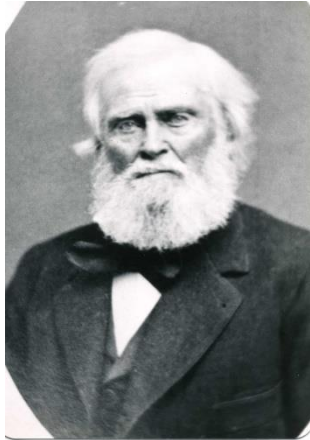


# Captain William Simms Moss

(1798 – March 25, 1883)



Captain William Simms Moss, son of Captain Zealy Moss and Jeannet Glasscock (daughter of Gregory Glasscock & Jemima Dulin).

William was born in 1798 in Virginia and raised on a wealthy Southern Plantation. William had worked various jobs on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers starting as a flat-boater, working his way up to Captain before buying a steamboat of his own. This allowed him to make enough money to purchase several boats that plied on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. Thus, William Moss, now became Capt. William Moss. This prosperity allowed Capt. Moss to branch out into the telegraph business, newspaper publishing, and railroad investments.

In 1856, Capt. Moss made his first trip to California and, being impressed with what he saw, decided to make California his home. When he traveled from San Francisco and reached the San Joaquin River, Capt. Moss crossed the river on the Doak and Bonsell Ferry. As California was booming with Gold Rush activity, Capt. Moss saw the river ferry as a good investment and convinced the owners to sell it to him. He changed the name to “Moss’ Ferry”.

After Capt. Moss’ venture on the river proved profitable, he returned to Illinois and began liquidating his holdings, including a large family plantation in his native Virginia. He sold much of what he owned in Illinois, but managed to bring several hundred cattle and horses with him to California. Upon his return, he purchased about 10,000 acres in San Joaquin County, along the San Joaquin River near Stockton and went into farming.

This large valley of land, immediately east of the San Joaquin River adjacent to the Moss’ Ferry river crossing, became known as Moss’ Dale. Today this property is known as Mossdale Landing in Lathrop, CA. Later, Capt. Moss purchased a home in San Leandro and began investing his money in other enterprises such as the establishment of the “Democratic Press”. Capt. Moss was also the founder of the San Francisco Examiner which he ultimately sold to Senator George Hearst, William Randolph Hearst’s father.

Capt. Moss was married twice, first to Mary Choate, who was the mother of three of Capt. Moss’ children: Mrs. Anna W. (Jack), Mrs. Henrietta W. (Griffith) and Louis Moss. His second marriage was to Caroline Buttrick, a native of Massachusetts. She bore Capt. Moss four children: Mrs. Mary (Percival), William S., Bradley, and Mrs. Caroline (McDougald).

After his wife, Caroline’s, passing at their San Leandro home, Capt. Moss took up residence on his ranch in San Joaquin County, and it was there that he passed away of natural causes on March 25, 1883 at the age of 85.