A.P. SWANTON,
PIioneer,
DEAD

Thursday evening Albion Paris Swanton, the father of F. W. Swanton, passed away at his home on Mission St., at the ripe old age of 84 years.

Santa Cruz loses an old pioneer highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, a man who has been an active force in the upbuilding of this city many way; a man who, even in his declining days, when feebleness was overtaking him, moved among the people and was deeply interested in all that was being done for the making of Santa Cruz.

The deceased was a devout father, a good husband, and he took great pleasure in the many enterprises which his son had promoted. He was a conspicuous figure at the beach and enjoyed the many things in the way of entertainment. In F. W. Swanton he had a dutiful and loving son who honored and revered [sic; i.e., revered?] his father, doing all he could to make his declining days those of happiness.

A. P. Swanton was born in Gardiner, Maine, July 14, 1826. His father was a carpenter and gave his son the benefit of a district school education. When fifteen years old A. P. Swanton went into a butcher shop in Bangor, Main, and followed that business for several years. He was married, in 1848, to Miss Emily J. Parshley, the daughter of a prominent manufacturer of Sangerville. After his marriage he went to New York and engaged in the ship chandlery business. He was burned out in 1857, and lost considerable property. He came to California in 1864, via the Isthmus, locating at Pescadero, in San Mateo Co. His family came out two years later, and in 1868 he moved to Santa Cruz, where he has since resided.

He and his son, Fred W., built the Swanton House, which was destroyed by fire. For a time he owned the Bonner Livery Stables. He was a stockholder and the treasurer of the Santa Cruz Electric Light and Power Co., and in many other ways showed a commendable interest in Santa Cruz, and a desire to succeed accelerating and enhancing the prosperity of the community. He owns a handsome residence on Mission St., opposite the Pope House.

Three children have been born unto them, two daughters and a son. One daughter died at the age of three and a half years, and one married Alonzo B. Abbott, of Salinas, and died shortly afterwards. Fred W., the surviving son, is one of Santa Cruz' most energetic business men and promoters.

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1874
Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1874 Jan 24 3:1 “Santa Cruzans Abroad”

Swanton, C. W.
brother to A. P. Swanton of this city, and who for years swung the blacksmith’s hammer at Soquel, is a prosperous hotel keeper at Pescadero.

1902

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[Index to this biography created by Stanley D. Stevens]

Subjects:  
Fred W. Swanton.
Abbott, Etta E. Swanton 623 dau. of Emily J. Parshley & Albion Paris Swanton; wf. of Alonzo Boynton Abbott
Big Creek Power Co. 742 established by Fred Wilder Swanton, 1896, secretary & mgr.;
Billings, Frank Willard 742 with John Q. Packard, purchased Big Creek Power Co., 1900
Bonner Stables (Santa Cruz)623-624, 741-742 operated by Albion Paris Swanton
        Charles Edward Lilly, treas.; Archibald Allen Morey, director
Clark, Hulbert Henry (Henry H.) 675-676, 742 physician w/Dr. Fagen; Mayor of Santa Cruz; promoted 1st electric light plant with Fred Wilder Swanton & street car line; Civil War surgeon; President of Santa Cruz Electric Light & Power Co.
Hall, Emma Stanley P. 742 dau. of Richard Hall; wf. of Fred Wilder Swanton
Hall, Richard 742 father of Emma Stanley P. Hall, wf. of Fred Wilder Swanton
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        San Lorenzo Stables conducted with Albion Paris Swanton
Opera House (Santa Cruz) 742 Fred Wilder Swanton was mgr.
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Parshley, Emily J. 623 wf. of Albion Paris Swanton
San Lorenzo Stables (Santa Cruz)512, 623 W. H. Bias bought C. H. Lincoln’s San Lor. stables; 
        conducted by Albion Paris Swanton & “C. H. Martin” [sic, i.e.: Charles Henry Lincoln]
Santa Clara Valley Mill & Lumber Co.742 Fred Wilder Swanton worked for it in Felton
Santa Cruz Electric Light & Power Co. was established by Albion Paris Swanton, president; Fred Wilder Swanton, secretary & genl. mgr.; Dr. Hulbert Henry Clark, vice-president; and John F. Appleby (Appellby) & Charles Edward Lilly were directors.

Santa Cruz Oil Co. was established by Fred Wilder Swanton, ca. 1900; operates in Bakersfield oil fields; Henry Willey, pres.; J. J. C. Leonard, vice-pres.

Swanton (American vessel) was shipped for New Orleans in 1843

Swanton House was built & conducted hotel until it burned in June, 1888

Swanton House was conducted by Albion Paris Swanton & Fred Wilder Swanton

Swanton, Albion Paris was father of Fred W. Swanton; San Lorenzo Stables w/ C.H. Martin [sic, i.e.: Charles Henry Lincoln]; Bonner Stables; Swanton House w/Fred Wilder Swanton

Swanton, Emily J. Parshley was wf. of Albion Paris Swanton

Swanton, Emma Stanley P. Hall was dau of Richard Hall; wf. of Fred Wilder Swanton

Swanton, Emma Stanley P. Hall was dau. of Richard Hall; wf. of Fred Wilder Swanton

Swanton, Etta E. was dau. of Emily J. Parshley & Albion Paris Swanton

Swanton, Fred Wilder was son of Albion Paris Swanton; Mrs. Swanton was Emma Stanley P. Hall; dau of Richard Hall; est. Palace Pharmacy; Santa Cruz Electric Light & Power Co. w/Dr. Hulbert Henry Clark; est. Santa Cruz Oil Co.

Swanton, Pearl Hall was dau. of Emma Stanley P. Hall & Fred Wilder

FRED W. SWANTON.

In the development of plans looking toward the direct progress of Santa Cruz and its position as a city boasting all modern improvements, no citizen has displayed greater activity than Mr. Swanton. With many projects for the benefit of the place his name is indissolubly [sic] associated. At a crisis where a more timid financier would hesitate, his enthusiasm carries him into the heart of the movement and his shrewd judgment brings it to a favorable issue. While almost his entire life has been passed in California, he is not a native of this state, but was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 11, 1862, and at four years of age came to the far west with his mother, joining his father, Albion Paris Swanton. During 1867 the family settled in Santa Cruz, and here his primary education was obtained. Later he was a student in Heald’s Business College, from which he was graduated in 1881. After a year as an employe [sic] of the Maderia [sic] Flume and Trading Company of Fresno, he went to Felton and for a year was with the Santa Clara Valley Mill and Lumber Company.

During a trip east which Mr. Swanton made about this time, he obtained the state right for a telephone patent, which he very successfully introduced along the entire length of the state. On disposing of his interest in 1883, he became associated with his father in the building of a three-story structure, known as the Swanton house, and this they conducted together until it was burned down in June, 1888. At the same time he acted as manager of the Santa Cruz opera house. The partnership was dissolved in 1888, his father continuing to take charge of the Bonner stables, while he established the Palace pharmacy. Fifteen months later he sold out, and immediately agitated the project for lighting Santa Cruz with incandescent electricity. Associated with Dr. H. H. Clark, in October, 1889, he put in a three hundred light machine,
thereby within one week causing the price of gas to drop from $3.50 to $2.50 per thousand feet. Naturally people were quick to see the advantage of such an innovation, and the demand for such lights was so great that it was necessary to add a machine of six hundred and fifty lights. Within two years they were supplying five thousand incandescent lights. The success of the enterprise rendered necessary its re-organization, and the Santa Cruz Electric Light Company was established, with the following officers: H. H. Clark, president; A. P. Swanton, vice-president; F. W. Swanton, secretary and manager, as well as the largest stockholder; J. F. Appellby [Appleby] and C. E. Lilly, directors. In the fall of 1895 the plant was sold to James McNeil, the present owner.

With the energy which has always been a noticeable trait of his character, F. W. Swanton was no sooner disconnected with the electric light company than he began the organization of other public-spirited projects. In 1896 he organized the Big Creek Power Company, which has furnished power to the city and for manufacturing purposes. Its officers were Henry Willey, president; William Rennie, vice-president; Fred W. Swanton, secretary and manager; C. E. Lilly, treasurer; and A. A. Morey, director. Eighteen miles of transmission line were built by the company along the mountains, the entire work being finished in sixty days from the time it was started. For two years Mr. Swanton continued as secretary and manager of this company, meantime placing it upon a substantial basis. In 1900 he sold his interest to J. Q. Packard and F. W. Billings.

It is noteworthy, as showing Mr. Swanton’s progressive spirit, that the incandescent lights introduced into Santa Cruz in 1889 under his direction were the very first in the entire state; also that this was the first long-distance electric power plant in California. Its capacity of twenty-five hundred lights has since been developed to ten thousand lights. The plant now furnishes light for Watsonville and Capitola, as well as Santa Cruz. The disposition of his interests in the power plant gave Mr. Swanton an opportunity to gratify his ambition to visit the Alaskan gold fields, and in 1900 he made a prospecting tour to Nome. After his return he organized the Santa Cruz Oil Company, which operates in the Bakersfield oil fields, and has Henry Willey as president and J. J. C. Leonard as vice-president. During 1901 he began the organization of a new electric street car company to run from Santa Cruz to Watsonville via Capitola.

On Christmas day of 1884 Mr. Swanton married Miss Stanley Hall, daughter of Richard Hall, of Santa Cruz. They have one child, Pearl Hall Swanton. The family own and occupy a residence, modern in every respect, surrounded by beautiful trees and drives, and overlooking the city, ocean and mountains. Fraternally Mr. Swanton is connected with the Elks, Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen and Knights of Pythias. The industries with which he has been connected have accomplished much for the benefit of Santa Cruz, and their successful consummation may be regarded as an indication of his ability as an organizer and leader.

1911
Source: IOOF Cemetery Records [examined 3-16-2000 with Barbara Clark]

Swanton, Albion Paris Kingston
d. @ 84, about 15 Sep 1911, born 1826 in Maine. IOOF Block A, Lot 10.