

South America, visiting the ports of Cobija, Islay, Arica and Callao, until the month of June, when the ship sailed for Honolulu, taking on board several additional passengers for California, among them Capt. Stout, who came out in advance of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamers to act as agent of the company on their arrival. After remaining at Honolulu two weeks, where the passengers first heard the news of the gold discoveries in California, the ship sailed for San Francisco on the 31st day of July and arrived in San Francisco on the 27th day of August, 1848, being the first U. S. ship that entered the port after news of the treaty of peace between United States and Mexico being ratified, had reached San Francisco. He had two horse power flour mills on board, which by the discovery of gold turning the attention of the people from agriculture, were rendered useless. There was then but one flour mill in California.

One of these mills has been used in this county by Esq. Elam Brown. He therefore engaged in merchandising with success, bought a fifty vara lot on the northeast corner of Stockton and Washington Streets, San Francisco, built a house thereon and lived in it until April 1849, when he removed to Benicia, continuing in the mercantile business there and at Vallejo until the fall of 1857, when he removed to Mt. Diablo valley, Contra Costa county and settled on the place, afterwards sold by him to I. J. Smith, Esq. During his residence in Solano county, he took an active part in the founding the Benicia Female Seminary, in building the first Presbyterian church, and other public and benevolent enterprises, and was a trustee and Superintendent of Public Schools in Benicia, and City Assessor of that place. His investment of \$25,000 in that town proved almost a total loss on account of defective title. In 1856 he presided over the first Republican County Convention of Solano county, and was a delegate to the first Republican State Convention in California from that county in the same year, and voted for Fremont the first Republican candidate for President.

After removing to Contra Costa county he engaged in the lumber business at Pacheco and served as Justice of the Peace for two terms and as Associate Judge of the Court of Sessions. He served as Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue for this county for six years, from 1861 to 1867. In 1875 he removed to Oakland for the better education of his children and carried on the real estate business in San Francisco until 1882, when on account of failing health (bronchitis) he returned to Mt. Diablo valley near Clayton where he has since resided with his son.

He had four children, three sons and one daughter. The youngest son was drowned while bathing in San Ramon creek at the age of 17 years, one son resides in Washington, and one son with three children near Clayton. The daughter was born in San Francisco, September 24, 1848, and was the first child to receive Protestant baptism in California. She died at Clayton, April 3, 1893, her eldest daughter aged 16 having died a year previous.