

**TIBURCIO PARROTT**

**1840 – 1894**

**The Man Who Built Miravalle — Falcon Crest**

**Jourdan George Myers**

**Deer Park, California 1987**

**(self-published)**

## **Preface**

This book is a direct result of having worked quite a number of years to put together a book of my mother's families — Willmore, Hix, Lee, and Parrott. When I finished with the research I found that I had much more material on Tiburcio Parrott than I could use in that particular book. Since he was such an interesting character, I decided to do additional research and see if I could assemble enough data to write a separate book about him. I was pleasantly surprised at how much material was available.

I would like to thank Barbara Donohoe Jostes who has written a very important book on John Parrott, her grandfather. She was very charming and agreed to share her files and family papers with me. She has also answered many questions by telephone and letter. I am most grateful for her help. John Schmit of York, Pennsylvania, has been very pleasant when I have written and called him time and again for help with descendants of Louis B. Parrott.

With the exception of a few pictures, the photographs in the book were done by Ralph Putzker including some of the photographs of Miravalle/Falcon Crest. Keith Rosenthal gave me permission to use some of his photographs of the interior shots he made of Miravalle/Falcon Crest. Ramona Beringer took her time to go through the Beringer Private Papers and pictures that she has. She located the reference and description of Tiburcio that Bertha Beringer wrote in 1951. Fred Beringer loaned me the picture of the Stone Bridge Saloon, which is included in this book.

My most sincere thanks to John Ulen of Washington, D.C., who has spent his time editing the book. I have mailed him mish-mosh and it has come back to me as something that the New Yorker would publish. He tells me that he has done it for recreation but to me it has been a labor of love. Michael and Susan Robbins have given me time and help in putting the book together and we have discussed Miravalle at great length and the possible arrangement of furniture in the house in Tiburcio's time.

Rebecca Wilson has typed, corrected, retyped and corrected so many times. Her patience is not to be believed especially when I would change something for the fourth time.

The staff of the St. Helena Library has taken the time to check details for me as well as securing books and film for the project. I am most grateful to them and especially Mille DeJager.

My wife, Ruby B. Myers, has once again given her time and effort to proof, discuss, and help with problems. This is the third book she has suffered through. She has always been willing to help.

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**1 February 1987**

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**MAZATLAN TO MASSACHUSETTS**

Tiburcio Parrott was born in Mazatlan, State of Sinaloa, Mexico, on 11 August 1840. His mother was Deloris Ochoa,<sup>1</sup> a native of Mazatlan. His father was John Parrott, a native of Tennessee, who in 1840 was U.S. Consul in Mazatlan. Deloris Ochoa was John Parrott's mistress for most of the years he was stationed in Mazatlan. To date research has not revealed very much about the Ochoa family other than that they were a prolific family of the Mazatlan area. Since Mexican baptismal certificates almost unfailingly list maternal and paternal grandparents, such a certificate would be helpful, but as yet the Diocese of Mazatlan has not been able to locate one for the baptism of Tiburcio.

The Parrott family is almost certainly of English extraction. Records as early as 1623 mention a John Parrott in Elizabeth Cittie in Virginia. A number of people have worked to sort out the various Parrott families but so far no one has clearly delineated all the branches.

Tiburcio Parrott was descended from a John Parrott who was born in Virginia in 1730. That John Parrott was probably the son of Nathaniel and Penelope Parrott of Bristol Parish, Virginia. If we take the year 1623 in Elizabeth Cittie as the start of the Parrott family in America then we have a one hundred year period to be researched. Maybe at a later date someone will do this research project since many famous people had the surname of Parrott and they should be relatively easy to trace. For instance, Richard Parrott was outstanding in both Lancaster and Middlesex Counties, Virginia. He was sheriff of Lancaster County in 1657, Sheriff of Middlesex County, and Representative of Middlesex County to the house for Burgesses in Williamsburg, Virginia. Then, too, records show an Elijah Parrott in Halifax County, Virginia, during the revolution. He was a son of John and Ruth Parrott and a brother of James Parrott.

A chain of events indicates the probable date of the movement of the Parrott family from Halifax County to Lee County, Virginia, to Jackson County, Tennessee. Tiburcio's grandfather, James Parrott, and his wife, Catherine Stuart<sup>2</sup>, were living in Halifax County, Virginia, when their oldest child, Eliza, was born in 1797<sup>3</sup>. Their next child, William Stuart Parrott, was born in Lee County, Virginia, on 17 September 1798.<sup>4</sup> Sarah Sally Parrott was born in Jackson County, Tennessee, on 15 May 1800.<sup>5</sup> According to family legend the youngest child, John Parrott, was born in the wagon in which the family moved themselves and their belongings to Jackson County<sup>6</sup>, but that seems unlikely since records show that the family had been living in Jackson County for eleven years before John was born on 16 April 1811.

The family settled near Carthage, Tennessee, close to the confluence of the Caney Fork and Cumberland Rivers. William Stuart Parrott refers to his early home in the "cane break" region along the Cumberland River in a letter to William L. Marcy, U.S. Secretary of War, 4 January 1847 (letter No. 7, letters sent, in Military Book 27, War Department Archives, Washington, D.C.).

James Parton in his book, The Life of Andrew Jackson, quotes an English traveler, Francis Bailey. Bailey visited this area of Tennessee about three years before the Parrott family moved there. Bailey said:

“. . . The gloomy and majestic scenery of the surrounding objects, you would be apt to imagine, would excite a degree of melancholy in a person not used to such scenes; but this was not the case with me . . . Surrounded on each side with a deep wall of woods, I enjoyed the serenity of the evening in silent mediation . . .”

Growing up on any American frontier had its problems. The lack of schools, transportation, and communication had replaced the earlier Indian menace, but the mere question of survival was always the primary concern. The area in which the Parrotts settled was near the Knoxville Wagon Road and the Caney Fork River was nearby, but it was still a half a day's journey to a village of any size. Tiburcio's father, John Parrott, did not have much contact with his brother, William Stuart, in early life as William Stuart enlisted in the war of 1812 in November of 1814. He was discharged after having received a wound in the Battle of New Orleans<sup>7</sup>, which caused him to limp for the rest of his life. He was back in Tennessee in late 1815, when John Parrott was only four years of age. Also in 1815 John's sister, Elza, married Jessie Lee. According to family legend, Jessie Lee was a member of that plethora of Lees that have covered Virginia since the revolution. Elza's sister, Sally, married Barnett Lee, a brother of Jesse, in 1830. John's third sister, Nancy, married a Will Holcomb in about 1825. The three sisters, Elza, Sarah Sally, and Nancy stayed in a limited area of Tennessee and Kentucky. The brothers, William Stuart and John, spent about 25 percent of their lives in Mexico. The family legend is that Catherine Stuart Parrott died and that James Parrott married again. Apparently none of the children approved of the new wife. She is the reason given for William Stuart's decision to join the U. S. Army and she is also given as the reason for John's decision to join his brother, William Stuart, in Mexico as soon as he was old enough to leave home. William Start Parrott left home permanently in 1816. His actual movements are difficult to trace, but between 1816 and 1822 he lived part of the time in Cuba and he undoubtedly learned Spanish and studied dentistry in this time. In 1822 Dr. W. S. Parrott, dentist, went to Mexico. By the time he returned to the United States in August of 1826, he acquired a wife by the name of Adele Parrott. A family story says the first wife of William Stuart Parrott died and was buried at sea. This story may or may not be true. We do know that William Stuart Parrot's wife, Adele, sailed from Vera Cruz to Philadelphia on 19 August 1826. The following is a certificate recorded in Philadelphia in Miscellaneous Book G. W. R. No. 1, page 605 on October of 1826.

“The twenty-eighth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, in the Gulf of Mexico, on board of the merchant brig, Emeline, owned by John Stevenson and Robert Rae, both of Philadelphia, bound from Vera Cruz thence, which port she left on the nineteenth of the same month. We, Robert Rae, captain and part owner of said brig, William Paul of Philadelphia, mate and keeper of the log book, and passengers William S. Parrott, merchant, native of Lee County, Virginia, U.S., Adele Parrott, his wife, Lewis Duclaud, of the United States, merchant, and Charles Perry, of London, officer of the Mining Company of Guanajuato — do certify that on this day, at

six o'clock in the morning, Mr. Francis de Attellis Santangelo, aged nineteen years, son of Marquis O. de A. Santangelo, both Neopolitans, and passenger aboard said brig bound from Vera Cruz to Philadelphia, departed this life, in consequence of a fever which developed itself the evening of our leaving the port of Vera Cruz, and which immediately assumed all of the characteristics of what is called by the Spaniards vomite prieto, or calenture amarilla, which rages with fatality at Vera Cruz at this season of the year; in consequence of which, and in the presence of us all, and the brig's crew, the body of the said Francis de Santangelo, deceased well enveloped in sheets, and placed in a strong coffin, filled with ballast, and securely nailed, has been committed to watery grave in the Gulf of Mexico, in twenty-three degrees and forty-one minutes of north latitude, and ninety degrees west longitude, from Greenwich. In faith whereof, we, the undersigned, have, at the request of the Marquis O. de A. Santangelo, the father, who likewise has affixed his hand and seal, granted two copies of the above, the one for the father, and the other to be placed by captain Rae in the power of the civil authorities of Philadelphia. On board of the brig Emeline, Gulf of Mexico, day and year above written. Robert Rae, William B. Paul, W. S. Parrott, A. Parrott, L. Duclaud, Charles Parry, O. de A. Santangelo."<sup>8</sup>

Adele Parrott may well have died on a trip from Vera Cruz to the United States. The evidence is as follows:

1. The grave of Adele Parrott has never been located. She is not buried in Baltimore where John Stuart went when he returned from Mexico the first time. She is not buried with William Stuart Parrott in York, Pennsylvania. Since William Stuart died at the home of Adele's daughter, we assume that she would have had him buried with her mother if possible.
2. Yellow fever (votime prieto or calentura amarilla) was a highly contagious disease, and Adele quite possibly was infected either in Vera Cruz or on the ship. The confusion arises in that Thomas Lafayette Lee published a small booklet on the Lee and Graves families in 1940<sup>9</sup>. His description of Adele's death and burial are close to that of the John Jordan account of the death of Francis de Attellia Santangelo, we wonder whether the stories were mixed up in the telling from generation to generation.
3. The best evidence that the story is true is that we know Adele has died by 1828 as William Stuart Parrott married his second wife, Emily Comte<sup>10</sup> in Baltimore, Maryland. They were married by the Minister Delone on 6 September 1828. Emily Comte was the daughter of Estaban Julian Comte and Juana Claudia of the Garet Bastaille. Emily Comte Parrott died between November 1842 and June 1850. A more definite date can probably be established at a later time.



The following is an outline of the activities of William Stuart Parrott from 1829 until his death in 1863<sup>11</sup>.

- 1829 - Return to Mexico with his wife, Emile.
- 1831 - Living in Mexico City.
- 1834 - 1836 Appointed U.S. Consul in Mexico City by President Andrew Jackson.
- 1834 - A daughter, Maria Leocardia Maria de Guadalupe Parrot y Comte, born in Mexico City.
- 1836 - A daughter, Maria Delores Cameta Parrott y Comte, born in Mexico City. (Neither of the above daughters survived beyond childhood).
- 1836 - 1839 Expanded his holding in Mexico and added mercantile businesses in New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, and Vera Cruz.
- 1839 - Returned to New York after trouble with the Mexican authorities. Was jailed for four months in New York for bad debts.
- 1842 - Appointed Chief Clerk for U. S. Navy Department in Washington, D.C. Actively pursued his claim vs. Mexican Government for property they had confiscated.
- 1845 - Sent to Mexico by President James K. Polk as his confidential agent to ascertain "the temper of the present Mexican Government towards the United States . . . to restore friendly relations between the two republics."
- 1848 - 1852 Returned to the United States. This was the end of his foreign service for the U.S. Government.
- 1851 - Awarded \$71,000.00 plus interest on his claim vs. Mexican Government. The U.S. Government paid this claim under the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. (This is about 10 cents on the dollar as the original claim was for about \$710,000.00).<sup>12</sup>
- 1852 - Returned to his home in Baltimore, Maryland, at 299 West Madison Street and lived there until 1857.
- 1857 - Moved to York, Pennsylvania, to be near his oldest daughter, Emily, who had married Dr. A. J. Kenny.
- 1861 - Spent a year in San Francisco, California, to be near his brother, John Parrott.
- 1863 - Returned to York, Pennsylvania, where he died on 6 September 1863 and is buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery in York, Pennsylvania.

Although John Parrott joined William Stuart Parrott in Mexico in 1829, the earliest passport for John was 1711 issued on 5 July 1832. He is described as 22 years of age, Stature 6 feet, Eyes hazel, Nose pug, Mouth large, Chin broad, Hair dark, Complexion fair, and Face round.<sup>13</sup> After working with William Stuart in Mexico City, John started working as a clerk in the mercantile business that William Stuart Parrott and Samuel Talbot established in Mazatlan.<sup>14</sup> Some years later in 1837 John applied to the U.S. Government to be U.S. Consul in Mazatlan. A series of letters in the National Archives, Department of State, Consul Dispatches Mazatlan, 1828-1906 lists the recommendations, qualifications, etc., that John had for the job.

It was on 30 December 1837 that John Forsyth wrote John Parrott of his appointment as U.S. Consul in Mazatlan.

One of the few descriptions of Mazatlan circa 1840 is Bayard Taylor's Eldorado or Adventures in the Path of Empire, New York, 1850, Vol. 1, pp. 40-41:

“Few ports present a more picturesque appearance from the sea than Mazatlan. The harbor, or roadstead, open on the west to the unbroken swell of the Pacific, is protected on the north and south by what were once mountain promontories, now split into parallel chains of islands, separated by narrow channels of sea. Their sides are scarred crags, terminating towards the sea in precipices of dark red rock, with deep caverns at the base, into which the surf continually dashes. On approaching the road, these islands open one beyond the other, like a succession of shifting views, the last revealing the white walls of Mazatlan, rising gradually from the water, with a beautiful background of dim-blue mountains. The sky was of a dazzling purity, and the whole had the same clearness of outline and enchanting harmony of color which give the landscapes of Italy their greatest charm. As we ran westward on the Tropic of cancer across the mouth of the Gulf, nothing could exceed the purity of the atmosphere.”

Another interesting description of Mazatlan of an entirely different sort is found in the Journal of a Cruise to the Pacific, 1842-1844, in the Frigate United States with notes by Herman Melville and edited by Charles Robert Anderson, New York, 1966. This work contains eleven watercolors from the Journal of William Myers. One of the watercolors is of Teatro Algeria in Mazatlan. The Journal reflects that the frigate left Monterey . . .

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January we again sailed and stood to the S. W., and after a disagreeable passage of 11 days dropt anchor in the Port of Mazatlan, where we found the Yorkton and HBM Sloop of War Champion, Commander Byron. On the 22d of Feb. the Commodore gave a splendid dinner to the officers of HMB Champion, Sloops of War, Cyane & Yorkton, with a number of invited guests from shore. Everything passed off remarkably well until the shades of the evening began to close in, when every negro in the ship was called aft and Mounted on the Poop in Company with the Commodore, Captain, and the Officers of the Champion, and the different Consuls from shore, ‘part of our own having retired in disgust;’ and the whole them amused themselves in patting juba and dancing breakdowns with the darkies and singing negro songs, the Commodore and French Consul trying to outdo the other. The First Lieutenant of the Champion also made himself very conspicuous. Captain A. (Armstrong) was in high glee but was lifted to his cabin, being too fatigued to walk without support. Mr. L. (Lockwood) commenced Oration to the men ‘On the blessings of Liberty,’ but was so overpowered by Patriotism (or wine) that he sunk exhausted, and in that state was carried to his stateroom, where he was revived, complained of a dreadful headache. During the jollification the corpse of Wm. B. Bradley was laid out under the half deck,

but he disturbed not their midnight revels, or did he in the least mar their enjoyment, although in sight.

On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> the Champion got under weigh and proceeded to sea, but in the afternoon again stood in, Commander Byron having departed this life shortly after getting under weigh. He was followed to that bourne from whence no traveler returns, far from Country, family, and friends in a distant land and among strangers, by the Officers of this Frigate, the Cyana, & Champion, the Consuls of different nations, and a few of his own countrymen who reside here. Minute guns were fired by the Vessels of War from the time the corpse left the Ship until its arrival at the Grave. Three volleys were fired by the English and American Marines. The procession than marched to the Mole and returned aboard their respective Ships.

The Myers, Journal, comments on this drunken dinner party, under date of Feb. 22, 1843: 'Washington's Birthday. A ball on board the States, one poor chap buried at the height of the frolic. Heard that the galley negroes were dancing on the poop of the frigate. Select company for Naval Officers.' And again on Feb. 23: 'Heard that the 3 first signers of the Temperance Pledge, Commo. Jones, Capt. Armstrong, & Capt. Stribling were drunk last night.' Commodore Jones did circulate a Temperance Pledge among officers and men of the Pacific squadron as on of the points on his program of reforming the naval service."

The office of the U. S. Consul in Mazatlan was located in the home of John Parrott. We can only speculate as to whether John had moved his mistress, Deloris Ochoa, into his house or whether they had separate establishments. The only reason for the speculation is whether Tiburcio grew up in the consulate or in the house of his mother. In either case, he grew up in a bilingual atmosphere and would have had the joys of any boy growing up in a small but relatively important port town. Callao, Panama, Mazatlan, and Monterrey were important ports on the Pacific Coast in those days. Most likely, Tiburcio had a tutor as he was able to enter English language school in Massachusetts when he was ten years of age.

In the ten years that Tiburcio lived in Mazatlan, his father was busy not only with his consular duties, but also with his mercantile business. In 1838 William Talbot left the firm of Parrott, Talbot and Co. The firm dissolved and John Parrott organized a new mercantile house called Parrott and Co.<sup>15</sup> In addition to the usual business and consulate duties, John was facing the war between the United States and Mexico that started in 1846 and was concluded in 1848. There was a shipwreck off the coast of Monterrey, California, in 1845 that became so involved concerning the custom duty that John Parrott came to Monterrey, upper California, and while in the area also visited Yerba Buena and San Francisco as well as San Diego on his way back to Mazatlan. The shipwreck affair was so complicated that he was not able to sail back to Mazatlan until 28 Sept 1845. At this time he was convinced that the United States and Mexico would not engage in war. How wrong he was. By the middle of 1846 hostilities had started and John was right in the

middle of the shooting war! In May of 1846 he left San Blas in company with Fleet Surgeon William Maxwell Wood. They traveled for five days before they reached Guadalajara, where they learned that Captain Thorton with a squadron of dragoons had been captured by General Arista and his Mexican troops on the Rio Grande. John and Fleet Surgeon Wood made haste to send dispatches to captain John Drake Sloan who was the Commander of the Pacific Squadron. Captain Sloat sailed for Monterrey to prevent English occupation of Alta California.<sup>16</sup>

During the two-year war period John went from Mexico City to Vera Cruz to New Orleans to Havana to Washington, D.C. He was not reappointed to U.S. Consul to Mazatlan until mid-1848. John wrote James Buchanan, Secretary of State, and said he would “repair to my post as soon as the season, and political state of Mexico will permit them with safety.”<sup>17</sup> By this time in life John had decided to wind up his affairs in Mexico and move to California permanently. He first wanted legally to arrange for the education of his daughter Magdalena that he and Carmen Barrera had had in 1834. John obtained a court allowing him to take his daughter to the United States to complete her education.

In 1849 John brought her to the United States and enrolled her at St. Joseph’s Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.<sup>18</sup> Strangely enough, it was at St. Joseph’s that John met his future wife, Abby Eastman Meagher, a classmate of his daughter.

John turned his interest more and more to California and by 1849 had appointed Bernard Peyton, Jr., as his agent in San Francisco. John’s resignation as U.S. Consul in Mazatlan was submitted to the department of State on 9 April 1850 and later that same month he left for San Francisco. In the next two years, John bounced back and forth between San Francisco and Guadalajara and paid two visits to Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, in 1851 a fire leveled three of the buildings that he owned in San Francisco; consequently, he decided to build a fireproof granite building. He sent Bernard Peyton to Hong Kong to have stone cut for a three story building to be erected on the corner of Montgomery and California Streets. The stones were to be cut, put together, numbered, taken apart, and shipped to the West Coast. The problem was that the markings were in Chinese script, which the Chinese workers imported to erect the building were not able to read. The problem was solved by bringing a Chinese architect from Hong Kong to supervise the erection of the building. By the end of 1852 the so-called “Granite Block” and the iron building on California between Montgomery and Kearny were both completed and occupied.<sup>19</sup>

A fascinating document is quoted in the Jostes book on John Parrott. It is John Parrott’s Inventory of December 31, 1852, a lengthy list of all the properties he owned and their values. The final figure showed a net worth of \$627,659.32. The last three items, representing \$231,424.40, are claims filed or in the process of being filed vs. the Mexican Government. These claims were filed with the U.S. Department of State for settlement under the provisions of the treaty of Guadalupe y Hidalgo dated 2 February 1848.

These claims and the arrangements for his illegitimate son, Tiburcio, were the reason for the many trips from San Francisco to Guadalajara and Washington, D.C. But John had another reason for the trip to the East in January of 8he evidently made up his mind to marry Abby Eastman Meagher, who was living at the time in Mobile, Alabama, with her brothers. John must have picked up Tiburcio in Mazatlan in January of 1853 and taken him by boat to Panama. In those days the trip from Mazatlan to Panama took about seven days, depending on the type of ship.

Their ship arrived in Panama and was anchored about a mile and one-half from town. Passengers were ferried into town by canoes, from which the boatmen lifted them over the swells to the beach to avoid their being drenched. The Hotel Americano was used by most travelers; it promised to get clothes washed and returned in the morning of the next day. The City of Panama was one of the most unusual cities on the American continent. Edifices that have never been finished looked out on a sea view that charmed the eye. The entire gulf has about a hundred miles of shoreline. The unfinished walls of the church of San Filipe and some college (name unknown) combined a view of Corinthian pillars and plaster of red sandstone with banana trees and other tropical vegetation that had pushed through open window areas and through the bases of the columns. A contemporary writer describes it as being a tropic overgrown version of the baths of Caracalla.

Travelers at the time had to use either a horse or mule to make the first leg of the journey across the Isthmus to the east coast. The going rate for rental of a riding animal was about \$10 per head and \$6 per 100 lbs. of luggage. This was only for the trip from Panama to Gordona. The final leg from Gordona to the east coast had to be made by boat and under separate arrangements.

Once the arrangements for the animals had been completed, the guide wanted to leave before daylight as it was a long day's trip from the west coast to Gordona. In the darkness of early morning the feeling of closeness to the ocean was quickly replaced with the green smell of the decay of a swampy forest. These swampy forests soon gave way to ravines with a bottom of slippery clay. Eventually the travelers reached level table land covered with palm trees. A view of mountain range in the east reminded them that they had to the Continental Divide even on such a narrow strip as the Isthmus. The trail went up some lower hills and spurs to the range. The savanna was quickly replaced with a tangled dark wood that seemed to be very deep. The clay soil underfoot held the moisture that made it very slippery, and even the sure-footed mules had trouble with this section of the trail. Late in the day the party arrived at Gordona, we do not know, but if they were lucky they were invited to stay at the house of the Alcalde. The following day would begin the trip by boat down to the coast. The first order of business was to hire a boatman and, after agreeing on the price, to satisfy themselves that they were placing their lives in the hands of skilled one. The ordinary procedure was to pay the boatman half the agreed price on departure and the remainder on the arrival at destination. Often a "gratification" was offered for a sage and speedy trip. The forty-niners had taught the natives will that the Americanos were interested in hurrying along.

After departing Gordon, the first landmark on the swift flowing river was the Hacienda of San Pablo, which was the residence of the Padre Dutaris, the Cure of the entire area. The hacienda was on a small hill with a view of the river in both directions and of ample pasture where herds of horses and cattle grazed on a rancho of more than a thousand acres. The padre had a son who was about two years older than Tiburcio. Named Filipe, he was a handsome young man who was kind, intelligent, and friendly. The parrots enjoyed their stay with him very much.

After an early morning departure they passed in this area was not so quila, Varra Colorado, and Agua Salud. The stream in this area was not so swift as others they had crossed and the forest had been cleared for fields of corn, plantain, and rice. Also they passed miles of undulating green with flashes of brilliant blooms along the banks of the stream. Travelers generally stayed the night at Pena Blanca, where the only accommodations were in the hut of a native either in hammock or on the floor. Down the river from Pena Blanca beyond the rancho of Palo Matida was a small cluster of huts called "Dos Hermanos." Many years later in the Napa Valley, Tiburcio was to give this name to the vineyards of his friends, the Beringer brothers. The journey from Dos Hermanos to the village of Gatin, a small hamlet of bamboo huts with thatched sides of palm fronds, took most of the day. It was only ten miles from there to Chagres, but too much for the bit of the day remaining. Again, the only accommodations were hammock or a spot on the floor with a native family.

Once the Parrots left Gatin, they found the river was broad with a swift current. The water was sweet and clear and good to drink. The banks of the river were walls of verdure. No soil was visible. The trees, such as mango, ceiba, coca, sycamore, and palm, stuck up through masses of cane and vines. Various blossoms in vivid colors gave the only relief to the eyes from the various shades of green. Flights of parrots and butterflies above the mass of vines looked as if the wind were stripping petals from the blossoms and tossing them into the air. The sweet smell of the blossoms of the myriad parasitic plants was cloying and very nearly sickening, the odor so strong and penetrating that the travelers were aware of it long before they could see the blossoms.

Finally, after five days they reached the end of the journey at the mouth of the Chagres River. Some of these huts were dignified with names like "Crescent City Hotel," but sadly the only difference between it and its neighbor was a wooden floor rather than a packed earth one. One immediately started making arrangements to board the first boat, which was available going north. Fortunately, because of gold in California, the traffic pattern was still largely east to west. This gave the west to east passengers much more choice in what was available. In making arrangements to continue the journey, the lucky traveler caught one of the English steamships that went from Chagres to New Orleans, Mobile, and then to Europe or the Charleston, Philadelphia, and New York.<sup>20</sup>

The trip from the Isthmus to New Orleans was about seven days, and the journey from Mazatlan to New Orleans gave John Parrott a chance to become acquainted with his teenage son. Since John has spent little time in Mazatlan for the past few years, he and Tiburcio had much catching up to do. Father and son also realized that the time on their journey was the longest they would spend together for a number of years. John would be returning to San Francisco to live and he may have confided to Tiburcio that he was hoping to marry Abbey Eastman Meagher, the friend and schoolmate of Tiburcio's half sister, Magdalena. Tiburcio also knew that he would be going to Europe to complete his education. In fact, almost ten years elapsed before John and Tiburcio met again in San Francisco. The pair on the long trip must have discussed at length the plans that John had formulated for his son's future. We have to respect John's attitude toward his illegitimate children. He was not only admitting that he was the father, but also making definite plans to see that both children were provided for until such time as they could fend for themselves. The plans at this point were to enroll Tiburcio in Catholic boy's school on the East Coast of the United States and after that he was attend colleges in France; in Bilbao, Spain; and at Stoneyhurst College in England. At the successful end of this program, John obviously planned to obtain a position for Tiburcio in New York City. This period in New York was to be an additional part of the training program.

John Parrott had told his manager, Bernard Peyton, Jr., that he was upon arrival in New Orleans, going to proceed to New York by the river route. Since John had decided to go to Mobile and court Abby Meagher, he did not need an illegitimate son underfoot. We can safely assume that John arranged for Tiburcio's trip to Baltimore since there he could count on his brother, William Stuart, to see that Tiburcio was settled in a good school.

Jostes tells a family story in her book, that upon John's arrival in Mobile he was taken by Timothy Meagher to Point Clear where Abby was staying in the Grand Hotel. Not successful at first in trying to press his suit with Miss Meagher, John hired musicians to ply the water in front of the hotel serenade the lady. Regardless of how the courtship was conducted, it was announced in the *Daily Alta California* on 5 April 1853 that on 23 February 1853, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Mobile, Alabama, John Parrott of San Francisco married Miss Abby Meagher.

The newlyweds stayed in the Mobile area a short time and the proceeded to the Eastern Seaboard, visiting with relatives and friends for nearly three months. From Baltimore on 18 May 1853 John Parrott wrote to Daniel D. Page, of Page, Bacon & Co. in St Louis, Missouri:

"... Since my arrival in this country I have discovered that your banking operation would be materially promoted by establishment of branch of your house in New York, and this do away with agents... There is no doubt a wide opening and a profitable business might be done if you can find the right person to manage it that person must be well acquainted in California, and know the people there will...

I am getting tired of loafing about and have almost made up my mind to embark for California on the 20<sup>th</sup> next month. I should not like to cross the Isthmus later and family considerations oblige me to look for winter Quarters earlier than I expected, besides, this is no country for me, I prefer California a thousand times...

On my return it is my intention to build myself a residence with all the modern comforts and improvements, so that I may at last be in a home."<sup>21</sup>

By 1853, William Stuart Parrott had resigned his position with the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., and was living in his home at 299 West Madison Street in Baltimore. Since Emmitsburg is only 50 miles from Baltimore, John and Abby either visited Magdalena there or Magdalena came to Baltimore as arrangements were made during those three months for Magdalena to accompany them to San Francisco. No doubt John checked where Tiburcio was attending school. On 12 June 1853, Abby M. Parrott wrote her brother: "... We sail on the 20<sup>th</sup> for San Francisco on board the Illinois — that when this reaches you, I shall be on the point of bidding, to the Atlantic States, an adieu for some years at least — Mr. Parrott has made ample provision for our personal comforts, that I anticipate, a really agreeable trip, even though our destination be California. We connect with the Golden Gate at Panama, thus securing two of the most superior steamers on the route — and we hope to make passage in 25 days at most."<sup>22</sup>

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1853 there was a notice in the daily Alta California that John Parrott, lady and three servants, and Miss (Magdalena) Parrott arrived on the Golden Gate from Panama. The trip had taken thirty days which is five more than Abby M. Parrott had estimated when she wrote her brother. Construction was started on a house on a vacant lot at 620 Folsom Street between second and Third Streets. The Parrotts lived in temporary quarters until their house was finished around the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1854.<sup>23</sup>

According to Barbara Jostes the Parrott home of 620 Folsom Street remained their winter home for many years. The summers were spent at Baywood in San Mateo. Sometime prior to 1906 the family moved to 517 Sutter Street in San Francisco. It was there that they experienced the earthquake and fire of 1906. The Sutter Street home was destroyed and Baywood damaged. At this time Abby M. Parrott moved to the San Mateo house, Baywood, and lived there until her death in 1917.



## II SCHOOL, BUSINESS AND CHURCH

When Tiburcio arrived in Baltimore to stay with his uncle, William S. Parrott, the first concern was to enroll him in a suitable school. Since the family was Roman Catholic, the school would preferably be Catholic and it had to be a boarding school. Whether William S. Parrott actually enrolled the boys in a school or whether he just investigated what was available, leaving the final decision to John Parrott when he came to the eastern seaboard from Mobile, Alabama, with his new bride, is not known.

References to where Tiburcio attended school are numerous, but obtaining records from any of the schools is virtually impossible. Starting with one reference to a school in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, we to the archdiocese of Boston. Their reply says, "There were only seven parishes and two catholic schools in the Archdiocese in 1846; by 1858 there were ten parishes, but still only two schools. None of the parishes or schools were located in Jamaica Plain. In 1859 St. Mary's Free School for boys was established in Dedham. The school was run by the Jesuits. (Dedham is the next town to Jamaica Plain) The Archdiocese Archives does not hold school records. If these records still exist (highly unlikely) they would be maintained by the order that taught at the school. The school at Dedham no longer exists so the only possible source of information would be from the New England Province for the Society of Jesus in Boston."<sup>24</sup> Correspondence with the Society of Jesus in Boston has not been fruitful.

Magdalena Parrott was attending school in Emmitsburg, Maryland, at St. Joseph's Academy. (It was highly likely that William S. Parrott had made this choice for John Parrott as he was living relatively nearby in Baltimore at the time St. Joseph's was chosen) Since Magdalena was attending school in Emmitsburg it appeared to be a possibility that Tiburcio (her half-brother) might have also a school in that area. There is and was a boys' school called Mount Saint Mary's College in the same town. Correspondence and telephone conversations with the archivist at Mount Saint Mary's College has been lengthy and exhaustive, but absolutely unproductive. The following is part of a letter from the Archivist:

"Searching does not bring up the name of Tiburcio Parrot y Ochoa (either under P, O or even under T) as having been enrolled here. Neither have I found the letter which I had seen recently in which the name appeared. I have checked the records from 1855 to 1860. I have also checked an early roster of students at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore — nothing there. In fact, after writing the above I have gone through our card files again, and I have made note of the name — and if I encounter it, I will send it to you. I am very certain that I have only seen the name once and it was handwritten which makes me think that it was in a letter of inquiry — for which there seems to be no follow-up material . . ."<sup>25</sup>

According to Jostes we have the following information: "Born in Mexico, in 1840, Tiburcio was brought to the United states by his father when he was a young boys and entered at Mr. Weld's School near Boston. There he remained until he was old enough to continue his studies in England at Stoneyhurst College."<sup>26</sup>

According to the Public and Preparatory Schools Yearbook 1985 (London): Stoneyhurst College . . . a community of boys, parents, Jesuits, lay staff, old boys and friends . . . The college founded at St. Omars (France) in 1593 by father Robert Persons to provide for English Catholics an education from which the penal laws at home debarred the. It carried on its work there until forced by political conditions to seek asylum at Bruges in 1762, to immigrate to Liege in 1773, and finally to leave the Continent on the outbreak of the French Revolution. Mr. Weld of Lulworth offered his old masters his Hall of Stoneyhurst (built in 1592 by Sir Richard Shireburn), and here the college settled in 1794 . . . “

The above makes it rather obvious that Mr. Weld's school in Lancastershire, England, rather than near Boston.

Correspondence with the archivist at Stoneyhurst College resulted in the following:

“In the middle of the last century a record was kept of all arrivals and departures, whether of boys or staff, and irrespective of whether they would return. This necessarily meant a great deal of duplication and many names kept recurring. It is very unlikely that the name of anyone who was here during that time would be entirely omitted. I have been through this book, and I can find no mention of either the name Parrott or Ochoa. I have examined the School list under the names “O” and “P” and also under the first name “Tiburcio.” (This name should be sufficiently unusual and stand out.)

In view of this evidence I cannot say that Tiburcio Parrott y ochoa was never at Stoneyhurst, but only that I can find no record of his having been here . . . I regret this disappointment, but I have simply exhausted all the records which we possess . . .<sup>27</sup>

George H. F. Nuttall (Tiburcio's nephew) wrote in a diary on 5 November 1894: “. . . Tiburcio Parrot, my uncle, died suddenly (age 56) . . . He was an exceptionally handsome man and remarkably graceful and agile. In his younger days in Bilbas and Paris where he had been partly educated he had gone in greatly for athletics . . . “<sup>28</sup> This reference just adds to the confusion as there is no such town as Bilbas in Spain and finding out where someone went to school in Paris is virtually impossible. There are too many schools involved. As for Bilbas, it is possible that the nephew was referring to Bilbao.”

Jostes quotes a letter from John Parrott to Henry M. Naglee<sup>29</sup> on page 151 of her book on John Parrott:

“San Francisco, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1860

My Dear Naglee:

I thank you for your note of the 5<sup>th</sup> August from Geneva. I received a letter from Tiburcio at Paris of the 16<sup>th</sup> advising me he had been in search of you but had not found you. I had two berths secured for him in New York — one in the Metropolitan Bank and the other with W.T. Coleman & Co. Of the two I think the latter the best for him to acquire general information. I fear he is too green to enter a bank and the occupation not constant enough. I have however left the selection to my brother William and Mr. Jaques at the Bank and I wish no time lost in deciding.

You will have seen a great deal of Tiburcio, I wish your opinion of him? Will he make a useful man or not. I have not seen the boys for nearly 8 years at that time I could not form an opinion. He ought to have a most brilliant education . . .

There is nothing new on this side we are getting on slowly and surely. I think you know my Brother W.S. Parrott. He lives in York, Pa. I directed Tiburcio to go to his house on his arrival.

Let me hear from you soon and oblige

You friend truly

/s/ John Parrott”

Here again we have reference to the fact that Tiburcio “ought to have a brilliant education.” But there is no concrete information as to where it was obtained.

The most important part of the above letter is the news that John had obtained two jobs for Tiburcio in New York. The plan was to give him not only working experience but particularly working experience on the east Coast of the United States. The decision was made for Tiburcio to go to work for W.T. Coleman & Co. This company had its main headquarters in San Francisco and was primarily engaged in mercantile brokerage both domestic and foreign. W.T. Coleman had a branch office on Wall Street in New York City from the mid 1850s until around 1900. Tiburcio worked as a clerk for two years and there is virtually no information about that period. The general impression was that he was bored with the job and the location and prevailed upon his father to move him to San Francisco where he could work in the firm of Parrott and Co. In any case, in the fall of 1862 Tiburcio moved to San Francisco and started working for his father.

Between the years 1860 and 1862 John Parrott was acquiring property in San Francisco and also bought property in San Mateo from Frederick W. Macondray and his wife. Jostes quotes a family legend that years before 1860 John Parrott and William D.M. Howard had been riding north from Monterrey and camped on the banks of the San Mateo Creek where during their stay they had been chased by a bear. Certainly, in 1860, John bought the property on the south side of the creek and William Hoard bought the land on the north of the creek for their country homes. The San Mateo property consisted of 260 acres.<sup>30</sup> Between 1860 and 1875 John Parrott gradually acquired all of the Llano Seco Rancho, consisting of 17,760 acres in Butte County. This rancho is still owned by the descendants of John and Abby Parrott.

Having become a rancher, John Parrott had a great deal of correspondence with John Bidwell who owned some 20,000 acres called Rancho del Arroyo Chico. The first mention of Tiburcio in reference to the business of Parrott & Co. is when he has been traveling north to rancho del Arroyo Chico to see John Bidwell. According to the History of Northern California: “His (Bidwell’s) estate is one of the finest stretches of land on this side of the continent. It is largely devoted to grain raising but the portion near Chico is magnificently improved, the walks, drives and grounds surrounding his handsome residence being a worthy home domain. It is a pleasing combination of park, garden, and orchard, the idea being to

preserve as far as possible the wilderness and native growths. The wonderful old fig tree before the house should be especially noted. Banyon-like, it has sent its branches downward to the earth, where they have again struck root. A space of nearly 3,000 square feet is shaded now, a curious and interesting freak of nature.” After returning from the visit, Tiburcio told his father that he was struck with admiration at everything, he said that there is nothing like the (Bidwell) place in all Europe.

There are two letters from Tiburcio to John Bidwell that are preserved:

(Tiburcio Parrot to John Bidwell, December 5, 1863)

San Francisco, Dec. 5, 1863

Bridgr Genl J. Bidwell  
Chico Butte Co.,

Dear Friend, I valued on the kindness of Geo. F. Nourse, Esq. to send to you a Meerschaun, and four pkg. of Havana tobacco. I trust the same will suit your taste — I also forwarded to you and addressed the box to the care of Mr. Nourse, Chico Landing, box contg. two pop corn Contrivances, as promised — I hope they will reach you in due Course, if they do not reach you, let me know it, and I will send you duplicates —

The assay taken from a Sample of the “Superior” ore was handed to me this A.M. by Secty. Mr. Allen 43 1/2% Copper (Metallic) only. I suppose Mr. A. has already advised you fully on the subject. Thompson is down here waiting to raise money on some of his stock, to pay off his indebtedness to you & to withdraw the “feet” he left you as Collateral — Father is not disposed to advance him money — Hoping you are very well & with kind regards to all, I remain, Yours very truly  
Tiburcio Parrott<sup>31</sup>

(Tiburcio Parrott to John Bidwell, January 8, 1864)

John Bidwell Esq.  
Chico

Dear friend, Enclosed please find receipt for one page. Grape vines supplied to you this day pr. Stmr. Chrysopolis.

Trusting that you will receive them in due time, in first rate order, I remain

Yours truly  
Tiburcio Parrott<sup>32</sup>

Involvement in the Quicksilver Mine business of California by Tiburcio is covered in another part of this book.<sup>33</sup> In addition to the Sulphur Bank Mine, he was also President of the Rattlesnake Mine. A sample of the stock sold in this company is on the following page.

The largest single operation in which Tiburcio was involved for his father was the formation of a limited partnership as described below.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, CITY AND County of San Francisco. This is to certify that the undersigned have formed a limited partnership, pursuant to the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An Act to authorize the formation of Limited Partnership," passed April 4, 1850, and the various Acts amendatory thereof, under the name or firm of ALSOP & CO. for the purpose of carrying on and conducting a General Mercantile Commission and Agency Business in the said city and County of San Francisco: That WILLIAM F. BABCOCK and TIBURCIO PARROTT, who reside in the city and county of San Francisco, are the GENERAL PARTNERS in the said firm and that the SPECIAL PARTNERS in the said firm are JJOHN PARROTT who resides in the said city and county of San Francisco, and JOSEPH W. ALSOP and WILLIAM B. DUNCAN, each of whom resides in the city and county and State of New York; that the said John Parrott and the said Joseph W. Alsop have each contributed a sum of one hundred thousand dollars in gold coin of the United States, as capital toward common stock and that the said William B. Duncan has contributed fifty thousand dollars in gold coin of the United States as capital toward common stock; and that the said partnership is to commence on the first day of January A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and terminate on the thirty-first day of December A.D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

Dated this thirteenth day of December, A.D., one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

/s/ WM. F. BABCOCK

/S/ TIBURCIO PARROTT

/S/ JOHN PARROTT

/S/ JOSEPH W. ALSOP

(By R.C.Fergusson, his Attorney in fact.)

/S/ WILLIAM B. DUNCAN

(By R.C.Fergusson, his Attorney in fact.)

Signed and sealed in the presence of Henry Haight.<sup>34</sup>

A letter written by Tiburcio to Joseph A. Donohoe when the Donohoes were traveling in Europe gives good insight into the years just before Tiburcio retired from Parrott and Co. and moved to St. Helena.

My Dear Mr. Donohoe<sup>35</sup>

Yesterday afternoon, I had the great pleasure of receiving your very thoughtful, kind, beautiful, & novel Christmas remembrance, in the shape of a Metallic Cigar Box, a most substantial, durable, & useful article for a smoker to possess, & being myself, such a great lover & consumer of the fragrant weed, & preferring therefore to have it always fresh, and moist, I appreciate your most welcome present, all the more as it will always serve to keep my cigars in a most perfect, & satisfactory

condition, which certainly, to me, is a very great desideratum. This Cigar Box besides, is of rare & perfect workmanship, & it will, I am sure to be most appropriate, & attractive ornament to place on my dining room sideboard, ever ready to be used on post prandial occasions; there I intend to place it, so you see, that every time I will wish, in company of friends, to “blow a cloud” my thoughts must necessarily revert to the considerate donor, who I hope may every enjoy the best of health & spirits, so that great pleasure & comfort or his indulgence in the weed may never be interfered with. At some future time, I hope to have the great pleasure of offering you something out of this box, that will prove worthy of your highest approbation, & encominum.

Some months ago, I wrote either to Mary Emile, or to Jack, to impart to you the very unsatisfactory & disappointing tidings, that the cigars I had ordered from Havana, & that I had every reason to expect would be of very superior quality, had arrived, but they proved to be so inferior that I declined to accept them, consequently I could not keep my promise to you just before your departure to send you some, & I can assure you I was more chagrined about this than anything else. Certainly all the cigars that are now coming to this market are decidedly poor, and every year are getting worse & worse. How is it in London, can you procure any very fine cigars or only those of current quality?

Yesterday Minnie received a long letter from Mary Emile, the first one written since confinement. I perused it with great Pleasure, and I congratulate you all upon her most happy delivery & I do hope & pray, that nothing will transpire to serve as a set back to her prompt, and satisfactory recovery in every respect, & to the rapid development, both physical & mental, of my little niece Emily Parrott, God bless her.

(1883) We are all getting along in our usual quiet way. The health of all at 620 Folsom St. is most satisfactory, which fact, taken together with the wonderful recovery of Daisy, &c &c, is enough to make us all feel most thankful to God for so many blessings. Besides all this Mary Emilie's happy event, the satisfactory condition of her child, Grace's improved health, Christine being strong, healthy, & happy and Father holding his own, Marie Christine, Growing to be such a “bouncer” &c, &c, &c, are all so many more blessings, that make our gratefulness unexpressible, & unutterable.

I do hope that your health has bee very good, also that of Mrs. Donohoe, & Ned but as Mary Emilie intimates, that you contemplate a visit to Carlsbad shortly, and that Johnny will go with you; I fear you have not fared as well as we have so far as health is concerned. If such is the case I trust that the visit above mentioned will have the happy effect of restoring all of you to perfect health, & spirits, so that you may return to the glorious Pacific Slope, without any ache, pain, or mental worry regarding your physical condition.

Tomorrow we are to move to San Mateo — provided it does not rain — Father will go down a little later, as usual & I am inclined to believe that he will be much better there than here, as he will go out,

and about more. It has been next to impossible to prevail upon him to go out in the city, either in cars, or carriage. In fact I think he has only ventures out but twice since he returned to the city last fall, & one of these times was last Sunday when he went by carriage with Mr. Gardner to take a look at Mary Emilie's house. The effort fatigued his back some what. He was greatly surprised at the great improvement going on in that part of the city, in fact, he had not been there for at least six or seven years, and during this space most of the improvements have taken place.

Before Easter Sunday very great apprehension prevailed throughout the State that we were to have a much dreaded dry season, but on that night the rain commenced to fall copiously & generally, and it continued off & on ever since, changing entirely the aspect of the country from languishing & suffering vegetation, to most healthy & luxuriant growth that promised to result in the most extensive harvests of the cereals, hops, fruits, &c, &c. The very great despondency and depression that was visible in all directions, has been transferred magically I may say, to most sanguine expectations & cheerful countenances. From present appearances California never had such a brilliant future, and I do hope that nothing will now happen to cast a doubt, or a fear on the consummation, that is so very desirable, and so very necessary for the general prosperity. These heavy rains have, I must say, almost insured this grand result beyond peradventure —

This morning on my way down Montgomery St. I happened to meet Cleveland, the architect, and he informed me that everything was progressing very satisfactory at Mary Emilie's house — that the plastering had been commence, &c —

Business here is exceedingly dull.

Very little doing in wheat shipment as the Liverpool market is decidedly off.

Barley has declined from \$1.45 @ \$1.50 to \$1.03 1/2 today owing to the rains.

(1883) Quickilver is very dull of late at .35 @ .35 1/4.

The news from the Sulphur Bank are decidedly more encouraging and depend upon it, we will yet find an immense mine there — perhaps before many months.

Last week Flood took all the bonds of the Market St Cable Road in all \$3,000.00— at what rate I have not been able to find out. Considerably over par, however bonds bear interest at the rate of six per cent, I think —

Real Estate dull —

Better time we will soon have '— beyond a doubt.

Have not heard from Joe for a long time — I hope e is well and happy in Georgetown —

How is Ned getting along? Remember me to him when you write to him

Give my best love to Mrs. Donohoe, Mary Emilie & Jack, & believe me to be as ever

Very faithfully & gratefully yours

Tiburcio Parrott

Joseph A. Donohoe Esq<sup>36</sup>

London

John Parrott was retired when he died on 29 March 1884. According to his obituary in the *San Francisco Bulletin* dated 31 March 1884,

“The Banker [Mr. Parrott] for a long time had disappeared from Montgomery Street, where his face was once so familiar. His declining years have been spent in the quiet of domestic life. Mr. Parrott was a pioneer of pioneers. He was one of the few Argonauts who brought money with him . . . His bank was one of the strongest institutions in San Francisco. It is withstood all the storms unshaken.

“Mr. Parrott belonged to a class of conservative bankers. He preferred that his money should remain in his vaults to be loaned out on weak security. There was no amount of interest that could tempt him. Only one case of a loan on doubtful collateral was quoted, and that was on a lot of hams which subsequently spoiled. ‘No more hams’ was the usual rejoinder when paper not gilt-edged was ever afterwards presented to the veteran financier . . .”

A much more personal obituary is in the diary of one of the Nuttall grandchildren:

“Grandpa [Parrott] had been invalid for a long time but he had a particularly severe attack of asthma for some day previous [to his death] . . . Grandpa was buried. The funeral services were held at St. Ignatius church, and after this just the family and a few friends went on a special train to San Mateo, where we witnessed his temporary burial at Baywood. His remains to be soon moved to the Catholic cemetery there.”<sup>37</sup>

John Parrot died in the spring of 1884 and in the fall of 884 Abby M. Parrott bought the property near St. Helena for Tiburcio. Since public records for the City of San Francisco were destroyed in 1906, the will of John Parrott is not available for research. Why Abby M. Parrot kept title to the property causes one to speculate that she might not have trusted his financial judgement<sup>38</sup> In any case, the timing would seem to indicate that the death of John Parrott and the purchase of the property are related.

Being educated in Europe and particularly in France gave Tiburcio an acute appreciation of painting and drawing as well as an interest in architecture. During his business career in San Francisco he gave his



support to various young painters that to him showed promise. Among those that he helped were Dominico Tojetti, Jules Tavernier, and Edward Rosenthal. His patronage took the form of commissioning the artist to paint certain pictures. Tojetti was to appoint two pictures for Tiburcio. One was to be entitled *California* and the other to be *Francisca di Rimini*. Later on Tojetti was commissioned to execute another painting entitled Venus. This painting had good reviews in San Francisco.

Tojetti was primarily known for his portraits. In fact he did a portrait of John Parrott seated in an Italianesque chair with a newspaper in one hand and a cane in the other. The artist was obviously gifted in being able to obtain a likeness as the portrait looks as if the subject could speak at any minute. This portrait was painted in 1877. Tojetti did some of his most mature work for two churches in San Francisco. *The Ascension of St. Ignatius*, was commissioned for the Jesuit Church of St. Ignatius in San Francisco and he was commissioned to paint a work for the space high above the altar in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in the North Beach area of the city. Unfortunately both paintings were destroyed during the earthquake of 1906.

Another artist that Tiburcio tried to help was Jules Tavernier. Mr. Tavernier was a California artist according to Robert Taft in his Artists and Illustrators of the Old West 1850 - 1900. Procrastination was the chief fault of this artist. It was only when the demand for such items as clothing, food, and lodging forced the issue that, Tavernier would put brush to canvas. One of Tavernier's Bohemian Club friends wrote as follows:

“Poor Tavernier! The Sheriff was continually taking possession of his studio so that he lived more or less in a state of siege. His friends had to go through mysterious rites, give certain knocks on the door and be inspected through peep holes before they could get in. Finally the Sheriff made a clean sweep, and Jules' friends, of whom he had many, and none stauncher than fellow-artists as poor as himself, raised the money to send him to the islands. He died there a few years after and the Club erected a granite shaft over his grave in memory of their love for him personally and for his great genius.”<sup>40</sup>

Although Tavernier really did not want to work he did produce quite a number of paintings in his years in San Francisco. Before he went to Honolulu in 1884 he did landscapes, portraits, and a few appear to depict the history of the West, such as *The Pioneer*, *The Indian Dancer*, and *The Rodeo*. Among numerous paintings listed in the inventory of Miravalle, we can only assume that all the artists Tiburcio sponsored must have been represented. Unfortunately the appraisers did not list artists' names when they made the inventory of the estate after the death of Tiburcio.

A young artist by the name of Toby Rosenthal was commissioned to paint a scene from Tennyson's *Idyl of Elaine*. The painting was to have the title of *Elaine*. The artist sold the painting to someone else and since Tiburcio still wanted such a painting, he commissioned Tojetti to execute the work.

While Thomas A. Edison and others were trying to find a practical way to produce electric light, Father Joseph M. Neri, S.J., a professor of natural philosophy at St. Ignatius College (now the University of San Francisco) was working very hard on the same project. His research was helped along by a gift of a dynamo from Tiburcio Parrott that the College received in 1874 from the Compagnie L' Alliance in France. This particular machine was one of the large electromagnetic ones that had been used in the siege of Paris by its defenders; it was the first of its type to be seen in America. Professor Neri had been giving a series of lecture on electricity but the series was interrupted because of the poor help of the professor.<sup>41</sup>

After the Catholic Church in St. Helena was destroyed by fire in 1880, Tiburcio gave money and time in helping to raise funds for the replacement building and was also responsible for a number of construction ideas featured in the building. When the Church was formally dedicated on 7 September 1890, Tiburcio Parrott was one of those publicly thanked for his efforts in replacing the building.<sup>42</sup>

The Catholic Church had cause to be grateful to the Parrott family and particularly Abby M. Parrott for her generosity in a number of projects. Part of Baywood was converted to a nonsectarian burial ground, known as St. John's Cemetery. The Parrott family plot is in this particular cemetery. Abby Parrott also donated money and property to build a new St. Matthew's Church in San Mateo. This project was completed in 1900, and the Church was dedicated that year.<sup>43</sup> St. Ignatius Church and College was originally located at 811 Market Street in San Francisco. Not only was there a need for more space but the college was in debt. Mrs. Parrott enabled the college to move to a piece of property that the Jesuit order had purchased in 1855. This property is located at Van Ness Avenue and Hayes Street. Riordan said that it was "a hollow located between sand hills, though the narrow depression had been dignified with the name St. Ann's Valley."<sup>44</sup> Mrs. Abby M. Parrott on 7 May 1886 bought the Market Street property and in 1896 it became the site of the Emporium, one of San Francisco's major department stores.

Once again it is the nephew, George H.F. Nuttall, who expresses what a kind generous man his uncle, Tiburcio Parrott, had been. "He had no idea he did everything generously and extravagantly —. He never bought one thing, he always invested in several and they had to be the best that could be found. Having tired of a 'fad' he would give things away with both hands to anyone to whom he thought it might give pleasure. As I write, a confused picture of numerous meerschaum pipes, gold and silver mounted, gems all made especially to order, microscopic and photographic outfits 'ad libitum', paintings and engraving — everything in quantities from cloths to various roses<sup>45</sup> in the garden and requisite number of lemons to make lemonade!

I think of lemonade because one of my afternoons when I last visited him was spent helping him to squeeze untold number of lemons to make lemonade for an evening and of course there was enough made to swim in. When I began as a boys to work with a microscope and he heard of it he immediately gave me all the microscopic specimens and a number of valuable books he once collected."<sup>46</sup>

### III TIBURCIO'S HALF SIBLINGS

Tiburcio was John Parrott's second child; his mother, Delores Ochoa, as we have said, was his father's Mexican mistress. John's first child was y Carmen Barrera, his earlier Mexican mistress; a girl, she was born in Mexico on 22 July 1834 and named Maria Magdalena Parrott.<sup>47</sup> Magdalena was brought to Emmitsburg, Maryland, by her father and enrolled in St. Joseph's Academy there, where she met Abby Meagher, also a student. It was Magdalena who introduced her father to Abby Meagher, John Parrott's future bride. After Abby and John were married in 1853, Magdalena accompanied them to San Francisco where in 1854 she married Dr. Robert Kennedy Nuttall. Dr. Nuttall was of English-Irish stock and had been born in Bray, Ireland in 1815. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Dublin in 1847 and had arrived in San Francisco via Australia in 1850.<sup>48</sup> The couple had six children: John Robert, Zelia M. Magdalena, Carmelita, George H.F., Robert Tiburcio, and Roberta.<sup>49</sup>

In 1865 Dr. Nuttall took his family to Europe to live. They remained there until 1875 when they returned to San Francisco.<sup>50</sup> One of their children, Roberta, was born in Saxony while they were in Europe. Tiburcio remained close to the family and gave a microscope to one nephew, George H. F., which influenced him to study medicine. He received his medical degree from John Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. Later he did research at Cambridge University where he became a professor of Biology. It was when he was living in that area that his mother, Maria Magdalena, moved to England. In fact, sometime after her husband died, Maria Magdalena moved to Florence, Italy, from there she moved to Dresden and finally to England to be near her son George. She died at Tunbridge Wells in Kent on 14 September 1911.

The child of Magdalena and Robert Nuttall who became the most famous was Zelia Maria Magdalena Nuttall. Nineteen when the family returned to San Francisco to live, she was the eldest daughter and had been educated in England, Italy, Germany and France. Her European education gave her the facility for languages that was an important factor in later life. She was married in 1880 to Aphonse Louis Pinart of marquise, France, and they had one child, Nadine, who was born in San Francisco. In 1888 Zelia divorce Mr. Pinart and was allowed to take back her maiden name for herself and for her child.<sup>52</sup>

Mrs. Zelia Nuttall was interested in Mexican archaeology and ethnology. In 1902 she published a monogram entitled, Codex Nuttall which the famous Peabody Museum reviewed favorable. She was also instrumental in getting the University of California to publish The Book of the Ancient Mexicans in 1903. Mrs. Nuttall lived for years in a suburban part of Mexico City called Coyocan, where she owned the well-known Casa Alvarado, which is the residence of the President of Mexico. Her work in excavating and her discoveries of artifacts, pottery, and figurines in that area were responsible for a new archaeological classifications, Pre-Classic. Archeologists such as Boas, Spenden, and Gamio became interested in these figurines because of her work,<sup>53</sup> which she continued until her death in 1933.

When Tiburcio came to San Francisco at age twenty-two to live with his father and stepmother, he was moving into a household with four of his half-brothers and half-sisters. The oldest one would have been Mary Katherine who was born in 1856, next came Abby Josephine who was born in 1857, after her was John II born in 1859, and the youngest would have been Grace Almaden who was only two years old. Regina May was born in 1864 and the youngest child, Noelie Christine would come along three years after that. Tiburcio lived with his father and stepmother until he moved to St. Helena in 1883, a permanent member of the household during the time his half-brother and half-sisters were growing up. They must have considered him more like a young uncle and like an older brother. Then there was another young man who became part of the household by 1866.<sup>54</sup> “. . . my family now reached the goodly number of six. Five daughters . . . and my son — John — seven years old — I have besides, Mr. Parrott’s grown son, Tiburcio, who is in business here, and his nephew, Louis Parrott, both young gentlemen of about 25 . . . “ The letter also indicated that a routine had been established of moving to the Peninsula in May and returning to San Francisco around the first of October.

In spite of age differences, Tiburcio would have been an integral part of the household in which all the children grew up. The first child was married in 1879 and the last one in 1888. Since Tiburcio was in residence during most of this time, he would have known the various in-laws.

The first of John and Abby’s children to marry was Mary Katherine who in 1879 married Christian de Guigne, one of the cofounders of Staufer Chemical Co. They built a house called “Minnehaha” across the country road from Baywood. Of all the descendants of John and Abby, the de Guignes had the most publicity in the San Francisco press.

The oldest de Guignes child was Marie Christine who was born in 1882.<sup>55</sup> She married Count Elie de Dampierre, the son of the Marquis de Dampriere. When their daughter Genevieve de Dampierre died in 1883 the following obituary appeared in one of the San Francisco papers:<sup>56</sup>

“Genevieve de Dampierre

Genevieve de Dampierre, member of a distinguished French family that included California pioneers, died Friday at her home in San Francisco after a long illness, She was 65.

Mrs. De Dampierre was the daughter of Count Elie de Dampierre and Countess de Dampierre, born Marie Christine de Guigne. She was the granddaughter of Christian de Guigne, cofounder of Staufer Chemical Co. Her great-grandfathers were the California pioneer John Parrott and the Marquis de Dampierre.

She was born and educated in France and maintained an active social life in both France and this country. She was a benefactor of many projects in behalf of medical research, higher education and the Catholic Church, and had diplomatic, civic and cultural interests.

She is survived by a sister, Countess Marie de Saint-Seine of Paris: two daughters and a son from her marriage to Count Jean de Sugny: France de Sugny Bark and Nicole de Sugny MacDonald,

both of Stanford, and Anthony de Sugny of Carme Valley; a son from her marriage to Alexander M. Casey, Joseph H. Casey of San Francisco, and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Notre Dame des Victoires in San Francisco. The family prefers that memorial contributions be made in her name to the Children's Hospital of San Francisco."

The second child of Mary Katherine and Christian de Guigne was Josephine who married Phillippe de Tristan. The Tristan family was an old and distinguished family in France.

The third de Guigne child was Christian II who was born in 1889 and died in 1927. He was a polo player who married a Philadelphia heiress, Mary Louise Elkins, for whom he built Guigicourt,<sup>57</sup> a Mediterranean style mansion on 50 acres in the middle of Hillsborough, California. The land had been owned by John Parrott.<sup>58</sup> Mr. De Guigne was associated with Stauffer Chemical.

When one reads the obituaries of Christian de Guigne III and his wife, Eleanor Christenson de Guigne, it becomes apparent that the family had widespread influence and that their benevolence was just as widespread.

"Christian de Guigne III, former chairman of the Stauffer Chemical Co. and a leader of the Bay Area's business, cultural and social scene for generations, died yesterday at his Hillsborough home after a long illness. He was 67.

Mr. de Guigne retired in August 1977 from the chairmanship of the board of Stauffer, a post he held for 23 years.

He was born in San Mateo on August 26, 1912, went to public school in Hillsborough, then to private schools in Washington, D.C., Connecticut and New Jersey before attending Harvard University.

Except for service in the Marine Corps in World War II, Mr. de Guigne was associated with the firm the rest of his life. He was named chairman emeritus on his retirement.

He lent his name to a host of civic cultural and educational activities, in addition to the business community.

Mr. de Guigne was a director of the bank of California and Pacific Telephone Co.

He was chairman of the de Young Museum Society, a director of the Society of California Pioneers, a trustee of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and a governor of the Marines Memorial Association.

He was also chairman of the board of governors of the international Science Foundation, a of the Salesian Boys Club, president of the Mills Memorial Hospital Foundation in San Mateo, and a trustee of the National Jewish Hospital at Denver.

Mr. de Guigne was active in raising funds for other hospitals as well — St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco, the American Hospital in Paris, and many others.

Over the years, he presented gifts of valuable books from his family's collection to Stanford University. He was also a regent of the University of San Francisco, and a trustee of the San Francisco Art Institute.

Mr. de Guigne was a member of the Pacific Union Club, the Burlingame Country Club, and the Bohemian Club in the Bay area; the Brook Club, and the Racquet and Tennis Club in New York, and the Travelers Club, and Jockey Club in Paris.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and two sons, Christian IV of San Francisco and Charles of Bordeaux, France . . .<sup>58</sup>

"Eleanor Christenson de Guigne, a woman of taste, charm and power, died yesterday in Hillsborough after a long illness.

She was the widow of Christian de Guigne III, the former chairman of Stauffer Chemical Co., and with him lent the de Guigne name to a host of civic, cultural and educational activities in the west and in Europe.

Mrs. de Guigne continued these activities after her husband's death in 1979, as well as maintaining her role as an international trend-setter.

She was named several times by Eleanor Lambert, the fashion arbiter, as one of the best-dressed woman in the world — most recently in 1981, as she entered her 70<sup>th</sup> year. Last year, Town & Country magazine listed Mrs. de Guigne as one of the most powerful women in the world.

The power was understated, rarely seen, but it was no myth.

Mrs. de Guigne was born in San Francisco, the daughter of the late Edward A. Christenson, a popular lumber and shipping magnate. She attended Santa Barbara Girls School, Dominican Convent in San Rafael and Miss Penrose's School in Florence, Italy. She was a member of The Spinsters and debuted at a ball at the Burlingame Country Club.

She married Mr. de Guigne in 1935, and with him began a vigorous life that she maintained for nearly a half a century.

They were active in raising funds for hospitals — St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco and the American Hospital in Paris among them — and participated in such undertakings as the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum Society and the Society of California Pioneers.

During World War II, Mrs. de Guigne worked as a nurse's aide at Peninsula hospital, an activity of which she was very proud, one of her sons said yesterday.

She and her husband resided at Guignicourt, a 50-acre estate set on a hill in the middle of Hillsborough on land originally owned by his great-grandfather.

The family also owned homes in Pebble Beach, Gironde, France, and the Chateau Senajac, the site of the family vineyards. Mrs. de Guigne, with the sure eye of a decorator, filled the homes with priceless art treasures and personal artifacts.

'I collect everything — I adore clutter,' she once admitted. Her skills as a hostess drew the highest accolades from her friends and her husband.

Mrs. de Guigne was also known to her close friends as a woman of warmth and wit. She also was a woman of considerable backbone.

When the names of her and her children were discovered on a Manson family death list,' security precautions on an immense scale were taken to protect them.

'They said they were going to chop me into little pieces,' Mrs. de Guigne recalled some years later. 'I even had to have a CB radio in my car.' And then, with a slight toss of her head, "But I never learned how to use it. I was never frightened.'

Mrs. de Guigne is survived by her sons Christian IV of San Francisco and Charles of Bordeaux, France, her sister, Edna Christenson Hitchcock of Sam Mateo and her brother, Edwin Christenson of Reno.

A rosary will be recited today (Tuesday) at 8 p.m. in Crosby N. Gray & Co., 2 Park Road at El Camino Real, Burlingame.

A Mass will be said tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2 p.m. in the Church of Saint Matthew Episcopal, North El Camino Real and Baldwin Avenue, San Mateo . . . <sup>60</sup>

*Chronicle* on 23 March 1984:

"A Guigne Gift to the City

The late Eleanore de Guigne, who was best known for her great sense of style and was a member of America's Best Dressed Hall of Fame, left a legacy for the City of San Francisco. Her large collection of haute couture gowns has been given to the Fine Arts Museums by her niece, Ronna Hoffman of Portland, and Ronna's husband, Eric. Mrs. de Guigne's late husband, Christian, was chairman and a board member of the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum for several years.

The collection covers the period from 1945 to 1982, and among the designers represented are Madame Gres, Balmain, Christian Dior, Balenciaga, Yves Saint Laurent, Lanvin, Givenchy, Chanel, and Guy Laroche. Fine Arts Museums director Ian White said, 'It is the most extraordinarily important addition ever made to the costume collection.'

Since it is so significant, the official announcement of the gift will be made by President Francis Mitterrand of France at his reception Sunday for the French colony at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor; the reception also celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that museum."

The second surviving child of John and Abby Parrott was Abby Josephine who was born on 21 October 1857. She married Capt. Albert H. Payson, USA, in 1883. They had two children but unfortunately neither of the children survived maturity. The first child, Christine, died when she was fifteen years old, and the second, Edward, died at age six.<sup>61</sup>

The third child of John and Abby Parrot was John Parrott II (the only surviving male child) who was born on 7 May 1859. In 1882 he married Mary Emilie Donohoe, the daughter of Joseph Donohoe who came to San Francisco in 1850 to establish the banking firm of Donohoe, Kelly & Co. John Parrott and Mary

Emilie Parrott had ten children. Abby Parrott in her booklet of the descendants of John and Abby Parrott indicates that six of these were not married. Mary Emilie, the oldest child, was married to William Wilberforce Williams. Mr. Williams evidently died of Alzheimer's Disease as his cousin spoke of him as follows: "Wilberforce, [Mary Emilie's husband] has softening of the brain, he was already very aged when I was out there but [he] did know me, loved talking about the old day — the present did not for him exist."<sup>62</sup>

Josephine Augustine Parrott was the sixth child of John Parrott II. She was born in 1891 and died in 1980. The following are quoted from her obituary in the San Francisco, Chronicle of 23 September 1980:

"Funeral services will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) for Josephine Parrott Burgess, a member of a prominent San Francisco and Peninsula landowning and banking family, who died Sunday at the age of 89.

A native of San Francisco, who was a Yeoman First Class in the U.S. Navy during World War I, making her one of the earliest women in the American armed forces.

The daughter of John and Mary E. Parrott, who was descendant, on both sides of her family, of pioneer California forebears.

Her paternal grandfather was John Parrott, one-time American consul to Mazatlan, who became one of California's largest landowners in 1861 when he acquired interest in the Llano Seco Rancho, a former Mexican grant of more than 17,000 acres in what is now Butte County.

Her maternal grandfather was Joseph Donohoe who came to San Francisco in 1850 to establish the banking firm of Donohoe, Kelly & Co.

She is survived by a son, John Redington of San Francisco: a daughter, Ann Redington Franco of Kennebunk, Me., and seven grandchildren . . ."

The second child, Abigail Eastman Meagher Parrott was born in 1884. She married Edward J. Tobin who was president of Hibernia Bank in San Francisco.<sup>63</sup>

The other child that is mentioned as being married was William Gregory Parrott who was born in 1895. He married to "the lovely Gertrude Hopkins, now the wife of Billie Crocker, the banker's son. I dined at their beautiful Italian palazzo!! On the hill above San Mateo. Willie being R. C. has not married."<sup>64</sup>

Grace Almaden Parrott born in 1860 was the fifth child of John and Abby Parrott. In 1881 she married Judge Robert Y. Hayne. They built a house called The Ingle on property adjoining Baywood. They had two children — one of which died when he was eleven years of age. The oldest child was Robert Y. Hayne, who was born in 1889. He married Jane Selby.<sup>65</sup>

The next child of John and Abby was Edith Isabelle who was born on 30 December 1862. In 1883 she married Archibald Douglas Dick and they went to live at his home, Pitkerro House, Dundee, Scotland. They had seven children. Of these seven children it would appear that all were married except the fourth child, Archibald who died when he was 25 years of age.



As far as I know all the children were married in the British Isles and that they spent their lives there. Jane Frances May was the oldest child and she married the Honorable Charles Hubert Noel. The second child was Isabelle Mary Dick who married twice, first to Ralph Fane Gladwin and second to Jan Archiblad Fletcher. Edith Mary Dick who was born in 1888 was married to Crichton Iven Marynard. Mary Annunciata Dick was born in 1900. She married Robert D. Wolff (some member of this same Wolff family were living in San Francisco in the 1930s and 1940s. The youngest Dick child was Phillipa May who was born in 1902. She married Robert P.A. Cogombles.<sup>66</sup>

The next to the youngest child of John and Abby Parrott was called Regina May who was born in 1864. In 1884 she married Auguste de la Lande and went to Neuvillars, in the Department of Haute Vienne, France. The de la Landes had four children. It would appear that the middle two, Phillipe and Marc, were not married. The oldest was name Regine and she married to Louis de Tristan. The youngest child was Jean who was born in 1895. He was married to Lucy de Montbron.

The youngest Parrot child was name Noelie Christine and she was born in 1867. In 1888 she married Joseph Augustine Donohoe II (the brother of Mary Emilie Donohoe who was married to John Parrott II). The Donohoe' had five children. The first and third children, Katherine Mary and Christine May were not married. The second child was Joseph A. Donohoe III who married Sarah E. Cunningham. The fourth child was Mary Emilie born in 1895 and married to Hartwell Carter. The youngest grandchild of John and Abby Parrott was Barbara Mary Donohoe. She was born in the United States in 1898 and was married to Federick A. Jostes, M.D., who died in 1952. Mrs. Jostes spent a number of years in research and more years writing a definitive book about her grandfather, John Parrott. The book was published in 1972 and is a spectacular book in every sense of the word.

#### IV TIBURCIO AND THE CELESTIALS\*

Between 1861 and 1869 and 1875 and 1883 cinnabar was mined extensively in California. Cinnabar is a crystallized red mercury sulfide, HgS, the chief ore of mercury. The ore is found in California Spain and a few other parts of the world. Cinnabar is a combination of sulphur and mercury and their separation is achieved by heating the ore in an open container. The quicksilver is left behind in the container and the sulphur combines with oxygen in the air to form hydrogen dioxide. The sulphur dioxide is readily soluble in water and can be used for the production of sulphuric acid; it can also be used as a bleaching agent and as a preservative. Mercury or quicksilver, has many uses, such as coating mirrors, and as a filler in the gauges of thermometers and other scientific measuring devices. The red ore residue is used in making ink and as a coloring agent in paints, when ground into the pigment.

The first mine in the United States according to Walter Bradley in Quicksilver Resources of California was found in what is now called Santa Clara County in 1824. Antonio Sunol and Louis Chaboya were the discoverers of the quicksilver ore. In 1845 Captain Andre Castellero formed the New Almaden Company and John Parrott bought on Barra, 1/24<sup>th</sup> ownership in the mine. By the end of 1861 he had acquired another Barra from James Alexander Forbes. This gave Parrott 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the ownership, the additional Barra cost Parrott some \$34,000. Parrott must have been very proud of the mine as he gave one of his children the middle name of Almaden (Grace Almaden Parrott 1860-1945). Since John Parrott was involved in quicksilver mining from the very beginning, it would follow that Tiburcio would become involved also.

In the Lake County area of northern California, prospecting and development of quicksilver mines began as early as 1860.<sup>68</sup> It was in the early 1870s that the mines of this area were producing in quantities of any consequence. This area can be divided into four recognized districts, located all or partly in Lake County, California. Some of the mines are located in Northeastern Sonoma and northwestern Napa Counties. The largest and most profitable of all these mines was the Great Western. The other two mines of any size in this area were the Sulphur Bank and the Oat Hill. All these mines were in the present day terms located in a rather isolated area. The trip from San Francisco meant taking a ferry to Oakland and then transferring to a branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which wound up in the Napa Valley through Napa and St. Helena and finally arrived at Calistoga in the upper Napa Valley. From there to Lake County, the poor traveler was faced with a more difficult trip. Private transportation could be arranged at this point by renting equipment and hiring a driver from such an establishment as the Lodi Livery Stable. The other possible choice was that the owner of the livery stable also operated a stage to Lake County. The poor souls at this point would be packed into the stage like olives in a bottle and hauled over the scrub-covered slopes of Mount St. Helena. This was the highest peak in the area and the road reached 1,960 feet at the toll gate where the famous old Mount St. Helena Inn was located. The paved well-

graded road today is not the easiest driving, but in the 1860s the rout to the summit was an unimproved trail that was even steeper.

Getting people to the mines was a hazardous and uncomfortable enterprise, but getting supplies into the mine and flasks of quicksilver from the mines to Calistoga were a much more formidable problems. The *Calistogan* reports on 1 September 1880 that: “four six-horse teams arrived in town on Monday evening, having been over the week coming from Sulphur Bank Quicksilver mine, a distance of 45 miles. They report the road is in extremely bad conditions . . . .” Another article dated 13 March 1878 reports that there were 800 flasks of quicksilver enroute from the Sulphur Bank Mine. The paper again points out that the road was nearly impassable. Another description of the condition of the road was reported on 1 September 1880 in the *Calistogan*: “Billy Spiers came into town yesterday with 13,600 pounds of wheat on one wagon, the grain having been brought from Middletown (Lake County). Six horses were used to draw the load to Toil House, and from there to Calistoga four horses were employed.”

In the *Calistogan* of 23 June 1880 the owner of the Lodi Livery Stable and the stage to lake County was reported as saying that he had lost an average of a thousand dollars per year from having the horses break down or drop dead as a result of the climb to and from Lake County. His comment was that the haven of rest for broken down horses was the repository of “a large share of the proceeds of his business . . . .” In view of the above, it is not surprising that the *St. Helena Star* on 15 May 1885 reports as a worthy news item: “Tiburcio Parrott, and fritz Beringer left Friday morning behind a handsome four-in-hand driven by Judge Elgin for a trip to the Sulphur Bank Mine in which property Mr. Parrott is largely interested . . . .”

The Sulphur Bank Quicksilver Mine is located some 45 miles Calistoga on the east shore of Clearlake. It was first worked in 1865-68 when sulphur only was mined there.<sup>69</sup> In that three-period they took out about 2 million pounds of sulphur with a value of \$53,000. The mine was reopened in 1873 and mined for quicksilver. It was in 1873 that Tiburcio bought controlling interest in the mine. Among the various shafts or pits that were dug in those days there was one called “The Parrott Pit.”<sup>70</sup> It was in those days and is today a so-called “hot mine.” Fumaroles still exists and are evidenced by bubbling water in many of the water-filled shafts. Being a hot mine adds a number of problems to operating a mine. (The Sulphur Bank Mine was last mined extensively in the 1930s)<sup>71</sup> Although the Sulphur Bank was second only to the New Almaden in production and was called a very valuable mine, the *Calistogan* of 20 July 1881 pointed out that because of the difficulties experience there both with gas and heat, that an immense amount of machinery and a vast outlay of money have been thus far necessary in working it. As a result, the smaller Great western and Oat hill showed greater proportionate profit hat their larger competitor.

Most of the manual labor at the various quicksilver mines was done by Chinese. In an article on Calistoga and it Environs, in the *Napa Registry* on 30 April 1880 there is the following statement: “The large quicksilver mines in Lake County — the Greta Western, Sulphur Bank and Oat Hill — now employing two to three hundred men, each freight their supplies through the town (Calistoga) and the employees

distribute considerable money at the stores . . . “ In 1880 Andrew Rocca, manager of the Great Western Mine wrote his fiancée, Mary Thompson: “May, it made my heart ache . . . when I had to discharge all my Chinamen right in a snow storm too . . . but I had to do it.” On 24 March 1880, he again wrote her saying that the good news was about one hundred and fifty of his Chinamen were already back at the mine and that he would add another hundred Chinese as soon as possible.<sup>72</sup> Since the Sulphur bank Mine was larger than the Greta Western Mine, presumably it employed over two hundred and fifty Chinese. The segregation, persecution, and discrimination of the California populace to the Chinese has never been covered by the press to the extent that the discrimination against the Blacks and other minorities has. In reading all of the *St. Helena Star* issues from 1880 to 1895, here are a few of the items in evidence. Ordinary filler as if written by a staff writer included: “I see in the Fresno paper that a white couple has adopted a Chinese boy. I can only assume they could not find a dog.” An advertisement in the paper each week for a laundry called the Napa Valley Laundry advertised in large letters: “NO CHINESE EMPLOYED!”. Again a filler as if written by a staff writer: “On the Tuesday train to the up valley, there were eleven Chinese among the passengers. Someone should notify the vigilantes in that area.” This was certainly not the feeling of Andrew Rocca at Great Western Mine. One must speculate about how much discrimination Tiburcio had met in his youth on the eastern seaboard. After all he was half Spanish/Mexican and half English. It is not possible that he attended school in the Boston area without some of his peers making remarks.

Tiburcio and his family both had good reputations for their dealings with the Chinese. John Parrott had successfully worked the Chinese, both architect and laborers, in constructing his building at Montgomery and California Streets in san Francisco in 1852.

John Parrott had some Chinese servants in his home in San Francisco and the 1870 san Mateo County Census showed, in addition to the European servants, that he employed nine Chinese on the estate in San Mateo County (Baywood). The twenty-year association with Chinese workers both at home and at the mine certainly influence Tiburcio’s conviction that the Chinese should not be third-class citizens.

The California Press kept referring to “the Chinese Problem.” They were of the opinion that the Chinese were taking jobs that whites should have — it did not make any difference if the whites wouldn’t do the jobs or if the Chinese worked cheaper. They insisted even in those days that righteousness had nothing to do with economics! Various cities and counties in California tried to pass ordinances, etc., to hamper and limit the Chinese and Mongolians as much as possible. This gross discrimination finally hit a high point in the approval 18 February 1880 by the State Legislature of the following Act. This Act was an addition to the State Constitution and read in part: “No corporation now existing, or hereafter formed under the laws of this State shall, after the adoption of this constitution, employ, directly or indirectly in any capacity, any Chinese or Mongolians. The Legislature shall pass such a law as shall be necessary to enforce this provision.”

In pursuance of this mandate the Legislature enacted the law for enforcement. It is as follows:

“An act to amend the Penal Code by adding two new sections thereto, to be known as Section 178 and 179, prohibiting the employment of Chinese by corporation.”

“The People of the State of California, represented by the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Section 1. A new section is hereby added to the Penal Code, to be numbered Section 178.

Section 1. A new section is hereby added to the Penal Code, to be numbered Section 178.

Sec. 178. Any officer, director, manager, member, stocktaker, clerk, agent, servant, attorney, employee, assignee, or company officer of any corporation now existing, or hereafter formed under the laws of this State, who shall employ in any capacity or engage in the work or business of such corporation any person who is Chinese or Mongolian, is guilty of a misdemeanor . . . a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment of not more than \$500 days, or by both the fine and imprisonment . . .

1. Each person who, having been convicted for the violating the provisions of this section, commits any subsequent violation thereof after such conviction, is punishable as follows:
2. For each subsequent conviction such person shall be fined not less than \$500 or more than \$8000 and by imprisonment not less than 200 days and more than two years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 2. A new section is hereby added to the Penal Code, to be known as Section 179, to read as follows”

Sec. 179. Any corporation now existing or hereafter to be formed under the laws of this State, that shall employ directly or indirectly, in any capacity, any Chinese or Mongolian, shall be guilty of misdemeanor . . . and upon the second conviction shall in addition to said penalty, forfeit its charter and franchise and all its corporate rights and privileges, and it shall be the duty of the Attorney-General t take the necessary steps to enforce such a forfeiture. “This Act shall take effect immediately,”<sup>71</sup>

This act by the Legislature of California could have been the death knell for the quicksilver mines. The owners were faced with a few Hobson’s choices. Obviously, they had to discharge their Chinese and Mongolian employees. Since the bulk of their workers were Chinese they would either be forced to close the mines or severely curtail their operations. John and Tiburcio Parrott were not about to roll over and play dead to what their legal advisers thought was an unfair, vicious example of discrimination, not only vs. the Chinese and Mongolians, but also vs. the owners of any state chartered business. All mines with the exception of Sulphur Bank discharged their Orientals. (see quote above from Andrew Rocca about discharging his Chinese at Greta Western Mine.)

In order to seek as solution to the problem, Tuburcio refused to fire his Chinese and Mongolians at his mine in Lake County. This was done in such a manner that the State was aware of his decision. He asserted that he would not be dictated by any man, or set of men, excepting by due process of law.<sup>74</sup> As a result at the instruction of the Attorney-General of California on Friday, 22 February 1880, Tiburcio Parrott was arrested at his office in San Francisco. The Parrott attorneys were alerted and the wheels set in motion to test the law.

In these days a case could be brought to trial in a relatively short time. The case of Tiburcio Parrott on habeas corpus was originally scheduled to, be heard within one week, starting on Saturday, 1 March 1880 in the Circuit Court of the United States, Ninth Judicial Circuit, District of California. A delay of one week was granted and the actual hearing began on 8 March 1880. During the week of delay, Tiburcio, on legal advice, brought himself and the Sulphur Bank Mine into compliance with the law and discharged all Chinese and Mongolians working at the mine.<sup>75</sup> The *Napa City Register* thought this was a move to influence the court that Tiburcio had had a change of heart, but it was a legal necessity that he comply with the law since he was in the process of questioning its validity.

Since the petitioner was challenging the law on quite a few levels, the hearing took a number of days before Circuit Judge Sawyer and District Judge Hoffman. The Judges rendered their decision on 22 March 1880. Attorneys for the petitioner (Tiburcio Parrott) were Hall McAllister, Delos Lake, and T.I. Bergin. Attorneys for the State of California were A.M. Hurt, Attorney-General; David L. Smoot, State District Attorney; Critten Thornton; and Davis Lauderback.

On 25 February 1880 in the *Daily Alta California*, Denis Kearny, the so-called Sand-Lot Politician, used is distinctive inflammatory style to arouse the working men against Tiburcio. He urged that a gallows be built where Tiburcio should be hanged for his stand on the right of the Chinese. (interestingly, the matter ended with this proposition, but two slang terms entered into San Francisco politics as a result of the antics of Dennis Kearny: Kearnyism and Sand-Lot Politics.) Tiburcio challenged the law on several levels, but the most important consideration was that the United States Government by means of the Burlingame Treaty had entered into an agreement with the Emperor of China in which United States citizens were allowed to live and work in China and by the same token Chinese were allowed the same rights here in the United States. The other main issue was that the California State Legislature did not have the right to regulate the state-chartered companies other than in matters of public health, safety and morals. The petitioner claimed that the Supreme Court had decided that a charter of a literary institution was a contract, and therefore, was protected by the provisions of the constitution that forbids the states to make any law impairing the obligations of the contracts. The reservation clause was introduced in order to withdraw the contract from the operation of the constitutional inhibition, and to retain to the authority that

created the corporation the right to resume the granted powers, or to modify them, as the public interest might require.

The decision was in favor of Parrott and the indictment of the State Legislature was scathing.

The State of California did not have the right to make, change, or ignore the provisions of the Burlingame Treaty. The Treaty guaranteed that Chinese citizens would be allowed to visit or reside in the United States and shall enjoy the same privileges given Americans who travel or work in the Kingdom of China. The Attorney General of California has no power to violate this Treaty. Any law of the State of California that violates this Treaty is void.

The law in question does not pretend to be the law to promote health, safety, or morals of the public. The law was passed only to change and reserve the power of the State over corporations. It specifically forbids the employment of Chinese. If the power to pass it exists, it might equally have forbidden the employment of the Irish, Germans, Armenians, or persons of color, or it might have required the employment of any of these classes of people to the exclusion of the rest . . . Such an exercise of legislative power can only be maintained on the grounds that stockholders of corporations have no rights which the legislature is bound to respect.

Behind the artificial or ideal being created by the State and called a corporation, are corporators — natural persons who have conveyed their property to the corporation, or contributed to it their money, and received as evidence of their interest, share in its capital stock. The corporation, though it holds the title, is the trustee, agent, and representative of the shareholders, who are the real owners. And it seems to me that their right to use and enjoy their property is as secure under constitutional guarantees as are the rights if private persons to the property they may own. That the law in question, substantially and not merely theoretically, violates the constitutional rights of the owners of corporate property, can readily be shown. Already several corporations representing investments of great magnitude submitting to its commands, have ceased their operations. It is probable that if the law is declared valid, many more will be forced to follow their example.

It applies to all corporations formed under the laws of the State. If provisions are enforced, a bank or a railroad company will lose the right to employ a Chinese interpreter to enable it to communicate with Chinese with whom it has business. A hospital association would be unable to employ a Chinese servant to make known, or to minister to, the wants of a Chinese patient; and even a society for the conversion of the heathen would not be allowed to employ a Chinese convert to interpret the Gospel to Chinese neophytes.

I am, therefore, of the opinion, that irrespective of the rights secured to the Chinese by the Treaty, the law is void, as not being a “reasonable” bona fide, or constitutional exercise of the power to alter and amend

the general laws under which corporation in this State have been formed. That it would be equally invalid if the prescribed class had been Irish, German or American. That the corporation have the constitutional right to utilize their property, by employing such laborers as they choose, and on such wages as may be mutually agreed upon.

That they are not compelled to shelter themselves behind the Treaty of rights of the Chinese, to reside here, to labor for their living, and accept employment when offered; but they may stand firmly on their own right to employ laborers of their own choosing, and on such terms as may be agreed upon, subject only to such police laws as the State may enact with respect to them in common with private individuals.

BUT even, if the reserved power of the State of California over corporations were as extensive as is claimed, its exercise in the manner attempted in this would be invalid, because of its conflict with the Burlingame Treaty.

That the unrestricted immigration of the Chinese to this country is a great and growing evil, that it presses with much severity on the laboring classes, and that if allowed to continue in numbers bearing any considerable proportion to that of the teeming population of the Chinese Empire, it will be a menace to our peace and even to our civilization, if any opinion entertained by most thoughtful persons. The demand, therefore, that the Treaty shall be rescinded or modified is reasonable and legitimate. But while the Treaty exists, the Chinese have the same rights of immigration and residence as are possessed by any other foreigners. Those rights it is the duty of the courts to maintain, and of the government to enforce.

The declaration that "the Chinese must go, peaceably or forcefully" is an insolent contempt of national obligations and an audacious defiance of national authority. Before it can be carried into effect by force, the authority of the United States must first be defiled, but resisted and overcome. The attempt to effect this object by violence will be crushed by the power of the government.

I have considered this case at much greater length than the difficulty of the questions involved require. But I have thought that their great importance, and the temper of the public with regard to them, demanded that no pains should be spared to demonstrate the utter invalidity of this law.

At this point in the decision the Justice goes to great length to point out previous cases in reference to the Treaty; the rights in the Treaty; the right of only the Federal Government to make a Treaty; and the abolition of the States of their right to make a Treaty. After this he discusses at length the right that corporations have under State charters and the controls that the State has under their charter and under federal law. He cites decision after decision to back up his interpretation of the law.



The final citation that the Justice quotes is one of recent date in which the Supreme Court of the United States sustained an indictment of a County Judge of Virginia for failing to summon colored citizens as jurors.

Thus it appears that Congress, by the most stringent statutory provisions has provided for the protection of all citizens and persons within the jurisdiction of the United States in the full and complete enjoyment of the equal protection of the laws and of all the privileges and immunities guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment in all their phases; and that the highest judicial tribunal of the nation has deemed it its duty to give such statutory provisions the fullest and most complete effect.

THE RESULT IS THAT THE PRISONER IS IN CUSTODY IN VIOLATION BOTH OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EMPIRE OF CHINA, AND IS ENTITLED TO BE DISCHARGES AND IS SO ORDERED.<sup>76</sup>

Due to the increasing cost of operation and the declining price of quicksilver, the Sulphur Bank Mine declared bankruptcy in 1883. The final footnote of the operation by Tiburcio Parrott is found in an item in the Napa Register of 7 September 1883: "On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. A sale of delinquent stock in Sulphur Bank quicksilver mine of Lake County, will take place in San Francisco at the assessment being twenty-five cents per share. D.O. Mills holds about \$4,000 and John Parrott \$3,500 worth of the delinquent stock, but the bulk of the stock belongs to Tiburcio Parrott."

## V

### BUILDING OF MIRAVALLE / FALCON CREST

Tiburcio built Miravalle (used as the setting for Falcon Crest, the current TV series) in 1885. He became familiar with the Napa Valley shortly after he moved to San Francisco from New York. His family had been frequent guests at White Sulphur Springs Hotel and Spa near St. Helena from about 1855 to sometime in the 1870s. The list of fashionable society of San Francisco and the peninsula appearing on the register included Lillie Coit and her parents Dr. and Mrs. Charles Hitchcock, the William Sharons, Ambrose Bierce, Joaquin Miller, the William Babcocks, Samuel Brannan, Leland Stanford, James Ick, and other notables of the time.<sup>77</sup>

As early as 1883 Tiburcio purchased stock in the Sulphur bank Quicksilver Mine and in late 1884 he bought a track of land on the west side of St. Helena to build his house. At about the same time he began to clear his land, the Summit Water Company filed articles of incorporation for a company to supply water to the town of St. Helena and vicinity. Tiburcio was elected one of the directors and purchased some 200 shares of the stock in the corporation. His interest was something of a selfish one as the company would probably supply water to the Parrott property.<sup>78</sup>

Albert Schroepfer,<sup>79</sup> from San Francisco, had in 1883 designed and built the Rhine House in St. Helena for the Beringer family. Since the Beringers and Tiburcio were close friends, he certainly would have seen the work of the architect first hand. Schroepfer had also designed the Opheum Theatre in San Francisco. (Interestingly enough he was still receiving about \$100 per month from that job when he died in 1889.) In addition he had done work for captain Gustave Niebaum at the Inglenook Winery.<sup>80</sup> With Schroepfer's distinguished background it is not surprising that Tiburcio chose him to design the Parrott house. At what point the house became known as Miravalle is not datable. Jostes in her definitive book labels a picture of the house as Miravalle, but a picture from the Beringer family as late as 1895 calls it the Parrott Villa.

At the time Tiburcio purchased the property it was a barren waste of rock and bushes. The following article from the *St. Helena Star* dated 4 September 1885 describes the house in construction and the property at that time:

Something less than a year ago, the well-known Forbes place, situated on Spring Mountain, south of the reservoir of the St. Helena Water Works, was purchased by Tiburcio Parrott, a prominent banker of San Francisco, and with the transfer of title commenced a system of improvements on this property which has in a few short months changed it almost beyond recognition. Nearly two weeks ago we drove over this fine estate in company with Mr. Parrott, and on every hand our eyes rested on evidences of the wonderful changes accomplished by the well-directed expenditure of abundant means.

### **The Residence**

On a slight knoll in the old vineyard, in a position commanding a sweeping view of the town and the vast expanse of the vineyard surrounding it, is being erected the palatial residence which will be the future country home of Mr. Parrott. We deem it too early to attempt a detailed description of what this elegant building is to be, suffice it to say that it will be three stories in height, with a broad balcony on two sides. A 75-foot tower will add to the attractive exterior appearance, and the entire building will be finished off in the most modern style and the best possible manner. The lower story, now being built by A. Borla, the well-known stone mason, is of rock brought from a Howell Mountain quarry, and its massive foundation walls and piers seems as substantial as the "rock ages." Underneath the entire building is a cellar 7 feet high, [only half the building has a 7 foot ceiling; remainder 5 foot ceiling] with cement floors and plastered walls, having a capacity of 20,000 gallons. The building when completed and supplied with all its elegant furniture will be second to none in the county. The site of this charming residence, as before stated, cannot be surpassed. The view can hardly be equaled from any point in the valley, and the location is such that in the warmest days of summer a cool and refreshing breeze sweeps over this particular knoll.

### **Driveways**

The present entrance to this estate is far to the right of the residence, going past the old cottage which was on the place when Mr. Parrott purchased it. A broad driveway is now in the course of construction just at the left of the residence bordering on the banks of the creek and entering Spring Mountain Road nearly opposite the reservoir. A solid stone bridge will be built across the creek at this point, and the smooth and shaded avenue which will soon form the entrance will be one of the most picturesque and romantic drives in this vicinity. All the roads about the place are already in fine condition and coated with soft rocky substance which gradually pulverizes with a solid surface almost as smooth as cement.

### **Other Improvements**

Not the least important of the long line of improvements here made is the work accomplished in the vineyard. A delightful drive for a half a mile from the barn up a ravine, with sloping, vine-clad hills on either side, was the most pleasant surprise we experienced here. The hills on both sides, for the distance named, are nearly all cleared for vines; while here and there at the more romantic spots, clumps of natural trees are left to beautify the estate. Some 45 acres of new vineyard were set last spring in the very choicest varieties. The stand is most fortunate, hardly a vine missed, and all look thrifty and well. The soil on these hills is rich and deep. The drives are lined with olive and other trees.

A new barn just completed is another object of admiration, being two stories high, of the Eastlake style of architecture, and finished inside in a most thorough manner with polished wood ceilings, iron divisions for stalls, iron feed boxes, etc. This barn, as well as the residence now building, is the

design of A. Schroepfer, the San Francisco architect, who also planned the Odd Fellows' Hall, Beringer's, and other residence in this vicinity. An underground cellar is being excavated in the hill not far from the residence, the location and the earth being particularly adapted for successful tunneling. Later on a large stone wine cellar will be built at the entrance to this cellar.

The grapes from this vineyard will be made up this year under the supervision of Mr. R.S. Heath, the general superintendent of the vineyard and farm. Mr. Heath is a most competent person to have charge of this work, as he thoroughly understands every detail of vineyard work and wine manufacture.

Mr. Parrott has an exceptionally fine place and is expending a vast amount of money in its development and improvement. St. Helena is fortunate in securing him as a resident and our citizens extend to him a most cordial welcome.

In 1885, its very first year, the parrot Winery produced some 8,300 gallons of wine according to "Vintage of 1885" report published in the *St. Helena Star* on 20 November 1885. This was quite a respectable beginning for the winery which was to produce some very fine and famous wines. Leon D. Adams writes in The Wines of America, "A duplicate of the Rhine House was built by their uphill neighbor, Tiburcio Parrott. Parrott grew grapes for the Beringers on his great estate, which he called 'Miravalle' for its view of the [Napa] valley. He also made his own wines, and the late Almond R. Morrow once told me that a Miravalle claret called 'Margaux' was the greatest California wine produced before Prohibition."

Original plans for the estate included digging a tunnel into the hillside similar to those of at the Beringer Winery but not so elaborate. This work was completed, but the plans for building a stone winery in front of the tunnel were not carried out. A rather primitive building of unpainted wood was erected, which Tiburcio must have considered a temporary solution as it in no way was in keeping either the style and elegance of the residence or barn.

Legend in the upper Napa Valley has it that Tiburcio, showing the tunnel to guests late one evening in a brandy haze, decided to show them how the excavation was done in part with the use of explosives. He set off a charge of dynamite at the end of the tunnel but the demonstration turned sour when part of the tunnel came down around his ears. According to the story he lost not only part of the tunnel, but a goodly amount of wine that had been stored in it for aging. [This story is not written in the Memoirs of W.W. Lyman but was repeated to the present owner by Mr. Lyman before he died.]

The grandeur of the building is immediately apparent. A wraparound veranda goes from the front door in two directions. The brick chimney and the tower on the second floor of stone contrast with the wood structure of the second and third floors in a pleasant layering effect. The tower room is of wood with windows on two sides. The slanting roof of the tower is topped with a lookout reminiscent of a mogul

building. Two smaller towers on the rear corners of the house have the same sloped roof as the large tower on the front but are mere design elements, not towers in the true sense. The overall appearance of the mansion is similar to a Victorian castle as imagined by an American child.<sup>81</sup> The towers become turrets and the stone looks as if it would withstand an invasion. The fretwork around the top of the veranda is relatively delicate for the mass of the entire structure.

The front entrance has double doors with stained glass figures of cupids and the overdoor glass has the initials "T P" in the center. The doors lead into a magnificent entrance with a stairway up on the right and on the landing is the famous "Parrott" window, which Lorimar in its TV production insists on calling a falcon. The entrance walls as well as the ceiling are paneled in wood and the detailing on the stair balustrade is intricate and striking.<sup>82</sup> The light fixture is one of several originals in the house and dramatizes the 14-foot height of all the ceilings on the first floor. The deep moldings at the junction of the walls and ceilings are classical in design and highlighted in gold or silver.

Immediately facing the front door across the entrance hall is a large library. In Tiburcio's time books lined both sides of the chimney with storage cabinets underneath. Probate records, at the time of Tiburcio's death, list the library as containing 800 volumes, half of which were in Spanish and French. The fireplace facing is tiled, but designed in such a way that it appears to be cloisonné. On one side of the entrance hall is a large drawing room, which runs from the front to the back of the house. The windows have stained glass panels inserted in the top. The room is so large it has two fireplaces. The large sliding glass door that closes the parlor off from the entrance hall is heavily paneled oak. (A hundred years later the door still functions as smoothly as it did originally.)

Across the entrance hall from the drawing room is a dining room large enough to seat twenty people easily with antique crystal chandeliers evenly placed to light the room. The kitchen area in Tiburcio's time was a series of small rooms. (Victorian kitchens were never designed for convenience.) Probably they were used as a scullery, a pantry, a butler's pantry, and a kitchen. From one of these rooms a back stairs led up to the bedroom area and the servant's quarters while another led down to the cellar.

The fact that the first floor has only three rooms plus the entrance hall and kitchen area indicates the size of the rooms. The front stairs lead to a large central hall that give access to four bedrooms and three baths. Down four steps from this central hall is a section used originally as bedrooms and sitting room for the servants. Stairs from the central hall lead up to the tower room and to an unfinished attic. A stairway from the tower goes up to the cupola from which one has a 360 degree view of the estate and valley. (It would have been a wonderful vantage point to see whether all the "hired help" was working.) All in all the current owner refers to the house as three and one-half stories and estimates that it has about 8,000 square feet of floor space.

If one looks at the pictures of the interior of Baywood in San Mateo (the country home of John and Abby Parrott) as shown in Jostes' *John Parrott*, one can easily imagine how the interior of Miravalle looked. There could have been only Persian or Turkish rugs on the floors, and a border of the floor would have been left to show the intricate marquetry work in then hardwood. The light fixtures were gas with Victorian etched glass globes. Since Miravalle was built and furnished nearly twenty years later than Baywood, its furniture would have been more heavily carved and the trend would have been more to late Victorian than at Baywood. Queen Victoria at this point would have been on the throne for 51 years with 16 more to go. The later in her reign, the deeper the carving, the frillier the flounce, and the more ornate the decoration.

Once the house was built and furnished, Tiburcio was left with full time to devote to his love of plants and flowers. The various descriptions of the grounds of the Parrott mansion in its prime are staggering. The following are quotes of some of the people who saw the grounds when they were in their glory:

Memoirs of W.W. Lyman in 1964 states:

“Our families visited each other frequently. I always particularly liked to go to the Parrott place on account of the garden. One of Mr. Parrott’s main interests was growing flowers and trees, a taste shared by my mother and me. He had an acre of roses which was plowed by way of cultivation. He had numerous orange trees, especially the smaller varieties like tangerines which I used to enjoy eating. He had a large hot-house filled with a beautiful collection of tropical palms and flowers. When I was eight or nine years old, Mr. Parrott gave me a twelve-volume set of books about plants which I still own.”

*The St. Helena Star* reported on 6 May 1889:

“At a flower festival held in San Francisco recently, Mr. Tiburcio Parrott of St. Helena, received first prize for his flowers. His display was also highly spoken of by the city papers.”

An article in *The Appeal* of Carson City, Nevada, dated 26 July 1890 says:

“This house [Miravalle] is simply superb, situated far back in the hills on a decided prominence and overlooking the most enchanting portion of the Napa Valley. Here a merry symposium had gathered with the Lord and Lady of the manor, under the shade of the largest madrone tree known for miles around . . . It would be much easier to tell of the few things that do not grow there than to attempt a description of naming of the endless variety of plants and trees that do so much enhance the grandeur of this tropical garden, and no exaggeration need ever be feared by those who listen to tales of its wonder. Three acres occupied by roses alone, and Mrs. parrot has 300 varieties.”

An article in the *St. Helena Star* dated 10 January 1890 and signed only with the initial “B” says:

“Desiring to interest a San Francisco friend an hour or two while waiting for the train’s hour of leaving, we took him to the lovely grounds of Tiburcio Parrott, situated one mile out of St. Helena. Mr. Parrott in his usual courteous manner took us in hand, first to his new cut in the hillside for an underground

wine cellar and one for aging wines, into which his men were at work, having penetrated the rock about 100 feet, it being handsomely arched overhead. Then we were taken to his rosary of about 5000 plants — 250 varieties; next to his olive orchard of more than 5000 trees, all in very thrifty condition, offering great promises. His young vineyards were also in the course of pruning. Then to his young orange and lemon trees, interspersed along his drive ways, some 350 in all, and a beautiful sight to behold in January when our Eastern friends are all showed under. Trees all bright and thrifty, not a dull looking leaf, and all apparently now in growing progress, and at intervals, orange and lemon trees, but five or six feet high, containing their lovely fruit, now taking on a golden hue. The lemon trees seem just as hardy as the orange, a number of them being in blossom. One, the Villa Franks, purchased of Mr. G.H. Breach three years ago, when but four feet high, now has on it bright yellow lemons, of good size, hanging in its second year. Mr. Parrott having about 50 seedling orange trees and desiring to have them changed into choice varieties, placed them in the care of Mr. Beach, who took Mr. William Kohler to the grounds, and under his watchful eye and direction, he, Mr. Kohler, transferred all into the most select varieties. The result was a perfect success, the trees having all taken well, and have made a surpassingly fine growth. On some of these trees, buds of four or five different varieties of the orange and lemon inserted in the same tree, which to the novices will seem almost a phenomenon when in due time oranges and lemons of three or four varieties appear on one tree. Mr. Parrott is a great lover of nature, and he is giving ample proof of it by his large outlays in citrus fruit, olive trees, vines, and floriculture in such profusion. His veranda is a citrus garden, interspersed with tree ferns, palms and choice flowers.”

The Memorial and Biographical History of Northern California, states:<sup>83</sup>

“One of the most picturesque and attractive spots in the vicinity of St. Helena is the VILLA MIRAVALLE, the delightful country-seat of TIBURCIO PARROTT, Esq., the well-known viticulturist. Located in a sheltered cove of glen in the Mayacamas [sic.] range of mountains which skirt the western border of the Napa Valley, with full view of the town and only a mile distant from its center, it is led up to by a winding and romantic road and avenue. The residence is situated at some distance from the county road on an eminence that replays its fine architectural proportions to great advantage. A rough description may not be out of place. Including verandas, which are broad and ample, running quite around the house and covered with the finest specimens of subtropical plants, the residence has a frontage of eighty feet, by a depth of forty-five feet. It is of two stories, with central tower rising to a height of seventy feet above the ground. The lower story is of the beautiful white liparite, quarried in the vicinity, and the upper of brick, the whole house finished in hard wood and of a pleasing medieval architecture. From the tower a magnificent view, panoramic almost in scope and variety, is presented, including the whole of St. Helena and all the adjacent portions of the Napa Valley, while the eastern horizon is cut by green folds of hill and mountain that form the eastern littoral of the valley. Immediately beneath the eye are the orchards and vineyards of the estate, and beyond these the miles of grapevines, for which the section is noted. The estate is of 800 acres, and reaches

from the valley to the crest of the first range of hills, looking down on the further side upon the famous White Sulphur Springs. The hillsides, when not cleared and planted to vines, is covered with a thick growth of forest trees, — pines, firs, oaks, manzanita, madrone, buckeye, etc., providing a fine bed, — fields we should rather say, — of roses, chrysanthemums and other flowers, for which the Villa Miravalle has won a name. Mr. Parrott is doing the work of more than individual benefit upon his place. He was the first to make serious attempt to raise olives at St. Helena. He has a fine appearing plantation of 5,000 trees, now between six and seven years old, and some loaded with fruit when seen. They seem to prove the perfect adaptation of the valley for olives as they are by depression and ruinous prices. Mr. Parrott has 125 acres of vineyard, all of the better foreign varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon [sic.], from which is made the Chateau-Margaux and Chateau Lafite wines, so dear to connoisseurs. The vineyard is all mountain-hill land, thus receiving perfect drainage, and the best results. So far, the wine cellar is the cellar of the house, and a visit to it and a sampling of its content shows it value of the vineyard as well as the knowledge and experience of its master. The wines were perfect, each in its kind. A cellar of a larger size is now being constructed, tunnels being run into the hillside to afford finer storage. A small plot of vigorous and healthy tobacco plants, of seed bought from Havana, was seen, which will probably prove still another resource of this very fertile section. Amidst the other trees and plants were noticed specimens of plums, palmettos, banana, persimmons, guavas, oranges, lemons, almonds, walnuts, and other sub-tropical growths, all thrifty and luxuriant at the time of the visit (December) and showing the villa is in the thermal belt and above the frosts. Water in abundance is piped direct from springs in the mountain side to house and grounds. This beautiful place is the outcome of only five years work upon its improvement, being begun only in January 1885. Its beauty and the wholesome luxuriance of every plant and tree are better than many volumes to prove the possibility of the section. The Villa Miravalle justly ranks as one of the finest residences in the Napa Valley.”

The *Napa Register* of 5 December 1890 describes the grounds as follow:

“A little farther north, we come to the Parrott residence, situated on a slight elevation. Sr. Helena will always be a favorite locality where people of wealth will make fine homes. Climate and soil all needed accessories are at hand. We involuntarily exclaim as we leisurely ride up the winding avenue that leads from the main thoroughfare to the Parrott Mansion, ‘What miracles can here be performed if one has a well-filled purse, an unlimited supply of water, and a love of the beautiful.’ Here are to be found roses on every hand. Bright colored flowers and the dark hued ivy here and there and everywhere. Near at hand a large bed of those charming Autumn flowers that everyone must love — the showy chrysanthemums — in great variety of all colors, standing in all their stately dignity or slightly bending in the passing breeze. A vineyard, of course, of the finest vines, extending away up the slope of the adjacent hill. A cavern like a hole in the side is the entrance to a wine cellar, not yet completed, which will be tunneled into the solid rock.”



Part of the article in the *Napa Register* of 15 November 1889 describes the entry of Mr. Parrot's in something called the "Chrysanthemum Fair in Napa:"

"Truner Hall Wednesday evening presented the appearance of a fairy bower, with its gorgeous display of flowers, twined in every fanciful shape that taste and skill could devise. More varieties of chrysanthemum than can be enumerated were shown, even one hundred different kinds coming from the gardens of Mr. Tiburcio Parrott, of St. Helena, alone. Among them were some magnificent flowers and the collections included every conceivable hue and shade. One variety was named the Tiburcio Tulip, in honor of Mr. Parrott."

The following in the *Napa Register* of 8 July 1892 is the last mention of the grounds of Miravalle:

"Tiburcio Parrott has added another important improvement to his fine grounds near St. Helena. He has terraced from York Creek to the road way near the house with stone walls, and has planted out the trees and flowers. Stone steps lead from the house down the hill to the lowest terrace."

Only one mention is made of the scope of the olive orchard that Tiburcio had planned and planted. Long before Tiburcio planted any olives, their culture was being lauded in a number of articles in newspapers by S.F. Merchant and Adolph Flamant. Articles by one or the other were appearing weekly in the *Napa* and *St. Helena* papers. Both were making a convincing argument for the cultivation of the trees, saying cultivation was easy, that the land did not have to be fertile, and so forth. Parrott eventually disagreed with them deciding that the better the land and the better the trees, the quicker they came to bearing:

"T. Parrott is this Spring settling out 500 olive trees. When they are planted he will have between 5000 and 8000 olive trees. Mr. parrots is also in addition to other improvements having a large reservoir erected on his place."

The *Napa Register* on 4 March 1892 reports that:

"Tiburcio Parrott continues to make improvements at his magnificent country home and to extend the area under cultivation. He is now setting 1,000 orange trees. Mr. Parrott's olive trees are a wonder to the stranger here. He last year made 150 gallons of olive oil. Quite a number of vineyardist think they see in the olive industry the salvation of their fortunes and are planting among thei4 vines."

The *Napa Register* reports on a storm in St. Helena on 3 December 1892:

"The principal losses in St. Helena and vicinity occasioned by the storm of the past few days fell upon Messrs. Dowdell, W.B. Bourne and T. Parrott.

The storm wrought havoc in Tiburcio Parrott's olive orchard, twisting off over twenty trees, each ten years old and several inches in diameter, close to the ground. A shed on R.W. Lemme's place was lofted up and set down on the other side of the fence. Mr. hackney had a wagon shed blown to pieces. Panels of fences were razed to the ground and trees broken, but as far as we have been able to learn no other serious damage was done.

The rainfall for the storm was 12.43 inches up to 5 o'clock this evening; for the season 13.68."

The most descriptive article appeared in the *Napa Register* in April of 1883:

"THE OLIVE. It is Pickled and Converted into Oil at 'Parrott Villa.'

Seven Thousand Trees in One Orchard — Olive Culture a Growing Industry in Napa County

Situated in the suburbs of St. Helena, on one of the most sightly locations to be found in the whole valley, is the most attractive residence of Tiburcio Parrott. Wide-spreading madrone and ancient oak trees shade the dwelling, surrounded by spacious veranda, from the rays of Summer sun and the adjacent grounds are embellished with rare flowers, and thousands of roses in their season, of almost numberless variety. Orange trees, laden with golden fruit, grape vines and thrifty olive trees surround this attractive in outward appearance of having more beautiful interiors within the borders of our State.

Mr. Parrott is ONE OF THE PIONEERS of olive culture in this county. He has for two seasons or more made of the olives gathered from his trees, and those purchased of other growers, a very fine article of oil, soil, climate and care in crushing and filtering accomplished this result. It was for the purpose o impressing the readers of the REGISTER with the interest taken in this growing industry, in the upper valley, and of detailing the methods used in making oil in our midst, that a representative of this paper recently interviewed the proprietor of "Parrott Villa" on this subject.

On the eight hundred acres comprising the Parrott estate there are at present from five thousand to seven thousand olive trees, of which number probably two thousand are in bearing. In addition to these, two thousand to three thousand trees will be planted in the near future.

A POPULAR VARIETY. The variety cultivated is the Mission, which has been found to grow thriftily and yield abundantly on this place. By reason of certain qualities of the soil a far better grade of oil is produced that is manufactured in some of the lower counties of this State where the land is heavier, more of an adobe nature, and where orchards are situated near the coast. It has been demonstrated that Mission olive trees will not thrive on heavy adobe soil and will soon die when planted in very moist land.

Here olive trees commence bearing at the age of five or six years, though some yield a few berries at four years. Some trees on Mr. Parrott's place, ten years old, yielded sixty pounds of excellent olives this year, from which about one gallon of prime olive oil was pressed. Each succeeding year ill bring an increased yield. Next season it is expected twice as many olives will be gathered as this and this ratio will follow in the season thereafter.

VINES GIVING WAY TO OLIVE TREES. The trees are planted, some twenty, other twenty-eight and again thirty-two feet apart, among grape vines, ranging in distance according to the space between vineyards rows. On the rich loamy soil of these hills they may mature rapidly. No frost blights the blossoms, which in May make their appearance in large numbers, and no insect troubles trees or branches.

It is a mistaken idea that olive trees will thrive and bear abundance upon poor soil. The theory of many persons seems to be that this tree will do well in any land, the poorer the better. 'The olive,' says Mr. Parrott, 'responds as readily to kind treatment as do any other fruit trees. They should be planted in good soil and thereafter have the best care to yield abundantly.' The soil has much to do with the quality of oil produced.

THE HARVEST. Olives in the upper valley commence ripening in December. At 'Parrott Villa' they are picked by hand, the expense being about one cent per pound. In future harvests the figure will be lowered. In some countries of Europe large, coarse toothed combs are used to scrape the olives from the limbs and in other localities they are knocked from the trees with poles, falling on to sheets spread beneath the trees. Less damage is done to the fruit and tree when hand picking is the method of harvesting.

PREPARING OIL FOR MARKET. Mr. Parrott has modern machinery for crushing and pressing olives, which is driven by a gasoline engine. Two heavy wheels of steel revolving in an iron basin, crush the pericap, or pulp, without mashing the stone. Subjected to heavy pressure the oil is forced from the mass, two or three pressings of the same olives being made. Washing and filtration are the process than made use of, when the oil, of a beautiful amber color, with a heavy body and delicate flavor, is ready for the market. The output commands from five dollars to ten dollars per gallon.

In Europe the refuse — stones and skins — is sometimes burned for fuel; or it is boiled and the little oil hat is in the mass is used for lights and similar purposes.

TOOTHsome PICKLES. Mr. Parrott pickles large numbers of olives for market, gathering them for this purpose, when they commence turning purple. They are treated to a bath of lye for a certain length of time, then washed time and again in clear water, and afterwards put in a slat brine, when they are ready for the table. Very palatable and exceedingly nutritious are these pickled, ripe olives, far more agreeable to the taste that the green ones usually found in the stores.

INCREASE IN ORCHARDS. The cultivation of the olive is rapidly on the increase in this valley, especially near St. Helena and north of that town. Each succeeding year see a larger acreage planted to these trees and the yield of berries is constantly enlarging. At present the following named parties have more or less trees planted, and from some of these persons Mr. Parrott this season purchase

fruit: Edge Hill Vineyard, Jacob Schram, Beringer Bros., L. Ziengbl, W.W. Lyman, the Krug estate, Mr. Cruicy, W.S. Keyes on Howell Mountain, and Mr. Schmidt, near Calistoga.

THE HILLSIDES. [The hillsides] bordering this valley are well adapted to raising the olive and it is predicted by competent critics that in ten years from the present time the industry will have assumed, in this country, large proportions. Already vineyards in more than one locality are giving way to olive orchards as, for some years past, vineyardists have been planting olive trees among their fast decaying vines.

There are very few products of the soil that cannot be raised in this country, and in the years to come it may be the pride and boast of our citizens that Napa olive oil equals, if it does not excel, any produced on the face of the earth.

In another part of the Memoirs of W.W. Lyman dated 19 February 1964 in the St. Helena Library, he records the following:

“Mr. Parrott conceived of the idea of making olive oil, as had quite a large acreage in olive trees. So he sent to Spain for a practiced olive oil maker named Jules Callizo and set up an oil making plant. I remember a lot of the discussion about oil making and the mats through which the oil was to be strained. At first the oil didn’t turn out well as it had a rancid taste, due it was said, to the wrong kind of mats. Eventually some very good oil was made . . . As I write, the Parrott mansion is still there with the stained glass window with its parrot design. But most of the garden and hot-house have disappeared. I remember that everyone greatly regretted the death of Mr. Parrott for he was a generous, kind-hearted and hospitable man.”

## VI

### TIBURCIO AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE UPPER VALLEY

Tiburcio's range of friends in the upper valley was from the high to the low: ladies to whores, gentlemen to common laborers, stone masons to vintners, field hands to doctors, and the very poor to the very rich. His obituary in various papers stressed the point that Tiburcio was always friendly and willing to take time to show visitors around the grounds of Miravalle. One of the descriptions of the estate was written by a stranger who took a friend to see the grounds. He reported that Tiburcio took them in tow and showed them his estate with pride and consideration.

When the big house was being built, Tiburcio used local workmen and craftsmen and ordered materials locally if they were available. He occupied a unique position by having the finest house in the valley and being an unfailingly gracious host. Various organizations used him and his house to entertain visiting firemen. One wonderful account tells of the visit of the national members of the Horticultural Society to the home of Tiburcio Parrott. Unfortunately, it was pouring rain when the special train arrived in St. Helena so arrival ceremonies had to be cut short. The group was taken to Miravalle when they were served lunch indoors and entertained royally. Another article about visitors is quoted below. It is from the *St. Helena Star* of 22 April 1887. This particular time Tiburcio was not present, but the fact that all had been planned at his house indicates he must have had some emergency to keep him away:

"Last week we copied from the Post an item concerning the good work constantly being done by Hon. M.M. Estee, who, in San Francisco, is constantly sounding the praises of Napa county, its healthfulness, beauty and resources to Eastern visitors to this coast. Mr. Estee talks for the good of the whole county, and his words carry conviction with them. A result of his championship was seen last Monday, when there arrived here by special train a distinguished party of visitors to view the valley. Some weeks ago President Cleveland appointed as a Commission to examine newly built California and Oregon railroad, Hon. Theo. Cook, of Cincinnati, ex-Governor Pound, of Wisconsin, and ex-Governor Stoneman, of California, and they were taken over the line by special train in charge of Col. Fred Crocker and Division Superintendent "Jack" Wright, accompanied by Washington Porter, of Chicago, Mr. Brewster, of Wisconsin, and W.B. Wilshire, of San Francisco, as guests. Before leaving San Francisco on their tour of inspection, Mr. Estee exacted from Col. Crocker and the Commission a promise to visit the Napa Valley on their return, and it was in fulfillment of this promise that they came direct to Napa Valley from Redding . . . The train arrived in St. Helena about one o'clock, finding some half dozen or more carriages in waiting to convey the party around the valley. Acting under the leadership of Col. Carr, the visitors were quickly "whirled away" to Tiburcio Parrott's, at whose elegant mansion a splendid luncheon, there was found. In the absence of Mr. Parrott, Fred Beringer, Esq., by special request, acted as host and gave the guests most hearty welcome. Some twenty persons were seated at the luncheon, there being present besides the party mentioned above, F. Beringer, J. Schram, Hon. H.A. Pellet, Col. B.O. Carr, W.W. Lyman, J.M. Morton, L.L. Palmer of

the *Independent* and W.A. Mackinder of the *Star*. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the elegance of the lunch or the variety and excellence of the choice of wines served, as all who would know Mr. Parrott know that everything was the best that money could buy. It would be equally useless to even attempt a synopsis of the brilliant speeches made by members of the party under the inspiration of Napa's sparkling beverage. The speech-making was commenced by "mine host" Beringer, who expressed his regrets at the unavoidable absence of Mr. Parrott and extended a hearty welcome to the guest, winding up by proposing a toast to their health. . . "

Tiburcio's obituary mentioned that he had entertained such visitors as the Rothschilds. The 16 March 1894 *St. Helena Star* mentions that ex-President Harrison had been in the Napa Valley as a guest of Col. J.P. Jackson at Soda Springs. It was understood that the ex-President would "journey as far up the valley as the lovely grounds and hospitable house of Tiburcio Parrott." This is rather surprising as on 12 January 1894, Tiburcio fell down a flight of steps at the Occidental Hotel in San Francisco. He fractured one of his knee caps in the accident and as late as the end of February he was only on crutches. This was at the same time that Tiburcio along with W.W. Lyman and Leonard Coates were serving as commissioners of the Mid-winter Fair of Napa County.

A family story points up the opposite earthy side of Tiburcio. He had a surrey built that had a platform on the back. When Tiburcio came into St. Helena to go to the hardware store, bank, post office, etc., he was in the habit of finishing off his trip to town with a visit to the Stone Bridge Bordello. Tiburcio had a servant with an English hunting horn riding on the platform of the surrey. When they were in the middle of Pope Street about half way to the bordello, Tiburcio had the servant blow the horn to alert the "girls" that he was on his way.

In the 11 September 1890 *Napa Daily Journal* is the following article about the dedication of the New Catholic Church in St. Helena:

"The new and beautiful constructed Catholic Church of this town, which was finished some weeks ago, was formally dedicated Sunday, Archbishop Riordan having come from the city on Saturday evening to conduct the impressive rites connected with the occasion. The services began 11 o'clock and in addition to the Archbishop, there were present the following clergymen to assist in the exercises, viz: Rev. Mr. Becker the regular pastor, Father Sasa of the Sacristi, Rev. Mr. Nealy of San Francisco and Father Slattery of Napa.

The old church it will be remembered was destroyed by fire about two years ago. Since that time great zeal and energy have been displayed in the erection of the new and substantial stone edifice, which not only embodies all the modern improvements, but is an ornament to the town of St. Helena.

In its general arrangements and construction it is patterned after the chapel of Rome. The fine fresco work, and the adornments on the columns were superintended by Mr. Rammers, the well known painter and artist of this place, who has displayed genius and energy throughout.

The new edifice has cost \$9,000 or somewhere near that amount. While there have been liberal contributions from abroad there has been much thorough work done around home. T. Parrott, Esq., has been quite a liberal contributor to the undertaking, and many of his ideas, too, have been embodied in the details of the structure. He has been faithful and consistent adviser and planner throughout, and shares in the feeling of pride that all the promoters of the fine edifice can now consistently entertain.”

The closest friends that Tiburcio had in Napa Valley were the Beringers. The Beringer brothers had come to this country in the 1860s and 1870s from Germany. Frederick preceded his brother, Jacob, by a few years. Frederick was well established in business in New York City before Jacob arrived to work for a while with his brother. Jacob spent time traveling around the United States until he finally decided that the Napa Valley had the ideal climate and soil for growing quality grapes. He also found an ideal spot for a winery, a level area with a rather steep hill of limestone. The idea was to build a so-called gravity winery. A gravity winery is one in which the floors of the building are so arranged that the grapes are crushed on the top floors and the wine allowed to flow down until such time as it reaches the ground level and is stored in casks to be aged. So a three-story building was planned with limestone caves and underground cellars to be dug into the hill from ground level. These would allow a storage and aging area with a constant temperature and humidity.

The cornerstone was laid in 1877 with many of the St. Helena elite attending the ceremony. In September of 1884 there is an excellent description of the winery in the *St. Helena Star* as it was in those days:

“The Wine Cellar of Beringer Bros., is large and substantial and most handsomely finished of any in Napa Valley, and for solidity of build and completeness of appointments can have no superior anywhere. The original building 40 x 40 ft. and its walls of stone, handsomely cut with the monogram of B.B. neatly cut in the keystone. The original building is of three stories, there are no partitions, each story forms but a single room, with no divisions, but the rows of stanchions that traverse the length of the building. The ground floor is of cement [actually the floor was not cement in one unit but was composed of smaller cement blocks which had been poured each in place] and has a slight pitch for drainage. The second floor is built like a ships deck regularly caulked and water tight. It is laid entirely of 3 x 3 stuff, cut so as to leave the edge of the grain up and thereby prevent splintering. It has also water tight to the depth of several inches. “The third floor was where the crushing of the grapes was to be carried on, the cellar [winery] standing itself against the hillside and a road leading around to the back was on a level with the third floor, so that the wagons drawn by horses could unload their grapes.”

The underground cellars and tunnels, which were chiseled out of the limestone hillside, were done with Chinese labor. Commonly, manual labor of this period was done by Chinese, and each small town in the Napa Valley had its own Chinatown. Over 1,000 feet of tunnel eventually was dug into the limestone and all the debris was carried out in baskets by the Chinese.<sup>84</sup> To dig such a tunnel took about 50 workers several years. [It is interesting to note that other similar tunnels were dug in the nineteenth century, the next caves for wine storage were dug in the 1980s. Rutherford Hills Winery dug extensive caves into the hillside in 1984. It took some 13 months to dig the caves using mechanical tools available at present.]<sup>85</sup> Albert Schroepfer designed and started building the Rhine House as a residence for Frederick Beringer in September 1883. The cornerstone for the house was laid 9 September of that year. The house was completed the following year.<sup>86</sup> It was less than a year later that Schroepfer designed and started building Miravalle for Tiburcio. In handwritten memoirs of Betha Beringer she discusses the naming of the vineyards: "Los Hermanos Vineyards, which means 'The Brothers' in Spanish, [was the] name so given the Beringer Bros. Vineyards by Tiburcio Parrott, a retired Spanish Gentleman from San Francisco who had a beautiful Villa nearby in St. Helena. He was a very close friend of both brothers, and very often called at the winery when out for a drive. He always had beautiful horses and carriages and a coachman. There were no motor cars in those days and we all enjoyed driving and riding horses. Mr. Parrott married a close friend of Mrs. Jacob Beringer, Miss Theresa Tully. Mrs. Tiburcio Parrott passed away at the age of 94 just about a month ago in San Francisco" [22 September 1951].<sup>87</sup>

The Miss Therese Tully referred to above was the daughter of George Tully, a native of Switzerland, and Sophie Tully, a native of Germany. The Tully family had lived in the gold mining area of California and Therese had been born in California. Later the family moved to Cason City, Nevada, and at the time of the wedding in 1888, George Tully was Treasurer of the State of Nevada. Evidentially Therese Tully and some member of the Beringer family had attended school together. The Catholic Church in St. Helena has a copy of the marriage certificate dated 24 October 1888. The certificate is the only record that has been found to date that lists the name of Tiburcio's mother. She is shown as being Deloris Parrott nee Ochoa. Regardless of the fact that she is listed as Deloris Parrott, there is no indication that John Parrott ever married her. The witnesses at the wedding were Abby M. Parrott and Louise Roberts. Louise Roberts was the sister of Therese Tully. The certificate is signed by R. Becker who was the Rector of the Catholic Church in St. Helena at this time.

There are numerous references to social affairs attended by Tiburcio and the Beringers. Tiburcio attended a ball at the Beringers in August 1883. The Beringers were included in parties that Tiburcio gave at his mansion prior to marriage. There is a notice that Miss Therese Shreve, niece of Mrs. Tiburcio Parrott, was visiting in St. Helena and the Beringers had given a party to honor her. The families were also associated in business and civic affairs. For instance, in 1894 Tiburcio Parrott and Frederick Beringer were made a committee to draft designs for the Country Midwinter Fair.<sup>88</sup>



One of the proof positives of the closeness of the relationship of the two families is that Jacob and Agnes Beringer named their third child, Charles Tiburcio Beringer (1889 – 1954).

W.W. Lyman in his Memoirs wrote:

“Tiburcio Parrott was a striking figure in early days in St. Helena. I was eleven years old when he died, but I remembered him very well. He was a large handsome man and looked very much like those pictures which used to be on the box of Havana cigars. He had a sweeping mustache, a pointed beard almost white, flowing hair, and he often wore a Panama hat . . . . Mr. Parrott had no occupation except to enjoy life as the Parrott family gave him a thousand dollar a month to live on. Our families visited each other frequently. I always particularly like going to the Parrott place on account of the garden . . . when I was eight or nine years old, Mr. Parrott gave me a twelve-volume set of books about plants which I still own. Whenever I met Mr. Parrott on the street in St. Helena, he would insist on buying me a large box of candy.”

Here again like the Beringers, the Lymans are mentioned in social and civic connections along with the Parrotts, Krugs, and Schrams in St. Helena papers as well as the Napa papers of this period.

Mr. Lyman speaks of going to visit the Parrott place along with his mother and tells of the Schram winery that also had a tunnel in the hillside for aging. The Schram property was near the Hitchcock house — so close in fact that its driveway went through what was called Hitchcock Canyon (now Bothe Napa Valley park).

Mr. Lyman also reported that Mr. Schram looked for all the world like Santa Claus. He was rather short, heavy-set man with a white beard and very thick white wavy hair. Mrs. Schram was like Mrs. Claus in that she was a pleasant person who was an excellent cook. She always urged anyone who stopped for a visit to stay for a meal. W.W. Lyman said: “When we got there, it was difficult get away.”

The following item in the St. Helena Star of 4 April 1890, tells of a party the Schram’s gave for Miss Beringer and Miss Shreve. Miss Shreve was the daughter of one of the sisters of Mrs. Tiburcio Parrott.

“AN INFORMAL GETHERING. Schramsberg was the scene of a delightful informal party last Wednesday evening. A number of friends had been invited to spend the evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schram, in honor of the presence of Miss Shreve and Miss Beringer, and before nine o’clock the greatest number had responded to the invitation and had driven up to the entrance to their delightful home. The guests were royally entertained on this as well as every other occasion, the host and hostess being tireless in their efforts to enhance the pleasure of the evening. The carpet had been removed from the floor of the sitting room and after wax was added dancing was found to be very enjoyable, which was kept up through the evening. A game of whist was also in progress, and after a couple of hours had passed away pleasantly, the guests were ushered into the

spacious dining room where the beautiful decorated table was heavily laden with a scrumptious spread. The delicate viands were duly disposed of and appreciated, when the hostess gave the signal for rising and the company was again installed in the sitting room, this time to participate in the playing of games. Much joviality was occasioned through this source, and it was with evident reluctance that the guests at last made their adieus. The verdict was unanimously rendered by those by attendance that for hospitality and gracious entertaining, Schramsberg has no superior.”

In addition to a few friends mentioned above, Tiburcio was a close friend of Lillie Hitchcock Coit and he must at least have called on Lillie Langtry when she was in residence in Lake County. Lillie Hitchcock and Tiburcio were friends for a long time before he built his house in St. Helena. They had moved in the same circles in San Francisco. They were both wealthy and came from wealthy families. In the days before the Hitchcock family built their house “Lonely” (near where Bothe State Park is located) both Tiburcio and Lillie had stayed at White Sulphur Springs Hotel as guests. White Sulphur Springs is obviously named after the famous spa in West Virginia. In addition to Tiburcio and Lillie, the following well-known guests are also mentioned as guests of the hotel: Ambrose Bierce, Joaquin Miller, William Sharrons and members of the fashionable society of San Francisco and the Penninsula.<sup>89</sup>

Eliza Wychie Hitchcock was born at West point, New York, in 1843. Her father, Dr. Charles Hitchcock, a dentist in the army, was stationed there at that time. It was he who said his daughter was as fair as a lily, and Lillie became her name. Lillie’s mother was Martha Hunter Hitchcock, the daughter of Colonel and Mary Talliaferro Hunter. The Hunter and Talliaferro families were both from Georgia. Mary never really forgave her husband for moving to North Carolina to an isolated plantation entirely surrounded by the territory of the Cherokee nation in North Carolina.

In 1851 Dr. Hitchcock was transferred to San Francisco. Since that area was in the midst of the gold rush, housing was at a premium, and the Hitchcocks settled in a boarding house for about a year. At the end of that time they moved into a house. However, because Martha Hitchcock never really wanted to keep house, they shortly settled on renting a suite in one of the big hotels. This established a pattern followed for the rest of their lives and a pattern Lillie followed also. They never owned or rented a house in the city; they always picked a big luxury hotel and rented a suite. It was in these years that Lillie became the mascot of the Knickerbocker Number Five Company of Firemen. She later became an honorary member of the company. She was the only woman in America to achieve this honor. All this gave rise to her various nicknames such as Firebelle Lillie, Miss Lil, and Number Five’s Sweetheart.

When dr. Hitchcock had banished Lillie to the country (Calistoga) to try to get her to behave more like a dignified southern belle, she turned the tables on him completely when she discovered White Sulphur Springs was within easy riding distance. The hotel was located in the Mayacamas Foothills west of St. Helena on a level area above a canyon. Wide veranda surrounded the main buildings and all the window opened onto those verandas, which overlooked the views below. There were green glades mixed with the

valley oaks and madrones which gave the entire complex a sylvan setting. The many guest enjoyed quite a schedule of activities: bowling and ten pins were part of the morning routine; mineral baths were a necessary part of the visitors day; after lunch the usual nap was taken by the guests. The older women gossiped and did a bit of fancy sewing while the younger set enjoyed croquet or tried their hand with a bow and arrow. After dinner the guests enjoyed musicals and dancing.<sup>90</sup>

Lillie acquired a carriage and thereafter went tearing down the way leaving a trail of dust and gasping natives in her wake. When Dr. Hitchcock heard of her wild driving he was wise enough not to forbid her to drive. He took the next best route and engaged Clark Foss to teach Lillie the finer points of a four in hand. Foss was well known for his stage from Calistoga to the Geysers. People took the trip not only to see the geysers, but to have the experience of riding with Colonel Foss. His association with Lillie not only enriched her ability to handle the reins, but also made her appreciate Foss's fine sense of humor and his judgment. Lillie had a reputation early in life of her bon mots, but she soon found that Foss could match her, line for line. A good example was one day when Lillie said to Foss, There are some things in the world that go without saying." He promptly replied, "and still more who say a good deal without going."<sup>91</sup>

Dr. and Mrs. Hitchcock owned some 1,000 acres located near where the Bothe Napa Valley State Park is on Highway 29. This is a few miles south of Calistoga. They built a house around 1863.<sup>92</sup> It was called "Lonely,"

After being involved with a number of suitors, Lillie married Howard Coit in 1869. Lillie had planned on going to New York with her parents. She went with them after the wedding as planned, leaving her new husband in San Francisco. While in New York, Dr. and Mrs. Hitchcock found out that Lillie had married Howard Coit. Her family immediately stopped any payments to Lillie from her trust and even left her stranded in New York. Howard Coit came to New York and "rescued" her. They returned to San Francisco, where they took a suite at the Occidental Hotel. Lillie's father became reconciled and finally approved of the marriage but her mother, sub rosa, tried to break up the marriage. She finally succeeded. Howard Coit and Lillie were by 1880 living apart and Lillie spent the year with her father in Europe.

Around 1881 Dr. Hitchcock built a house for Lillie about three miles east of Lonely. The house was located in acres of vineyard near the Howell Mountains on the east side of the Napa Valley. The house could be described as an Indian bungalow. It was dark brown in color and in the form of a Maltese cross with glass doors on all sides opening onto verandas. In the center of the house was a large patio which was roofed over with glass. Here was the center of the house literally and figuratively with the piano, many books, large fur rugs, big overstuffed lounge chairs and sofas. Lillie named her house "Larkmead" after the may, many birds in the trees around the place. "Larkmead" is today marked only by three tall palm trees that stand in one of the Sterling Vineyards properties. In the mid-1880s Lillie lost the two men who had been most important to her, Dr. Hitchcock died in 1884 and Howard Coit died in 1885. Only after the death of Howard Coit did Lillie find out that her mother, Martha Hitchcock, had been the cause of all

the difficulties that Lillie and her husband, Howard, had had. The death of Dr. Hitchcock added \$250 per month to Lillie's income. He left half of his estate in trust with provisions that this amount be paid to his daughter each month.<sup>93</sup> Lillie was very surprised when Howard Coit left his entire estate to her, more than \$250,000.00. The delivery of Howard Coit's diary to Lillie was a very shattering experience as this was how she found that her own mother, Martha Hitchcock, had been the cause of all their troubles.<sup>94</sup> It was months before Lillie felt able to see old friends again. No doubt close friends like Tiburcio called and either expressed their sympathy in person or left notes or cards indicating their concern.

Once Lillie emerged from her period of adjustment she faced the facts that her husband was dead, her father was dead, and that her mother was an evil woman that she would tolerate in the future only when she could not avoid seeing her. At Larkmead from April of 1886 there was never a day missed with remorse for the past. If her mother wanted to write poison items in her gossip column then Lillie Coit would provide her with the material to curl her hair. Lillie also made certain that her mother heard all about her escapades. Larkmead was filled with guests and parties lasting until dawn. She did such things as spending the night on a camping trip with five men. When asked, she replied that they spent the night around a campfire talking. Everyone always hoped for a scandal, but it never happened — Lillie was willing to shock, but promiscuous sexual behavior was not part of her personality.

Dressed in a man's suit and hat, Lillie sent many an evening in the Palace Bar in the Palace Hotel on Main Street in St. Helena drinking with her men friends and playing poker. She would drink bourbon and out swear them while smoking cigarettes or cigars, but "she always behaved like a lady in all other ways."<sup>95</sup> Friends recall Lillie with great affection. Carlo Rossini, a neighbor who was also a vintner, always used her as an example of not behaving as a well-dressed woman should, but even he had to admit that she was one of the strong vital characters of her day. Mrs. Tateler (Bonnaffon) Mitchell, a long-time resident of the Upper Napa Valley, recalls: "When Mrs. Coit lived and partied at Larkmead, there was a saying that Larkmead was the hottest spot in the valley, and Lillie Coit was the flame."<sup>96</sup>

W.W. Lyman in his recollections of the upper Napa Valley describes a visit with his family to Marchands', a famous restaurant in San Francisco at the time. After being seated, they noticed Mrs. Coit a few tables away with three male friends. "After an exchange of greeting with my parents," Lyman recalls, "she asked me to come over to her table. She patted me on the head and said a number of pleasant complimentary things in her rather deep voice. The things that impressed me most were that she had a ring on each finger and one on each thumb." One of the men with her was Louis Lissac, a member of a prominent Jewish family in San Francisco. Mrs. Coit always seemed to go around with two or three men, but she had the reputation of never having improper relations with the men regardless of how unconventional she might act.<sup>97</sup>

It would have been when Lillie emerged from her mourning over her father and husband that Tiburcio was building his mansion, "Miravalle" in St. Helena. He must have been included in the parties at Larkmead. Along with Lafayette Hammond, who had retired from the navy, also Eugene Dewey spent time when he could get away from the Stock Exchange. To these men were added Mrs. Agnes Poett, the widow of Howard Coit's brother. William Cunningham, who was one of the best know yachtman of the state,, came to Larkmead often. He was also the nephew of Collis P. Huntington. Another guest from this period was judge J.W. Hager. John Hays Hammond, a mining engineer, brought William Fitzmarice with him to the Napa Valley. An old friend of her father, major Joseph McClung, and wife, were often in residence at Larkmead.<sup>98</sup>

The other Lillie that Tiburcio must have met would be the infamous Jersey Lily, Lillie Langtry. The actress is usually remembered for having been the mistress of the Prince of Wales and of Louis Battenberg. The name Battenberg was eventually changed to Montbatten because of the anti-German sentiment in England as a result of World War I. In fact, Louis Battenberg was the father of the only child that Lillie Langtry had.<sup>99</sup> Judge Bean name the town of Langtry, Texas, for the actress. Her stage performance were huge successes — not because of her acting brilliance, but because of her beauty and the reputed number of lovers. Lillie was born on the Isle of Jersey to rector of St. Saviour's parish, William Le Breton, and his wife, Emilie. When she was twenty years of age she married Edward Langtry. Shortly after their marriage they moved to London where Mrs. Langtry's striking beauty made her a social success. Shortly after 1880 the Langtrys separated.<sup>100</sup>

It was not until 1882 that Lillie made her first American appearance. She played at the Wallick Theater in New York in *An International Dinner*. It was in New York that Lillie met Freddie Gebhard, who fell for her charms. His first gift was a diamond necklace and matching bracelet romantically concealed in a bouquet of flowers. When Lillie went on tour she took Freddie along as a bodyguard. On her next trip to the USA Freddie not only gave her a house in New York on West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, but he also gave her a private railroad car. Lillie compared her car to the barge of Cleopatra and called it "Lalee." The car cost Gebhard \$250,000.<sup>101</sup>

The most detailed description of this private palace on wheels is in James Brough's The Prince and the Lily.

"Between its railed-in platform of polished Oriental teak at wither end, the bright blue car stretched twenty-five yards long. Under the white roof, arching up over each platform, there ran a motif of polished brass lines, which repeated around the name lettered on each side. *Lalee*, according to Lillie, who chose it, meant "flirt" in some unspecified Indian dialect.

in *Lalee's salon*, where the walls were covered with cream-and-gold Lyons brocade, grand piano stood between the bookcases and the soft-upholstered easy chairs. The *salon* opened on to a small sitting-room, with rose-colored silk curtains, whose far door led to Lillie's sitting room, with rose-

colored curtains, whose far door led to Lillie's dressing room. Beyond that lay her bathroom, with pink silk hangings trimmed with Brussels lace. Every piece of furniture there was padded to prevent her fair skin being bruised by any sudden stop.

The kitchen, equipped to cook a full-course dinner; the pantry with its massive icebox; the maid's room containing a sewing machine; and two guest rooms completed the pleasure dome, which lured sightseers in the hundreds to railroad yards to which it was shunted as Lillie's itinerant hotel. She could feel satisfied that *Lalee* was much more luxuriant than the private coaches she had ridden in with the prince on their Continental travels. All he wanted was comfortable leather chairs, a thick carpet, card tables, newspapers, drinks and cigars, and never mind gilt cherubs or marquetry."<sup>102</sup>

Lillie had been introduced to the designer of the car, Colonel William D'Alton Mann. The Colonel, who had been a cavalry officer in the Civil War, originally designed a sleeping car in 1872. He sold this invention with great success on the Continent where it became the ancestor of the cars of the Compagnie des Wagons-Lits. He also sold his American company to George Pullman. The Colonel was now involved in a magazine of which he was part owner, *Town Topics*. The Colonel also had a habit of taking loans from certain famous people in exchange for a failure to mention them in the gossip magazine. The only drawback to using the private car was that Freddie had to go a little ahead of Lillie to various destinations to avoid the newspapers who met the private car at all stops.<sup>103</sup>

Tiburcio and Lillie Hitchcock Coit must have seen Lillie Langtry on her appearances in San Francisco and had read in the newspapers that Langtry and Gebhard had purchased extensive acreage in Lake County. To these casual connections one must add the fact that Lillie Coit was a close personal friend of General W.H.L. Barnes who had arranged the land purchase in lake County by Lillie Langtry and Freddie Gebhard. Lillie Coit was also a friend of Henry Babcock who was a friend of Barnes and Tiburcio.<sup>104</sup>

Lillie Langtry had decided to become a citizen of the United States and a resident of California, a state known for its lax divorce laws. As a Californian she could divorce her husband and establish a home for herself and Freddie. First she had to engage a lawyer in San Francisco. She settled on Gen. William H.L. Barnes, a well-known lawyer, a gifted orator, author, artist, actor, and scholar. A native of New York state, he had studied law in Springfield, Massachusetts, under Ruben A. Chapman. During the Civil war he had been a member of General Fitz-John Porter's staff, but because of illness, General Barnes left the service in 1863 and came to California. He did not intend to stay in California, but shortly formed a partnership with Eugene Casserly. By the time Casserly was elected to the US Senate in 1869, Barnes was too well established in San Francisco to consider moving. Two famous cases made Barnes' name a part of the legend of San Francisco. The first was when he broke the will of Horace Hawkes for Hawkes' widow in 1871 and the second in 1884 when he successfully defended William Sharon on charges of adultery brought by Sarah Althea Hill, who claimed to be Sharon's wife.<sup>105</sup>

With General Barnes' assistance, Mrs. Langtry was granted her U.S. citizenship in July 1887. Later General Barnes instituted divorce proceedings for Mrs. Langtry, but because of a procedural question, the suit was dropped. The theatrical tour of San Francisco was a fantastic success and part of this may have been because Californians were welcoming her as a new resident of their state. She was still living in rented property in San Francisco and wanted to purchase land. General Barnes suggested a tract of land in Guenoc Valley of Lake County. Both Mrs. Langtry and Freddie Gebhard expressed interest in the projected purchase and they left town after giving instructions to the General to see what he could do.<sup>106</sup>

In the fall of 1887, Napa and Lake Counties were expecting a land boom. A railroad was being constructed between Middletown, Guenoc Valley and Pope Valley. The *St. Helena Star* reported in October 1887 that a very large ranch had been sold in Lake County for \$80,000. It was rumored at this time that the "Jersey Lily" had bought the Ranch.<sup>107</sup>

It would appear that Lillie paid \$81,000 and the ranch consisted of 4,500 acres and that it had originally been three farms. Freddie Gebhard bought the adjoining 3,000 acres for \$44,000. The two houses on the properties were 100 yards apart.<sup>108</sup> According to the *St. Helena Star* of 1 June 1888, the new owners of the property paid a visit to St. Helena enroute to see their purchase for the first time. Some of the accounts say that Lillie received a number of people in her private car and gave autographs, but the *St. Helena Star* says that she and her ever faithful Freddie jumped off the rear car of the train and cut through a local saloon and thence up Main Street to the Windsor Hotel. A crowd gathered around the entrance to the Hotel and were rewarded with the sight of their star and her great and good friend when they came down to lunch. The dining room was not yet open and they had to wait a short time to be admitted to the dining room. Shortly after lunch the lady left via the back door of the hotel and entered her carriage there. Freddie offered himself as a lure and left via the front door and entered a carriage at that place.

In 1925 Lillie (by then lady de Bathe) described the trip from St. Helena to Guenoc Valley. The description follows:

"The seventeen miles we had to drive led us, by a corkscrew road, up to the summit and over the highest [mountain] of the group. The way was rough and narrow, and, as the only springs of the two coaches were leather thongs, we felt every stone, but the beauty of the well-wooded gorges, green and cool, with rapid rivers hurrying through them, well repaid us for our thumps and bumps. The, as we descended the mountain on the further side, the panorama opened out, and for, the first time I caught a birds' eye view of my property.

The huge plateau appeared a dream of loveliness, being early July [actually 27 May 1888], vast masses of ripe corn waved golden in the light summer breeze, dotted here and there with enormous centenarian, evergreen oaks. It was without exception, entrancing. In the distance were the boundary hills on the far side of my land, hazy and blue as the Alps sometimes are, and on which, the mindful

Beverly [her English butler] informed me, my numerous cattle ranged. On and down we drove, each turn of the road making us gasp with the new picture disclosed, till, threading our way through my vineyards and peach orchards laden with fruit, which covered a great part of then near hills, we reached home."<sup>109</sup>

Time has obviously softened her memory of the trip as some of the errors are glaring. No rapid rivers rush down the mountains in that area. Even in the rainy season only some small streams are in evidence and by the end of May those streams would be very, very low in water. Also the idea of distance is rather shortened of time; it is far more than seventeen miles from St. Helena to Guenoc valley. Since her party was going over the Howell Mountains at Angwin and descending into Pope Valley, not even a birds' eye view of her property is possible from the road as it twists and turns down to the valley floor. But even after thirty-five years her memory of the pleasure she felt on first seeing her property is unmistakable.

On 19 May 1888, Lillie sent a telegram to General Barnes at 420 California Street, San Francisco, in which she said: "Am delighted. Words don't express my complete satisfaction. Join me in Paradise."<sup>110</sup>

The house, built of wood, had a large living room, dining room, and kitchen on the main floor. A staircase from the kitchen lead to a gallery surrounding the upper floor. Entrance to all these rooms was off the gallery so there was not any internal hall of any kind. Beverly, her English butler, she described as her version of Ruggles of Red Gap. Beverly refused to appear out of doors without his correct derby hat. The ranch hands were much more interested in the English butler than they were in the new owner. All of them had seen a woman before, but an English butler was a rare breed.

It is very likely that Tiburcio and Lillie Coit traveled to Guenoc to call on Mrs. Langtry. Having such a famous person in the area would have presented an opportunity not to be wasted. They would have traveled the same twisting road over the Howell Mountains to present themselves to the famous Lillie of Guenoc Valley.

The rest of the Langtry story of California is tragic in that she never really had a chance to enjoy her ranch. The fact that she and Freddie lost a number of their valuable horses in a train wreck while the animals were enroute to California cast a pall on the operation and parting of the way for Freddie and Lillie was getting near. She did go through with her plans to get a divorce in California. It was over ten years from the start to the finish. Henry C. McPike of San Francisco filed the first papers in Lakeport, California, on 17 September 1895. Two years later on 12 May 1897 as reported by the *San Francisco Examiner*:

"The legal light at once set about preparing the documents that were intended to make his client, the famous English beauty, a divorcee. By midnight he had completed his task and this morning bright and early, he entered Judge Crump's courtroom and presented the results of his labors to the court."<sup>111</sup>



Edward Langtry refused to admit that the California divorce was valid, but he at least had the good grace to die within a short time, thereby settling the matter once and for all.

In 1899 Lillie Langtry married Hugo Gerald de Bathe, and when in 1909 her father-in-law died she became Lady de Bathe, as the wife of Hugo, Baron de bathe.<sup>112</sup>

By 1894 all three, Tiburcio and both Lillies are gone from the upper part of California. Tiburcio died; Lillie Langtry had gone back to Europe; and Lillie Coit had moved back to the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

**VII**  
**DEATH AND SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE**

On 9 November 1894 the *St. Helena Star* reported:

“T. PARROTT DEAD. ST. HELENA MOURNS THE LOSS OF HER GREATEST FRIEND. His death was unexpected. He entertained with a lavish hand, visitor from California, from all nations and was the friend of the rich and the poor. The people of St. Helena were shocking Monday morning upon hearing that Tiburcio Parrott had passed away.

Although Mr. Parrott had been in ill health for several months, and for the past two years had been troubled at times with pains in the pit of his stomach, no one dreamed of his being in any immediate danger of death. Sunday night he was taken for worse and rapidly failed, dying at 7:05 the next morning [5 November 1894], the cause being cancer of the stomach. . . . Since his marriage Villa Parrott was been open to all comers. The Rothschilds and the men of wealth, influence, and notoriety from all over the world have enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Parrott.

The people of St. Helena have been just as welcome and no one ever felt otherwise than at home when under their roof . . . He leaves a widow among other relatives to mourn his loss. The remains were placed in the family vault [on St. John’s Cemetery, San Mateo, California].”

According to the order appointing Administratrix in the Superior Court of the County of Napa, State of California dated 24 December 1894, Tiburcio Parrott died instate. The order appointed Therese F. Parrott as Administratrix upon her filing a bond of \$11,240.00.

As Administratrix of the estate, Therese F. Parrott filed on 31 January 1895, an Inventory and Appraisement which had been prepared by three appraisers” W.A. MacKinder, D.O. Hunt, and W.W. Lyman. A copy of the inventory from probate records on Napa County Court was as follows:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
Of the County of Napa,  
State of California**

**Probate.**

In the Matter of the Estate of Tiburcio Parrott, Deceased.

Inventory and Appraisement

Moneys belonging to said deceased, which have come to the Hands of the Administratrix		\$25.00
Outstanding bills due the Estate for goods amounting to \$102.50	Appraised at	\$60.00
Tract of un-improved hill land, bounded, North West by the Corporate limits of St. Helena, South and East by lands of Grottan, Containing 13.5 acres	Appraised at	\$175.00
Tract of land known as the :”Walker place” bounded N. by private road, East and South by land of Smith and West by land of Crane (about 2 acres)	Appraised at	\$400.00
Household Furniture Paintings, books, etc. in Family Residence known as “Villa Parrott” at St. Helena Napa Co., Cal., as for Schedule “A” hereto attached	Appraised at	\$2442.50
Horses, Vehicles, etc. on said premises as per Schedule “B” hereto Attached	Appraised at	\$555.00
Wine, Cooperage and Cellar Tools & Machinery belonging to said Estate as per schedule “C” hereto attached	Appraised at	\$5051.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8738.50</b>

**INVENTORY & APPRAISEMENT ESTATE OF TIBURCIO PARROTT DECEASED**

**Schedule "A" Report** **887.00**

**Dining Room**

1	Walnut Extension Table	30
12	Leather Chairs	50
3	Small Tables	10
8	Oil Paintings	80
1	Engraving	5
1	Side Board	40
1	Rug	20
2	Small Rugs	5
	Bric a Brac curtains & C	50

**290.00**

**Office**

1	Desk	15
1	Revolving Bookcase	7
1	Old Side Board	10
1	Letter file	10
3	Chairs	3

**45.00**

**Library**

About 800 Volumes of printed & bound books  
(A miscellaneous collection, largely Spanish,  
French, & Italian languages)

		250
2	Tables	5
4	Chairs	10
1	Rug	5

**270.00**

**Tower Bedroom**

1	Bed Lounge	10
2	Settees	15
3	Chairs	7.50
1	Table	5
	Carpet	10
9	Small Pictures	10

**57.50**

**Report**

**1499.50**

## INVENTORY & APPRAISEMENT OF TIBURCIO PARROTT DECEASED

### Schedule "A"

Household Furniture, Paintings, Books, & C in family residency known as "Villa Parrott" in St. Helena, Napa Co. Cala.

<b>Drawing Room</b>		
5	large Oil Paintings	100
	Lot of small paintings picture & Ornamental Bric a Brac	200
1	Large Desk	40
1	Small D.	20
6	Tables & Covers	30
1	Settee	10
6	Leather Upholstered Chairs	20
4	Rocking Chairs	20
4	Small Chairs	6
1	Stove	10
2	Large Rugs	40
6	Small Rugs	24
	Curtains	10
		<b>530</b>
<b>Reception Room</b>		
20	Oil Paintings	100
7	Paintings & pictures	14
1	Ebony Table	16
7	Leather Chairs	20
2	Settees	16
	Large Rug	10
3	Small Rugs	4
	Bric & Brac Curtains & C	50
		<b>230</b>
<b>Lower Hall</b>		
	Hat Rack \$40 Settee \$15	55
2	Tables \$5 2 Chairs \$3	8
3	Fur Rugs	12
2	Small Rugs	2
		<b>77</b>
	<b>Report</b>	<b>837</b>

**INVENTORY & APPRAISEMENT OF TIBURCIO PARROTT DECEASED**

**Schedule "A" Report**

**1499.50**

	<b>Upper Hall and Stairway</b>		
11	Paintings & Pictures	55	
1	Leather Settee	15	
1	Old Settee	5	
2	Tables	5	
2	Chairs	5	
2	Large Rugs	10	
2	Small Rugs	2	
			<b>97</b>
	<b>Bedroom No. 1</b>		
8	Paintings	40	
1	Mahogany Bedstead	25	
1	Walnut Bureau	20	
1	Walnut Dresser	25	
1	Wardrobe	25	
2	Leather Chairs	10	
5	Rugs	10	
2	Tables	5	
3	Chairs	5	
1	Lounging Chair	5	
			<b>150</b>
	<b>Dressing Room</b>		
	Bureau 5    Dressing Case 5	10	
	Chairs 2.50    2 Rugs 2.50	5	
			<b>15</b>
	<b>Bedroom #2</b>		
9	Pictures	30	
1	Walnut Bedstead	15	
1	Dressing Case	10	
1	Wardrobe	25	
1	lounging Chair	2.50	
	Table \$5    Dressing Mirror \$7.50	12.50	
6	Chairs \$10    Carpet \$15    Stove \$2.50	27.50	
			<b>122.50</b>

**Dressing Room**

Bureau \$4 Rug \$2

6

**Report****122.50****Bedroom #3**

	Bedstead	20
	Bureau	10
	Commode	3
	Table	5
	Lounging Chair	2
3	Chairs	7.50
1	Leather Chair	5
1	Writing Desk	10
6	Rugs	10
2	Paintings	10
4	Engravings	10

**92.50****Bedroom #4**

1	Bedstead	15
	Commode	2.50
	Washstand	2.50
2	Chairs	2.50
	Table	2.50
	Lounge	10
	Large Rug	5
	Small Rug	2

**42.00****Bedroom #5 (Small)**

1	Bedstead	5
1	Bureau	3
1	Commode	1
2	Chairs	2
3	Rugs	3
3	Paintings	6
5	Engravings	5

**25.00**

	<b>Kitchen</b>		
2	Tables	5	
1	Chair	1	
			<b>6.00</b>
	<b><u>Veranda</u></b>		
5	Iron Settees	10	
12	Wicker Chairs	24	
5	Wicker Chairs	10	
2	Wicker Settees	11	
4	Wire Mats	2	
	Pot Plants, Flower Pots & Vases	100	
			<b>157.00</b>
	<b><u>Miscellaneous</u></b>		
	Mattresses, Pillow, Blankets		
	Comforts & Linen	100	
	Table Ware & Linen	100	
	Glassware	30	
	Dishes & Utensils	30	
			<b>260.00</b>
	<b>Total of Schedule "A"</b>		<b>\$2472.50</b>



**INVENTORY & APPRAISEMENT OF TIBURCIO PARROTT DECEASED**

**Schedule "B"**

<b>Horses, Vehicles, etc.</b>		
2	Black Carriage Horses	75
2	Work Horses	50
1	old Grey mare	15
1	Old Bay Mare	15
1	Mule	25
1	Little Colt	10
1	Iron Grey Colt	35
2	Cows (Jerseys)	20
1	Old Concord Buggy	20
1	Road Wagon (Thoroughbrace)	75
1	Cart	10
1	Buckboard	15
1	Phaeton	40
1	Old Farm Wagon	25
2	Old Dump Carts	15
1	Set Old Work Harness	5
1	Set Old carriages Harness	10
2	Shingle Sets Harness	15
2	Saddles	7.50
	Farming Utensils & Goals	22.50
	<b>Total Schedule "B"</b>	<b>\$555.00</b>

**INVENTORY & APPRAISEMENT OF TIBURCIO PARROTT DECEASED****Schedule "C"****Wine , Cooperage & Cellar, Tools & Machinery**

9000	Gal Wine in Basement Cellar of Dwelling	540	
10000	Gal Wine in Stone Cellar of Cala. Wine Assoc. (stored)	500	
42000	Gals Wine in Marie Cellars & Gunnels on Farm	2100	
40	Cases of red & White Wine	80	
22	cases Red & White Pints	27.50	<b>3247.50</b>
28	Oval Oak casks (Basement Cellars)	280	
2	puncheons	5	
3	barrels	3	
48	Oak Casks in Marie Cellar Total capacity 36,200 Gals	724	
6	Red Wood Tanks 5200 Gals	13	
55	Puncheons	110	
7	Barrels	7	
41	1/2 Barrels	20.50	
67	Puncheons in Shed at stable	67	<b>1229.50</b>
2500	Gals "Wash"	50	
2	Wine Pumps	5	
2	Wine Tubs	1	
1	Bottle Washer	1	
1	Bottler Corker	1	
1	Cap Presses	.50	
400	Feet of Assorted Hoses	20	
1	Sachrometro	.50	
52	Crates Bottles partly used	100	
6000	Corks	60	
1	Pitting Machine	5	
1	Wine Bottle Filler	2.50	
1	Corking machine	1	
1	Caping Machine	1	
1	Syphon	.50	<b>249.00</b>
1	Hydraulic Press	50	

1	Crusher & Elevator	25	
1	Gasoline Engine	50	
2	Olive Presses	50	
1	Olive Mill & Shafting & Pulleys	75	
100	Gal Olive Oil (Tainted)	50	
5	Olive Oil Tanks	10	
300	Grape Boxes (old)	15	<b>325.00</b>
<b>Total of Schedule "C"</b>			<b>\$5051.00</b>

In the inventory and appraisal, only about 16 acres of the approximately 800 acres of the entire property is listed. The truth is that the original purchase for some 805 acres was paid for and title taken by Abby M. Parrott. For this she paid \$26,000 in gold.\* Subsequently, the big house and the barn/carriage house, etc., were actually built on property that was never in Tiburcio's name. Certainly this fact was not common knowledge in the St. Helena area because everyone assumed he was wealthy because he lived in a big house on a large acreage. W.W. Lyman said that Tiburcio was given \$1000 per month by the Parrott family, but it is not possible to determine whether this was gossip or truth.

*\* This property was referred to as the Forbes place. It was actually part of the Carne Human Rancho which was four leagues granted to Dr. Edward T. Bale after his petition of 14 March 1841. The Indians had called the place Calajimanas or Kolijolmanok. Dr. Bale with a gruesome sense of humor twisted (in his petition) this to Carne Humana. This name was officially accepted.*

Actually the probate of the estate indicates that Tiburcio was not at all wealthy and that he operated largely on borrowed money. List in the final accounting of the estate by the Administratrix, Therese F. Parrott, were the following debts:

- \$15,570.00 owed to Abby M. Parrott (secured by a chattel mortgage)
- \$6,000.00 owed to Magdalena Parrott Nuttall
- \$481.37 owed to A.P. Hotaling & Co. (personal note)
- \$3768.72 owed to the Bank of St. Helena (overdraft)
- \$5419.50 owed to Louise C. Roberts (personal note)
- \$3055.55 owed to Therese F. Parrott (personal note)
- \$1716.74 owed to Thomas Madden (personal loan since 1877!)
- \$1533.70 owed to W.B. Bourne (personal note)
- \$41, 875.58 being the total amount that Tiburcio owed to friends, relatives, etc., at the time of his death.

In addition to this he was indebted to suppliers, tradespeople, and miscellaneous as follows:

G.W. Fox for electrical work	\$441.37
California Camera Club for membership	12.00
D. VonDuering for Olives	2.25
George F. Eberhard Company for chemicals	19.00
B.F. Wilson for drugs	4.65
Dr. F.W. Mitchell	80.00
Dr. Wm. J.G. Dawson	27.50
Abramson-Heunisch Co. for winery supplies	915.05
Wm. Spiers for Livery stable supplies	39.00
J.C. Bauer & Co. for winery supplies	48.50
Whellena and Collins for whiskey	19.50

W.B. Chapman for Champagne	69.00	
M. Blaskkwer and Co. for cigars	69.00	
R.H. Piethie for balance due digging cistern	94.00	
J.H. Steves for hardware	700.25	
Beringer Bros. For brandy, wine and storage	213.37	
Fisher and Harrison for attorneys	253.40	
J.H. Steves for hardware	197.52	
Robert Zenker for tobacco	12.00	
Buchanan Bros. For 1 doz. Brushes	4.00	
David Woerner for work as a cooper	220.61	
H.J. Chin for buckboard, etc., for wagen	200.00	
G.B. Crane	for 1 1/2 acres land	475.00
Louis Bulotti for farm work	57.20	
J.C. Money for building supplies	1137.13	
W.R. Gift for breeding mare	30.00	
<b>Total owed to tradespeople, etc.</b>	<b>\$5341.30</b>	

Given the general fact that most Victorian women were kept in ignorance of their husband's finances, one can only assume that Therese Parrott was no exception. She must have been truly shocked to find that rather than being left a wealthy women, she had almost no assets and that the estate was far in debt. The property that she expected to inherit from her husband was actually owned by Abby M. Parrott with only a few meager acres to be hers by virtue of homesteading.

The final accounting of the estate lists its assets as follow:

Cash received on sale of personal property	\$6310.68
Cash received on sale of real estate	176.00
Cash collected on accounts	84.20
Cash on hand at death of descendent	25.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6595.18</b>

Expenses incurred by the Administratrix and monies spent by her in settling the estate were as follows:

Publication of notice to creditors	\$4.60
Four trips to Napa on business of estate	8.00
Ad in Napa Journal for Sale of personal property	4.50
Three trips to Napa on business of estate	6.00
Advertisement in St. Helena Star advertising sale	10.00
Cash paid C. Carpy and Co. for storage of wine	250.00
Cash for family allowance for one year	1200.00

Trip to San Francisco to Napa on estate business	5.00
Cash paid for publication order to show cause	12.00
Cash paid St. Helena Star publishing notice of sale	12.00
Cash paid appraiser's fees and notary's fees	36.50
Cash paid County Clerks for Court fees	61.69
Cash Paid taxes	7.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1617.52</b>

The following is part of the final accounting of the estate:

"The Administratrix of the estate of Tiburcio Parrott, deceased, makes the following report of her administration of said estate, to wit:

That she was appointed Administratrix of the estate of said Tiburcio Parrott, deceased, on 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D. 1894, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1895, she in the meantime having duly qualified, Letters of administration were duly issued to her on said estate, and that ever since said time she has been and now is the duly qualified and acting Administratrix of the said estate.

That on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1895, she published due and legal notice to the creditors of said deceased, to present the same to her, at a place given in said notice, and that a decree has been given and made by the Superior Court of the County of Napa, State of California, establishing the fact that said notice had been legally given.

That on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D. 1895, she duly returned and filed herein a true inventory and appraisement of all the estates of said Tiburcio Parrott, deceased, as required by law.

That all the property of said estate has been disposed of, and the balance of said estate, consisting of cash, is shown by the foregoing account. That the balance of cash on hand is first applied to the payment of the costs of court, attorneys fees to be fixed as compensation for the said Administratrix for fees of attorneys to be allowed her, for moneys expended for counsel fees herein, and the remainder to be applied pro-rata on the claims duly allowed and approved against said deceased, and herein set forth. That all taxes against estate have been fully paid and satisfied . . .

That all of the property of said estate has been disposed of, except the balance of cash now on hand, which said Administratrix asks may first be applied to the payment of the costs of closing said estate, including counsel fees to be allowed to said Administratrix, by the Court, and her commissions as such Administratrix, and that the balance be applied pro-rata, on the claims against said estate, herein set forth. That the total appraised value of said estate, as shown by the inventory and appraisement of said estate, is the sum of \$8,738.50; that the sum received by said Administratrix on sales of personal property was the sum of \$14,476.85, \$8,166.17 of which was applied in the

mortgage claim of Abby M. Parrott; that the amount received on the sale of the real estate was the sum of \$175.00; that the appraised value of the personal property set apart to the family of the deceased, was the sum of \$1,400.00, making the total amount of estate accounted for \$16,051.85; that the Commissions of the Administratrix on said sum accounted, tax including appraised value of homestead set apart to widow, to wit \$400.00 will amount to the sum of \$628.07; that all the property of said estate has been accounted for and said estate is now in a condition to be finally closed and settled. WHEREFORE said Administratrix prays that her final account may be allowed and settled, and the balance remaining after paying all the expenses of closing said estate, may be ordered paid pro-rata on the claims against said estate, and when so paid said estate be declared closed and settled, and she and her bondsmen may be discharged."

The above was signed and filed with the Superior Court of Napa Valley, California, by Therese F. Parrott.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA. IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TIBURCIO PARROTT, DECEASED.

THERESE F. PARROTT, the Administratrix of the estate of Tiburcio Parrott, deceased, having this day duly presented to this Court satisfactory vouchers, showing that she has made payments in accordance with the decree settling the final accounts of said estate of Tiburcio Parrott, deceased, made herein on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1896, and performed all acts required of her under said decree, and that no further acts remain for her to perform.

Now on motion of counsel for said Administratrix:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that said THERESE F. PARROTT, Administratrix as aforesaid, has fully and faithfully discharged the duties of her trust; that she is hereby wholly and absolutely discharged from all further duties and responsibilities as such Administratrix, and that her letters of administration are hereby vacated; that the said estate is declared fully administered, and the trust settled and closed; and the said Administratrix and her sureties are hereby released from any and all liabilities to be hereafter incurred.

Done in open Court, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 1896.

\_\_\_\_\_, JUDGE

The above is a copy of the release of Therese F. Parrott as Administratrix of the estate.

The pro-rata settlement of the estate figures to be .1143 cents on the dollar for claims. The one person who did not suffer in any way by the settlement was Abby M. Parrott. Not only did she collect most of the money Tiburcio owed her (since she had a chattle mortgage) but she also had title to the property on which Miravalle was built. One of the people who have been on the short end of the settlement was

Tiburcio's half sister, Magdalena Parrott Nuttall. Her settlement for \$6,000 that Tiburcio owed her would have been \$684.80. The Bank of St. Helena would have received \$430.76 for its claim of \$3,768.71. The \$5,419.50 that Tiburcio owed to Louise C. Roberts<sup>113</sup> must have been quite a problem for Therese in that Louise C. Roberts was her sister and the money represented money that Tiburcio borrowed from George Tully (the Father of Louise and Therese) while Tully was alive. The note was signed at Villa Miravalle on 3 September 1890 and supposedly secured by wine at the Bourn and Wise Warehouse. On 28 October 1891 this note was assigned and transferred to Therese Parrott and Louise Roberts by the Executor of the estate of George Tully. In an obvious effort to placate her sister, Therese had assigned and transferred he part of the note to Louise C. Roberts on 1 May 1894.<sup>114</sup>

Before the estate was settled, Therese Parrott had moved from St. Helena to San Francisco. She resided at 1803 Broadway Street according to the City Directory of 1895. She continued to reside in San Francisco until the time of her death on 22 September 1951, 115 when she was residing at 701 Post Street. Therese Parrott was listed in the Social Register of San Francisco for years, and evidently the Parrott family saw that she was taken care of as long as she lived.<sup>116</sup>



## VIII MIRAVALLE TO FALCON CREST

After all the dust had settled from the sudden death of Tiburcio and the settlement of the estate, the title of the house and land was still in the name of Abby M. Parrott — where it had been all along. Neither the house nor the 800 acres of land was often used by the Parrott family between 1896 and 1938. Various members of the family would come up for a day or perhaps a few days during the summer months. Barbara Donohoe Jostes recalls that as a child she was there a number of times and that her keenest memory is coming into the cool house from the heat of the upper valley in the summertime to be met with the enticing smell of exotic woods used in paneling of the entrance hall, Mrs. Jostes also remembers coming to St. Helena with a Parrott cousin in the mid-1930s, her last visit to the property. She and her relative brought sleeping bags and slept on the veranda. They had a key so that they could use the facilities but the house was empty. Both visitors felt a deep sadness to see such a beautiful house in a state of disrepair and the gardens a jungle of overgrown plantings.<sup>117</sup>

Abby M. Parrott died on 6 October 1917, and the following year the title to the property went from the heirs of John and Abby M. Parrott to the Parrott Investment Company. It was a complicated procedure to change the title in that some fourteen people scattered from Italy to San Mateo, California, had to be contacted; papers drawn up; and, in the instance of European residents, witnessed by some official in the nearest American consulate. Eight of the fourteen were either permanently or temporarily living in Europe at that time.<sup>118</sup>

The Parrott Investment Company gave title of the property to Lachman Brothers Investment Company in 1938. (These are the Lachman Brothers of the Lachman Furniture Company.) On 19 May 1941 Wallace B. and Lorene Hyde bought the house and land from the Lachman Brothers. Mr. Hyde was an attorney with offices on Sutter Street and a large residence on California Street in San Francisco. The Hydys planned to use the house for a weekend and summer residence but they moved to St. Helena and stayed during the days of World War I.<sup>119</sup> The decision in part was because they wanted their children to grow up in a country atmosphere rather than a wartime San Francisco. According to the *San Francisco Examiner* of 16 December 1951, the Hydys furnished and restored the house in “authentic turn-of-the-century style.” The description of the house and the builder is very interesting and reads in part: “The house built in 1880 [1885] was the scene of much ‘elegant’ and gracious hospitality by its builder, who left a playboy career in San Francisco to produce high grade wines and live the life of a gentlemen farmer . . . The paneled dining room of the Tiburcio Parrott house, with the fine wood carvings, is a sample of the costly and luxurious construction throughout the old mansion. The rich woods were brought round the Horn by sailing ships. There is much inlaid tile brought from Italy [China], and stained glass windows on all sides. Tiburcio was a son of San Francisco’s miner-banker, John Parrott, one of the quieter members of that fabulous clan.”

In 1974 the Hydes sold the property to Michael Robbins, the current owner.<sup>120</sup>

Michael Robbins was born in Bloomington, Indiana in 1923. He was the son of Foster Clayton and Mary Ellen Robbins. He grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and studied for one year at Iowa State College. During World War II he joined the navy and was later appointed to the Naval Academy at Annapolis during the last year of the war, from which he graduated in the class of 1948. He was serving as an officer on the **U.S.S. Valley Forge** when the war broke out in the Korean area. The **U.S.S. Valley Forge** happened to be in Hong Kong at the time and the carrier was one of the first U.S. Forces to be involved in the Korean area. During the Korean War he had three tours of duty in that area, and received a number of citations. After the Korean War he resigned his commission.

Shortly after, Michael Robbins started working for Coldwell Banker and Company (real estate) in San Francisco. He feels that he was very fortunate to have actually worked for and with Mr. Coldwell and Mr. Banker. During the next eleven years while holding down a job, he attended night school and earned a law degree from the University of San Francisco. Work at the University of California in Berkeley resulted in a real estate credential, and further work at the University of San Francisco finished most of the requirements for an MBA. The above credentials and experience lead to his teaching part-time at Napa Valley College and to lectures at various University of California campuses; and to teaching one course at the University of California in Berkeley. In 1965 he was involved in handling leasing at the Golden Gateway Center in San Francisco and later leasing at Century City in Los Angeles.

In 1960 Michael Robbins became part owner in Maya Camas Vineyards. He was also a vice president and director of this winery. Resigning these positions in 1962 he decided to buy some vineyards and buildings on Highway 29 near St. Helena just north of Deer Park. The house he bought was a stately old Victorian built by Fritz Rosebaum, a San Francisco glass merchant, in 1876. By 1962 it had fallen into total disrepair and the next few years were spent restoring this house and putting together a small winery in the lower basement. Michael Robbins meanwhile had tried unsuccessfully to buy Freemark Abbey. When the deal fell through, he acquired the name of Spring Mountain Vineyards from Eulaie Ahearn who at the time owned Freemark Abbey. She and her husband had used Spring Mountain Vineyards as a second label for their wines. She offered to give the label to Michael Robbins for \$1 and other valuable considerations to make the transaction legal. The first wine was introduced in 1970 under that label. During the 1960s and 1970s a number of vineyards scattered over the valley were acquired and in 1974 came the acquisition of Miravalle from the Hydes.

The house was restored and rebuilt in 1975 and 1976 with updated heating, air-conditioning, plumbing and wiring. Only in the living and dining rooms was the wood paneling changed. The Robbins felt that the rooms were too dark with the wood wall and ceiling. They cut the height of the paneling down in the dining room and painted the paneling and walls to make a light airy room. The kitchen area was

completely redone and redesigned into a single working unit, eliminating the inefficient rabbit warren of original small room. Since many of the stained glass windows were suffering from lead fatigue, they were taken out and releaded, and in addition Michael Robbins made some small stained glass windows to be used in the downstairs powder room. The inlaid parquet floors had to be sanded to eliminate evidence of rollerskating by children at some point in the life of the house. Fortunately the material was 3/4 inch hardwood and could safely be sanded without ruining the floors.

Today when one enters and views the house it is a pleasure to become aware that neither time nor money had been spared in the restoration work. The owner found and hired various craftsmen who were capable of detailed and accurate restoration. One is also aware that such craftsmanship is hard to come by and does not come cheap.

When Michael Robbins acquired Miravalle property, the old wooden shed that dated from Tiburcio's days was still standing in front of the aging cave/cellars. It was a primary habitat for spiders and vermin, and during the early days of the Robbins ownership a rattlesnake fell from the roof of the shed and hit a startled visitor on the shoulder. Knowing the fondness of Californians for preserving useless old buildings, Michael Robbins decided that quick destruction was the only answer. Construction of the first winery buildings was begun in 1976 and continued for the next three years. Michael Robbins was the architect and for the most part acted as the contractor. He also made approximately half of the stained glass windows in these buildings. The finished complex has some 17,000 square feet, including the caves in the hillside.

Selection of the blends of wine for each year is of paramount importance at Spring Mountain Vineyards. All the staff involved with the production have blind tastings of the various lots which represent various vineyards. These lots have been kept separate and fermented separately. The staff members grade the lots in order of quality and preference and then make a formula from the lots for what they consider the best combination. Then they start what the owner refers to as the fine tuning of the wine. What if we add a bit of this? What if we add a bit of that? This continues until one blend consistently wins time and again. Only then is it bottled under the Spring Mountain Vineyard label.

With the buildings finished the next project was to try to make order to of the neglected jungle of plants. Olive trees from the last century were moved to line the roadways, and vineyards were replanted. Many of the exotic plantings from Tiburcio's time were trimmed and shaped as they had become leggy and unattractive. Raised beds were added and the box hedges were trimmed as much as possible.

In 1981 Lorimar of Hollywood approached Robbins with an offer to make a series on the Napa Valley to be entitled Vintage Years.<sup>121</sup> Lorimar at that point was producer of The Walton, Dallas, and Knots Landing. The pilot episode was filmed in 1981 and was aired in December of that year. The interior of Miravalle was to be used only in the pilot and after that the producer agreed to build sets in Hollywood.

This pilot was the start of a very successful series called Falcon Crest which is still running each season as of 1987.<sup>122</sup>

The Robbins family lives in one of the best-known houses in the world, an enviable condition that has disadvantages nonetheless. For example, at least one visitor to the winery in his eagerness to see the house simply walked in the front door and more or less made himself at home. Since then, the flow of visitors has been well controlled while still giving them the chance to walk around the house and see it from all angles.

Michael Robbins said: "It is my home which I share with my wife, Susan, and my stepdaughter, Sarah, and I do like some privacy." He has two sons, Grant and Matthew, from a previous marriage, both are graduates of Perrerrdine in Southern California.

Michael Robbins needs a challenge and now that he proved that he can produce superior wine; that he can restore a house to its former glory; and that he can design and build a state-of-the-art winery, he would just as soon move onto another project. Regardless of what he undertakes we can only hope that he will be successful.

Susan Robbins says, "Wouldn't Tiburcio be amazed by all the interest in him and his house over a hundred years later?" He would be equally amazed that his house is the subject of an international television show and that his dream of having a beautiful and efficient winery has been realized. He would be even more surprised that not a day goes by in the upper Napa Valley without his name being mentioned several times.

Due to financial difficulties in April of 1992 Michael and Susan Robbins lost control of the Spring Mountain property. The Robbins lived in the house until September of 1992. Gossip and rumors about who owned the property and who was doing what with which and to whom were fast and furious and only in the Wall Street Journal of 12 April 1995 was there any publicity which one can have reason to assume to be accurate. Said article is quoted in its entirety below.

**IX**  
**NOTES**

1. Marriage Certificate, 24 October 1888, St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena, California, Book 1 of Marriage Records.
2. Baptismal Certificate of Maria Delores Camera Parrott y Comte, naming parents of William Stuart Parrott (brother of John). Holy Metropolitan Church, Mexico City, Mexico. Dated 11 February 1836. Original in possession of Sutro Library, San Francisco, California.
3. Myers, Jourdan G., Willmore, Hix, Parrott, and Lee Families, Stockton, California, 1986, p. 475.
4. Jordan, John, Serious Actual Dangers of Foreigners and Foreign Commerce in the Mexican States, P.M. LaFourcade, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1828
5. Private papers of Dr. Patrick J. Lee.
6. Jostes, Barbara Donohoe, John Parrott, San Francisco, California, 1972, following p. 181.
7. Certificate of Military Service, U.S./ Archives, Washington, D.C., dated 13 may 1815.
8. Jordan, John, op. Cit. , p. 5, 6.
9. Lee, Thomas LaFayette, "lee and graves Families", 1940, privately published.
10. Baltimore County, Maryland Records No. 246.
11. The bulk of this information is from Farabee, Ethel, William Stuart Parrott, Business Man and Diplomat in Mexico. M.A. Thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1944. Unpublished.
12. Memorial of William S. Parrott to the Commissioners under the Convention between the United States and the Republic of Mexico. Washington D.C., 25 January 1842
13. Jostes, op. cit., p. 2.
14. Ibid, p. 3.
15. Jostes, op. Cit., p. 46.
16. William M. Wood, Wandering Sketches of People and Things, Philadelphia, 1849. Bancroft Library, Berkley, California.
17. Jostes, op. cit., p. 52.
18. Records of St. Joseph's Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland.
19. Jostes, op. cit.
20. Based on detailed description of trip from Chagres to panama in Eldorado, Bayard Taylor, Vol. 1, NY, George P. Putman, 1860, pp. 1-30.
21. Jostes, op. cit., p. 126.
22. Ibid., p. 126
23. Ibid., p. 127.
24. Correspondence with James M. O'Toole, Archivist, Archdiocese of Boston, Boston, Massachusetts.

25. Correspondence with Kelly Fitzpatrick, Archivist, Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, dated 1 July 1986.
26. Jostes, op. cit., p. 151.
27. Correspondence with F.J. Turner, Archivist, Stoneyhurst College, Blackburn, England, dated 6 June 1986.
28. Extract from the diary of George H.F. Nuttall, courtesy of his son, George R. Falkiner Nuttall.
29. Henry M. Naglee came to California in 1847, a graduate of West Point. He became a banker and finally settled in San Jose as a vineyardist.
30. The fifty acre estate of Christian de Guigne IV is what remains intact of the original 260 acres.
31. Bidwell Papers, Sutter's Fort, Department of Parks and recreation, Sacramento, California.
32. Ibid.
33. See chapter entitled, "Tiburcio and the Celestials."
34. *Daily Alta California*, San Francisco, December 31, 1865.
35. Mr. Donohoe (who was in London when this was written) was the father of Mary Emilie and Joseph A. who married John Parrott and Noelle Christine Parrott.
36. Jostes, op. cit., pp. 201 – 203.
37. Private Papers, Diary of George H.P. Nuttall, courtesy of his son, George R. Falkiner Nuttall, Kent, England.
38. Telephone conversation with Barbara Jostes on 30 October 1986. She stated that her grandmother had the reputation in the family and business circles as being one of the fairest people that existed. It must be remembered that Tiburcio had been a part of her household for about twenty years and she would have had a maternal interest in his well being as well as his future. Abby M. Parrott along with Louise Roberts (sister of the bride) had been the only witnesses when Tiburcio and Theresa F. Tully married.
39. Jostes, op. cit., p. 170.
40. Annals of the Bohemian Club, Vol. 1, p. 191
41. Riordan, Joseph W., The First Half Century of St. Ignatius Church and College, San Francisco, California, 1905.
42. The dedication was presided over by Archbishop Joseph W. Riordan of San Francisco. It is interesting to note that Riordan officiated at the funeral of Tiburcio Parrott in San Mateo.
43. Jostes, op. cit., p. 215.
44. Riordan, op. cit. P. 74.
45. Tiburcio planted a rose called Agrapina which he mixed with the box hedges around Miravalle. This particular rose was a favorite of Abby M. Parrott and she used it around Baywood in San Mateo. She and Tiburcio both gave cuttings of this rose to all their friends who admired the flower. (This information was given to the writer by Barbara Jostes in a telephone conversation.)

46. George H.F. Nuttall, op. cit.
47. Jostes, op. cit., Chart between 212 and 213.
48. *Daily Alta California*, San Francisco, California, 1 March 1854.
49. United States Census of California 1880 and correspondence with G.R. Falkiner Nuttall dated 22 November 1986.
50. Alfred M. Tozzer, "Zelia Nuttall," *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 35, 1933, page 475.
51. Conversation with Magdalena's grandson George Falkiner Nuttall, on 9 October 1986.
52. Alfred M. Tozzer, op. cit., p. 475.
53. Ibid.
54. Jostes, op. cit., p. 212.
55. Parrott, Abby E.M., *Descendants of John Parrott and Abby E. Meagher*, Bancroft Library, Berkley, California.
56. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7 March 1983.
57. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 6 October 1979.
58. Christian de Guigne IV and his wife occupy Guignicourt today. The other son, Charles, lives in France.
59. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 6 October 1979.
60. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 23 March 1984.
61. *Parrott, Abby, Descendants of John and Abby Parrott, Bancroft Library, Berkley, California.*
62. Private papers.
63. Ibid.
64. Ibid.
65. Jostes, op. cit., p. 215.
66. Parrott, Abby, op. cit.
67. Mrs. Jostes had helped me not only by giving me access to some of the Parrott Papers but also in answering questions about the family that had arisen during the past six years that I have been researching my family.
68. Goss, Helen R., *The Life and Death of a Quicksilver Mine*, Historical Society of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, 1958.
69. Bradley, Walter M., *California Mineral Production*, California State Publications, Bulletin 78, California State Publications Office, Sacramento, 1918.
70. Symons, Henry H., *California Mineral Production*, California State Publications, Sacramento, 1941
71. Conversation with Herb Westfall, former owner of Westfall Mine on Ida Clayton Road, Napa County, California.
72. Goss, op. cit.
73. California State Constitution, Sections 178 and 179.

74. Jostes, op. cit. P. 188.
75. *Napa City Register*, 5 March 1880.
76. All quoted or paraphrased from the decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, District of California, 22 March 1880.
77. Hanrahan, Virginia, Forgotten Spas of the Napa Valley, n.p., n.d., and King, Norton L., Napa County, Napa, California, 1967.
78. *Napa Register*, 27 March 1885.
79. Alberta Schroeffer had been born in Prussia in 1841, came to the United States in 1854 and settled on the Eastern Seaboard until 1876 when he moved to San Francisco. He moved to St. Helena in 1887. In May 1889 his wife, Hermine, had him arrested and examined for insanity. By July of that year he was in jail under bond to keep the peace. On 2 August 1889 he was examined by doctors again and placed in the State Insane Asylum in Napa. He died there a month later of erysipelas, and was buried in St. Helena.
80. The information on Albert Schroeffer is gathered from a series of articles in the *Napa Register*.
81. When I came to live in Sty. Helena about fourteen years ago we were invited to dinner at a house on Palmer Drive. When we climbed up on the deck and front door to my right I could see this lovely old Victorian house with all the towers and turrets. When I asked about it, I was told that it as the Parrott Mansion. At the time I remembered that my great grandmother was a Parrott but did not imagine that it was the same family, since I knew she never left the south. I did not know then that she was Tiburcio's aunt.
82. When Barbara Parrott Jostes was discussing Miravalle with me, she said that when she came up to visit St. Helena when she was a child that she always remembered the wonderful coolness and the smell of wood when she would enter the entrance hall.
83. Memorial and Biographical History of Northern California, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1891.
84. PR Department of Beringer Winery, Conversations on 22 August 1986.
85. Tour Guide of Rutherford Hills Winery, telephone conversation, 23 August 1986.
86. PR Department of Beringer Winery.
87. Beringer Private Papers in possession of Ramona Beringer, St. Helena, California. This statement about the death of Mrs. Parrott gives accurate date of when Bertha Beringer wrote the text, as the handwritten pages are not dated.
88. *St. Helena Star*, 12 January 1894.
89. Hanrahan, Virginia, Forgotten Spas of the Napa Valley, n.p., n.d.
90. Holdridge, Helen. *Firebelle Lillie*, Meredith press, New York, 1967.
91. Holdridge, *ibid*.
92. Holdridge, op. cit.



93. *St. Helena Star*, 25 May 1985.
94. Holdridge, op. cit.
95. Dutton, John Parry, *They Left Their Mark*, Illuminations Press, St. Helena, California, 1983.
96. Dutton, *ibid.*
97. W.W. Lyman, Personal Recollections, December 18, 1965, St. Helena Library, St. Helena, California.
98. Holdridge, op. cit.
99. Brough, James, The Prince and The Lily, Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc., N.Y., 1975
100. Goss, Helen Rocce, "Lillie Langtry and he California Ranch," Historical Society of Southern California, June 1955.
101. Dutton, op. cit.
102. Brough, James, op. cit.
103. *Ibid.*
104. Holdridge, op. cit.
105. J.C. Bates Ed., History of the Bench and Bar of California, Bench and Bar Publishing, 1912
106. Case, Suzanne D., Join Me In Paradise, Guenoc Winery, Middletown, California, 1982
107. *St. Helena Star*, 7 October 1887
108. Goss, Helen Rocca, op. cit.
109. Case, Suzanne D., Join Me In Paradise, Guenoc Winery, Middletown, California, 1982
110. *Ibid.*
111. San Francisco *Examiner*, 14 May 1987.
112. Case, op. cit.
113. Louise Caroline Roberts was the sister of Tiburcio Parrott, daughter of George and Sophie Tully.
114. Probate records of Napa County of estate of Tiburcio Parrott.
115. Certificate of death from Director of Public health in San Francisco, California.
116. Conversation with Barbara Jostes regarding the life of Therese Parrott after the death of Tiburcio.
117. Telephone conversation with Barbara Donohoe Jostes in 1984, 1985, and 1986.
118. Napa County Land records, recorders Office, Napa, California
119. Conversation with Mrs. Mary Wixon of Monte Soreno, California. Her husband was caretaker of Miravalle while the Hydes owned the property. Mrs. Wixon was a housekeeper/companion to Mrs. Hyde.
120. Napa County Land Records, Records Office, Napa, California
121. One of the reasons for changing the name of the series was that Anita Clay Kornfeld had written a book in 1980 called *Vintage* in which various plots and sub-plots are acted out in the upper Napa Valley.

122. All the interior shots are still done in Hollywood but the exterior shots are done in the Napa Valley.

