Francisco Vassola's Stone Store - 425 Main Street, Murphys

Francisco Vassola and Company had a store before the 1859 fire, and it must have been well stocked with merchandise since they were listed as having a loss of five thousand dollars from that fire. They rebuilt, but using stone to make the building fireproof. They sold the new building to a group of men from San Francisco in 1860 with the sale including the stone building that was measured as twenty-six by thirty foot and also two frame buildings that had been occupied by Vassola.

The new owners appear to have used the building as a rental, since it was occupied by Benjamin Orengo and John B. Ruiseco as a store immediately. Orengo and Ruiseco finally purchased the stone store building in 1865 with that deed stating that the building was twenty foot by thirty foot, making it six foot shorter than the deed in 1860 stated. The lot was measured as forty-four foot wide on Main Street and the two framed buildings that had been owned by Vassola were still included. In a photo dated 1861, a building owned by J.C Green was located on the land west of this stone building and there was a bakery between Green's building and this stone building. That bakery may have been in one of the Vassola's two frame buildings.

Giovanni Battista Ruiseco died in October of 1865 when he was about thirty-four years old, He had set a booby trap to foil prospective thieves by placing a pistol in a cash drawer in a way that would cause the gun to go off if anyone opened the drawer. In the morning he had apparently forgotten this trap and was shot when he opened the drawer. He lived for several days and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Murphys. His partner, Benjamin Orengo, purchased Ruiseco's interests in the business and continued running the store, but brought in G.M. Orengo as a new partner in 1867.

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP.—Last week, says the Copperopolis *Courier*, Oct. 14th, an Italian at Murphys met with an accident from the effects of which he died shortly after. Anticipating a visit from a burglar, he had placed a pistol in a drawer in such a manner as to shoot any person who should attempt to open it. In the morning, having forgotten all about the matter, he opened the drawer, and received the charge which was intended for the robber.

Marysville Daily Appeal 10/19/1865

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

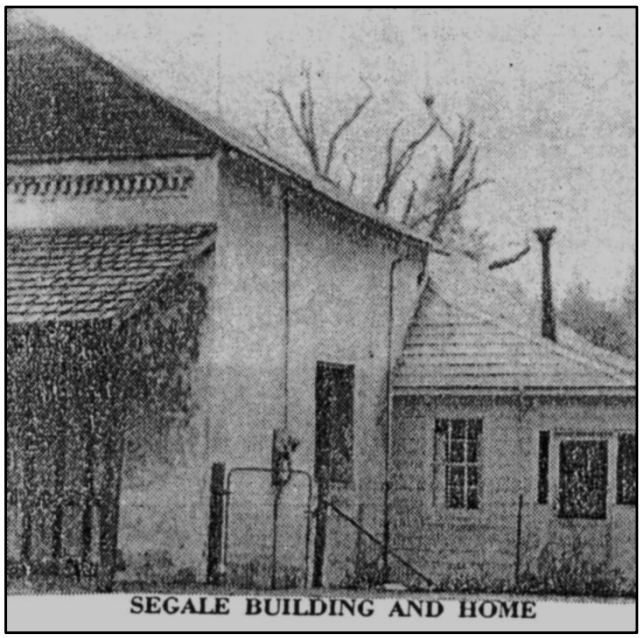
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT ON or after the 22d day of October, A. D., 1866, I will sell all the right, title and interest of Giovanni Ruiseco, Deceased, in and to the following described property, to-wit:—All that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate on the southerly side of Main street, in the town of Murphys, in the county of Calaveras, State of California, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning on the southerly line of Main street, at the northeast corner of the lot of P. Birmingham: thence extending easterly along said street forty-four (44) feet to the lot formerly owned by Josiah Leonard, and from these two bounds extending back, southerly, from and at right angles with said street, and holding the same width, seventy-three (73) feet, to Angels Creek—with all the improvements thereon.

All bids shall be left with the undersigned, or at his store in the village of Upper Calaveritas, Calaveras county, California. The said property will be sold only for gold coin of the United States of America.

LUIGI COSTA, Executor of
Estate of Giovanni Ruiseco, Deceased.

Chronicle 10/13/1866

The 1860 census records for Benjamin Orengo in Calaveras County show him living in Murphys Camp where he was listed as Benjamin Orengo age twenty-two living with John Baptiste Ruiseco who was twenty-eight, with both of them working as merchants. Benjamin Attilio Orengo was in Jenny Lind in the 1870 census when he was age thirty-three and living with him were Carlos Orengo age sixty and Guisseppe Orengo age fifty-one, with all three men listed as store keepers.



SEGALE BUILDING AND HOME

The store was sold to David Baratini and Paul Segale in 1871. An addition was later built on the rear that was added by the Segale family as a dwelling and is faced with stone. The beautiful stone building built in 1860 still stands and is used as a retail establishment.



The Vassola building in 1929

