

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:_____.



Barn at Parks Store and stage stop that used to stand on the corner of Selvester Ranch Road and Platina Road. The tack rooms were underneath the far side of the barn.



Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek Dam on Selvester Ranch Road.



The cold storage shed on the Joseph Selvester Ranch dating from about 1900.

The May newsletter consists of 3 articles: 1) Gregory's California Express, 2) Notes from an Old Interview, 3) Stage Robbery in Igo

Gregory's California Express

In a 2006 Covered Wagon (Shasta Historical Society) article entitled, Letters Home, by Diane Kathleen and Ralph Hollibaugh there is a note concerning Gregory's California Express. The article shows an 1851 outbound letter written in Shasta City using a thirty-six page letter-book provided by Gregory's California Express. Since the express company was not recognized as local it appeared some research on the firm would be in order.

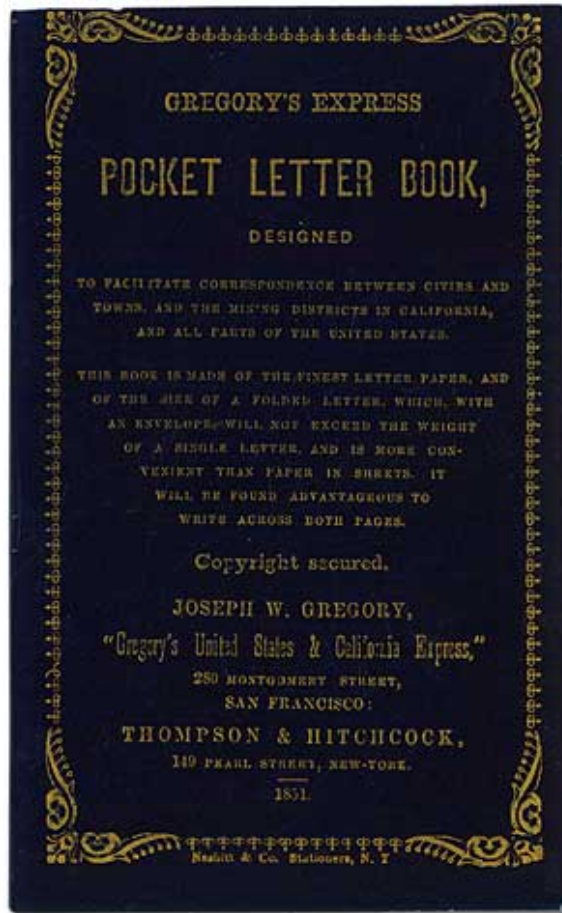
In 1850 Joseph W. Gregory founded an inland express company at San Francisco for packages, letters, gold dust and bills of exchange. In conjunction with the inland express he joined with Thompson and Hitchcock of New York to forward mail to San Francisco for distribution to mining camps. The company brochure stated that letters being sent to California should be addressed to a mercantile house or well known resident rather than "California" or Northern Diggings.

Initial letters were a dollar each and that was higher than the U. S. Post Office rate but the service was quicker as letters could be forwarded on every ship leaving

New York for San Francisco or San Francisco for New York. The U. S. Post Office had to use authorized carriers and could only deliver to authorized Post Masters. A Gregory's California letter could be sent from Bald Hills in Shasta County that never had a post office and be delivered to an east coast destination. Joseph Gregory had a marketing strategy to attract business. He published booklets to be provided free with blank paper for letters (a commodity that was hard to obtain in many isolated mining camps). The booklet cover gave the instructions for mailing letters using his service.

Gregory's California Express was popular with early miners and the service soon expanded to use Kinsley & Company of Boston to forward and distribute mail. The company was able to open up fourteen offices in California and one in the Kingdom of Hawaii. The closest office to Shasta County was at Marysville. When Wells, Fargo and Company decided to enter the express business in California their first acquisition was Gregory's California Express in November 1852. The company provided Wells, Fargo and Company an established and profitable operation between Sacramento, Stockton and San Francisco as well as established coastal routes.

Wells, Fargo and Company decided not to continue the free booklets so they are rare today. One example was recently found for sale through a history firm for \$650.00.



Notes from an Old Interview

The identity of the individual is unknown but the interview seems to have been done about 1922. The individual had a wealth of knowledge about Piety Hill and the surrounding area. He seems to have come to California by ship in 1854 or a little before. Some of the names and events are confirmed others still need research. If anyone has any data on any of these entries please share so we may reconstruct the history of Shasta County.

Page 1

Piety Hill had four church organizations: Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal-M.E. South, and Universalist. The latter being the only one that erected a church.

The first school was organized in the fall of 1857 paid by popular subscription.

Agnes Parker (1) of Massachusetts was the teacher. She later became Mrs. C. N. Kingsbury. School building moved to Igo in 1873.

The first store at Piety Hill was started by Pliny Conger, succeeded by Sam Dannels and Eugene Coward. This store was moved from a flat beyond Igo by A. Andrews

and Clay Stockton (2) with an ox team, who drew the building along high ridges around the hear of Conger Gulch – these men had a saw mill up Andrews Creek.

Notes:

(1) Charles N. Kingsbury moved to Piety Hill in 1852. Kingsbury was initially a miner but also worked as a carpenter and storekeeper. He operated the Willard Store and Post Office (he was Postmaster) for a while which was established at Igo in 1868 by G. K. and Charles Willard. Kingsbury married Agnes Parker in 1857 and settled on lots 11 and 12 of section 27, T32NR6W near Piety Hill. It is not known when he homesteaded the land but his patent was not issued until 1909. The ranch was eventually named Kilbogie after the birthplace of Agnes Parker's father in Scotland. John Parker settled in Piety Hill after serving in the Civil War and was often known as the Laird of Kilbogie. C. N. Kingsbury was the chairman of the first Republican County Convention in 1859.

(2) A. Andrews is Alexander Andrews who settled below Horsetown in 1849. He and Henry Clay Stockton purchased the water ditches to Watson Gulch and the Bald Hills from Watson and other ditches at Piety Hill. The road from Piety Hill to Eagle Creek was the Andrews & Stockton Mill Road prior to becoming a county road in 1862. Andrews and Stockton had a saw mill on Eagle Creek.

Page 2

Ed R. Jones (3) built a hotel at Piety Hill in the spring of 1858. This afterwards was purchased by Clinton Lodge #119 F&AM (4). This building was burned in 1876. An I.O.O.F. hall was built in about 1877 (5). G. K. Willard built a store at Igo in 1869. Hotel built by John Bossyn 1870 afterward conducted by Warren Dunham. Dunham & Leiter built store about 1878 (6) that burned August 1910. Mail and stage came from Anderson until about (unreadable).

Notes.

(3) E.R. Jones settled at Gaines Flat in 1849 and is cited as holding religious discussions with W. K. Conger, Hayes Titus and others that gave Piety Hill its name. He did operate a hotel at Piety Hill but he was best known for purchasing the Eagle Creek Ditch which supplied waster to Gaines Flat and other sites around Gas Point. The ditch became known as the Ed Jones Ditch.

(4) The Clinton Lodge #119 of the Free and Accepted Masons was founded at Horsetown in January 1857 and later moved to Piety Hill. Clinton Lodge joined with Welcome Lodge #209 of the I.O.O.F. jointly purchased a new building in Igo that is still standing on the corner of Placer Street and South Fork Road.

(5) Welcome Lodge #209 of the I.O.O.F. was instituted at Piety Hill in October 1872. The lodge continued to meet at the Weidenback Saloon in Piety Hill until it burned then joined Clinton Lodge #119 in their jointly owned building in Igo.

(6) Warren Dunham and A. Leiter were known to have established a merchantile store in Igo in 1878. Warren Dunham owned the Igo Hotel in 1881 and was involved in mining patenting ideas for cable systems. Warren and his brother operated the Dunham Brothers Gravel Mine on the south side of Dry Creek.

Page 3

Alpheus Bull (7) a pioneer merchant of Shasta and partner in Bull, Baker & Company made \$75,000 mining at Arbuckle.

McKay & A. L. Corbus (8) had a store at Dry Creek on the site of the Stitler Ranch afterwards moving to Horsetown.

Horsetown settled in 1850 Butts Schulyler first white child born in Horsetown named Shasta Butts according to Conger in 1850. (9)

Clemmens brothers sold mine to Conger at Piety Hill about one half mile from Igo near the site of the Hardscrabble Mine.

(Piety Hill) named so by W. K. Conger because of the resemblance to a place of the same name in Michigan and said by some to have been named because of an enthusiastic Methodist who sang hymns lustily and frequently.

Notes

(7) Alpheus Bull was known to have mined in the Bald Hills-Arbuckle area in the early 1850s. He was a mining partner of George Baker and there were believed to have made their big strike at Nigger Hill near Watson Gulch. In 1853 Bull, Baker and Robbins was established as a forwarding business throughout the northern mines. The company went into the merchandise business and was known as Bull, Baker & Company and the company did have a store at old Shasta. Prior to 1860 Alpheus Bull sold the company and moved to San Francisco. He was later known as a Universalist minister but other entries cite Quaker. In checking the internet there is a Quaker Universalist Fellowship so maybe both are correct.

(8) In the 1860 census there is an A. T. Corbus listed as age 28, merchant in Horsetown. He seems to have a brother or relative named I. O. Corbus listed as age 21 and also a merchant.

(9) The entry is confusing: in 1860 there was an N. Schyler (born 1826 in New York) and his wife Margarette living in the area of Horsetown. They had a daughter Shasta Butts born in 1855. There was an Albert Butts (born 1823 in New York) and his wife Susan living in Piety Hill in 1867 and Horsetown in 1860 but they were not known to have had children.

Page 4

Gold 1849-George Evarts-squawman (10) four mile bar (11)

A. Andrews (12) and party mined at Arbuckle Mountain. Fought with Indians.

First gold in county said to have been mined at Lower Springs- Samuel Gilbert Sr.

(13) arrived in San Francisco in 1850 saw nuggets from Lower Springs and so came to Shasta County.

W. K. Conger established a trading post at Piety Hill in 1850 (14). His wife came from Michigan in 1852 being the first white woman to make a home west of Clear Creek (15)

A natural bridge across Clear Creek (16) about one mile above the present site of bridge was blown out by miners in the early days to prevent the hostile Indians crossing the stream.

Beu Mix (17) built the Whiskytown Hotel in 1854

Notes

(10) George Everest married a Wintu and was thought to be living in the Igo area in 1849. There is another story that he deserted a whaling ship in Oregon and walked inland becoming the first white to settle in Shasta county.

(11) Four Mile Bar is in Clear Creek at about the level of Muletown (four miles above Reading's Bar). The bar was known to be mined by William C. Moon and Native Americans in 1848.

(12) Alexander Andrews was part of the Cunningham party of 1849 that was lead to the future Arbuckle Mining District by Wintu after a verbal treaty to respect the environment. It is believed the party left the Arbuckle gulches when new miners refused to abide by the agreement. The Cunningham party was well armed but was not believed to have used their weapons against the Wintu.

(13) Samuel J. R. Gilbert was born in Vermont in 1806 and was living in Ohio prior to the Gold Rush. Samuel was believed to have been the captain of an emigrant company, drove a mule team across the Great Plains and settled in Shasta County by 1850. Samuel returned to Ohio after three years and brought out his wife and son Samuel Junior to Shasta County via the Isthmus of Panama (1852). Samuel engaged in merchandising until 1868 when he relocated to what became known as "Gilbert's Ferry" across the Sacramento River. After about 1878 Samuel relocated to Tulare County. Samuel J. R. Gilbert, Junior returned to Redding in about 1878 but relocated after a few years. Samuel Junior married Elizabeth Wilhelm in Shasta on January 1, 1866.

(14) W. K. Conger was William (also given as Williston) Kingsbury Conger born about 1821 in Pennsylvania. He was an early miner at Piety Hill. He homesteaded a ranch with D. Titus at the head of what became known as Conger Gulch and Conger Butte (now Petty Butte). Later in life he operated the butcher shop in Igo.

(15) It should be noted that Mrs. Conger was from Michigan and the town where she settled was Piety Hill. The coincidence is that there is a town of Piety Hill in Michigan and in existence prior to the Gold Rush.

(16) A natural bridge did exist near Four Mile Bar and was dynamited to keep the Wintu west of Clear Creek. The arch would have only been of benefit in winter when Clear Creek used to flood. In summer there are fords above and below the site. It is almost impossible to tell exactly where the arch was located as the steep canyon has been washed by countless floods but if one looks carefully there remains evidence of a suspension bridge that later replaced the arch and connected Muletown with Piety Hill (note both sides of the canyon are private property).

(17) Benjamin Mix built the Franklin City Hotel in 1853 along the mule trail in Whiskeytown.

Page 5

C. N. Kingsbury Chairman of the first County Republican Convention in 1859 (1)- Judge Hinckley (18) sent by this convention to National Convention at Springfield which nominated Abraham Lincoln for Presidency

On May 20-1922 seventy years ago I landed at San Francisco and wet into the El Dorado gambling hall to see some huge piles of gold –more than I ever dreamed of. 700 passengers landed and only once after landing did I meet one of the passengers this was in 1854.

Notes

(18) Jacob C. Hinckley was a Shasta County judge from 1852 to 1858. In 1852 he and two partners founded the Shasta Courier newspaper.

Stage Robbery in Igo

In California there were four hundred and sixty stage robberies during the period between August 5, 1856 and July 25, 1913. Forty-eight of these were in Shasta County or just over 10%. One of those robberies was between Igo and Anderson.

At four in the evening on April 18, 1881, the Dunham & Leiter Stage Line left the Wells, Fargo Express office in Igo for the railroad depot in Anderson. The stage was being driven by Watt Gage and had gone about four miles to the old Champion House when a lone, masked robber stepped out of the brush and stopped the stage. The command to stop was obeyed as the robber was armed with a pistol. The robber demanded that the express box be thrown down and when this was done ordered Gage to drive.

About a mile further on towards Gage met Thad Jones and he was sent back to Igo to sound the alarm. Dunham and a man named Conger responded to the robbery site but the robber had fled. About two hundred yards off of the road the pair found the opened express box, a sledgehammer and other tools used to open the box and waybills that indicated the robber had taken \$1,100 in cash, 10,000 shares of Chicago Mine stock and some letters.

Dunham contacted Wells, Fargo & Company and the Shasta County sheriff and forwarded the description to the surrounding counties. It was noted that the description matched a man that had broken into the house of N. beeves and stolen a small amount of money the Sunday before the stage robbery. The description also matched that of the man that robbed the La Porte to Oroville stage on November 30, 1880.

Sheriff J. W. Smiley of Trinity County received a report that a man fitting that description was seen at the cabins of John Day and James Moore. Sheriff Smiley and James Moore who was in town rode for the cabins a day's ride away. When they arrived John Day was home and the suspect was still in the vicinity. The sheriff sent Day out to invite the suspect to the cabin while they rested. Rather than resting both the sheriff and Moore were asleep when Day and the suspect returned. The sheriff awoke to find the suspect sitting at the table. The suspect called for Day then bolted for the door attempting to get his pistol out of the holster. Day, Sheriff Smiley and Moore quickly followed with the sheriff directing Day to shoot. Day's first shot missed but a second hit the suspect in the back forcing him to his knees. It took two commands from the sheriff for the suspect to throw his pistol aside. The suspect refused to identify himself and when taken to the cabin had only \$13.10 in coin and some gold dust on his person. John Day was sent to Weaverville to bring a physician.

Upon examination the suspect had a bullet wound centered in the lower back that entered the bowels without exiting. The suspect was taken to the hospital in Weaverville where he died after contracting an infection but never did identify himself. Sheriff Smiley had the body released to Sheriff Hull of Shasta County for identification and burial.

At the inquest the suspect was identified as Edward Wilson but James B. Hume later determined that that name was an alias. The correct name was John Brown who was also known as Wilson, J.W. Marshall, O'Neill or "old Jack Brown the

cell tender." John Brown had a long history of interaction with law enforcement as he had served three terms at San Quentin between 1854 and 1879. He had been free less than a year when he robbed the La Porte stage and less than two when he was shot "resisting arrest."

The following is provided to augment the data reported in the newspapers:

1. Dunham & Leiter Stage Line began operations in September of 1879 when Wells, Fargo & Company was persuaded to open an express in Igo.
2. "Doc" Dunham = DUNHAM, Warren: merchant at Igo in 1886. He was born about 1838 in Canada and naturalized through his father Hiram. He was a partner with Alexander B. Leiter in a store in Igo in 1878 and owned the Igo hotel in 1881. He was an owner of the Dunham Brother's Gravel Mine on Dry Creek with his brother Hazel. In 1860 he was a blacksmith and miner in Trinity County. In 1867 he was listed as a miner at Roaring River and by 1870 a farmer in Horsetown Precinct (probably near Piety Hill). In 1894 he was listed as owner of the Mockingbird Mine and also owned the Black Hawk Mine. He was the holder of four U.S. Patents (balanced pulley for cable railways, depression pulley, a cable grip, and cable railway channel). Warren was the brother of Hiram and Frances Dunham.
3. Leiter = LEITER, Alexander B.: merchant in Igo in 1880. He was born about 1849 in Bavaria, immigrated in 1857 and naturalized in June 1869 at the Shasta County District Court. Partner in Dunham & Leiter. Possible partner in Simpson & Leiter in Horsetown in 1870. In 1869 and 1878 he was listed as a merchant in Horsetown. In 1900 and 1910 he was listed as a merchant in Igo. Alexander was married to Mary Gleason and the couple had two children: Alexander B., Junior 1878 and Edna Poore 1881.
4. Watt Gage = Watrous Gage born about 1844 in Ohio. In 1867 he was a miner at Chicago and later a laborer and farmer at Igo.
5. Champion House is most likely Champenois house in Janesville
6. Thad Jones = JONES, Thaddeus Alonzo: ditch tender in Igo in 1880. He was born in 1833 in Georgia. He was married to Mary Clarissa Lansdale born about 1840 in Missouri. In 1880 the couple had seven children all born in California: Susan Lily born about 1861, Mary Eva (Eva Mary) born about 1865, Elizabeth S. born about 1866, Georgie born about 1869, Thadidas (Thaddeus) born about 1871, Nellie R. born about 1876 and Robert H. born about 1878. In 1860 he was a miner at Horsetown in 1866 he was listed as a ditch tender in Watson Gulch and in 1868 and 1886 a ditch tender in Igo. In 1870 he was listed as a saw mill owner in Piety Hill. In 1896 and 1900 he was listed as a farmer in Igo. Thaddeus died in 1912.
7. Conger = William K. or Williston Kingsbury Conger born about 1821 in Pennsylvania. He built a house at the head of Conger Gulch which separates Piety Hill from Igo. He was a mine, rancher and slaughter house operator at Igo/Piety Hill.
8. Chicago Mine = SILVER FALLS-CHICAGO CONSOLIDATED MINE: the Chicago lode

initially discovered by Noah S. Batcheler and J. B. Batchlert in 1866 just to the south of the Hubbard Ranch on the South Fork of Clear Creek. The mill site for the mine became the basis for the mining town of Chicago

9. N. Beeves = Nicholes Alexander Beeves born about 1837 in Missouri. In 1876 he was a miner in Igo and in 1881 a mine foreman at Igo. In 1885 he was listed as a farmer in Happy Valley
10. Sheriff J. W. Smiley = John W. Smiley born about 1840 in Georgia. He was a miner and ditch owner in the Indian Creek-Douglas City of Trinity County from 1860 up until his election as sheriff around 1880. Sheriff Smiley died on 12 November 1881 about seven months after the Igo robbery.
11. John Day = in 1880 there was a John Day born about 1857 in Illinois who was a miner living alone at Junction City about ten miles west of Weaverville.
12. James Moore nothing was found
13. Sheriff Hull = Sylvester Hull: He was born in 1831 in Ohio. County Sheriff for six terms, 1872 to 1874, 1874 to 1876, 1876 to 1878, 1878 to 1880, 1880 to 1881 and 1881 to 1882. In 1885 and 1898 he was Registrar at the Government Land Office. In 1866 he was listed as a merchant in Buckeye. From 1863 to 1866 he was Postmaster of Churntown. In 1862 he married Martha Whiting and the couple had two children: Evaline "Eva" 1865 and Samuel 1867. After Martha's death Sylvester married Celina Zorn in 1881 and the couple had one child: Milton 1887. Sylvester died in 1899.
14. James B. Hume was at the time a detective for Wells, Fargo & Company. He was born in New York in 1827 and came to California in 1850. After ten years as a miner he started a career in law enforcement. In 1860 he was deputy tax collector in El Dorado County and in 1864 was marshal at Placerville. In the same year he was appointed Undersheriff of El Dorado County. In 1865 he ran for sheriff and won serving until 1870. In 1871 he was hired by Wells, Fargo & Company but given a years leave to serve as Deputy Warden of the Nevada State Prison. Upon his return Hume became one of the company's top detectives. He was most famous for the capture of Black Bart. Hume worked as a detective for the company until his death in 1904.
15. John Brown no grave was found for Edward Wilson or John Brown.