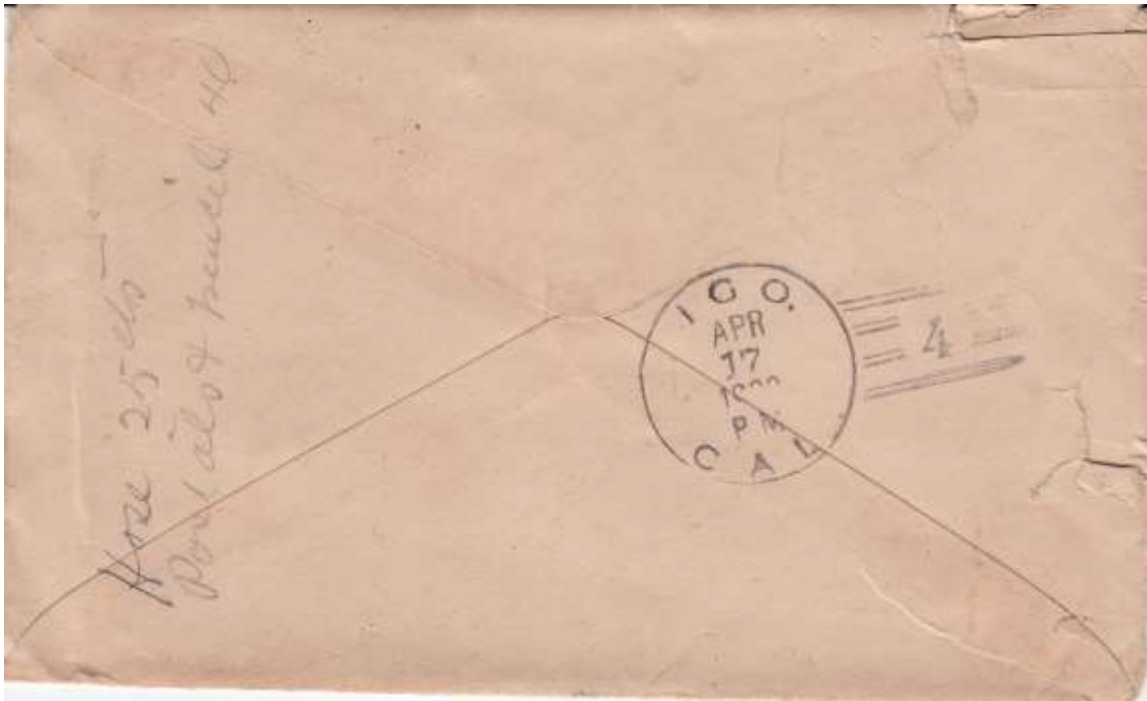


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not 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.

French Gulch Post Office





The French Gulch Post Office was established in 1856 and is located about twenty-one miles northwest of Redding. The town was named for a company of French miners who discovered gold on the site in 1849. The post office moved one and a half miles east from the original site. The town was also known as Morrowville.

The 1908 letter was addressed to Mrs. W. D. Carter in Igo. Mrs. Carter was Ella Jane Gleason born in 1870 in California. Her family was believed to have lived at Dry Creek and Horsetown and she may have been visiting family or friends. In 1908 Ella was married to William Dexter Carter who was a teamster at French Gulch. William was born about 1878 in California and was the son of Josephine and Asa Carter of Trinity Center, Trinity County. William died in 1913 and Ella remarried (Frank W. Latham). Ella and William were known to have two children: Vera Elizabeth 1910 and Elva Marie 1912. Ella died in 1950.

The articles for July 2019 are 1) Dr. William N. Guptill, 2) Stage Robbery of October 1891, 3) Sheriff William Ely Hopping and 4) The Leighton Brothers

Dr. William N. Guptill

William Neil (Neal) Guptill was one of California's all-around men: physician, Justice of the Peace, farmer. William was born in 1814 in Maine (which was still part of Massachusetts until 1820). In 1839 and 1840 he was a student at Bowdoin College (Medical School of Maine) in Brunswick, Maine. He was not listed in the 1850 U.S. Census for California or the 1852 California State Census. He was living in Millville by February 1857, as he was a contract physician at Fort Reading in the

absence of a military surgeon. In the U.S. Census of 1860 he was listed alone as a physician in Millville.

From the attached deed we know William was the Justice of the Peace in Millville in 1864. The deed was made by David King (born about 1828 in New York) the blacksmith in Millville and William Sloper (born about 1826 in Ohio) who was a carpenter in Millville. From a marriage record William was Justice of the Peace as early as 1861 as he performed the marriage of John Geho and Sarah Stout in Millville.

On September 8, 1864, Mrs. Catherine Allen (nee Boyce) was home with her four children, Lilly age five, John age three and a half, James age two and Robert just seven months old at their home about twelve miles east of Millville on Old Cow Creek (then called Big Cow Creek). William Allen was stacking hay about three miles away in Basin Hollow. There are various versions of what happened next but two Native Americans entered the cabin and shot Mrs. Allen in the head and beat the older two children with a gun. The younger two children were beaten against a hearth and James was stomped with nailed boots and all were left for dead. A neighbor and cousin of Mrs. Allen came by the cabin to borrow some tools while the Native Americans were still present and was shot and wounded but made it to the road and hailed a lumber wagon. The driver drove to Basin Hollow to contact Mr. Allen and set off the alarm. Dr. Guptill of Millville was sent for to attend the survivors. All four children and the cousin were saved even though one needed a silver plate to close a hole in his skull. Mrs. Allen could not be saved. Dr. Guptill also wrote the inquiry into the death of Mrs. Allen as the local Justice of the Peace and forwarded it to the Coroner.

On September 9th Mrs. John Jones was killed in Bear Valley about four miles from Copper City. In response to the two killings, two companies of volunteer "militia" (the Millville and Copper City Volunteers) were raised and ranged throughout Shasta, Tehama and Trinity County targeting Native Americans especially Yana. About five hundred Native American predominantly women and children were killed before the hunt ended. It was later established that the Yana were not involved in the incident.

On August 16, 1866, Mrs. Anna Marie Dersch was severely wounded by Native Americans and found by a neighbor. The neighbor went to find Mr. Dersch who was in Shingletown procuring lumber and sent his wife to contact Dr. Guptill at Millville. Dr. Guptill arrived quickly but was unable to save Mrs. Dersch who passed away the next morning.

The Free and Accepted Masons Northern Light Lodge #190 received a waiver to form in May 1868. The lodge was regularly instituted in November 1868 with Dr. William N. Guptill transferring from Western Star Lodge #2 in Shasta. Dr. Guptill became secretary of the new lodge and the first representative to the Grand Lodge.

From 1866 to 1870 William was listed as a physician in Millville. In 1870 William purchased eighty acres of land from the Government Land Office. The patent was for the East half of the northeast quarter of section 15 in Township 31 North Range 3 West MDM at Millville.

According to a Weekly Shasta Courier article William filled a short-term vacancy as County Judge for William E. Hopping. This would have been between 1872 to 1880. The same article cited William ran unsuccessfully for County Clerk

In the 1880 U. S. Census Dr. Guptill was listed as a physician and Justice of the Peace at Millville. William was living at Overmyer's Farmer's Hotel. In 1886 William registered to vote as a clerk in Millville at about age seventy-two. William was noted for being generous with his money and services and there was a note that in December 1888 the Northern Light Lodge voted to provide him with one-month's lodging, drugs and clothing due to illness. A Weekly Shasta Courier Obituary dated 1890 stated that Dr. Guptill had died. William was reported buried in the Millville Masonic Cemetery without a marker. The burial is not listed in the Shasta County Cemetery Index and the gravesite is now lost. Dr. Guptill was not known to have married and his death was a sad end to at least twenty-nine years of service to Millville and Shasta County.



Doctor William N. Guptill

Shasta, Cal
20-



This Indenture, Made the third day of
October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty four
BETWEEN Willard Hooper of Shasta County and
State of California party of the first part and
David King of County of Shasta a forsaire party

of the second part. Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the
sum of Three hundred and twenty five Dollars,
lawful money of the United States of America, to him in hand paid, by the said party of
the second part, at or before the executing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged, has remised, released and quit-claimed, and by these presents do remise, release and
quit-claim unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, All
that certain tract or parcel of land lying
and situate in the County of Shasta and
State of California and known and described
as the North East quarter (1/4) of section fifteen
(15) Township thirty one (31) Range three (3)
West Mount, Seale, base and Meridian,
Also an undivided interest of one fifth part in a certain
creek taking the water from deep creek for irrigating
purposes.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances therunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; And also all the estate, right, title, interest right of
usufruct property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said part 1/2 of the first part, of, in or to the above described premises, and every part or thereof with the appurtenances.

To Have and to Hold, all and singular the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said part 1/2 of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, the said part 1/2 of the first part, ha. ed. hereunto set his hand... and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Wm. H. Lupton

W. Sloper 

State of California,

County of *Mariposa*

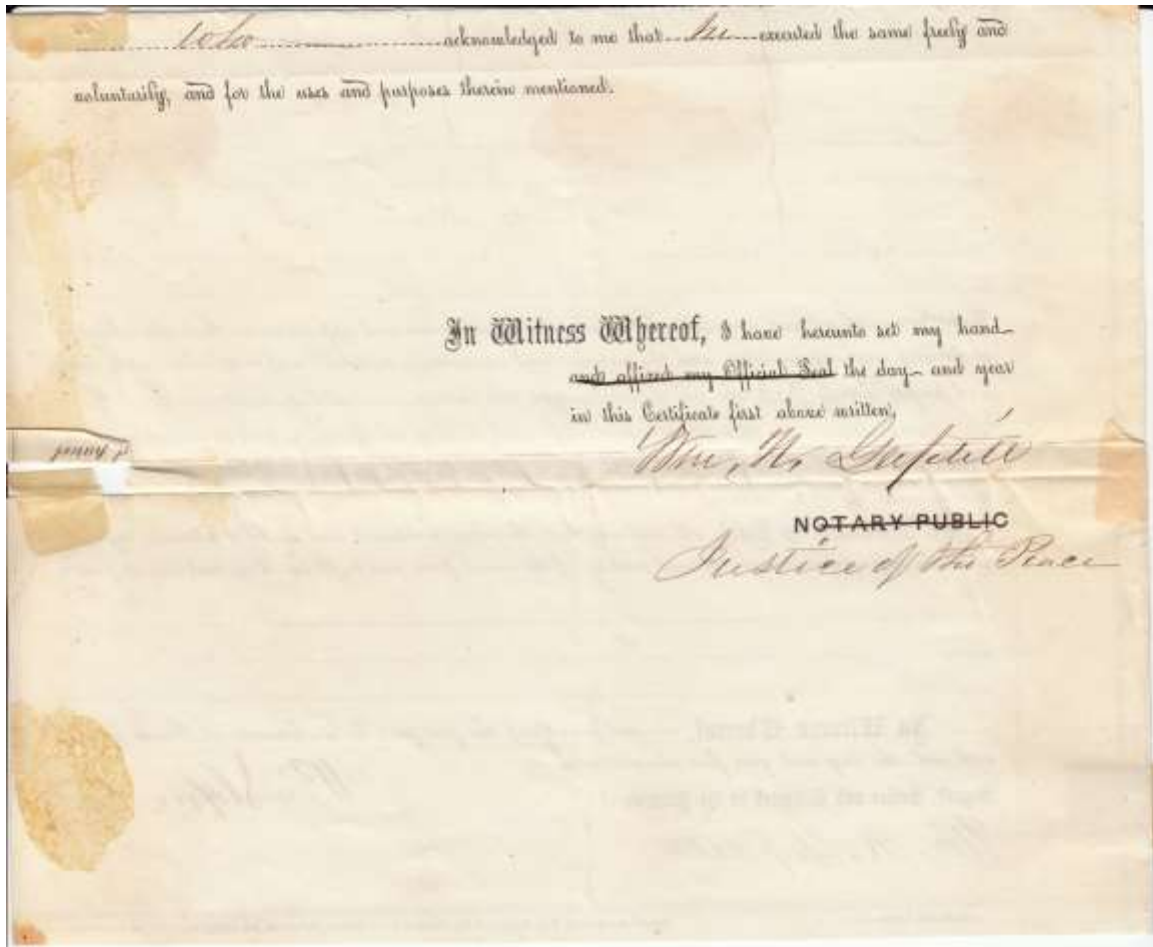
} ss.

On this *17th* day

of *October* A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-four before
me, *Wm. M. Suptott* Justice of the Peace in and for said *Mariposa* County,
duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared the within named

William Slope

whose name *is* subscribed to the foregoing Instrument as a party thereto, personally known
to me to be the individual described in and who executed the said foregoing Instrument, and-----



1864 Deed signed by William N. Guptill as Justice of the Peace at Millville

Stage Robbery of October 1891

In the evening of Thursday October 22, 1891, Alec Smith was driving the Redding to Alturas stage when he was stopped, for the second time within a week, by masked robbers. The robbery occurred near Leighton about six miles from Redding and both men were presenting weapons: one a shotgun and the other a pistol. The robbers demanded that the Wells, Fargo & Company express box and mail be thrown down. After Smith complied the robbers took five dollars from Smith and an unknown amount from the only passenger who was a lady. Having complied with the robbers, Smith was ordered to move on.

Smith reported the robbery at the next stage stop and a posse quickly responded. William E. Hopping was sheriff at the time but it is not known if he participated. The posse found no clue. It was believed that the robbers took \$200 from the express box but the amount in the mailbags was unknown. Since Smith knew the two men who had robbed him earlier were in jail he knew the current robbers were different men.

On October 26 two men were arrested on suspicion of the stage robbery: John Stevens about twenty-two years old and sixteen year old Frank Wedenberg. The lawmen "worked" on Frank and he confessed where to find the express box in a gulch about a quarter mile from the robbery site. Frank insisted that he was not involved in the actual robbery but confessed to helping them afterwards. Frank did not or could not identify the

reported second robber. After a posse recovered the express box and some clothes used in the robbery where Frank told them it would be, Stevens was turned over for trial.

John Stevens born about 1869 in New York was sentenced to ten years at San Quentin Prison. Stevens was received on November 10, 1891 and given No.14717. In May 1898 after six years and six months in prison Stevens was "restored." It is not clear what restored means but it appears to be released without parole.



John Stevens, San Quentin booking picture.

Historical Notes:

John Stevens: according to his booking record at San Quentin in 1891 he was born in New York in 1869 and his trade was listed as laborer. He was discharged from Folsom State Prison in May 1898 with the remark "restored." No other information was found and the State may have offered his release on the terms common at the time: that he leave California and not return.

Alec Smith: nothing was found on Alex or Alexander Smith. There was an A. J. Smith that ran the De La Mar Stage Line in 1905.

Leighton: site of a 4th Class Post Office between 1889 and 1894 and a stage stop named for Leon and Brigham Leighton who first settled in the area. The town is described as five miles northeast of Roberts and six miles east of Redding.

William E. Hopping: born 1830 in New Jersey. He came to California in 1849 and moved to Shasta County in 1852 where he was a butcher and miner in French Gulch. From 1864 to 1868 he served two terms as County Sheriff. He had interests in the Highland and Banghart Mines at French Gulch. From 1872 to 1880 he served as County Judge then from 1881 to 1882 Registrar of the Government Land Office in Shasta. From 1882 to 1892 he was both sheriff and tax collector. He died in office in 1892. William was twice married: first to Bridget Burke who died in 1860 and second to Harriet Hopping who died in 1891. William was survived by only two of his six children: Harriet 1867-1900 and William 1879-1912.

Frank Wedenberg: nothing was found other than there are various spellings of the name.

Sheriff William Ely "Bill" Hopping

William Ely "Bill" Hopping who born in 1830 in New Jersey was a true 49er, County Judge, a Captain of the California Militia and was twice Sheriff of Shasta County. His parents were Primrose Hopping born in 1789 in New Jersey (died 1866) and Nancy Chacy born 1795 in New Jersey. His father's striking name came from his grandfather John's (1719-1814) wife Sarah "Sally" Primrose (1751-1800). William who was six foot four inches tall was trained as a butcher in New Jersey. William came around the Horn on the "Balance" which landed at San Francisco on November 23, 1849. The ship was unseaworthy for a return trip and crews were hard to recruit so the ship was tied up at the foot of Pacific Street and became part of the city.

Since it was late in the year William took work as a butcher in the Fulton Market at the corner of Washington and Jackson Streets in San Francisco. In the spring of 1850 William moved to Murphey's in Calaveras County to seek his wealth as a miner. William was by family history successful but moved on to French Canyon and Mud Springs on Logtown Creek in El Dorado County. In the 1850 U.S. Census William was at Big Canon, El Dorado County where he mined for a year with Charles Crocker one of the future founders of the Central Pacific Railroad. In 1852 Crocker gave up prospecting to open up a store in Sacramento and William came north to French Gulch in Shasta County. (By census history it was William's older brother James Hopping born in 1821 that was listed with Charles Crocker in the 1850 Census at Spanish Canyon, El Dorado County. James had come west with William but returned to his family in New Jersey where he died in 1856.)

At French Gulch William returned to the butcher trade but continued to look for mining opportunities. Shasta County Marriages records cites that in May 1860 William married Bridget Burke born in 1829 at the Shasta Court House, while a family history cites 1859. To add to the confusion Bridget's gravestone cites she died in 1859 while the Shasta Courier obituary cites July 10, 1860. The Shasta Courier date is probably correct as Bridget was on the June 1860 U. S. Census so their son Primrose Hopping was born in 1860 (died 1887 in New York). The actual history indicates a combination of stories may be true and Bridget may have died in childbirth or shortly afterwards.

The U.S. Census of 1860 was accomplished in June and William was listed as a butcher at French Gulch. He was living with Bridget who had not had their child Primrose. With the couple were Catherine Green born 1821 in New Jersey, Caroline Green born 1846 in New Jersey and William Green born in 1854 in New York but no relationship was given. In 1862 William accepted the guardianship of his cousin Thomas Nelson Hopping (son of Thomas and Margaret Hopping born in 1813 in New Jersey) who came to California from Louisiana about 1851. Thomas was working as a carpenter in San Francisco when a judge committed him to Stockton State Hospital. As Thomas appeared to improve he was released to William's care in August 1862 and moved to Shasta County. Thomas was able to function

until April of 1865, when he was recommitted to Stockton State Hospital by Shasta County Judge, C. C. Bush. Thomas died at Stockton State Hospital in May 1866.

William appears to have returned to New Jersey in late 1862 as he married his second cousin Harriet Hopping on the 21st of January 1863 in New Jersey. There is some question if William left his pregnant wife in New Jersey to return to Shasta County. What is known is that Harriet delivered their daughter Phebe in December 1863 in New Jersey and that Phoebe died in June 1864 and was buried in New Jersey. William was nominated by the Republican Party for sheriff in March 1864 and accepted the nomination. Another indicator that William returned early was that he was elected Captain of the Trueman Head Rifles in 1863. The unit was a part of the California Militia and known to drill but was not called into State or Federal Service. The unit's main intent was to suppress Confederate sympathy. The unit was disbanded after the end of the Civil War and the reorganization of the California Militia.

William was elected to his first of seven terms as Sheriff of Shasta County in 1864 and served until 1866. In 1866 he was reelected to his second term serving from 1866 to 1868. In 1867 William and Harriet had their second child, Harriet "Hattie" Hopping (1867-1900). (Note: the couple actually had five children but only Harriet and son William survived.)

After his second term as sheriff William concentrated on mining. He was first engaged in quartz mining at the Highland Mine in the French Gulch Mining District. The load paid well to start but by 1871 the vein was lost. In 1872 William along with friend Thomas "Tom" Greene and others received a patent on the Banghart Mine (also known as the Mad Mule Mine) in the French Gulch Mining District. William returned to politics in 1872 but never lost his interest in mining. Tom Greene had replaced William as Shasta County Sheriff for two terms while William pursued mining. William ran for Sheriff in 1872 but lost to Sylvester Hull.

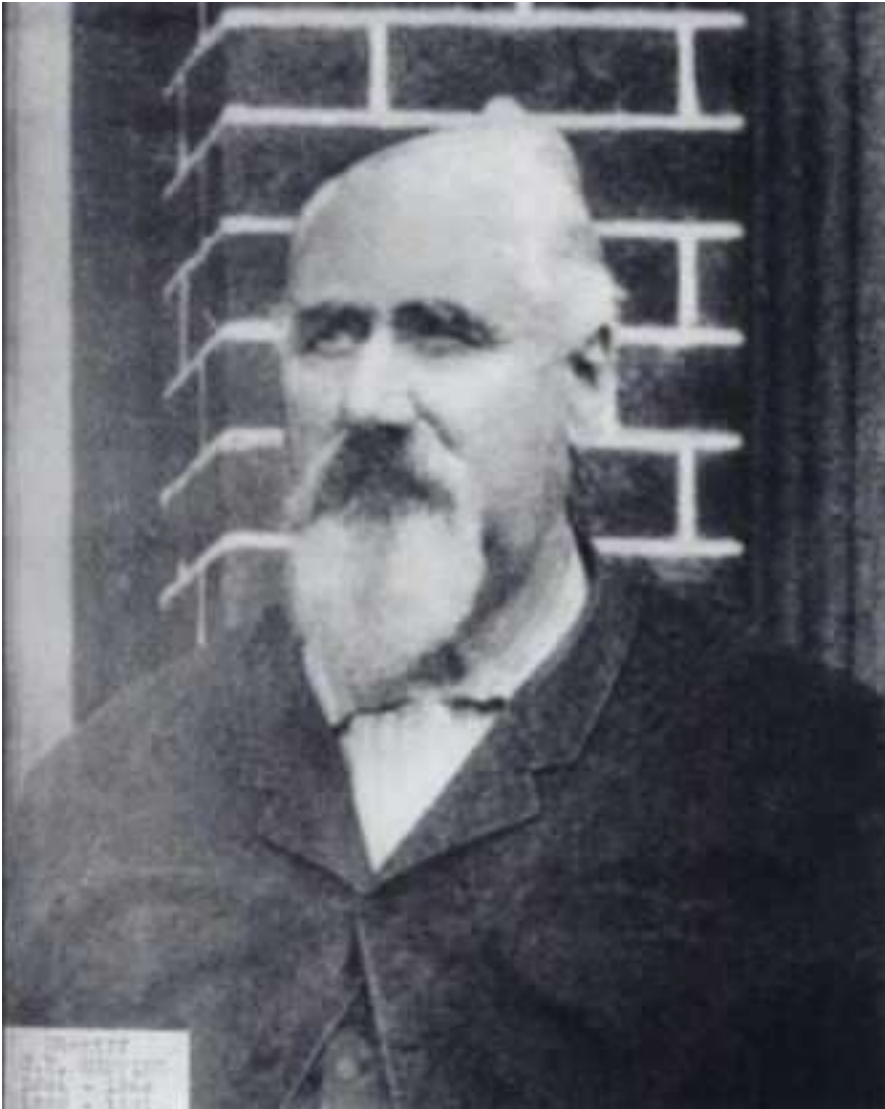
In 1872 William became a County Judge. Under the terms of the first State Constitution county judges were not required to be lawyers. Their level of court had jurisdiction over non-contested probate matters and over temporary remedies, such as orders to show cause. When the 2nd California constitution took effect in 1880 only Justices of the Peace were not required to be lawyers. William having lost his seat as County Judge, was appointed Registrar of the Government Land Office by 1881.

William who had been a member of Western Star Lodge #2 of the Free and Accepted Mason in Shasta helped found the Welcome Lodge #17 of the Order of the Eastern Star in Redding in 1875. The group required males to be over eighteen and master masons. William was the Lodge's first Worthy Patron and Harriet was the first Associate Patron. William was a Past Master of Western Star Lodge #2 and would be secretary in 1882. William was also active in the Society of California Pioneers. In 1879 William and Harriet had their last child, William Ely Hopping, Junior (1879-1912).

In 1882 William was elected to his third term as Shasta County Sheriff but the office was now combined with the Office of Tax Collector. The transfer of office was contested in the Supreme Court case of W. E. Hopping verses Sylvester Hull and Robert Kennedy. William had been officially elected and posted the bond required for a third-class county but the population had grown sufficiently to make Shasta a second-class county. The Superior Court ordered Hull and his deputy Kennedy to turn over the records and equipment but when the ruling was appealed the matter went to the California Supreme Court who sided with the lower court's order. With the Supreme Court's judgment William took up office. In 1884, 1886, 1888 and 1890 William was reelected.

By the 1880 U.S. Census William's first child had left the family and in 1887 died in New York. In April of 1891 Harriet died at Shasta. William died in the office of Shasta County

Sheriff in January 1892 and his friend Tom Greene was appointed to fill his term. In his lifetime he was described as a mammoth of a man but not only because of the many things he accomplished. Most descriptions place him at six foot four inches tall and weighing between three and four hundred pounds. The stories raise to six foot seven inches tall a worthy height for a seven-time sheriff.



Seven term Shasta County Sheriff William Ely Hopping

The Leighton Brothers

The Leighton family connection with Shasta County begins with Leon Leighton born in Vermont in 1855. He was the son of Lott Brigham Leighton born about 1826 in Vermont and Isadore Fish born about 1832 in Vermont (daughter of Jonathan Fish 1782-1854). In 1878 Leon started for Shasta County, California where his uncle Franklin Washington Fish (born 1836 Vermont; Isadore's brother) had started a farm. F. W. Fish was registered in 1871 as a farmer in Castoria, San Joaquin County, then in 1872 in Merced County. Franklin

Washington Fish registered as a farmer at Buckeye in 1879. Leon registered to vote in 1878 as a teacher in Stillwater. In 1880 Leon was living with his uncle's family and taught school as well as farming for his uncle. Leon first taught at Stillwater Creek but later taught at Igo, Union, Bass and Inwood. Leon was the first teacher at the one-room Pine Grove schoolhouse.

Late in 1882 Leon purchased Loomis Corners Farm (Homer Loomis) at Stillwater and wrote to his brother Brigham who was living on his parent's farm in Webster County, Iowa to come to California and run the farm while he taught school. Brigham born in 1860 in Massachusetts had just married Alice Almeda Altizer (born 1864 in Wisconsin) in October 1880, and had had a son Harley Brigham born in 1881 so it was not until May 1883 that the family left for California. The family reached Loomis Corners in time for the birth of their second child in August 1883.



Homer Loomis' house at Loomis Corners

Brigham's wife Alice died in 1886 at the age of twenty-two leaving him with two children. Brigham married Amelia "Minnie" Crosby (born 1865 in Nova Scotia, Canada) in Redding in 1887. Brigham purchased 160 acres south of Old Alturas Road in the Salmon Creek Road area. The farm became widely known for its orchards and raising nursery stock. Leighton Brothers apples were featured at 1889 and 1902 County Fair. In 1889 he was cited for experiment with brome grasses. In 1892 Brigham was listed as residing at Dryden in the area of the Leighton Post Office.

In 1889 a 4th Class Post Office was established five miles north of Roberts and six miles east of Redding and named in honor of Leon and Brigham Leighton. The Post Office was discontinued in 1894 and mail was moved to Redding. In 1891 Leon's wife Ida M. Leighton was Postmaster.

In 1910 Brigham moved the family to Gilroy in Santa Clara County to farm but by 1920 had moved to Ceres in Stanislaus County. Minnie died in 1928 and Brigham was living with his youngest child, Royale in the 1930 U.S. Census. Brigham died in Stanislaus County in 1936.

Brigham and Alice had two children: Harly B. born 1881 in Iowa and Earnest E. born 1883 in Shasta County both of whom remained in Shasta County. Harley received a 160-acre homestead patent in 1890 in section 10 Township 32 North Range 4 West MDM. Harley died in Redding in 1964. Earnest farmed forty acres on Salmon Creek Road. Earnest married Sarah Emma Fleming born in 1891 in the Cherokee Strip of the Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). Earnest was a constable from 1918 to 1938. Earnest died in 1974 in Redding. Brigham and Amelia "Minnie" had four children: Charles H. born 1889-1921. Lloyd W. born 1892-1976, Clyde C. 1895, and Royale born 1900-1973. All the children of Amelia "Mimmie" made the move to Santa Clara where Clyde died in 1907. The remaining three children moved to Stanislaus County and did not return to Shasta County.

Leon was teaching at Stillwater in 1878-1879 and at Buckeye in 1885. Marriage must have been in the air in the fall of 1887 as the two brothers married two sisters. Brigham married Amelia "Minnie" Crosby in September 1887 and Leon married Ida May Crosby (born 1863 in Nova Scotia, Canada) in December 1887. After marriage Leon appears to have focused on farming. In 1896 Leon was listed in the Dryden Precinct. By 1910 Leon had moved his small family to Stanislaus County where he was later joined by his brother. In 1920 Ida May died. Ida and Leon's only child, May Jeanette who married Bertram Arnold Storer in 1912 had her husband die in 1924. In 1930 Leon was living with May Jeanette and her children and in 1940 Leon was living with his nephew Royale. Leon died in 1941.