

Compiled by John Tamagni

### THE THOMPSON FAMILY

<b>William Burdette Thompson</b>	1809-1853
<b>Mary Ann Russell Thompson Cole</b>	1818-1900
<b>Fannie Thompson</b>	1850-1856

1. **William B. Thompson** arrives at Bridgeport in 1849 after his crew abandoned ship for the gold fields, when they sailed into San Francisco Bay. He was a sea captain.
2. **Mary Ann Russell** marries **William Thompson** in 1850.
3. 1850 Mary Ann and William have a child. They name her **Fannie**.
4. William Thompson died in 1853 cause of death unknown. He is buried in the Kneebone Family Cemetery.
5. **Fannie Thompson** died in 1856 cause of death unknown. She is buried in the Kneebone Family Cemetery.
6. **Mary Ann Thompson** marries **Charles Cole** requested by William Thompson before he died. Marriage date unknown.

### The Virginia Turnpike Company

1. The intention to organize the Virginia Turnpike Company was November 1855.
2. The first meeting was November 24, 1855 at David J. Wood's home at Point Defiance to elect officers.
3. The officers were David J. Wood, President; T. W. M. Thompson, Secretary and N. W. Clark, Treasurer.
4. They named the company "The Virginia Turnpike."
5. They agreed to have capital stock worth \$40,000. Four hundred shares were issued at \$100 per share.

6.	<u>Shareholders</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Robert Green	3	\$300
	A. R. Dodge	2	\$200
	T. W. M. Thompson	5	\$500
	James E. Cox	1	\$100
	J. M. C. Jasper	2	\$200
	Mrs. E. J. Jasper	2	\$200
	George Fagg	2	\$200
	Mrs. A. M. Fagg	2	\$200
	Mrs. Jane D. Wood	10	\$1,000
	N. W. Clark	125	\$12,500
	S. D. Wood	125	\$12,500
	David J. Wood	121	\$12,100

7. The Virginia Turnpike was approximately 10 miles long and ran from Anthony House to French Corral on to Freemans Crossing.
8. The final organization, by-laws and certificate of the Virginia Turnpike Company, filed January 25, 1856
9. The Virginia Turnpike Company borrows \$3,000 from A. H. Wilder in the form of a Promissory note, July 16, 1856.
10. The Virginia Turnpike Company borrows \$7,200 in the form of a Promissory note from J. M. and N. R. Greenly, October 1, 1861.
11. The Virginia Turnpike Company borrows \$30,983.56 in the form of a Promissory note from David J. Wood, January 7, 1864. David J. Wood releases the property and franchise of the Virginia Turnpike Company.
12. March 28, 1865, James Simpson files suit against the Virginia Turnpike Company for \$15,041.66. The Turnpike Company was unable to meet the obligation. The court orders the Virginia Turnpike Company to be turned over to Nevada County Sheriff, Charles Kent, to be sold at a public auction.
13. June 18, 1866, a public auction held and the highest bidder at \$16,466.00 was Nirus Cadwallader. The sale was recorded June 19, 1866.
14. Joseph Jasper and Samuel Wood buys David Wood's share in the Virginia Turnpike Company, January 4, 1869.
15. Joseph Jasper and Samuel Wood regain control of the Virginia Turnpike Company in 1873.
16. Samuel Wood gains control of the Virginia Turnpike Company in 1876.
17. In 1901, the Virginia Turnpike Company is absolved, roadway and bridge turned over to

Nevada County. No more tolls were charged.

### **THE BRIDGE**

1. Built in 1862 after the original bridge washed away January 4, 1862.
2. David J. Wood and the Virginia Turnpike Company built the bridge.
3. Today's length of bridge opening to opening is 229 feet, abutment to abutment is 208 feet.
4. 1862 Ridge line length was 251 feet, with weather wings before 1971 restoration, when the weather wings were removed.
5. Bridge is covered to protect the interior architecture, weather wings protected the entrances.
6. Construction is Howe Truss and Burr Arch, making the bridge the longest covered bridge in the United States with this type of construction.
7. The 27,000 shingles (5-6 inches wide by 36 inches long) are made of sugar pine and the Truss/Arch is made of Douglas fir.

### **THE WOOD FAMILY**

<b>David John Wood</b>	1810-1875
Jane D. Wood (David's wife)	1803-1882
Amanda Wood Fagg (daughter)	1834-1908
Ellen J. Wood Jasper (daughter)	1830-1871
Samuel D. Wood (son)	1833-1905
Catherine A. Dodge Wood (Samuel's wife)	-1921
George Fagg (son-in-law)	1824-1882
Joseph M. Jasper (son-in-law)	1831-1904

### **David J. Wood**

1. President, share owner and board member in the Virginia Turnpike Company.
2. Property and sawmill owner in Forest City, Sierra County.
3. David Wood and Thomas Freeman surveyed the Hennes Pass route May 10, 1859. They found a route north of Virginia City (Steamboat Valley) which saved 15 miles.

Marysville to Virginia City's Comstock was now 128 miles.

4. David built the Covered Bridge in 1862.
5. David Wood signs Promissory note to the Virginia Turnpike Company for \$30,983.56. David releases his property and franchise privileges of the Virginia Turnpike Company, January 7, 1864.
6. He was also a property and store owner in French Corral.
7. The Wood home (Point Defiance?) became a voting precinct in 1856 and 1859. David Wood was the Inspector of votes.
8. January 4, 1869, David Wood sells his shares in the Virginia Turnpike Company to Joseph Jasper (son-in-law) and Samuel Wood for \$500.
9. Wood Family moved to Wheatland, Yuba County in 1868.
10. David J. Wood died, November 14, 1875, buried in Wheatland.

#### **Samuel D. Wood**

1. Owned a General Store in Cumberland, Sierra County in the early 1860's with T. W. M. Thompson.
2. Married Catherine A. Dodge in June of 1861 in San Francisco.
3. October 29, 1862, Samuel and Catherine Wood have a son, they name him David J. Wood, II, he was born in Cumberland, Sierra County.
4. Owned a home in Sweetland, 1864.
5. Treasurer (1864) and shareholder in the Virginia Turnpike Company.
6. Became the sole owner of the Virginia Turnpike Company on May 14, 1876. He purchased from Joseph Jasper (brother-in-law) for \$4000.
7. Samuel Wood acquires a Promissory note from The Farmers Bank of Wheatland for \$1,400, May 2, 1899.
8. In an action The Farmers Bank of Wheatland foreclosed on \$1400 mortgage.
9. The Virginia Turnpike Company sold for non-payment of State and County taxes for tax year 1898.
10. Absolved the Virginia Turnpike Company 1901. The roadway and bridge turned over

to the County of Nevada and recorded April 10, 1901.

11. Samuel died in Berkeley, California, March 18, 1905 and is buried in Wheatland.

### **Joseph M. Jasper**

1. Joseph Jasper marries, David Wood's daughter, Ellen September 24, 1851 in Downieville, Sierra County.
2. Shareholder in the Virginia Turnpike Company. He purchases David J. Wood's Promissory note to the Virginia Turnpike Company, January 4, 1869.
3. Co-owner of the Virginia Turnpike Company with Samuel Wood, January 2, 1873. The mortgage was \$5000. R. M. Hunt and T. W. Sigourney (mayor of Nevada City) were the mortgage holders.
4. Joseph Jasper sells his shares in the Virginia Turnpike Company for \$4000 in 1876 to his brother-in-law, Samuel Wood.
5. July 28, 1904, Joseph died in Wheatland, California and is buried in Wheatland, California.

### **GEORGE FAGG**

1. George Fagg arrived at Downieville in 1850, he was a painter by trade.
2. George Fagg marries David Wood's daughter Amanda in Downieville, Sierra County, June 9, 1852.
3. Shareholder in the Virginia Turnpike Company.

Was secretary of the Virginia Turnpike Company, 1864.

David Wood gives George Fagg, Power of Attorney over his affairs including the Virginia Turnpike Company, March 10, 1865.

6. Owned home and store in French Corral.
7. Won a Judgment against T. C. Emery, July 13, 1860, owner of Emery Crossing on the Middle Yuba River, above Freeman's Crossing.

### **Family Property Sold**

Jane Wood, Amanda Wood Fagg and Samuel Wood sell the family property to Caleb Cooley for \$400, May 30, 1877. This includes 4 acres north and east of the Covered Bridge (maintenance yard and north parking lot area).

## The Cole Family

<b>Charles Jurden Cole</b>	1831-1916
Mary Ann Thompson Cole	1818-1900
Mary Ann Cole	1854-1937
Fannie Cole Mitchell	1857-1952
Charles Russell Cole	1860-1921
Victoria Marie Cole	1862-1930

### Charles Jurden Cole

1. Charles J. Cole arrives at Bridgeport at the age of 19 in the early 1850's.
2. Charles J. Cole marries Mary Ann Thompson (marriage date unknown). This was by the request of William Thompson before he died in 1853.
3. Charles and Mary Ann apply for Homestead status for married persons, April 21, 1861, for 160 acres.
4. Charles J. Cole builds the Bridgeport House/Hotel (19 rooms) in 1862.
5. The 1862 assessment rolls show the Cole Ranch was 160 acres (\$1000). In addition there was a home, barn, fencing, 6 cows, 9 head of young stock (\$210), 2 mares, 3 colts (\$115), 1 wagon, 4 tons of hay (\$120) and a small water ditch (\$150). Taxable property \$1,595 Taxes \$34.29
6. After restrictions put an end to hydraulic mining (Sawyer Decision of 1884). Charles J. Cole's Hotel business fell off. Charles took to stock raising and farming as the primary source of income.
7. May 24, 1916, Charles J. Cole dies at Bridgeport and is buried in the Kneebone Family Cemetery.

Ranch in 1916 was 1040 acres.

## The Kneebone Family

<b>JOSEPH KNEEBONE, SR</b>	<b>1838 - 1907</b>
<b>ANDREW REED KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1860 - 1934</b>
<b>VICTORIA MARIE COLE KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1862 - 1930</b>
<b>CHARLES ANDREW KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1888 - 1947</b>
<b>JOSEPH RUSSELL KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1890 - 1946</b>
<b>ALFRED ALEXANDER KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1892 - 1945</b>
<b>JOHNITHEN BUDD KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1895 - 1986</b>

<b>WILLIAM HENRY KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1897 - 1918</b>
<b>LUCY J. MOYNIER KNEEBONE</b>	<b>1891 - 1963</b>
<b>LUCILLE VICTORIA KNEEBONE BRANDT</b>	<b>1919 - 2002</b>
<b>ALFRIEDA MARIE KNEEBONE KNOWLTON</b>	<b>1925 -</b>

**JOSEPH KNEEBONE, SR.**

1. Arrived Sacramento in 1868.
2. Went to Virginia City, Nevada. Purchased a wagon and team, became a teamster.
3. Returned to the Grass Valley area, settled at Spenceville purchased ranch and started a teaming business.
4. His wife Mary and 6 of their 7 children arrived in Spenceville in 1871.
5. Their seventh, Andrew Reed remained in England to complete his education.
6. Joseph Kneebone, Sr. murdered near his Spenceville ranch in 1907, murder never solved.

**ANDREW REED KNEEBONE**

1. Born in Gwennap, Cornwall England, November 7, 1860.
2. Arrived at Spenceville in 1876.
3. Became a famous teamster. Used what was known as the jerk line method, a single line to one lead animal. His teams were from 12 to 20 animals and used up to three wagons in tandem.
4. Andrew became acquainted with Victoria Cole after driving wagons through Bridgeport to the northern mines.
5. Andrew and Victoria were married at Marysville, March 29, 1887.
6. Andrew and Victoria moved to Andrew's Spenceville Ranch.
7. Andrew and Victoria have 5 sons, Charles Andrew 1888, Joseph Russell 1890, Alfred Alexander 1892, James Budd 1895 and William Henry 1897. Only Joseph Russell was born at Bridgeport, raised at Spenceville.
8. Andrew moved to Bridgeport after Victoria's death in 1930.
9. Andrew is Administrator to Victoria's estate, she didn't have a will. Property was divided, Andrew 1/3, Charles 1/6, Joseph 1/6, Alfred 1/6 and James 1/6.

10. Andrew Reed Kneebone dies at a home in Grass Valley, February 25, 1934. He is buried in the Kneebone Family Cemetery.

### **VICTORIA MARIE COLE KNEEBONE**

1. Born at Bridgeport on January 11 1862, to Charles and Mary Ann Cole.
2. Marries Andrew Kneebone on March 29, 1887.
3. Moved to Andrew's Spenceville ranch.
4. Victoria becomes Administrator of her father (Charles Cole) estate when he died on May 24, 1916.
5. Cole's estate divided: Victoria 1/3, Mary Ann 1/3, Fanny 1/6, Charles Russell 1/6.
6. Charles Russell Cole, Victoria's brother, deeds his 1/6 share of the Cole ranch to Victoria on June 20, 1920, excluding 7 acres.
7. Fanny Cole Mitchell, Victoria's sister, deeds her 1/6 share of the Cole ranch to Victoria on March 14, 1921, excluding 7 acres.
8. Victoria is administrator of Mary Ann Cole's (sister) 1/3 share of the Cole ranch. Mary Ann was mentally deficient.
9. Fanny Cole Mitchell, Mary Ann Cole, Ella Cole Jackson, (the wife of the late Charles Russell Cole, deceased). Deed to Victoria their shares of 7 remaining acres of the Cole estate.
10. Victoria dies in Spenceville on March 30, 1930 and is buried in the Kneebone Family Cemetery.

### **ALFRED ALEXANDER KNEEBONE**

1. Born in Spenceville on September 13, 1892.
2. Alfred marries Lucy Moynier November 29 1919, have 2 daughters, Lucille Victoria and Alfrieda Marie.
3. Developed the Bridgeport Swim Resort and operated the gas station/store at the ranch in 1927.
4. The first grand opening of the swim resort was on June 12, 1927.
5. The Swim Resort threatened with muddy water due to upstream mining in 1930.
6. In 1931, Alfred filed lawsuit against the Bonanza Gold Mining Corp. and Omega Hill

Mining Corporation for loss of income in 1930.

7. 1939, The United States commences an action to condemn 128.14 acres, against Alfred Kneebone and Capital Company et al, in Yuba and Nevada Counties.
8. 1942, The United States commences an action to condemn ±228 acres, offers Alfred \$22,500. This action was because of the building of Englebright dam, known as the narrows at that time.
9. 1944, The United States Vs 128.14 acres in Nevada, Yuba Counties settled. Capital Company, received \$1,944.30 and Alfred \$75.
10. Alfred's brothers, Joseph, Charles and James deed to Alfred their 1/6 share of the Kneebone ranch, December 21, 1944.
11. February 19, 1945, Alfred Kneebone dies at Bridgeport and is buried in Grass Valley, California.

#### **LUCY J. KNEEBONE**

1. Lucy is administrator of Alfred's estate. Ranch divided as follows, Lucy 1/3, Lucille Kneebone Brandt 1/3 (daughter) and Alfrieda Kneebone Knowlton 1/3 (daughter).
2. Lucy signs final judgment brought by the US Government for \$22,500, on March 27, 1946.
3. Lucy Kneebone leases the ranch for \$1,200 per year. Lease excluded home and yard.

#### **August 10, 1951 The Kneebone Ranch is sold to Charles White.**

1. 1956, The Whites sell ranch to Evan Harrison. Harrisons remove Lucy Kneebone's home and build Cottage in 1957 (which was remodeled in 1997 as a Park Visitor Center).
2. 1958, The Harrisons sell ranch to Melvin Maish.
3. 1964 July 21, the Maishs sell the ranch to Jack Cowan.
4. 1966 June 20, Jack Cowan sells ranch to Robert Spitzer.
5. June 22, Spitzer develops the Bridgeport-Ponderosa Corporation.
6. June 28, 1972, Nevada County condemns 2 acres to provide parking and access to the covered bridge. The County paid the Bridgeport-Ponderosa Company \$7,500.

7. 1973-1986 Property obtained from Sequoia Challenge and other parties to produce the South Yuba River State Park. Today the park is 22 miles long and consists of  $\pm$  3700 acres.