was largely attended.

When you are researching an individual who died long ago and of whom there is no one alive with a personal knowledge, it is sometimes very difficult to get a sense of who they were from the various pieces of information collected in the research process. Therefore it was extremely gratifying for me to receive a letter from Mary Jean Hendren, a granddaughter of Parthenia. She will remain a special part of my research on Waters. She sent some wonderful photographs that I had never seen and the first one of my great grandmother Susanna Belle (Rickabaugh) Waite. But even more important were Waters' obituary and her own recollections of conversations with her grandmother Parthenia. She corroborated in many ways the personality I had imagined of the man for whom I had searched so long. The following is an excerpt from her letter describing what little she was told of Waters and his family.

"Grandma always spoke of her father with love - she always said he was a dreamer - and always full of fun - her mother was a strong focused person (my Grandfather always said she was plain bossy) ...My Grandmother told of her Dad heading for Alaska - full of hope and dreams - Leaving behind a very mad and bitter wife - coming home a man broken in Spirit and body.

...I believe he (Waters) always had a close relationship with all the children. Grandma seemed to have a great rapport with her father and brother. As a child I remember when Uncle George...got together (with my Grandmother) there was great joy. They laughed - sang, danced (Oh! How they danced) and told great stories - really had fun!! ...Grandma (she was as nearly perfect as they came) told me the rest of her family were a different - more stern sort - I know her sister Fannie was. ...I don't believe Waters ever spoke much about his early life or his family - I believe there was some sort of problem that caused him to take off on his own at an early age!" (MJH) always had a close relationship with all the children. Grandma seemed to have a great rapport with her father and brother. As a child I remember when Uncle George...got together (with my Grandmother) there was great joy. They laughed - sang, danced (Oh! How they danced) and told great stories - really had fun!! ...Grandma (she was as nearly perfect as they came) told me the rest of her family were a different - more stern sort - I know her sister Fannie was. ...I don't believe Waters ever spoke much about his early life or his family - I believe there was some sort of problem that caused him to take off on his own at an early age!" (MJH)

Children Burelle -

2. Elizabeth born Wisconsin (HMF) died by 1860 Gibsonville, Sierra, California. (HMF)



From left back are Rosa Amelia Burelle;
Mary John; Mary Eliza Burelle; and in front

3. Rosa Amelia born 18 Oct. 1853 (HMF) Gibsonville, Sierra, California died 18 May 1869 Cloverdale, Sonoma, California (HMF) and was buried in plot #590 Riverside Cemetery, Cloverdale, Sonoma, California.

4. Mary Eliza born 9 Aug. 1855 Gibsonville, Sierra, California (HMF) died 9 Dec. 1902 Elmira, Solano, California while visiting the family of A.B. McMath (OBIT) and was buried in plot #590 Riverside Cemetery, Cloverdale, Sonoma, California. She was married to Robert Fleming McMath 24 Dec. 1892 (OBIT/RFM) Hullville, Lake, California by the Reverend D.T Taylor. His "land was south of old Hullville to the Eel River and east. His home was 100 yards south of the Hullville Post Office. He sold out to the power company." (HVK) One son, Ernest Burrelle McMath, was born Mar. 1893 (HMF) in California. To quote her wedding announcement in The Lakeport Democrat; "The bride is well known having resided in Cloverdale for a number of years and was one of our most popular young ladies as well as a teacher in our public schools for several years." (TWN) Robert was a native of Michigan who arrived in California in 1857 and settled in Marysville. He later moved to Hullville in 1867 where he engaged in stock raising. (OBIT) He married second Anna Belle (---) Fordice in 1920 in San Francisco. (OBIT) He died age 79y 2m 13d and was buried in Upper Lake Cemetery. (OBIT)

Frances "Fanny" Susan Tompkins.

Children Tompkins -

5. Frances Susan "Fannie" born 5 Apr. 1859 LaPorte, Sierra, California (HMF) married Rev. Reuben Henry Sink 13 Aug. 1876 Cloverdale, Sonoma, California. (WED) Reuben was born 7 Oct. 1854 (HMF) and died in Stockton, Sonoma, California. (MJH)

6. Ada Elizabeth born 18 May 1861 LaPorte, Sierra, California (HMF) married John Walter Key of San José 19 Nov. 1879 Cloverdale, Sonoma, California at the home of W.N. Waite. (WED) One son, *Walter John Key*, was born Jun. 1881 San José, Santa Clara, California. (HMF)

Children Waite -

+7. Parthenia Melissa "Thenie" born 9 Jan. 1865 LaPorte, Sierra, California. (HMF)

+8. George Waters born 6 Oct. 1867 LaPorte, Plumas, California. (DCERT) born 6 Oct. 1867 LaPorte, Plumas, California. (DCERT)

The Second Generation

7. Parthenia Melissa "Thenie" Waite was born 9 Jan. 1865 at LaPorte, Sierra, California, the daughter of Waters N. & Mary J. (Knotwell) Burelle Tompkins Waite. (OBIT) She died 3 Dec. 1953 at Lakeport, Lake, California (OBIT) and was buried 5 Dec. 1953 at Upper Lake Cemetery, Upper Lake, Lake, California. (OBIT) Parthenia married William Hart Hunter 28 Oct. 1885 at Cloverdale, Sonoma, California. (HMF)



Gravelly Valley Hotel. Photo contributed by Jim Hunter, Ripon, California.

William & Parthenia resided in Ukiah, where he was employed in the drug business, until 1887 when he moved his family to Gravelly Valley where he worked with Waters on his ranch. (HMLC)

During the period that they resided in Hullville, William raised cattle and conducted hunting and camping trips for tourists. Parthenia ran the guest hotel and the post office. (LCRB) When Hullville was buried under Lake Pillsbury in 1906, the family bought a ranch near Upper Lake on Middle Creek.

MJH transcribed the following accounts of their wedding from clippings found in the scrapbook of Fannie Susan (Hunter) Scott. The names of the papers had not been included.

Waite - Hunter Wedding

"The most notable society event of the week was the marriage of Mr. William C. Hunter of Ukiah, and Miss Parthenia Waite, of this place, last Wednesday morning at the Congregational Church. The church was tastefully decorated with ferns and flowers. ...The decorating was the work of loving and willing hands of many friends of the young people in Cloverdale. The church was crowded. Shortly after 11 o'clock, to the music of Mendelssohn, the bridal party proceeded up the aisle to the alter where the marriage ceremony was pronounced by Rev. R.H. Sink, of Grass Valley. After a benediction was pronounced, congratulations and well wishes were extended to the couple.

The bridal party and guests then proceeded to the beautiful home of the bride's parents where a most excellent dinner was in readiness for them. The wedding presents were numerous and beautiful... On last Friday evening The Council of Chosen Friends at this place, in recognition of the young lady's efficient services as Secretary, presented her with a handsome china tea set and a set of silver knives, forks and spoons. The wedding guests were as follows: Mrs. H.C. Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. P.K. Faulds, Dan Hunter, Mr. Jas. L. Whiton, Mr. M.N. Mitchell, all of Ukiah. Rev. Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Sink of Grass Valley, Dr. and Mrs. J.W. Key of Catisloga, Mr. & Mrs. Bosworth of Geyserville, Mrs. W.N. Waite, Miss Mary Waite, Mr. George Waite, Miss Carrie Sink, Miss Katie Potterfield. The wedding party took the train for Santa Rosa that afternoon, where they remained for the night, returning the next day and proceeded on to Ukiah where they intend to make their home in the future."

The Hunter-Waite Nuptials

At the First Congregational Church in Cloverdale, on Wednesday of last week, Mr. W.C. Hunter, of Ukiah, and Miss Thenie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Waite, of Cloverdale, were joined in the holy bond of matrimony. Rev. R.H. Sink, of Grass Valley, performing the ceremony. The wedding, although quietly conducted, was a social event of considerable importance, being attended by nearly two hundred persons - the elite of Cloverdale - personal friends of the contrasting parties. The church was handsomely decorated with a profusion of fairest flowers, a beautiful floral arch, under which the ceremony took place, being especially attractive - the artistic work of the many friends of Miss Thenie. In back of the arch, against the wall, were the initials "H.W." composed wholly of white roses entwined with sprays of green. The day will be remembered by all who attended - the day being perfect in it's loveliness, and the air heavy with the odor of sweet garden flowers, of which Cloverdale alone can boast. ...The bride was attired in an elegant costume of bronze-colored silk, finished at the neck with Old Gold lace; corsage, bouquet of rare flowers; ornaments and diamonds. Immediately after the mystic words had been spoken, and solemn vows exchanged, the relatives and friends pressed forward and offered congratulations, at the conclusion of which about twenty of those "nearest and dearest" one of whom was the Dispatch's "lucky boy" and repaired to the spacious dining room of the Waite residence... After justice had been done to the table -...the bridal party took their departure for Santa Rosa, where, under the watchful care of "Mine Host" Charley Tupper, of Occidental, a calendar day was passed with pleasures many. ...the new relations sustained creating in parental hearts a 'feeling of sadness and longing that is not akin to pain, and resembles sorrow only as the mist resembles rain.' Will has secured a lovely and loving help-mate, and we trust his walk down the path of life may be ever free of thorns - an everlasting honeymoon., of Ukiah, and Miss Thenie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Waite, of Cloverdale, were joined in the holy bond of matrimony. Rev. R.H. Sink, of Grass Valley, performing the ceremony. The wedding, although quietly conducted, was a social event of considerable importance, being attended by nearly two hundred persons - the elite of Cloverdale - personal friends of the contrasting parties. The church was handsomely decorated with a profusion of fairest flowers, a beautiful floral arch, under which the ceremony took place, being especially attractive - the artistic work of the many friends of Miss Thenie. In back of the arch, against the wall, were the initials "H.W." composed wholly of white roses entwined with sprays of green. The day will be remembered by all who attended - the day being perfect in it's loveliness, and the air heavy with the odor of sweet garden flowers, of which Cloverdale alone can boast. ...The bride was attired in an elegant costume of bronze-colored silk, finished at the neck with Old Gold lace; corsage, bouquet of rare flowers; ornaments and diamonds. Immediately after the mystic words had been spoken, and solemn vows exchanged, the relatives and friends pressed forward and offered congratulations, at the conclusion of which about twenty of those "nearest and dearest" one of whom was the Dispatch's "lucky boy" and repaired to the spacious dining room of the Waite residence... After justice had been done to the table -...the bridal party took their departure for Santa Rosa, where, under the watchful care of "Mine Host" Charley Tupper, of Occidental, a calendar day was passed with pleasures many. ...the new relations sustained creating in parental hearts a 'feeling of sadness and longing that is not akin to pain, and resembles sorrow only as the mist resembles rain.' Will has secured a lovely and loving help-mate, and we trust his walk down the path of life may be ever free of thorns - an everlasting honeymoon.

The Reception Party

The Reception Party given at Ukiah Hall, last Friday evening, under the immediate supervision of Mrs. J.S. Reed, was, as are all entertainment's managed by this estimable lady, a grand success. An inspection of the Hall and "dining room" revealed decorations of a simple but elegant character, and many were the flattering

comments bestowed, during the evening, on the aesthetic artist who arranged them. At 8:30 the Ukiah Brass Band was given instructions to proceed with the grand march, and the brilliancy of the surroundings was soon enhanced by the advent of beautifully costumed ladies and their faultlessly attired escorts. The supper, the feature of the evening, was pronounced immense. The band played sweetly...and all went merry as a marriage ball until the "wee hours" when, reluctantly the Knights of Terpsechore departed homeward, only regretting that an evening so hugely enjoyed had come to an end. Below we give the names of ladies present, and a brief description of costumes:

Mrs. W.C. Hunter: Rich bronze silk; made dancing length; corsage, hair natural; ornaments, diamonds.

Miss Dillon, of San Francisco: Evening dress of turquoise, blue Nun's veiling and satin; cut dancing length; ornaments, flowers...

Fifty years later the following account, again provided by MJH from the scrapbooks of Fannie Susan (Hunter) Scott, appeared in a local newspaper.

October 1935

Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Hunter, well known residents of the Upper Lake section will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home in Middle Creek next Sunday, October 27th. Open house will be held from 1 o'clock until 5:00 and friends are invited to participate in their occasion. The Hunters ask that there be no presents. Mr. Hunte

Mr. Hunter, a native of Kelseyville and one of the oldest natives of the county, was born March 18, 1861. He without a doubt, is one of the most successful stockmen in Lake County.

He was married to Miss Parthenia M. Waite, a native of Sierra County, at Cloverdale on October 28, 1885. The couple first made their home in Ukiah where Mr. Hunter was employed in a drug store. A few years after their marriage they moved to Gravelly Valley on Mrs. Hunter's father's place and Mr. Hunter engaged in the cattle business. In 1906 he sold his interest to Snow Mountain Water and Power Company and purchased 2400 acres of the Dick Sleeper place in Middle Creek.

They have four children, Mrs. Alice Henderson of Kelseyville, Mrs. Gertrude Patterson of Lakeport, Mrs. Fannie Scott and Bill Hunter Jr. of Upper Lake.

Mr. Hunter is a member of Hawley Lodge and his wife is a member of Clear Lake Chapter, O.E.S.

They have numerous friends throughout the county who will no doubt take advantage of this opportunity to greet them on the 50th Wedding Anniversary.

William, born 18 Mar. 1861 near Kelseyville, was one of eight children of James S. & Harriet C. (Hunt) Hunter (OBIT). He died 16 Nov. 1942 St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco and was buried 19 Nov. 1942 at Upper Lake Cemetery. (OBIT)



Professor James S. Hunter and the schoolhouse where he taught contributed by Jim Hunter of Ripon, California.

His obituary, from an unidentified clipping shared by MJH, reads in part:

W.C. Hunter Dies in San Francisco After Operation Last Week

...Mr. Hunter was seven years old when the family moved to Cloverdale. When he was nine they settled in Mendocino County and it was in that county he worked in a drug store in his early youth. He purchased large holdings in Middle Creek Valley and was a very successful cattle man for many years. His good judgment and keen management gained him a reputation valued among all his business associates. The home place in Middle Creek was a showplace of the valley since it was established in 1906.

Mr. Hunter was interested in public educational facilities for his district and was instrumental in establishing the Middle Creek school district and later the Upper Lake schools. He served as trustee and always took an active part in educational activities....

Mr. Hunter was a member of the Methodist Church of Upper Lake, Hartley Lodge, F & A. M, No. 199, and Clear Lake Chapter, O.E.S. of Lakeport.

Surviving are his beloved wife, three daughters, Mrs. Alice Henderson of Kelseyville, Mrs. Gertrude Patterson of Lakeport, Mrs. Fannie Scott of Upper Lake, and a son, William, of Upper Lake. Two grandchildren, Mary Jean Patterson and Robert Lee Henderson, and the following sister and brother also survive; Mrs. Carrie Faulds and Ned Hunter of Oakland.

Funeral services were held at the Upper Lake Community Church Thursday afternoon, under the direction of the Jones Mortuary. Entombment followed at the Upper Lake Cemetery.

Parthenia's obituaries provided many of the details of her life. The one transcribed below was taken from a handwritten copy provided by CWA. Unfortunately the name of the paper was omitted. A second obituary, also from an unidentified paper, was received from MJH. This article, with the title "Pioneer Resident of County Called by Death" reiterated the same basic information as that which follows.

Rites Are Held for Mrs. Hunter

"One of Lake County's best know pioneer ladies passed away in Lakeport Thursday morning Dec. 3, | 1953 | .

She was Parthenia Melissa Hunter, 88.

Mrs. Hunter was born the daughter of Waters Nathan and Mary J. Waite, Jan. 9, 1865.

On October 28, 1885 Parthenia Melissa Waite married William C. Hunter at Cloverdale. They lived in Ukiah for two years and then moved to Gravelly Valley in Lake County.

They operated a hotel & ranch for several years in Gravelly Valley, the site of which is now under about 90 feet of water in Lake Pillsbury.

While they lived there, four children were born; Alice, Gertrude, Fannie and William.

In 1906 they moved to the Hunter ranch on Middle Creek near Upper Lake. The home has been there ever since.

Mrs. Hunter was a member of Upper Lake Methodist Church and the oldest member and oldest past matron of the Clear Lake Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Hunter passed away several years ago.

Survivors include Mrs. Homer Henderson (Alice), Kelseyville; Mrs. William Patterson Lakeport; Mrs. Bruce Scott (Fannie), Upper Lake; and William M. Hunter, Upper Lake.

Two grandchildren, Mary Jean Hendren, Middletown and Robert Henderson, Kelseyville. Five great-grandchildren; one niece, Mrs. Vincent Keeling, Nice and two nephews, Seth Waite, Kelseyville and Ernest McMath, Upper Lake.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 P.M. from the Jones Mortuary, Lakeport, under the auspices of the Clear Lake Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Entombment was at Upper Lake Cemetery."

Children Hunter -

9. Alice Christmas born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport. born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport. born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist

at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport. born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport. born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport. born 25 Dec. 1893. Alice attended the University of California at Berkeley 1913-1916 (LCRB) where she studied English and German. (MLC) She later transferred to San José Normal where her sisters were studying, and earned her teaching credential. Alice began teaching in 1917 in Upper Lake where she taught the lower four grades. During W.W.I she worked in Washington D.C. in the Surgeon General's Office until the Armistice when she returned to San Francisco and worked as a receptionist at the YMCA. In 1922 Alice returned to Lake County and resumed her teaching career in Lakeport.



The Hunter children. From left, Bill, Fannie, Alice, and Midge. This photograph was shared by Jim Hunter of Ripon, California. William and Parthenia Hunter were Jim's great aunt.

Alice married Lewis Homer Henderson 19 Dec. 1931 (CWA) and helped to raise his son Robert Henderson, born 23 Oct. 1922, whom she later adopted. They resided in Kelseyville where Lewis was one of Lake County's pioneer pear growers. Lewis died in 1964 and after a brief attempt at remarriage, Alice moved to Lakeport. Homer married first Ruth Barnes, the daughter of Mollie (ps. Jones) Barnes.

LCRB recited a playful anecdote about Alice and her cousin, my grandfather. *"Isolated as they were during those early years, the Hunter children quickly learned to use their imaginations to create entertainment. ...Occasionally their play-acting had serious consequences, as when Alice and cousin Seth Waite acted out a camping trip, complete with campfire, and ended up burning 40 acres of pasture land."*

Children -

+10. Gertrude Mary "Midge" Gertrude Mary "Midge" born 1 Jan. 1896 (MJH) Hullville, Lake, California.

11. Frances Susan "Fannie" Frances Susan "Fannie" born 16 May 1898 (SSN553-58-6585) married Bruce "Pete" Scott 24 Dec. 1922. Fannie d.s.p. (CWA) Oct. 1971 Upper Lake, Lake, California. (SSN553-58-6585)

12. William Waite "Bill" William Waite "Bill" born 14 May 1900 (SSN560-24-0190) married Merle Mason. Bill d.s.p. (CWA) Jan. 1984 Upper Lake, Lake, California. (SSN560-24-0190)

8. George Waters Waite born 6 Oct. 1867 at LaPorte, Plumas, California (DCERT) was the son of Waters N. & Mary J. (Knotwell) Burelle Tompkins Waite. He died 26 May 1944 at Upper Lake, Lake, California (CERT) and was buried 28 May 1944 in Row 11, Kelseyville Cemetery, Kelseyville, Lake, California. George married first Susanna

Belle Rickabaugh. Their marriage license was issued 15 Jan. 1894 in Lake County, California (CERT) Susanna was born 8 Nov. 1870 at Kelseyville, Lake, California, the daughter of Seth & Marianna Amanda (Cox) Rickabaugh. (OBIT) She was baptized 19 Mar. 1899 at Kelseyville, Lake, California where she died 21 Mar. 1899. She was buried 23 Mar. 1899 in Row 27 Kelseyville Cemetery, Kelseyville, Lake, California. (OBIT) Susanna's obituary appeared in The Clear Lake Press on 30 Mar. 1899. It has provided many of the details of her life for which I have not yet found primary documentation. A transcription of this obituary follows.



George Waters Waite & Susanna Belle Rickabaugh.

"...Susanna Rickabaugh Waite died at her father's house near Kelseyville Thursday, March 21, 1899. Beneath the same roof she was born November 8, 1870; and here she had grown up to womanhood. She finished her education at The Lakeport Academy, and then taught for a time in our public schools.

She married George Walter Waite | sic | January 15, 1894, and to them were born three children.

For two or three years past she had not been well, but few thought of her case as dangerous till she neared the end of her life. For some time she had entertained hope in Christ, and that hope, tested and tried by the suffering that preceded her death, became a strong anchor to her soul. A foretaste of heaven's joys was given her. She desired to make a public profession of her faith in Christ and was baptized and received into the Presbyterian Church Sunday, March 19th. Forth from the home that had sheltered her for so large a part of her life her remains were borne on the following Thursday.

A service was held in the Presbyterian Church in the presence of a great company of people, and from thence they passed to the city of the dead. In the narrow home her body sleeps, awaiting the trumpet call of the resurrection morn. The clouds above were dark and the rain fell; fit emblems of our sorrow; but the sun was shining above the clouds, and the joy and glory of the resurrection morning shall follow the night of death, and we are comforted." H.W.C. (CLP)

George married second 1918 Jenny Amelia (Collins) Zortman. She was born in Ohio 12 Apr. 1876 the daughter of John Collins who settled in Potter Valley on Cold Creek. She died 2 Jan. 1938. (OBIT) Jenny is buried in Row 11, Kelseyville Cemetery, Kelseyville, Lake, California. (KCI)

George appears for the first time as an adult in the 1900 US Census for Lake County, California. Susanna had died by this time and their children, who were raised by her parents, were residing in the Rickabaugh household. George was listed as a farm laborer in the household of Daniel W. Cooke. He gave his birth date as Oct. 1867 and was listed as a widower. George gave his parent's places of birth as Vermont and Minnesota.

George served on the Gravelly Valley Board of School Trustees as did his brothers-in-law William Hunter and R. F. McMath and his sister Mary. (MH)

George Waite, Jim RYAN and the THOMPSON family were about the only men to cure meat commercially in the Lake County area. The following account by HVK is interesting in its description of the process and its place in the local economy.

"Jim Ryan made his living entirely by selling deer hides and dried venison. He also hired men to kill deer and bring them to his place for fifty cents a piece. He would take these hides and dried deer meat to Napa where he would sell this produce for fifty cents a pound for the hides and twenty-five cents per pound for the dried meat. On his way back he would peddle a load of onions or other produce that he picked up in Napa. The

hides were taken off the deer and hung over a fence or other such object to dry. No other process was used. These hides were laid in bales and tied.

Dried meat was prepared by cutting in strips about 12" long if possible and 2" wide by 3/4". These strips were then hung in a smokehouse after being mixed with a heavy dose of salt. Smoke from any kind of wood could be used except none from conifers. This meat was put in gunny sacks after drying for ten to fifteen days, and generally sold to buyers coming through the country. Ryan sold his own direct. Meat was diced with as much moisture left in it as possible and was watched closely after it was in the sacks to see that it didn't spoil. Putting the sacks on a roof would generally stop any spoilage. Both meat and hides dried better in the shade as the sun turned them a lighter color." (HVK)

George Waite Called By Death At Upper Lake Hospital Friday

Last Rites Held Sunday; Interment At Kelseyville Cemetery

The passing of George Waite at the Upper Lake Hospital Friday, May 26, has saddened the hearts of a wide circle of friends here and throughout the county.

George Waters Waite was a native of Plumas County, born October 6, 1867, making his death 77 years, 4 months, 10 days. His boyhood days were spent in Cloverdale and when 16 years old he came to Lake County and settled in Gravelly Valley, where he remained for some time. ...

His first wife was Susan Rickabaugh of Kelseyville, who passed away soon after the birth of their third child. In 1918 he remarried, his second wife, Jenny Amelia Collins Zortman, preceded him in death in January, 1938.

Mr. Waite engaged in farming through his lifetime and was highly respected for his honesty and integrity. He possessed a happy jovial disposition which won him friends wherever he was known.

Stepchild Zortman -

13. Clyde L. of Potter Valley.

Children -

+14. Wilda born 4 Jun. 1895 Kelseyville, Lake, California.

+15. Seth Carrol born 23 Dec. 1896 Kelseyville, Lake, California. (CERT)

+16. Joseph Knotwell born 23 Jan. 1899 Kelseyville, Lake, California.

The Third Generation

10. Gertrude Mary "Midge" Hunter 10. Gertrude Mary "Midge" Hunter was born 1 Jan. 1896 (MJH) Hullville, Lake, California to William H. & Parthenia M. (Waite) Hunter. She married William Merrol Patterson "Pat" 19 Aug. 1926. (CWA) She taught school for 25 years at Lakeport Elementary School. Gertrude helped to organize the Lake County Mounted Quadrille Team. This group performed square dancing on horseback at the 1939 World's Fair. (OBIT) She died 19 Jan. 1993 Santa Rosa, California and is buried Upper Lake Cemetery.



Midge (Hunter) Patterson & James Howard Hunter taken in 1986 and contributed by Jim Hunter of Ripon, California.

She was born 1 Jan. 1896 (MJH) Hullville, Lake, California to William H. & Parthenia M. (Waite) Hunter. She married William Merrol Patterson "Pat" 19 Aug. 1926. (CWA)

She taught school for 25 years at Lakeport Elementary School. Gertrude helped to organize the Lake County Mounted Quadrille Team. This group performed square dancing on horseback at the 1939 World's Fair. (OBIT) She died 19 Jan. 1993 Santa Rosa, California and is buried Upper Lake Cemetery.

An article which appeared in The Lake Sun April 1969, and transcribed by MJH from the scrapbook of Fannie Susan (Hunter) Scott presents an small but interesting account of Midge's birth.

Hunter History Lives on Today

On the bottom of what is now Lake Pillsbury 73 years ago today Bert E. Hunter of Oakland was born.

Bert is a younger brother of LAKE SUN columnist Joe Hunter of Nice and cousin of Bill Hunter of Upper Lake.

On April 2, 1896, Rhoda Hunter, wife of Joseph Hooker Hunter presented him a son and they named him Bertie Erral

It all happened in the little town of Hullville which is now at the bottom of Lake Pillsbury.

Mrs. Hunter was attended by Mrs. Sue Waite, who acted as mid-wife, as she had when Mrs. W.C. Hunter gave birth to Gertrude 1 Jan. 1896. No doctor was available in that remote section of Lake County.

14. Wilda Waite born 4 Jun. 1895 Kelseyville, Lake, California (OBIT) was the daughter of George W. & Susanna B. (Rickabaugh) Waite. She died 18 Jun. 1966 Lakeport, Lake, California and was buried at Hartley Cemetery. She married Herbert Vincent Keeling 7 Apr. 1918. (CWA) He was born 31 Jul. 1895 the son of Herbert V. & Mattie (Hobbs) Keeling (HMLC) and died 1968/9. (CWA) Their wedding announcement reads:

SUNDAY WEDDING ENDS ROMANCE

H. Vincent Keeling Leads Boyhood Sweetheart to Altar

A long time romance, commencing in former High School days at the Clear Lake Union High School was finally consummated on Sunday afternoon last, when Miss Wilda Waite became the bride of H. Vincent Keeling. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's grandmother in Big Valley, with whom she has lived since she lost her mother in early childhood. The home was beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion and most delightful refreshments were served after the ceremony. It was a charming home wedding, and only members of the respective families were present. The Rev. Mr. Pollard of Kelseyville was the officiating minister.

The bride is a beautiful and accomplished girl, and is most popular with everyone. She formerly attended the Clear Lake Union High School, but took the last three years of her High School course at the Fremont High School in Oakland. The bride-groom is the only son of Attorney Keeling. He was educated at the Lakeport Grammar school, the Hitchcock Military Academy at San Rafael and the Clear Lake Union High School. He subsequently entered the University of California, but, owing to ill health, was compelled to give up his studies

after a short attendance there. He is a rising and popular young business man, and has shown fine ability in his father's office as the Secretary of the Lake County Title and Abstract Company. He has the confidence and esteem of this community and is regarded as one of Lake County's coming men. Both are natives of California and in fact of Lake County.

The "newly-weds" left immediately after the event for San Francisco en route for Santa Barbara where they will spend the honeymoon.

The bride is also well known in Richmond, where of recent years she has frequently visited her aunts, Mrs. Lee D. Windrum, Mrs. C.H. Pulse and Mrs. W.A. LaSelle all of whom reside there. The latter two were at the wedding.

15. Seth Carrol Waite was the son of George W. & Susanna B. (Rickabaugh) Waite. He was born 23 Dec. 1896 at Kelseyville, Lake, California (CERT) and was baptized 31 Aug. 1903 at Hullville, Lake, California. He died 21 Feb. 1976 at Lakeport, Lake, California (CERT) and was buried 24 Feb. 1976 in Kelseyville Cemetery, Kelseyville, Lake, California. (DCERT) Seth married first Ruth Elzira Madeiros 8 Feb. 1921 at Lakeport, Lake, California. (CERT) Their wedding announcement in The Lake County Record Bee reads:



Seth C. Waite & "Johnny"

Married Tuesday Morning

A pretty wedding took place Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Vincent Keeling when Seth Carrol Waite led to the alter pretty Ruth Elzira Madeiros, the ceremony being performed by Judge M.S. Sayre.

Mr. Waite is a prosperous young farmer of near Kelseyville and a brother of Mrs. Vincent Keeling.

The bride is the accomplished daughter of Mrs. Madeiros of Upper Lake and a student in the Upper Lake Union High School.

The happy couple have the best wishes of a host of friends.

Ruth was the daughter of Manuel C. & Eliza Joy (Rawson) Madeiros born 8 Feb. 1903 at Abbott Mine, Lake, California and died 27 Apr. 1967 at Lakeport, Lake, California. (DCERT) Ruth was buried 1 May 1967 in Row 11, Kelseyville Cemetery, Kelseyville, Lake, California. (KCI) Seth married second Millie Lenora (Strome) Corder Wood.

16. Joseph Knotwell Waite was the son of George W. & Susanna (Rickabaugh) Waite born 23 Jan. 1899 Kelseyville, Lake, California. Joseph was killed 13 Nov. 1945 Lakeport, Lake, California in a car accident. He married Donnita "Donnie" Akins 11 Sept. 1920. Donnita was the daughter of Frank P. & Mary Maude (Knauer) Akins born in Lower Lake, Lake, California (WED) 14 Oct. 1900. She married second at Reno, Nevada 10 Oct. 1947 James P. Edwards. (WED) Both Joseph and James are buried in the Akins Family Plot in Hartley Cemetery with Donnita. (BWH)