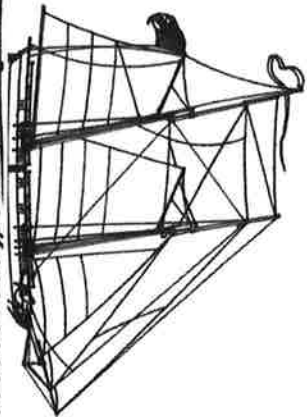


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The Golden Years

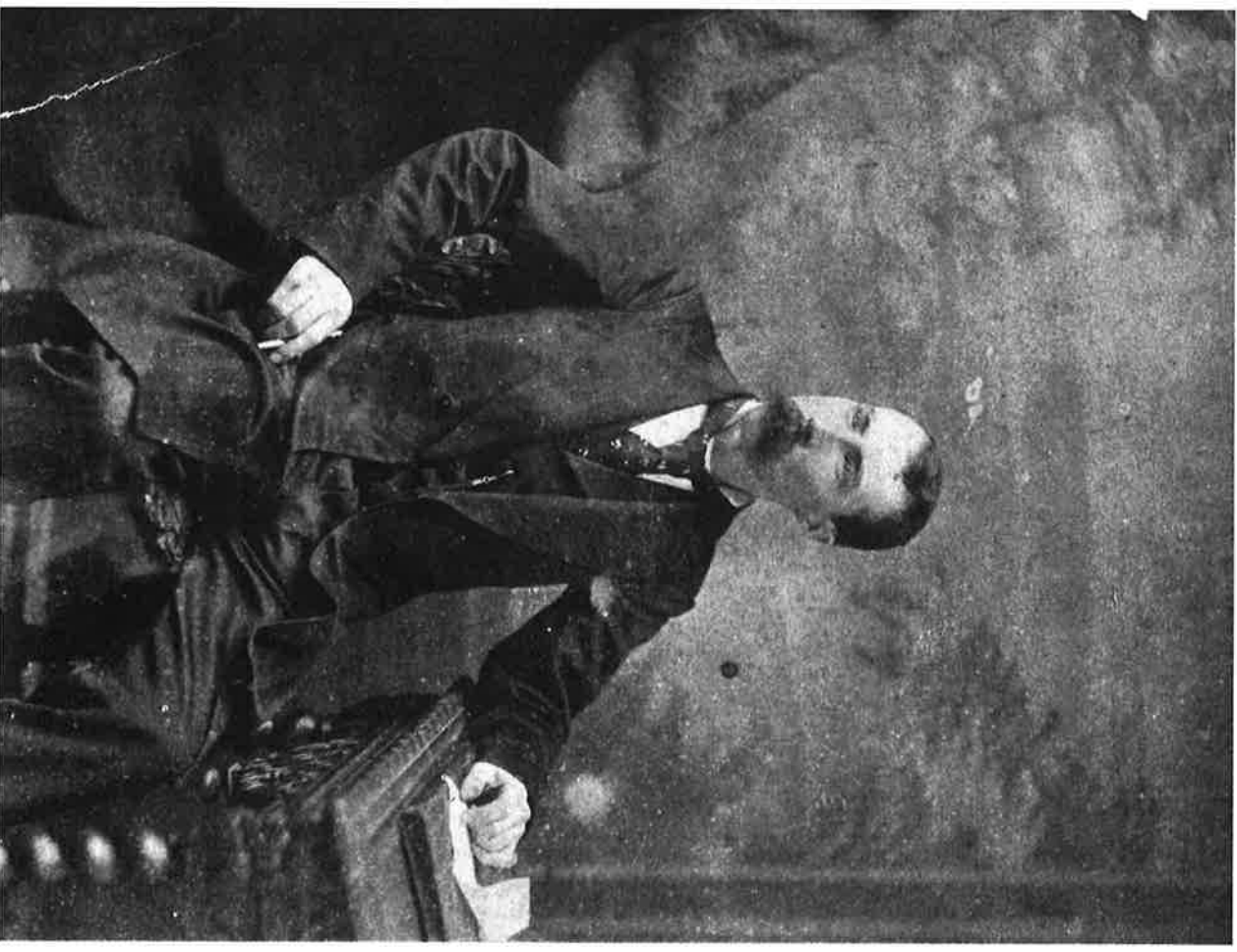
by Mary L. Hafteneffier

The Ferguson Letters were written in 1849 and 1850 between Thomas Ferguson, while journeying to and striking gold in California, and his wife Rosalinda, while enduring poverty with their children in Key West. The first part of the Letters was published in the Fall 2012 issue of the *Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal*. The present issue publishes the rest of the Letters, followed by the story of their life after Thomas's return to Key West as a multi-millionaire *****

Key West June the 19th 1850

My Dear Husband,

Your letter came duly to hand on the 17th instant. It gave me much joy to hear you are well and your prospects good. I assure you it is no fault on my part not receiving letters. I have written every mail with exception of two mails since I got your first letter from San Francisco. Your brother George [has] written often -- not receiving



Thomas J. Ferguson. Photo credit: Ferguson Family.

(Continued on page 3)