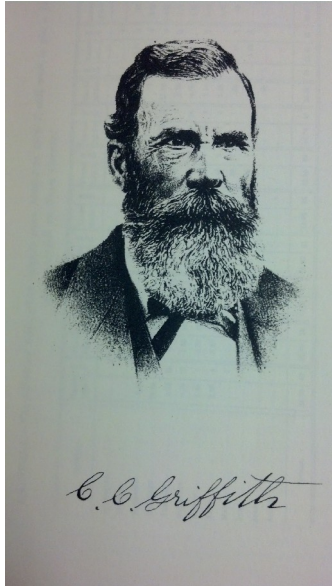


+Calvin Griffith – Born 1830 – Buried 6/20/1907, Lot 6, Block 1; wife Lydia buried 2/20/1913, Bear Flag Revolt, related to Hudson, Taplin, Loeber, Sensibaugh Families, Children Oliver, George, Jessie buried same location. One of the original pioneers in Valley, known as a horticulturalist. Came to California with the Grigsby-Ide historical wagon train of the Hudsons, Yorks, etc. the first over the Sierra Mountains through the Truckee (now Donner) Pass. Born in Chatham County, North Carolina. Moved to Macon County, MO. in 1835. Family came to California in 1845, did not stay in Sacramento, but came to Napa Valley and George Yount's place. Was a volunteer for General Fremont's army for two years and participated in the Bear Flag revolt. Following his discharge he was sent to Lake County to investigate the killing of Sam Kelsey by Indians, and to take charge of Kelsey's cattle. He returned to St. Helena in 1853 and farmed for three



years. After residing in Sonoma, Knight's Valley and Rutherford, he purchased a large parcel of land on the eastern side of the Valley and raised grapes, hay, grain and stock. He was Road Master of road district No. 6 having 45 miles of road under his charge, and a highly respected and popular man. Married in 1855 to Miss Lydia Sensibaugh, daughter of another pioneer who came to California by overland route in 1852. Robert Sensibaugh, Lydia's father, married a daughter of Enoch Hudson, father of the Napa Valley Hudsons. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have 7 children, three deceased, daughter Alice is wife of Fred Loeber, Clara A. the wife of a Taplin (?John O.?)

Calvin C. Griffith

Calvin C. Griffith - This old and respected pioneer of Napa County, whose portrait appears in this history, is the son of James A and Elizabeth Rogers Griffith, and was born in Chatham County, North Carolina, March 1, 1828. When he was but seven years of age, his parents moved and settled in Macon County, Missouri, and engaged in farming and stock raising, and there the subject of this sketch received the education that the common schools of that place afforded at that early date. After a

residence of ten years in Missouri, he, with his parents, with ox-teams started for California in company with others, among whom may be mentioned Mr. John York, David Hudson, James Gregson and Harvey Porterfield, and under command of John Grigsby, started from Independence, Missouri, to cross the then almost unknown plains, with the intention of going to Oregon. On their arrival at Fort Hall, however, they procured a guide, John Greenwood, who prevailed on them to change their route and come to California. A division of the original train took place - some going on to Oregon, while the balance turned their faces toward what afterward proved to be the Golden State. Among the latter, was the subject of our sketch, and with thirty wagons, out of as high at one time as one hundred and twenty-five, arrived in California, and we believe this to be the first train that ever successfully crossed the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They arrived at Johnsons Ranch October 17, 1845. In a few days they proceeded to Sutters Fort, near Sacramento, and there, building a raft, they crossed the Sacramento

River and proceeded to Napa Valley, arriving on Mr. Yount's ranch November 1, 1845. After six months residence in this valley, Mr. Griffith and family were compelled to seek protection in the town of Sonoma on account of the Mexican War. Calvin Griffith was a volunteer under General Fremont, during the war in California, serving in all about nine months, receiving his discharge in April, 1847, and now has a medal made out of the brass of one of the cannons captured during this war. At the close of the war, Mr. Griffith returned to Sonoma, and went thence to the mines. In 1852, he embarked in farming, and in the fall of 1853, returned to Napa Valley, and engaged in farming near St. Helena, for three years. In 1856, he returned to Sonoma County, continuing farming on Mark West Creek until the spring of 1871. He then purchased his present property, consisting of eighty-three acres, and engaged in general farming, about one-half mile north of Rutherford. Mr. Griffith was united in marriage in St. Helena September 6, 1855, to *Miss Lydia Lensibaugh, a native of Wisconsin. They have seven living children: Oliver C., Mary E., Alice M., Clara A., Albert J., George A. and Jessie G.

* According to, *The Men of the California Bear Flag Revolt and their Heritage*, by Barbara R. Warner. Published by Arthur H. Clark Publishing Company for the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, 1996, pages 103 /323, 324/467.

Miss Lydia Lensibaugh is: **Lydia Sensibaugh** Born 20 Dec. 1837 Lexington, MO, died 18 Feb. 1913, St.Helena, CA. Also according to family sources the birth place for **Miss Lydia Sensibaugh** is Lexington, MO.

Both Lydia and Calvin are buried in the Griffith plot in the St Helena Cemetery, there is also a Griffith / Standiford plot. Calvin buried June 20, 1907. Lydia died 18 Feb. 1913, St.Helena, CA. Buried 2-20-1913.

CALVIN C. GRIFFITH

Calvin C. Griffith, horticulturist, Napa County, who is one of the oldest pioneers of this place, having crossed the plains in 1845 with the new historical train that brought out the Hudsons, Yorks and many other well-known names in California, and that was the first train that brought wagons over the Sierra Nevadas. The hardships of that truly pioneer journey, the road-making through the mountains, is all a part of history and need not be enlarged upon here. Yet notwithstanding it all, and despite his sixty-one years, Mr. Griffith is still a young-looking, hardy, healthy as well as hard-working man. He was born in Chatham County, North Carolina, the son of James A. Griffith, and grandson of Mason Griffith, who served honorably throughout the Revolutionary war. On the father's side he is of an old Welsh family. On his mother's side the family is English, of the name Rogers, also an old family, so that it will be seen Mr. Griffith comes of old families on both sides of the house. In 1835 the family removed to Macon County, Missouri, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Ten years later, in 1845, the family set out as already mentioned for the West. Oregon was at first the destination, but meeting a man at Fort Hall, by name Greenwood, he gave them such glowing accounts of California that a part of the train, among them the subject of this sketch, set out for this place, under Greenwood's guidance. They reached Johnson's ranch, the first point in the Sacramento Valley, on October 17, and pushed on at once to Sutter's fort, glad enough to get a supply of fresh provisions. The Sacramento River was crossed on rafts, and on November 1, when at the Yount place in the Napa Valley. Mr. Griffith's father rented a portion of the Yount ranch, now owned by Colonel J. D. Fry, and put in grain. The outbreak of the Mexican war, shortly after, however, disturbed all plans, and the family was forced to take refuge at Sonoma. The following incidents of that contest with its important results and the raising of the Bear flag, are related fully elsewhere and need not be gone into here. Mr. Griffith was a volunteer in Fremont's force, and saw active service for the greater portion of a year, being at the occupation of Los Angeles, and later at San Gabriel. In the spring of 1847 he was finally honorably discharged and returned at once to Sonoma. During this war he was first in the company commanded by Captain Hastings, was transferred at Monterey to that of Captain Sears, and in the southern country to Captain Hudspeth. He engaged in farming and stock-raising at Sonoma, although not there constantly. Mr. Griffith and Ben Moore were the men sent up to Clear Lake, in Lake County, after the murder of Kelsey and Stone by the Indians, to look after their cattle. They found Kelsey's head stuck in the window of their cabin. The Indians, however, did not molest them, but they had some very exciting adventures. Returning to the Napa Valley in 1853, he farmed near St. Helena till December, 1856. He then went to Sonoma County, near Santa Rosa, and engaged in agriculture until 1871, when he once more came to Napa Valley, after a short sojourn of four months at Knight's Valley, and bought land near Rutherford. He then sold in 1883 and purchased his present place on the eastern edge of the valley, and where he resides with his family. He raises grapes, having a good-sized vineyard, hay, grain and stock. For four years past Mr. Griffith has been Road Master of road district

No. 6, having forty-five miles of road under his charge. He is one of the most highly respected and popular men of the valley, known by everyone and regarded by all as an excellent citizen. He was married, September 6, 1855, to Miss Lydia Sensibaugh, at St. Helena. Mrs. Griffith is the daughter of Colonel Robert Sensibaugh, who has been a pioneer of more than one State, and is still living at the good old age of eighty-three years, in Wise County, Texas, to which place he went from California in 1861. Mrs. Griffith was born in Dade County, Missouri, in 1838, and came overland with her parents in 1852, residing from that time till the date of her marriage to Mr. Griffith in Napa Valley.

Mr. Sensibaugh is of German descent, the son of Adam Sensibaugh. He married the daughter of Enoch Hudson, who was the father of the well-known Hudsons of Napa County. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have seven children.