

CIRCUIT RIDER

BY LEON ROWLAND

ISAAC GRAHAM STOOD UP FOR HIS RIGHTS

Isaac Graham was not a man to submit tamely to being arrested by the Californians and sent off to Mexico.

He was one of 45 or 50 sent to "exile," half of them Americans and half British. Two or three score others were arrested but were not loaded on ship at Monterey because they had been naturalized as Mexicans and taken California-born girls as wives.

Graham, who got back to California a little more than a year later, pressed vigorously his claim for indemnification from the Mexican government. He wrote a letter to Daniel Webster, secretary of state. When Commodore Thomas A. C. Jones turned up at Monterey Graham seized the opportunity to get further official aid.

His efforts brought \$38,000 from the Mexican government with which Isaac, already owner of Zayante rancho, bought Rancho Ano del Nuevo.

In the archives of the federal government in Washington, D. C., are the documents in the case of Isaac Graham against the Mexican government.

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FOREIGNERS WERE ALL PUT UNDER ARREST

The wholesale roundup of "foreigners" by the Californians was on April 7, 1840.

Graham, who had come west 10 years earlier in a party of trappers gathered at Fort Smith, Arkansas, had been at Los Angeles early in 1836, when the yearly padron entered him and his young protegee, Henry Nail, as "transientes."

By May 15, 1836, he had been in what is now Monterey county, signing, with Nail and William Dickey, a contract with Manuel Butron for a site for a grist mill and distillery, in the foothills east of Salinas.

A few months later, when Juan B. Alvarado and his cousin, Joe Castro, started a revolt; Graham raised a company of "rifleros americanos" which bore the brunt of their brief struggle for freedom from Mexico-born governors. The short lived rebellion resulted in Alvarado's appointment to the governorship.

Alvarado's recognition of the aid given by his American allies was not sufficient to satisfy Graham, a cocky, hard fighting frontiersman of 36 years.

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GRAHAM WENT OVER TO MEXICO CITY

The "exile" of 45 or 50 foreigners by California was disavowed by the Mexican government after they had been taken by schooner to San Blas and marched inland to Tepic.

Altogether their imprisonment lasted a little more than 11 months. Release at Tepic did not satisfy Isaac. He headed over the mountain roads to Mexico City. Powhattan Ellis, the American minister, was not there but before Vice Consul John Black Isaac swore to claims of monetary loss of \$36,094.

That was on May 3, 1841. Within two months Isaac was back in California, where he headed for Santa Cruz and took up residence at Zayante, again putting in a little grist mill and distillery, or perhaps taking over one started five years before by Ambrose Tomlinson.

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WROTE A LETTER TO DANIEL WEBSTER

Whether Graham's letter to Daniel Webster was written at Mexico City or after he returned to California is not shown by the undated original in the federal archives, although its contents, a resume of his complaint, a statement that all the Britons had been compensated, and a valuation of his losses at \$50,000, would indicate it was written here.

In October, 1842, Commodore Jones, commanding a fleet of two ships, arrived in Monterey bay and Graham seized upon the presence of the naval officer to renew his claim.

Jones angered the Californians by landing men and raising the U. S. flag for a day at Monterey but he remained in California waters for a couple of months.

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WENT ON WARSHIPS TO PRESS HIS CLAIM

Taking Joseph L. Majors and

Old Santa Cruz

• • • By Ernest Otto

When the Rev. Walter Tre came from Grass Valley to be pastor of the First Congregational church here his family included a baby in arms.

The father later was for years pastor of the Fort street church in Honolulu. The son, a baby in Santa Cruz, rose in public life in the islands until he became governor of Hawaii.

In this city lived Mrs. Lyman Swan, who with her husband came from the Hawaiian Islands in 1857. She was the daughter of the Spanish consul to Honolulu and of a daughter of a Scotch trader. Mrs. Arista Mellor of Santa Cruz is her granddaughter.

The Swan home was on Cathcart street where they lived with their children, Olivia, Frank, Alfred, Al and Fred. Mrs. Swan had been a member of the Hawaiian court and went from Santa Cruz in 1884 to make a trip to Europe as chamberlain for Queen Kapiolani. In her home here were many pictures taken in the grounds of the Hawaiian royal palace, in all of which she and the queen stood alone.

Hawaiian Royalty Here

In Santa Cruz for several summers Mrs. Swan was hostess to young members of the Hawaiian royal family, Prince Edward, Prince Cupid and Prince Edward E. Gilliandt, who attended St. Matthews military academy at San Mateo and came here for vacations. They stayed at the Wilkins house, around the corner from the Swan home. Mrs. Swan prepared their native dish, poi. The boys all wore beautiful feather leis as bands about their hats.

Bicycles were few in those days but each of the princes had one, the finest then purchased, to the envy of the town boys. Daily they went swimming and what divers they were! They would dive from the top of the railroad bridge into the San Lorenzo.

The Sam Parker family, one of the wealthy families of the islands, often summered in this city.

Clarence Fette, manager of the Sperry Flour company here, became the manager at Honolulu after going to the islands.

Interchange of Ministers

Rev. J. A. Cruzan, after being a minister in Honolulu, came to the Congregational church here. Two ministers who had served as rectors of St. Clements Episcopal church in Honolulu came here, Rev. Lucas, who was at Ben Lomond, and Rev. Edward Tanner Brown, once of Calvary church in Santa Cruz.

Percy Swift, son of E. J. Swift, a proprietor of the Pacific Ocean House, became a leading business man in Honolulu. His brother, Ernest, was known the world over as one of the top officials of the Red Cross, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Karl Bickel, who as a Stanford student spent a summer on the Sentinel, rose to be president of the United Press.

One who made his name in the Philippine Islands was Hugo Miller. Born in a cottage across Church street from the present office of the Sentinel-News, he graduated from the University of California. In the islands he represented Ginn & Co., school book publishers. On a visit home he married Lucy Tillotson, whose father for more than 25 years was rector of Cavalry Episcopal church here. Miller died in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines in World War II.

William Chard (the latter had been among the exiles to San Blas) Graham went on board Jones' flagship, the Cyane. The commodore delegated his secretary, Henry L. Reintrie, to take depositions, the documents which are now in the federal archives.

Majors, asked by the commodore concerning threats against Americans in California, made affidavit that "Michael Lodge, while in San Jose, was publicly told that as soon as the ships of war left the coast the Californians would fall on the foreigners and cut them up on account of the Mexican flag having been hauled down at Monterey." Weight was added by attestation by Graham and Chard that Majors was an honorable man.

Submitted to Reintrie was an affidavit by Henry Nail that Graham's distillery, grist mill and tannery near Salinas had had a producing value of 1500 pesos a month. Graham swore to a list of articles

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lost by his seizure, which included 180 gallons of whisky valued at \$5 a gallon, 60 bullocks hides at \$2 each, 104 mules at \$75 each, 14 horses valued at \$60 each, 130 cows worth \$10 each, \$300 worth of leather and his still, \$150.

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BOUGHT RANCHO WITH HIS MEXICAN CASH

Most of the aggrieved Britons had received from Mexico \$250 plus \$3 a day for the time they were prisoners.

Graham's indemnification is said to have been \$38,000 of which \$2000 went to Commodore Jones for his efforts.

Graham, owner of Zayante rancho, and purchaser with his indemnity money of Ano de Nuevo Rancho, was one of the wealthier men of Santa Cruz in its early American days. He backed the power sawmill at Zayante which was first in California, explored for coal and gold on his Zayante property, cut timber so vigorously that he was sued by Pedro Sainsevain for overstepping his own land's boundaries, and finally died in 1863 on a trip to San Francisco.

His grave is in Evergreen cemetery.

The rare Ross's snow goose is believed to have increased to nearly 2000 in recent years according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Shetland islands were conquered by the Viking King Harald the Fairhaired.