

Sacramento County Biographies

Information thanks to Nancy Pratt Melton:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~npmelton/sachobd.htm>

MRS. KELSEY HOBDAY

MRS. KELSEY HOBDAY.--Among the clever American women in Sacramento County who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the management of their estates may well be named Mrs. Kelsey Hobday who resides about eleven miles northeast of Galt. She was born at Perry, Ohio, on December 29, 1855, the daughter of John and Charlotte (Teece) Child and was christened Emily. Her father and mother were natives of Birmingham, England, where they were married and thus came to the United States when a young couple, and made their way on what was then recorded as decidedly "West," and settled at Perry. In England Mr. Child had been a miller; but in the country of his adoption he commenced to farm. Nine children were granted this worthy couple. Ann and Elizabeth, the eldest two, are both deceased, then came George, Thomas, Emily, Sarah, Henry, John and William. Mr. Child died at the age of eighty-five, while his good wife lived to see her seventy-seventh year.

One of the annuals of this family pertains to the accidental causes of Mrs. Hobday's parents settling in Ohio. A sister of our subject's father, Mrs. Walker, was living at St. Louis, Mo., and Mr. and Mrs. Child were on their way there to settle; and at Painesville, Ohio, they were compelled to tarry, because the railway bridge was burned out. A Mr. Parmalee extended to them the hospitality of his home, and they thus became interested in the Buckeye State; and after remaining with the Parmalees for a year, they settled in Perry, on the bank of Lake Erie. In 1887, they made their daughter a visit in California, spent one winter, then went back to their home.

Emily Child attended the schools in Perry, and in that town, on February 6, 1884, was married to Kelsey Hobday, a native of Mentor, Ohio, and the son of John and Elizabeth Hobday. They were also natives of England, where they had been farmer-folk, and they continued agricultural pursuits in this country. Kelsey was one of eight children, those older than he being Ed, John, and Basil, and those younger, Sarah, Fannie, Elizabeth and Margaret. He came out to California in 1872, bought a ranch and improved a home, then returned to Ohio in 1884, married, and accompanied by his devoted wife returned to California. They settled in Sacramento County, almost ten miles north of Galt where he had bought 160 acres of grain land, which they farmed for a while but which has since been sold. In 1900 he took up eighty acres of government land four miles east of the place where he had originally settled, or twelve miles northeast of Galt, which he also devoted to the raising of grain; and this land he cultivated until he died there, in 1912, the father of five children: Kelsey Jr.; William; Hiram; and Edward, and the youngest is Sarah, now employed in the Krebs paint store, Sacramento. Kelsey Hobday was a staunch Republican and heartily supported the party he believed in as most likely to protect and favor American industries. He was a Mason, and an eminently patriotic citizen; and his two sons, Hiram and Edward, have reflected credit upon his honored name by their service in the United States Army.

Hiram Hobday entered the United States Army in June, 1917, and joined the marine corps, and for eleven months he was at Mare Island. Then he was transferred to the Aviation Detachment and for six months attended the mechanics' training school, and then he went to Miami, and was at the naval aviation school for a part of the time, and for a part of the time was at the maritime flying field, and after five months there was discharged, as a private, in April, 1915. Edward entered the service in August, 1918, and was sent to Camp Lewis, in Washington, and joined Company B of the 1st U.S. Infantry, Thirteenth Division and was eleven months at Camp Lewis, and he was honorably discharged in July, 1919. Both young men are now loyal members of the American Legion of Galt.

Kelsey Hobday Jr., was born on February 2, 1885, on the home place in Sacramento County and at the age of sixteen began to support himself, working out on ranches. He clerked for five seasons in a store at Lake Tahoe, and during the winter seasons he worked at Sacramento, Galt, and Clay, then thus rounding

out five years in a very useful way. He then spent about six years in the poultry business in Sacramento County, at the Whitaker and Ray Colony, and in 1922 he came to the old Quiggle Ranch at Herald, dairying on shares. He was married at Lake Tahoe, in June 1914, to Miss Jessie E. Perry, who was born at Riverside, Cal., the daughter of B. M. and Nellie M. Perry, Canadians, an only child.

William C. Hobday was born on the Hobday ranch, on December, 13, 1893, and attended the Don Ray Colony school, and started for himself at the age of twenty-two. He worked for wages until he was married, at Stockton, on May 20, 1916, when he chose for his wife Miss Phebe Webber, the daughter of Barney Webber. The mother is deceased, but the father resides with Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hobday. After William married, he had a chicken ranch at Lodi for two years, and then moved onto the Webber Ranch, one and one-half miles east of Arno, where he raises turkeys and chickens, and also devotes his attention to grain farming. They have two children, Harold and Donald.

Transcribed by Sally Kaleta.

Source: Reed, G. Walter, *History of Sacramento County, California With Biographical Sketches*, Page 329-330. Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, CA. 1923.

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