

Annie L. Morrison and John H Haydon, 1917, *History of San Luis Obispo County and environs, California, with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the county and environs who have been identified with the growth and development of the section from the early days to the present* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company) p.751

FRANK E. FOTHERINGHAM.—Come what may, no one will ever usurp the position among Californians of the Native Son, and a Californian of whom Santa Margarita is proud is Frank E. Fotheringham, who was born at Sutter Creek, Amador county, on March 11, 1861. His father was Dr. George Fotheringham, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was educated for the medical profession. The name, which belongs to an old English family, was originally Fotheringay, and it was changed by Dr. Fotheringham on his coming to America. Dr. Fotheringham settled in Dupage county, Ill, and there practiced medicine until 1850, when he crossed the plains to California. He had with him his wife and two children when the ox-train was attacked by Indians, but very luckily all escaped.

Arriving at Hangtown, he started mining; but when it was discovered that he had brought with him his medicine case, he was so often called, and at such fees, that he gave up the thought of digging for gold and resumed his practice. Later he located at Sacramento, and there became a leading physician and surgeon. When he retired, he settled in San Francisco. He died in the bay city at the age of seventy-five years. His wife was Miss Ruth Jaynes, who was born in Illinois, and died in San Francisco. Four of the six children born to Dr. and Mrs. Fotheringham survived, and among these was the subject of this review, who attended the public schools of Sacramento and the high school of San Francisco. Later he came to La Panza, San Luis Obispo County, when that section was a great cattle and sheep range. He went to work to learn the cattle business on the ranch of his brother-in-law, J. M. Jones, who owned twenty-five thousand acres or more of land, remaining with him as foreman until he was thirty years of age. Subsequently, he was superintendent of the ranch of Schoenfeld & Jones, who combined two great ranches, the Carissa and the La Panza, including quite forty-five thousand acres; and as the no-fence law then came, into effect, Frank had a big job on his hands, bringing the necessary wire from San Luis Obispo, and completing the fence within six months. In 1897, he began leasing different ranches to tenants, but this was only for two years: at the end of that time it was thought advisable to turn them back into ranges for cattle.

Since 1886, he has had a large experience in raising herds of cattle, shipping in feeders from Arizona and Mexico by the train load, to be turned out a year later fat and fit, and bringing his Durham and Hereford breeds to the highest standard possible. Not by any means have these things been accomplished without privation and considerable risk; and if ever you succeed in getting Mr. Fotheringham to tell about the early days, you will hear some good stories in which his friends, the coyotes, the grizzlies, the California lions and the mountain deer play their parts. His first trip to Los Angeles, which was then a city of only about 12,000 people, was made in 1883, when he was compelled to chase some horse thieves who had made depredations on his stock.

In 1916, Frank Fotheringham resigned his position and removed to Santa Margarita, and built there the comfortable residence in which he now passes

his days more leisurely, looking after his varied interests in San Luis Obispo County and in Los Angeles, in which city he has made considerable investments on account of its wonderful growth. Mr. Fotheringham was married in San Francisco to Miss Maud Meredith, of the northern metropolis, and he has of late given himself up somewhat more freely to social life. He is a member of the San Luis Obispo Lodge, No. 422, B. P. O. E.. and of the Los Osos Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West. As a Democrat he has served as a member of the County Central Committee.