

CLAIRE MORGAN
STEWART'S FLAT AND PENRYN

The following information was taken from a tape made by Gene Markley during one of his Gold Camps Classes at Placer High School Adult Education in 1976

The speaker is Claire Morgan, a friend of Enid Griffith.

... oh, we do it so much, and when she became ill, before I took her to the hospital, she said, "Would you please tell Mr. Markley I won't be able to keep my appointment." She wanted to be here so much, and so everything we have here tonight is from her, because she had everything prepared.

She was born 81 years ago, May 8th, in Penryn, in a house that her great-great grandfather built over one hundred years ago. When she passed away, she was still working on the Stewart's Flat Ensemble. She was a historian of the first, what they call it, the first water. We became friends because we both have an interest in preserving the rich heritage of our past. Not only of our family, because we were such a small part of it, but of everyone. She did so much to try and document Stewart's Flat, because there is so little known about Stewart's Flat.

So, if we start with that, the information was just obtained quite recently. In 1964, she found that there was a relative of the Stewarts still living. There was a relative of a local Penryn family living in a trailer court down in Bakersfield. She got in her car and she took her pencil and her pad and she went down there to document Stewart's Flat.

Stewart's Flat - do any of you live in the Penryn area? Stewart's Flat is down Rock Springs Road. Taylor Road - do you all know where the Valencia Club is? It's on old Taylor Road, the old Highway 40, where English Colony Road comes up to the Valencia Club, where it crosses the road and goes underneath the freeway it becomes Rock Springs Road. As it goes down under the freeway, it becomes Stewart's Flat. It had been reported that Stewart's Flat was in the Auburn area. That is not so. It was in that little flat after you go down under the freeway out of Penryn on Rock Springs Road. You will see the flat, there's only one flat out there.

It is through this area that Miss. Griffith's great-great uncle, Griffith Griffith, came looking for a quarry hole. When he came from Penryn, and these too are her words, "When the founder of Penryn, who was my father's uncle, had been

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called the man with the double-barreled name, Griffith Griffith. I suppose that names are rather scarce in the land from which he came, Northern Wales, as so often they are doubled. Thus we frequently find Owen Owens, David David, William Williams and so forth, so this was Griffith Griffith." He came from Wales and he had taken care of a widowed mother for 12 years before he left Wales. He came over here and worked in the East for a while. In the early '40's he came by sailing vessel to the land of promise, by way of Quebec. He believed it took from early spring to mid-summer. He stayed there for 6 years. In 1853 he decided to go west. He came by the Isthmus of Panama.

When he first started his quarry business it was in the Folsom area, on the bar that right now is in the middle of Folsom Lake. Then he moved to Wildwood. Wildwood is just on the other side of Stewart's Flat, between Folsom and here. We never did get to go to it, she was going to take me there.

Do any of you know Carol Hall? She was raised in the Penryn area and went on to become curator of Sutter's Fort. She retired a few years ago and she took Enid on a trip to Wildwood. I do have a few pictures, they're small pictures, so after we're through if you want to come up and look at them, you're welcome.

At that time there was a small railroad, called The Sacramento-Placer-Nevada Line. This infant railroad was heading for Nevada County, and never made it. All went well until 1862 when the tiny railroad came into competition with the bold venture of the Central Pacific to the west, which was gradually advancing toward the Sierras to be linked eventually in 1869 to the Union Pacific in Utah. Thus was the dream of a transcontinental route accomplished. But locally, the previous means of transportation had suddenly come to an end, and the aspiring young quarry man was bereft of transportation for his rock, yet his contracts were becoming more and more numerous.

Thus began in 1864 the hunt for a new quarry site near the new Central Pacific. It took some weeks or months to complete matters, but after the tracks were ordered taken up in July, after the cessation of the railroad in June, on a rainy day in August, according to the record, someone took him in a buggy from Wildwood to Stewart's Flat, and from there to the quarry on the hill. Here on land owned first by the Government and then by the Railroad, emerged the site of his future activity, and amid the oaks and pines, the little town of Penryn was born. He came through Stewart's Flat on his way. Stewart's Flat then was quite a town.

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But now to leave this for a while, to leave Penryn and go back to Stewart's Flat, because much of the information was just gained, some of it just recently as last year. But this is the information that was gained from a relative of a local family who lived next door to the son of a grandson. Well, I'll read this to you, it is documented - Enid Griffith believed in documenting everything she said or did. If she said something, you could believe it. She was the most wonderful - I wish you could have known her - she was something special. This is the history of the Stewart family, and the town of Stewart's Flat, and you will be amazed to find how little time the Stewart family spent there.

"Thomas Hazelton Stewart and his youngest brother, Kay Stewart, came to California in 1849 by way of the Isthmus of Panama."

Now this is the information given by the descendant of those Stewart brothers.

"There were 60 people in the party when they started, but only 8 remained upon arrival. These two young men, descendants of Scottish immigrants who had settled in Mississippi, returned to their native state in 1852." Now it doesn't say where they settled in California the first time, they didn't stay very long - 3 years. Anyway, they went back to Mississippi and in 1854 they came out to California again, and this time they settled in Placer County. "In 1854 they built a cabin in what became known as Stewart's Flat where later as many as 1500 people lived. Here they mined Secret Ravine, taking out a quarter of a million in gold nuggets and gold dust.

"In 1856 the brothers returned again to Mississippi, and Thomas married, but his wife lived only 18 months." Now in 1856 they went back and that was it, they never came back again. They must have left their old mother along the line, because we do have a letter of record of one of the Stewarts to his mother. I'll read that to you also, but here is what happened after they left in 1856. "The brothers went back to Mississippi, Thomas married, his wife lived only 18 months, dying at childbirth. Later he married an Irish lassie, and raised 3 children. 8 other children died in infancy from malaria and yellow fever. In Mississippi the 2 brothers bought delta land - cane break - for 10 cents per acre, and decided to raise cotton. They purchased 800 negro slaves, buying only family men. 800 was paid for one exceptionally big, strong negro, in the hope of raising similar children. They also founded the town of Stewart, Mississippi, still in existence."

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So it did better than the Stewart's Flat we have now. "In 1861, the Civil War broke out, and both brothers enlisted. Kay was killed. When the war ended and the slaves were freed, Thomas gave each negro family 40 acres, one mule and a months supply of food. After this, having only 700 dollars, he moved his family to the neighborhood of New Orleans. Here he was not successful. Hence, in 1880 he brought the family by train to Ventura County, California, and lived there until 1904. Then he moved to Long Beach where he invested in real estate. Here his wife died. When Mr. Stewart himself died, he lacked 4 months of being 93."

It was his grandson, Claude Stewart, who supplied this information to Mrs. Ellis, then she remarried and now she's Mrs. Bailey. "While living in Bakersfield, he was remembered as a great old man. Since then, the latter Mr. Stewart also has died, being over 80 years of age."

To me, Enid Griffith is not dead, because her work goes on, and the young people were at her dedication. She has left a little stone building at Taylor and Rock Springs Road. She's left that as a museum to the County. She has also left 2 quarry holes and a County park. There's an S. P. right of way that connects the two, and it's beautiful flat ground, a perfect place for a picnic ground. She has designated that this be used for educational, historic and recreational use. It will never be used for commercial use. For those of you who read the article in the newspapers, there was a mis-understanding. I guess the County didn't realize how definite she was that there would be no commercial use. This is to be preserved as a historical thing.

It worried us for a little while when we first found her will. It was made 21 years ago before the park became a dream. But there has been a later codicil found, and this land plus the artifacts have been given by Enid Griffith.

But let's go to Stewart's Flat. What is so important to all of you who have ties with the past, or those of you who don't, is to document what you do find and what you do have. Miss Griffith published this and passed it out in 1964, at the 100th celebration of the town of Penryn. This is the story of Stewart's Flat - 1964 -yet just last year she became acquainted with a young man, Clifford Kennedy, 14 years old, who was interested in artifacts and what happened in the old days, and this young man, I don't know how, he became acquainted with another old lady one time who gave him a box. What's in the box, I don't know, but I hope he eventually gives the box to the museum. But one by one he brought documents to her, to examine and verify whether they

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were historical or not. They were treasures on Stewart's Flat - Actual documentation of the early Stewart's Flat, including a pen and ink drawing. I don't know when the camera came into being - can you tell me - but back there, they drew their pictures, they drew their maps. I have some here to show you. I have here a picture of Miss Griffith, there's quite a few more in that box if you want to come up and see her. She's just a really special lady.

But from this young man she had received the story of what happened to the Stewarts. She was just enthused, one by one these documents were brought to her. I think the first one was this, a map of Stewart's Flat and a pen and ink drawing of Thomas H. Stewart himself. This was done - it was # 34, done on Beedle Street, Sacramento by A. Walsh & Co., November 6, 1858. That was the first thing he brought her. So she began her Stewart's Flat Ensemble.

She attached the picture of Stewart, she attached the 2 things together and at that time we had been working together for several years on the park, and she said, "Do people really want the museum, do you think they really do?" And I said, "Of course they do." She said, "But I'm no good, I can't do anything anymore. I hate being an octogenarian." She hated to become 80. Well, if I am half as alert and sharp as she is at 80, well, I'll be happy. I will not be unhappy to be an octogenarian if I've got as much on the ball as she had. Anyway, she wanted to do so much. I said, "Enid, those of us who have arms and legs, we can do the physical work, but you've got the brains. You can tell us what to do."

This is why it's so important to - regardless of age, there's just no end - Enid Griffith left 250 years of work undone that she had started. This is what was so wonderful about the young people that were there. Were any of you at the Griffith Quarry dedication two weeks ago? There were over 200 people there. Enid Griffith loved young people. She had a degree to teach, she never did teach, but she was a teacher at heart. The grade school in Penryn had their band come and they played. Their choir sang, and they just loved it.

But here was the information that she had gained on the beginning of Stewart's Flat. Now these pictures that we'll be showing you just came to light last year, in 1975, and Clifford Kennedy, of Penryn, a 14 year old boy, had possession of these. As he brought them to her for documentation, she would examine them. She said they were certainly authentic.

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The next part in Stewart's Ensemble was a letter signed by Thomas H. Stewart, and this is the letter, it was written August 30, 1857.

"Dear Mother,

I just got the copy of your newspaper. I enjoyed it very much. I must say, it surprised me very much, but not as much as the story about my settlement. The statement, 'It's growth has progressed surprisingly from 1855 from 18 people to 1857 to 1027 people', surprised me the most. Thank you for it very much. Will contact you soon.

Sincerely,

T. H. Stewart
1857"

I don't know where he left his mother, there was no date, no envelope with it. But it was a very old paper, and it looked authentic. All of this information goes to the Penryn Museum. She left it with me because she didn't know how long she would be sick, and she said, "I want you to keep it in safe-keeping for the museum." And she planned to show it to you tonight.

The next thing this young man brought was ... and this is very small, and it's all I've got, it isn't old, it's only a copy of it, you can't see it very good. Some of these pictures had to be taken -he had to go with her - I took them to the library. Some of them had to be photographed through glass because the paper was so old. Here, I do not know if this was a Stewart mine or not, but it shows Newcastle at the top of the hill, and it shows, "Our camp along Secret Ravine", and they make a point up there, down from Newcastle a little bit, "Where we found the nugget." "But this too", she said, "is a very old thing." Whether it was Stewart's, we don't know, but it was during the time Stewarts were there, so it could have been. But it really grew after they left.

This isn't very good, the actual picture I don't have, but here is -you can kind of get an idea of the school house at Stewart's Flat. This was a very big school house, and W. B. Lardner was the teacher at Stewart's Flat. It was quite a thriving community. This was at the time that Griffith Griffith came through there, looking for a new quarry. He had the orders, but he had to have a way to ship it because the stuff was so heavy. So they came to Stewart's Flat and he found this quarry hole. At that time Stewart's Flat was the closest place.

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Now this is from his diary in Wildwood, before he left. I should tell you that I'm reading from a booklet that Enid Griffith wrote in 1957. At that time she had the diaries of Griffith Griffith, her great uncle. She had two - one written in Welsh, and one in English. In 1970, thieves broke in and stole these diaries. It was a terrible loss. But at the time she wrote this she had them and she referred to them. So all we have is her documentation from these diaries. Whether they will ever be recovered, I don't know, but it was just a terrible loss and it hurt her very much, because they were so dear to her. I checked with the Sheriffs Department, when she passed away so unexpectedly, we wanted to document for the executor just what had happened, because certain things were mentioned in her will, and I got the report from the Sheriffs Office, and all they could document was 32 dollars and 19 cents or something like that, because the things that were stolen - the value of those diaries was unknown. So this is documentation from those 2 diaries that she had at that time.

"March 16th, 1864

Worked all day. Barry, the ox, got out of the barn last night, but Frank found him after hunting for him all day.

March 19th

We turned the oxen out at night now. Wrote to N.D.T. to know if their railroad will run all summer or not.

March 27th

Cut the pigs today. Killed one for a roaster. Took a walk through the woods this P.M.

April 6

Worked all day. I was sick today. I had chills and fever early in the morning. Assessor and tax collector here today. I paid tax altogether today, all the boys taxes in full.

A letter from Huntington and Hopkins, wants me to call at the Pacific Railroad office when I go to town next. I wrote that I would go to town next week on purpose.

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April 27

I went over to the Pacific Railroad, a long walk. Got home tired. Found plenty of stores over there.

April 28

Went down to Sacramento to see about quarry on Pacific Railroad. Had a talk with Mr. Mills, and Stanford, Hopkins and so forth. Had the chills on the car in going down to the city.

And this note, "Crocker, Huntington, Stanford, and Hopkins were known as the Big 4 of railroading in California in this area. Mills was an early day banker.

April 29

Wrote a letter to F.F. Lowe, Governor of California, stating that I expected a chance to bid on the Capital contract. Was sick, shaking with ague - Note - probably malaria - which for years was to make many another sick.

April 30

Bill, the butcher, took off 21 hogs today.

May 3

I'm getting better. Loaded 5 cars. I get no paper now, so it is very dull here.

May 4

Went to Sacramento City. Saw Mr. Mills. He stated that I had a chance for the job at the Capital.

May 7

Cool, fine day. I was over on Pacific Railroad, found some stone quarries. Paid the Doctor and came home.

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May 9

Advertisement in the Union for proposals to furnish 215 pieces of the best granite for Fort Alcatraz.

May 13

No work, the boys cleaning the house and so forth.

May 24

Was over at Alcatraz, I have 11 stones there.

May 26

Went down to Fort Point for the dimensions. Will have the bid in Tuesday at 12 o'clock."

I believe, as Miss Griffith told me, that most of the stones her uncle cut were large stones. They were the curbing - Miss Griffith's doctor, Dr. Burnham in San Francisco, the curbing and the street in front of his house were paved by Penryn granite.

When I took her down, the last time I saw her, she and the Doctor were having a ball talking about Penryn history. She took him a copy of the Stewart's Flat Ensemble. She was just one wonderful person.

Such was life in 1864. The humdrum mingled with the historic. The men of note with the common place. But always there was this reaching out, as civilization advanced and progress was made, and always there was hope and expectation. The reason that there had started this search for a new quarry on the Pacific Railroad was that at the end of less than two years, the ambitious little Sacramento - Nevada Railroad, which I read before, was out of the picture and was about to sink without ever reaching Nevada County. So the man who had tons of granite to move over a hundred miles or more, and bids pending on important contracts, knew that he had to move to another location. It had not been the first time in his life, so he went searching.

In Stewart's day they were searching for gold, and here again it was through the ground that he was searching for rock, it wasn't gold that time. This is where he found the

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ideal spot, in Penryn, and he found this ore that was less susceptible to rust than the others. It took a beautiful polish and could be used either for buildings or monumental purposes.

Could I ask the young man, "Where did you obtain these books, the Bureau of Mines?"

Answer - "State Division of Mines. They are located on O Street in Sacramento, in the Water Resources Building."

The Division of Mines in San Francisco has examples of Penryn granite. It has a beautiful urn about so big, I've seen pictures of it. I have a picture of it here that you can see later. This is the San Francisco Bureau of Mines.

Question - "Is there any F. L. Stewart that has anything to do with these Stewarts?"

Answer - "I don't know. I wish I did - and this is it, it's wide open, here are bits and pieces and it's a puzzle, it's intriguing. Young people have time to do it. Enid's time ran out. She was not ready to go and she did not plan on it. So I know that she is depending on those of us who can carry on, and that's why I am here tonight. I wouldn't have the courage to get up and speak for myself, but because she had it, and she loved history and she loved these (books). These books she printed herself to give to people in 1957. She had several hundred of these printed at her own expense. She had them in a little stone building, because there wasn't room to store them where she had things stored. She put them under a tub in the old stone building, and kept just a few to pass out. One day, and this was not too many years ago, she saw some children along the street in front of her house with some of them and she said, "Where did you get those?" And they said, "Oh, there's a lot of them up by the building." She went up and someone had broken a window, gotten in, and they were all gone. She found several dirty, soiled copies on the ground. Some children had evidently broken in, but Miss Griffith would not prosecute. She went down to the school and waited after school, asked a few of them if they knew what had happened to them. No one knew, and that was that.

...He went through Stewart's Flat and found his quarry. Then there was another flurry of Stewart's Flat, just before 1930, in the 1930's, and this of course was a great big change. But before I leave the early days, I would like to tell you that this is the only input that I have - My great-great-grandfather panned gold in Secret Ravine in the Ophir area. My great-aunt found his diary in the old blacksmith

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shop when he died. It was written in a little school composition book. So for gosh sakes, those of you who have family things, don't throw anything away, examine every piece of paper because it's amazing the things that you can find. There is a museum that has made a copy of this diary, and I'm hoping to get a copy of it to put in our museum, when we have it. In his diary, he tells how much gold he got each day, and here again it was just like Griffith Griffith, it was the common-place with the exciting. How many hundred dollars of gold today, and one place he said, "Oh why have I come to this arid land? Why am I so ill at ease in the presence of ladies?" And we were kind of glad he was, because in years to come he married a 15 year old girl and had 13 kids. Gosh knows what would have happened. But that was my great-great-grandfather, this was not Enid's relative. Don't get the two confused. I'm certain hers behaved much better. I'm sorry they didn't have more children because Enid is the last of her family and this is why she wanted to leave a part of herself because she loved the area so much.

Years later specimens were sent to the Centennial Exhibition as part of the Central Pacific exhibit and was pronounce the best in the world as to freedom from staining qualities. This was the granite from the Penryn Quarry.

All these things that were still in the future when he became so dejected when they started taking up the track in Wildwood, before he had found this quarry. But evidently the Government settled some on him, because he had so much to loose because the Supreme Court said that the track had to be taken up anyway. The Company had gone broke, I guess.

In mid-August he writes of night duty as a jury-man, "12 men of us, we had our supper there, took a bite occasionally and talked and past all night. But the same, no change, got our breakfast then kept till 4 p.m. Called in to court - discharged - a hung jury."

Although the final settlement of the Railroad Company seemed to be satisfactory to him, the bereft quarry man continued looking for a quarry, considering one possibility, then another as he came to Stewart's Flat. While still unsettled from a business stand point -now, I don't know if I'm going to do this very well, but there has to be a tie-in between the Stewart brothers back in Mississippi, both of them joining the war effort, and one of them being killed, and Abraham Lincoln being elected President. During the time Griffith Griffith was here, starting Penryn, the Stewart brothers were back there establishing Stewart, Mississippi.

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But while he was still unsettled, he was at the State Capitol this night of October 7, hearing a Miss H. speaking on the coming man, Abraham Lincoln. "She is an English lady and she has made one of the best speeches I have ever heard anywhere." This is Griffith Griffith's diary, "She said that Abraham Lincoln was in the hand of Providence, and was to be the next President of this great Republic. And in 1868 he will say goodbye to all, and all in the country will love him."

On October 12 he was promised, by Judge Crocker, a lease on the stone quarry in the 35th section, and in a few days he sent men to work tearing down the buildings of the old quarry, looking for lumber at Stewart's Flat. "went with a loaded oxen." Now this is from the diary, "Went with a loaded oxen team, they got tired on the road. Had a hard job to take a load over. On Saturday let the oxen rest today. I came home with horse team."

By the next day he had engaged some men "to put up my house tomorrow." Now these are Enid's words, "Not that it could be done in a day, there was a well to be sunk, among other things, so it would be some little time before living quarters would be made ready. November 3rd, as work progressed, he went down on a car to Sacramento to a great Lincoln and Johnson Barbeque. "Great crowds, thousands of people. I walked up in procession with Placer delegation to the park. There was roasted ox, sheep and so forth for eating. Several speakers. Procession took 35 minutes to pass one point, about 4,000 in it."

Such was the backdrop against which a new town came into being. In between working on the barn all day, putting up a shop and the like, on November 8th, the founder of this small town went to Stewart's Flat with the boys and voted a straight Union ticket. Abe Lincoln and Andy Johnson for President and Vice-President of the U.S.A. Long before, in 1858, he had been admitted to citizenship, and we hope to have this documented, this was in the safe, in the hands of the bank now, and we hope to have these documents on view when the museum is open. There is sure a lot of work to be done until that will be available. He and his nephew, Enid's father were both citizens shortly after they came to America.

By the 9th of November, "There's news today that the Union ticket had carried the State by a very large majority." On the 12th he was, "Finishing my room, about the house with the carpenter." Three days before Christmas, "Bought Abraham

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Lincoln's likeness, President of the United States."

One of the early entries of January, 1861, notes, "C. Crocker here to see me today, Superintendant of Pacific Railroad. He likes the looks of my quarry very much." This is the brother of Judge Crocker. But before the quarry could be operated, there was much to be done, and so it went until Monday, February 13, 1865, he could say, "Loaded 3 cars, 82 pieces of curb and crosswalk today. The first from this quarry. They took down tonight and left another two cars for me to load again." Thus had begun the routine which this lover of granite and Abraham Lincoln was to follow for almost 25 years longer. Because of this, another of California's small towns was born, was reaching out, extending far beyond those of it's founder.

March 4th, he paused to report, "President Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration. Great time all over the country." And then he continued business as usual. "Two loads, more stuff for railroad, 5 in all." Exactly a month later, "The news came that Richmond was taken yesterday a.m. Hundreds of guns fired all over the state. Here, out in California, Griffith Griffith was recording and not knowing that one of the founders of Stewart's Flat was, possibly close to the same time, dying in battle.

The long and bitter Civil War was virtually at an end, but only 10 more days were to pass until on Sunday, April 16th, he was forced to write in quite a different vein, saying, "That 2 men had just brought the sad news that Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was assassinated in a theater in Washington. Shot through the head about 10 o'clock Friday night. Fell very bad after hearing the news of the death of the President. Everybody feels very gloomy." And again on Monday, "All feel very sorry over the horrible news from the east of the death of the President." By this time they had heard who the assassin was. On Wednesday, amid the business notations, "This was the day of the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States." Almost simultaneously the struggles of one man had ended in death, those of another in the opportunity to begin again.

The town, the birth pangs which had been contemporary with the rebirth of the nation must be given no ordinary name, and the man who had been described as "the man with the double-barrelled name" was equal to the occasion. He would call it in terms of his native land, the place where the quarry instinct had entered his blood. On May 18, he merely recorded it thus, "Concluded last night, with Judge Crocker, to call this quarry, Penryn." The word was originally

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spelled PENRHYN, and these are Enid's words, "Was it the brother of one of the Big 4 of the railroading who deleted the "H" with the view of the future comfort of the passenger train conductors, brakemen and passengers?"

The members of the local Masonic Order are more courageous, they, together with their fellow members from several of the adjoining towns have always considered themselves as free and accepted members of the PENRHYN Lodge. There is a Penrhyn in Wales

The most recent owner of the slate quarry in Penrhyn, and this happened way back then, according to a 1951 news item in the Bee, the owner was troubled with the high cost of dying, and it was a woman who had inherited it, and she had to let her Penrhyn Castle go to pay part of the inheritance tax imposed upon other bequests of her uncle, the 4th Lord of Penrhyn. So the castle went, but I think she kept the quarry, because there was income from that.

But another interesting side light that happened just a few years ago - maybe 3 or 4 years ago - she (Enid) had a knock on her door and a young man she had never seen before said, "What is this town doing with my name?"

end of side A

start of side B

...came to her door one day, and it was one of this Lord Penrhyn's - well, he wasn't Lord Penrhyn then, he was just a shirt-tail relation, whoever Lord Penrhyn was.

A young girl knocked on her door and she was one of his students who lived in the Bay Area, and he had told her the story, and she stopped by to visit Enid. They became great, great friends and exchanged Christmas cards once a year. She went over to Holland as an exchange student and saw him. But Enid felt quite badly that they had lost touch with the last of the Penrhyns. She has written a story, Once Upon A Time, telling of that incident.

So the quarry business grew. The Railroad just leased the land to Griffith Griffith, and then sold it to him. They decided to call the town Penryn. Before Penryn could become worthy of the name of a town however, many more things had to be done in connection with the quarry.

So then they started burning the brush for the derrick and getting ready for the operation that would come. Here is a picture of the Penryn Quarry in the early days. At one time they had at least 200 men working there. It was during this

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That's what Enid said on April 15th of this year. His life had been a life of not unusual length, but truly colorful in experience and one more of the nation's adopted sons had been privileged for a time to play his small part in the continuing saga.

The town still has many landmarks which are reminders of those early beginnings. Perhaps the 3 in stone are the most significant. The old Quarry hole still remains, with enough granite to build many more buildings. From the edge of it, one can see the entrance to the blasting cave where the men took shelter as the rocks flew in all directions. Its chief attraction now, bereft of all its appertnances, such as derricks and tanks, is that of its natural beauty in the autumn and spring of the year, basking lazily

in the sunshine after its long years of strenuous effort. It deserves a rest. The green grass and trees blended with the gray granite and the red decomposed rock, reflected as they are in the water kept fresh by some hidden spring, are worthy of mention.

Not far away, watching the traffic of a modern highway, stands a small stone building which served as a Quarry office in earlier days. The front of which bears, carved in the rock, a facsimile of the head of its original owner, presumably the handwork of one of the artisans of the trade. And we found out who did it. Lloyd Owen's grandfather ... he also had a Quarry in the earlier days, not far from Griffith's Quarry, a small one, and he is the one who did this fine carving.

The other is the Masonic Building in downtown Penryn, which now houses the Post Office, down stairs, upstairs the Masonic Lodge still meets there. They are going to have their one hundredth celebration either in '77 or '78. That building has two urns on the top of it, made out of black granite. The black granite Quarry is separate from the Quarry holes she has given to the park. She could not give the black granite Quarry because it is land-locked and she did not realize it was happening until it was too late. All the land around it was sold and she didn't even have a right of way in there.

Besides the two black urns we have a sample of the black granite down in Old Town Auburn by the fire house, on the back road, right in back of that great big evergreen tree. They just put a sidewalk in there so you can see that great big block of black granite from the black Quarry.

It's in Stewart's Flat, incidently, over on the edge of it,

STEWART'S FLAT - PENRYN

that there is a cemetery, and at the time Enid wrote this book, it was in excellent repair. The stones were wonderful, but since that time vandals have come in and ruined it. It's private property and I don't know who owns it.

The town of Penryn is small, but its history of its origin and its outreach is long. 'The Miner Tries Again' was when Stewart's Flat came back into its own in the 1930's. There wasn't any town there, there were a few houses scattered around in the fruit trees. But lured by an increase in the price of gold, the Alabama and the Chicago Mines of earlier days, as well as smaller ones started to operate once more.

A far reach from the State of Alabama and the City of Chicago to the aspiring village of Penryn, we are told that in the 1800's, over 1500 people inhabited the town of Stewart's Flat, and of those, 300 worked up and down the ravine, panning gold. One of the pioneers who had come across the plains and mountains somewhat earlier, had a service mill there and owned and operated the very

pleasantly named Elizabeth Mine. He is quoted as saying that the 2 points of importance held before these venturesome travelers journeying across the plains had been Sutter's Fort and Stewart's Flat. Surely they could not have missed their destination upon arrival, for upon the flat there loomed the usual accompaniment of the mining town; the store, the boarding house, the dance hall and the saloon. But the town had its day as did the search for gold in that area. In the course of time it faded out and we hear no more of it. Another product of the soil, granite, was to succeed gold. But Stewart's Flat, like the Citrus Colony and the Granite Quarry left its own monument behind it. This is in the form of a miniature cemetery. The half dozen or so headstones that remain tell a mute story.

When the mines had their second flair in the subsequent years of this century, the picture that met the eye was far different from that of the earlier period. No more panning, no typical mining town of the century, but the miner and his family simply part and parcel of the established community, living here and there if they could find houses for rent. Transportation was in the mode of the day, the jalopy, the more aristocratic, the car, the motorcycle. Moreover, the evidence of their activity was all but obscured by the blossoms and leaves that the fruit orchards threw down.

STEWART'S FLAT

Comment from the audience -

I would like to mention something. I've been holding this letter that you said was written to the Mother, and I really think that word is Mark, and it says here Auburn, and it looks very much like it might have been the editor of an Auburn newspaper. It's signed, Sincerely, and there is no other subject discussed.

Stewart's Flat cemetery is on a private road off of Rock Springs Road on the east side of the freeway.

end of talk

The following article is copied from the Auburn Journal of February 22, 1987, and was written by Don Sweeney, Journal Reporter.

MYSTERY OF PENRYN NAME SOLVED?

RELATIVE OF GRIFFITH FAMILY VISITS HISTORIC GRANITE QUARRY, OFFERS NEW THEORY.

"Concluded last night with Judge Crocker to call this quarry 'Penryn' " - Entry of May 18, 1865 in a diary by Griffith Griffith, founder of Penryn.

PENRYN - A long standing mystery concerning the naming of Penryn may have been solved by a visiting relative of the town's founder.

Eryl Maynard of Surrey, England, who Saturday visited an historic granite quarry also founded by her great-great-great-uncle, recently provided a clue that led to a possible explanation for the origin of the town's name.

In 1864, Welsh immigrant Griffith Griffith named both his historic granite quarry and the town that sprang up around it "Penryn," but no one knows where the name came from.

Several theories have been advanced to explain the name's origin. Some say Griffith named the town "Penrhyn" after a slate quarry he worked at in England, but an overzealous train conductor later dropped the "h" from the name in an attempt to simplify it.

Another theory claimed that Judge E.B. Crocker, who sold the quarry to Griffith, persuaded the Welshman to drop the "h," which would seem to fit with a diary entry made by Griffith at the time.

But Maynard proposed another answer after a prior visit to Penryn in August. When she returned home to England, she discovered a famous English granite quarry named Penryn.

It was likely Griffith had heard of the well-known quarry, since it provided granite for construction of the London Bridge in 1831.

Both Maynard and Shirley Patocka, a volunteer at a museum at the Griffith Quarry Park, now believe Griffith named his quarry after its renowned English counterpart.

Now we have the idea maybe he named it after that ... because he hoiped his company would be just as famous," said Patocka Saturday.

Maynard and her mother, Iola Maynard, visited Penryn Friday and Saturday on their way to see another relative in San Francisco. Both were pleased with their tour of the Griffith Quarry Park, part of the county's museum system.

"I think this is absolutely fantastic," said Iola Maynard.

The 25 acre park at the intersection of Taylor and Rock Springs Road includes two quarry holes excavated by the company, now filled with water.

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A small granite house holds a museum containing exhibits about the quarry.

In the 54 years it was active, the quarry provided granite for such landmarks as state capitol in Sacramento, Stanford University, Alcatraz Prison, Fort Point, the San Francisco Mint, and courthouses in Stockton and Alameda.

Griffith arrived in the United States in 1847 at the age of 24 and worked in quarries on the east coast for several years. The California Gold Rush prompted him to move west, and in 1853 he arrived in Coloma.

After a brief try at gold mining, Griffith went into quarrying. He operated a small quarry near present-day Folsom Lake, but was forced out of business when the only nearby railroad closed in 1864.

Later that year, he opened his Penryn Quarry. A year after that, he found it necessary to create a township of the small village of workers that had sprung up. The quarry employed between 50 and 200 men at various times.

Following Griffith's death in 1889, the quarry was purchased and operated by his nephew, David Griffith.

The quarry closed after his death in 1918 and has not been operated since.

The quarry site was left to Placer County in 1976 by David Griffith's daughter Enid. It was turned into a park in 1979, and the museum was opened in 1981.