

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## (SEPTEMBER 1996 EDITION)

**A**lthough Kathleen Thompson Arno balks at the suggestion that the memoirs contained herein might be largely attributable to her, I believe it is so. I doubt seriously that even Grandpa's incredible tenacity would have prevailed without her encouragement. I doubt that I would ever have seen the memoirs had it not been for her own perseverance, toiling through 200 pages of an old man's penciled scrawl to produce typewritten copies for the rest of us, be they rough drafts or not.

I could stop giving her credit right here, and there'd still be plenty of reason to acknowledge her first, but there's more. Kathi has been my touchstone and my partner. She has been my contact with the family, my cheerleader, my most excellent proofreader, and my friend. It is no exaggeration to say that if you are reading this book, it is as much due to her as to Grandpa and me.

One other thing Kathi brought to this book was the work of her wonderfully talented husband, Roger. His beautiful pen-and-ink illustrations throughout Part 1 and on the cover serve to flesh out the story and give life to segments where we have no photographs. What depth he has added to the book! What an honor it is to present his drawings in this humble work!

While I am acknowledging that branch of the family, I must tell you that Uncle Chet's insights and contributions added great depth and, in many cases, enlightenment to his father's memoirs. He has taken the time to transcribe documents for me, sent photos, answered questions, and maybe the most important, maintained an ongoing correspondence with me. His support has meant much more than he will ever realize.

Mom, of course, helped enormously. First, there was her profound fascination with history which she passed on to me. Despite her personal mixed feelings about this man, her father, she had high regard for his memoirs. She felt, as do I, that he took great care to convey not just memories, but flavors and impressions of the past. She was always a phone call away when I had a question. Many of the old photos in the book came from her, as did the identification of the people in the photos.

My brother Lynn took time to transcribe documents for me, and he sent old photographs, some of which were completely new to me. I originally asked him to draw an illustration for me. He chose not to, but he strongly recommended his daughter, Terri Paul. Terri consented to do the one drawing of the Bee Rock

settlement. My idea had been merely to bring a visual interpretation of Grandpa's vivid description because I personally was so curious about it. But when I saw her wonderful drawing, it occurred to me that the entire book could be greatly enhanced by art and I was clamoring for more. Terri, unfortunately, didn't feel she had the time to do justice to such a project, but it must be told that her one drawing lit the flame.

All of you family contributors, the descendants and in-laws of Walter Coke Thompson, deserve acknowledgment here. You have entrusted me with photographs, taken the time to fill out your family updates, given me your whole-hearted support, and many of you have even sent money (which was more than welcome, but definitely not required or solicited).

Additionally, there are the people with whom I work. They have been extremely interested and supportive. Theresa Conroy taught me how to scan photographs and allowed me to use her computer and scanner to do so. When you see the number of pictures that follow, you will understand the enormous value of that. My own personal cheering section was led by Penny Sonn and Mary Hyodo, priceless supporters, especially during the horrible months after spring of last year when my interest in the project died. They were always there keeping me from being too hard on myself and telling me I could and would do it. If I were ever to have considered discontinuing my efforts altogether, it would have been really, really difficult dealing with *them*.

Another major contributor volunteered her enormously valuable services quite late in the project. Francesca Angelesco, Graphic Designer, agreed to work with me and produce our splendid cover, using Roger's illustration. When you are binding a book the way this one is bound, you need to have a final page count before you determine how wide the cover's spine will be. So, not only did Francesca have to coax me through my indecisiveness and relative ignorance, she also had to sit and wait while one of my print deadlines after another slipped after she volunteered.

Finally, I want to be sure everyone knows that Jeanine Kitchel and the company she works for, Fong Brothers Printing in Brisbane, have actually made the printing of the book possible. Their expertise in the new xerographic printing process used here has enabled me to afford a printed book with crisp and clean resolution.

I cannot believe my own good fortune in being personally involved with this particular combination of great people. Thank you all!

## (AUGUST, 2000 EDITION)

Since the original publishing of this book in September of 1996, I have met a third cousin, Norm Atkins of Visalia, California. Norm is a descendant of Pleasant and Sarah Thompson (see chapter 2), and he has done an enormous amount of research on the family. He has provided information and photographs which have been incorporated into this updated version. And I hope, with his help, this version will become a living document which can be updated as the new facts are uncovered.

Norm and I are good friends now. He has invited me to a family reunion in Jolon, California, where I met Doris Smith who is descended from my great-grandfather (Pleasant's brother, Hardy) by his first marriage. He has taken me to the graves of Pleasant and Sarah Thompson, and he's showed me the location of the unmarked grave of Nancy Bacon Thompson Burns. It's a lovely location on top of a hill under a huge oak tree, and it looks down on the road and the creek across from it. The site was once a part of the Thompson land near King City, California.

We are amazed that our two branches of this family have been strangers for two generations. They did not live far apart when Pleasant Thompson was alive and his brother's widow, Mary, brought her family back to California from Oregon.

