

W. M. R. Parker is a native of Boston, Massachusetts, born November 15, 1837. He availed himself of the educational advantages for which that city is celebrated, attending the Quincy grammar school and the English high school, and graduating at both. Before reaching his majority he was employed in a commercial house, acting as clerk.

In 1856 he resolved to visit California, and, directing his steps hither, he arrived in San Francisco, where he remained for two years, employed in surveying. He then drifted up to Colusa county, laid out the town of Princeton, being one of its original founders, and opened a general store there. He continued in this business till the fall of 1858. Looking about for a suitable location, he found himself in Sonoma county, where he taught school on Mark West creek till the latter part of 1861. His next move was to Monterey county, in January, 1862. Here he engaged in farming, putting in a crop on what is now known as the Beet ranch, near Castroville. Mr. Parker had proved himself capable and able to follow almost any useful pursuit, his versatility being early recognized in Monterey county, and he turned from farming to enter the office of the County Clerk as Deputy, in November, 1862, under George W. Bird. The latter however, failed to qualify on his re-election, and Mr. Parker was appointed County Clerk in March, 1864, holding the office till March, 1868. Next he was appointed Under Sheriff to Thomas Watson, serving in that capacity from 1868 to 1870. He left his previous employment at the call of the people

to serve four years as County Clerk, his term of office expiring in 1874. At this time the county was divided (San Benito county being organized), and Governor Booth appointed him County and Probate

Judge, which office He filled two years. Since then he has resided in Salinas, and devoted himself exclusively to the practice of law, having been associated with Hon. N. A. Dorn from 1878 till January, 1881.

He was married in 1863, to Miss Lola Dutro, of Monterey, and their union is blessed with nine children.

In his law practice, Judge Parker makes a specialty of the land business. His knowledge of the Spanish language, of the intricacies of the old Spanish boundaries, together with a thorough understanding of the Spanish system of jurisprudence, have caused him to be regarded as the most accomplished authority on land titles in this part of California; hence his services in this department are much sought after.

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