The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at: www.andersonhistorical.com.

Jo Giessner sent in an obituary from the *Shasta Courier* dated October 11, 1862, for Private Joseph Billiard of Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers.

At Benicia Barraeks, on the 2d inst., Joseph Billiard, a private in Company C, (Shasta Guards) 4th Infantry, C. V.

[A comrade writes: "Poor Joe. He was a good soldier, a faithful friend, and a true patriot. He was an adopted citizen, a native of old Spain, had served a five years culistment in the United States Army, was through the Mexican war, and had also done his share of Indian fighting against the wild Apaches and wary Comanches. His disease (the dropsy) was contracted in the cold climate of the Walla. He was buried with the usual military honors.

Joseph Billiard was listed in the official records as a private in Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, California Volunteers. The unit was recruited in Shasta County in September and its militia designation was the Shasta Guards. The unit was marched to Auburn County where it was mustered into United States service on October 5, 1861. The unit was stationed at Fort Walla Walla in Washington until September of 1862 when it was returned to Benicia Barracks in Solano County. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Billiard died of "dropsy." Dropsy is characterized by generalized swelling and is synonymous with heart failure. Joseph was buried in the post cemetery.



Joseph's grave at Benicia Barracks. Note the date of death is given as Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Few statistics were found for Joseph: he was born in Spain in 1827 and may have been in New Mexico at the time of the Mexican War. The obituary cites Joseph served a five-year enlistment which was the standard enlistment in the Regular Army. There was a Private John Billiard in B Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Sante Fe Infantry, but they only served from May 1847 to October 1848. The history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons matches his service, but no enlistment records were found. The article states that Joseph was an adopted citizen, but no naturalization records were found. The latter may indicate that Joseph was living in Mexican territory and granted citizenship under the peace treaty.

Joseph lived a short life, yet served in three wars: Mexican War, Indian Wars, and Civil War. If anyone has the time Joseph would be a prime research project.

The articles for September 2023 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 2, 2) Letter July 26, 1851, Reading's Ranch, Drury P. Baldwin, 3) Letter September 5, 1851, Shasta City, John E. Dent, 4) Letter October 3, 1851, Shasta City, O. C. Lee, 5) Letter October 22, 1851, Shasta, Isaac Owens, 6) Louis Behrle, Senior, and 7) Louis Behrle, Junior.

## Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 2

#### **Albert H. Bosworth** – operated out of Fall River Mills around 1890 to 1910.

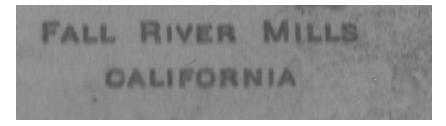
Albert Henry "Bert" Bosworth was born in Missouri in 1869. By 1880 Bert's father Nathanial Bosworth (1824-1891) and his mother Lucy S. Farnum (1831-1899) were farming in Napa County. Bert completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade before settling at Cayton Valley in Shasta County as a farmer in 1890. From December 1896 to April of 1898 Bert was the Postmaster at Cayton. In July 1896 Bert married Ella Burner. In the 1910 U. S. Census Bert was listed as a jeweler in Fall River Mills and listed as widowed. Albert appears to have operated his photographic business in conjunction with the jewelry shop. Bert would remarry Rosannah Josephine Brown (1885-1971) after 1910. Bert continued to work as a jeweler in Fall River Mills into the 1940s and died in 1951.



T. S. Thompson's Header at Fall River August 10, 1902, taken by Albert H. Bosworth.

# A. H. BOSWORTH PHOTOGRAPHER

Trademark of Albert H. Bosworth (on left of the photograph).



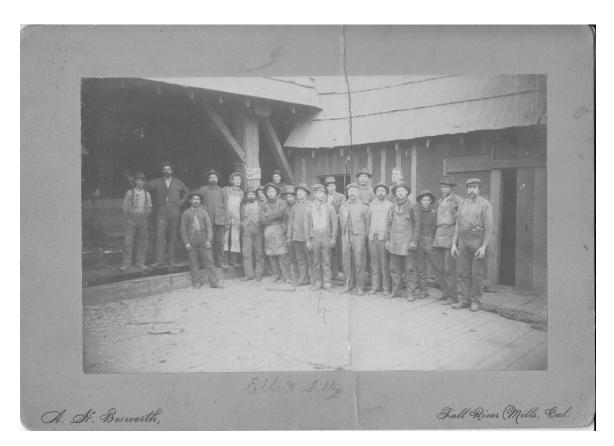
Trademark of Albert H. Bosworth (on right of the photograph).



Photograph of a pack train taken by A. H. Bosworth



Trademark of A. H. Bosworth.



Reportedly workers at the Terry Mill. The reverse reads Elbert Silby, Belavista (BellaVista).



Script trademark of Albert H. Bosworth.



Photograph titled, "Feb. 29, 1944," with handwritten initials AHB in the lower left corner.

# Rosannah Josephine Bosworth

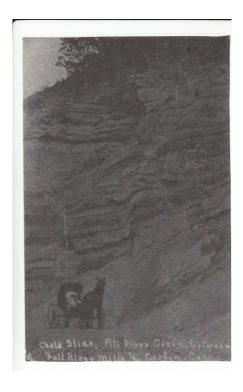


Young Rosannah Josephine Brown. Courtesy of Ancestry.com

Rosannah Josephine Brown was born in 1885 near Dana and generally utilized her middle name or simply Jo and would spend her whole life in the intermountain area of Shasta County. Josephine's father appears to have had economic problem later in life and in 1900 Josephine was living at the home of her sister Nana in Squaw Valley, Siskiyou County attending

school. Josephine would attend school through the eighth grade, which was the norm for most rural areas. Fall River Mills High School was not organized until 1911. While in school Josephine developed an interest in photography. In 1904 Josephine started a career as a photographer using obsolete methods and equipment that were available. In 1906 Josephine's mother was staying at the Occidental Hotel in Santa Rosa when the earthquake hit San Francisco. Beyond San Francisco the earthquake caused severe damage in Salinas, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and smaller towns along the fault line. The brick Occidental Hotel collapsed crushing Josephine's mother. Within the year Josephine's father had also passed on. 1910 found Josephine along with one brother and one sister was living in Fall River Mills with their sister Lydia's family. Josephine was working at home as a photographer. Josephine appears to have utilized J. Brown on her photographs.

In August of 1913 Josephine was united in marriage to Albert H. Bosworth, a jeweler and watchmaker in Fall River Mills. The attraction appears to be a common love of photography. Albert or "Bert" as he was commonly known had operated a well-known photographic studio in Fall River Mills between 1890 and 1910. After her marriage Josephine began working in the jewelry store as well as continuing her photographic journey. Josephine was responsible for hundreds of views of the surrounding scenery produced under the title "Bosworths Photos, Fall River Mill." In 1921 the jewelry store changed into the Bosworth Jewelry and Gift Shop. Both Josephine and Bert loved the Fall River Mills area and took on a larger community role. In the 1930 census Bert was listed as a jewelry store proprietor and Josephine as a portrait photographer. Bert died in 1951 and Josephine continued operations until her death in 1971.



Photograph titled "Chalk slide, Pitt River Canon between Fall River Mills and Carbon, Cal." In the lower left corner can just be seen J. Brown, Photos.



Photograph from 1938 of the first airmail flight from Fall River Mills. The corner is marked Bosworth's, Fall River Mills, Cal.



The trademark for Bosworths Photos is shown on the reverse of the photograph.



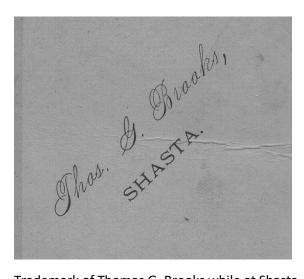
View of Burney with Rosannah Josephine Bosworth's initials on the front to indicate the photographer and Bosworths Photos on the reverse.

**Thomas G. Brooks** – operated at Shasta from October 1874 to 1875.

Little was found about Thomas G. Brooks' early life other that he was born about 1849 in England. A Shasta Courier advertisement for October 10, 1874, announced his arrival: "Just Arrived! Thos. G. Brooks, Artist, Paintings made from old photographs in the highest style of the arts. Dr. W. P. Cool, Dentist, teeth inseted on all basis known to the Dental Profession." The trademark on the back of his photographs indicates he practiced independent of Dr. Cool but about the same period a photograph was found produced by Brooks and Hyde involving painting in India ink or watercolors. Brooks was listed at Shasta until 1875 and was known to be an agent for Remington Sewing Machines and Estey Organs. Brooks was known to have been in Weaverville in May and June 1876 and later he was listed as a portrait painter in San Francisco. In the 1880 U. S. Census, Thomas is listed as Thomas J. Brooks, a photographer in Astoria, Oregon. He was believed to have operated at Astoria until 1881 then seems to drop from all records.



Portrait of Mollie Carr taken by Thomas Brooks.



Trademark of Thomas G. Brooks while at Shasta.



Portrait of Joseph H. Pryor taken by Thomas G. Brooks.



Second type of trademark for Thomas G. Brooks.

**Thomas G. Brooks and Dr. W. P. Cool** – operated at Shasta from October 1874 to February 1875.

The partnership of Thomas G. Brooks and Doctor William Pleasants Cool appears to be one of sharing a studio space rather than an artistic relationship. A biography of Thomas G. Brooks is listed under his name. Doctor William Pleasants Cool was born in Kentucky in 1851 and practiced dentistry for eight years before moving to California. William was the son of Dr. George W. Cool and Virginia M. Pleasant and registered to vote in San Francisco in 1874. From October 1874 to February 1875 Dr. Cool was at Shasta but appears to have returned to San Francisco where he practiced dentistry the rest of his professional career. Dr. Cool was known to have married Mary J. Lingow in 1869. Dr. Cool died in 1907.



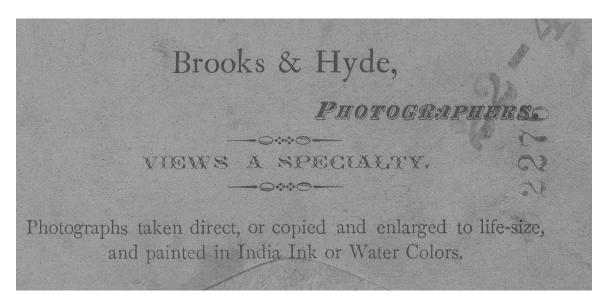
Advertisement from the Shasta Courier dated October 10, 1874, for Thomas G. Brooks and Dr. W. P. Cool. Courtesy Shasta Historical Society.

# **Brooks & Hyde** — operated in Shasta County in the 1870s.

The partnership of Brooks & Hyde was believed to be between Thomas G. Brooks and William Hyde. Biographical material is provided under the artist's individual name. The exact date of the partnership was not found but Hyde was in Butte County in 1870 to 1872 so a likely date would be 1875.



Portrait of Jerry Culverhouse taken by Brooks & Hyde.



Trademark for Brooks & Hyde on a portrait of Jerry Culverhouse. Nothing was found about Mr. Hyde.



Portrait of James C. Isaacs taken by Brooks & Hyde.

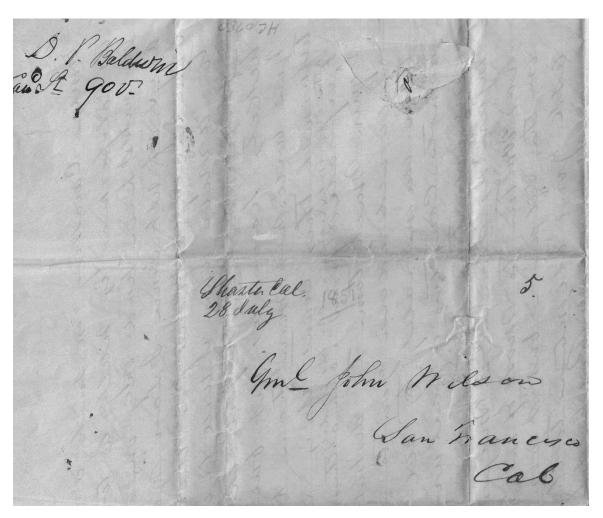
Burgess – operated at Red Bluff 1862- April 1866.

Although there were a number of likely candidates such as Charles F. Burgess and George H. Burgess, the first name of the individual who operated a studio two doors north of the Levensohn & Galland Store in Red Bluff from 1862 to April 1866 is unknown. The studio known as the Burgess Portrait Studio was purchased by Oliver H. P. Norcross and John Baptiste Higinbotham in April 1866.

Charles Gilbert Button – operated out of Shasta from May to September 1876.

Charles G. Button was the short-term partner of Benjamin Swasey from May 1876 to about December 1876. The partners probably met in San Francisco where in the early 1870s both worked for some of the important photographic companies. Charles was born about 1838 in New York and was first noted in California in 1866 where he was listed as a photographer in San Jose. In 1872 Button was listed in San Francisco with Thomas Houseworth & Co. and in 1874 with George D. Morse. After leaving Swasey and Button, Charles is next reported in Marysville in Yuba County in 1879, then Alameda County in 1884. Charles was listed as a printer with Lawrence & Sons in Los Angeles in 1888 and his last entry was as a photographer in Alameda County in 1890.

Drury P. Baldwin, Reading's Ranch, July 26, 1851



The address on the letter was to General John Wilson in San Francisco the chairman of the Whig party for the election due to be held in September 1851. The letter was mailed at the U. S. Post Office at Shasta by D. P. Baldwin, and he appears to add Can. (candidate) Lt. Governor. Drury P. Baldwin was the Whig candidate.

Since I parted with you w. San trancisco I have malde pully much a canvas of the nothing mining Counting Structed all of the somupal points in moada yuba Bulle + Shasta and at a number of Which made Spuches - matthale Muliorklo I Bight were generally a few days a head + all I had to do was to apply to some of the principal whigh I oblain their bount charges against The whigh + respond to them, Which was an easy matter as they were To profess in their about to Slanders of the whigh as to destroy themselves easily unambered & very generally destribute their principal hobies were the subjects of the mirral land, - Minh - and Buternal improvement - mr Bus I my self have burn how abo how day's at the majors + are nester from the fature of our long duty I hop trove - Mr Bart is Leek to day town man at the Mafor Cading + my self from minutes for Shasten city , will before we news ouset Some of the nucepal diggings above & intered

monday & shall cross our from Lassons Ranch to the head quoting of the Feather hour The hors down mafer will not be able to accompanying he has day 4 pecking the arrival of Dr hogen croft the Indian agent with somal Companies of h Shoops and his friends en the region Contin that his desorces are under And all Littling the Endean defficulties in the Dopular whenever I have being, but here the people all love how and Whey't democras will vote for him indescen malely the whige & believe : low show bown i of True are bond to prove becton out. The blum ocracy are beging the most 4 hardinar; 4-: whom to secure their point. must they orators in all directions - a populor system of electionus ong with them is the abuse of Knading but There empered System of prosention makes there more enemies than find, Phan dem mon demodrals than one disputated with with their own parg-Whow I understand is over in Moode but What has become of hour Fair query for them Know Fair + abil ought to spind all of the concluding

mmy- Carastry in Luch a State as Caleforma is hally a wrandom business have had only one or live days of ust Since & Law you - and I am nace, arycons for the time to arrive when I well be over with How does it hopen that no , hellets have as yet bun faut our you will not more than how time Toffer mich this county the is Lo loops the distinguishment deggings are be windigther it will togener much time to distribute This I would adore you to Sind them unemorally to all the in agnor in time might in places, infur us much - ma for Mading has withen to most of the Union on the subject - but I would also ask your allention to the lame In much huse the part freeze 10 1 Daes vu To Cant you Start out Some half a dozen of our Wh about Jan Francises into The Mines to fight against given I beller There are many masourians en + Through the nothern mines of you throhampshin from Meson would lake a turn & Think you might do much -

#### Readings Ranch

July 26/51

Dear General

Since I parted with you in San Francisco have made pretty much a canvass of the Northern Mining Country – have pushed all of the principal points in Nevada, Yuba, Butte and Shasta and at a number made speeches – Marshall, McCorkle and Bigler were generally a few days ahead and all I had to do was to was to apply to some of the principal Whigs and obtain their charges against the Whigs and respond to them, which was an easy matter as they were so profuse in their abuse and slander of the Whigs as to make themselves easily remembered and very generally disbelieved.

Their principal hobbies were the subject of the mineral lands – Mint – and internal improvements. Mr. Burt and myself have been here about two days at the Major's and are resting from the fatigue of our long dusty and hot travel – Mr. Burt is sick today and will remain at the ranch. Major Reading and myself will start in a few minutes for Shasta City and will before we return visit some of the principal diggings above – I intend starting down again next Monday and shall cross over from Lassen's Ranch to the head waters of the Feather River and take the river down. Major Redding will not be able to accompany as he is daily expecting the arrival of Dr. Wozencraft the Indian agent with several companies of U. S. troops and his friends in the region contend that his services are indispensable in settling Indian difficulties in this region – Reading is universally popular where ever I have been but here the people all love him and Whigs and democrats will vote for him indiscriminately. The Whigs I believe are largely in the ascendancy where ever I have been and if true to themselves are bound to prove victorious – The Democracy are inspiring the most extraordinary exertions to secure their point – I have met their orators in all directions – a popular system of electioneering with them is the abuse of Reading – but their unjust system of proscription makes them more enemies than friends. I have seen more democrats than one disgusted with their own party – Moon I understand it over in Nevada but what has become of Kewen, Fair and Abell and the balance of the workers. The people are making inquiries for them. Kewen, Fair and Abell ought to spend all of the concluding part of the canvass in the northern mines - Canvassing in such a State as California is really a wearisome business. I have had only one or two days of rest since I saw you – and I am really anxious for the time to arrive when it will be over with.

How does it happen that no tickets have as yet been sent out. You will not more than have time to furnish this county it is so large and the different diggings are so widely separated from each other it will require much time to distribute them. I would advise you to send them immediately to all the remote Counties a failure to arrive in time might in places injure us much-Major Reading has written to most of the Union on the subject – but I would also ask your attention to the same.

Res	ре	ct	ful	Ίv

*In much haste* 

Yours

D. P. Baldwin

PS can't you start out some half a dozen of our Whig orators about San Francisco into the mines to fight against Gwin and Weller. There are any Missourians in and through the northern mines. If you and New Hampshire Jim Wilson would take a turn I think you might do much -

DPB

The letter was addressed to "General" John Wilson who was born in Virginia in 1790. Little was found about his early history: he was known to have served in the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812 and that he moved to Missouri about 1820. It was not known if John joined the Missouri State Militia or had a title such as surveyor general that would account for the title General in the letter. One note has John as a delegate to the Deseret Convention of 1849, but it was not found that he was Mormon. John was appointed as an Indian Agent for California by President Zachary Taylor who was a member of the Whig Party. John appears to have been appointed U. S. Navy agent at San Francisco about 1850. John quickly entered Whig politics and from about 1851 to 1853 was the Chairman of the State Whig Committee. In the 1852 California Census John was listed as a lawyer in San Francisco where he specialized in land law. John died in California in 1877.

The author of the letter was Drury P. Baldwin who was born in Alabama in 1823. In 1846 Drury was a Justice of the Peace in Wilcox County, Alabama but by 1849 was living in California. In November 1849 Drury won a seat in the California House of Representative for San Joaquin County on a non-partisan ticket. At the time of the letter Drury was on the Whig Party ticket for Lieutenant Governor. Drury accounted for 45.7% of the vote but lost to the Democratic Party candidate Samuel Purdy who obtained 54.3% of the vote. In October 1851 he won a seat representing the 9<sup>th</sup> District as a Whig serving one term before opening a law practice in San Francisco (he was admitted to the California Bar in June 1850). In 1860 Drury was a lawyer in San Francisco and most likely served in the California Militia as there is a note that he held the rank of Brigadier General. Drury P. Baldwin died in San Francisco in 1875.

In the opening paragraph the author writes that Marshall, McCorkle and Bigler were generally a few days ahead on the campaign trail. All three at the time of the letter were members of the Democratic Party with Edward C. Marshall a U. S. Representative from the California At-large District while Joseph W. McCorkle was U. S. Representative for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. John Bigler had been the Speaker of the House of Representatives and was running for governor on the Democratic ticket.

Edward Colston Marshall was born in Kentucky in 1821 and attended Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) before being admitted to the bar. After serving in the Mexican War Edward moved to California and was elected a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from March 1851 to March 1853. Edward was nominated for a second term but withdrew prior to the election deciding to practice law in Marysville, Yuba County. Edward was an unsuccessful candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1856. Edward returned to Kentucky and practiced law for twenty-one years before returning to California in 1877. Edward practiced law in San Francisco and was the California Attorney General from 1883 to 1887. Edward died in California in 1893.

Joseph W. McCorkle was born in 1819 in Ohio where he attended Kenyon College. After graduation Joseph studied law and was admitted to the bar about 1842. Joseph had a private practice in

Dayton, Ohio prior to being appointed the U. S. Postmaster of Dayton from 1845 to 1849. Drawn by the discovery of gold in California Joseph moved to San Francisco to practice law. Joseph failed at his first attempt to hold office as a Judge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District but secured a seat in the California Assembly for 1850-1852. In 1851 Joseph became a member of the U. S. House of Representatives serving until 1853. Joseph failed in his attempt to seek reelection.

Joseph is more commonly remembered for fighting a duel with sitting Democratic U. S. Senator William M. Gwin (mentioned later in the letter) in June 1853 after leaving office. The duel was over an argument concerning the management of federal patronage and was fought with rifles at thirty yards. Neither contestant was injured, and the only casualty was a nearby donkey. After the duel Joseph moved to Marysville to practice law but was soon appointed Judge of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. During his term in 1855 Joseph unsuccessfully sought a U. S. Senator seat. Joseph served as judge until 1857 and in 1860 moved to the Comstock Lode to practice law in Virginia City, Nevada. In 1870 Joseph moved to Washington, D. C. to practice law before the American Mexican Claims Commission. Joseph died in Maryland in 1884.

John Bigler was born in Pennsylvania in 1805 and was apprenticed to learn the printing trade. In 1831 John and his younger brother William purchased a Democratic newspaper in Pennsylvania. John sold his interest in the newspaper in 1835 to study (William would go on to become governor of Pennsylvania). When the news of the California Gold Rush reached Pennsylvania, John decided to move to California to practice law. After traveling overland with an ox train John reached Sacramento only to find there were opening in law. After surviving doing odd jobs luckily California's first general election turned john towards politics. John was elected to a in the Assembly representing Sacramento in 1849 and quickly rose in the Democratic Party. Between February 1850 and May 1851 John was Speaker of the State Assembly and at the time of the letter had just left office to campaign as the Democratic candidate for governor. John's most formidable opponent was the Whig candidate P. B. Reading of Shasta County. The Whigs portrayed Bigler as an unpolished Yankee while portraying Reading as an educated early pioneer from the South. When the vote was counted in September 1851 Bigler won 51.2% of the vote against Reading's 48.8% a difference of just over a thousand votes.

John Bigler took office in January 1852 and went on to become the first California governor to complete an entire term and the first to win re-election. Bigler ran for a third term as governor but lost to the Know-Nothing (American Party) candidate J. Neely Johnson making him the first governor to be defeated through a general election. Following his defeat President Buchanan appointed John as the U. S. Minister to Chile. John served as minister until October 1861. In 1863 John ran for the U. S. Senate seat but failed to win. In 1867 John was appointed Railroad Commissioner for the Central Pacific Railroad but left the following year to establish the *State Capital Reporter* newspaper in Sacramento. John served as editor of the newspaper until his death in November 1871.

The letter speaks of the issues for the September 1851 election as being mineral lands, the U. S. Mint, and internal improvements. Without going into great detail, mineral lands often translated into a policy to prevent Chinese immigration and exclude their mining in the gold fields, while the U. S. Mint translated to pushing the federal government to immediately establish a mint in California (not accomplished until 1854). The last issue of internal improvements translated to transportation as established roads were in desperate short supply as seen by the complaints about his campaign travels.

The Whig party ticket for the campaign was as follows:

Governor: P. B. Reading of Shasta County

Lt. Governor: Drury P. Baldwin of Tuolumne County

Justice of the Supreme Court: Ted Robinson of Sacramento

Attorney General: William D. Fair of San Jose

State Treasurer: J. M. Burt of Butte County

State Comptroller: Alexander G. Abell of San Francisco

Surveyor General: Walter Herron of San Jose

U. S. Congress: E. J. C. Kewen of Sacramento and B. F. Moore of Tuolumne County

Drury P. Baldwin had traveled to Reading's Ranch in Shasta County with Mr. Burt who was sick during the campaign swing in Shasta County but later left with Baldwin to complete the tour. Mr. Burt is James Monroe Burt born in 1816 in New York and trained as a lawyer. At the time of the letter Burt was the Whig Candidate for State Treasurer. Burt had come to California in 1849 and founded the town of Oroville in October 1850. The town was originally Ophir after the biblical city of gold, but the name was changed to Oroville as there already was an Ophir in Placer County. At the time of the letter James was the Butte County Attorney and after the election returned to his land holding in Butte County and practiced law. James died in Butte County in 1884.

The letter was written at Pierson B. Reading's Ranch in Shasta County. The ranch was one of two Mexican land grants in Shasta County and stretched between current day Cottonwood and Redding on the western side of the Sacramento River. Reading was a California pioneer of 1843, served in the Mexican War as paymaster of the California Battalion, and discover of gold in Shasta and Trinity Counties. At the time of the letter, he was the Whig candidate for governor but was limiting his campaigning to assist in resolving the conflict between the settlers and Native Americans. W. O. Wozencraft with his U. S. Dragoon escort did arrive in early August 1851 and concluded a treaty at Reading's Ranch on August 16, 1851. The treaty failed to resolve any of the issues as it was never ratified and quietly hidden away for decades. The delay did keep Reading from actively campaigning and may have helped decide the race in favor of the Democratic Party. Reading's full life is more fully related after the James L. Freaner letter of October 11, 1850.

Drury P. Baldwin and James Burt left Reading's Ranch for "Lassen's Ranch at the head of the Feather River" to continue to campaign in the Sierra counties. The Lassen they are referring to is Peter Lassen who was born in Denmark in 1800. Lassen had come to California in 1840 and in 1844 received a Mexican Land Grant for Rancho Bosquejo on the east side of the Sacramento River in current Tehama County. The ranch did not reach the headwaters of the Feather River and Lassen did not move to the Honey Lake region until 1855. Baldwin may have used Lassen's Cutoff of the California Tail that was popular between 1848 and 1853 prior to the establishment of Noble's Trail. Lassen had accompanied Commodore Stockton's party when it returned east to Missouri in 1847 and on his return established the Lassen Cutoff that ran from Goose Lake then followed the Pit River so even that description does not match. It is more likely Baldwin went by Lassen's Ranch to Burt's Ranch at Oroville then followed the Feather River which flows towards Sacramento.

W. O. Wozencraft is Oliver Meredith Wozencraft born in Ohio in 1814. Wozencraft was trained as a physician and moved to California early in 1849 settling in Stockton. Wozencraft represented the

San Joaquin District in the California Constitutional Convention at Monterey in 1849. In July 1850 President Fillmore appointed Wozencraft as a U. S. Indian Agent for California. His title was changed to commissioner when he was appointed along with Redick McKee and George W. Barbour to "hold treaties with various Indian tribes in the State of California as provided by the act of Congress approved September 30, 1850." The group concluded eighteen treaties between March 1851 and January 1852. The treaties were submitted to Congress on June 1, 1852, in closed session and rejected. The treaties were sealed from public view until January 1905.

Wozencraft was relieved as Indian Agent in August 1852 and turned his attention to creating an Imperial Valley irrigation system. Wozencraft died in 1887 with the U. S. Congress blocking his plan. The plan did not die and thirteen years after his death the Alamo Canal began construction and ultimately succeeded in irrigating the Imperial Valley.

Nothing was found on Moon "in Nevada" but Fair, Abell and Kewen were at the time prominent Whig Party politicians. Fair was William D. Fair who was born in Virginia in 1823 and who came to California as "President of the Mississippi Rangers" an emigrant wagon train and settled in Stockton. In 1850 Fair wan a non-partisan seat in the California Assembly representing San Joaquin. At the time of the letter Fair was the Whig candidate for Attorney General but lost to the Democratic candidate S. Clinton Hastings. Fair returned to the practice of law after the election and in 1858 married Laura Grayson. The couple separated in 1861 and Fair committed suicide. (Note: Laura Fair went on to gain notoriety for killing her lover in front of his family in 1870. Her 1871 conviction was overturned with the help of numerous nationally known suffragettes that came to her aid.)

Abell was Alexander Gurdon Abell who was born in 1818 in New York (Connecticut was also cited). From 1845 to 1846 Abell was U. S. Consul to the Kingdom of Hawaii and in 1846 editor of the newspaper *The Sandwich Island News*. Abell moved to San Francisco in 1847 to engage in mercantile pursuits. At the time of the letters Abell was involved in Whig Party politics. Abell was noted for leasing Santa Cruz Island in 1852 although the purpose was not known. In 1856 Abell was appointed Commissioner of Immigration for the port of San Francisco. Abell was elected to the State Senate in 1863 as a member of the Union Party. In his later years Abell as active in Masonic organizations up until his death in 1890.

Kewen was Edward J. C. Kewen born in 1824 in Mississippi who early in life was the editor of the *Columbus Whig* newspaper in Mississippi. Kewen later moved to Missouri where he studied law. Upon news of the Gold Rush Kewen set off for California arriving in Sacramento in December 1849. Almost immediately Kewen became the Democratic candidate for Attorney General but after taking the post quickly resigned. After resigning Kewen moved to San Francisco to practice law but at the time of the letter Kewen was the Whig candidate for the U. S. Senate. Kewen lost the election and returned to San Francisco to practice law until his younger brother Achilles was killed at the Battle of Riva fighting in William Walker filibuster expedition to Nicaragua. Kewen joined Walker first as a financial agent then as Judge Advocate General with the rank of colonel. Kewen resigned his post about the time Walker was evicted from Nicaragua in May 1857. Kewen who was pro-slavery returned to San Francisco but quickly moved to Los Angeles which was the hotbed of southern support. In 1858 Kewen was Superintendent of City Schools in Los Angeles and between 1859 to 1861 District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles. In 1862 Kewen was arrested and convicted of making a "treasonable utterance" against President Lincoln and served two weeks on Alcatraz being released on bond and swearing an oath of loyalty. The charge seems to have gained him popularity in Los Angeles for he was elected to the State Assembly during the

Civil War. In 1863 Kewen had a fight with Fred Lemberg and after being beaten borrowed a gun and laid in wait for his opponent before shooting Lemberg in the stomach. Lemberg recovered and on a trip to Arizona was killed by Indians; having no victim Kewen was acquitted in 1866. Kewen was also known for drawing a pistol in Court and while being restrained wounded a bystander, yet he remains on the Los Angeles Bar Association's Criminal Justice Wall of Fame for outstanding conduct and professionalism. Kewen remained popular in Los Angeles until his death in 1879.

In the postscript Baldwin states the Whig Party had to fight against Gwin and Weller. At the time of the letter William M. Gwin was the Democratic U. S. Senator and John B. Weller was the Democratic candidate for John C. Fremont's seat in the U. S. Senate. Weller who won the election has previously been addressed following the James L. Freaner letter of October 11, 1850.

William McKendree Gwin was born in Tennessee in 1805 and graduated as a physician from Transylvania University in Kentucky in 1828. Before opening a medical practice in Mississippi, Gwin was personal secretary to President Andrew Jackson during his second term. In 1833 Gwin served for one year as the U. S. Marshal for Mississippi and from 1841 to 1843 was the Democratic member of the U. S. House of Representatives. Gwin declined a nomination as U. S. Congressman from Mississippi.

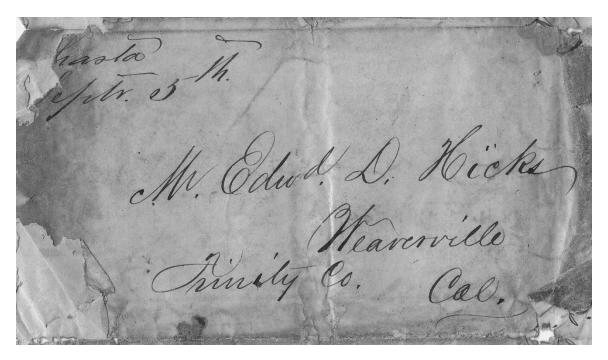
Gwin moved to California in 1849 and almost immediately participated in the California Constitutional Convention at Monterey. Gwin was elected to the U. S. Senate serving from September 1850 to March 1855 where he was a strong supporter of Pacific expansion. Gwin was blocked from reelection in 1855 due to a split in the Democratic Party but was again elected to the U. S. Senate for the term of January 1857 to March 1861. Gwin though pro-Southern brokered talks between Lincoln's Secretary of State and Southern leaders to hold the Union together. Gwin also considered the possibility of a Republic of the Pacific seceding from both North and South, but his party suffered badly in the election of 1861 and returned east. Gwin was arrested along with two secessionists John Slidell and J. L. Brent. Lincoln intervened to secure their release, but Gwin sent his wife and one daughter to Europe to live before returning to his estate in Mississippi. During the war the estate was destroyed and Gwin as well as his son and another daughter fled to France where he proposed Napoleon II sponsor American slaveowners in Sonora. The project was stopped by Maximilian I for fear the Southerners would secede from Mexico. After the war Gwin retired to California and in 1867 purchased property in the Paloma Mining District of Calaveras County where the Gwin Mine provided him with a fortune. William M. Gwin died in New York City in 1885.

At the end of the letter "New Hampshire Jim Wilson" is called upon to give speeches for the Whig Party. Jim Wilson was legally James Wilson II born in New Hampshire in 1797. James graduated from Middleburg College in 1820. In the same year James joined the New Hampshire State Militia as a captain. By 1840 James had risen to the rank of major general and was often addressed by that tile.

James took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1823. After two years of private practice James was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives. James ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1835 and 1838. James joined the Whig Party after its founding in 1833. In 1840 James was a delegate to the Whig National Convention. James was appointed Surveyor General for the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa after the Whig presidential victory of William Henry Harrison (Harrison died after one month in office and the office was filled by John Tyler). In 1851 James was appointed one of the U. S. land claim commissioners in California and settled in San Francisco. At the time of the letter James was officially a commissioner (serving until 1853) but was heavily involved in Whig Party politics.

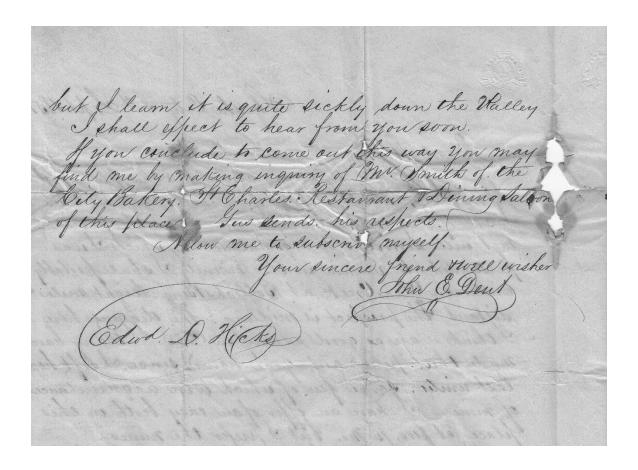
James remained in California until 1867 when he returned to New Hampshire. From 1871 to 1872 James was again a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. James died in New Hampshire in 1881.

# John E. Dent, Shasta City, September 5, 1851



Address page mailed at Shasta in September 1851. The 3 in the upper right corner notes that the letter was carried using the rate set in July 1851: 3 cents per ½ ounce going under 3000 miles.

Thasta City of the Sept. 1801 Thiend Hicks. Upon my arrival at this place, which was on the 2 wines. I found your note of 25 th Ult, to which I cheerfully respond. Upon arriving at this place met with Service old acquaintance by which I was persuaded to remain in this vicinity I shall probably unter on Clear Creek at Bollicks Burg Seight miles distant the prospect is midling. The digging here - I think - are as good as any in Cal, Many have made their piles, and gone home; since I left here last winter. Some few of which were acquaintances of mine I have an offer of an easy besth in this Telace at \$100. fu mo. but I prefer the nines -Business is quite brisk in this place. McCarty of Salmon is in this place, behind the Bar of the Empire Cannot advise you more than - if you are doing moderately well, remain there for men are seaming in here all to time from all directions, a great many expect to writer here. I hereabouts. If I should at any time learn any thing that would be of interest or value to you will speedely inform you thereof (m. Steel of Salmon is also here here expects Counter on Cotton Wood, 30 miles off. The health of this place is good



Shasta City 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1851

#### Friend Hicks

Upon arrival at this place which was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. I found your note of 25<sup>th</sup> Ult.. to which I cheerfully respond. Upon arriving at this place I met with several old acquaintance by which I was persuaded to remain in this vicinity. I shall probably winter on Clear Creek at BollicksBurg eight miles distant. The prospect is middling. The diggings here – I think – are as good as any in Cal. Many have made their "piles" and gone home since I left here last winter, some few of which were acquaintances of mine. I have an offer of an easy berth in this place at \$100 per month but I prefer the mines.

Business is quite brisk in this place. McCarty of Salmon is in this place behind the bar of the Empire. I can not advise you more than – if you are doing moderately well remain there for men are swarming in here all the time from all directions, a great many expect to winter here and hereabouts. If I should at any time learn anything that would be of interest or value to you I will speedily inform you thereof. Mr. Steel of Salmon is also here. He expects to winter on Cottonwood 30 miles off. The health of this place is good but I learn it is quite sickly down the valley.

I shall expect to hear from you soon. If you conclude to come out this you may find me by making inquiry of Mr. Smith of the City Bakery, Saint Charles Restaurant and Dining Saloon of this place. Gus sends his respects.

#### Allow me to subscribe myself

#### Your sincere friend and well wisher

John E. Dent

Edwd. D. Hicks

At the time John Dent is writing this letter the Saint Charles Hotel was a two-story wooden structure on Main Street owned by John Call. Carl A. Grotefend would acquire the hotel in December 1851. The Empire Hotel was also a two-story wooden structure on Main Street. Both buildings and the City Bakery burned down in the fire of 1853 that destroyed almost all of the business district in Shasta.

John's two friends, Mr. Steel and Mr. McCarty of Salmon were probably part of the 1850 Salmon River Gold Rush. Gold was discovered in 1849 in the twenty-mile-long tributary of the Klamath River (Siskiyou County) but with the spring of 1850 there was a sudden rush all along the river. Most of the miners left as winter approached and those that stayed faced what became known as the "starvation time." In the 1852 California Census there was an A. Steel born about 1827 in New York listed as a gambler in Shasta. It appears John and his friend opted to winter away from the Salmon River.

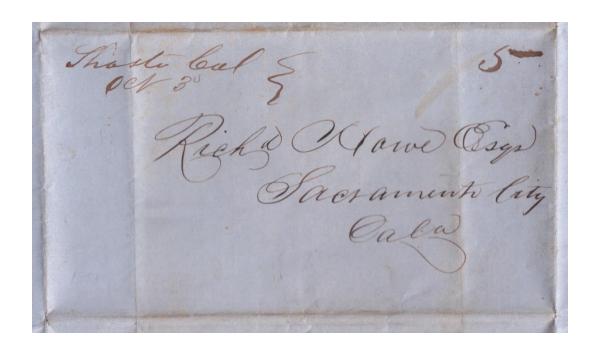
The letter was written to Edward D. Hicks at Weaverville and the only entry found was in the 1850 U. S. Census that listed E. D. Hicks, age 20, a miner born in Tennessee. Edward obviously mined at Weaverville in Trinity County into the fall of 1851 but after that nothing was found.

John plans to winter out at BollicksBurg eight miles from Shasta on Clear Creek. There is no record of the camp but a hand drawn map in Mr. Hollibaugh's collection shows a Bullocksburg about eight miles from Shasta. The camp was located in the vicinity of what later became known as Muletown. The area was mined by Moon with Indian labor in 1849 and gold entered the river from the deposits to the east that became the Potosi Mine in 1854 and from the Lost Channel deposits at Piety Hill to the west. The area has a sizable flat that could be used for a camp and was accessible from Shasta using the road along Clear Creek running north to south or the road from Middletown running east to west.

John Evan Dent was born in 1830 in Ohio and was the son of George Dent 1807-1879 and Comfort Ijams 1808-1887. John would appear to have moved to California by late 1849 as he was in the 1850 U. S. Census in Sacramento. It appears John mined in Siskiyou County before coming to Shasta. John remained in Shasta County and from 1858 to 1860 he was Undersheriff of Shasta County. In 1863 he was listed as Deputy County Recorder under J. R. Durick as well as being elected a Lieutenant in the Lyon Light Infantry (California State Militia). John was known to have married Carrie A Harris born in 1843.

In 1866 John registered to vote in Sacramento and things seem to have gone terribly wrong. The couple had a child Minnie Dent born in 1868 and was buried in 1868. Early in 1868 John, only about thirty-eight years old, died and a month later Carrie died. There was no large epidemic listed for Sacramento in 1868 so the cause of the family's demise was not found but Sacramento had a high death rate even without epidemics.

# O. C. Lee, Shasta City, October 3, 1851



Shasta City Oct. 3, 1851

Capt. R. Howe

Sac. City

Cala.

Dr. Sir

Mr. Roof

Will not say positively that he will take the boots. I think I could sell 25 cases more than I have readily and am certain that I can dispose of the balance of the apple butter, cider vinegar and preserves. The kraut you had best dispose of at the best advantage you can. I am selling the apple butter at \$3, gallon cider \$3, and the preserves gallons \$2.50, ½ gallons \$1.25. The cider and apple butter I am obliged to put into 5 and 10 gallon kegs as packing cannot take them in the original packages. The packages cost @2.50 each.

If you send up the balance advise me of the shipment that I may make calculation about paying freight. Downer & Co. has a lot of the best boots, grain leather. How is that? If you send up the boots send 15 cases grain and 10 of the others. That will give me a proportion of each kind with what I have. Write soon.

#### O.C. Lee

Almer Lawrence Downer was born about 1807 in New York. In 1850 he was a coal merchant in Utica, New York married to Cynthia (Cynthyanna in 1860) born about 1813 in New York and had five children: James W. born about 1833 in Pennsylvania, Celinda A. born about 1836 in New Jersey, John A. born about 1839 in New Jersey, Eugene R. born about 1846 in New Jersey, and George C. born about 1848 in New Jersey. Also listed with the family was Sophia Wellington who was Cynthia's sister born about 1801 in New York.

Between the time of the U.S. Census of 1850 and 1852, Almer moved his family to Shasta where he advertised as Downer & Company wholesale and retail. Shortly afterwards Almer began a nursery and by 1860 Almer was listed as a farmer in Shasta. There were some changes in the family. Sophia Wellington had remained in New York and was living with a family named Curtiss. These were presumed to be relatives as Almer's son was named George Curtiss Downer. Celinda Myanda Downer married Joseph Isaacs (1824-1873) of the Shasta firm of Hollub & Isaacs (in 1870 Joseph's brother David would be living with the Downers). John A. Downer was a clerk in Shasta and was twice postmaster (December 1863 to March 1865 and from August 1865 to November 1865). James W. who was a clerk in Shasta in 1860 died in 1861.

Almer appears to have followed a gold rush in 1861 to the Washington Territory and set up a business in Lewiston. In 1862 he was appointed postmaster at Lewiston, Washington Territory. In 1863 the Idaho Territory was formed from parts of the Washington Territory and Dakota Territory and the capital was established at Lewiston. The Court Almer is referring to in the letter the Territorial Supreme Court, but it was not found if his claim stemmed from his post office duties or other duties directly for the Court. In either case he appears to have returned to Shasta in 1864 as he was on the tax roll. Almer may have joined the Lyon Light Infantry that was formed in Shasta as part of the California State Militia (disbanded in 1868).

In 1870 Almer was listed as a Justice of the Peace in Shasta and was known to have served at least until 1871. In 1869 Cynthia had died at Shasta and her sister Sophia Wellington had rejoined the family and listed as keeping house. George was listed as a clerk in a dry goods store along with his son John Joseph born about 1865. Also living with the family was David Isaac listed as a retired dry goods merchant (born about 1814 in England).

In the 1880 U. S. Census Almer was listed as a retired merchant at Shasta with Sophia Wellington as housekeeper. Living in the home was George C. now 32, a dry goods clerk and his son John Joseph now 15. After 1881 Almer is no longer found. Neither he nor Sophia Wellington were listed as being buried in Shasta County. George was known to have married Alice Street in 1892 and moved to Tehama County where he died in 1924. John Joseph was known to have married Lizzie J. Heer and later divorced. He was last found in 1910 living in Redding and working as a porter.

Roop maybe Isaac Roop born 1822 who operated a store at Oak Bottom and was the interim postmaster at Shasta. He moved to the Honey Lake Valley (Susanville) in 1853. Isaac's brother Joseph operated the Old Dominion Hotel at Shasta in 1850 and purchased the Oak Bottom House in 1851.

Capt. Richard Howe was listed in the 1850 U. S. Census at Sacramento as a hotel keeper born about 1795 in Ohio.

O. C. Lee was listed in the 1852 California State Census as a merchant in Shasta. He was born about 1829 in New York. He is probably listed as C. Lee at Callahan's in Siskiyou County in 1860 as a butcher.

# Isaac Owens, Shasta, October 22, 1851



The above letter was written by Isaac Owens at Coloma in El Dorado County on October 22, 1851, and posted to his wife Elizabeth S. Owen on October 23, 1851. The address is Santa Clara but instead was sent to Shasta County. Robert W. Crenshaw appears to have forwarded it to the correct address. The letter written inside of the folded page had nothing to do with Shasta County but the author was of historical significance, so it is worth reporting.

Coloma Cal, Oct 22 1837, Mrs. E. D. Owen Dear Wife to day that I am sill favored with good health. I shopped with Brown D. Mille Brothermlaw to Lister Highfield Corydon Indiana - And he has agreed to buy our Claim in Case you have not Sold it you will please write him immediately on the receipt of this and in form him whether The place or not - Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of cold springs - He will pay all down for the place and make us a good neighbor besides - Don't neglect writing immediately write to me also on the subject direct your letter to Mary sville la, We had a good Quarterty meeting at Placewille Yours Twely Isaac Owen

Coloma Cal. Oct.22, 1851.

#### Dear Wife

#### I am pleased

To say that I am still favored with good Health. I stopped with Brother D. Miller
Brother-in-law to Sister Highfield of Croydon, Indiana — and he has agreed
to buy our claim in case you have not sold it. You will please write him
immediately on the receipt of this and inform him whether you have sold
the place or not. Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of Cold
Springs. He will pay all down for the place and make a good neighbor
besides. Don't neglect writing immediately. Write to me also on the subject. Direct your letter to
Marysville, Cal. We had a good quarterly meeting at Placerville.

We had five profess religion and since joined.

Yours truly

Isaac Owens.

The letter is interesting in that it points out that no one was immune from gold fever as the author was on a mission to establish churches but still made time to stake a claim in Coloma.

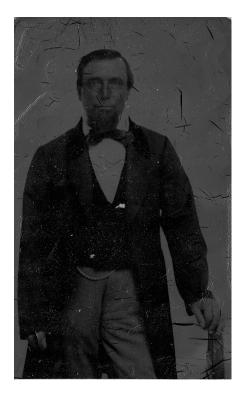
Isaac Owen was born in Vermont in 1809 and his father died when he was fifteen. Shortly after his father's death Isaac was converted at a camp meeting. By age 22 Isaac who was mostly self-taught became a licensed preacher and was living in Indiana. In October 1848 Isaac was commissioned the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to California.

Reverend Isaac Owen, his wife Elizabeth S (Hardin), and small family set out by ox drawn wagon for California. His first sermon in his new home was to fellow immigrants near Grass Valley on September 23, 1849. The initial assignment to San Francisco was changed when the family reached Benicia. The new assignment would be Sacramento. The ox team was worn so it was decided to ship the household goods back upriver by boat while the family followed with the wagon. Everything they had carefully packed across the Great Plains was lost in a boat accident, so they arrived in Sacramento with only a few clothes.

At the first sermon in Sacramento on October 23, 1849, Isaac converted seventy-two members. John Sutter donated a lot for a church and after lumber was received from Baltimore a church was built in a week. All was moving along well until January 1850 when a flood in Sacramento destroyed the church and made the family dwelling unlivable. Isaac moved the family to the San Jose Valley to recuperate but was soon invited to missionary work at Santa Cruz and to assist at San Francisco. In February 1850 while in San Francisco Isaac and Elizabeth's two-year-old daughter died and his wife never fully recovered. Isaac moved his wife and four other children to the San Jose Valley along with Elizabeth's father before returning to his post in March 1850.

Isaac carried on his missionary work in Central California and helped found the University of the Pacific. Elizabeth died in 1864 and Isaac followed in 1866.

### Louis Behrle, Senior



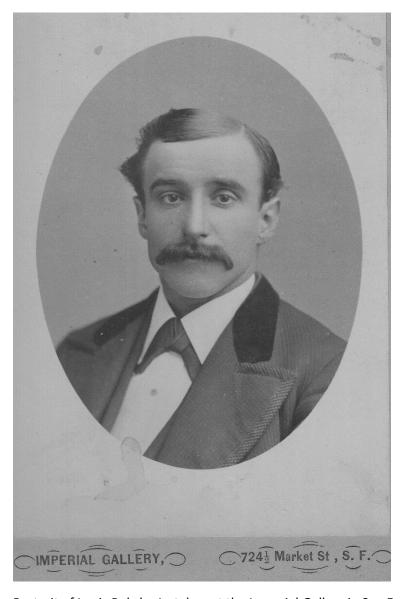
Tintype of Louis Behrle, Senior. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Ludwig, the German form of Louis, Behrle was born in 1814 at Renchen in the Grand Duchy of Baden. In 1837 he married Maria Franziska Behrle born 1819. Ludwig was the son of Blasius Behrle and Maria Anna Bacheberle while Maria's parents were Jacob Athenes Behrle and Katherine Branstatter. Prior to leaving Germany the couple had four children: Louisa born about 1838, Julia born 1841, Josephine born about 1846, and Sophia Emelia born about 1848. The family was living in New York City at the time of the 1850 U. S. Census where Ludwig was listed as Louis and Maria Franziska as Frances. Louis was working as a clerk as was Frederick Behrle, age twenty-two, who was probably a younger brother. In September 1850 both Louis and Frances signed their intent to become citizens. The last child of Louis and Frances, Louis Junior, was born in New York in 1851.

From the information found in the Litsch collection and the U.S. Census, it appears that Louis came west in 1854 and settled in Yreka, Siskiyou County. Present in the papers are a receipt for building supplies, possibly for a brewery. The family appears to have stayed in New York where Frances died between 1857 and 1860. The business may not have been successful as a case for attachment was filed against Louis in Yreka. At the time the attachment order was completed Louis was living in Shasta County. In the 1860 U. S. Census Louis was a brewer in Shasta living with his son Louis. Frances died,

probably in New York, in 1860, and it appears Josephine and Sophia Emelia remained in New York. Louis became a partner with Charles Litsch and was successful for only a short time as he died in 1865 and was buried in the Shasta Masonic Cemetery.

## Louis Behrle, Junior



Portrait of Louis Behrle, Jr. taken at the Imperial Gallery in San Francisco. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Louis Behrle, Junior was the only son of Louis and Frances Behrle. Louis was born in New York in 1851. In 1854 Louis remained with his mother in New York when Louis, Senior came to Yreka. Frances died between 1857 and 1860 and it is not known if Louis, Junior was sent west or if his father journeyed back for him. In the 1860 U. S. Census for Shasta County Louis, Junior was living with his father who was then a partner in the Litsch & Behrle Washington Brewery.

Louis, Junior grew up around the brewery and when his father died in 1865, he began living with Charles Litsch's family. By 1870 Louis, Junior was listed as a beer brewer at the Washington Brewery.

In 1877 Louis, Junior married Anna Josephine Foster born in 1857 at Millville. Anna's father was John Foster, or Johannis Forster (with an umlaut over the oprior to immigration about 1848). By some histories John was mining in Hangtown prior to moving to Shasta County. Jacob, John's brother, was naturalized in 1855 in Shasta County and John followed in 1857. In the 1860 U. S. Census John was listed as a dairyman probably in Shasta as other entries were for Isaacks and Downer. In 1866 the brothers were both listed at Ludwig's Bridge on Cottonwood Creek: Jacob as a farmer and John as a hotelkeeper. By 1870 Jacob was making his mark in the community of Cottonwood on the north side of Cottonwood Creek and John had returned to Shasta as a market gardener. In 1857 John married Mary Kiefhaver born in 1830 (died 1914) and the couple had nine children including Anna Josephine Foster born in 1857. John was listed as divorced in 1900 and living in Anderson with his then widowed daughter Anna. John died in 1907 at Napa State Hospital and Mary passed away in 1914.

On the 1880 U. S. Census Louis, Junior was still listed as a brewer in Shasta and the couple had their first child, Josephine Behrle born in 1878. In 1881 Louis and Anna's second child was born: Anna "Annie" Tudie Behrle. Louis, Junior died in 1890 and the family appears to have moved to the Anderson. In the 1900 U. S. Census Anna was listed as a saloonkeeper in Anderson and living with her father John. In 1910 Anna was living alone in Anderson but later moved in with her daughter Annie in Cottonwood. Anna would follow Louis, Junior, almost forty-five years later, dying in 1935.

The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at: www.andersonhistorical.com.

Jo Giessner sent in an obituary from the *Shasta Courier* dated October 11, 1862, for Private Joseph Dilliard of Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers.

At Benicia Barraeks, on the 2d inst., Joseph Billiard, a private in Company C, (Shasta Guards) 4th Infantry, C. V.

[A comrade writes: "Poor Joe. He was a good soldier, a faithful friend, and a true patriot. He was an adopted citizen, a native of old Spain, had served a five years culistment in the United States Army, was through the Mexican war, and had also done his share of Indian fighting against the wild Apaches and wary Comanches. His disease (the dropsy) was contracted in the cold climate of the Walla. He was buried with the usual military honors.

Joseph Billiard was listed in the official records as a private in Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, California Volunteers. The unit was recruited in Shasta County in September and its militia designation was the Shasta Guards. The unit was marched to Auburn County where it was mustered into United States service on October 5, 1861. The unit was stationed at Fort Walla Walla in Washington until September of 1862 when it was returned to Benicia Barracks in Solano County. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Billiard died of "dropsy." Dropsy is characterized by generalized swelling and is synonymous with heart failure. Joseph was buried in the post cemetery.



Joseph's grave at Benicia Barracks. Note the date of death is given as Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Few statistics were found for Joseph: he was born in Spain in 1827 and may have been in New Mexico at the time of the Mexican War. The obituary cites Joseph served a five-year enlistment which was the standard enlistment in the Regular Army. There was a Private John Billiard in B Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Sante Fe Infantry, but they only served from May 1847 to October 1848. The history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons matches his service, but no enlistment records were found. The article states that Joseph was an adopted citizen, but no naturalization records were found. The latter may indicate that Joseph was living in Mexican territory and granted citizenship under the peace treaty.

Joseph lived a short life, yet served in three wars: Mexican War, Indian Wars, and Civil War. If anyone has the time Joseph would be a prime research project.

The articles for September 2023 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 2, 2) Letter July 26, 1851, Reading's Ranch, Drury P. Baldwin, 3) Letter September 5, 1851, Shasta City, John E. Dent, 4) Letter October 3, 1851, Shasta City, O. C. Lee, 5) Letter October 22, 1851, Shasta, Isaac Owens, 6) Louis Behrle, Senior, and 7) Louis Behrle, Junior.

## Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 2

**Albert H. Bosworth** – operated out of Fall River Mills around 1890 to 1910.

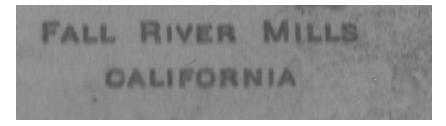
Albert Henry "Bert" Bosworth was born in Missouri in 1869. By 1880 Bert's father Nathanial Bosworth (1824-1891) and his mother Lucy S. Farnum (1831-1899) were farming in Napa County. Bert completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade before settling at Cayton Valley in Shasta County as a farmer in 1890. From December 1896 to April of 1898 Bert was the Postmaster at Cayton. In July 1896 Bert married Ella Burner. In the 1910 U. S. Census Bert was listed as a jeweler in Fall River Mills and listed as widowed. Albert appears to have operated his photographic business in conjunction with the jewelry shop. Bert would remarry Rosannah Josephine Brown (1885-1971) after 1910. Bert continued to work as a jeweler in Fall River Mills into the 1940s and died in 1951.



T. S. Thompson's Header at Fall River August 10, 1902, taken by Albert H. Bosworth.

# A. H. BOSWORTH PHOTOGRAPHER

Trademark of Albert H. Bosworth (on left of the photograph).



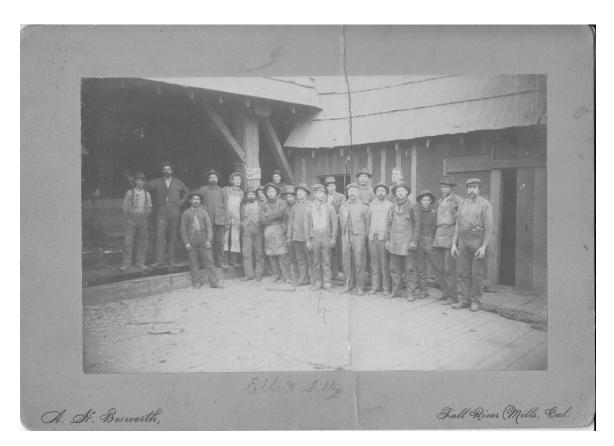
Trademark of Albert H. Bosworth (on right of the photograph).



Photograph of a pack train taken by A. H. Bosworth



Trademark of A. H. Bosworth.



Reportedly workers at the Terry Mill. The reverse reads Elbert Silby, Belavista (BellaVista).



Script trademark of Albert H. Bosworth.



Photograph titled, "Feb. 29, 1944," with handwritten initials AHB in the lower left corner.

## Rosannah Josephine Bosworth

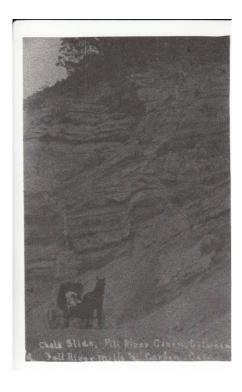


Young Rosannah Josephine Brown. Courtesy of Ancestry.com

Rosannah Josephine Brown was born in 1885 near Dana and generally utilized her middle name or simply Jo and would spend her whole life in the intermountain area of Shasta County. Josephine's father appears to have had economic problem later in life and in 1900 Josephine was living at the home of her sister Nana in Squaw Valley, Siskiyou County attending

school. Josephine would attend school through the eighth grade, which was the norm for most rural areas. Fall River Mills High School was not organized until 1911. While in school Josephine developed an interest in photography. In 1904 Josephine started a career as a photographer using obsolete methods and equipment that were available. In 1906 Josephine's mother was staying at the Occidental Hotel in Santa Rosa when the earthquake hit San Francisco. Beyond San Francisco the earthquake caused severe damage in Salinas, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and smaller towns along the fault line. The brick Occidental Hotel collapsed crushing Josephine's mother. Within the year Josephine's father had also passed on. 1910 found Josephine along with one brother and one sister was living in Fall River Mills with their sister Lydia's family. Josephine was working at home as a photographer. Josephine appears to have utilized J. Brown on her photographs.

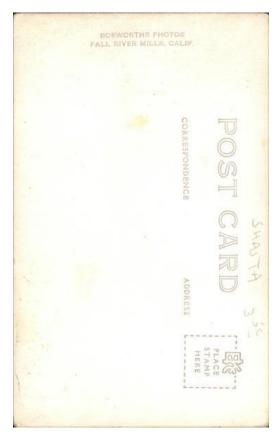
In August of 1913 Josephine was united in marriage to Albert H. Bosworth, a jeweler and watchmaker in Fall River Mills. The attraction appears to be a common love of photography. Albert or "Bert" as he was commonly known had operated a well-known photographic studio in Fall River Mills between 1890 and 1910. After her marriage Josephine began working in the jewelry store as well as continuing her photographic journey. Josephine was responsible for hundreds of views of the surrounding scenery produced under the title "Bosworths Photos, Fall River Mill." In 1921 the jewelry store changed into the Bosworth Jewelry and Gift Shop. Both Josephine and Bert loved the Fall River Mills area and took on a larger community role. In the 1930 census Bert was listed as a jewelry store proprietor and Josephine as a portrait photographer. Bert died in 1951 and Josephine continued operations until her death in 1971.



Photograph titled "Chalk slide, Pitt River Canon between Fall River Mills and Carbon, Cal." In the lower left corner can just be seen J. Brown, Photos.



Photograph from 1938 of the first airmail flight from Fall River Mills. The corner is marked Bosworth's, Fall River Mills, Cal.



The trademark for Bosworths Photos is shown on the reverse of the photograph.



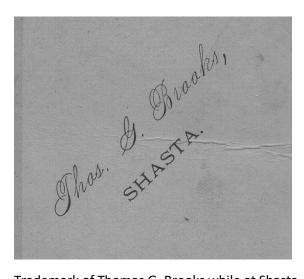
View of Burney with Rosannah Josephine Bosworth's initials on the front to indicate the photographer and Bosworths Photos on the reverse.

**Thomas G. Brooks** – operated at Shasta from October 1874 to 1875.

Little was found about Thomas G. Brooks' early life other that he was born about 1849 in England. A Shasta Courier advertisement for October 10, 1874, announced his arrival: "Just Arrived! Thos. G. Brooks, Artist, Paintings made from old photographs in the highest style of the arts. Dr. W. P. Cool, Dentist, teeth inseted on all basis known to the Dental Profession." The trademark on the back of his photographs indicates he practiced independent of Dr. Cool but about the same period a photograph was found produced by Brooks and Hyde involving painting in India ink or watercolors. Brooks was listed at Shasta until 1875 and was known to be an agent for Remington Sewing Machines and Estey Organs. Brooks was known to have been in Weaverville in May and June 1876 and later he was listed as a portrait painter in San Francisco. In the 1880 U. S. Census, Thomas is listed as Thomas J. Brooks, a photographer in Astoria, Oregon. He was believed to have operated at Astoria until 1881 then seems to drop from all records.



Portrait of Mollie Carr taken by Thomas Brooks.



Trademark of Thomas G. Brooks while at Shasta.



Portrait of Joseph H. Pryor taken by Thomas G. Brooks.



Second type of trademark for Thomas G. Brooks.

**Thomas G. Brooks and Dr. W. P. Cool** – operated at Shasta from October 1874 to February 1875.

The partnership of Thomas G. Brooks and Doctor William Pleasants Cool appears to be one of sharing a studio space rather than an artistic relationship. A biography of Thomas G. Brooks is listed under his name. Doctor William Pleasants Cool was born in Kentucky in 1851 and practiced dentistry for eight years before moving to California. William was the son of Dr. George W. Cool and Virginia M. Pleasant and registered to vote in San Francisco in 1874. From October 1874 to February 1875 Dr. Cool was at Shasta but appears to have returned to San Francisco where he practiced dentistry the rest of his professional career. Dr. Cool was known to have married Mary J. Lingow in 1869. Dr. Cool died in 1907.



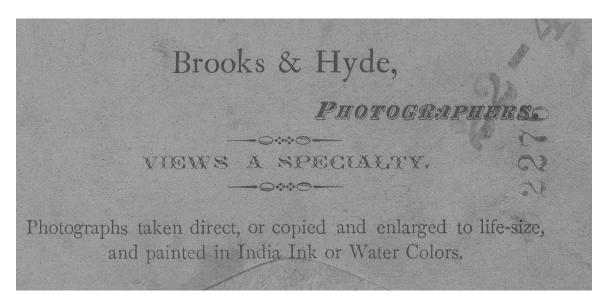
Advertisement from the Shasta Courier dated October 10, 1874, for Thomas G. Brooks and Dr. W. P. Cool. Courtesy Shasta Historical Society.

## **Brooks & Hyde** — operated in Shasta County in the 1870s.

The partnership of Brooks & Hyde was believed to be between Thomas G. Brooks and William Hyde. Biographical material is provided under the artist's individual name. The exact date of the partnership was not found but Hyde was in Butte County in 1870 to 1872 so a likely date would be 1875.



Portrait of Jerry Culverhouse taken by Brooks & Hyde.



Trademark for Brooks & Hyde on a portrait of Jerry Culverhouse. Nothing was found about Mr. Hyde.



Portrait of James C. Isaacs taken by Brooks & Hyde.

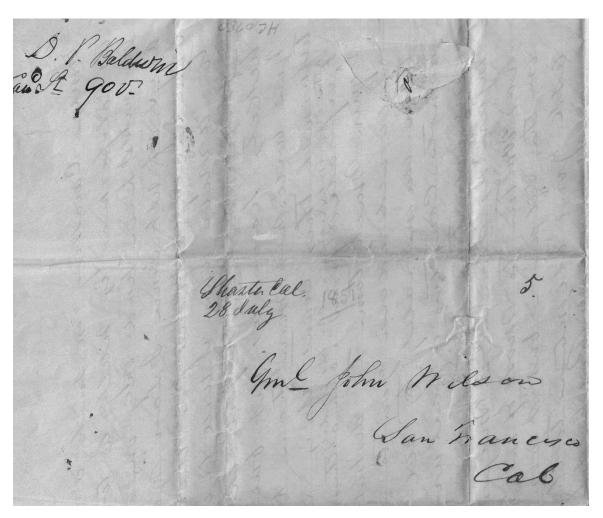
Burgess – operated at Red Bluff 1862- April 1866.

Although there were a number of likely candidates such as Charles F. Burgess and George H. Burgess, the first name of the individual who operated a studio two doors north of the Levensohn & Galland Store in Red Bluff from 1862 to April 1866 is unknown. The studio known as the Burgess Portrait Studio was purchased by Oliver H. P. Norcross and John Baptiste Higinbotham in April 1866.

Charles Gilbert Button – operated out of Shasta from May to September 1876.

Charles G. Button was the short-term partner of Benjamin Swasey from May 1876 to about December 1876. The partners probably met in San Francisco where in the early 1870s both worked for some of the important photographic companies. Charles was born about 1838 in New York and was first noted in California in 1866 where he was listed as a photographer in San Jose. In 1872 Button was listed in San Francisco with Thomas Houseworth & Co. and in 1874 with George D. Morse. After leaving Swasey and Button, Charles is next reported in Marysville in Yuba County in 1879, then Alameda County in 1884. Charles was listed as a printer with Lawrence & Sons in Los Angeles in 1888 and his last entry was as a photographer in Alameda County in 1890.

Drury P. Baldwin, Reading's Ranch, July 26, 1851



The address on the letter was to General John Wilson in San Francisco the chairman of the Whig party for the election due to be held in September 1851. The letter was mailed at the U. S. Post Office at Shasta by D. P. Baldwin, and he appears to add Can. (candidate) Lt. Governor. Drury P. Baldwin was the Whig candidate.

Since I parked with you w. San trancisco I have malde pully much a canvas of the nothing mining Counting Structed all of the somupal points in moada yuba Bulle + Shasta and at a number of Which mado Spuches - matthale Ma Gorklo I Bight were generally a few days a head + all I had to do was to apply to some of the principal whigh I oblain their bount charges against The whigh + respond to them, Which was an easy matter as they were To profess in their about to Slanders of the whige as to destroy themselves easily unambered & very generally destribute their principal hobies were the subjects of the mirral land, - Minh - and Buternal improvement - mr Bus I my self have burn how abo how day's at the majors + are nester from the fature of our long duty I hop trove - Mr Bart is Leek to day town man at the Mafor Cading + my self from minutes for Shasten city , will before we news ouset Some of the nucepal diggings above & intered

monday & shall cross our from Lassons Ranch to the head quoting of the Feather hour The hors down mafer will not be able to accompanying he has day 4 pecking the arrival of Dr hogen croft the Indian agent with somal Companies of h Shoops and his friends en the region Contin that his desorces are under And all Littling the Endean defficulties in the Dopular whenever I have being, but here the people all love how and Whey't democras well vote for him indescen malely the whige & believe : love shaw bown i of True are bond to prove becton out. The blum ocracy are beging the most 4 hardinar; 4-: whom to secure their point. must they orators in all directions - a populor system of electionus ong with them is the abuse of Knading but There empered System of prosention makes there more enemies than find, Phan dem mon demodrals than one disputated with with their own parg-Whow I understand is over in Moode but What has become of hour Fair query for them Know Fair + abil ought to spend all of the concluding

mmy- Carastry in Luch a State as Caleforma is hally a wrandom business have had only one or live days of ust Since & Law you - and I am nace, arycons for the time to arrive when I well be over with How does it hopen that no , hellets have as yet bun faut our you will not more than how time Toffer mich this county the is Lo Coop with organist degrees are be windighter it will togener much time to distribute This I would adore you to Sind them unemorally to all the in agnor in time might in places, infur us much - ma for Mading has withen to most of the Union on the subject - but I would also ask your allention to the lame In much huse the part freeze 10 1 Daes vu To Cant you Start out Some half a dozen of our Wh about Jan Francises into The Mines to fight against given I beller There are many masourians en + Through the nothern mines of you throhampshin from Meson would lake a turn & Think you might do much -

#### Readings Ranch

July 26/51

Dear General

Since I parted with you in San Francisco have made pretty much a canvass of the Northern Mining Country – have pushed all of the principal points in Nevada, Yuba, Butte and Shasta and at a number made speeches – Marshall, McCorkle and Bigler were generally a few days ahead and all I had to do was to was to apply to some of the principal Whigs and obtain their charges against the Whigs and respond to them, which was an easy matter as they were so profuse in their abuse and slander of the Whigs as to make themselves easily remembered and very generally disbelieved.

Their principal hobbies were the subject of the mineral lands – Mint – and internal improvements. Mr. Burt and myself have been here about two days at the Major's and are resting from the fatigue of our long dusty and hot travel – Mr. Burt is sick today and will remain at the ranch. Major Reading and myself will start in a few minutes for Shasta City and will before we return visit some of the principal diggings above – I intend starting down again next Monday and shall cross over from Lassen's Ranch to the head waters of the Feather River and take the river down. Major Redding will not be able to accompany as he is daily expecting the arrival of Dr. Wozencraft the Indian agent with several companies of U. S. troops and his friends in the region contend that his services are indispensable in settling Indian difficulties in this region – Reading is universally popular where ever I have been but here the people all love him and Whigs and democrats will vote for him indiscriminately. The Whigs I believe are largely in the ascendancy where ever I have been and if true to themselves are bound to prove victorious – The Democracy are inspiring the most extraordinary exertions to secure their point – I have met their orators in all directions – a popular system of electioneering with them is the abuse of Reading – but their unjust system of proscription makes them more enemies than friends. I have seen more democrats than one disgusted with their own party – Moon I understand it over in Nevada but what has become of Kewen, Fair and Abell and the balance of the workers. The people are making inquiries for them. Kewen, Fair and Abell ought to spend all of the concluding part of the canvass in the northern mines - Canvassing in such a State as California is really a wearisome business. I have had only one or two days of rest since I saw you – and I am really anxious for the time to arrive when it will be over with.

How does it happen that no tickets have as yet been sent out. You will not more than have time to furnish this county it is so large and the different diggings are so widely separated from each other it will require much time to distribute them. I would advise you to send them immediately to all the remote Counties a failure to arrive in time might in places injure us much- Major Reading has written to most of the Union on the subject — but I would also ask your attention to the same.

Res	ne	ct	fıı	llν
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*In much haste* 

Yours

D. P. Baldwin

PS can't you start out some half a dozen of our Whig orators about San Francisco into the mines to fight against Gwin and Weller. There are any Missourians in and through the northern mines. If you and New Hampshire Jim Wilson would take a turn I think you might do much -

DPB

The letter was addressed to "General" John Wilson who was born in Virginia in 1790. Little was found about his early history: he was known to have served in the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812 and that he moved to Missouri about 1820. It was not known if John joined the Missouri State Militia or had a title such as surveyor general that would account for the title General in the letter. One note has John as a delegate to the Deseret Convention of 1849, but it was not found that he was Mormon. John was appointed as an Indian Agent for California by President Zachary Taylor who was a member of the Whig Party. John appears to have been appointed U. S. Navy agent at San Francisco about 1850. John quickly entered Whig politics and from about 1851 to 1853 was the Chairman of the State Whig Committee. In the 1852 California Census John was listed as a lawyer in San Francisco where he specialized in land law. John died in California in 1877.

The author of the letter was Drury P. Baldwin who was born in Alabama in 1823. In 1846 Drury was a Justice of the Peace in Wilcox County, Alabama but by 1849 was living in California. In November 1849 Drury won a seat in the California House of Representative for San Joaquin County on a non-partisan ticket. At the time of the letter Drury was on the Whig Party ticket for Lieutenant Governor. Drury accounted for 45.7% of the vote but lost to the Democratic Party candidate Samuel Purdy who obtained 54.3% of the vote. In October 1851 he won a seat representing the 9<sup>th</sup> District as a Whig serving one term before opening a law practice in San Francisco (he was admitted to the California Bar in June 1850). In 1860 Drury was a lawyer in San Francisco and most likely served in the California Militia as there is a note that he held the rank of Brigadier General. Drury P. Baldwin died in San Francisco in 1875.

In the opening paragraph the author writes that Marshall, McCorkle and Bigler were generally a few days ahead on the campaign trail. All three at the time of the letter were members of the Democratic Party with Edward C. Marshall a U. S. Representative from the California At-large District while Joseph W. McCorkle was U. S. Representative for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. John Bigler had been the Speaker of the House of Representatives and was running for governor on the Democratic ticket.

Edward Colston Marshall was born in Kentucky in 1821 and attended Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) before being admitted to the bar. After serving in the Mexican War Edward moved to California and was elected a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from March 1851 to March 1853. Edward was nominated for a second term but withdrew prior to the election deciding to practice law in Marysville, Yuba County. Edward was an unsuccessful candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1856. Edward returned to Kentucky and practiced law for twenty-one years before returning to California in 1877. Edward practiced law in San Francisco and was the California Attorney General from 1883 to 1887. Edward died in California in 1893.

Joseph W. McCorkle was born in 1819 in Ohio where he attended Kenyon College. After graduation Joseph studied law and was admitted to the bar about 1842. Joseph had a private practice in

Dayton, Ohio prior to being appointed the U. S. Postmaster of Dayton from 1845 to 1849. Drawn by the discovery of gold in California Joseph moved to San Francisco to practice law. Joseph failed at his first attempt to hold office as a Judge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District but secured a seat in the California Assembly for 1850-1852. In 1851 Joseph became a member of the U. S. House of Representatives serving until 1853. Joseph failed in his attempt to seek reelection.

Joseph is more commonly remembered for fighting a duel with sitting Democratic U. S. Senator William M. Gwin (mentioned later in the letter) in June 1853 after leaving office. The duel was over an argument concerning the management of federal patronage and was fought with rifles at thirty yards. Neither contestant was injured, and the only casualty was a nearby donkey. After the duel Joseph moved to Marysville to practice law but was soon appointed Judge of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. During his term in 1855 Joseph unsuccessfully sought a U. S. Senator seat. Joseph served as judge until 1857 and in 1860 moved to the Comstock Lode to practice law in Virginia City, Nevada. In 1870 Joseph moved to Washington, D. C. to practice law before the American Mexican Claims Commission. Joseph died in Maryland in 1884.

John Bigler was born in Pennsylvania in 1805 and was apprenticed to learn the printing trade. In 1831 John and his younger brother William purchased a Democratic newspaper in Pennsylvania. John sold his interest in the newspaper in 1835 to study (William would go on to become governor of Pennsylvania). When the news of the California Gold Rush reached Pennsylvania, John decided to move to California to practice law. After traveling overland with an ox train John reached Sacramento only to find there were opening in law. After surviving doing odd jobs luckily California's first general election turned john towards politics. John was elected to a in the Assembly representing Sacramento in 1849 and quickly rose in the Democratic Party. Between February 1850 and May 1851 John was Speaker of the State Assembly and at the time of the letter had just left office to campaign as the Democratic candidate for governor. John's most formidable opponent was the Whig candidate P. B. Reading of Shasta County. The Whigs portrayed Bigler as an unpolished Yankee while portraying Reading as an educated early pioneer from the South. When the vote was counted in September 1851 Bigler won 51.2% of the vote against Reading's 48.8% a difference of just over a thousand votes.

John Bigler took office in January 1852 and went on to become the first California governor to complete an entire term and the first to win re-election. Bigler ran for a third term as governor but lost to the Know-Nothing (American Party) candidate J. Neely Johnson making him the first governor to be defeated through a general election. Following his defeat President Buchanan appointed John as the U. S. Minister to Chile. John served as minister until October 1861. In 1863 John ran for the U. S. Senate seat but failed to win. In 1867 John was appointed Railroad Commissioner for the Central Pacific Railroad but left the following year to establish the *State Capital Reporter* newspaper in Sacramento. John served as editor of the newspaper until his death in November 1871.

The letter speaks of the issues for the September 1851 election as being mineral lands, the U. S. Mint, and internal improvements. Without going into great detail, mineral lands often translated into a policy to prevent Chinese immigration and exclude their mining in the gold fields, while the U. S. Mint translated to pushing the federal government to immediately establish a mint in California (not accomplished until 1854). The last issue of internal improvements translated to transportation as established roads were in desperate short supply as seen by the complaints about his campaign travels.

The Whig party ticket for the campaign was as follows:

Governor: P. B. Reading of Shasta County

Lt. Governor: Drury P. Baldwin of Tuolumne County

Justice of the Supreme Court: Ted Robinson of Sacramento

Attorney General: William D. Fair of San Jose

State Treasurer: J. M. Burt of Butte County

State Comptroller: Alexander G. Abell of San Francisco

Surveyor General: Walter Herron of San Jose

U. S. Congress: E. J. C. Kewen of Sacramento and B. F. Moore of Tuolumne County

Drury P. Baldwin had traveled to Reading's Ranch in Shasta County with Mr. Burt who was sick during the campaign swing in Shasta County but later left with Baldwin to complete the tour. Mr. Burt is James Monroe Burt born in 1816 in New York and trained as a lawyer. At the time of the letter Burt was the Whig Candidate for State Treasurer. Burt had come to California in 1849 and founded the town of Oroville in October 1850. The town was originally Ophir after the biblical city of gold, but the name was changed to Oroville as there already was an Ophir in Placer County. At the time of the letter James was the Butte County Attorney and after the election returned to his land holding in Butte County and practiced law. James died in Butte County in 1884.

The letter was written at Pierson B. Reading's Ranch in Shasta County. The ranch was one of two Mexican land grants in Shasta County and stretched between current day Cottonwood and Redding on the western side of the Sacramento River. Reading was a California pioneer of 1843, served in the Mexican War as paymaster of the California Battalion, and discover of gold in Shasta and Trinity Counties. At the time of the letter, he was the Whig candidate for governor but was limiting his campaigning to assist in resolving the conflict between the settlers and Native Americans. W. O. Wozencraft with his U. S. Dragoon escort did arrive in early August 1851 and concluded a treaty at Reading's Ranch on August 16, 1851. The treaty failed to resolve any of the issues as it was never ratified and quietly hidden away for decades. The delay did keep Reading from actively campaigning and may have helped decide the race in favor of the Democratic Party. Reading's full life is more fully related after the James L. Freaner letter of October 11, 1850.

Drury P. Baldwin and James Burt left Reading's Ranch for "Lassen's Ranch at the head of the Feather River" to continue to campaign in the Sierra counties. The Lassen they are referring to is Peter Lassen who was born in Denmark in 1800. Lassen had come to California in 1840 and in 1844 received a Mexican Land Grant for Rancho Bosquejo on the east side of the Sacramento River in current Tehama County. The ranch did not reach the headwaters of the Feather River and Lassen did not move to the Honey Lake region until 1855. Baldwin may have used Lassen's Cutoff of the California Tail that was popular between 1848 and 1853 prior to the establishment of Noble's Trail. Lassen had accompanied Commodore Stockton's party when it returned east to Missouri in 1847 and on his return established the Lassen Cutoff that ran from Goose Lake then followed the Pit River so even that description does not match. It is more likely Baldwin went by Lassen's Ranch to Burt's Ranch at Oroville then followed the Feather River which flows towards Sacramento.

W. O. Wozencraft is Oliver Meredith Wozencraft born in Ohio in 1814. Wozencraft was trained as a physician and moved to California early in 1849 settling in Stockton. Wozencraft represented the

San Joaquin District in the California Constitutional Convention at Monterey in 1849. In July 1850 President Fillmore appointed Wozencraft as a U. S. Indian Agent for California. His title was changed to commissioner when he was appointed along with Redick McKee and George W. Barbour to "hold treaties with various Indian tribes in the State of California as provided by the act of Congress approved September 30, 1850." The group concluded eighteen treaties between March 1851 and January 1852. The treaties were submitted to Congress on June 1, 1852, in closed session and rejected. The treaties were sealed from public view until January 1905.

Wozencraft was relieved as Indian Agent in August 1852 and turned his attention to creating an Imperial Valley irrigation system. Wozencraft died in 1887 with the U. S. Congress blocking his plan. The plan did not die and thirteen years after his death the Alamo Canal began construction and ultimately succeeded in irrigating the Imperial Valley.

Nothing was found on Moon "in Nevada" but Fair, Abell and Kewen were at the time prominent Whig Party politicians. Fair was William D. Fair who was born in Virginia in 1823 and who came to California as "President of the Mississippi Rangers" an emigrant wagon train and settled in Stockton. In 1850 Fair wan a non-partisan seat in the California Assembly representing San Joaquin. At the time of the letter Fair was the Whig candidate for Attorney General but lost to the Democratic candidate S. Clinton Hastings. Fair returned to the practice of law after the election and in 1858 married Laura Grayson. The couple separated in 1861 and Fair committed suicide. (Note: Laura Fair went on to gain notoriety for killing her lover in front of his family in 1870. Her 1871 conviction was overturned with the help of numerous nationally known suffragettes that came to her aid.)

Abell was Alexander Gurdon Abell who was born in 1818 in New York (Connecticut was also cited). From 1845 to 1846 Abell was U. S. Consul to the Kingdom of Hawaii and in 1846 editor of the newspaper *The Sandwich Island News*. Abell moved to San Francisco in 1847 to engage in mercantile pursuits. At the time of the letters Abell was involved in Whig Party politics. Abell was noted for leasing Santa Cruz Island in 1852 although the purpose was not known. In 1856 Abell was appointed Commissioner of Immigration for the port of San Francisco. Abell was elected to the State Senate in 1863 as a member of the Union Party. In his later years Abell as active in Masonic organizations up until his death in 1890.

Kewen was Edward J. C. Kewen born in 1824 in Mississippi who early in life was the editor of the *Columbus Whig* newspaper in Mississippi. Kewen later moved to Missouri where he studied law. Upon news of the Gold Rush Kewen set off for California arriving in Sacramento in December 1849. Almost immediately Kewen became the Democratic candidate for Attorney General but after taking the post quickly resigned. After resigning Kewen moved to San Francisco to practice law but at the time of the letter Kewen was the Whig candidate for the U. S. Senate. Kewen lost the election and returned to San Francisco to practice law until his younger brother Achilles was killed at the Battle of Riva fighting in William Walker filibuster expedition to Nicaragua. Kewen joined Walker first as a financial agent then as Judge Advocate General with the rank of colonel. Kewen resigned his post about the time Walker was evicted from Nicaragua in May 1857. Kewen who was pro-slavery returned to San Francisco but quickly moved to Los Angeles which was the hotbed of southern support. In 1858 Kewen was Superintendent of City Schools in Los Angeles and between 1859 to 1861 District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles. In 1862 Kewen was arrested and convicted of making a "treasonable utterance" against President Lincoln and served two weeks on Alcatraz being released on bond and swearing an oath of loyalty. The charge seems to have gained him popularity in Los Angeles for he was elected to the State Assembly during the

Civil War. In 1863 Kewen had a fight with Fred Lemberg and after being beaten borrowed a gun and laid in wait for his opponent before shooting Lemberg in the stomach. Lemberg recovered and on a trip to Arizona was killed by Indians; having no victim Kewen was acquitted in 1866. Kewen was also known for drawing a pistol in Court and while being restrained wounded a bystander, yet he remains on the Los Angeles Bar Association's Criminal Justice Wall of Fame for outstanding conduct and professionalism. Kewen remained popular in Los Angeles until his death in 1879.

In the postscript Baldwin states the Whig Party had to fight against Gwin and Weller. At the time of the letter William M. Gwin was the Democratic U. S. Senator and John B. Weller was the Democratic candidate for John C. Fremont's seat in the U. S. Senate. Weller who won the election has previously been addressed following the James L. Freaner letter of October 11, 1850.

William McKendree Gwin was born in Tennessee in 1805 and graduated as a physician from Transylvania University in Kentucky in 1828. Before opening a medical practice in Mississippi, Gwin was personal secretary to President Andrew Jackson during his second term. In 1833 Gwin served for one year as the U. S. Marshal for Mississippi and from 1841 to 1843 was the Democratic member of the U. S. House of Representatives. Gwin declined a nomination as U. S. Congressman from Mississippi.

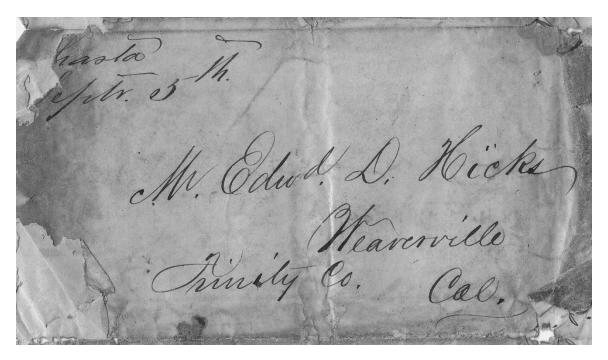
Gwin moved to California in 1849 and almost immediately participated in the California Constitutional Convention at Monterey. Gwin was elected to the U. S. Senate serving from September 1850 to March 1855 where he was a strong supporter of Pacific expansion. Gwin was blocked from reelection in 1855 due to a split in the Democratic Party but was again elected to the U. S. Senate for the term of January 1857 to March 1861. Gwin though pro-Southern brokered talks between Lincoln's Secretary of State and Southern leaders to hold the Union together. Gwin also considered the possibility of a Republic of the Pacific seceding from both North and South, but his party suffered badly in the election of 1861 and returned east. Gwin was arrested along with two secessionists John Slidell and J. L. Brent. Lincoln intervened to secure their release, but Gwin sent his wife and one daughter to Europe to live before returning to his estate in Mississippi. During the war the estate was destroyed and Gwin as well as his son and another daughter fled to France where he proposed Napoleon II sponsor American slaveowners in Sonora. The project was stopped by Maximilian I for fear the Southerners would secede from Mexico. After the war Gwin retired to California and in 1867 purchased property in the Paloma Mining District of Calaveras County where the Gwin Mine provided him with a fortune. William M. Gwin died in New York City in 1885.

At the end of the letter "New Hampshire Jim Wilson" is called upon to give speeches for the Whig Party. Jim Wilson was legally James Wilson II born in New Hampshire in 1797. James graduated from Middleburg College in 1820. In the same year James joined the New Hampshire State Militia as a captain. By 1840 James had risen to the rank of major general and was often addressed by that tile.

James took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1823. After two years of private practice James was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives. James ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1835 and 1838. James joined the Whig Party after its founding in 1833. In 1840 James was a delegate to the Whig National Convention. James was appointed Surveyor General for the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa after the Whig presidential victory of William Henry Harrison (Harrison died after one month in office and the office was filled by John Tyler). In 1851 James was appointed one of the U. S. land claim commissioners in California and settled in San Francisco. At the time of the letter James was officially a commissioner (serving until 1853) but was heavily involved in Whig Party politics.

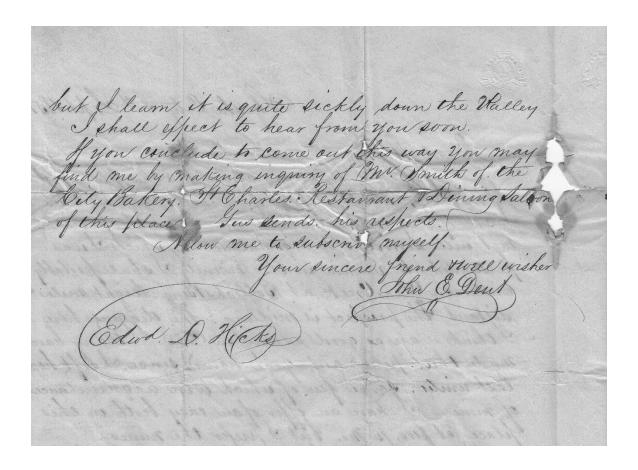
James remained in California until 1867 when he returned to New Hampshire. From 1871 to 1872 James was again a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. James died in New Hampshire in 1881.

## John E. Dent, Shasta City, September 5, 1851



Address page mailed at Shasta in September 1851. The 3 in the upper right corner notes that the letter was carried using the rate set in July 1851: 3 cents per ½ ounce going under 3000 miles.

Thasta City of the Sept. 1801 Thiend Hicks. Upon my arrival at this place, which was on the 2 wines. I found your note of 25 th Ult, to which I cheerfully respond. Upon arriving at this place met with Service old acquaintance by which I was persuaded to remain in this vicinity I shall probably unter on Clear Creek at Bollicks Burg Seight miles distant the prospect is midling. The digging here - I think - are as good as any in Cal, Many have made their piles, and gone home; since I left here last winter. Some few of which were acquaintances of mine I have an offer of an easy berth in this Telace at \$100. fu mo. but I prefer the nines -Business is quite brist in this place. M'Carty of Salmon is in this place, behind the Bar of the Empire Cannot advise you more than - if you are doing moderately well, remain there for men are seaming in here all to time from all directions, a great many expect to writer here. I hereabouts. If I should at any time learn any thing that would be of interest or value to you will speedely inform you thereof (m. Steel of Salmon is also here here expects Counter on Cotton Wood, 30 miles off. The health of this place is good



Shasta City 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1851

#### Friend Hicks

Upon arrival at this place which was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. I found your note of 25<sup>th</sup> Ult.. to which I cheerfully respond. Upon arriving at this place I met with several old acquaintance by which I was persuaded to remain in this vicinity. I shall probably winter on Clear Creek at BollicksBurg eight miles distant. The prospect is middling. The diggings here – I think – are as good as any in Cal. Many have made their "piles" and gone home since I left here last winter, some few of which were acquaintances of mine. I have an offer of an easy berth in this place at \$100 per month but I prefer the mines.

Business is quite brisk in this place. McCarty of Salmon is in this place behind the bar of the Empire. I can not advise you more than – if you are doing moderately well remain there for men are swarming in here all the time from all directions, a great many expect to winter here and hereabouts. If I should at any time learn anything that would be of interest or value to you I will speedily inform you thereof. Mr. Steel of Salmon is also here. He expects to winter on Cottonwood 30 miles off. The health of this place is good but I learn it is quite sickly down the valley.

I shall expect to hear from you soon. If you conclude to come out this you may find me by making inquiry of Mr. Smith of the City Bakery, Saint Charles Restaurant and Dining Saloon of this place. Gus sends his respects.

#### Allow me to subscribe myself

#### Your sincere friend and well wisher

John E. Dent

Edwd. D. Hicks

At the time John Dent is writing this letter the Saint Charles Hotel was a two-story wooden structure on Main Street owned by John Call. Carl A. Grotefend would acquire the hotel in December 1851. The Empire Hotel was also a two-story wooden structure on Main Street. Both buildings and the City Bakery burned down in the fire of 1853 that destroyed almost all of the business district in Shasta.

John's two friends, Mr. Steel and Mr. McCarty of Salmon were probably part of the 1850 Salmon River Gold Rush. Gold was discovered in 1849 in the twenty-mile-long tributary of the Klamath River (Siskiyou County) but with the spring of 1850 there was a sudden rush all along the river. Most of the miners left as winter approached and those that stayed faced what became known as the "starvation time." In the 1852 California Census there was an A. Steel born about 1827 in New York listed as a gambler in Shasta. It appears John and his friend opted to winter away from the Salmon River.

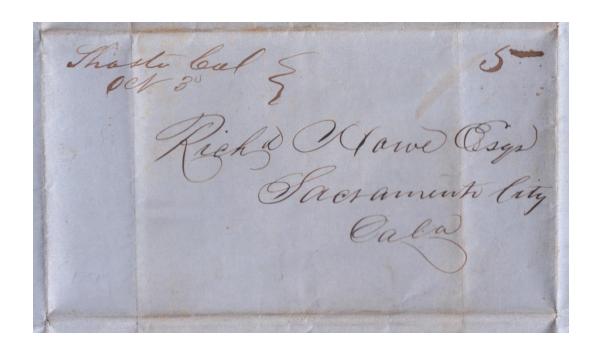
The letter was written to Edward D. Hicks at Weaverville and the only entry found was in the 1850 U. S. Census that listed E. D. Hicks, age 20, a miner born in Tennessee. Edward obviously mined at Weaverville in Trinity County into the fall of 1851 but after that nothing was found.

John plans to winter out at BollicksBurg eight miles from Shasta on Clear Creek. There is no record of the camp but a hand drawn map in Mr. Hollibaugh's collection shows a Bullocksburg about eight miles from Shasta. The camp was located in the vicinity of what later became known as Muletown. The area was mined by Moon with Indian labor in 1849 and gold entered the river from the deposits to the east that became the Potosi Mine in 1854 and from the Lost Channel deposits at Piety Hill to the west. The area has a sizable flat that could be used for a camp and was accessible from Shasta using the road along Clear Creek running north to south or the road from Middletown running east to west.

John Evan Dent was born in 1830 in Ohio and was the son of George Dent 1807-1879 and Comfort Ijams 1808-1887. John would appear to have moved to California by late 1849 as he was in the 1850 U. S. Census in Sacramento. It appears John mined in Siskiyou County before coming to Shasta. John remained in Shasta County and from 1858 to 1860 he was Undersheriff of Shasta County. In 1863 he was listed as Deputy County Recorder under J. R. Durick as well as being elected a Lieutenant in the Lyon Light Infantry (California State Militia). John was known to have married Carrie A Harris born in 1843.

In 1866 John registered to vote in Sacramento and things seem to have gone terribly wrong. The couple had a child Minnie Dent born in 1868 and was buried in 1868. Early in 1868 John, only about thirty-eight years old, died and a month later Carrie died. There was no large epidemic listed for Sacramento in 1868 so the cause of the family's demise was not found but Sacramento had a high death rate even without epidemics.

## O. C. Lee, Shasta City, October 3, 1851



Shasta City Oct. 3, 1851

Capt. R. Howe

Sac. City

Cala.

Dr. Sir

Mr. Roof

Will not say positively that he will take the boots. I think I could sell 25 cases more than I have readily and am certain that I can dispose of the balance of the apple butter, cider vinegar and preserves. The kraut you had best dispose of at the best advantage you can. I am selling the apple butter at \$3, gallon cider \$3, and the preserves gallons \$2.50, ½ gallons \$1.25. The cider and apple butter I am obliged to put into 5 and 10 gallon kegs as packing cannot take them in the original packages. The packages cost @2.50 each.

If you send up the balance advise me of the shipment that I may make calculation about paying freight. Downer & Co. has a lot of the best boots, grain leather. How is that? If you send up the boots send 15 cases grain and 10 of the others. That will give me a proportion of each kind with what I have. Write soon.

#### O.C. Lee

Almer Lawrence Downer was born about 1807 in New York. In 1850 he was a coal merchant in Utica, New York married to Cynthia (Cynthyanna in 1860) born about 1813 in New York and had five children: James W. born about 1833 in Pennsylvania, Celinda A. born about 1836 in New Jersey, John A. born about 1839 in New Jersey, Eugene R. born about 1846 in New Jersey, and George C. born about 1848 in New Jersey. Also listed with the family was Sophia Wellington who was Cynthia's sister born about 1801 in New York.

Between the time of the U.S. Census of 1850 and 1852, Almer moved his family to Shasta where he advertised as Downer & Company wholesale and retail. Shortly afterwards Almer began a nursery and by 1860 Almer was listed as a farmer in Shasta. There were some changes in the family. Sophia Wellington had remained in New York and was living with a family named Curtiss. These were presumed to be relatives as Almer's son was named George Curtiss Downer. Celinda Myanda Downer married Joseph Isaacs (1824-1873) of the Shasta firm of Hollub & Isaacs (in 1870 Joseph's brother David would be living with the Downers). John A. Downer was a clerk in Shasta and was twice postmaster (December 1863 to March 1865 and from August 1865 to November 1865). James W. who was a clerk in Shasta in 1860 died in 1861.

Almer appears to have followed a gold rush in 1861 to the Washington Territory and set up a business in Lewiston. In 1862 he was appointed postmaster at Lewiston, Washington Territory. In 1863 the Idaho Territory was formed from parts of the Washington Territory and Dakota Territory and the capital was established at Lewiston. The Court Almer is referring to in the letter the Territorial Supreme Court, but it was not found if his claim stemmed from his post office duties or other duties directly for the Court. In either case he appears to have returned to Shasta in 1864 as he was on the tax roll. Almer may have joined the Lyon Light Infantry that was formed in Shasta as part of the California State Militia (disbanded in 1868).

In 1870 Almer was listed as a Justice of the Peace in Shasta and was known to have served at least until 1871. In 1869 Cynthia had died at Shasta and her sister Sophia Wellington had rejoined the family and listed as keeping house. George was listed as a clerk in a dry goods store along with his son John Joseph born about 1865. Also living with the family was David Isaac listed as a retired dry goods merchant (born about 1814 in England).

In the 1880 U. S. Census Almer was listed as a retired merchant at Shasta with Sophia Wellington as housekeeper. Living in the home was George C. now 32, a dry goods clerk and his son John Joseph now 15. After 1881 Almer is no longer found. Neither he nor Sophia Wellington were listed as being buried in Shasta County. George was known to have married Alice Street in 1892 and moved to Tehama County where he died in 1924. John Joseph was known to have married Lizzie J. Heer and later divorced. He was last found in 1910 living in Redding and working as a porter.

Roop maybe Isaac Roop born 1822 who operated a store at Oak Bottom and was the interim postmaster at Shasta. He moved to the Honey Lake Valley (Susanville) in 1853. Isaac's brother Joseph operated the Old Dominion Hotel at Shasta in 1850 and purchased the Oak Bottom House in 1851.

Capt. Richard Howe was listed in the 1850 U. S. Census at Sacramento as a hotel keeper born about 1795 in Ohio.

O. C. Lee was listed in the 1852 California State Census as a merchant in Shasta. He was born about 1829 in New York. He is probably listed as C. Lee at Callahan's in Siskiyou County in 1860 as a butcher.

## Isaac Owens, Shasta, October 22, 1851



The above letter was written by Isaac Owens at Coloma in El Dorado County on October 22, 1851, and posted to his wife Elizabeth S. Owen on October 23, 1851. The address is Santa Clara but instead was sent to Shasta County. Robert W. Crenshaw appears to have forwarded it to the correct address. The letter written inside of the folded page had nothing to do with Shasta County but the author was of historical significance, so it is worth reporting.

Coloma Cal, Oct 22 1837, Mrs. E. D. Owen Dear Wife to day that I am sill favored with good health. I shopped with Brown D. Mille Brothermlaw to Lister Highfield Corydon Indiana - And he has agreed to buy our Claim in Case you have not Sold it you will please write him immediately on the receipt of this and in form him whether The place or not - Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of cold springs - He will pay all down for the place and make us a good neighbor besides - Don't neglect writing immediately write to me also on the subject direct your letter to Mary sville la, We had a good Quarterty meeting at Placewille Jours Lively religion and six joined Isaac Owen

Coloma Cal. Oct.22, 1851.

#### Dear Wife

#### I am pleased

To say that I am still favored with good Health. I stopped with Brother D. Miller
Brother-in-law to Sister Highfield of Croydon, Indiana — and he has agreed
to buy our claim in case you have not sold it. You will please write him
immediately on the receipt of this and inform him whether you have sold
the place or not. Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of Cold
Springs. He will pay all down for the place and make a good neighbor
besides. Don't neglect writing immediately. Write to me also on the subject. Direct your letter to
Marysville, Cal. We had a good quarterly meeting at Placerville.

We had five profess religion and since joined.

Yours truly

Isaac Owens.

The letter is interesting in that it points out that no one was immune from gold fever as the author was on a mission to establish churches but still made time to stake a claim in Coloma.

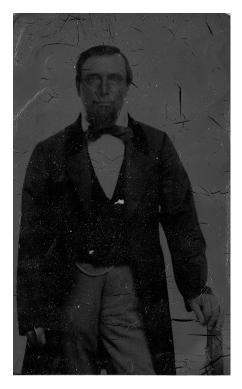
Isaac Owen was born in Vermont in 1809 and his father died when he was fifteen. Shortly after his father's death Isaac was converted at a camp meeting. By age 22 Isaac who was mostly self-taught became a licensed preacher and was living in Indiana. In October 1848 Isaac was commissioned the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to California.

Reverend Isaac Owen, his wife Elizabeth S (Hardin), and small family set out by ox drawn wagon for California. His first sermon in his new home was to fellow immigrants near Grass Valley on September 23, 1849. The initial assignment to San Francisco was changed when the family reached Benicia. The new assignment would be Sacramento. The ox team was worn so it was decided to ship the household goods back upriver by boat while the family followed with the wagon. Everything they had carefully packed across the Great Plains was lost in a boat accident, so they arrived in Sacramento with only a few clothes.

At the first sermon in Sacramento on October 23, 1849, Isaac converted seventy-two members. John Sutter donated a lot for a church and after lumber was received from Baltimore a church was built in a week. All was moving along well until January 1850 when a flood in Sacramento destroyed the church and made the family dwelling unlivable. Isaac moved the family to the San Jose Valley to recuperate but was soon invited to missionary work at Santa Cruz and to assist at San Francisco. In February 1850 while in San Francisco Isaac and Elizabeth's two-year-old daughter died and his wife never fully recovered. Isaac moved his wife and four other children to the San Jose Valley along with Elizabeth's father before returning to his post in March 1850.

Isaac carried on his missionary work in Central California and helped found the University of the Pacific. Elizabeth died in 1864 and Isaac followed in 1866.

### Louis Behrle, Senior



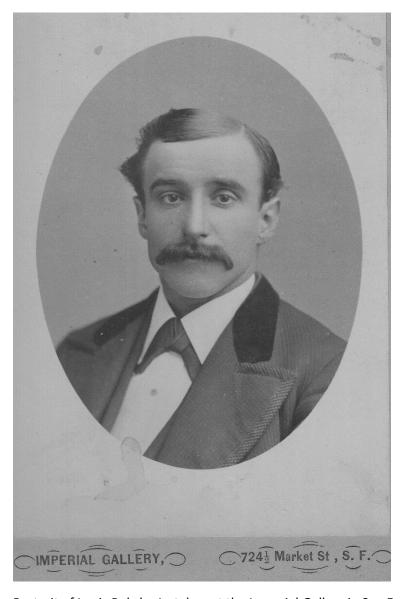
Tintype of Louis Behrle, Senior. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Ludwig, the German form of Louis, Behrle was born in 1814 at Renchen in the Grand Duchy of Baden. In 1837 he married Maria Franziska Behrle born 1819. Ludwig was the son of Blasius Behrle and Maria Anna Bacheberle while Maria's parents were Jacob Athenes Behrle and Katherine Branstatter. Prior to leaving Germany the couple had four children: Louisa born about 1838, Julia born 1841, Josephine born about 1846, and Sophia Emelia born about 1848. The family was living in New York City at the time of the 1850 U. S. Census where Ludwig was listed as Louis and Maria Franziska as Frances. Louis was working as a clerk as was Frederick Behrle, age twenty-two, who was probably a younger brother. In September 1850 both Louis and Frances signed their intent to become citizens. The last child of Louis and Frances, Louis Junior, was born in New York in 1851.

From the information found in the Litsch collection and the U.S. Census, it appears that Louis came west in 1854 and settled in Yreka, Siskiyou County. Present in the papers are a receipt for building supplies, possibly for a brewery. The family appears to have stayed in New York where Frances died between 1857 and 1860. The business may not have been successful as a case for attachment was filed against Louis in Yreka. At the time the attachment order was completed Louis was living in Shasta County. In the 1860 U. S. Census Louis was a brewer in Shasta living with his son Louis. Frances died,

probably in New York, in 1860, and it appears Josephine and Sophia Emelia remained in New York. Louis became a partner with Charles Litsch and was successful for only a short time as he died in 1865 and was buried in the Shasta Masonic Cemetery.

## Louis Behrle, Junior



Portrait of Louis Behrle, Jr. taken at the Imperial Gallery in San Francisco. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Louis Behrle, Junior was the only son of Louis and Frances Behrle. Louis was born in New York in 1851. In 1854 Louis remained with his mother in New York when Louis, Senior came to Yreka. Frances died between 1857 and 1860 and it is not known if Louis, Junior was sent west or if his father journeyed back for him. In the 1860 U. S. Census for Shasta County Louis, Junior was living with his father who was then a partner in the Litsch & Behrle Washington Brewery.

Louis, Junior grew up around the brewery and when his father died in 1865, he began living with Charles Litsch's family. By 1870 Louis, Junior was listed as a beer brewer at the Washington Brewery.

In 1877 Louis, Junior married Anna Josephine Foster born in 1857 at Millville. Anna's father was John Foster, or Johannis Forster (with an umlaut over the oprior to immigration about 1848). By some histories John was mining in Hangtown prior to moving to Shasta County. Jacob, John's brother, was naturalized in 1855 in Shasta County and John followed in 1857. In the 1860 U. S. Census John was listed as a dairyman probably in Shasta as other entries were for Isaacks and Downer. In 1866 the brothers were both listed at Ludwig's Bridge on Cottonwood Creek: Jacob as a farmer and John as a hotelkeeper. By 1870 Jacob was making his mark in the community of Cottonwood on the north side of Cottonwood Creek and John had returned to Shasta as a market gardener. In 1857 John married Mary Kiefhaver born in 1830 (died 1914) and the couple had nine children including Anna Josephine Foster born in 1857. John was listed as divorced in 1900 and living in Anderson with his then widowed daughter Anna. John died in 1907 at Napa State Hospital and Mary passed away in 1914.

On the 1880 U. S. Census Louis, Junior was still listed as a brewer in Shasta and the couple had their first child, Josephine Behrle born in 1878. In 1881 Louis and Anna's second child was born: Anna "Annie" Tudie Behrle. Louis, Junior died in 1890 and the family appears to have moved to the Anderson. In the 1900 U. S. Census Anna was listed as a saloonkeeper in Anderson and living with her father John. In 1910 Anna was living alone in Anderson but later moved in with her daughter Annie in Cottonwood. Anna would follow Louis, Junior, almost forty-five years later, dying in 1935.