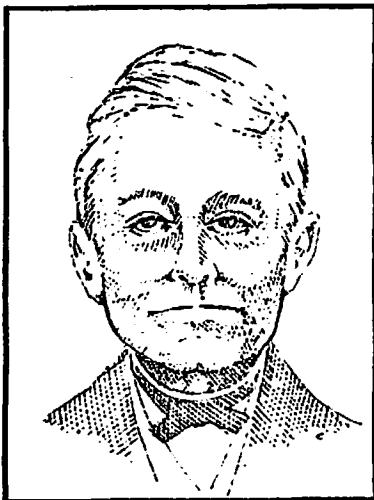


COVERED WAGON FAMILIES

THE SHAY FAMILY

(Reprinted from the Jan. 19, 1939 issue of the San Bernardino Sun)



Walter A. Shay, Sr.

SHAY, Walter A. Sr., born at Nova Scotia, May 1, 1812, and Eliza Goshe, born in Arkansas, married at El Monte in 1853. He arrived at San Francisco in the early part of 1849 and at San Bernardino in 1857. His children were:

John J. Shay, born at Puente, California, April 22, 1854, married Imogene Atwood at San Bernardino.

Henry Shay (died in infancy).

Thomas Shay, born at El Monte, March 10, 1857, married Mary Gann.

William Shay, born at San Bernardino, May 14, 1880, married Sarah Whitby at San Bernardino.

Walter A. Shay, Jr., born at San Bernardino, June 28, 1866, married Matilda McCoy at San Bernardino in 1892.

Mary Shay of San Bernardino, born at San Bernardino, November 14, 1863, married Thomas B. Hutchings. All are now deceased.

Although the Shay family was widely-known in the early history of San Bernardino valley, the name is almost synonymous with law enforcement. The bare mention of Shay recalls the long years that members of the pioneer family served in law enforcement activities in San Bernardino county.

Walter A. Shay, Sr., was a cooper by trade. Born in Nova Scotia, he went to Boston, Mass., during the early forties and was residing in that city when he heard the news of the discovery of gold in California in 1848.

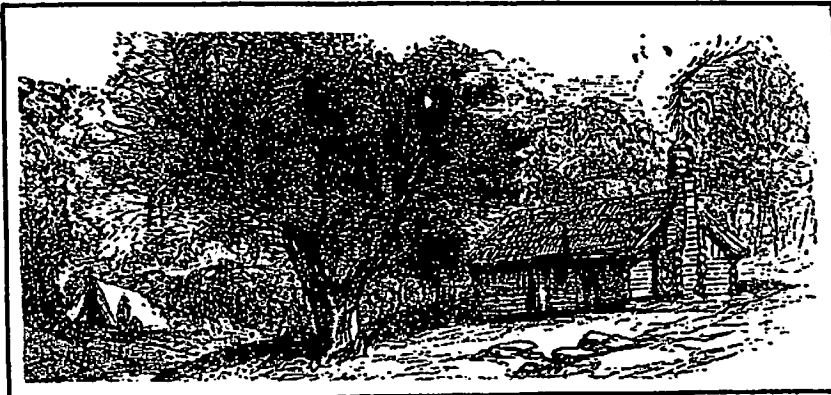
Seized with the fever that swept across the country, he made some few hurried preparations and boarded a steamer for the voyage around Cape Horn, but when the vessel put in at Aspinwall he left her and crossed the Isthmus.

On the Pacific side, he took the old steamer, "Golden Gate," and arrived at San Francisco in the spring of 1849. From that city he made his way by stage to Los Angeles, and, having found that the securing of gold was not as easy as had been represented, sought work at his trade there and later engaged in ranching.

It was at the ranch of Rowland & Workman that he met the cook of the ranch, Mrs. Eliza Goshe (Goshen) and they were married in 1853. She had crossed the plains by immigrant train in an ox-drawn prairie schooner early in 1851, coming via Santa Fe, N.M., crossing the Colorado river at Ft. Yuma, then the desert and passing through the Carriso Creek country, through the mountains to Chino and on to Los Angeles.

Her first husband had died en route at Tucson, Ariz., and she came on alone and secured the position as cook at the ranch.

In 1857, when the Mormons were recalled from this section of California by President Brigham Young,



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