

## THE EIKERENKOTTER FAMILY

By: John Edmonds

August Eikerenkotter was born in Prussia on June 30, 1817. He was reared and educated in his native country and came to the United States in 1834. He settled at Charleston, South Carolina, where he lived for 11 years. He came to California



*The Eikerenkotter store  
on Portola Road near  
the intersection of Sand  
Hill Road.*

around the horn in the bark Tarleton in 1850 and went up to the gold country and mined in Coloma, El Dorado County, the middle fork of the American River and Dry Diggings in Placer County. In the fall of 1852 he returned to San Francisco and kept the Paradise Hotel at the corner of Pine and Kearny Streets.

Late in 1852, perhaps even before John Sears' house was built, Eikerenkotter came to Searsville, where he erected a hotel and store to furnish lodging and amusement for the lumbermen that frequented the Searsville area. His place stood just west of John Sears, at the current intersection of Sand Hill and Portola Roads.

August Eikerenkotter married Helena Lesemann. Their children were Charles F., Edward, Tilla, Julius, Albert and George. August Eikerenkotter died July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1887, he was buried in plot 10, block B. He was 70 years old. Helena died April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1891 and is buried beside her husband. She was 63 years of age. Edward died July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1897 at age 44 years and was buried in the family plot. Julius died at 1 month on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1894 and Lina died at 10 years on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1873. Also in this plot are an infant that died on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1879 and a Mrs. E. Eikerenkotter, according to the burial book, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1886.