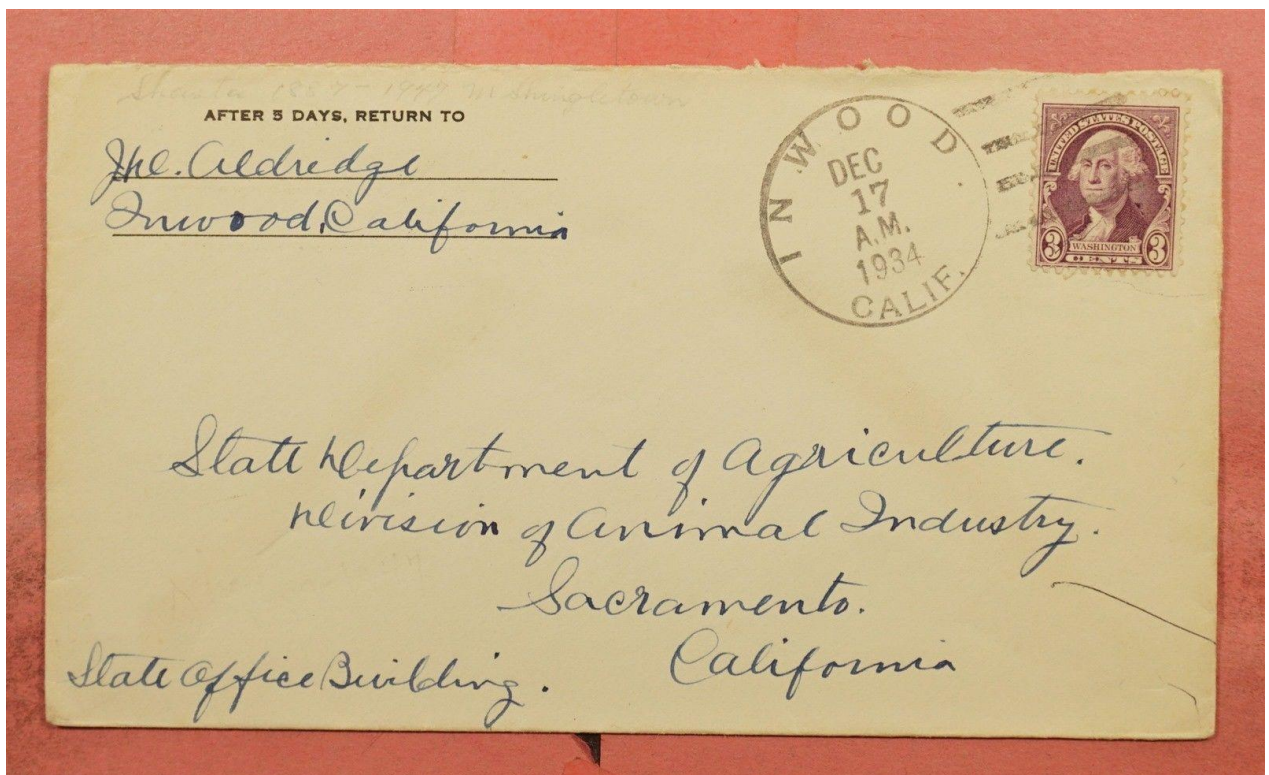


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not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

Inwood Post office

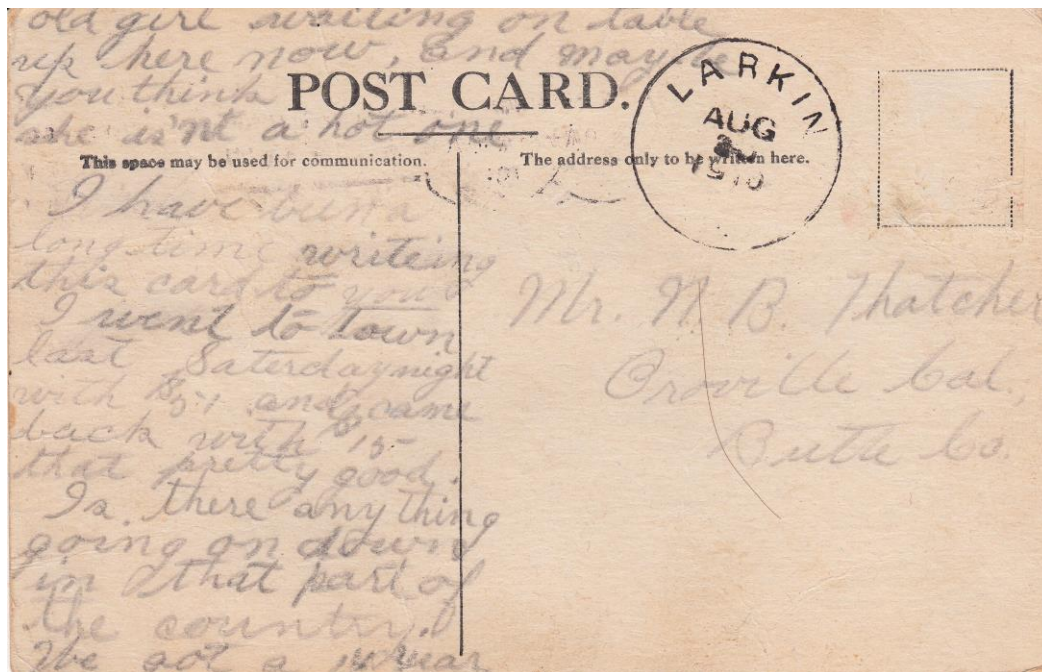


The letter above was mailed at the Inwood Post Office in 1934 by whom appears to be J. W. Aldridge. The post office was located five miles northwest of Shingletown and sixteen and a half miles northeast of Ball's Ferry. According to the Post Office Department the name is a contraction of "hidden in the woods." The 4th class post office was established in January 1887. In October 1937 the post office was moved a mile and a quarter west. The post office was closed in June 1947 and services moved to Shingletown.

Note: in 1864 the Post Office Department classified post offices into five classes. This was revised in 1874 to four classes (the classification remained in effect until 1972). The classifications established guidelines for postmaster compensation and by extension the services offered at the post office.

The letter appears to be J. W. Aldridge but there were two J. Aldridge related to Inwood at the time. The first was Jasper H. Aldridge 1890-1954 who was a laborer and Jefferson Davis Aldridge born about 1864 who was a farmer. Since the letter was addressed to the Division of Animal Industry at the State Department of Agriculture, Jefferson Davis was the likely sender of the letter. John was the son of William Aldridge 1819-1891 who founded the Snow Creek Ranch at Inwood in 1862. In 1895 Jefferson and his brother John Cable Breckenridge Aldridge (1860-1914) were partners in the ranch. Jefferson married Minnie Elizabeth Boyer (1872-1939) in 1890 and the couple had three children. Jefferson was killed by a bull in 1937. The Snow Creek Ranch (later Aldridge Ranch) was honored by the State of California with a 100 year plaque in 1962.

Larkin Post Office



The above post card was mailed at the Larkin Post Office in 1910. The post office was established in 1899 and named for John Larkin, a Shasta County Coroner. The first Postmistress was Melissa J. Larkin, John's wife. The post office was located about eight miles southwest of Redding. The post office ceased operations in 1912 when it was moved to Redding.

The area of service was first known as Middletown and is now known as Centerville. The area had been served by three other post offices: Middletown from 1856-1858, Brincard 1879-1881 (six miles southwest of Redding) and Dolde 1890-1893 (five miles southwest of Redding).

Articles for April 2020 are: 1) Court Documents: 1879 People vs. Brown, Mayhem in Copper city, 2) Rev. John Marion Johnston, and 3) Eleazer Gilson Family of Eagle Creek

Court Documents: Mayhem in Copper City

No. 47

Justice's Court,
No 5 Township,
County of Shasta

The people of the State of
California.

.....
vs. Plaintiff
J. A. Brown
Defendant.

Complaint.

Filed Jan 31st 1879
H. C. McClure
Justice of the Peace.

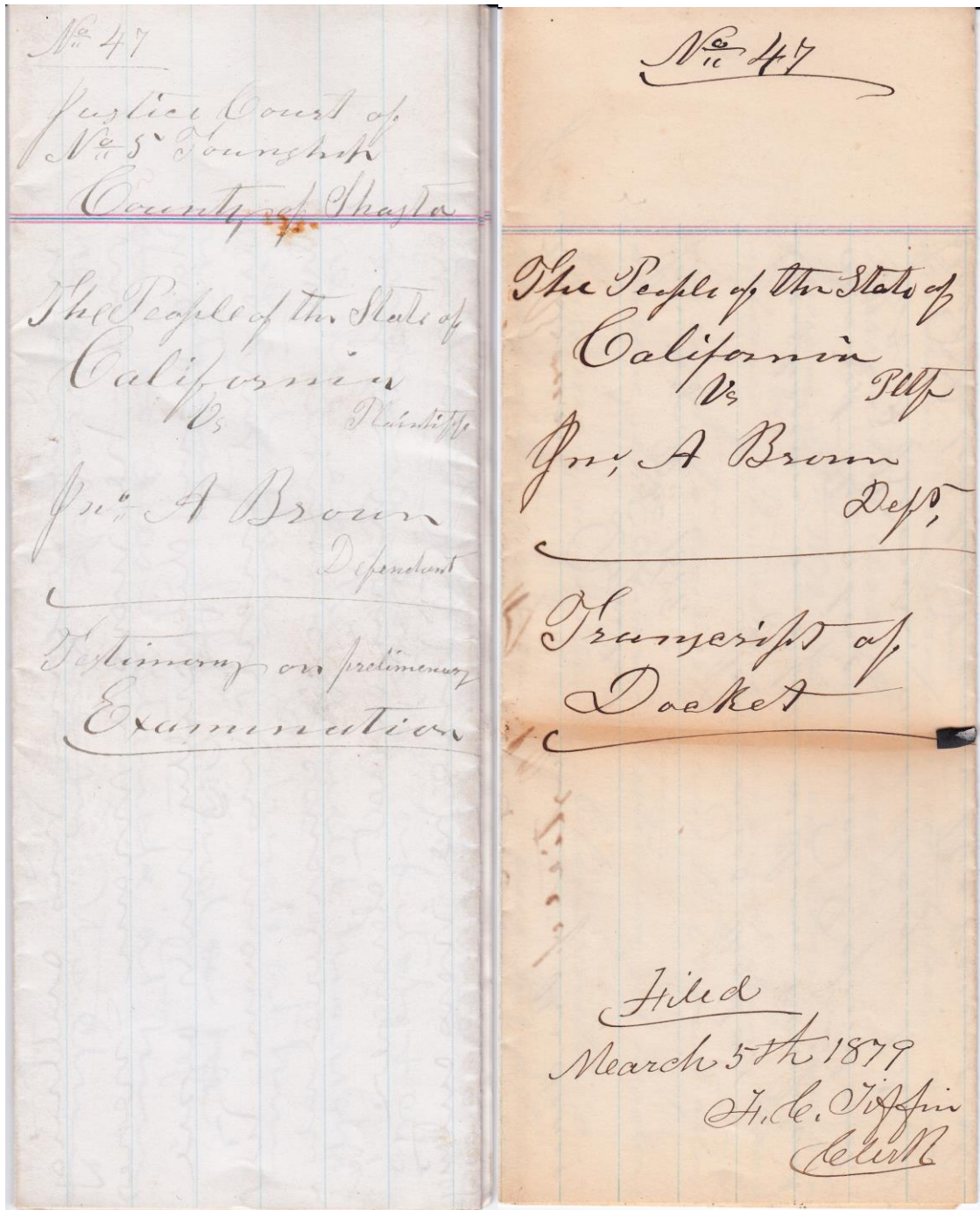
No. 47

Justices' Court,
No 5 Township,
County of Shasta

The People of the State
of California.
v.
J. A. Brown

Warrant of Arrest.

Filed Jan 31st 1879
H. C. McClure
Justice of the Peace
of said Township.



The above four documents were from a Justice of the Peace Court. They consist of a Complaint, Justice Court Warrant of Arrest, an Examination and Transcript of Docket. Until 1860 the Judges of the Justice of the Peace Court were appointed by the County Court Judge and did not have to be an attorney at law. After 1860 the Justice of the Peace Judges were elected by the townships for a two-year term but still were not required to be attorneys. The jurisdiction of the Court was limited to the township and limited to cases with penalties of less than six months in

the county jail or civil cases under \$300. The law enforcement officer attached to the Justice of the Peace Courts was a Constable.

The documents are from Township 5, Copper City and the Complaint was filed by Madore Cushman before Justice of the Peace Henry Clay McClure. The complaint filed on 30 June 1879 stated that one Jno. A. Brown did bite off a piece of Madore Cushman's ear thereby disfiguring him.

The second document is a Justice of the Peace Warrant of Arrest filed on 31 January 1879 by Judge McClure. The warrant was for the crime of mayhem (maliciously injuring or maiming) and sent to the Deputy Constable John Byrne. Byrne must have located the defendant as the next document is an Examination where both Jno. A. Brown and Madore Cushman provided a sworn statement. The Examination also included a witness Henry Clinesmith.

The statement of Madore Cushman was first and rather short. He stated that he resided in Copper City where he was a laborer and lost part of his ear in a fight with Mr. Brown between the hotel and Mr. Connell's saloon near the bridge.

Next to testify was Mr. Clinesmith. He stated that he resided at Copper City and was a saloon keeper by trade. He stated that right after the fight Mr. Brown came into Connell's Saloon and said the Cushman had called him a son of a bitch and he, Brown hit him and then they both clinched and Brown got hold of Cushman's ear and bit a part of it off. Mr. Brown said that Cushman was cutting him with a knife. Then Brown said he kicked him in the belly and made him weaken. Brown questioned Clinesmith: did I not say that I was trying to hold him to keep him from cutting me at the time? The answer was yes.

Last to testify was J. A. Brown who stated that he resided at Copper City and was a lawyer by profession. He testified on the evening of the 29th of January just about dark he was going from McCourtney's Saloon to the Palace Hotel in company with three other gentlemen and was nearly in front of Mr. Connell's Saloon and heard a noise that attracted his attention and shortly a man came running out and put his hand on my shoulder. He remarked where is the pock marked son of a bitch. I asked him what was the matter? The response was do you want to take it up and Brown said no and turned to leave. Brown stated the man then caught him by both arms and would not let go when asked. Brown stated the man called him a cock sucking son of a bitch and as he did he lifted his right hand. Mr. Brown responded by striking him with his left hand, then he struck me in the chin with a knife of some kind. Mr. Brown stated that he caught the man's hand and held him as he was out of breath. Mr. Brown supposed that during the scuffle he may have bitten part of the assailant's ear off. Mr. Brown said he had no malicious intent for doing as he did and was only trying to defend himself from being cut. Mr. Brown stated the assailant was a man he never had any difficulty with before and did not know his name until that evening. Mr. Brown stated he felt in great danger during the time he was cutting at and was without any other means of defense. After the testimony Mr. Brown was discharged.

The last document was a Transcript of Docket dated March 5, 1879, and filed by F. C. Tiffin, Clerk. The document states defendant was in Court on January 31, 1879, and informed of the charges and informed of his right to counsel. Mr. Brown waived his right to counsel. After hearing the testimony of Madore Cushman, Henry

Clinesmith on behalf of the prosecution and Jno. A. Brown for the defense, it was determined that the “defendant had only made a lawful resistance to a murderous assault. It was determined as self-defense and that the defendant had not committed a public offense and was discharged from custody. Signed H. C. McClure Justice of the Peace.

Historical notes:

John A. Brown: nothing definite was found about John A. Brown and he may have been transient, drawn to Copper City by the short-lived gold and silver boom. There were two Shasta County residents about that time with the same name: one born in 1830 in Virginia who died as an alcoholic late in 1879 and another a farmer born about 1825 in Indiana. Neither appears to have been a lawyer.

Madore Cushman was born about 1853 in Oregon. Madore was the son of Wallace Cushman born about 1826 in Ohio and Hannah Cushman born about 1834 in New York. In 1860 Wallace and Hannah were farming in Wasco County, Oregon. The couple had three children all born in Oregon: William about 1852, Madore about 1853 and Emma about 1856. In 1870 Wallace was listed as a stock-raiser in Del Norte County. Madore was listed twice in 1880: first registering to vote as a laborer at Shovel Creek in Siskiyou County then on the U. S. Census as a farmer at Bogus in Siskiyou County. It appears that Madore settled down in Siskiyou County as he received a land grant in 1883.

John Byrne appears to be John Peter Byrne born about 1838 in Virginia. John registered to vote as a laborer at Millville in 1877. In 1886 John was registered as an engineer at Whiskeytown with the notation “fingers of both hands crippled by shot.” John was listed as an engineer in Shingletown in 1892 and was listed in Shingletown in 1910 as John B. Byrne, widowed.

Henry Clinesmith appears to have had his name altered into an Americanized version. The name was Henry Theodore Clineschmidt who was born 1848 in Bavaria. Henry immigrated to the U. S. in 1861 and was in Shasta County by 1878 as he married Nancy Ritchie aged 15 (1863-1918). In 1880 Henry was operating a saloon in Redding and later operated a hotel in Redding. Henry died in 1919.

Henry Clay McClure born 1823 in New York. He was the son of George McClure 1771-1857, and Sarah Elizabeth Welles 1787-1873. In 1875 he was listed as a miner in Nevada and registered in Shasta County in 1877. At least in 1878-1879 he was Justice of the Peace at Copper City. In 1886 and 1892 he registered as a miner at Copper City. In 1900 he was listed as widowed and working as a quartz miner in Redding. Henry died in Los Angeles in 1910. McClure Gulch near Copper City is named after him.

Franklin Clark Tiffin was a miner in Redding in 1885. He was born about 1839 in Ohio. He served three terms as County Recorder, 1878 to 1880, 1880 to 1881 and 1881 to 1882. County Supervisor in 1885. In 1866 he was listed as a miner at Chicago. In 1875 he was listed as a merchant in Redding. In 1879 he married Elizabeth (last name unknown) and the couple had one child

Milton 1879. (Note Franklin may be the brother of John Edward Tiffin: both are from Ohio and in 1866 both were working at Chicago.)

Rev. John Marion Johnston

John Marion Johnston was born in 1831 in Illinois and resided there until the 1850s. John was the third child of David Johnston (1801-1880) and Frances Cassaday (1801-1884). In May 1850 John married Mary Jane Allen in Adams County, Illinois. Mary was born in 1834 in Illinois. The couple remained in Illinois until 1859 and had four children: David Luther 1851, Michael Lorenzo 1854, George Calvin 1857 and Roger William 1859. By 1860 John was farming in Allen, Breckinridge County (renamed Lyon in 1862), Kansas Territory (Kansas became a state in 1861).

John and Mary's fifth child, Frances was born in Iowa in 1862 and their sixth child John M. was born in Otoe County, Nebraska in 1864. The next move for the family was to Missouri by 1866 where the seventh child Sylvester L. was born. In the 1870 U.S. Census John was listed as a minister at Granby, Newton County, Missouri. John's son David was eighteen and listed as a farmer and Michael age sixteen was working on the farm.

Between 1870 and 1871 John brought the family to California and settled in Red Bluff, Tehama County where he was listed as a farmer. In 1871 John registered as a mechanic in Red Bluff but was still a part of the ministry as he was approached by a committee from the Eagle Creek Baptist Church in November 1871. John was requested to preach at Eagle Creek the second sabbath of each month. In December 1871 John agreed to preach at the Eagle creek Baptist Church once per month. In addition, John held "tent services" at Piety Hill in February 1872 and at "Terbush's" (Igo) in July 1872. John's son Andrew Jackson was born at Red Bluff in 1872. After 1872 John seems not to be affiliated with the Eagle Creek Baptist Church. In 1875 John was listed as a minister at Monroe, Colusa County (also in Grass Valley in 1875 where the ninth and last child, Martin H. was born). By 1877 John again registered as a farmer in Tehama County.

In the U.S. Census of 1880, John was listed as a farmer at Red Bluff in Tehama County. Also listed as farmers in Tehama County were John's sons George Calvin, Michael Lorenzo, Rodger W. and John M. age 16. Missing from the family was David Lorenzo who married Rebecca Elvira Etzler (1857-1937) in Colusa County in 1875 and where he lived for a short period of time (later moved to Glenn County then Tehama County by 1880 where he spent the rest of his life until 1929). Also missing was Frances who had married Tehama County farmer Charles Miles (1849-1946) and remained in Tehama County until her death in 1935.

By 1884 John was registered at Rough and Ready in Nevada County along with sons Michael and Roger. George Calvin remained in Tehama County where he died in 1917. The last move for the family was to Oregon City in Clackamas County, Oregon. Roger William remained behind, married and died in Alameda County in 1908. Michael Lorenzo moved to Oregon where he died in 1933. John Marion, Junior made the move and died at Oregon City in 1893. Sylvester L. died in Oregon in 1912 and Martin Hamilton died in Oregon in 1937. The last remaining survivor of the

immediate family was Andrew Jackson who remained active in the Oregon City Baptist Church until his death in 1958.

John Marion Johnston contracted typhoid fever in 1894 and died at Oregon City, Oregon. John's long-serving wife Jane survived until 1900 when she died at Oregon City.

Eleazer Gilson Family of Eagle Creek

A request was received asking to identify a Fred or Freddie Gilson or Gillson in Eagle Creek. The answer turned out longer when Alfred Gilson born 1871 in Idaho turned out to be the son of John Garrison Gilson and Mary Dow of Eagle Creek, the nephew of Mary McAllister of the Bald Hills, nephew of James Alden Gilson of the South Fork of Clear Creek, and grandson of Eleazer Gilson and Almira Webster of Eagle Creek.

Eleazer Gilson was born in 1812 in Quebec, Canada. He was the son of Eleazer Gilson (born 1780) and Mary Senter. Eleazer married Almira Webster (born 1811 in Canada) while in Canada in 1837. Sometime between the birth of the first child James Alden Gilson in Canada in 1837 and the birth of their second child Phoebe A. Gilson in 1839 the family had moved to New York. Eleazer and Almira's third child John Garrison Gilson was born in New York in 1842. The birth of the fourth and final child Mary F. Gilson was at Kane County, Illinois in 1846. The family remained in Illinois until 1860 where Eleazer worked as a carpenter. (Note: the children were living at home in 1860 but it is not clear who moved to California with their parents: James was 23, Phoebe 21, John 18 and Mary 14.)

Local myth has E. Gillson being hired as a carpenter for Steven R. Hubbard in 1853. Upon Gillson discovering the property had never been filed upon he rushed to the Eureka Land Office and filed a claim that dispossessed the heart-broken Hubbard. The reality is that Steven Return Hubbard settled on the east side of Eagle Creek in 1853 under the preemption law. Hubbard started a new house in 1862 hiring newly arrived Eleazer Gilson as a carpenter. When Steven and his wife Catherine Hubbard failed to pay Gilson's wages he filed in Court to recover. The debt was secured by a lien on the property and Hubbard was to pay the debt plus interest. Hubbard failed and in 1868 the sheriff seized the property for sale. Eleazer received his payment and the remainder was paid to Hubbard who purchased the Ellsworth Sawmill on the South Fork of Clear Creek.

In 1869 Eleazer registered as a farmer at Eagle Creek but was still working as a carpenter. On the 1870 U. S. Census Eleazer was working as a carpenter in Township Eight and his wife was listed in Illinois with daughter Mary. In 1880 Eleazer purchased forty acres from the Government Land Office described as the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter in section 12 Township 30 North Range 7 West MDM near current day Ono. Eleazer died in 1885 at Eagle Creek but there is no listing in the Cemetery Index of his burial. Almira survived until 1900 but again there is no record of her burial.

Phoebe A. Gilson was believed to have remained in Illinois. By 1866 she was married to Duncan M. Vance (1818-1878) who was a physician. Duncan was commissioned an assistant surgeon in the 3rd Colorado Infantry (later the 2nd

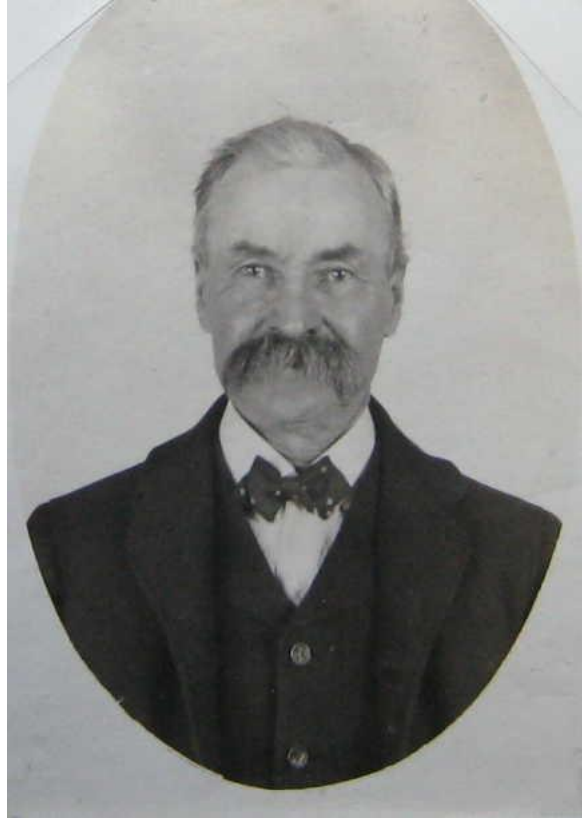
Colorado Cavalry) during the Civil War. In 1870 the couple were living in Kansas City, Missouri. By 1880 Phoebe was widowed living in Ohio near her husband's family with three children: Joseph 1866, George 1872 and Jennie 1875, all born in Ohio. Phoebe would later move to Los Angeles County where she died in 1915.

Mary F. appears to have remained in Illinois where she was listed in 1870. In 1871 Mary married George McAllister born 1849 in Pennsylvania in Iowa. By 1877 George registered as a farmer at Eagle Creek. In 1879 George purchased eighty acres from the Government Land Office described as the north half of the northwest quarter of section 20 Township 30 North Range 6 West MDM northwest of Gas Point. In the 1880 U.S. Census George is listed as a farmer at Bald Hills and Crow Creek with three children: George Byron about 1875 in Iowa, Maude A. about 1878 in California and Roy E. 1880 in California. By 1900 George and Mary had returned to Ohio where George was a traveling commercial salesman. Mary died in 1913 and George survived until 1926.

James Alden Gilson was listed in Illinois in 1860 but there are some questions about where he went next. A James Gilson is listed in 1870 as a baker born the right year and state in Big River, Mendocino County. The next listing is the marriage in Illinois to Francis "Fannie" J. Telly (born 1853 in Illinois) in 1876. In 1877 James registered as a rancher at Eagle Creek. In the 1880 U.S. Census James is a farmer at Eagle Creek along with Francis and two children: Annie L. about 1878 and Phoebe R. about 1879. James registered as a farmer in Shasta County up to 1888 when the family moves south to either Santa Clara County or Los Angeles County. In 1900 James was working as a day laborer in Los Angeles County with Francis, daughter Phoebe and a son Richard born about 1892. James died in 1909 and Francis survived until 1924.

John Garrison Gilson moved from New York with his parents to Illinois between 1842 and 1846 and was living there for the 1850 and 1860 U. S. Census. John next shows up at Owyhee, Idaho in 1870 where he married Mary Emeline Dow (Dowe) born in 1847 in New Hampshire. The couple remained in Idaho where their first child Alfred G. was born in 1871 (died 1949). By 1874 the couple had moved to Oregon where Earl Marion was born in 1874 (died 1959) and John William was born in 1877 (died 1959). In late 1881 John and Mary were at Eagle Creek and baptized into the Eagle Creek Baptist Church. Alfred was baptized in March 1882 but the two other children were too young to make the commitment.

In 1882 John registered to vote as a farmer at Eagle Creek. In the same year the fourth child, Harvey Raymond was born at Ono (1882-1951). By 1886 the family had moved to Los Angeles County where John was registered as a farmer. At Lancaster three more children were born: Oscar Allen 1886 (died 1955), Eva (Emma) Mae 1888 (died 1972), and Edwin Morris 1891 (died 1975). In 1896 John registered to vote at Buena Park in Orange County and by 1900 was working in Seattle, Washington as a carpenter. In 1910 John was still a carpenter at Seattle. John died at Bryn Mawr, Kings County, Washington in 1919. Mary survived until 1936.



John Garrison Gilson member of the
Eagle Creek Baptist Church



Mary E. Dow wife of John Garrison Gilson