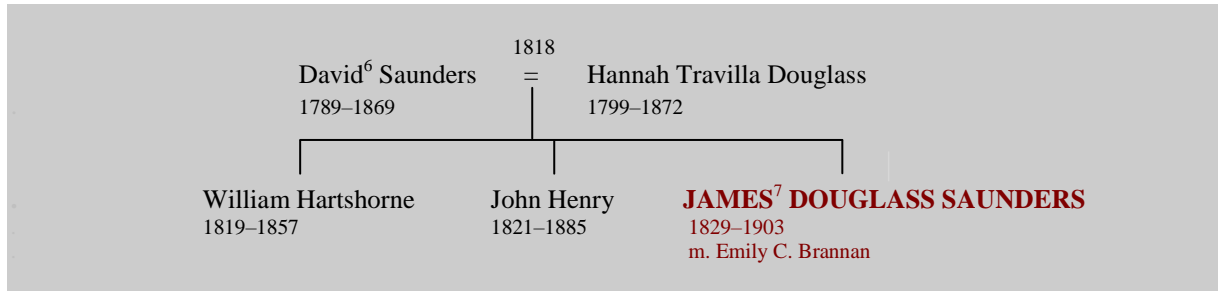


## Chapter Eight

Revised  
January 2021**JAMES<sup>7</sup> DOUGLASS SAUNDERS**  
**1829–1903***Washington DC to San Francisco, California*

**J**AMES<sup>7</sup> DOUGLASS SAUNDERS was born on 10 August 1829, in Washington DC. At the time John Quincy Adams was serving his last year as President of the United States and George IV reigned in Great Britain. He was the youngest son of David<sup>6</sup> and Hannah<sup>5</sup> Travilla Saunders, née Douglass. His two brothers were quite a bit older: William<sup>7</sup> Hartshorne who was born in 1819 and John<sup>7</sup> Henry in 1821. Given the eight-year age gap between John Henry and James Douglass, it is possible there were other siblings in between who died in infancy.

From correspondence to his mother in 1843 from his brother John Henry Saunders (→ See Chapter 6: John<sup>7</sup> Henry Saunders), Douglass, as we will refer to him here, did not appear to be as academic as his two older brothers. There is no evidence that he completed any tertiary education.



*James Douglass Saunders*  
1829–1903

When his youngest son, also John<sup>8</sup> Henry (Jack) Saunders, married his second wife May Agnes Snowdon in Sydney Australia in 1925 the marriage certificate stated his father's occupation as musician (→ See Chapter 10: John<sup>8</sup> Henry Saunders). This is supported by Douglass's obituary which claimed he was an accomplished musician and conducted concert tours throughout America and Europe prior to leaving Washington DC in 1855 at the age of 26 and settling in California where his older brother John had established a successful legal practice. It is thought that he moved from San Francisco to Marin County a year or so later. No doubt it was through an interest in music that James met his future wife who was a music teacher in nearby Napa. It is suspected that James did not enjoy the best of health.

During the winter of 1860–61 South Carolina and six other states withdrew from the Union. In April 1861 Virginia also voted to secede. The same month saw the start of the Civil War when southern artillery shelled Fort Sumter in South Carolina. James's parents, David and Hannah Saunders, were then probably living just outside Washington DC in Virginia and David<sup>3</sup>, given his Quaker upbringing, would have found slavery just as repugnant as the looming prospect of a civil war. Douglass's oldest brother, William Hartshorne, had died in Nicaragua in 1857 and the other brother, John Henry, was a successful attorney in San Francisco. Heading west probably looked an attractive proposition to David and Hannah.

Travelling by clipper around the Horn they first appeared in the San Francisco directory in 1863. They were not alone. Many families in Washington, Virginia and some of the other eastern states moved west in the early 1860s.

In San Francisco, David and Hannah Saunders were reunited with their two sons. John Henry by that time had a flourishing legal practice and substantial property holdings in San Rafael. It is not known what occupation Douglass took up as he is said to have retired from his music profession, though he gave private recitals according to his obituary. San Rafael lies across the bay from San Francisco in Marin County and is not far from the Napa Valley where Douglass's future wife lived and was employed as a music teacher.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Evening Sun* on 24 May 1855 and *The Enterprise Sun* on 5 June 1855, both Washington DC publications. The date of the composition is unknown.

**NEW POLKA.**

**T**HE CHEVY CHASE POLKA, composed for and dedicated to Miss Sally D. Bradley, by J. D. Saunders, Esq., of this city, whose compositions have always met with such great public favor. The merits of the piece are such as will introduce it among all lovers of music. Price 25 cents. Just published and for sale by **HILBUS & HITZ.**

The President's Mounted Guard Quickstep, composed by the accomplished Pianist, Mr. Robert Helmer, will appear in a few days may 12

James's older brother, Dr. William<sup>7</sup> Hartshorne Saunders had married Hannah S. Bradley. Sally<sup>3</sup> D. Bradley (1826–1886) was Hannah's older sister. The Bradley family owned a large plantation in Maryland known as Chevy Chase. → See Chapter 5.

**James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders married Emily<sup>3</sup> (or Emma) C. Brannan on 7 November 1867** in Napa City, California. Emma (or Emily) was the daughter of Daniel<sup>2</sup> K. Brannan and Jane Emily Hall. Daniel was the son of Thomas Brannan, who migrated to America in 1775. Daniel's youngest brother was the colourful Sam Brannan who made a name for himself in California. Emily was born 1839 in New York. → See Chapter 9: The Brannan Family.

James and Emma were married in the First Presbyterian Church and a certification of their marriage, provided to Mrs. Emma C.B. Saunders, reads as follows:

Napa Nov. 7th. 1867

These lines may certify to all whom it concerns that J. Douglass Saunders and Emma C. Brannan were by me united in matrimony according to the rules of the Presbyterian Church and in conformity to the requirements of the State of California this 7th day of Nov. 1867.

Richard Wylie  
Pastor of the Presbyterian Church  
of Napa City..



*Emma C. Brannan*  
1839–1902

Lora Engle, secretary of *First Presbyterian Church*, Napa, California, provided the following information supplied to her by the church historian, Mary Wigger:

The Rev. Richard Wylie kept a diary in which he often times recorded weddings, funerals, etc. In this case, I'm afraid, he did not mention your great-grandfather's marriage. However, the Rev. James Wylie (father of Richard) also kept a diary. He, in fact, did record the event. Under the date, November 7, 1876, is the following entry:

Miss Emma Brannan, \*Miss McDonald's music teacher, was married in our rooms by Richard to a Mr. Saunders from San Francisco. He is between 40 and 50. She is 26. He is lame all over — legs and arms and fingers. She is handsome. He is not. There was an earthquake at 8 o'clock that evening".

\*Miss McDonald ran a girls' school in Napa.

Certainly not very flattering comments on the bridegroom who at the time was actually aged 38. Emma was born in 1839, so she was aged 28 not 26. Both parties would seem older than the norm to be getting married for the first time. Possibly he had a health problem. The above description by the Rev. James Wylie's of Douglass indicates he was stricken with arthritis. However, during the course of research on Douglass, nothing further has come forward to provide any other clues about his physical condition.

The *Marin Journal* published the following announcement on 16 November 1867:

**MARRIED**  
SAUNDERS—BRANNAN—At Napa City, Nov'r 7th  
J. Douglass Saunders and Emily C. Brannan

Little is known of Douglass's activities in San Francisco. He is on record as being employed as a clerk at the Gaslight Company in 1875 when he was residing at 1011 Polk Street. Earlier, in 1872, he is described as a duly commissioned and sworn Notary Public when witnessing the indenture of a land transaction between his elder brother, John Henry, and his cousin, Dr. William<sup>6</sup> A. Douglass. This qualification may well have been one of convenience arranged by his brother who was heavily into property acquisitions in the San Francisco and San Rafael areas. John Henry was eight years older and a successful attorney. It is likely that Douglass's main occupation was assisting his brother in his real estate ventures.

If Douglass suffered from acute arthritis or some similar affliction he may well have had difficulty maintaining a permanent profession or position and lived largely on the success and providence of his brother. He thought San Francisco a lawless place and yearned for the more genteel Virginia of his youth. His wife was a music teacher at a girls' school in what is now the town of Napa in the well-known wine district just north of San Rafael. He may well have disliked the unruly and undisciplined San Francisco of the late 1800s but it was probably better than Washington DC and Virginia in the aftermath of the Civil War. Douglass had decided sentiments for his home state of Virginia. Perhaps this supports George Kackley's view that while David Saunders worked at the Post Office in Washington DC, his family lived in the Virginia countryside, at least in the latter years of their time in the east (→ See Chapter 4: David<sup>6</sup> Saunders).

It is thought that Douglass spent a lot of time with his mother's relatives, the Douglasses, who lived in Charles Town, Virginia (now West Virginia).

**James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders and his wife Emily had three children.** They were all born in San Francisco:

1. **William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne Saunders** was born 12 December 1868 in San Francisco, California and died Sunday, 18 April 1897 in San Francisco. William, named after his uncle, graduated in Law (including a BA) from the *University of Virginia* in 1894.

The Assistant Archivist at the *University of Virginia*, Janet R. Linde, provided the following information:

William H. Saunders matriculated at the University five times, for the 1889/90 through the 1893/94 sessions. His birth date is listed as December 12, 1868, and his parent or guardian is listed as James D. Saunders, whose address is given as 216 Powell Street, San Francisco, California, from 1889 to 1891, and 614 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California, in 1892. Saunders signed up for the following courses: 1889/90—Latin, Mathematics, and History and Literature; 1890/91—Latin, Mathematics, History and Literature, and English; 1891/92— Natural Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, History and Literature, and Chemistry; 1892/93— Senior, Junior and International Law; and 1893/94—Senior Law. In 1889/90, Saunders boarded with a Mrs. Harris, in 1890/91 he boarded with a Mrs. Burthe, in 1891/92 he resided at 41 West Lawn, and in 1892/93 he boarded with a professor Smith, probably Francis H. Smith, Professor of Natural Philosophy. No boarding place is listed for Saunders in 1893/94.



*Supposed picture of  
William Hartshorne Saunders  
1868–1897*

Prior to university we know that William attended Lincoln School. Amongst the family memorabilia is a school medal Awarded to William H. Saunders, 1886. At the time he was eighteen and probably in his last year of school. There is a gap of three years between leaving high school and commencing his law studies at the *University of Virginia*. It is more than likely he completed a preliminary degree first at another institution. Alternatively, he may have been in ill health (he died quite young in 1897 aged 28 and perhaps had a history of illness). This may account for his late university start. The medal, shown below, is one and three-eighths inches in diameter.



The identity and location of Lincoln School has yet to be firmly established. However, an unknown publication with a chapter on The Schools of San Francisco contains some information on *Lincoln Grammar School* which is referred to as Lincoln School several times in the article. The picture of Lincoln School in this article is the same as depicted on the medal presented to William H. Saunders.

The old and popular Lincoln Grammar School in Fifth street was established in 1864. ... The Lincoln has a medal fund of three thousand dollars, the interest of which exceeds the annual cost of the medals. Twenty medals are awarded each year to graduates for meritorious conduct and scholarship. ... James T. Hamilton has spent sixteen years of his life in the Lincoln School, having served ten years as vice-principal and six as principal.



*Lincoln School 1872*

Marin County records show that on 23 February 1894 James Douglass Saunders and his wife Emily conveyed to their son **William Hartshorne** a property in San Rafael ... *for and in consideration of the love and affection which the said parties of the first part have and bear unto the party of the second part and also for the better maintenance support protection and livelihood of the said party of second part ...* . The parcel of land in question was a northwestern section of Block 33 (known as the Saunders Homestead) as described in Book 29, p. 117.

Two years after graduating from the University of Virginia he turns up in the *San Francisco City Directories*:

- 1896    **Saunders, William H.**  
 Attorney at Law  
 Office at 36 Mills Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Residence at 712 Sutter Street
- 1897    **Saunders, William H.**  
 Attorney at Law  
 Office at 36-37 Mills building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Residence at 2516 Pine Street  
 His father, James Douglass Saunders, is listed at the same residence



*The California Voter Registers – Register, 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, San Francisco County, 1896* provides an extraordinary description of William:

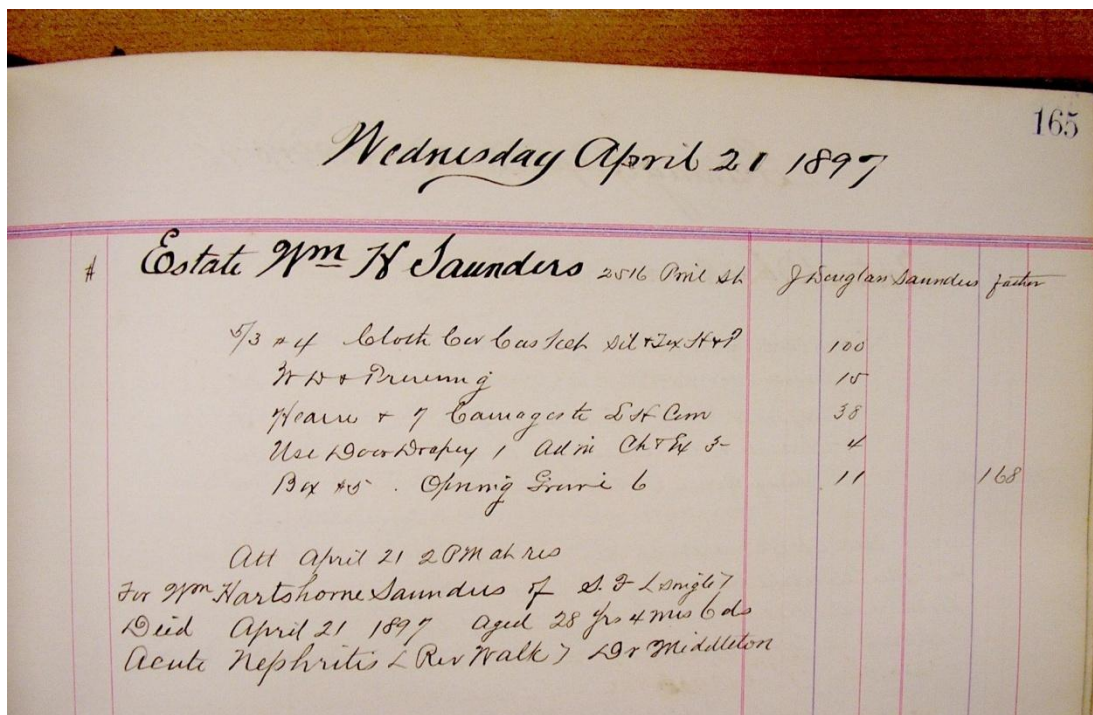
Saunders, William Hartshorne – age 27;  
**Height 4ft., 5½ inches;**  
 Complexion Light;  
 Eye colour: Blue; Hair Colour: Brown;  
**Visible marks or scars: Humpback**  
 Occupation: Lawyer;  
 Nativity: California;  
 Local Residence: 1037 Post

William's physical description depicts him as extremely short and with the disability of being a Humpback, which means his back is hunched because of abnormal curvature of the upper spine. This may account for his short stature and also may have contributed to his later death from Acute Nephritis. However, no evidence has surfaced to confirm any of his irregular physical appearances.

**William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne Saunders died on Easter Sunday, 18 April 1897.** Ron Filion of *San Francisco Genealogy* provided a digital photograph of the entry in the Day Book of N. Gray & Co, the undertakers who handled William's funeral arrangements. The last three lines of the entry provide the cause of death:

For Wm Hartshorn [sic] Saunders of S.F. <single>  
 Died April 21 1897 [sic] Aged 27 yrs 4 mos 6ds  
**Acute Nephritis\*** <Rev Walk> Dr. Middleton

\* Nephritis is an inflammation of the kidney and can be caused by many different conditions. In adults, diseases that frequently underlie nephritis include vasculitis, pneumonia, abscesses, infections such as measles, mumps or glandular fever and hepatitis.



William was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery. His passing was announced in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on 21 April.



SAUNDERS—In this city, April 18, William H. Saunders, beloved son of J. Douglass and Emily C. Saunders, a native of San Francisco, aged 28 years, 4 months and 6 days. Friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services this day (Wednesday), at 2 o'clock, at his late residence, 2516 Pine street. Interment private. Please omit flowers.

Cathy Gowdy of the *Marin County Genealogical Society* found a more informative obituary in *The Marin Journal* of Thursday, 29 April 1897:

William H. Saunders, **well known in San Rafael**, died in San Francisco last week. He was a brilliant lawyer, a graduate of the law school of the University of Virginia, and had an office in the Mills building. He was the son of J. Douglass Saunders, and his uncle, John H. Saunders, long since dead, was a lawyer of high standing, a member of the Senate of California and once City and County Attorney of San Francisco.

After the death of William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne in 1897, the ownership of the property in San Rafael his parents had conveyed to him in 1894 reverted back to his parents. In February 1898 James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders conveyed his half interest to his wife Emily. William<sup>8</sup> was unmarried and no Last Will and Testament has been located.

That is all that is known of William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne Saunders. We do know that he was living with his parents at the time of his demise and that he was a practicing attorney in San Francisco at the time. For him to be well known in San Rafael, he must have spent some time in that place.

	<p>10 November 1871  <b>Stanley finds Livingstone.</b> In March 1871, Henry Morton Stanley set out to find Dr David Livingstone who was thought lost somewhere in East Africa. Eight months later he found the famous man near the town of Ujiji on Lake Tanganyika. Raising his hat, Stanley uttered the greeting that would bring him undying fame: <i>'Dr Livingstone, I presume?'</i></p>	
<p>David Livingstone 1813–1873</p>		<p>Henry M. Stanley 1841–1904</p>

2. **James<sup>8</sup> Douglass Saunders Jr** was born 13 January 1874 in San Francisco, and died 12 July 1890. When he was nearly sixteen years of age James Douglass, whom we will call Doug, was sent to the *Virginia Military Institute* in Lexington, Virginia, a career choice that would have alienated his Quaker ancestors.



*The Virginia Military Institute, Lexington Virginia*

The Matriculation Register of Cadets of the *Virginia Military Institute* show James<sup>8</sup> Douglass Saunders was admitted to the Institute on 28th August 1889, age fifteen years and eight months. His father gave his address as 216 Powell Street, San Francisco and stated his occupation as Gentleman.

The Archivist of the *Virginia Military Institute*, Diane B. Jacob, provided photocopies of all the material on record for Cadet James Douglass Saunders, mostly letters and telegrams sent to the Institute by his father.

The correspondence details young Doug's all too brief time in Lexington and confirms the relationship with the Douglass family. The letters are addressed to General Francis H. Smith, the superintendent of the *Virginia Military Institute*:

- May 16 1889      I am desirous of sending my son who will be sixteen years of age next January to some school in the East ... **My family are all Virginians**, and I have decided predilections for that State and its people.
- June 4 1889      My other son will enter the Law school at the University of Virginia in October. I will mention with all modesty that I am the nephew of Judge I.R. Douglass of Jefferson County Va, and that my brother John H. Saunders graduated with honor in Law under **George Tucker\***. I mention this merely to introduce myself and hope it may give you an additional interest in my son whom I have endeavoured **to instruct with Southern sentiment**.

\* *Note:* George Tucker was Henry H. St. George Tucker (1780–1848). He was Chairman of the Faculty and Professor of Law at the *University of Virginia* in 1843–1844.

See: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=t000398>

Professor Tucker's grandson, also Henry St. George Tucker (1853–1932), was to marry Henrietta Preston Johnson, the great-granddaughter of Abner<sup>2</sup> Lawson Duncan (1785–1823) and his first wife Esther Eldridge. Abner's granddaughter by his second wife, Frances Sophia Mather, was Frances<sup>3</sup> Sophia Conrad (1829–1893) who married Bolling<sup>7</sup> Robertson Chinn.

➔ See Chapter 11: The Chinn Family, 7<sup>th</sup> Generation.

- Nov 4 1889      I herewith send you a postal order for ten dollars ... as pocket money ... will you kindly see that he gets one dollar monthly. I feel curious to know how the boy is progressing with his studies. He is well and likes the Institute very much.



- Dec 1889 I wish to ask you if you will permit my son Douglass to pass Christmas week with his brother [William H.] at the University of Virginia.
- Feb 14 1890 Both Mrs. Saunders and I are very much pained to learn from you the standing of our son Douglass at your Institute. I sent him there owing to **my love for the dear old State, my family all hailing from there**, and hoping and expecting that **such a change from this lawless place** ...might stimulate his pride and correct many little things in him ... His mother and I ...have urged upon him the necessity of obeying the rules...to be uniformly respectful to his Professor... that he is careless and disposed to shirk his work we know full well ... I would like Capt. Terry to know that Douglass might be said to have never seen an Algebra nor a Latin Grammar before he entered the Institute. He took only a few lessons from my cousin **Jas. T. Douglass**, a graduate of the Institute.

Several more letters followed over the next few months concerning young Doug's poor performance and demerits. The lad seemed to be somewhat intractable and to pay scant regard to his studies. It's probable he was not prepared academically for such a place.

- June 3 1890 I am satisfied that when he gets well broke in, he will improve right along. Capt. Terry wrote that he was not at all wanting in ability. With regards to my son coming home here during vacation, however much we should be rejoiced to see our dear boy, we will have to forego that pleasure on account of the distance and expense. It is our wish that he does not return to California until he finishes the full course of four or five years, as this is no place for him. I understand ... that the cadets camp out during vacation and ... make little journeys through the Valley... We have written Douglass that he is to remain there this vacation.

On June 25, 1890 the Institute telegraphed news that Cadet Saunders had taken ill. It was suspected that he had contracted *typhoid fever*. His parents delayed making any decision to be with him pending more information from the doctor with respect to the seriousness of his condition.

- July 6 1890 When we read yours of 25, my wife's impulse was to start immediately for the bedside of her ill boy. In lieu thereof we concluded to telegraph to find out Douglass' actual condition. ...My wife is very cool in sickness, not at all fussy and carrying on like most women, exercising good judgement ... Being such a woman I was really anxious that she should be with Douglass and would have encouraged her to go had it not been that she had been sitting in attendance with her Niece's young child and was pretty well worn out— still that would not have distressed her. As we are, we know not what to do. We thought maybe his trip to Richmond may have brought on this sickness, though it may have been lurking in his system for a long time prior. He often wrote of his having headache and being sick but we did not think much of that as the next letter would report him all right again. He talked very much of the Gymnasium. He may have overdone it there ... He goes in with a rush in every kind of sport, he knows no moderation in any kind of play. Were he as ambitious in his studies and gave as much effort to them he would be a great man ... His brother William from the University of Virginia came home on 1st inst. and does nothing but reprove himself for not calling to see Douglass on his way home. Had William gone to see him, of course, he would have remained with Douglass, as he would have found him so sick.

It was not until the evening of July 8 when it was apparent Doug's condition was critical that his mother departed for Virginia with her youngest son, Jack (John Henry, 1880-1940), then aged ten, very much regretting not leaving as soon as they knew he was sick. The trip from San Francisco to Lexington, Virginia would have taken the

best part of a week in those times. In fact they arrived on Monday, July 14, two days after Doug's death and on the day of his funeral. Doug's father was notified of his son's death while his wife was in transit as evidenced by two telegrams he sent to General Scott Shipp on July 12 1890:

9.48am	Meet mother noon. Break the news gently to her.
9.49am	Preserve him till mother comes. She will arrive Monday noon.

oOo

As is customary in such establishments, the Superintendent of the *Virginia Military Institute*, Brigadier General Scott Shipp and his Adjutant, General Francis H. Smith, Jr., issued a formal announcement of the death of Cadet J. Douglass Saunders:

General Orders No 28	Head Quarters Virginia Military Institute July 12 <sup>th</sup> 1890
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The Superintendent is called upon to make to Professors, Officers and Cadets, the sad announcement of the **death of Cadet J.D. Saunders** of California. On Saturday night the 21 June, being at the time unwell, he took part in an athletic exhibition in which he displayed great skill and strength; on Monday the 30th June, he was sent to the hospital, where he died at twenty minutes past eight O'clock on Saturday the 12th day of July. Although he had every care and attention that a skilful physician, and an educated and professional nurse could give, the fact that he was three thousand miles distant from family and friends, whose home is on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, increases the sadness of the occasion.

Cadet Saunders entered the Virginia Military Institute on August 28th 1889, aged fifteen years and eight months, and was assigned to the lower sections of the Fourth Class; his previous preparation had been meagre, and it was the purpose of his father that he should spend two years in the Fourth Class, with a view to laying a thorough foundation for his subsequent course. Seemingly of robust health and constitution, and of great physical strength for one of his years, his career has been brought to an untimely end. We bow with submission to the decrees of an all-wise Providence, and tender our sympathies to the bereaved family. The funeral will take place at 6.P.M. on Monday the 14th instant, from the Hospital of the Institute. The usual badge of mourning will be worn for the period of thirty days.

By Command of  
Brigadier General Scott Shipp  
Superintendent

Francis H. Smith, Jr.  
Adjutant V.M.I.



*Brig. Gen. Scott Shipp*  
1839-1917

Douglass's request to preserve the body was not adhered to by the Institute. It must have been traumatic in the extreme for the boy's exhausted and now grief-stricken mother to arrive in Lexington, Virginia, after travelling for a week across the continent from San Francisco to find her son has died and she is only just in time to see him buried.

Aug 27 1890	... I thank you very much for your polite attention to Mrs. Saunders and my little boy. ... I have only one complaint and that is that his remains are not preserved, so that his poor Mother could have looked upon his dear face before being consigned to the tomb ... I cannot reconcile this fact for one
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moment and being unpardonable, I cannot but feel that such mismanagement and gross neglect, seems of great want of consideration for the feelings of a broken-hearted woman ... my dear General let such a thing never occur again ... I say unpardonable alone, because I have consulted with the most able Physician and surgeon here, who tells me there could be no conditions under which the boy's remains could not have been preserved.

*Note:*

The Physician referred to is probably his cousin Dr. William A. Douglass. → See Chapter 7: The Douglass Family

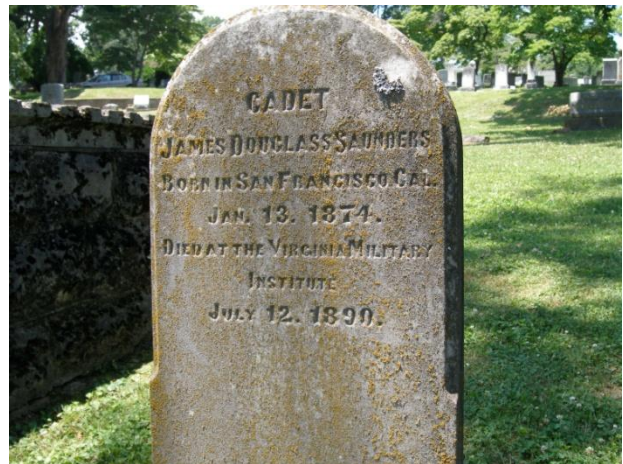
His death was reported in the *San Francisco Morning Call* of 14 July 1890:

SAUNDERS—In Lexington, Va., July 13, at the Virginia Military Institute, James Douglass Saunders Jr., aged 15 years.

Diane Jacob, the Archivist at the *Virginia Military Institute* gave the following details concerning the burial site of Cadet James Douglass Saunders:

I have researched your question regarding the burial place of James D. Saunders. He is buried in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, here in Lexington. His grave is located in what is known as the 'VMI plot', where several faculty, staff, and cadet graves are found. Cadet Saunders' gravestone reads:

Cadet James Douglass Saunders  
born in San Francisco California  
January 13, 1874  
Died at the Virginia Military Institute  
July 12 1890



*Cadet James Douglass Saunders's tombstone in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in the town of Lexington, about a mile from the Virginia Military Institute*

### 3. John<sup>8</sup> Henry Saunders 1880–1940 → See Chapter 10

Born 4 August 1880 in San Francisco, California.

Died 21 April 1940 in Sydney, Australia.

Married 1<sup>st</sup> Lillian Frances Chinn in New York in 1905.

Married 2<sup>nd</sup> May Agnes Snowdon in Sydney, Australia in 1925.

oOo

The three children of James<sup>7</sup> Douglass and Emma Saunders were well spaced apart. William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne was six years older than James<sup>8</sup> Douglass Jr. and the latter was four years ahead of John<sup>8</sup> Henry. One might conclude that there were other children born in between the three boys who did not survive infancy. However, the 1900 Census indicates that Emily only bore three children. As fate would have it, her first two children did not fare well, with William Hartshorne dying at age 29 and James Douglass Jr when he was just 16.

James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders, his wife Emma, and their three children lived in San Francisco. They also had a home in San Rafael, presumably inherited from James's older brother, John Henry Saunders, where they are reported as living in the 1900 Census.

The San Francisco City directories list numerous residential addresses over a period of some forty-four years. Why he and his family moved their place of residence so frequently is a mystery. It may have something to do with the various property interests he inherited from his brother, John Henry Saunders.



*James Douglass Saunders  
c.1890*

- 1859 Resided at 127 Montgomery Street (office address of brother John).
- 1863 Resided at 725 Bush Street with brother John and parents.
- 1864 Resided at 927 Bush Street.
- 1867 Resided at 44 Third Street.
- 1871 Resided in San Rafael.
- 1873 Resided at 600 Bush Street. Employed as clerk at the S.F. Gaslight Company.
- 1875 Resided at 1011 Polk Street. Employed as clerk at the S.F. Gaslight Company
- 1876 Resided at 114 Ellis Street.
- 1877 Resided at SW cnr. Post & Mason Streets.
- 1878 Resided at SW cnr. of Post & Mason Streets.
- 1879 Resided at 238 Taylor Street.
- 1880 Resided at 320 Fulton Street.
- 1881 Resided at 123 Fell Street.
- 1884 Resided at 320 Fulton Street.
- 1885 ditto
- 1887 Resided at 216 Powell Street.
- 1889 ditto
- 1890 ditto
- 1891 No entry in directory.
- 1893 No entry in directory.
- 1895 Resided at 1401 Van Ness Avenue.
- 1896 No entry in directory—son William H., Attorney at Law residing at 712 Sutter St.
- 1897 Resided at 2516 Pine Street—son William H., Attorney at Law at same address.
- 1898 Resided at 1037 Post Street.
- 1899 Resided at 938 Geary Street.
- 1902 ditto
- 1903 Resided at 1603 California Street—son John Henry also at same address.

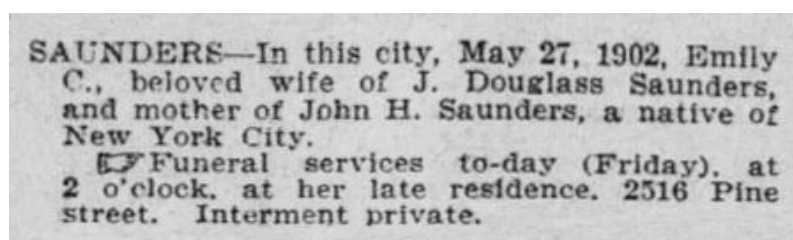


After the death of his brother, John<sup>7</sup> Henry, Douglass<sup>7</sup> disposed of much of the property left to him. The Marin County conveyances show that from 1885 onwards Douglass sold numerous parcels of land. Block 33 containing the Saunders Homestead was subdivided and sold off in small lots. On later conveyances it is referred to as the Saunders Cottage. It is possible that the large block of land originally owned was the homestead and the dwelling thereon was the cottage where Douglass transcribed his late brother's Will. There is no record of him living in San Rafael, although his youngest son, John<sup>8</sup> Henry, attended the *Bates Selborne Boarding School* in San Rafael from 1892 to 1896. According to the San Francisco directories all his residential addresses from the time of his brother's death are in San Francisco. However, he probably maintained a second residence, perhaps the Saunders Cottage in San Rafael.

**Emily C. Saunders died 27 May 1902** at her home in San Francisco. Her son John<sup>8</sup> was to record later that she died "suddenly" so perhaps her death was unexpected. A Certificate of Death from the Department of Public Health in San Francisco detailed the following:

Name:	Emily C. Saunders	Date of Death:	May 27, 1902
Race:	White	Age:	63
Place of Birth:	New York, USA	Occupation:	Unknown
Place of Death:	2516 Pine Street San Francisco, Ca	Sex:	Female
Causes of Death:	Mitral failure of heart, probable loss of compensation after hypertrophy		
Place of Burial:	Laurel Hill		
Physician:	R. Emory Peck		
Undertakers:	N. Gray & Co.		

Her death was reported in the *San Francisco Call* on 30 May 1902:



oOo

On 21 May 1903 the portion of Block 33 in San Rafael that Douglass and his wife had conveyed to their son William<sup>8</sup> Hartshorne in 1894, Douglass now conveyed to his youngest and only surviving son, John Henry. This transaction was executed just two days before his death. The foot of the Deed reads:

The said James Douglass Saunders being unable on account of sickness to write his name I wrote his name at his request and the words 'his mark' and he made his mark (x) I writing my name near his and in his presence.

J. V. D. Middleton

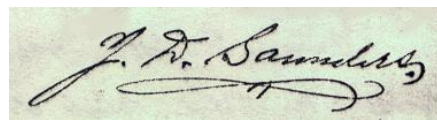
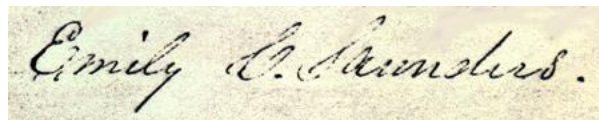
oOo

**James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders died Saturday, 23 May 1903** during Theodore Roosevelt's first term as President of the United States. The Department of Health in San Francisco provided a Certificate of Death that reads as follows:

Name	James Douglass Saunders	Date of Death:	May 23, 1903
Race:	White	Age	73
Place of Birth:	Washington DC	Occupation:	Capitalist
Place of Death:	St. Luke's Hospital San Francisco, Ca.	Social condition:	Widowed
Causes of Death:	Acute pneumonia, Chronic bronchitis		
Place of Burial:	Laurel Hill		
Physician:	J.V.D. Middleton		
Undertakers:	N. Gray & Co.		

His death was reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* the following day:

**SAUNDERS**—In this city, May 23, 1903, James Douglass, beloved father of John H. Saunders, a native of Washington, D. C., aged 73 years 9 months and 13 days.  
 ☞ Funeral services Monday, May 25, 1903, at 2 o'clock, at the chapel adjoining Trinity Church, corner Bush and Gough streets. Interment private.

*Signatures of James Douglass Saunders and Emily C. Saunders on correspondence to the Virginia Military Institute*

December 1903

**Marie Curie** together with her husband **Pierre** won the Nobel Prize for their pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only woman to win the it twice. She was born Maria Salomea Shdowska on 7 November 1867 in Poland and died 4 July 1934 in France. Marie received her 2nd Nobel Prize in 1911 in recognition of her services to the advancement of chemistry by the discovery of the elements radium and polonium. Pierre Curie was born 15 May 1859 in Paris and died 19 April 1906 in a street accident when he slipped and fell under a heavy horse-drawn cart..

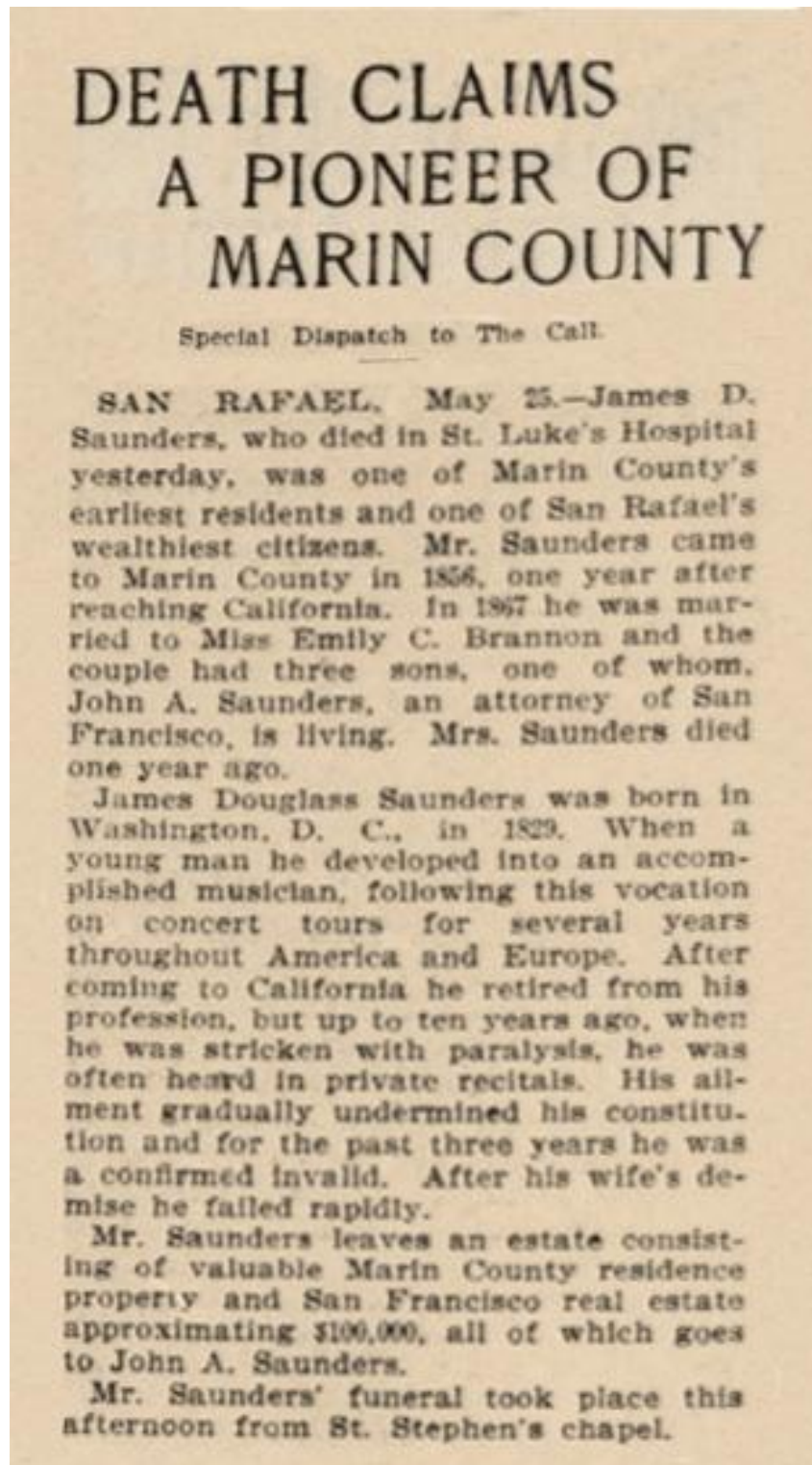


*Pierre Curie  
1859–1906*



*Marie Curie  
1867–1934*

A lengthy obituary was published in the *San Francisco Call* on 26 May 1903:



Note: In the above obituary, John A. Saunders should read John **H.** Saunders.

This obituary adds much additional information to what we know about James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders. The above says he arrived in Marin County in 1856 'one year after reaching California', so he presumably landed in San Francisco in 1855. No record of this has been located. While we knew he was a musician, the obituary indicates that he must have been a

very accomplished musician if he travelled the United States and Europe giving concerts. Again, no evidence of this has ever surfaced. His alleged paralysis may account for the description of him by the Rev. Richard Wylie when he married Emily Brannan who said ‘he is lame all over, legs, arms and fingers’ – but that was in 1867 when James was 38 years old.

However it would certainly account, in part, for the description of him on the *California Voters Registers – Register, 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, San Francisco County, 1896*. He would appear to be a very short man.

Saunders, James Douglass	Age	66
	Height	5ft., 3½ inches
	Complexion	Ruddy
	Eye colour	Blue
	Hair colour	Grey
	<b>Visible marks or scars</b>	<b>Fingers deformed, right hand</b>
	Occupation	None
	Nativity	Washington, DC
	Local residence	1037 Post

A Last Will and Testament has not been found for James<sup>7</sup> Douglass Saunders. There is every chance it was lost in the great fire and earthquake of 1906. According to his obituary he was a very wealthy man at the time of his death with real estate holdings in San Francisco and San Rafael worth about \$100,000, all of which was inherited by his youngest son, John<sup>8</sup> Henry. While there were probably Saunders cousins back east, descendants of his uncle Peter Saunders, there is no mention of them anywhere. This branch of the family had moved back to Philadelphia.



Emily C. Saunders  
c.1890

Douglass expresses a dislike for San Francisco and yearned, perhaps romantically, for his so-called native Virginia. Whether he was raised in Washington DC or the Virginia countryside or what is more likely, both places at different times during his growing up years, he definitely regarded himself as a Virginian and a Southerner. Furthermore, there appears to be a strong attachment to his mother's relations, the Douglasses, who *were* Virginians.

If the Saunders relations in the east remained Quakers, then Douglass and his brother John Henry would have had little in common with their simple lifestyle and beliefs. They were involved in politics, property and the material trappings of the well to do, a far cry from the simple homespun life of a Quaker. Perhaps influenced by his cousin, James Travilla Douglass, Douglass enrolled his son at the *Virginia Military Institute*, a career choice which would have alienated his pacifist Quaker relations.

His wife Emily along with his elder brother, John Henry, appeared to be the strengths in his life. It is not surprising he only lived for another twelve months after his wife's death. Douglass was said to be stricken with paralysis, perhaps when he was forty or fifty, and was an invalid for the last three years of his life. Whatever disease and disability afflicted him from the time of his marriage it did not prevent him living to the age of seventy-four, a fair age for those times.

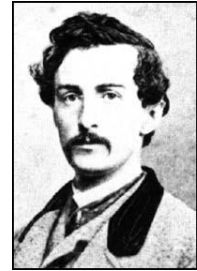


**During James Douglass Saunders's lifetime three American Presidents were assassinated. They were all Republicans.**



*Abraham Lincoln  
1809–1865*

On 14 April 1865, **Abraham Lincoln**, the 16<sup>th</sup> President was shot by one of the best known actors of the day, the Confederate sympathizer, **John Wilkes Booth**, while attending a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. He died the next morning. Booth, who escaped, was eventually killed by Federal troops when trapped in a barn in Port Royal, Virginia on April 26.



*John Wilkes Booth  
1838–1865*



*James A. Garfield  
1831–1881*

On 2 July 1881, **James A. Garfield**, the 20<sup>th</sup> President was leaving Washington, DC for a reunion of his class at Williams College. As he stood on the railway station, a man called **Charles J. Guiteau** who was bitter that Garfield would not appoint him as United States consul in Paris, shot him. The president died 80 days later on 19 September. The assassin was hanged in 1882.



*Charles J. Guiteau  
1841–1882*



*William McKinley  
1843–1901*

On 6 September 1901, **William McKinley**, the 25<sup>th</sup> President was holding a public reception at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo, New York, when he was shot by an anarchist named **Leon Czolgosz**. He died a week later on 14 September. The assassin, who confessed a desire to kill a 'great ruler' was executed by electrocution. Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the country's 26th President on 15 September.



*Leon F. Czolgosz  
1873–1901*

**Summary****JAMES<sup>7</sup> DOUGLASS SAUNDERS 1829–1903**


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1829 10 Aug	Born -	Washington DC. Youngest son of David <sup>6</sup> Saunders and his wife Hannah <sup>5</sup> Travilla (née Douglass).
1843 08 Aug	Aged 14 -	On holidays at Mordington, W. Va., the home of his uncle Judge Isaac <sup>3</sup> Richardson Douglass.
1846 26 Nov	Aged 17 -	Grandmother Mary Saunders Wanton died.
1850 about March	Aged 21 -	Brother John <sup>7</sup> Henry left for California.
1855	Aged 26 -	Moved to California.
1857 11 Feb	Aged 28 -	Brother William <sup>7</sup> Hartshorne died in Nicaragua.
1861 12 Apr	Aged 32 -	<i>Civil War commenced when Southern artillery shelled Fort Sumter.</i>
1863	Aged 34 -	Parents arrived in San Francisco.
1865 09 Apr	Aged 36 -	<i>Civil War ended when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia .</i>
1867 07 Nov	Aged 38 -	Married Emma <sup>3</sup> C. Brannan in Napa City, CA.
1868 12 Dec	Aged 39 -	Son William <sup>8</sup> Hartshorne born.
1869 10 Sep	Aged 40 -	Father David <sup>6</sup> Saunders died in San Rafael. Buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.
1872 17 Jul	Aged 43 -	Mother Hannah Travilla Saunders died in San Francisco. Buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.
1872	Aged 43 -	Signed document as duly commissioned and Sworn <i>Notary public</i> .
1874 13 Jan	Aged 45 -	Son James <sup>8</sup> Douglass born.
1875	Aged 46 -	Employed as clerk at Gaslight Company.
1880 04 Aug	Aged 51 -	Son John <sup>8</sup> Henry born.
1885 03 Sep	Aged 56 -	Brother John <sup>7</sup> Henry died in San Rafael. Buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.
1889 16 May	Aged 60 -	Described occupation as Gentleman.

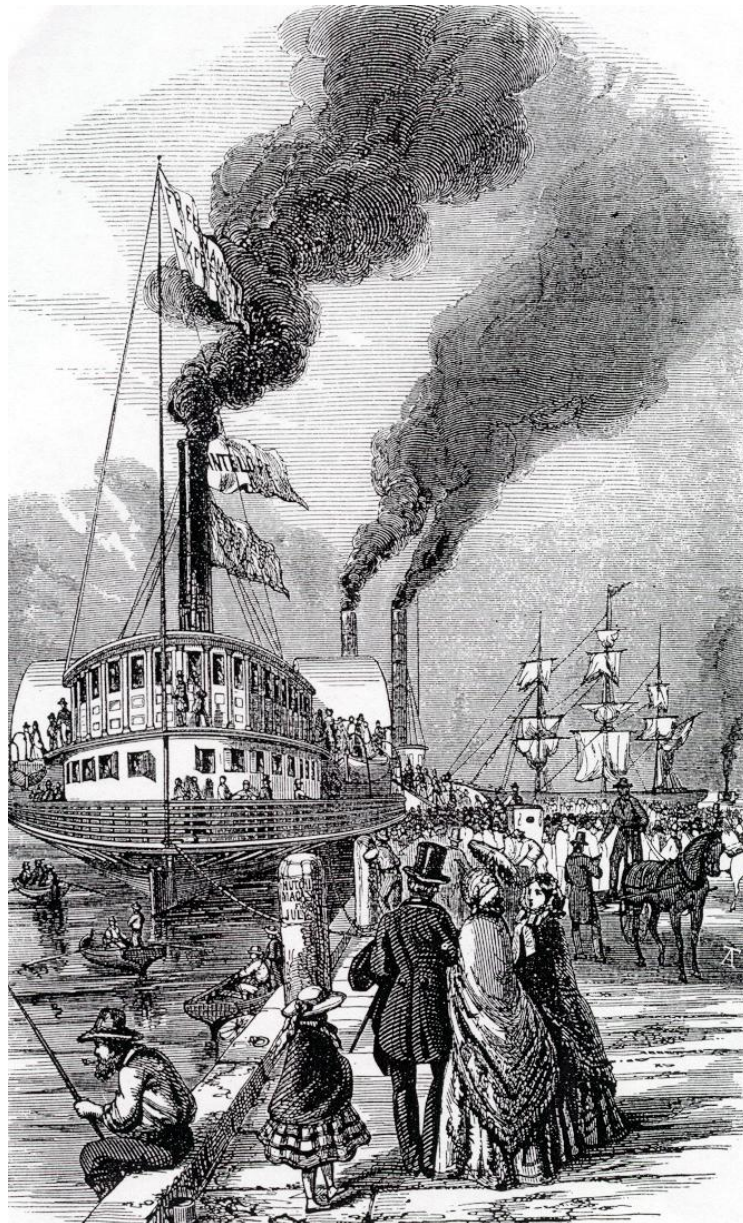


*Crazy Horse*  
c.1840–1877

**5 September 1877**

**Crazy Horse killed.** He was a Native American war leader of the Oglala Lakota Nation in the 19th century. His victory in the *Battle of Little Bighorn* in 1876 earned him great respect from both his enemies and his own people. He was fatally wounded by a bayonet-welding military guard while allegedly resisting imprisonment at Camp Robinson in present-day Nebraska.

1890 12 Jul	Aged 61 -	Son James <sup>8</sup> Douglass died at <i>Virginia Military Institute</i> of <i>typhoid fever</i> .
1897 18 Apr	Aged 68 -	Son William <sup>8</sup> Hartshorne died in San Francisco of <i>acute nephritis</i> . Buried laurel Hill Cemetery.
1902 27 May	Aged 72 -	Wife Emma died. Buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.
1903 23 May	Aged 73 -	Died at St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco, CA. Buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.



*Steamboats at Jackson Street Wharf, San Francisco  
c.1860*

END  
of  
Chapter Eight

James Douglass Saunders

