

## Salem WitchTrials connection to Capay Valley Nurse Family



MARCELLUS NURSE  
MARRIES MARY WOOD—  
DAUGHTER OF EARLIEST  
CAPAY VALLEY PIONEERS

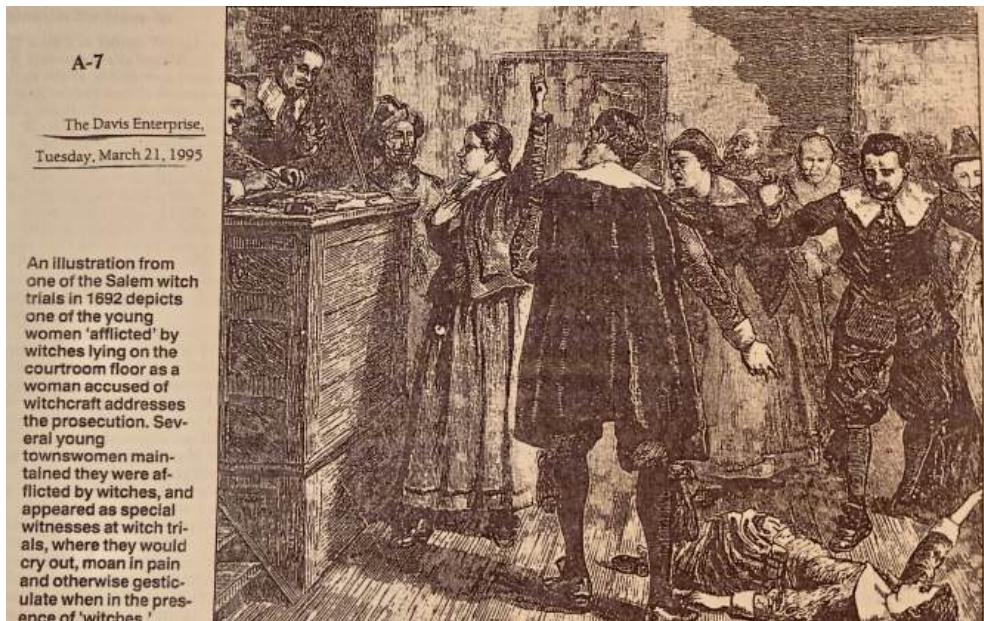


NURSE CONNECTION  
TO MONROE FAMILY  
JIM MONROE, JR.  
MARRIES LUCILLE NURSE



THE BEAUTIFUL  
“NURSE GIRLS”  
MARRY MONROE,  
GARRISON, TADLOCK,  
PARKER

# THE NURSE FAMILY OF CAPAY VALLEY



A-7

The Davis Enterprise,  
Tuesday, March 21, 1995

An illustration from one of the Salem witch trials in 1692 depicts one of the young women 'afflicted' by witches lying on the courtroom floor as a woman accused of witchcraft addresses the prosecution. Several young townswomen maintained they were afflicted by witches, and appeared as special witnesses at witch trials, where they would cry out, moan in pain and otherwise gesticulate when in the presence of 'witches.'

A Historical group in Davis researching the Nurse family connection to the Salem Witch Trials published in the *Davis Enterprise* in 1995—and included an interview with Norma Nurse Garrison about the local Nurse family tracing their roots back to *thee* Rebecca Nurse...

## Your've read or seen *The Crucible*, right?

And what, might you ask, does this have to do with our Capay Valley? Well, the very early Euro-pioneer arrivals to the Capay Valley in the 1850s have great stories to tell and none more fascinating than the fact that the Nurse family can trace their roots back to the first witch hanged in the historic 1692 Salem Witch Trials: Rebecca Towne Nurse. When American playwright Arthur Miller penned this play, he based it on real people: historical fiction. Rebecca was much as he depicts her: lovely, hardworking, generous, educated, prosperous—someone to admire...and envy. He was writing an allegory for the anti-communist hysteria of his own age, but this story has played itself out many times in history...even today. But I will skip ahead of the generations of Nurses who fled MA, and focus on what brought them to CA in 1849: gold! And fertile land, a creek and people.

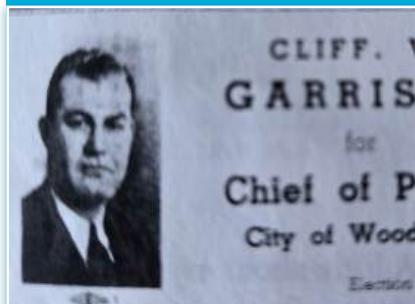
**Beginning with Uriah and Narcissus (Turner) Nurse, who arrived in California in 1849 with their Ohio-born children, some of the Nurse children would marry into other local pioneer families. My focus will be on those whose children would attend the valley schools and stay on to marry yet other local families: brothers Mack C. Nurse, and Marcellus Nurse—whose line is of the most interest to me. Why? Not because the others were not interesting, but my real focus is on how this Nurse line married into my own family lines—the Monroes—and many of the families I grew up calling cousins.**

Though I have not found a direct family connection with Mack Nurse, his kids do show up in the Cadenasso School photos and of interest is that fact that Mack married Jennie Clark, a cousin to the woman his brother Marcellus would marry. Still with me? As my mother Jean Polk often teased my father Tom Monroe, “There was a lot of cross-pollinating going on in this valley, Tom.” He was 4th generation Yolo County, while Mom arrived at 5 years old during The Great Depression and Dust Bowl—so, very different stories. Anyway, back to the Nurse family—and their connections with the very early arrivals: the Joel Wood and the Edmund Clark families. Joel Wood arrived in 1849 and by 1853 was married to Edmund and Mary Clark’s daughter Emarine; while their son Christopher Columbus Clark would marry Mary Myers and one of their daughters, Jennie, would marry Mack Nurse; while Joel and Emarine Wood would have 13 children—10 who would live to adulthood, and one of whom was Mary, who would marry Marcellus Nurse. So many duplicate names, I know—*TRUST ME!!* But to simplify: these 2 girl-cousins married Nurse brothers and they had many many children in the Capay Valley and many of those would remain and marry locally. *Whew!!* Mack and Jennie married in 1876 and had: Arthur in 1876, who would marry Eliza Bowles (another early local family); Maude in 1879; Wade in 1881; Mable; Hazel; Denning; Ethel; Archie. Some of their children appear in school photos in Ada Merhoff’s book *Capay Valley The Land & the People 1846-1900* on page 278-9, Langville School, 1891-2 [including my grandmother Grey Duncan; also seen on page 368 in this book]; while some of Marcellus’ kids appear on page 256 in Ada’s book: *Cadenasso School, 1894-5.*

## The 4 “Nurse Girls”



L to R: Lucille, Elinor, Norma, Audrey: Family Reunion in Esparto 1994

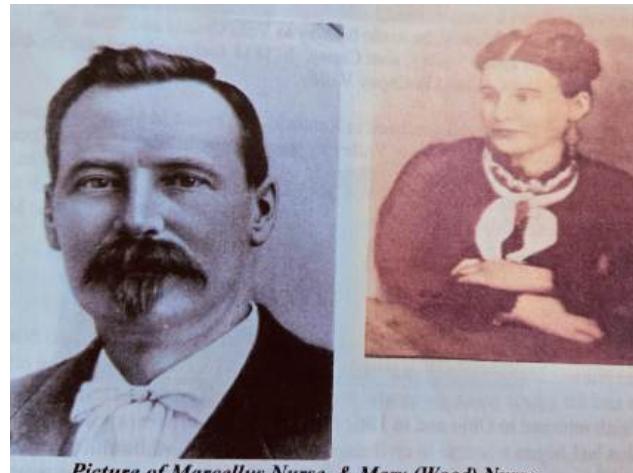


Center photo is Buck Parker's former Texaco Station once in Esparto.

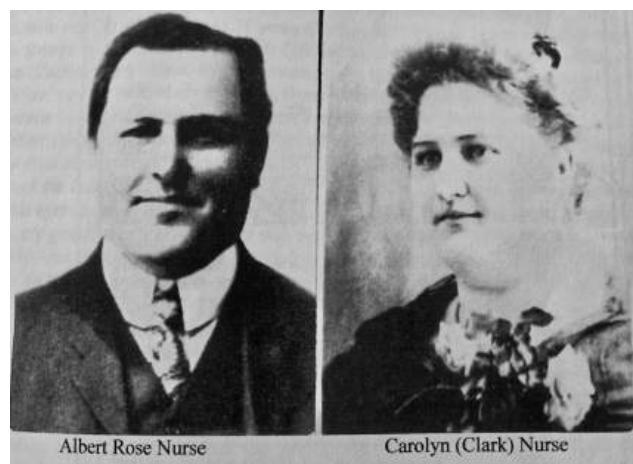
At bottom is a grainy business card for Clifford Garrison, elected Woodland City Chief of Police in 1938.

Which brings me to the real focus of the Nurse family for me: Albert Rose Nurse—who went by Rose—did not appear in the mentioned school photo because he was the eldest and already working. He married at 21 a young neighbor: Minnie Duncan—a distant cousin of mine through my Duncan line. But their 2 children died early and she died in 1902. His father Marcellus became a well-respected California State Surveyor and moved the family to Sacramento, on 12th and K Streets, where the heart-broken Rose worked for his father. Eventually, Rose met and married again at 31: 30 year old Carolyn “Carrie” Clark [a different Clark family; this one from College City]. They would also have 7 children: 3 boys and 4 girls, just as Marcellus and Mary had [though the 1880 census in Capay Valley shows another son named Guy F at 4, who never shows up again...died young?] Surviving were: Albert Rose, [Guy F], Jay C., Clare, Mollie, Stella, Ray, Edith. In the beginning, Albert Rose and Carrie Nurse and have their first 4 of 7 children there: Elwood, Ashley, Lucille & Elinor; and then move back to the 160 acre Wood family farm in the Cadenasso area that was left to Mary Wood Nurse—and where Rose had been born—and have three more: Forrest, Norma, and Audrey. In 1930, Yolo County Supervisors made Albert Rose Nurse a Justice of the Peace for Capay Township, a position he still held in July of 1938 when he tragically was burned to death in the same house where he was born.

Where my real focus lies is his daughters: the 4 beautiful *Nurse Girls* stayed in Capay Valley and married local boys—one of them, my Uncle Jim Monroe, who was then ranch manager of the historic Duncan Ranch, which eventually everyone called *the Monroe Ranch*. In the early 1850s Wyatt Godfrey Duncan and his brother Bill came for the gold but began to buy parcels in the Capay Valley and eventually had amassed several thousand acres and were joined by



Picture of Marcellus Nurse &amp; Mary (Wood) Nurse



Albert Rose Nurse

Carolyn (Clark) Nurse

Photos taken from the Memoir of Gloria Nurse Garrison: *The Nurses, a Pioneer Family of Capay Valley*. Also borrowed from her memoir are poetry and art on page 7-8

other siblings from Missouri, including Ben Franklin Duncan, who settled just west of the town of Capay—filling the Capay Valley with Duncan *cousins*! But back to my point: after Wyatt Duncan married Mary Elizabeth Franklin from Woodland in 1879, they had a daughter, Elvira Grey and a son Wyatt Godfrey, Jr. Grey would marry James William Monroe in 1902 and he would go on to be sheriff of Yolo County for 28 years. When his father-in-law died in 1915, Sheriff Sunny Jim bought land from his mother-in-law so she would have an income and he would have land; thus the beginning of the *Monroe Ranch*.

**Sheriff Monroe designated his second son, James Wm. Monroe, Jr., as ranch manager, and young Jim took as his bride the lovely Lucille Nurse. They would move into the Duncan home on County Road 85, care for the ranch and *Mother Dunc*, and raise their own 3 children there: Nancy Adair in 1933; Martha Carolyn in 1935; and James Wm. Monroe, III—*Jimmy*—in 1937, all seen below right with Lucille; Below left is Lucille being celebrated on her birthday—in the 1980's?.**



Lucille (Nurse) Monroe and James (Jim) W. Monroe, Jr.



**Below: Elinor married another pioneer-descendant, Everett *Buck* Parker in 1933. They lived in the iconic house seen below, still at the Esparto entrance off Highway 16, and had 4 children: *Ron Everett*, 1934; *Donald Ross*, 1935; and twins *David* and *Diane Rose*, 1938. [Tragically, David would die of meningitis at 6 months old.]**



Elinor



Everett (Buck)



The Parker House in Esparto

**See page 12 for Buck Parker's Texaco Station**



Norma and Cliff Garrison



**Above:** Norma would marry Clifford William Garrison, a former Red Sox baseball player, eventual sheriff deputy under Sheriff James Monroe, and then Police Chief of City of Woodland, and they would live in Esparto and have 3 children: Gloria Lynn in 1941; and Clifford "Cliffie" William, Jr., in 1945; and Douglas Nurse Garrison in 1948. In later years, Norma served as town librarian in the old Esparto Train Depot & Cliff farmed/ranched in cattle, grain, & nut businesses.

**Above right;** L to R, back row: Ronnie Parker; Everett "Buck" Parker; Cliff Garrison, Elwood Nurse; Jim Tadlock; Jim Monroe; Ashley Nurse; middle: Lucille Nurse; Meta Nurse; Grace Nurse, leaning in; Ross Parker; Elinor Parker; Norma Garrison; Audrey Tadlock; Martha Monroe; Jimmy Monroe; Lucille Monroe; Nancy Monroe; front: Larry Nurse on *Forrie* Nurse's lap; Jean Nurse; Carole Nurse; Diane Parker; Gloria Garrison; *Bobby* Tadlock; *Jamie* Tadlock; sitting in front: *Cliffie* Garrison; *Donnie* Tadlock.



Jim and Audrey Tadlock

**Left:** Audrey would marry Jim Tadlock, live in Esparto and have 4 sons: Robert "Bob" Bruce in 1940; James "Jamie" Elbert in 1942, who would marry local Capay Valley native Anne Read; Donald "Donnie" Craig in 1945; and Michael Wayne in 1952. Below, Jim with their 4 sons at their Citrona Grain Warehouse and Silo.



**From Lisa Tadlock I got this observation about her grandfather Jim Tadlock: *he was a visionary. He took entrepreneurial chances to improve Esparto and the area. He was instrumental in creating the 50+ Mobile Home Park, the housing on Redwing and Robin Streets, not far from the new grocery store he built, owned, and then rented to Jack Huie; and he invested in grain and owned the grain warehouse & silo in Citrona—with the only truck scales in Western Yolo at the time—still a local icon today. He also built a lovely home for his parents near the silo on Tadlock farm land seen today in the photo below; it was later sold to Gene Rominger; and is for sale today for over \$1M.***



Left: photo taken from *For Sale* poster of home built by Jim Tadlock. Right: the iconic Citrona Grain Silo seen in January 2026 near this home between Madison and Winters on CR 89.

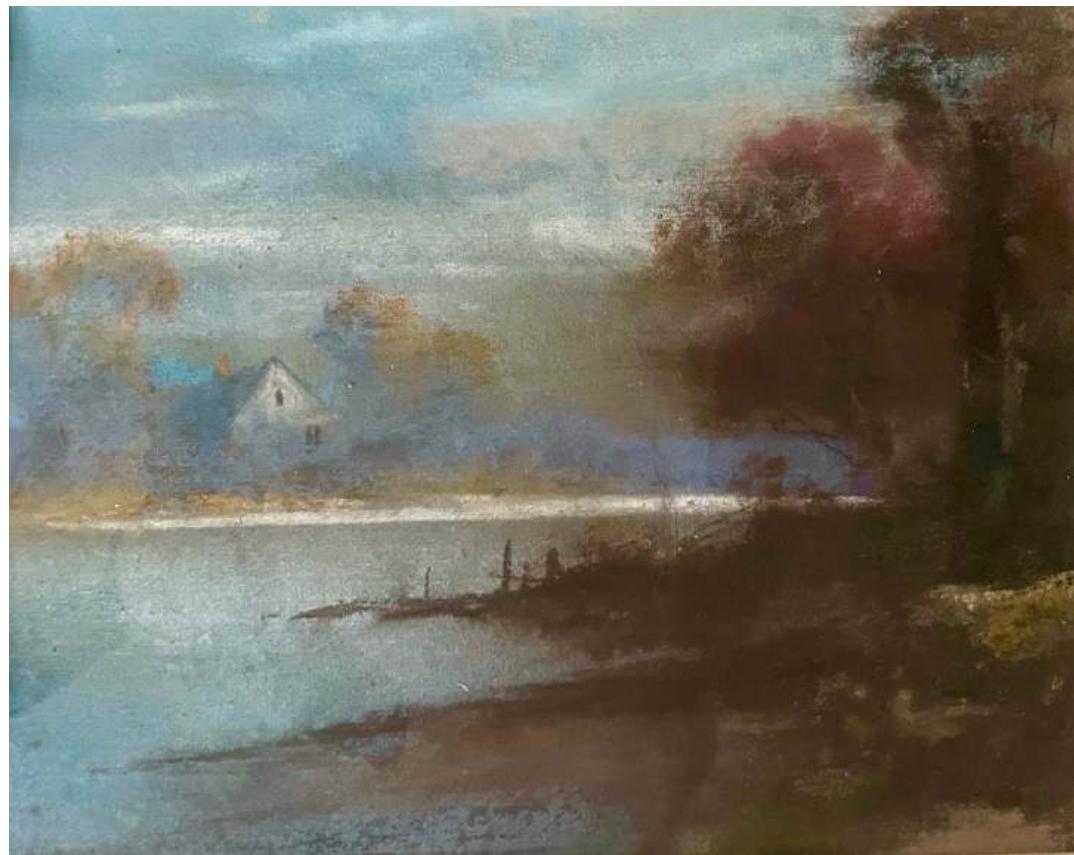


From Left to right of a *Cousin Gathering* at a mid-70s Christmas:  
**Cliff & Karen Garrison; Ross & Gloria Parker; Doug & Vickie Garrison; Alysia & Bob Tadlock; Nancy (Monroe) & Jim Grasty; Donnie & Debbie Tadlock; Diane (Parker) & Howard Roberts; John Robertson, whose wife Gloria must have been the photographer!!**  
**Seated: Jamie & Anne (Read) Tadlock.**



When Albert Rose met and married Carolyn “*Carrie*” Clark from College City, she was already an accomplished artist. In addition to painting, she was a member of a Capay Valley group called *Poet’s Corner*. Two of her works of art can be seen on this page and another on the following page with a poem by Marcellus—that pretty much summing up how they *all* felt about this special place. And I mentioned they had 7 children, though I have only focused on the 4 sisters who stayed in the Capay Valley. But it is obvious from Gloria’s memoir that they were still very much a part of the close-knit *Nurse Family of Capay Valley*. Elwood Clark Nurse would marry Grace Badenock in 1941 and move to Anchorage, Alaska and have two daughters: Carol Anne in 1945; an Mareella Jean in 1946—all of whom tried to visit at least annually. Ashley Kingdon married Meta Louise Adams in 1933, lived in Woodland and had no children—though they became like grandparents to nephew Ross Parker’s children when they moved nearby. And then there was Forrest Clare—whom every one called *Forrie* and seemed to adore him as the *fun* uncle, very much a *people person*. After *Forrie*’s stint in the Army during WWII, he married Lucille Turner and they would have 3 children: Larry in 1947; Richard in 1948; and Sandra in 1949, and they would live in Sacramento—though visit

Capay Valley often. Sadly, *Forrie* died young of cancer in 1964, a devastation to everyone. Gloria notes that since *Forrie* had the only *Nurse* boys and those sons had girls, the next generation would not see any more carrying on the *Nurse* name from this line.





Above: another painting by *Grandma Carrie*; Below: a poem by Marcellus Nurse, pre-1915

### ***The Valley of Capay***

Come with me where nature fair  
Shows a mother's fondest care.  
Filling homes with joy and cheer;  
Where the lights and shadow play  
O'er the Valley of Capay.

Orchards dotting hills and plains  
Purple vineyards, waving grain;  
Breezes laden with perfumes  
Of the fragrant orange blooms  
Greet us while our footsteps stray  
Through the Valley of Capay.

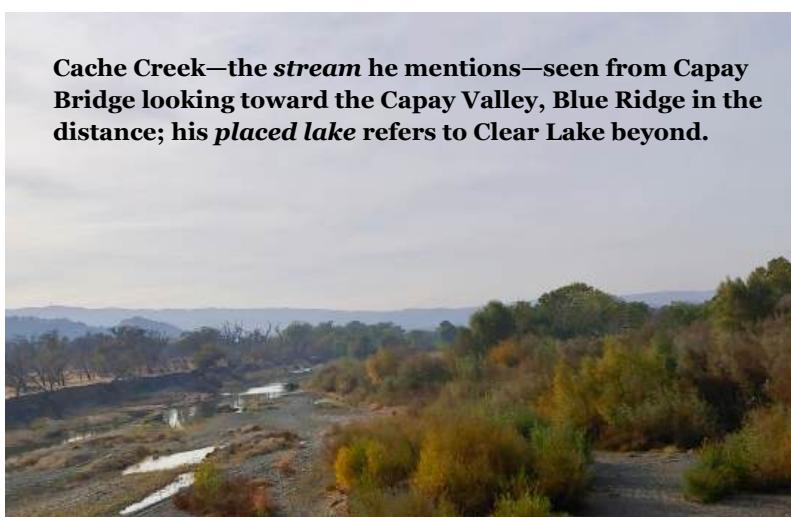
Music filling all the air

Songs of birds with plumage rare;  
Charming scenes that greet the view,  
Mountains changeful in their hue;  
These beguile the passing day  
In the Valley of Capay.

Here the sunbeams softly gleam,  
On the bosoms of the stream  
That its winding way doth take  
From a calm and placed lake;  
Brooklets flow and fountains play  
In the Valley of Capay.

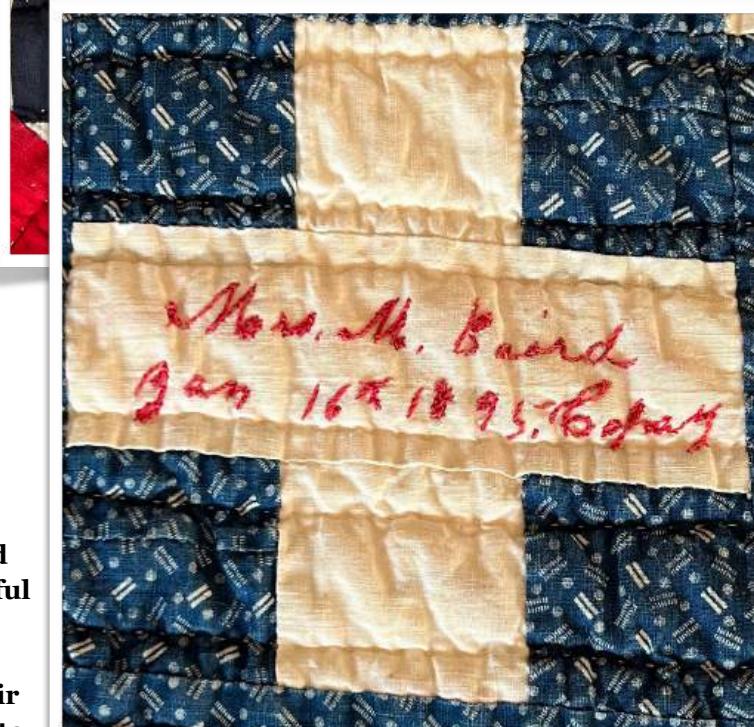
Here I fain would spend my days  
Here I'd sing my sweetest lays  
Here would end my latest quest  
With the friend that I love best  
Never 'mid the years to stray  
From the Valley of Capay.

Cache Creek—the *stream* he mentions—seen from Capay Bridge looking toward the Capay Valley, Blue Ridge in the distance; his *placed lake* refers to Clear Lake beyond.



**Speaking of Art in Capay Valley:** years ago, my *first cousin once removed*, my first cousin Nancy Monroe's daughter Martha, let me know she had the tapestry that hung in the stairwell of the 1879 Duncan home where her mom was raised. It was painted by my great grandmother [for whom I am named Elizabeth], generally referred to as *Mother Dunc*: Mary Elizabeth Franklin Duncan, wife of the builder of that home, Wyatt Godfrey Duncan, whom she married in 1879. During this Nurse family research, Martha located it and sent me the photo below! It was common practice in the late 1800s for women to study classic art and painting, and I, too, have several paintings from Monroe-related ancestors of that period. And then my first cousin Martha's daughter Nancy shared with me a quilt she has that seems to be from a Quilting Bee that included *Mother Dunc* and many of her friends of the town of Capay. Nancy then took a deep dive and came up with as many embroidered names as she could recognize, and then did her best to confirm them using old school photos and the 1986 book written by Ada Merhoff [aided by many of the locals Nurse sisters like our own Lucille Nurse Monroe]: *Capay Valley The Land & The People 1846-1900*. This invaluable *bible* of Capay Valley families and history can be found at the Yolo County Archives\* and the Esparto Library, as can all editions of *this* book, *The History and Stories of the Capay Valley*. Gloria Garrison Dewey's memoir can also be found at the \*Shipley Walters Center for Yolo County Archives and Library Services.

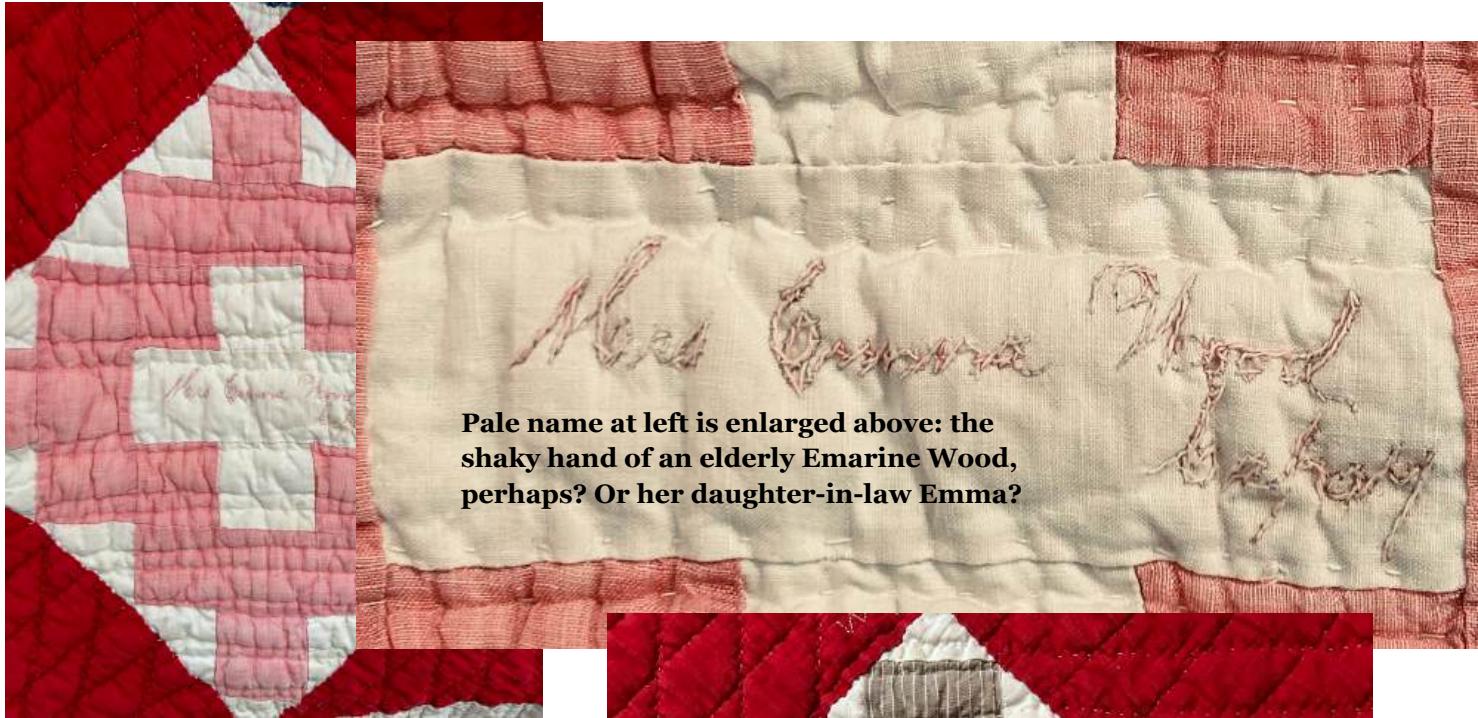




Another time-honored pioneer art form: the patchwork quilt. Above is the one Martha's daughter Nancy has from a Quilting Bee her great great grandmother *Mother Dunc* perhaps hosted at her ranch house; and at top is *Mrs. W. G. Duncan*'s own signature; and below it *Mrs. M. Baird* included the useful date of *Jan. 16th 1895 Capay*. This quilt has at least 2 dozen other names—all familiar Capay area names. Many of their children are in the Langville School photo of that year; and many of those appear in the recipe book on page 11—as do the 4 *Nurse Girls* with their married names.



So many delights came from my reaching out to a few “Nurse cousins” that I can’t list them all; but it began with Gloria Garrison Dewey’s memoir, gifted to me from my 1st cousin Martha Monroe’s daughter Nancy—who then became the *BEST* sleuth and ring-leader, rounding up many others to come up with photos and stories! She got me back in contact with my 1st cousin Nancy Monroe’s Martha—yes, they named daughters after each other! But many others who responded were really *their* cousins, not mine, and many I had never met before—or at least not in decades! Doing this decades-long research and then the first edition of the 2015 book has been one of the great blessings of my life—thank you all for helping me do justice to the Nurse Family of Capay Valley in this 3rd Edition! In photo at left are my first cousins Nancy and Martha framing my sweet Aunt Lucille—or *Grandma Lucy* as her grandkids call her.

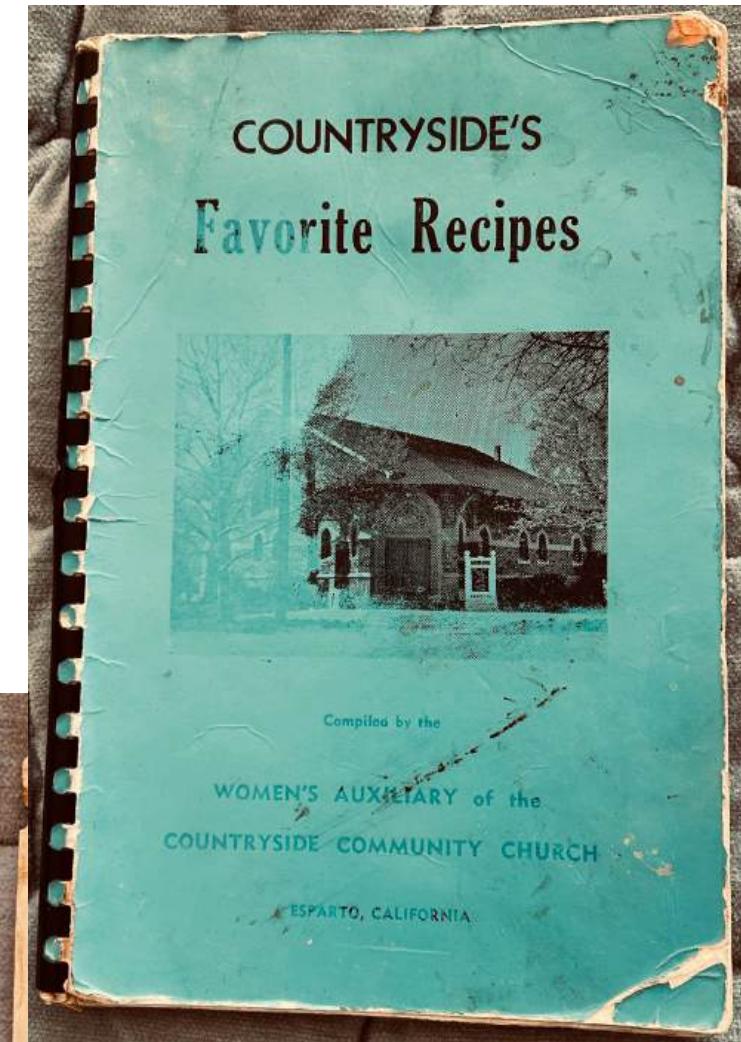


Pale name at left is enlarged above: the shaky hand of an elderly Emarine Wood, perhaps? Or her daughter-in-law Emma?

OK, for fun, Nancy and I tried to decipher a few of the quilt names to see what mysteries could be solved—and what new entanglements we could uncover! Above, the hard-to-decipher first name on the left square, could it be Emarine? Or maybe her daughter-in-law Emma, married to son John? If so, this is the mother or sister-in-law of Mary Wood, who would marry Marcellus Nurse and have a son named Albert Rose. On the right is clearly Mrs. HA Mefford—Mary Mefford was best friends with Mary Duncan, wife of Wyatt Godfrey Duncan, in whose 1879 home the quilting bee might have taken place—and where Lucille Nurse would marry and live most of her adult life with Jim Monroe, grandson of Mary and Wyatt Duncan. Further of note, Mary and Henry Mefford's son Clarence would marry Marion Martin in 1920 after his stint in WWI. They would move to Capay and



Marion would teach at Capay School for many years, and then in Esparto. The family had built a house on Mefford Lane in Capay in the 1870s where it still stands on Mefford Lane today. [See pages 428-430 in *The History and Stories of the Capay Valley*.]



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Art Work By

Eric Girard

**Of course, Cooking is the most important art form of all!** Many families' prized recipes were passed down through next generations—and often times bound up in a local book like this one by the *Women's Auxiliary of the Countryside Community Church* of Esparto. So many familiar names appear here—including the 4 *Nurse Girls*. But it also helped us determine some of the difficult to read embroidered names on that quilt!! **AND** many of them have been written about in the book *The History and Stories of the Capay Valley*.

## MEMBERS

Ethel Adan	Charlotte Mast
Elizabeth Baur	Edith Mast
Inez Bender	Elizabeth Mast
Marion Blakeway	Mary Grace Mast
Genevieve Brownell	Ruth Mast
Bernice Cadenasso	Thalia Mast
Cloyd Cadenasso	Laura Miller
Carolyn Cartwright	Lucille Monroe
Faye Cristler	Laura Murray
Mary Davis	Aida Naismith
Ethel Durst	Neil Neilson
Viola Durst	Emma Nichols
Bessie Emmerton	Grace Nissen
Freida Everhart	Birdie Nissen
Nancy Forbes	Elsie Nissen
Clelia Fowler	Maude Oakes
Barbara Fredericks	Elinor Parker
Frances Gable	Lucille Peterson
Norma Garrison	Mora Poissant
Lulu Goodnow	Bessie Rogers
Katherlyn Gordon	Helene Rominger
Thelma Grant	Rose Roth
Harriet Gray	Rose Russell
Grace Grothe	Kristine Simon
Veda Han	Angela Small
Helen Harris	Dolores Stephens
Janet Hayes	Alice Stephens
Naomi Hayes	Anne Louise Stephens
Florence Hayes	Louise Stephens
Eva Mae Herbst	Mable Stephens
Helen Hess	Gladys Storz
Margaret Hinkle	Ruby Storz
Eva Holmes	Jean Squire
Ruth Holmer	Lucile Storm
Louise Hulsman	Anne Taber
Eva Ingram	Betty Jean Taber
Viola James	Esther Taber
Katie Jones	Audrey Tadlock
Jeannette Judy	Sadie Tadlock
Carrie Keithly	Violette Tadlock
Virginia King	Mildred Tandy
Elizabeth Knox	Stella Thompson
Nellie Lindberg	Betty Vieira
Louise Linser	Delcie Vierra
Vera Lively	Mary Walters
Alice Marsh	Edith Wanshop
Ellen Tandy	Eugenia Woods
	Ruth Wyatt
	Edna Zentner

-A- Esparto, Calif.



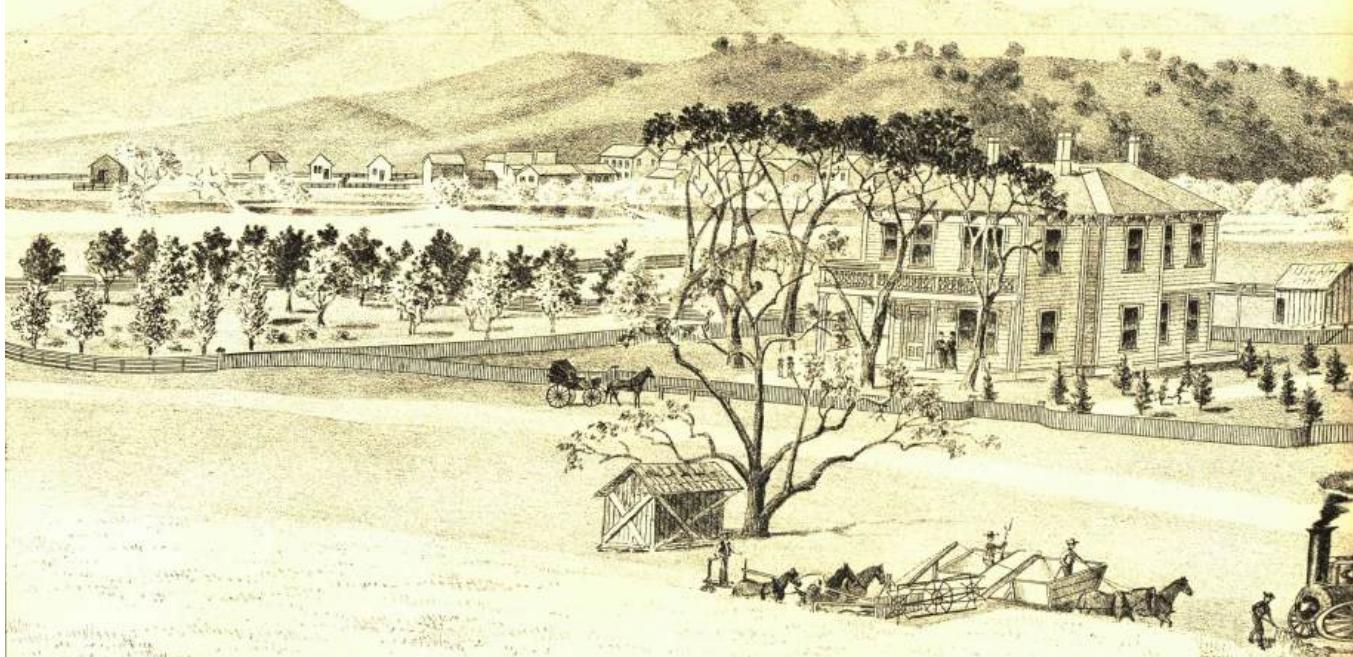
### **Many of you will recall *Buck Parker's Texaco Station*, above**

—more recently *Hog Canyon Deli*. Dudley Craig had this photo to share and then Diane Parker's daughter Lori Paschke shared this information about it: “The service station was on the corner of Woodland Ave and Main Street. It faced Wyatt's store...it was built after the old hotel burned down, because it was built on the front of the Esparto Hotel property. In the picture of the service station my mom, Diane Parker, is standing (hidden in shadow) in the doorway and Jane Phillips (now Cody) is seen in the white top. Jane was Mom's best friend always; Jane's mom, Virginia (Nissen) Phillips and Elinor (Nurse) Parker were always very close. Most of the original Service Station is still standing, completely remodeled; it was 'Hog Canyon Deli' last I knew.

**Phillip and Virginia (Nissen) Phillips lived on CR 22 up past the Capay Cemetery almost to where roads 22 & 23 meet. A big house up on the hill. Jane and her husband Sam Cody have remodeled the home and live there now. Jane would be an excellent source of information. She is amazing.”**

**Nissen: another name that shows up often—even in the cookbook on page 11!**

**There was a picket fence around the original Duncan home (on what is today CR 85), which can be seen in this etching taken from the *Yolo County Atlas of 1879* [De Pue & Co. Publications].** Why does this matter? Well, one of the interesting photographs shared with me during this research is of an unknown man on a black horse with white blaze in front of the house—with a white picket fence! It had no notes on the back, so my best guess is this tall, thin man on a black horse might have been young Doctor Thornton Craig. *He* got around on just such a horse named *Bald Hornet*—when he was not getting around in a small black buggy like the one in the etching. *And* he delivered many a baby at the Duncan home. In 1883 he delivered Elvira Grey Duncan, and later her first 4 children, including James William Monroe, II—who would marry Lucille Nurse. I like the idea, so unless you know otherwise, I am going with this...though it could be Bill Moore, who was quite a horseman, drove stage for the *other* Duncan brothers of Capay, and married Lizzie Duncan, W.H. Duncan's eldest daughter, who grew up in this 1879 house. *Check out the photo at the bottom:*



**Doc Craig on *Bald Hornet*? See page 271 in Ada Merhoff's book, *Capay Valley the Land & the People 1900-1846* for that story.**



1935 at Carrie and Rose Nurse home before it burned  
 L to Rt back row: Elinor, Audrey, Meta with Ross, Jim Monroe (behind), Lucille, Jim Tadlock, Norma, Everett, Elwood behind Ida (Forrie's 1st wife), Forrie.  
 L to Rt front row: Ashley with Ronnie, Carrie with Nancy Monroe, Rose.



My Cousin Nancy Monroe's daughter Martha shared these gems: at left from L to R she guesses we see her grandmother Lucille; then maybe Ashley back in shadow; Audrey with Mom Caroline; Norma; Elinor; Forrest—and is that Elwood in the car in shadow?



She also shared the one at right: that seems to be the same car, this time with Grandma Carrie at right with perhaps her sister-in-law —either with their own hunting prize or is it staged to look that way?

**George Coburn**—everyone I talked to had a memory of this delightful *grandfatherly* bachelor who lived out his adult life on the Duncan-Monroe Ranch. Below, he is seen with Tommy Monroe in about 1951 the way most of us remember him. Below that we see him in a portrait as a young man who came to Capay and worked on *The Ranch* from at least 1900, according to the 1900 Census. The second portrait is of his sister Lucy, who lived in Capay with their mother Mary.



These portraits were handed down within the Monroe family and still adorn the wall in a place of honor seen here.

In addition to the tie-in to the Duncan-Monroe Ranch, it turns out **Mack Nurse**'s widow Jennie sold their house in Capay to Mary Coburn in 1901 after Mack died. Lucy attended Langville School with Elvira Grey Duncan, 2 years Lucy's junior, and she would go on to be the Capay Postmaster until her untimely death in 1921.



See more of their story on pages 554-559 in *The History and Stories of the Capay Valley* by Elizabeth "Betsy" Monroe. And be sure to read the delightful poem written by Tommy Monroe in 2006 titled *Georgie* on page 18 of that book.

**I thank you, my Nurse cousins, for this amazing journey. Through this whole process I have been privileged to sit and visit, and am often reminded of a quote by Mark Twain: "We sat and talked. We steeped our thirsty souls in the reviving wine of the past...the beautiful past...uttered the names that had been silent upon our lips...and it was as if they were made of music; with revered hands we unburied our dead, the mates of our youth, and caressed them with our speech; we searched the dusty chambers of our memories and dragged forth incident after incident...and laughed such good laughs over them..." Yes, I have been thusly blessed...**

#### *Betsy*



Speaking of so many fond memories, **Carrie Clark Nurse** was lovingly mentioned throughout. At left she sits as she so often did in her later years at her daughter Audrey's table, holding court as all her daughters and their families came daily to help care for and visit and cherish her as she lived out her life at Audrey's home in Esparto.