

W. F. Fisher – Born 12/13/1834 – buried 7/16/1902, Lot 18, Block 7; children there also.



W. F. FISHER, who ranks as a leading citizen of Calistoga, has lead a very busy, active and useful life.

Mr. Fisher was born December 14, 1834, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, his father being a farmer of German parentage, being born in Stuttgart, Germany. His mother was also of German descent, but born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Fisher was brought up on a border Western farm, as farmers' boys of that day were raised, to hard work and economical habits, and gaining thereby the energy and independence that have made him the man he is. He came to California in the spring of 1856, via Panama. During his stay upon the Isthmus occurred the riots of that year, which took place under his eyes. Upon reaching California Mr. Fisher engaged in the stage business at Napa for the late Hon. Nathan Coombs of that city, running a line from Napa to Benicia, remaining with Mr. Coombs for seven years. Later Mr. Fisher started a line of stages from Napa to Calistoga after Brannan bought and improved the hot springs at the latter point. This line also served the white sulphur springs at St. Helena. When the railroad was built up the valley as far as Oakland Mr. Fisher became agent for the railway at that point, continuing there until the road was extended to Calistoga. He then became messenger for the Pacific Union Express Company on the route from Calistoga to San Francisco, a position he held until the company sold out to Wells-Fargo some eighteen months later. Then Mr. Fisher put on a line of stages between Healdsburg and Calistoga, doing a large and profitable business until the construction of the Donahue line up through Sonoma County took away the profits. He then sold out and purchased the livery stable and business formerly conducted by Clifford in Calistoga. He immediately organized the Clear Lake & Navigation Company and began to run a line of stages from Calistoga into Lake County. Of this company he was general superintendent and a director as well as stockholder. He had four partners, -such men as Tibureio Parrott and others. After two years he bought out the lines from the company, continuing the livery business. Finally, in 1884, he sold out the

stage line to Mr. Wellington and the Lodi stable to Mr. Spiars, the present proprietor, in 1886. It is as a live stage and livery man that Mr. Fisher made his reputation as a man of unconquerable spirit and unbending integrity, hard-working, energetic and untiring, he won the confidence and esteem of every one and gained almost a national reputation for promptness and ability.

After selling out his stage and stable business, it would seem as if Mr. Fisher had earned the right to spend the remainder of his life in ease and comfort; but no, he at once turned his attention to benefiting his chosen town of Calistoga. He went to work to build water-works, constructing a reservoir in Fieg's Canon a couple of miles away, piping down to the town, giving an inexhaustible supply of pure, cold water at the pressure of seventy pounds. By this means Calistoga has been greatly benefited, though at no personal gain to Mr. Fisher. He was also largely interested in having the town incorporated, and thus clearing the place of the strong rowdy and saloon element that formerly predominated, raising the license for saloons from \$15 to \$400 a quarter and diminishing their number from fourteen to four. He is a Republican in politics and a most active and effective worker for his party, always striving to benefit-the better side and to advance the general good, public-spirited and generous in good causes. He was the chairman of the last Republican convention at Napa, but although active and influential yet never a self-seeker. He possesses the most handsome and comfortable residence in his town and is rightly considered as the leading citizen. At present he is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, conducting most of the business of the town in that direction.

Mr. Fisher was married in 1874 to Miss Agnes M. Safley, a native of Iowa and of Scotch parentage, the daughter of Andrew Safley, now deceased, one of the prominent older settlers of the county. They have had three children: Howard F. and Alice Hortense, one son and one daughter, being still alive, and promising to reproduce physically and mentally the good examples of their parents. Such in brief is an account of the busy life of W. F. Fisher, the pioneer stage man of Napa County, a man of immense determination and consequently of deserved success.

Napa County CA Archives Biographies.....Fisher, W. F. 1834 -

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