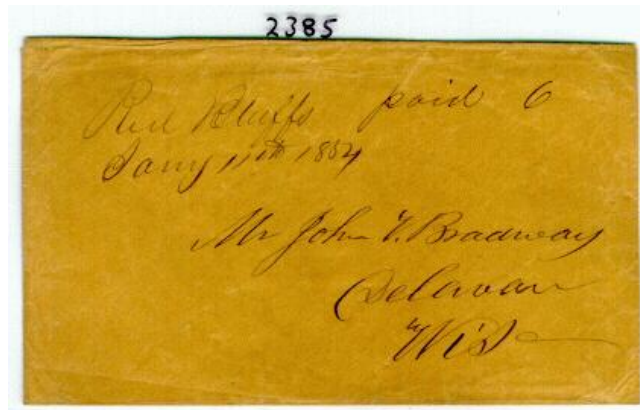


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not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

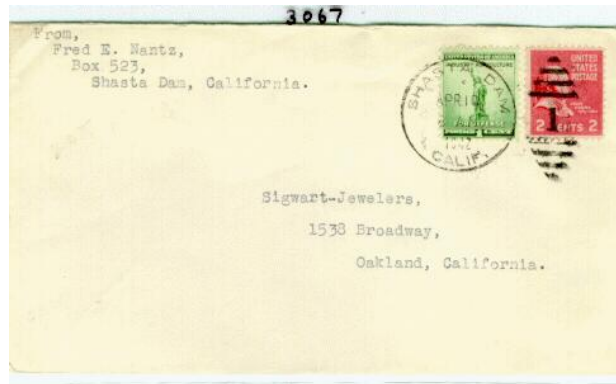
Red Bluffs Post Office



With the establishment of Shasta County in 1852 the southern border with Colusi County (now Colusa County) was set at Red Bank Creek just south of the current town of Red Bluff. The town quickly grew as the northern riverboat terminal on the Sacramento River. When Tehama County was created in April of 1856 from parts of Butte, Colusa and Shasta County, Red Bluff became part of Tehama County. The town and post office was named for the high red bluffs of the Sacramento River at the site. The site was also known as Leodocia and Covertsberg.

The envelope is stampless but marked that the standard rate of six cents was paid. The letter was mailed on January 11, 1854 while Red Bluffs was part of Shasta County. The letter is addressed to John V. Bradway in Delevan, Wisconsin. John was born in New York in 1828 so he was twenty-six at the time. In 1850 he was listed as a student but he was not found on any later U.S. Census. Delevan is in Walworth County in southern Wisconsin just north of Illinois State line.

Shasta Dam Post Office



The post office at Shasta Dam was established in 1939 to serve the community built to house workers on the Shasta Dam, hence the name. The post office was located seven miles north of Buckeye and four miles south of Kennett which the project would soon flood. The post office was closed in 1945 and operations moved to Summit City.

The letter was mailed by Fred E. Nantz, a prototypical worker, in 1942. Frederick Eugene Nantz was born in 1898 in Illinois. By World War I he was a machine hand in Chicago, then laborer in South Dakota. By 1930 work brought him to Alameda County where he was a driver on an electric railroad then a bus driver. By World War II Fred was working for Pacific Constructors, Inc. In 1942 Fred registered for the draft at Shasta Dam.

In 1920 Fred married Nellie Estelle Barber (1901-1992) in South Dakota. The couple had one daughter in 1922, Nellie Mae Nantz. By 1940 Nellie E. was living in Minnesota and listed as single. Fred died in 1976 in Washington.

Shingletown Post Office



The Shingletown Post Office was established in 1874 and located twenty-eight miles northeast of Cottonwood. The area was first known as Shingle Camp because of the fifteen, or so shingle mills nearby. The post office was closed in 1919.

Postal services were reestablished in 1945 and operations have been continuous since that date.

The letter above was addressed to M. I. Poore in Redding. Margaret Isabel Poore was Superintendent of Schools from 1898 to 1902. She was born about 1869 and was the daughter of George A. Poore a job printer in Redding. By 1910 Margaret had relocated to Alameda where she was a long time school principal. Margaret was believed not to have married. Margaret died in Alameda County in 1960.

Igo Post Office

IGO, CALIFORNIA. 5293

U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER THE POSTMASTER AT

ADVICE

WILL PAY ON CORRESPONDING ORDER

TO THE ORDER OF

NAME OF REMITTER.

THE MONEY ORDER ISSUED AT ABOVE NAMED OFFICE AND BEARING CORRESPONDING NUMBER AND DATE, MUST AGREE IN ALL ESSENTIAL PARTICULARS, SUCH AS AMOUNT, NAME OF PAYEE, ETC., WITH THIS ADVICE.

Stamp here the date of receipt

THIS ADVICE MUST BE DEPOSITED BY THE FIRST MAIL AFTER THE ISSUE OF THE ORDER, THE POSTMASTER AT THE OFFICE DRAWING UPON, UNLESS IT IS WITHDRAWN BY THE ISSUING POSTMASTER ON ACCOUNT OF REPAYMENT. WILL KEEP THE ADVICE CAREFULLY FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH OF ISSUE, WHEN, IF THE ORDER REMAINS UNPAID, THE ADVICE MUST BE SENT BY HIM TO THE AUDITOR FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. INVALID ADVICES THUS FORWARDED MUST BE LISTED ON AND SIGNATURED BY BLANK NO. 6089.

Form No. 6008

Form No. 6075

Form No. 6089

MEMORANDUM OF PAYING CLERK, AS TO PROOF OF IDENTITY, ETC., FOR REFERENCE IN CASE OF ALLEGED IMPROPER PAYMENT

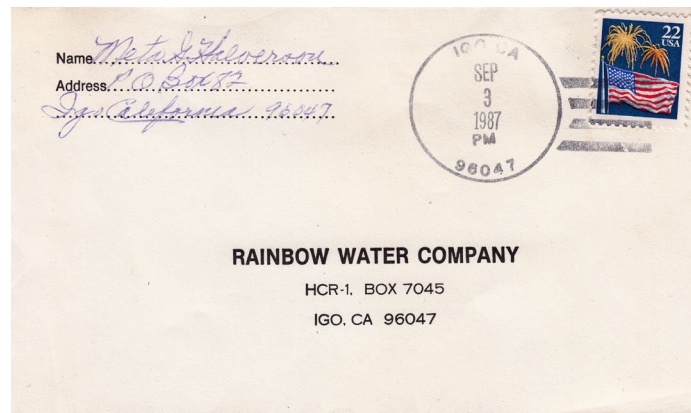
SHASTA, CALIF. NOV 1908

A postal money order receipt from October 1908 sent by Robert Gibson Harvey (born 1833 in Vermont) who was at one time the mine superintendent of the Hardscrabble Mine and later a rancher at Igo. The person receiving the money was William C. Heffelfinger (born 1857 in Louisiana) who was a mine blacksmith in Shasta and settled in Shasta County by 1885. The money was received by Belle Stevens who was the Igo Postmaster from February 1898 to October 1929.

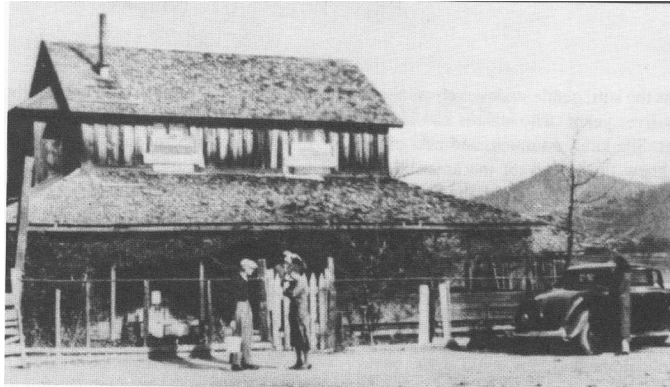
The history of the Igo area starts with the discovery of gold at Reading's Bar on Clear Creek in 1848. The resulting influx of miners soon followed the trail of placer gold up through the gulches to the ancient riverbeds just east of Igo. The first town established was Piety Hill in 1849. The Hardscrabble Mine began operating in

1853 and quickly turned to hydraulic mining using water from the twenty-two mile long Dry Creek Tunnel & Fluming Company ditch. The mine blasted an excavation about one hundred feet deep extending about a mile and a half directly towards Piety Hill. In 1866 the company laid out plans for a new town about a half a mile west on land that was not over the ancient river channels. Piety Hill at its peak had about 1,500 residents, 600 of whom were Chinese. Many historians cite a mass exodus of the white population to the new town site but in truth the move was spread over more than a decade. When the application was made for the establishment of a post office the name Piety Hill was put forward. It appears the name was rejected due to an aversion to two word names or because Piety Hill still existed across Conger Gulch at the time. The post office accepted the name Igo in 1873.

There are at least three versions for the name Igo. The name always engendered a certain amount of humor especially with the advent of road signs, as the old signs read, "Igo, Ono, Ogo." The most heard version of the name comes from a period of anti-Chinese sentiment where the Chinese population was driven out complacently complying stating "I, go." As the Chinese were never ordered out of Piety hill and the Chinese community lasted until the early 1920's that version is patently untrue. The second more plausible explanation stems from George McPherson, the Hardscrabble mine manager who laid out the new town site. George's young son Eugene would follow his father through Piety Hill pleading, "I go, I go" as his father went off to survey. Accordingly the plea became attached to the new town site. The third version states the town was named for an early miner with a family name of Igo. The name is a surname especially in Ireland and Scotland but no historical connection has been found. As such there is no definitive answer for how Igo came into being but the post office has remained in continuous operation since its opening in 1873.



After the closure of the Ono Post Office in 1972 there developed a long period of underground warfare over addresses in Ono. Many residents continued to utilize the name Ono with the Igo zip code. Persistence pays off as now either Igo or Ono are acceptable, as long as the zip code is correct.



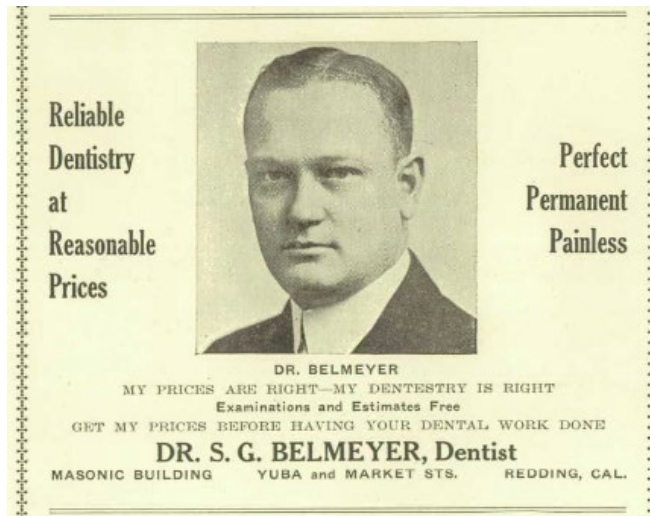
Igo Hotel. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Ono, California - 1913

Note in the center of the photograph is the hotel and on the right is the Igo Post Office which was probably in the Willard Store.

The articles for the month of April 2021 are: 1) Dr. Sanford G. Belmeyer, 2) Dr. John Edward Mooers, 3) James W. Phillips, 4) Frank E. Story, and 5) Earl Howard and Mary Coker.



From the Shasta High School Yearbook about 1920.

Sanford Grover Belmeyer was born in July 1885 in Illinois. He was the son of Solomon C. Belmeyer (1846-1900) and Elizabeth Hedrick. Solomon and Elizabeth were divorced in 1888 and it appears Sanford and his five brothers and sisters went with Elizabeth. Solomon married Lou Ella (last name unknown) in 1889. In 1900 Sanford was living with his brother-in-law and attending school. In 1910 Sanford was listed as a laborer in a dentist office in Seattle, Washington. In 1910 Sanford was listed as married to Lilly M. (last name unknown, born 1881 in Pennsylvania) and had a stepson Harold born in Nebraska in 1900. From the data on the census Sanford married about 1906. In 1916 Sanford applied for a dentist license in California citing he was a graduate of the Illinois College of Physicians and Surgeons (now University of Illinois). By 1918 Sanford was a practicing dentist in Redding. On the World War One draft registration Sanford was living at the Lorenz Hotel. Dr. Belmeyer only stayed in Redding until 1925 when he moved to Bellingham, Washington. In 1925 Sanford married M. Shosky in Victoria, British Columbia. By 1929 Sanford was living in Seattle and working as a dentist. In 1930 and 1940 Sanford was a dentist in Seattle. Sanford died in 1941.

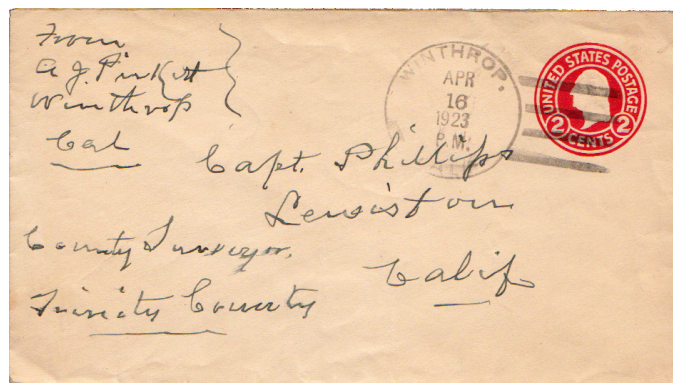
Dr. John Edward Mooers



Letter sent in October 1879 by John E. Mooers, first postmaster of Burgettville to E. F. Anderson. The letter is addressed to Anderson Station as E. F. Anderson was the railroad agent at the depot (he was the son of Elias Anderson).

There were three postmasters at Burgettville named Mooers: John E. 1871-1876, 1878-1885, Florence A. (son of John) January 1887- to August 1887, and Meander O. (brother of John) August 1887-1888. John Edmund Mooers was born in Maine in 1825. He was the son of Timothy Ingalle Mooers (1796-1847) and Abigail Clark. John's father died in 1847 and he appears to have moved to Michigan. No record was found on his medical training. About 1851 John married Mary Jane Cooley born in 1832 in New York. John and Mary had three children in Michigan: Anna 1851-1880, Charles Edmund 1853-1936 and Lottie J. 1860. About the time the Civil War began John and his family moved to California as the fourth child Florence Alfred was born in California in 1862. By 1867 John was registered to vote at Scotts Valley in Siskiyou County. In the 1870 U.S. Census John was listed as a physician at Yreka in Siskiyou County. By 1871 John was living at Burgettville as he was appointed the first postmaster from 1871 to 1876. John was again postmaster when the post office was reestablished in 1878 and served until 1885. John and Mary's last child John I. was born in 1874. Some time during this period he was joined by his brother Stephen Clark Mooers, who was a miner at Ft. Crook in 1886. His other brother Meander Orrsealyer Mooers also joined John as he was a merchant at Ft. Crook in 1886. John was listed as a merchant. By 1893 John was listed as a physician at Seattle, Washington. Mary died in Washington in 1907 and John followed in 1910.

James Wendell Phillips



The letter above was mailed at the Winthrop Post Office in 1923 and nothing was found about the sender A. J. Pink or Pinkest but it was sent to Capt. Philips who is actually James W. Phillips a mining and civil engineer in Trinity County from at least 1900 to 1940. James W. Phillips was born in 1865 in Trinity County and died in 1942. James was the Trinity County Surveyor in 1923. James was married to Ella May Phillips (1865-1938) his cousin who had the identical name both before and after marriage. Author's collection.

James Phillips story begins with Benoni Phillips (born 1788 Rhode Island, died 1850 Rhode Island) and his wife Ester Phillips (1767-1842). James and Ester had ten children including Olney Phillips born in 1819 and Asaph Phillips born 1826. Olney came to Trinity County, California shortly after the death of his father in 1850, and Asaph moved to Solono County at the end of the Civil War. In 1868 Asaph married Anna L. Drown (nee Heigheman), the Widow of William O. Drown who died in 1864 in Tennessee (a member of Company E, 29th Michigan Infantry).

Asaph and Anna had three children: Ella May 1865-1938, Lucy F. 1872-1903, and Charles A. 1876-1960. Ella was born in California prior to her mother's marriage in 1868 but by the family history, Ella and her future spouse were first cousins making Asaph her father. It would seem, that Asaph was in California by 1865. Ella would marry James W. Phillips born in 1865 in Weaverville, Trinity County. James was the son of Olney Phillips and nephew of Asaph Phillips.

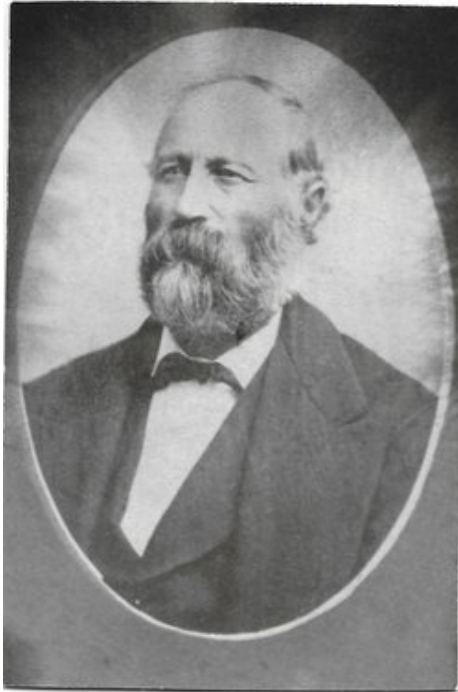
The question usually comes up was the marriage of first cousins legal. Surprisingly, the issue came up more after 1900 than before and there is no agreement. In California it has always been legal but next door in Nevada it is not legal. In Oregon it is legal under certain conditions. Suffice to say that in 1865 it was legal in all states and was a common practice. Marriage of first cousins remains legal in nineteen states.

Olney Phillips was born in 1819 in Rhode Island and appears to have come to California in 1850 after his father died. Olney appears to have started as a gold miner but by 1854 had purchased the Lewiston Toll Bridge (built by Morehead and Palmer in 1851). The bridge was destroyed in 1855 and Olney built a new bridge, opened a blacksmith shop, and improved the surrounding land. The present house on the site was built in 1864. The bridge was replaced by Olney's son James W. "Cap" Phillips in 1900. Olney was married twice and outlived both wives. In 1858 Olney married Ann Spaulding 1840-1869, with whom he had four children: Lucy Urbane 1860-1919, Benoni 1861-1946, Abbie Frye 1863-1940, and James W. 1865-1942. In 1875 Olney married Jane Ormsbee 1826-1884. Between 1860 and 1875 Jane had been a teacher in Illinois and it was not known if she came to Trinity County to teach. Jane died in 1884 and Olney followed in 1888.

James W. Phillips was born in Weaverville in 1865 and grew up on his father's property in Lewiston. In 1880 the U.S. Census for Lewiston has two James W. Phillips. The second was James Whipple Phillips (born 1832 Rhode Island; died 1915 Lewiston) the son of Benoni Phillips. Listed with James Whipple was his sister-in-law Anna, the widow of Asaph and her three children Ella (James Wendell's future wife), Lucy and Charles. James attended four years of college as an engineer and returned to Lewiston where in 1895 he married Ella Philipps. We know that in 1900 James Wendell rebuilt his father's toll bridge and was working as a civil engineer at Lewiston. James Wendell went by the nickname "Cap" (the letter uses Captain) but it was not found what the nickname signified. By 1910 the family was living at Trinity Center and James Wendell was listed as a civil engineer. Sometime prior to 1920 the family moved to Weaverville where James Wendell was listed as a civil and mining engineer. The move was prompted by James' election to County Surveyor a position he held into the 1930s. Ella May died in 1938. In about 1939 James moved to Redding to live with his son-in-law Nick Heikkinen and daughter Marjorie due to a

long-term heart condition and diabetes. James was walking to the bus station for a visit to Lewiston and fell unconscious on West Street. James died in the hospital four hours later on 19 January 1942.

Ella and James were known to have nine children: Wendell Walter 1896-1953, Leroy Olney Aseph 1898-1925, Marjorie Helene 1900-1968, Lawrence Cecil 1902-1976, Russell Nelson 1904-1998, Lloyd Francis 1906-1906, Floyd Emerson 1907-1985, Dorothy E. 1908-1983, and Llewellyn Powers 1911-1948.



Olney Phillips 1819-1888. Courtesy of Find A Grave.

Frank Elias Story



Story's Harness Shop, Anderson, Calif. before 1913
1st left - Oren Harper Welch; 2nd left - Ed Story

Story's Harness shop in Anderson before 1914. On the left is Oren Harper Welch (1855-1915) and in the middle is Frank's brother Edwin Lee Story (1865-1935).

Oren was a harness maker by trade and was married to Annie E. Sisk. Edwin was married to Lottie Augusta Eaton the daughter of Nathan William Eaton and Clara E. Finney. Edwin was the postmaster at Anderson from 1914 to 1918.

Frank E. Story was born in California in 1868. Frank was the son of Louis (often given as Lewis) Samuel Story who was born in Indiana in 1829. Louis probably came to California with his older brother William H. Story (born 1820 Kentucky) and his family. On the 1852 California State Census both brothers were listed as farming in Solano County. In 1855 Louis married Amelia Francis Anderson (born 1840 Missouri). In the 1860 U. S. Census Louis (Lewis) was listed as a blacksmith at Suisun, Solano County. In 1867 Louis' brother moved his family to Napa County to farm. In 1870 Louis was listed as a farmer at Suisun, Solano County with five children Lizzie 12, Annie 10, Charles 7, Edwin 4, and Frank 2. A short time after 1870 Louis moved the family to Shasta County where he died in 1875. In the 1880 U.S. Census Amelia was listed as keeping house in Township 7 with six children: Lizzie 22 working as a dressmaker, Charles 17, Edwin 14, Frank 11, George 9, and Henry 5.

On the 1900 U. S. Censes Frank was listed without an occupation although he may have been working with Harry Hall in a livery stable. In June of 1900 Frank married Freda Anete Clark (born 1879 California). Frank and Freda started a family with Halah born in 1901 (died 1980) and Vivian 1905 (died 1956). Freda died in 1905.

By 1910 Frank was operating a livery stable in Anderson and was listed with an "Alice" age 29 who had given birth to no children. Later census reports use K. B. and Frank was known to have married Katherine Belle McClane (1888-1956) the daughter of Dan McClane (born 1840) and Mary A. Shepard (born 1855). In the 1920 U. S. Census Frank was listed as Superintendent of the County Farm with Katherine, Halah and three new children: Albert born 1911 in Bieber, Lassen County, Clara Mae born about 1917, and Francis Amelia born about 1909.

On the 1930 U. S. Census, Frank was living at Honey Lake, Lassen County working as a nightwatchman at a lumber mill. In 1930 the family had grown by one additional child: Georgetta born about 1928. In 1940 Frank remained at Honey Lake with Katherine, and Georgetta. Living with the family was Clara, her husband Donald Wharton and her son Donald. Frank died in 1942 and Katherine survived until 1956.

Earl Howard and Mary Coker



The branding iron shown above was donated by Elda Louise Robinson in memory of her parents Earl Howard Coker and Mary Leedy. The brand was made by Earl Howard Coker and represents EME for Earl, Mary and Elda. The brand was presented to Earl's youngest daughter Elda after she received a calf for Christmas. The intent was for Elda to build up a small herd to help pay for her future college education. The brand represents over fifty years of farming at Cottonwood.

Earl Howard Coker was born in 1903 in Alabama and was the son of Samuel Higgins Coker (born 1881 in Alabama) and Emma Marzie Howard (born 1880 in Alabama). Samuel and Emma, who usually went by Marzie, were married in 1903 but after the birth of Earl the marriage ended in divorce. Marzie married James Frederick Rudisile (born 1872) in 1908 and the couple operated the Clallan Hotel in Clallan, Washington. By 1920 Marzie was divorced and working as a landlady in Seattle with Earl, who was then sixteen.

In December 1920 Earl drove a Chevrolet touring car with Isinglass side curtains to Shasta County. Earl was accompanied by his mother Marzie. Accompanying in a Model T Ford was Earl's uncle Marion Howard and his family. In 1925 Marzie would marry George R. Marston (born 1875). Earl worked in the grape vineyards near Fresno and in construction at Lassen Volcanic National Park before becoming a clerk in the McCarley & Smith general store in Cottonwood. Earl helped on the family farm and in 1931 purchased a thirty acres farm on Balls Ferry Road in Cottonwood for back taxes. The house was a "fixer-upper" but for \$300 it was a good

start for the depression years. About the same time Earl met Mary Leedy, a local schoolteacher.

Mary Leedy was born in 1911 in Oakland, Alameda County where her father Benjamin Franklin Leedy (born 1871 in Ohio) was a carpenter. In 1909 Benjamin married Rosa Agatha Jackson (born 1875 in West Virginia). By family history Benjamin and his new family moved to Shasta County when Mary was about two years old. In the 1920 U. S. Census, Benjamin was a truck farmer in the Cottonwood Precinct of Tehama County. Mary graduated from Chico Normal School and at the age of nineteen started teaching at several one-room schools in Tehama and Shasta County (including Hunters).

Earl and Mary settled on the farm raising chickens, milking cows, and working with a homemade tractor to keep things going during the depression. In 1941 Earl went to work for Pacific Gas & Electric as a warehouseman and remained with the company until his retirement in 1968. Throughout his employment with PG&E Earl continued to work on the farm. Dairy cattle were raised and milked every morning and evening until much later when the pasture was taken over by beef cattle.

After Earl retired in 1968, he, Mary and Elda spent three months touring the United States in a travel trailer. Upon their return to Cottonwood, Earl and Mary built a new house among the big shade trees. Activities of the First Baptist Church of Cottonwood became a focus of life. Mary's parents, Frank and Rosa Leedy, helped start the church. Earl and Mary's home became a haven for missionaries, college students, Christian speakers, and friends. In June 1983 Earl and Mary celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at their home with all their children and grandchildren present. Over the years the ranch was slowly sold off until only seven acres remained. In 1987 Earl passed on and Mary stayed on the ranch for a few years. In 1991 Mary moved to Hawaii with close friends. Mary followed Earl in 1995.

Earl and Mary had four children: Dr. Earl Howard Coker born in 1935, a university chemistry professor, Marzie Rose born in 1936, Mary Lee born in 1939, and Elda Louise born 1950. The donation and much of the family history was provided by Elda and her husband Andrew Robinson.



Earl Howard and Mary Coker. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.



To the rear are Marcus Howard and Homer Howard with Earl Howard peeking out. In the front are Laura Howard and her two daughters Vera and Emma Marzie Howard. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.