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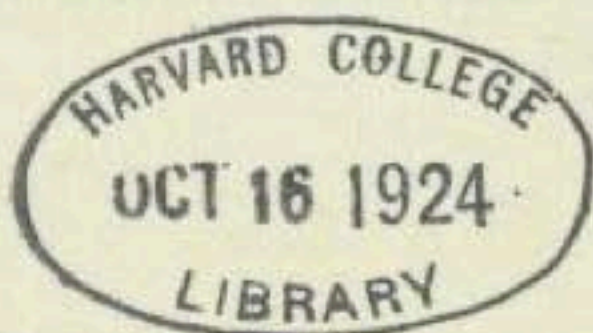
WELSH
PEOPLE
OF
CALIFORNIA
1849-1906

by
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Welsh People of California, 1849-1906

*When the sturdy forty-niners
In the cradle of the world,
Sleep the sleep that knows no
waking
'Neath the flag their hands
unfurled.
Still in memory, forever
We will keep the stories told,
Of the hardships and the toils
In the struggle after gold.*



THE story of the discovery of gold in California spread the world over, and like every other class of people the Welsh in the Eastern States and even in far-off Wales were lured by the glowing tales. It was no idle rumor, for the story was authenticated by a United States Government report issued in 1849, which stated that no capital was required to obtain the gold, as the laboring man needed nothing but his pick and shovel and tin pan with which to dig and wash the rich gravel, and could frequently pick up the gold out of the crev-

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ices with butcher knives in pieces from one to six ounces.

The London Times of February 1, 1849, reported that 1,200,000 pounds had already been invested in England on California gold companies.

ADVENTUROUS WELSHMEN

Many a young adventurous Welshman yielded to the call, left his home and loved ones and started on the long, tedious and expensive journey to the golden land. Welshmen representing most of the professions, trades and pursuits of life came. It must have been an extraordinary spectacle to see men of industry and talents and good character at home willing to forego for a considerable period the pleasures and advantages which were theirs in Wales and venture upon voyages of danger and hardship of more than 6500 miles for the acquisition of gold.

They left with the confident expectation of accumulating rapidly means for providing comfortable independence for themselves and families. But, alas, most of them were doomed to disappointment.

Something of the spirit that in-

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spired these hardy adventurers was recalled at a dinner of Welsh pioneers in later years in the following lines by Obedog:

There was a time long long ago
When all of us were boys,
Each in a hurry then to grow
And shed his kilts and toys,
And go to some far distant land
To gather fame and gold,
And then return with sense and
sand
And live to be quite old.

COMMODORE AP JONES

Possibly the first Welshman who visited California was Commodore Thomas ap C. Jones, commander in chief of the United States naval forces on the Pacific Coast. From his flagship Ohio, in the Bay of Monterey, he reported to Washington as follows: "Nothing can exceed the deplorable state of things in California at this time, growing out of the maddening effects of the gold mania. Among the deserters from the service are some of the best petty officers and seamen, having but few months to serve and large balances due them, amounting in the aggregate to \$10,000.

Commodore Ap Jones' name is ample evidence to prove his Welsh origin. We are convinced from the

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story of a giant Welshman in the book, "Three Years in California," published in 1854, by the Rev. Walter Colton, a chaplain stationed with Ap Jones, that the author knew a Welshman when he saw one. In his volume Rev. Mr. Colton writes: