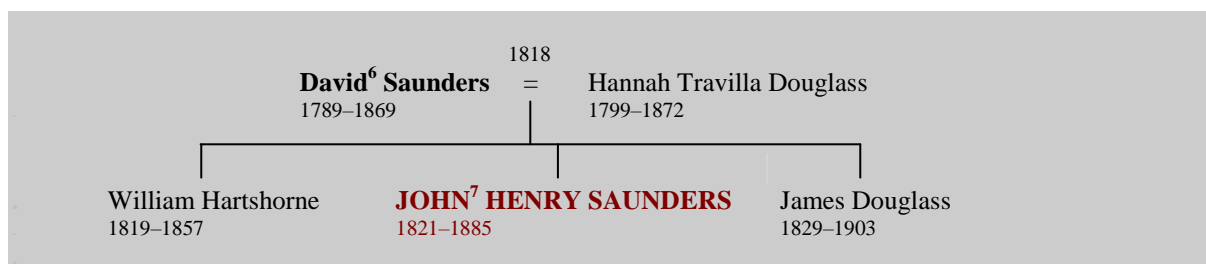


Chapter Six

Revised
January 2021

JOHN⁷ HENRY SAUNDERS 1821–1885

‘Saunders of San Rafael’



JOH⁷ HENRY SAUNDERS was born on 3 December 1821 in Cincinnati, Ohio during the presidency of James Monroe and the reign of George IV of Great Britain. He was the middle son of David⁶ Saunders (1789–1869) and his wife Hannah⁵ Travilla Douglass (1799–1872).

When John was about two years old his family moved to Washington DC where his father was employed in the Treasury Department of the United States Post Office. His older brother, William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders (1819–1857) was a medical practitioner. He had a younger brother James⁷ Douglass (1829–1903) who relocated to California in the 1850s. Their parents, David and Hannah Saunders joined their two sons in San Francisco about 1863.



*Supposed photograph of
John Henry Saunders
1821–1885*

Though John was raised by a Quaker father, he perhaps was more influenced by his Episcopalian mother, for that is the church he actively supported when he lived in San Rafael. However, the Quaker philosophy of giving service to the community, helping one's fellow man and following strong Christian principles stayed with him throughout his life.

We have no information on John's formative years in Washington DC. As the family was financially quite comfortable he would have received a comprehensive schooling at one of the better educational institutions available in the Washington area in preparation for university. A joint letter written in 1843 by John, then aged 22 and a student at the *University of Virginia*, and his younger brother James Douglass, 14, to their mother, provides some insight to his activities at that time:

Mordington, August 8th. 1843

My dear Ma,

The reason that I have not written to you is that I have been engaged in my dayly [*sic*] occupations, but now my dear Ma I will write a few lines to you, informing you that we are all well. Uncle Richard's house is most certainly a superb one; he has just bought some new ornaments for the Mantlepiece [*sic*], which I think and indeed all persons think they are very pretty indeed. Ma you have no idea how badly they want to see you up here. I don't think they anticipated as much pleasure by my arrival as they do yours, I just tell you Ma that you will get some mighty good milk, Butter, and everything you want—ice is very abundant in this Country at this time. Uncle R. speaks of you very often, and I think he has much

more respect for you than he used to have, you know what I mean, he seems to care for you more. I was delighted when I heard that you were coming to see us. I would give anything if Pa would come with you. Has white Mary gone yet. How are Kitty and Mary, remember me to them and tell them I hope they will improve that laugh of theirs.

(written by John) = Write soon & in the mean time believe me yours

Dug

Dug—my dear Ma—in consequence of his ‘daily occupations’ has been constrained to write you so short a letter that I feel the necessity of adding something—if but to make it of respectful length—since the commencement of my correspondence with Pa—in reference to this note. Have heard very little else from home and I believe have not received a single letter from you—This I am very much disposed to forgive in consequence on the nearness of the time of my visit home preparatory to another year of hard study at the university as I shall have an opportunity of hearing everything of interest which has transpired since my last visit at home. The C—are still with us, and will in all probability remain here until next Monday or Tuesday—and Mrs. Henderson perhaps longer—she has proven so great an accession to our society here, that I am by no means anxious for her departure. We have already become excellent friends and I anticipate the pleasure of visiting their houses at the Navy-yards during the time of my stay with you next month. Dug since their arrival has enjoyed himself amazingly, &, with the exception of the uneasiness I feel lest he should say something that were better confined to the knowledge of this family, he gets along without much inconvenience to himself or others he is I think a very amiable, good boy, but distressingly behindhand in his desire of knowledge—that he has not had good teaching is very evident and he has, together with that, had always pretty much his own way he is perhaps not near so backwards in his study as we might have expected. It is a thousand pities that Mr. Smith has not a better school or rather that he is not more temperate for I believe is the cause of it. He is incomparably the best teacher of the classics I ever had. I feel very strongly inclined to advise in his favour as it is—at all events. I shall inquire particularly concerning his school upon my return and then can better determine as to the propriety of sending him there. I suppose **John Linton** is still in Washington—he has at least from Dug’s account, given me the trouble of undeceiving you in many things which he has told you concerning this University—a task which if not very agreeable, is one which I feel every way most competent very successfully to perform. I have prepared myself for it and I anticipate more and more substantial improvement from one year’s study there than I have experienced in any time of my life—Uncle R., advising it very strongly and as Pa assured me some time ago that it would be convenient I have not prepared myself for Disappointment—unless it will embarrass him in any way—for in that case I will relinquish this purpose without the slightest hesitation—but as I usually have to say on this subject—more of this anon.

I saw Mary Rabbing a few days since in the country and heard all about the Alexandrians—she looks pretty well and seems to enjoy very good spirits—the two children of cousin Ian Dorsey were with her and seemed to enjoy themselves, as much as if they never experienced an affliction—poor little things—a perfect consciousness of their desolation and loneliness is reserved for a later day of their lives when they shall have become of sufficient importance to be envied and hated by a most envious and hating world. (This little outburst of misanthropy was out before I knew it having been excited by a recent occurrence which already I feel more disposed to laugh than to be angry at and which is not of importance enough to deserve a place here).

I saw Ellen Henry a few days ago on her way to the Springs—she looks very well and spoke of having written to you a few days before. I hope you will not continue displeased with them for the neglect in not coming to see you from Baltimore. I do most sincerely hope you will not permit a coolness and bad feeling to arise between you and them for ours is not so extensive a connexion [*sic*] that we can afford to sever us from one or two and so not materially impair the unanimity of our numbers generally—on the contrary—there are very few of us and notwithstanding we are ever too ready to watch each other’s conduct too narrowly.

It has been raining for about two hours—and we now feel perfectly sure of an excellent corn crop. Uncle R. consequently is in excellent spirits and speaks of all the world in the most kind and paternal language.

We are all well—remember me affectionately to all our friends.

Believe me your most devoted son,
John

P.S. Dug has done nothing since he has been here and I do not like to require it of him as he has been so long knocking about—you must excuse him for not having written more as it was partly my fault in hurrying him and taking this letter before he had even signed his name—for it was very late and I wish to mail the letter tonight. I will write and let you know when the C's have gone—so that you may time your visit accordingly. I am at present occupying the garrett [*sic*—having been obliged to abdicate my sanctuary of the 2nd story in favour of the old gentleman—who with his daughter occupies all the chambers in the new house. Write soon and let me know if you intend to visit here during the present month.

The two brothers were staying at *Mordington*, the home of their uncle, Judge Isaac⁵ Richardson Douglass in Charles Town, Virginia, now West Virginia. (→ See Chapter 7: *The Douglass Family*). John, then 22 and about to complete his final year of law studies at the University of Virginia, appears to be a very mature, serious and articulate young man and paints a fairly unflattering picture of his young brother Douglass. One detects a degree of idealism in some of John's observations and perhaps the personality and character of the man we see in his writing are the traits that were to later make him a highly successful lawyer and a very respected member of the community.

He talks of various relations and their problems. The names Mary Rabbing, Ian Dorsey and Ellen Henry are unfamiliar and may be members of his mother's family, the Douglasses. The *Alexandrians* would have to be his paternal Quaker relations. He is possibly referring to the family of his late uncle Peter Saunders.

John received a Bachelor of Laws degree from the *University of Virginia*. Janet Linde, the archivist at the University provided details of his final year:

John H. Saunders matriculated once, on October 5, 1843. He had signed up for the Senior Class in the Law Department; and his matriculation is entered in the Resident Students list, which means that he lived in one of the hotels or boarding houses provided by the University.

Jeanne C. Pardee of the *Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library* at the University of Virginia provided the following additional information:

University of Virginia Faculty Minutes dated July 3rd 1844:

The Committees appointed to conduct the examinations for graduation and proficiency in the various Schools and Classes of the University reported the names of such students as were deemed worthy of Degrees. ... and on motions severally made, seconded and passed, the reports were all adopted as follows ...

School of Law with the title of "Bachelor of Laws"
John H. Saunders, District of Columbia.

In John's letter to his mother he mentions the name John Linton. Ms. Pardee confirmed that this was John A. Linton, born 1820, from Washington DC who attended the University of Virginia from 1839 to 1842 and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws. No doubt he was a family friend and contemporary of John Saunders. He died 31 October 1861.

As John Saunders only spent one year at the University of Virginia—his final qualifying year—it is apparent that he must have done his preliminary training at another institution. No information has come forward as to where this might have been.

After graduating he practised in Washington DC for some years before heading for California. Just what influenced him to go west is unknown—most likely the same incentives that drove many others at that time. California was seen as the land of opportunity and the gold rush of the late 1840s would have opened up all manner of prospects for an ambitious young lawyer. In June 1850, at the age of 29, John arrived in San Francisco by ship via Panama. He had come across the Isthmus of Panama after travelling down the east coast of America by ship from a port city near Washington DC, perhaps Baltimore.

24 January 1848

California Gold Rush started when news spread that James Wilson Marshall had discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in the Sacramento Valley. During 1849 thousands of prospectors, called *forty-niners*, poured into California. San Francisco grew from a small town to a city of 25,000 in one year. So many went to California that the territory had enough people to be admitted as a state in 1850.



San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists by Louis J. Rasmussen, Vol. II pp. 1–2, records the following:

SHIP:	TENNESSEE	FROM:	Panama
TYPE:	STEAMER	CAPTAIN:	Cole
ARRIVED:	June 20, 1850		
PASSAGE:	Left Panama on May 30, 1850, arrived Acapulco, Mexico on June 6, 1850. Departed Acapulco for San Francisco on June 9, 1850. Listed amongst the passengers is one J. H. Saunders.		

John's arrival in California is found in *Lawyers of San Francisco: Their Last Place of Residence and Time of their Arrival in California*, p. 15:

John H. Saunders, Washington City, D.C., June 20, 1850

An extract from *Men & Memories of San Francisco in the "Spring of '50"* by T. A. Barry and B. A. Patten supplied by the Marin County Historical Society provides the following information:

John H. Saunders arrived in San Francisco on the twentieth of June 1850, on the steamer Tennessee. Mr. Saunders has since been City Attorney for San Francisco and State Senator from San Francisco. He is a virtuoso, a skillful [*sic*] amateur musician and a generous, honorable man.

11 February 1854

San Francisco first lighted with coal gas.

The occasion was celebrated by several hundred citizens at a banquet given by the trustees of the *San Francisco Gas Company* in the Oriental Hotel.

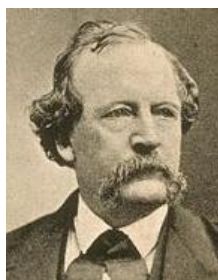
The company was organized with the following officers:
President—Beverley C. Sanders; *Vice-President*—J. Mora Moss; *Secretary*—John Crane; *Trustees*—B. C. Sanders, J. M. Moss, James Donohue, **John H. Saunders** and John Crane.



Montgomery Street, 1895

San Francisco in the 1850s must have been a rip-roaring, unruly town, with not much law and order, providing, no doubt, much opportunity for an ambitious young attorney. John went into partnership with a man called H. P. Hepburn and established the law firm of Saunders & Hepburn. Another partner was John W. Dwinelle.

John was always listed independently in the San Francisco Street Directories while the other two were usually jointly listed:



John W. Dwinelle
1816–1881

1861 Hepburn (H. P.) & Dwinelle (John. W.)
Attorneys-at-law
NW cnr. Montgomery and Jackson

Saunders, John H.
Attorney-at-law
NW cnr. Montgomery & Washington

H. P. Hepburn—we don't know what H. P. stands for—is thought to be related to James Hepburn Wilkins of San Rafael whose family is discussed later in this chapter.

oOo

A publication titled *History of the Bench and Bar of California*, pp. 465–6, provides a brief biography of John W. Dwinelle. The following is an extract:

JOHN W. DWINELLE

John W. Dwinelle ... was mysteriously drowned at Port Costa, January 8, 1881. Among his many able addresses, the most interesting to us has always been that delivered at the laying of the corner-stone of the San Francisco City Hall, December 28, 1871. He practised in San Francisco for thirty years ... and represented Alameda County in the Assembly, 1867–68. He was a native of New York and sixty-two years old at his death.

We write these lines of Mr. Dwinelle, sitting in the office which he occupied in 1870–71, when he was in partnership with **John H. Saunders**, and which he continued to occupy after that firm was dissolved for ten years before his death, at 509 Kearny Street.

John's obituary notice in the *Marin County Tocsin*, September 5, 1885, reported the following:

The firm speedily became one of the most prominent in the state, and in the height of its prosperity transacted probably the most extensive and important business of the day. In 1866 he was elected City and County Attorney of San Francisco, then an office of large emoluments. This he held during three successive terms. In 1866 he was chosen State Senator from one of the San Francisco districts. Here his sterling integrity and great legal training did the State good service. He was instrumental in defeating much mischievous legislation.



Original Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street, San Francisco, c.1860

Some of John's appointment dates in the obituary notice are not quite accurate. San Francisco City Directories for those early years carries an appendix detailing *The Municipal Government for the City and County of San Francisco*:

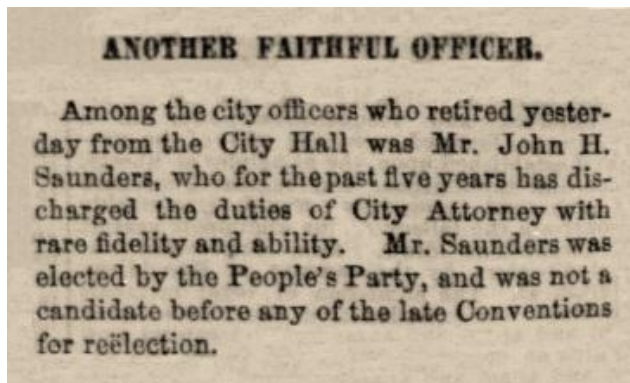


Henry Perris Coon
Eleventh Mayor
of San Francisco
Jul 1, 1863 to Dec 2, 1867

*1863-64 Edition, pp. 487-488
Mayor of the City and County:
HENRY P. COON
Term expires July 1, 1865
Salary, \$3000 per annum
City and County Attorney and
Counselor:
JOHN H. SAUNDERS
Term expires July 1864
Salary, \$5000 per annum

*1864-65 Edition, pp. 535-536
Mayor of the City and County:
HENRY P. COON
Term expires July 1, 1865
Salary, \$3000 per annum
City and County Attorney and
Counselor:
JOHN H. SAUNDERS
Term expires July 1866
Salary, \$5000 per annum

This notice appeared in the *Daily Alta California* on 4 December 1866:

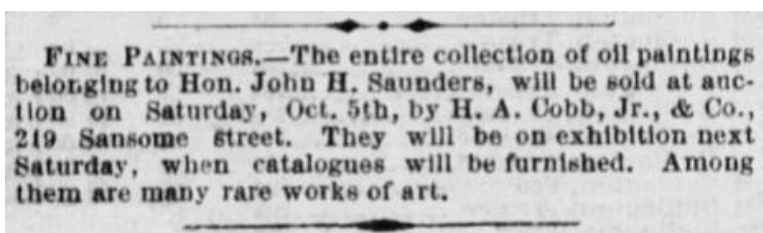


With respect to John's election as a State Senator, Nancy Zimmelman of the California State Archives in Sacramento had this to say:

Regarding John Henry Saunders, we can tell you that he was a Democrat from San Francisco serving in the 17th (1867) and 18th (1869) sessions of the Legislature.

In the meantime, from as early as 1853, John was buying up property in San Rafael, a township just north of San Francisco. In those days there were no bridges and San Francisco was served by a great network of ferry routes whose splendid vessels were said to deliver more passengers to the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street than arrived at any other transportation depot except Charing Cross in London.

This article appeared in the *Daily Alta California* on 25 September 1872:



The late James Lethbridge, when Director, Recording and Mapping, of the Marin County Office of the Assessor-Recorder, supplied a copy of the Plan of the Town Site of the Town of San Rafael approved March 30, 1868 and surveys completed July 21, 1878. The plan shows most of the blocks of land in the northeastern sector of San Rafael were owned by John. Some of the other land owners in this area were his father David Saunders, his cousin Dr. William A. Douglass, William Tell Coleman, the Wilkins family and Joseph Alemany. The area was to become known as the 'Saunders Addition'. Block No. 33, called the Saunders Homestead, is today that piece of land bounded by Mission, Nye, Fifth and Court Streets.

Much of the property acquired by John was developed and sold during his lifetime. This, of course, was how he amassed a substantial fortune enabling him to retire from the practice of law. Notwithstanding that, the substantial salary he received as City and County Attorney (\$5,000 per annum) together with his lucrative legal practice would have alone made him a very wealthy man. Records at the Office of the Assessor-Recorder detail literally dozens of purchases and sales by John from June 1853 to his death in September 1885.

John bequeathed what remained of his property holdings to his brother James Douglass Saunders. The conveyancing records indicate that from 1885 to 1905, Douglass, his wife Emily (whom he had married in 1867) and their sons William and John disposed of the real estate holdings held by the family. Block 33, the Saunders Homestead, was subdivided and sold in small lots.

James Lethbridge was extremely helpful in providing much information on John's real estate activities in San Rafael. In one of his letters he writes: ... *it appears that your great-grandfather's brother was very active in buying real estate, for in viewing an old map of the Townsite of San Rafael that was filed in this office in 1873, the name J.H. Saunders appears on numerous lots and blocks that now constitute a large portion of downtown San Rafael.*



*William T. Coleman
1824–1893*

We know from the records that John conducted real estate transactions with William Tell Coleman a very prominent San Francisco identity. Interestingly, this man was to be related by marriage to James Douglass Saunders's youngest son, also named John Henry, when the latter married into the Chinn Family in 1905. → See Chapters 10 and 11.

A first cousin, Dr. William A. Douglass (1825–1889, also acquired property in San Rafael. → See Chapter 7: *The Douglass Family*. John additionally held joint investments with the well-known Wilkins family.

[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/lb/main/crm/PhotoAlbums/sanrafaelalbum/sr14.jpg]:



William Tell Coleman's residence in San Rafael

The *Marin County Journal*, November 3, 1866:

Episcopal Church—We understand that **John H. Saunders** has proposed to donate a lot on which to erect an Episcopal Church, provided sufficient funds can be raised to build the same.

ibid., April 3, 1869:

Vestrymen Elected—At a meeting of *St. Paul's Protestant Church of San Rafael*, at San Rafael on Monday last. The following named gentlemen were duly elected vestrymen of said church for the ensuing year: S.V. Smith, Sr., Henry McCrea, Upton M. Gordon, **John H. Saunders**, James Walker, Dr. A. W. Talisferro, Thos. H. Hanson.



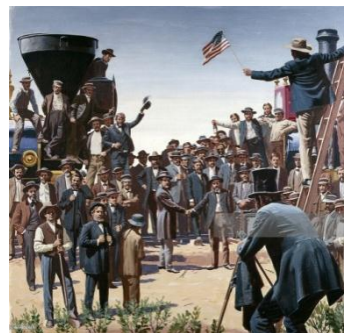
The first St. Paul's Church built in 1868

Extracts from *The History of Saint Paul's Church, 1868–1988, "In the Beginning 1868–1880"* by Jocelyn Moss, provides an interesting description of early San Rafael:

In the beginning Marin County was a paradise of beauty populated by flocks of wild fowl, herds of elk and a goodly number of grizzly bears all living in a benign environment. The Miwok Indians had a good life living off the land, choosing from the seasonal bounty that a good earth offered them. There were only a few visitors down through the centuries including Sir Francis Drake who landed here in 1579. Then the Russians moved down the coast from Alaska and founded a supply base at Fort Ross in 1812. The Spanish, who were in power at that time, began to be worried about Russian intrusion into California. There was a problem at Mission Dolores in San Francisco with the Indian converts. They were dying in large numbers which the Franciscan Brothers thought was due to the unhealthy climate in San Francisco. The proximity of the Russians and the decline in the Indians' health were the spurs that prompted the founding of the Mission San Rafael in 1817. The Mission was very short lived; it was to be secularized in 1834. At this time the Mission lands were sold and the Indians who had been Christianized dispersed. A small village had grown up around the Mission in 1850 when the new County of Marin was formed in the fledgling state of California. San Rafael was named the county seat. The only substantial house in town, the adobe built by Timothy Murphy, became the first courthouse. San Rafael at this time was struggling to survive. It was a hard place to get to and there was no particular reason to stay once you arrived.

19 May 1869

Transcontinental Railway completed, marking a turning point in the territorial development of the United States. The East Coast was finally linked to the West Coast by land transportation when the last spike was driven in at Promontory Summit, Utah to join the rails of the Union Pacific Railroad being built westward from Omaha, Nebraska and the Central Pacific railroad heading eastward from Sacramento, California.



On 6 February 1869, in preparation for his trip to Europe, John applied for a passport from the District of Columbia in the County of Washington DC. The exact date of his departure for Europe is unknown. However, on 19 February 1869 he is mentioned in the 'Personal' column of the *New York Times*:

Senator John H. Saunders, of San Francisco, is at the New-York Hotel.

On the 1st May 1869 the *Marin County Journal* reported him still overseas. The same newspaper announced his arrival back in San Rafael on 18 September 1869. On his return home he found that his father David Saunders had died a week earlier on the 10th of September, presumably while he was in transit.

The clerk completing the details on the Passport Application stated his year of birth as 1824 when, of course, it should be 1821. The application carries John's distinctive signature. It also indicates he was quite a short man – only five feet, five and three quarter inches tall.

40 333
United States of America

State of District of Columbia
County of Washington

I, John H. Saunders, do swear
that I was born in the County of Washington on or about
the 10th day of February 1824 that I am
a native and Loyal Citizen of the United States, and about to
travel abroad.

Sworn to before me, this 6th day of February 1869
Amstell Wild
Notary Public.

I, Chas. Sullivan, do swear
that I am acquainted with the above-named John H. Saunders, and
with the facts stated by him, and that the same are true, to the best of my knowledge
and belief.

Sworn to before me, this 6th day of February 1869
Amstell Wild
Notary Public.

Description of John H. Saunders

AGE: <u>44</u> years.	MOUTH: <u>not</u>
STATURE: <u>5 ft 5 3/4</u> inches, English.	CHIN: <u>oval</u>
FOREHEAD: <u>high</u>	HAIR: <u>brn</u>
EYES: <u>gray</u>	COMPLEXION: <u>fair</u>
NOSE: <u>straight</u>	FACE: <u>oval</u>

* Native or naturalized, as the case may be. If the applicant be a naturalized citizen, his certificate of naturalization must be transmitted for inspection, (it will be returned with the passport,) and he must state under oath that he is the identical person described in the certificate presented.
When husband, wife, and one or more children, and servants, expect to travel together, a single passport for the whole will suffice.
For any other persons in the party a separate passport will be required.

Passports issued in MOROCCO INDIES, one dollar in addition to the regular tax.

Address DEPARTMENT OF STATE, PASSPORT BUREAU.

John's mother, Hannah T. Saunders, sold him a tract of land in San Rafael for \$4,000. This transaction was published in the *Marin Journal*, Volume 10, No. 48 on 18 February 1871.

Hannah T. Saunders to John H. Saunders.
Tract of land in East San Rafael,
containing 40 acres—\$4,000.

In the 1850s the district of Marin County, in particular, the town of San Rafael, was a popular destination for well to do San Franciscans who saw the area as a pleasant retreat from the hectic city life. Some, like John Saunders and William Tell Coleman, saw the investment potential of the district and by the 1870s had acquired and developed substantial real estate holdings. Many built grand homes for themselves. Quite a number chose to live there permanently. While the likes of Saunders and Coleman were to become wealthy on their investments, they did not lose sight of maintaining the quality and aesthetics of the area when it came to developing their landholdings.

The following is an extract from *History of Marin County, California*, published by Alley, Bowen & Co, 1880, p. 344:

On March 20, 1873, the old Liberty pole which stood on the former Court House was felled. It was set in 1860 ... that it might bear the American colors ... on the coming Fourth of July. How different the panorama it overlooked in '60 from that it saw in '73. When it first looked east ... only the **Saunders**, Wilkins and Merrill's (Mrs. Merriner's) homesteads met the view.

9 June 1870

Charles Dickens died aged 58. He was the most famous English writer of his time and enchanted audiences in Great Britain and the United States with dramatic readings from his novels. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters.



Charles Dickens
1812–1870

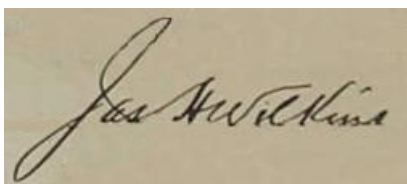
Articles written by James Hepburn Wilkins in 1915 for the *San Francisco Bulletin* and retyped by Leo L. Stanley MD, p. 86:

Near San Rafael was a tract of land comprising about 700 acres. It is now thickly settled, being occupied by the towns of San Anselmo and Fairfax, but in 1876 was absolutely wild. It was owned in common by three gentlemen—James S. Bush, rector of Grace Church, Robert C. Johnson, an iron merchant, and **John H. Saunders**, a retired lawyer. I knew all of them well, especially the latter, who had been my father's partner. The gentlemen had determined to partition the land and, as a preliminary, to have a topographical map made of the property. Mr. Saunders thought of my humble self and offered me the job.

Today in San Anselmo, presumably as a result of the subdivision of the acreage by John and his co-owners, there is a *Saunders Avenue* which runs north south between Drake and Center Boulevards.

James Hepburn Wilkins and his older brother Hepburn Wilkins were prominent San Rafael identities. They came to California with their parents in 1863. Their father, Henry Wilkins (1817–1867) was an attorney in San Rafael and as indicated above had formed a partnership with John.

James Wilkins had a colourful career as a writer, civic and political leader. He completed an engineering course at the University of California and was employed by the Southern Pacific as a civil engineer. Interested in Journalism, James established the *Marin County Tocsin*.



James Hepburn Wilkins
1920 Passport Application

James Hepburn Wilkins
1854–1934



His vision of a bridge across the gate, published in a San Francisco newspaper with drawings, was perhaps the first article on that subject which crystallised public opinion as to the feasibility and necessity of the span. A politician of prominence, Wilkins was a power in Democratic affairs in both the state and county. He was a member of the Prison Board and later a member of the State Assembly. James Wilkins was for a time the city engineer of San Rafael, and was elected to the office of Mayor in 1927 serving a term before that of Mayor W.S. Nock. James died in 1934 at the age of 82 and was buried at Mount Tamalpais Cemetery, San Rafael.

Hepburn Wilkins, James's older brother, as Chairman of the Committee of the Marin County Bar, read in Court the tribute to John following his death in September 1885. Hepburn was one of Marin County's ablest attorneys and respected citizens. At an early age he entered university, graduating with high honours. After being admitted to the bar he commenced practice in San Rafael. Both he and his father, the attorney Henry H. Wilkins, invested heavily in San Rafael property often in conjunction with John. Hepburn Wilkins died in October 1899.



Hepburn Wilkins
1850-1899

Henry H. Wilkins, the father of James and Hepburn, was married to Harriet H. Hepburn, which supposedly is where the name derived from. Her brother is believed to be H. P. Hepburn, John and Dwinelle's law partner in San Francisco.



Ulysses S. Grant
1822-1885

23 July 1885

General Ulysses S. Grant, the Civil War hero and former U.S. President, died at Mount McGregor, New York aged 63. He was born on the 27th of April 1822 at Point Pleasant Ohio. While he and John Henry Saunders led radically different lifestyles, the birth and death of both men were within a few months of each other. Both died of cancer, Grant's disease probably the result of his obsessive cigar-smoking.

John⁷ Henry Saunders died on Thursday, 3 September 1885. His funeral took place at St. Paul's Church, San Rafael, and was presided over by the Reverend William Henry Stoy who accompanied the body to Lone Mountain Cemetery in San Francisco. The church records indicate that he died of cancer. He was exactly three months short of his sixty-third birthday. He had been in poor health for some time. The *Marin Journal* of January 22, 1885: 'Mayor Saunders is out again, from an ill turn that has kept him home for many weeks'.

Testaments to his standing in the community are the various obituary notices that appeared after his death. Some referred to him as *Col.* Saunders. The title *Colonel* was an honorarium bestowed on persons who had held positions of prominence in the community, particularly if those positions were in public office. It has no military significance.

John H. Saunders
1869 Passport Application

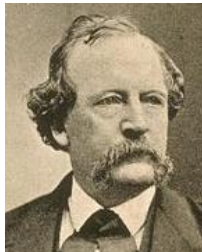
The *Evening Bulletin*, San Francisco, Saturday, September 5, 1885:

JOHN H. SAUNDERS

John H. Saunders who died at San Rafael on Wednesday was City and County Attorney of San Francisco for two terms under the People's Party—1863–4 and 1865–6—and subsequently was State Senator during Haight's term as Governor. He was long prominent at the bar and amassed a moderate fortune, making his home at San Rafael. Among his clients were Wells Fargo & Co., Louis McLane, Lafayette Maynard and Gustave Touchard. Among his partners were H. P. Hepburn, John W. Dwinelle and Alexander Campbell, the last named resigning from the Bench of the Twelfth District Court to enter business with him. Without being prominent as a speaker he secured a good share of the best law business. Mr. Saunders was well read, aesthetic and a virtuoso, besides being a creditable musical instruments. He attained the age of sixty-three



Alexander Campbell
1820–1911



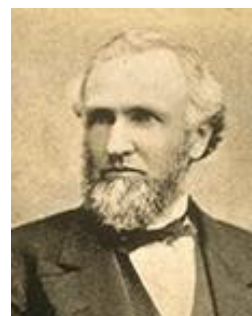
John W. Dwinelle
1816–1881

was never married.

John Saunders would have been well acquainted with Governor Haight given they both commenced practising law in San Francisco about the same time, were of similar age and of the same political persuasion. Henry Huntly Haight, a Democrat, was inaugurated as Governor of California on December 5, 1867.

The eldest son of a large family, he was born in New York on May 20, 1825. At the age of fifteen Henry entered Yale and graduated in 1844. He continued his law studies in the office of his father Fletcher M. Haight and moved with him to St. Louis where he was admitted to practice. Late in 1849 he joined the many travellers to the west, arriving in San Francisco on January 20, 1850.

In 1854 his father followed him to San Francisco and they established a law office together. Their office in the Old Custom House soon became one of the busiest in the town. It continued so until both Haight's were in elective office: the younger as Governor, his father as a Judge of the United States District Court.



Henry Huntly Haight
1825–1878

Most chroniclers of the early days assume that Henry Huntly Haight's name was given to a street in recognition of his brilliant career. A few historians are inclined to differ, however, for in that period there were four Haight's—all related and all active in San Francisco affairs. All four Haight's made their individual contributions to the community and the street perpetuates the memory of them all.

Robert Height, Henry's younger brother, married Sophia Pike Brannan in 1869. She was the daughter of John Brannan, the brother of Sam Brannan and the uncle of Emily Brannan who married John Henry Saunders's younger brother James Douglass Saunders.

➔ See Chapter 9: The Brannan Family

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Two days after John's death the *Marin County Tocsin* of September 5, 1885 published a brief summary of his life:

JOHN H. SAUNDERS

Mr. Saunders came to California in 1850 having already seen some legal service in Washington, D.C. The law firm of Saunders & Hepburn speedily became one of the most prominent in the state, and in the height of its prosperity transacted probably the most extensive and important business of the day. In 1860 Mr. Saunders was elected City and County Attorney of San Francisco,

then an office of large emoluments. This he held during three successive terms. In 1866 he was chosen State Senator from one of the San Francisco districts.

Here his sterling integrity and great legal training did the State good service. He was instrumental in defeating much mischievous legislation.

In 1865 he invested extensively in San Rafael property, which so advanced in value to render him independent of the drudgery of the law office. He settled here and became one of the most active pioneers of progress and improvement. He opened streets through his property, laid off town lots, planted ornamental trees, and gave an impetus toward the idea of making the town attractive. Having an immense circle of personal friends, he was the means of attracting to San Rafael, many who became permanent residents. During the three years preceding April 1885, he consented to act as Chairman of the Board of Town Trustees, giving the people gratuitously the benefit of his ripe experience, legal advice and advanced views.

The *Marin County Journal*, Thursday, September 10, 1885:

DEATH OF COL. SAUNDERS

John H. Saunders died at his residence in San Rafael on Thursday Morning last. Mr. Saunders had been so long and so prominently identified with San Rafael, and his genial nature had so greatly endeared him to all classes of our citizens that the news of his death, though not unexpected caused a general gloom in the town. His health failed several months ago, and of late he was rarely seen on the street.

Two weeks ago he rallied, and met his old friends with his pleasant smile, and they hoped that disease had been conquered. But it was but the last flicker of the candle, for the morning brought the word—'he is dead'.

Mr. Saunders came to California in the year 1850, settling in San Francisco, and associated himself in the practice of law, with Mr. Hepburn, the firm in a short time becoming one of the most prominent in the State.

In 1860, he was elected City and County Attorney, which he held for three terms. In 1866 he was elected State Senator, where he made a character for himself for integrity and patriotism, and was instrumental in defeating many bad bills which had been introduced for fleecing the City of San Francisco and the State.



Rev. W. Henry Stoy
1833–1906

At the end of his term, he came to San Rafael where he had invested largely in lands. These he laid off into town lots, planted out a fine garden, and took a part in everything which tended to the betterment of the town and its inhabitants.

During the three terms preceding '85, he was Town Trustee and Chairman of the Board. Here as in every other station in life, he gave his talents and knowledge for the benefit of his fellow man.

The funeral service was held in St. Paul's Church by the Rector Rev. W.H. Stoy, who accompanied the body to the Cemetery at San Francisco, where it was interred. The Quartette, Messrs. Mayor, Tippet, Jansen and Barten, rendered the anthems and hymns in a manner that brought tears to the eyes of the friends who filled the church.

Appearing in the same publication alongside the above obituary was a tribute to John by his peers:

IN MEMORIUM

H. Wilkins Esq., Chairman of the Committee of the Marin County Bar, to prepare resolutions on the announcement of the death of

HON. J. H. SAUNDERS

Reported as follows:

WHEREAS, Hon. John H. Saunders, for many years a prominent lawyer and public man, has been added to the list of distinguished, honored and regretted dead, now be it

RESOLVED. That bowing in obedience to the inscrutable will of the Almighty, we unite in sorrow at the loss of our Friend. That in his career we have marked many shining qualities; that as a lawyer he was conspicuous for his most thorough early education, his complete knowledge of the science of the Common Law and Equity, for a judgement singularly well balanced, and memory of unusual strength; that these talents and requirements in this profession were devoted to no mean or technical use of the

law's machinery, but to the nobler endeavour to do justice between men, and that he followed out that higher sphere of the profession which without his having served on the bench developed in him the judicial character and the nicest perception of moral right which his heart and head were ever ready to carry out. That in his outward deportment he was always courteous to every one with whom he came in contact; that he was distinguished for the high honor of his character and the generosity of his heart, add that altogether the community and the Bar are rarely called on to mourn a truer gentleman.



*Marin County Court House
built in 1872*

HEPBURN WILKINS
THOMAS J. BOWERS
F. M. ANGELLOTTI
Committee

(The scene in the Court room when the above was submitted was such as one we have never before witnessed. The Court, the members of the Bar, the attaches and the spectators were deeply moved by the sad event, and when Mr. Wilkins essayed the friendly office of reading the report, he could not control his emotion, and was obliged to hand over to Judge Bowers, who read it with deep feeling. When it is remembered that the deceased was never an active member of this Bar, this tribute to his memory was exceptional.)

It was the motion ordered by the Court that the foregoing resolutions be spread on the Minutes of the Court, and the Court adjourned out of respect to the memory of Hon. J.H. Saunders, deceased.

The Last Will and Testament of John⁷ Henry Saunders is dated 2 June 1885, San Rafael, Marin County, California. The following is transcribed from the hand-written copy of the original made by his younger brother Douglass shortly after his death.

Aware of the uncertainty of this life and of sound and disposing mind, I, John H. Saunders of San Rafael, Marin County, California, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament.

Provision First: I direct the payment of all my just debts and liabilities, and that no plea of the statute of limitations be ever opposed by my executors against the same or any of them, and I hereby recognise as just and owing from me the debts described in the papers herewith enclosed marked J.H.S. and direct payment thereof.

Second: I devise and bequeath to **Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Taylor** (in addition to what else I may have given her in my life time) the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars—as *cestury qui* trust—the same to be held upon distribution by my executors as continuing trustees, to whom as such, I hereby bequeath it, to be by them invested in such property or securities as they may consider best and especially, safest; and the rents, issues and profits thereof, to be by them collected and paid as they accrue, to said Mrs. Taylor during her lifetime and after, the said principal sum to be paid to each person, uses and purposes as she may by last will and testament appoint and declare.

Third: I give and bequeath to Eugene Sonlis, Five Hundred Dollars and to Mr. Larney, now after some years past my gardener, and his wife and the survivor of them, Five Hundred Dollars.

Fourth: I bequeath to Maria, the nurse of my mother during her last illness and at her death, Five Hundred Dollars.

Fifth: I devise and bequeath to my brother, **James D. Saunders** the square or piece of land in San Rafael aforesaid known as the '*Saunders Homestead*', Block No (33) thirty three, of the town survey, reserving and excepting therefrom a lot thereof, upon which stands the new house, said reserved lot to be ninety feet front on Mission St., beginning at the north east corner of said Block and extending ... with said street and running through said block, same with (90 feet) to fifth Street, and I also bequeath to my said Brother all my personal property not otherwise herein disposed of.

Sixth: To William H., son of my said brother, I give and bequeath my private miscellaneous library and library furniture.

Seventh: I bequeath to my cousin **Dr. Wm. A. Douglass** the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and all the pictures of mine in his house, except the portrait of "William Washington" which I wish returned to his relations.

All other property to be first exhausted to pay debts and legacies, before resorting to specific legacies, and such legacies to state in retrospective proportion, if they cannot be paid, without resort to said homestead, devised to my Brother.

Eighth: All the balance of my property after paying the legacies, debts, and devices and bequests aforesaid I devise and bequeath to my said Brother, James D. Saunders. I hereby revoke all former Will or Wills.

I nominate and appoint my friend **Hepburn Wilkins** and **Upton Gordon** executors, of this my last will and testament, requesting them to act as such that no bonds be required of them, and that they charge commissions and compensations as such.

Wholly written, published and declared by me as my last will and testament, at San Rafael, Marin County, California, the second day of June A.D. Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-Five (1885).

Signed John H. Saunders

"Memorandum"

About the beginning of 1862 I had in hand money, as the attorney in fact of P. Theodore Bran of New Orleans, and to avoid possible confiscation by Government, I deposited with Davidson & May \$353.13 (that being the nett amount about, in purchase of draft on London in favor of Bran. See papers enclosed with Will), the other exchange I sent to Bran or have last. The amount awaits him. I also owe him \$1991.27 being the balance of proceeds of his land sold by me under his power at San Francisco of record. I have always expected to see or hear from him, and of course have been always ready to pay upon demand. This is the debt mentioned in an account part of my will. I also have in hand and have had for many years \$1439.70 belonging to a man named H. C. Stimson. As I have not seen or heard of him, but I especially desire and request that every enquiry be made for him and for Bran or their representatives and that these debts be paid and that the sums be reserved from distribution until all efforts shall have been made to discover and pay them. Stimsons account is also attached to my will. Henry C. Hyde can explain these accounts.

I request again that no defence or limitations or any other defence be interposed against them. I am reluctant to impose a contiguous trust upon executors but I am very desirous that my loyal Mrs. Taylor may be protected from the hazards of inexperience which I owe her for her kind and patient attention to me thru periods of great distress and frequent and prolonged illness.

This memorandum to be taken as a part of my Will of this date.
At San Rafael 2nd day of June A.D. 1885.

Signed John H. Saunders

*(Copied by J. Douglass Saunders, in the Cottage, October 9th 1885.
My boys may possibly see and read this years hence.)*

Cathy Gowdy of the *Marin County Genealogical Society* kindly researched and found an official copy of the Will together with other relevant documents, four of which are worth recording here:

1. In the Superior Court of the County of Marin, State of California

In the Matter of the Estate)	Testimony of Witness on Probate of Will
of)	
John H. Saunders, Deceased)	

State of California, County of Marin, **Jas. H. Wilkins**, being duly sworn in open Court, testifies as follows:

I reside in the County of Marin, State of California. I knew John H. Saunders on the 2nd day of June 1885 the date of the instrument now shown to me marked as filed in this Court on the 11th day of September 1885, purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the said deceased. I am well acquainted with the handwriting and signature of the said John H. Saunders, and have often seen him

write. I have examined the said instrument, including the memorandum attached thereto. The said instrument including said memorandum is entirely written dated and signed by the hand of the said John H. Saunders himself. At the time of executing the said instrument, said decedent was over the age of eighteen years, and was of sound and disposing mind and not acting under duress, menace, fraud, undue influence or misrepresentation.

Jas. H. Wilkins

Subscribed and sworn in an Open Court
Before me this 28th day of Sept. 1885

Tho. S. Bonnian, Clerk

oOo

2. In the Superior Court of Marin County, State of California

Estate of John H. Saunders, Deceased
State of California, County of Marin

Upton M. Gordon being duly sworn deposes and says in Open court as follows:

I am one of the persons named as Executor in the document now shown to me marked as filed in the Court on the 11th day of September 1885 purporting to be the last Will and Testament of John H. Saunders. I know his handwriting. The said will was wholly and entirely written, dated and signed by the hand of the said Testator himself.

I reside in the County of Marin, State of California and am of the age of 53 years upwards. I knew said John H. Saunders well in his life time, he is dead—he died on or about the 3rd day of September 1885 at the Town of San Rafael in Marin County, State of California. At the time of his death he was a resident of the County of Marin, State of California for a left Estate in said County and State consisting of real and personal estate of the value of \$40,000, thereabouts, and the annual rents, issues and profits of said real estate amount to the sum of \$120,000 thereabouts. The personal effects of his estate value of \$1390 of thereabouts. The distribution which has been applied for, does not exceed the value of \$45,000 of the estate of the said deceased is separate property, the deceased never having been married. The said document came into my possession as one of the Firm of U.M. Gordon & Co. for safe keeping in the bank of said firm by direction of said decedent and I believe the same to be his last Will and Testament. The next of kin of said deceased is **James D. Saunders**, his Brother and only heir at law. On the 2nd day of June 1885 when said will was executed said decedent was over the age of 63 years, being of the age of 63 years or thereabouts, and was of sound and disposing mind.

Upton M. Gordon

Subscribed and sworn to me in Open court
Before me, this 28th day of Sept. 1885

Tho. S. Bonnian, Clerk

oOo

3. Enclosed:

Testimony on Probate of Will
Filed September 28th 1885 Tho. S. Bonnian, Clerk
Certified and entered September 28th 1885

In the Superior Court of the County of Marin, State of California

In the matter of the Estate)	Certificate of Proof of Will and
of)	the facts Found
John H. Saunders (Deceased))	

State of California, County of Marin.

I, E. B. Mahon, Judge of the Superior Court of the County of Marin, State of California do hereby Certify: That on the 21st day of September 1885 the annexed Instrument was admitted to probate as the last Will and Testament of John H. Saunders deceased and from the proofs taken and the examination had ... the said Writ finds as follows: That said John H. Saunders died on or about 3rd day of September 1885, in the County of Marin, State of California, that the said annexed Will is an **Olographic Will** and was duly executed by the said decedent in his life time, in the County of Marin, State of California and is entirely written, dated and signed by the hand of the Testator John H.

Saunders himself. That the said decedent at the time of executing said Will was of the age of Sixty-three years and upwards, was of sound and disposing mind, and not under duress, menace, fraud or undue influence, not in any respect incompetent to devise and bequeath his estate.

In Witness Whereof I have signed this Certificate, and cause the same to be attested by the Clerk of said court under the Seal thereof this 28th day of September 1885

E. B. Mahon, Judge.

Attest: Tho. S. Bonnian, Clerk, Endorsed Certificate of
Proof of Will and the facts Found. Filed Sept 28th 1885.

Tho. S. Bonnian, Clerk

oOo

4. In the Superior Court of Marin County, State of California

In the matter of the Estate of
John H. Saunders, Deceased

To the Hon Superior Court of Marin County, State of California

The Petition of **William H. Saunders** by James D. Saunders his guardian respectfully shows to the Court that he is the son of James D. Saunders deceased. That by the sixth subdivision of said will said decedent gave and bequeathed to petitioner his private miscellaneous library and Library furniture, said Library consisting of 400 volumes.

That Letters Testamentary were issued herein on the 28th day of September 1885 to Upton H. Gordon and Hepburn Wilkins Executors named in said will. That notice to the Creditors of said decedent has been published and that said notice was published for four consecutive weeks commencing October 3rd 1885 in the Marin County Tocsin a newspaper printed and published in Marin County and that the ten months within which the creditors of sad decedent were required by said notice to present their claims has expired.

That the total amount of claims which have been presented against the estate of said decedent is in the aggregate the sum of \$7311.50.

That the Estate of said decedent has been appraised at the sum of \$46,222.85 and that the property of the estate is more than sufficient to pay the indebtedness of said estate.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that the Court after due proceedings and will distribute to petitioner all the property hereinbefore described to which your petitioner is entitled under said will upon your petitioner giving bonds with security for the payment of his proportion of the debts of said estate.

J. D. Saunders

Guardian of said Minor

John's death signalled the end of the family's involvement in San Rafael. While a couple of small holdings within Block 33 were retained, John's nephew and namesake sold them both in 1905 for what seems a paltry amount of money:

Feb 25	1905	Grantor Grantee	Saunders, J. H. & L. F. Cheda, Antoinette	Book 91, p. 184
Mar 23	1905	Grantor Grantee	Saunders, J. H. & L. F. Freitas, M. T.	Book 91, p. 381

According to the Deed of Sale each lot only fetched Ten (\$10) Dollars gold coin of the United States of America. Eleven years earlier, in 1894, John's other nephew, William Hartshorne Saunders, disposed of his share of Block 33:

Oct 11	1894	Grantor Grantee	Saunders, Wm. H. Herzog, Maximillian	Book 31, p. 182
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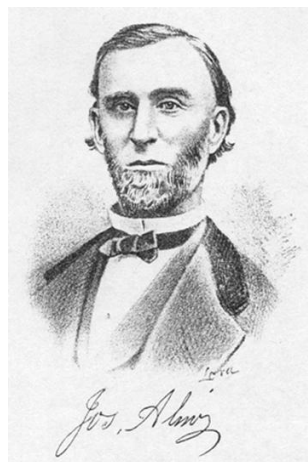
Unless some property has been overlooked these transactions brought to a close the Saunders family's investments in Marin County real estate.

John⁷ Henry Saunders never married. However, he did appear to have a close relationship with a widow named Mrs Mary Elizabeth Taylor. The census of the City of San Rafael revealed that in June 1880 he was living at her boarding house on 4th Street along with her daughter and several other people:

Taylor, Mary E., 36, widow. P. House
 Laura M., 19, daughter, at home
 Saunders, Jno. H., 48, boarder, single, lawyer

He was undoubtedly a clever and learned lawyer and a shrewd investor. As a citizen he was very much respected for his contribution to the society in which he lived. He was prominent in civic affairs, freely lending to the community his expertise, knowledge and experience. Reports indicate he had a feeling for the "common man" and that he was scrupulously honest and just, not only in his business affairs but also in the execution of his public office responsibilities. The general esteem in which he was held is well presented in the many obituaries following his death, most particularly that given by his peers.

During his lifetime John accumulated a considerable fortune by investing heavily in property in what was the old *Mission San Rafael Archangel*. That he had the foresight to see the future potential of the area is a testament to his acumen and imagination. He and his family continued trading in real estate in San Rafael well into the 1870s and although much was sold off while he lived, there remained substantial holdings to be inherited by his brother and later, after the latter's death, his nephews. For reasons unknown, this valuable real estate, much of it located in what is today the heart of downtown San Rafael, was all sold. By 1905 it would appear none remained in the family. This beautiful area just north of San Francisco, so dear to the heart of John and his father, David, ceased to be part of the Saunders family stronghold.

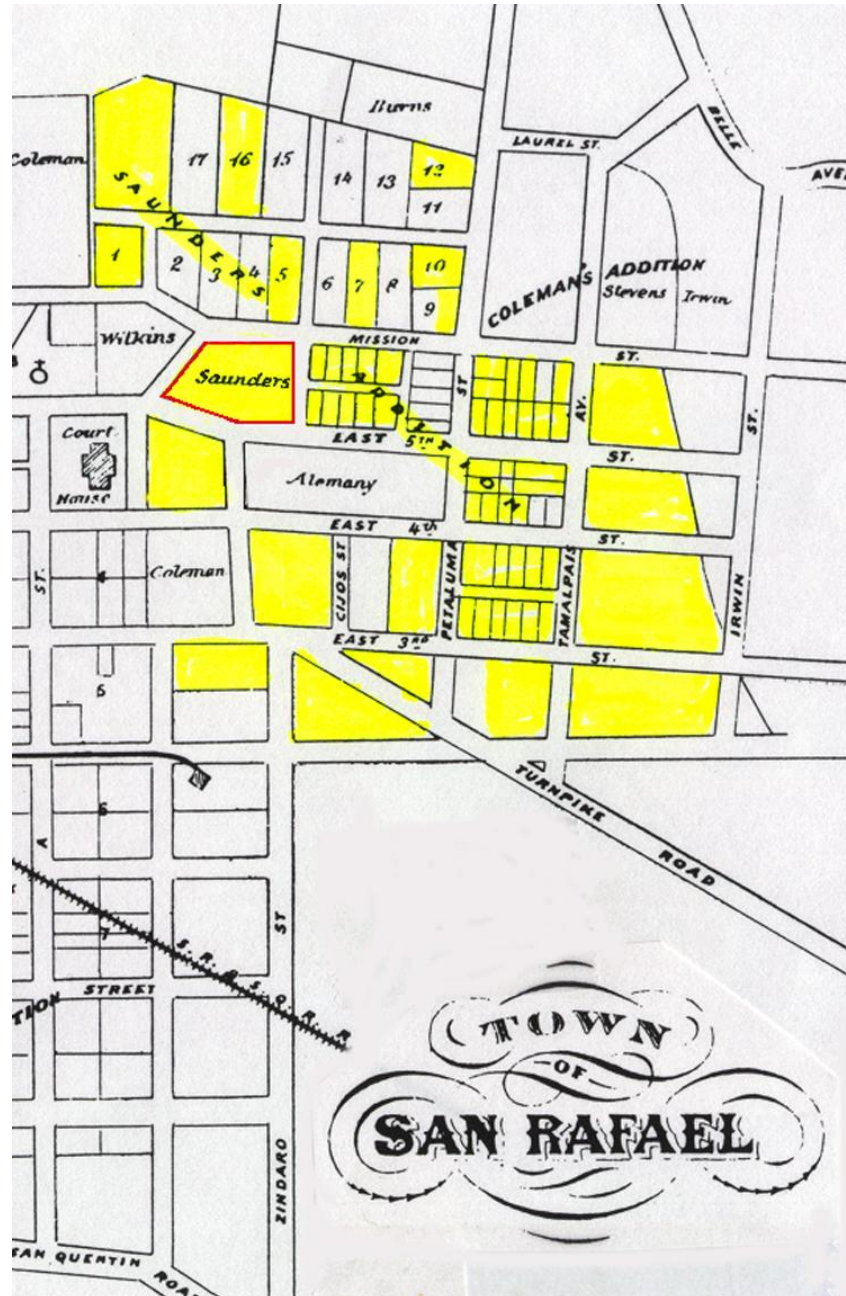


Joseph Almy
 1822–1901
 A well-known member of
 the Bar and contemporary
 of John Henry Saunders

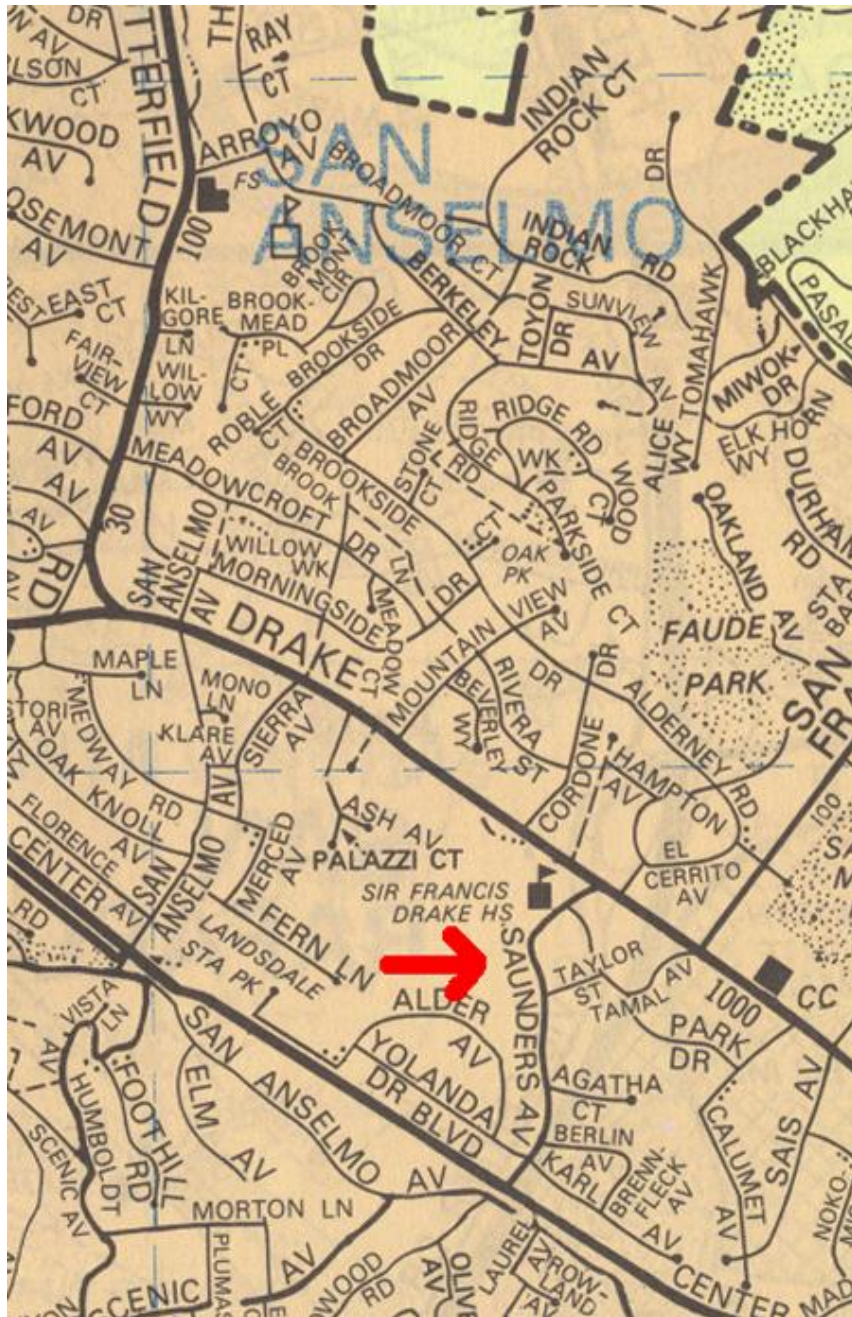
John⁷ Henry Saunders was an intelligent, industrious and community-minded citizen of San Francisco and Marin County. He held positions of prominence and was influential in the development of the San Rafael area, along with a number of other well-known identities such as William Tell Coleman and his cousin Dr, William⁶ A. Douglass. One is left with the impression that he was a quiet, unassuming man, who did not seek publicity. While he would have been considered at the time a person of considerable influence, his public image, when compared to some of his contemporaries, is not well documented. John's contribution to the town of San Rafael would seem to have been substantial. One might reasonably expect, particularly given his background in city and state politics, that a more informative account of his life and times would have been chronicled somewhere. Most of what we know of him is derived from family memorabilia and information contained in his obituaries.

The fact that such a successful and wealthy man was never married adds to the mystery. Perhaps the lack of a wife, children and traditional family life diminished his public exposure socially, although his obituary in the *Marin County Tocsin* says he had an immense circle of personal friends. While as an attorney and a citizen he was universally respected and esteemed by his peers as evidenced in his obituaries, we have no information on his private life. Unlike his simple-living Quaker ancestors he had an affluent lifestyle and mixed

comfortably with the more prominent people of the day. He travelled abroad, became involved in politics and enjoyed all the comforts of life that wealth could bring. While this did not distract him from what he saw as his civic responsibilities, he would have had little in common with any Quaker relations back east.



The highlighted areas indicate the property owned by John H. Saunders and referred to as the Saunders addition. The block bordered in red was the location of the Saunders Homestead.



A portion of what is now San Anselmo showing Saunders Avenue where John H. Saunders and two others developed some 700 acres in 1876. At that time it was just a wild tract of land near San Rafael. Before they could partition the property they needed to prepare a topographical survey and map. For this John Saunders engaged the services of his friend James Hepburn Wilkins.

To provide the reader with some concept of the extent of the real estate and property transactions conducted by John Henry Saunders and his family, the following is a list compiled from the conveyancing records on microfilm at the Marin County Assessor-Recorders Office in San Rafael. *Grantee* is the Purchaser; *Grantor* is the Vendor.

Note: Names appearing **in bold** represent relations, friends, business partners or people recognised as well-known identities of the day.

Jun 08	1853	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Bagley, David	Book A, Page 423
Aug 16	1855	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J.H. et al. (AGMT) Preston, R. J.	Book B, Page 410
Jan 26	1859	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Sheppard, S. A.	Book D, Page 108
Feb 09	1859	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Sime, H.	Book D, Page 107
Jun 06	1865	Grantee	SAUNDERS, David Simms, Jno. et ux.	Book F, Page 39
Aug 03	1865	Grantee	SAUNDERS, David Byrne, John M.	Book E, Page 30
Oct 12	1865	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Forbes, Alex	Book E, Page 430
Dec 16	1865	Grantee	SAUNDERS, David Short, J. O. B.	Book E, Page 486/7
Feb 10	1865	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Forbes, Alex	Book E, Page 577
Jun 14	1866	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Burns, Ellen	Book F, Page 98
Aug 07	1868	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. McRea, Henry	Book G, Page 117
Sep 19	1868	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. et al . Angellotti, G.	Book G, Page 143
Oct 28	1868	Grantor	SAUNDERS, David et ux . Hyde, Henry G.	Book H, Page 444
Oct 12	1869	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Byrne, John M.	Book F, Page 442
Nov 02	1869	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Hyde, Henry G.	Book F, Page 444
Nov 23	1869	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Angellotti, G.	Book 51, Page 214
Mar 08	1870	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. et al. Marsh, Henry T.	Book H, Page 43

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Mar 09	1870	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. et al . Marsh, Julia M.	Book H, Page 45
Mar 19	1870	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Marsh, Henry T.	Book I, Page 47
Mar 31	1870	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Cumens, Thos H.	Book I, Page 77
Apr 20	1870	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. et al. Green, Chas. B.	Book H, Page 107
May 02	1870	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. et al. Nye, David	Book H, Page 117
Sep 07	1870	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. et al . McAllister, A.C.	Book H, Page 267
Jan 05	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Saunders, Hannah T. [mother of grantee]	Book I, Page 362
Jan 21	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. et al . Green, Chas. B.	Book I, Page 343
Jan 25	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Carlin, Annie	Book I, Page 345
Mar 11	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wilkins, Harriet H.	Book I, Page 417
May 15	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. et al. Sais, Dominga	Book I, Page 482
May 24	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Allemany, J.S.	Book J, Page 156
May 24	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Marin County	Book I, Page 541
Jun 02	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. (AGMT) Mahon, T.	Book J, Page 159
Jun 05	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Rice, J. B.	Book K, Page 266
Jun 14	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Mahon, T.	Book J, Page 161
Jun 14	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Mahon, Timothy	Book J, Page 166
Aug 19	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Wilkins, H. H. et al.	Book J, Page 266
Aug 23	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wilkins, H. H. et al.	Book J, Page 268

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Sep 05	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. et al. St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church	Book I, Page 573
Sep 30	1871	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. The Land Commissioners	Book J, Page 414
Nov 09	1871	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Douglass, Wm. A. [cousin of Grantor]	Book K, Page 264
Mar 11	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Lee, Allen	Book J, Page 515
Mar 13	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Douglass, Wm. A. [cousin of Grantor]	Book J, Page 527
Mar 14	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Haskell, Geo. G.	Book K, Page 216
Mar 15	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Saunders, J. Douglass [brother of Grantor]	Book K, Page 184
Apr 18	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. O'Toole, Jno. F.	Book K, Page 220
May 22	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Hollywood, Rose	Book O, Page 482
Jun 25	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. et al. Coleman, W. T.	Book K, Page 332
Jul 25	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. et al . Miller, Wm. J.	Book J, Page 577
Aug 27	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Coleman, W. T.	Book K, Page 345
Sep 02	1872	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Wilkins, H. H. (by GDN)	Book J, Page 367
Sep 10	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Taylor, S. P.	Book K, Page 535
Sep 24	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. Berard, W. L.	Book L, Page 432
Sep 27	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Masset, Stephen C.	Book L, Page 145
Oct 05	1872	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wilkins, H. H. et al.	Book J, Page 363
Oct 05	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Wilkins, Harriet H.	Book K, Page 359
Nov 30	1872	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Boyd, Wm. A.	Book K, Page 447

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Feb 10	1873	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Marin County	Book L, Page 464
Feb 24	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, D. ... Estate of Late	Book L, page 525
Apr 02	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Rice, J. B.	Book L, Page 546
Jun 01	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Waite, William P.	Book L, Page 625
Jun 11	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. North Pacific Coast Railroad	Book L, Page 653
Sep 26	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Lynch, John	Book M, page 93
Oct 16	1874	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Almy, Joseph [BLOCK 33]	Book O, Page 170
Oct 16	1874	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Almy, Joseph	Book O, Page 200 to page 218
Nov 02	1874	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Shaver, Isaac	Book M, Page 177
Nov 20	1874	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. The Town of San Rafael	Book M, Page 196
Mar 20	1875	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wilkins, James H.	Book P, Page 51
Jul 29	1875	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Fisher, Geo. W.	Book O, Page 523
Sep 01	1876	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Coleman, Wm. T.	Book Q, Page 505
Sep 12	1876	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Coleman, Wm. T.	Book Q, Page 507
Jan 05	1877	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Massati, Stephen C.5555	Book P, Page 139
Mar 01	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Sears, W. H.	Book P, Page 288
Apr 06	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Burns, Ellen M.	Book P, Page 332
Sep 27	1877	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Saunders, J. Douglass [brother of Grantee]	Book R, Page 64
Sep 29	1877	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Touchard, Gustave	Book R, Page 66

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Oct 01	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Wood, Henry P.	Book R, Page 68
Oct 05	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. Douglass Briggs, Lizzie E.	Book S, Page 11
Dec 15	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Wood, Henry P.	Book R, Page 363
Dec 18	1877	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Johnson, Robert C. & Bush, J. S.	Book S, Page 242
Dec 18	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Johnson, Robert C.	Book S, Page 200
Dec 22	1877	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Lee, Allen	Book S, Page 180
Feb 01	1878	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Senlis, Eugene [mentioned in Will of Grantor]	Book S, Page 261
Mar 19	1878	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Lee, Allen	Book R, Page 303
Mar 29	1878	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wood, Henry P.	Book R, Page 342
Apr 03	1878	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Taylor, Mary E. [mentioned in Will of Grantor]	Book R, Page 359
Dec 29	1878	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. et al. Bush, J. S.	Book R, Page 339
Sep 10	1879	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Wilkins, James H.	Book X, Page 616
Oct 01	1880	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Sears, Harriet, A.	Book V, Page 82
Feb 08	1881	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Wood, Henry P.	Book V, Page 526
Oct 17	1881	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Emily C. Kohman, Moritz	Book W, Page 261
Jan 18	1882	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Trumbell, R. J.	Book 51, Page 218
Jun 17	1882	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Fremery, Jas. D. et al.	Book X, Page 227
Jul 17	1882	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J.H. San Francisco Sav. Union	Book X, Page 227
Oct 19	1882	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J.H. Donohoe, J. M.	Book X, Page 459

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Jul 06	1883	Grantee	SAUNDERS, J. H. Wilkins, J. H.	Book Y, Page 460
Jan 02	1884	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. San Francisco Sav. Union	Book Z, Page 392
Jan 02	1884	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. Miller, Albert, Trustee et al.	Book Z, Page 392
Jan 15	1884	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. Sivierou, Etienne	Book Z, Page 416
Mar 08	1884	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Reilly, Catherine	Book Z, Page 611
Dec 01	1884	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Town of San Rafael	Book I, Page 578
May 04	1885	Grantor	SAUNDERS, John H. Larney, Patk. [mentioned in Will of Grantor]	Book 2, Page 168
Mar 29	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Morton, David	Book 3, Page 277
Mar 30	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Morton, David	Book 3, Page 281
May 08	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., (Est. of Sinnot, Jas.	Book 3, Page 363
Jul 12	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Sullivan, Kate	Book 3, Page 472
Aug 30	1886	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Saunders, John H., Est. of	Book 3, Page 533
Sep 20	1886	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Saunders, John H., Est. of	Book 4, Page 26
Oct 04	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H. ... no Grantee mentioned	Book 4, Page 70
Oct 12	1886	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. (by Extr.) Saunders, Jno. H. Est. of	Book 4, Page 116
Oct 15	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Saunders, J. D.	Book 4, Page 245
Oct 18	1886	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Campbell, H. C. et al. (Trustee)	Book 4, Page 119
Dec 09	1886	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Murray, Maria	Book 4, Page 250
Mar 11	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Barney, Charles S.	Book 3, Page 498

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Apr 18	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Bullis, Richard	Book 5, Page 63
Jul 05	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Order confirming sales	Book 6, Page 38
Jul 05	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno, H., Est. of Order confirming sales	Book 6, Page 41
Jul 12	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of White, James F.	Book 6, Page 54
Jul 12	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of White, James F.	Book 6, Page 58
Jul 12	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Saunders, Jas. D.	Book 6, Page 62
Jul 12	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jno. H., Est. of Larney, Andrew	Book 6, Page 68
Jul 12	1887	Grantee	SAUNDERS, James D. Saunders, Jno. H., Est. of by Extrs.	Book 5, Page 62
Jul 25	1887	Grantee	SAUNDERS, James D. Saunders, Jno. H., Est. of	Book 5, Page 275
Aug 16	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Downing, Henry C.	Book 6, Page 147
Aug 26	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Martin, George	Book 5, Page 400
Aug 30	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Montague, Esther B.	Book 7, Page 109
Sep 29	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Mills, Minnie B.	Book 6, Page 499
Oct 01	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Burrell, Philomena, T.	Book 8, Page 80
Oct 08	1887	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Atkinson, George	Book &, Page 146
Apr 17	1888	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Campbell, H. C. et al. Trustee	Book 7, Page 548
Apr 18	1888	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Wilkins, Hepburn	Book 7, Page 550
Apr 18	1888	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Angellotti, Frank M.	Book 7, Page 552
Jun 01	1888	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Campbell, H. C. et al Trustee	Book 8, Page 129

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Jun 04	1888	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. Douglass et al. Smith, Cora B.	Book 8, Page 131
Jun 28	1888	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Atkinson, George	Book 8, Page 202
Jun 28	1888	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Atkinson, George	Book 8, Page 204
Jul 06	1888	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Crowley, Mary C.	Book 9, Page 29
Jul 28	1888	Grantee	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Campbell, H. C. Trustee	Book 8, Page 19
Feb 18	1889	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Walsh, Francis S.	Book 9, Page 287
Mar 15	1889	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. et ux. Kearney, Mary	Book 9, Page 375
Sep 15	1889	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Walsh, Francis S.	Book 10, Page 380
Jul 24	1890	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Tunstead, James	Book 12, Page 357
Aug 14	1890	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Tunstead, Jas.	Book 12, Page 434
Dec 27	1890	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Lancel, Leon A.	Book 13, Page 396
Feb 03	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. D. Cassidy, Patrick	Book 16, Page 14
Apr 29	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. McGrath, Margaret	Book 16, Page 528
May 18	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Tunstead, James	Book 16, Page 571
Jun 12	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Jas. D. Tunstead, James et al.	Book 17, Page 111
Aug 24	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. D. & E. C. Tunstead, Jas. et al.	Book 17, Page 523
Nov 27	1891	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. et ux. Lunny, Patrick	Book 18, Page 480
Feb 15	1892	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Lunny, Patrick	Book 19, Page 370
Dec 17	1892	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Crowley, Mary C.	Book 24, Page 218

Saunders Family Marin County Conveyances continued

Sep 06	1893	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Tunstead, James et al.	Book 27, Page 221
Feb 23	1894	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J.D. & E.C. Saunders, Wm. H. [son of Grantor]	Book 29, Page 117
Oct 11	1894	Grantor	SAUNDERS, Wm. H. Herzog, Maxmillian	Book 31, Page 182
Jan 18	1898	Grantor	SAUNDERS, James D. Saunders, Emily C. [wife of grantor]	Book 48, Page 395
May 21	1903	Grantee	SAUNDERS, John H. Saunders, James Douglass [father of Grantee]	Book 81, Page 393
Feb 25	1905	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. & L. F. Cheda, Antoinette	Book 91, Page 184
Mar 23	1905	Grantor	SAUNDERS, J. H. & L. F. Freitas, M. T.	Book 91, Page 381



*Looking east down Fourth Street in San Rafael c.1900
The cross street in the foreground is D Street*

Summary JOHN⁷ HENRY SAUNDERS 1821–1885

1821 03 Dec	Born -	Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. The second child of David Saunders and his wife Hannah Travilla (née Douglass).
1825 26 Feb	Aged 3 -	Uncle Peter ⁶ Saunders died.
1843 08 Aug	Aged 22 -	Visited <i>Mordington</i> , in West Virginia, the home of his uncle Judge Isaac ⁵ Richardson Douglass while attending the University of Virginia.
1843 05 Oct	Aged 22 -	Graduated from University of Virginia in Law.
1846 26 Nov	Aged 25	Grandmother Mary Saunders Wanton died.
1850	Aged 28 -	Washington City directories noted him as living with older brother William Hartshorne, Physician.
1850 20 Jun	Aged 28 -	Arrived in San Francisco by steamer via Panama.

9 September 1850

California admitted as the 31st State. What is now California was first settled by various Native Californian tribes before being explored by a number of European expeditions during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Spanish Empire then claimed it as part of Alta California in their New Spain colony. The area became a part of Mexico in 1821 following its successful war of independence but was ceded to the United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War



1852	Aged 30 -	Went into partnership with H. P. Hepburn.
1853	Aged 32 -	Purchased first property in San Rafael.
1855	Aged 33 -	Younger brother James ⁷ Douglass arrived in San Francisco from Washington, DC.
1860	Aged 38 -	Brother William ⁷ Hartshorne died in Nicaragua.
1861 12 Apr	Aged 41 -	<i>Civil War commenced when Southern artillery shelled Fort Sumter in the harbour of Charleston, South Carolina.</i>
1862 - 1866	Aged 39 -	Elected City and County attorney of S.F. Held this office for three successive terms

Summary of John⁷ Henry Saunders (1821–1885) continued

1863	Aged 40 -	Parents arrived in San Francisco from Washington DC.
1865 09 Apr	Aged 42 -	<i>Civil War ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.</i>
1866 - 1868	Aged 45 -	Chosen as State Senator for one of the San Francisco districts.
1866 03 Nov	Aged 45 -	Donates land for Episcopal Church in San Rafael. <i>While San Francisco City directories list him practicing and living in that city, it is thought that his actual home became San Rafael after serving his term as State Senator.</i>
1867 07 Nov	Aged 46 -	Brother James ⁷ Douglass marries Emma ³ Brannan.
1868 12 Dec	Aged 47 -	Nephew William ⁸ Hartshorne born.
1869 03 Apr	Aged 47 -	Elected Vestryman, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
1869 10 Sep	Aged 47 -	Father David ⁶ Saunders died in San Rafael.
1872 17 Jul	Aged 51 -	Mother Hannah Travilla died in San Francisco. <i>During his last few years in San Rafael he was Town Trustee and Chairman of the Board.</i>
1874 13 Jan	Aged 53 -	Nephew James ⁸ Douglass born.
1880 04 Aug	Aged 59 -	Nephew John ⁸ Henry born.
1885 02 Jun	Aged 63 -	Makes Last Will and Testament.
1885 03 Sep	Aged 63 -	Died of Cancer at his home in San Rafael. Funeral service conducted by Rev. W. Henry Stoy at St. Paul's Church. Buried at Lone Mountain Cemetery.
1885 05 Sep		Obituary published in <i>Marin County Tocsin</i> .
1885 10 Sep		Obituary published in <i>Marin County Journal</i> .



END
of
Chapter Six

John Henry Saunders
of San Rafael

