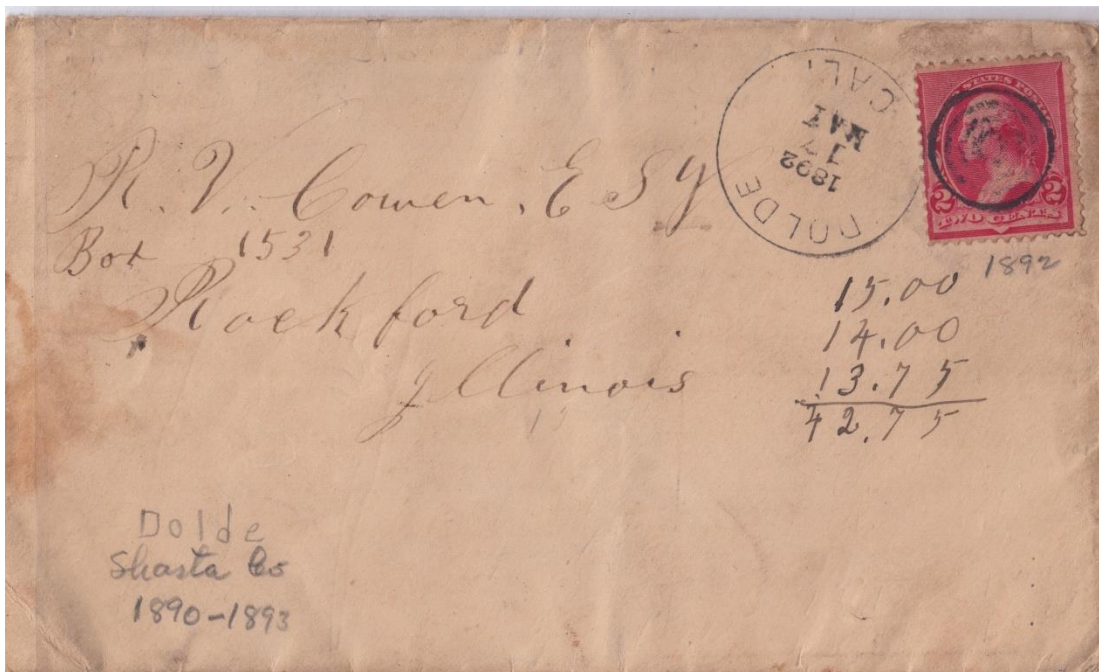


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not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

Dolde Post Office



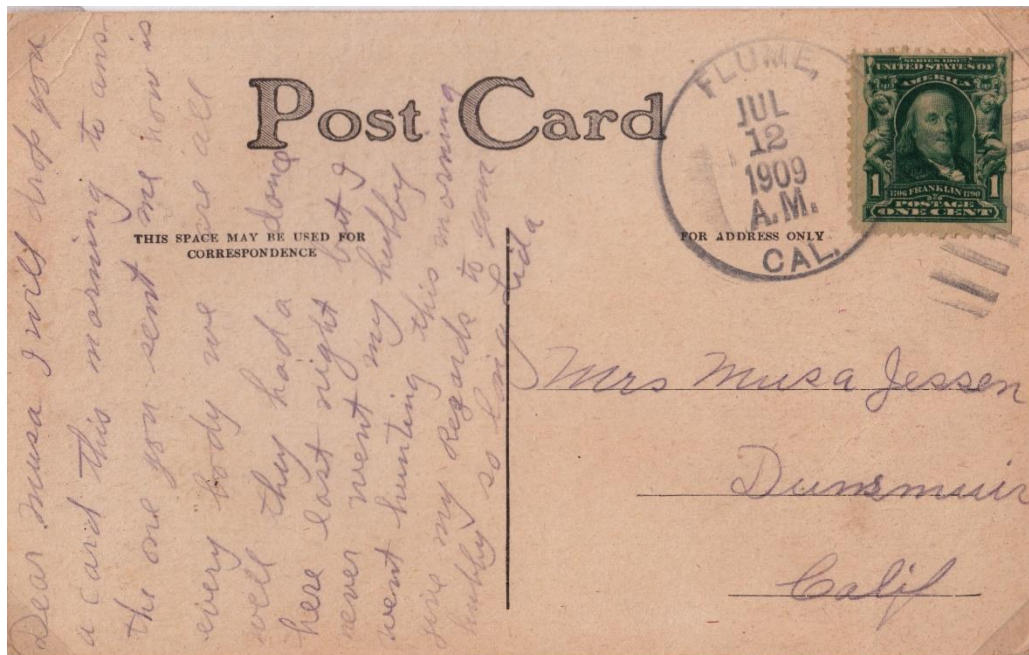
1892 letter mailed at the Dolde Post Office using postmark SHA-1420. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The Dolde Post Office was the third of a series of four post offices to serve the Centerville area. The Middletown Post Office was first from 1856 to 1858, followed by Brincard from 1879 to 1881. Arnold C. Dolde opened a general store about five miles southwest of Redding in 1890. The Dolde Post Office was opened the same year with Arnold C. Dolde as the first and only postmaster. The post office closed in 1893 and Dolde appears to have returned to his home state of Kansas. Six years later the Centerville area was served by the Larkin Post Office.



Centerville School that served Dolde, Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Flume Post Office



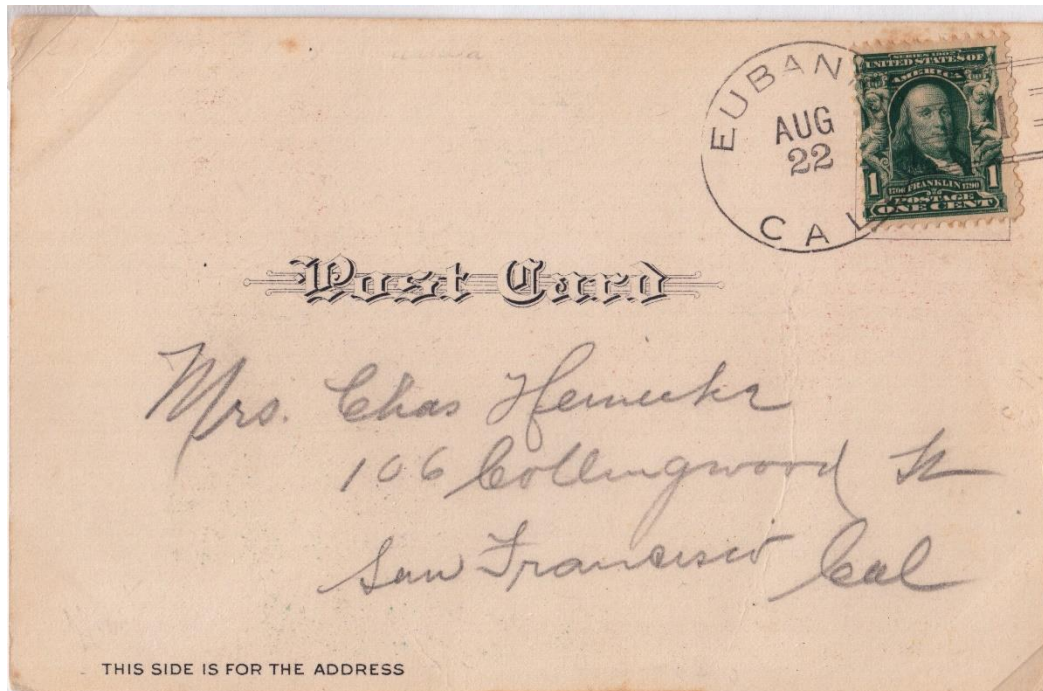
Postcard mailed from the Flume Post Office in 1909 using postmark SHA-1610. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The Flume Post Office was established in May 1903 and was located about three miles north of Hazel Creek and four miles south of Castella. The post office takes its name from a natural feature on Flume Creek: a section of creek was about one hundred feet long and eight to ten feet deep cut into the bedrock and resembles a man-made flume. The Flume Post Office was closed in October 1904 but reestablished in December 1907. In September 1910 the post office was again closed, and operations moved to Hazel Creek.



The Conant School that served Flume Creek. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

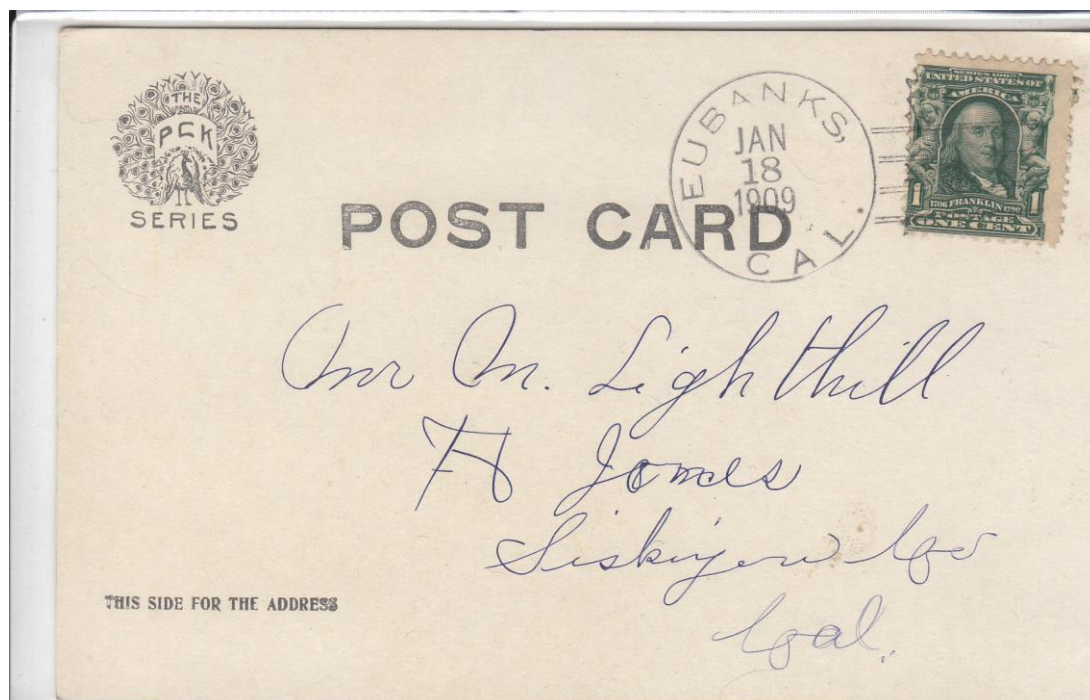
Eubanks Post Office



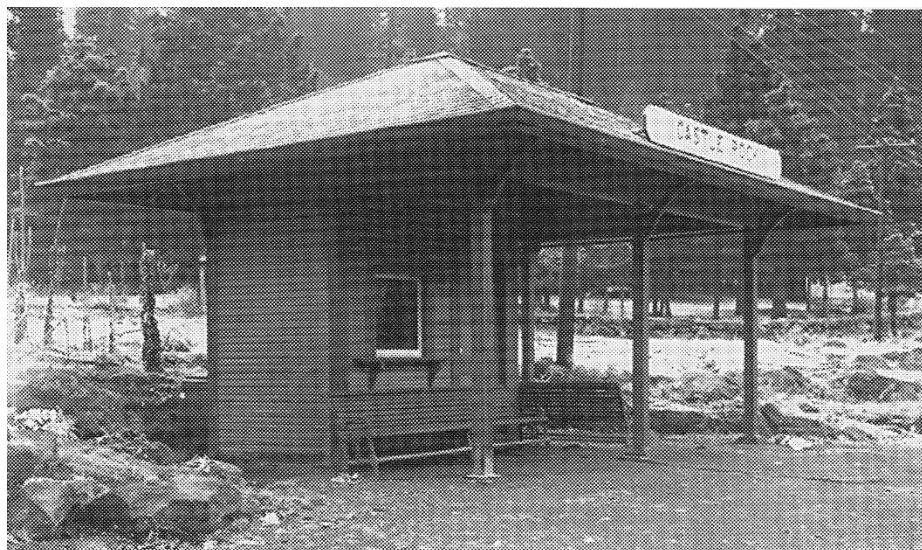
Post card mailed at the Eubanks Post Office between 1905 and 1909 using postmark SHA-1450.
Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Within a three-mile length of the upper Sacramento River Canyon just south of Dunsmuir in Siskiyou County was the Castle Crag Post Office, or Castle Craggs after 1909, the Eubanks Post Office and the Leland Post Office (Castella after 1892). From the earliest times the area had been utilized as a transportation route between Oregon and California, first by the Hudson Bay Trappers, then the California-Oregon Trail. Much of the economic development of the area stems from the arrival of the California & Oregon Railroad and after 1884 its parent company the Central Pacific Railroad. By July 1886 the Central Pacific had reached Lower Soda Springs opening the area to large scale lumber operations. In December 1887 the rails connected Portland, Oregon to San Francisco and generated a boom in the tourist industry. Resort hotels opened at Crag View (Castella), Castle Rock, and Lower Soda Springs.

In 1883 George Washington Bailey sold his Lower Soda Springs Hotel and moved one mile north of Castella and six miles south of Dunsmuir where he would be able to grow fruit trees and produce berries. Baily established the Castle Rock Springs Hotel and in 1895 established the Castle Rock Mineral Springs to bottle and distribute the water. In 1903 Bailey sold the hotel, bottling plant and ranch to James Cal Eubanks and A.C. Boldeman. In 1905 a post office was established and took its name from one of the new owners, James Cal Eubanks. The Eubanks Post Office was discontinued in 1918 when operations were moved to nearby Castella.



Example from the author's collection showing a cancelation similar to SHA-1450 with outer ring shifted and date added.



Depot at Castle Rock. Southern Pacific Lines.

Fielding Post Office



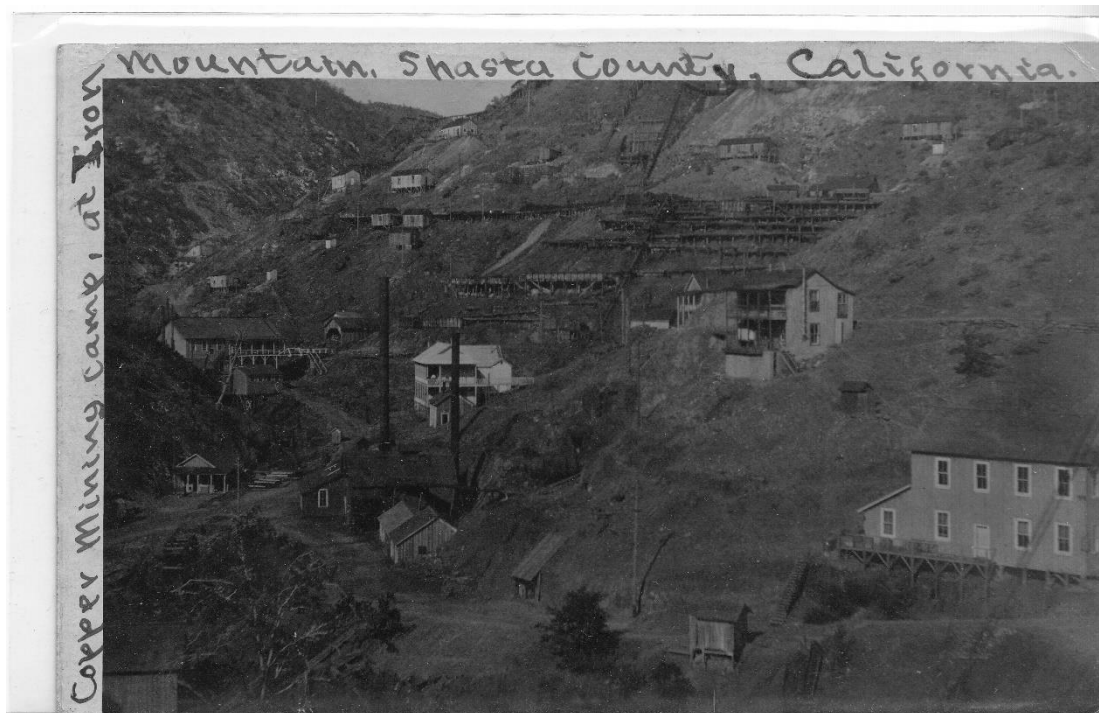
Registered letter mailed in 1898 using Postmark SHA-1600. Thomas J. Houston held the combined office of Sheriff and Tax Collector from 1894 to 1898. Houston was also the County Coroner from 1906 to 1910, served one term as Redding City Treasurer, and at various times had a saddle shop, furniture store and undertaking parlor in Redding. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

In the 1890s James Spellman built a resort on Iron Mountain named Mountain House. At about the same time Hugh McDonnell who with Alexander Hill brought the subsurface copper potential to Rothschild and Fielding of London and New York. In 1896 the Iron Mountain Mine was sold to the Mountain Copper Company who began extensive development. The Fielding Post Office was established at the Mountain House Hotel in 1897. The post office was named for C. W. Fielding of England who was a board member of Mountain Mines Ltd. and Vice President of the Iron Mountain Railway Company that ran from the Iron Mountain Mine to the Iron Mountain smelter at Keswick. The post office was closed in 1903 and operations were moved to Taylor. The post office was located twelve miles northwest of Keswick and James Spellman was the first postmaster.

The letter above was registered mail sent from the Fielding Post Office in November 1898 to T. J. Houston in Redding. Thomas James Houston was ending his term as combined County Sheriff and Tax Collector. Thomas James Houston was born in 1847 in Maryland and by 1860 his father, Copeland Houston, had moved to Missouri where he was a blacksmith. Thomas learned the blacksmith trade from his father as well as saddle making. In 1872 Thomas moved to California and took up farming at Buckeye in Shasta County. In 1886 Thomas opened a saddle shop in Redding. Thomas was elected County Sheriff in 1894 when the office was combined with that of tax collector. After his term of office Thomas opened a furniture

business that also sold caskets. In the 1900 U.S. Census Thomas was listed as an undertaker in Redding and from 1906-1910 he was the County Coroner.

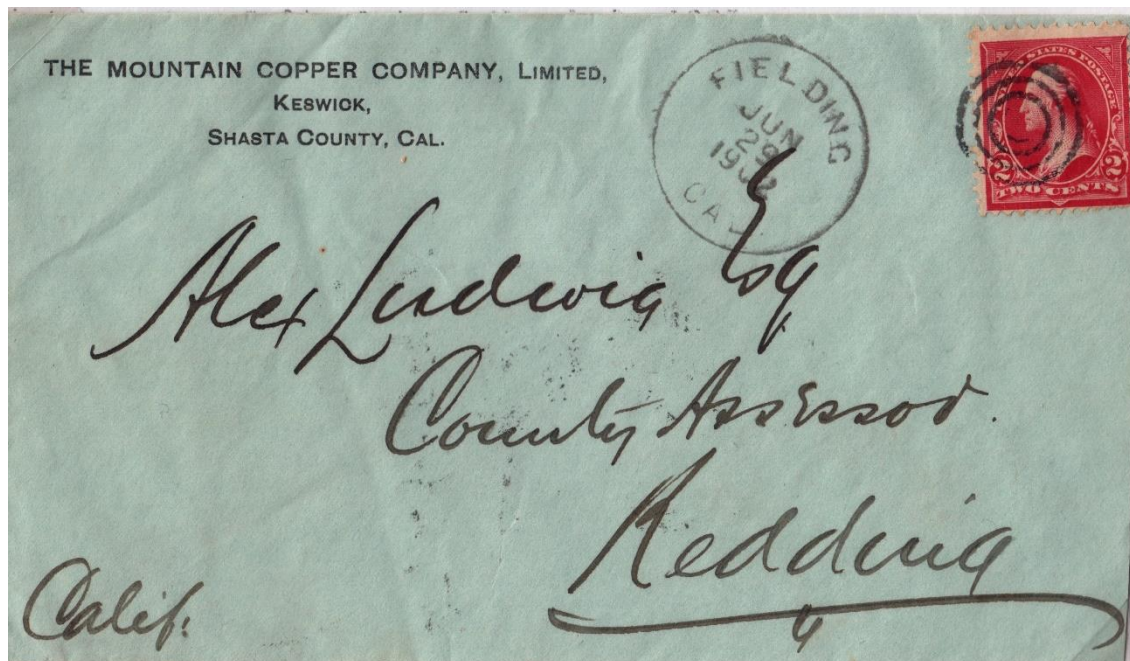
The person who mailed the letter seems to be Joseph Anton Kahny who was born about 1861 in Germany. He was naturalized in San Francisco in 1888 and registered to vote in north Redding in 1892 as Joseph A. Kahney. In 1896 he was listed as a beer bottler in Redding but by 1913 appears to have returned to San Francisco.



1907 post card of Iron Mountain. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.



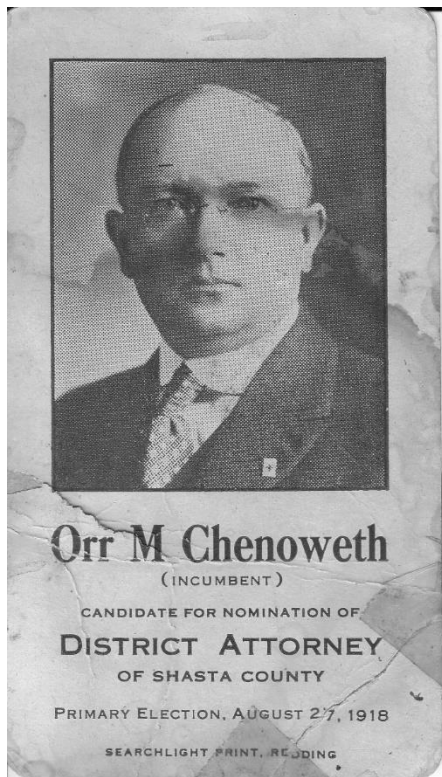
Employees of the Iron Mountain Mine in 1891. Sir W. C. Fielding was instrumental in forming the Mountain Copper Mining Company in 1896 to buy the mine. Courtesy of the California Geological Survey.



1902 letter from the Mountain Copper Company, Limited at the Fielding Post Office located at the mine, and back-stamped at Taylor, the offices of the company, before being sent to the county Assessor in Redding. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The articles for April 2022 are: 1) Orr M. Chenoweth, 2) Latona, 3) John S. Follansbee, 4) Nettie Way, 5) John Allen, 6) Blanche Genevieve Cements, 7) John Hansel Benton, and 8) Evelyn Katherine Blandin (nee Hiatt).

Orr M. Chenoweth



Election card for Orr Chenoweth's third term. Orr lost to Jesse W. Carter who served as District Attorney from 1918 to 1926.

Orr M. Chenoweth was born in 1882 in Ohio. When Orr was fourteen months old his parents Zenis (born about 1852 in Ohio) and Mary (born about 1857) Chenoweth moved to Redding. Orr's father had been a clerk in a dry goods store in 1880 in Ohio and in 1900 he was listed as a merchant (dry goods store) in Redding. In 1910 Zenis was part owner of a Candy and Notions store in Redding. Zenis died in 1932.

Orr was in the first class graduating from the Shasta County High School. Orr attended Hastings College of Law passing the bar in 1907. Orr returned to Redding and entered the law office of Willard Denton Tillotson who was at the time the Shasta County District Attorney. In 1910 Orr replaced Tillotson as District Attorney. While in his first term in office in 1911 Orr married Lotta E. McMurry. Lotta (born 1882) was the daughter of Francis A. (born 1837 in

Illinois) and Cosumnes California McMurry (1850-1912). Lotta's father was a veteran of the Civil War (Company C, 7th California Infantry 1864-1866) who had moved to the Washington Section near Anderson in 1886 (Francis died in 1903). 1912 saw the birth of Orr and Lotta's daughter Lisbeth. Orr was reelected to serve a second term as District Attorney serving until 1918. Orr joined Clarence W. Leininger in a law firm that would last until his retirement in 1967. In the 1930's Orr was well known as the attorney for Christ Kutras in Redding. Orr died in 1970 and Lotta survived until 1973.

Latona



The Latona School established in 1898.

Although establishing the town of Latona near the mouth of Clear Creek on the Sacramento River is credited to Pierson B. Reading, history seems to forget that it was a partnership with his friend Samuel Hensley that made the experiment possible. Pierson B. Reading took the profits from his gold discoveries on Clear Creek and in Trinity County and sought to develop northern California at a time when there were almost no public roads. Few

remember that Reading experimented with crops such as cotton and tobacco in an attempt to improve Shasta County's agricultural base. Failure was not a bar to Reading and he continued to seek improvements in other areas. One area of concern was the high cost of shipping equipment and supplies to Shasta County. To resolve the lack of maintained roads early Californians turned to river transportation. From the primary import site at San Francisco to the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers there was sufficient water to support large river craft but above Colusa the Sacramento River becomes a meandering course of twists and turns that favored smaller, more shallow draft sternwheelers that could maneuver and tie up at brush landings. By late 1850 Red Bluff was determined to be the head of the Sacramento River transportation. Businessmen in Shasta had to pay \$50 per ton to ship supplies to Red Bluff then had to load the supplies on wagons thus incurring additional costs. Pierson B. Reading looked at solving the problem by making the Sacramento River navigational up to Clear Creek in Shasta County with an eventual terminal at Middle Creek to better serve the town of Shasta. In 1850 Reading had a small boat driven by a 10-horse power engine for trips to Sacramento and even San Francisco. He sold the boat in 1851 and purchased the Comanche that ran from Sacramento to the town of Tehama in 15 hours in January 1852. By 1853 there were twenty-five steamships running the Sacramento River often operating at ruinous levels of competition. In 1854 it was Samuel Hensley who ended the unprofitable competition by combining almost all the vessels into one company. In February 1854, the California Steam Navigation Company was formed and began to suppress the competition that was left. Many in the business community disliked the new company's monopoly on rates and the harsh tactics used to suppress any rise of competition but for Reading it provided stability. Reading through Hensley appears to have had an ally in the new company. After the formation of the California Steam Navigation Company, Reading, Hensley, and Thomas W. Lysle formed the Latona Company to operate on the Sacramento River above Red Bluff. The company had State Senator Royal Sprague of Shasta introduce legislation to grant the Latona Company exclusive operating rights on the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Clear Creek. A second part of the proposed legislation would have extended the exclusive rights northward to Middle Creek if the river channel could be made navigable. The legislation was not unusual as California had very little money to put into development, so they granted exclusive rights so that private companies developed roads, navigation channels, bridges, and other important infrastructure. The exclusive rights made it attractive for private companies to recoup the construction cost and make sufficient profit even if it was only for short periods. Reading's proposal had no enmity from the California Steam Navigation Company, and it was believed that the Latona Company rights would later be subsumed by the larger company. The legislation was not passed, and the California Steam Navigation Company soon had a new challenge from railroad developers, but the Latona Company did draw some support for Reading's experimental development. Reading did clear obstacles in Iron Canyon and the bend area north of Red Bluff sufficiently to get some small craft into Shasta County and keep the navigation experiment operational. Listed below are the steamers that were known to have utilized the route north of Red Bluff:

1854: Steamer Belle to Latona; the steamer made other trips but only reached the Reading Ranch near Cottonwood Creek. The Belle

was a California Steam Navigation Company vessel. Between 1854 and 1855 the Belle reportedly made several trips to Reading's landing but on her final trip the boiler exploded, and she was destroyed.

1856: Steamer Latona to Latona (owned by Reading and named after the Greco-Egyptian goddess associated with water).

1856: Steamer Anna to Latona (owned by Reading and named Anna for his first-born child).

1859: Steamer Banner to Latona (listed also as running after 1863) (Reportedly built For General Bidwell and sold to Reading)

1859: Steamer Latona to Reading Ranch near Cottonwood Creek

1861: Steamer Rainbow to Reading Ranch near Cottonwood (owned by Reading and in the Autumn of 1861 used by McGee (Magee) to clear rocks from the channel.) (The Shasta Courier in January 1862 listed the Rainbow as the fourth steamer "to make the riffle.")

1862: Steamer Rainbow to Reading Ranch near Cottonwood (some list it again running in 1863)

Although the town of Latona was probably surveyed by Colonel William Magee when the Latona Company was formed in 1854 little was done at the site. In 1856 it was reported that there was one house and stakes marking features in the 400 acre town. It wasn't until 1861 when Reading contracted with Colonel Magee to begin blasting a channel to Middle Creek that there was real interest. The operation was supported by Shasta businessmen who donated \$8,530 to help make the channel a reality. Reading made an agreement with the Latona Company in 1861 to make the Red Bluff to Latona channel navigable all year. The projects spurred speculation by the Reid Brothers, Artie and Edward, who laid out the towns of Lincoln and Union on opposite side of their ferry which was near the projected terminal at Middle Creek. In 1862 Reading contracted with Magee to sell lots and act as his agent in all matters pertaining to the town. Six lots were sold to Charles Nivelles in 1862. By 1863 the town was composed of a warehouse, hotel (Reading Hotel) and several other buildings but all were destroyed by fire except for the hotel. Between the fire and the failure of the river navigation project the town failed to raise again. Reading probably chose the name Latona for its association to water but most knew Latona from Greek mythology as the daughter of the Titan couple Coeus and Phoebe who became the mistress of Jupiter and mother of Apollo and Diana. Public opinion appeared to have made itself known that the goddess behaved in a very inappropriate manner and Reading reconsidered the name. The town was also known as Reading and New Town.

The Latona Company's channel operations were not successful in part due to mining operations which dumped millions of tons of mine waste into the Sacramento River and eventually disrupted navigation as far south as Marysville. Hensley died in 1866 but the real death for the town of Latona came with Reading's death in 1868. After Reading's death the widow of Samuel Hensley sued the estate for repayment of a loan guaranteed by Reading's ranch. In the absence of proof of repayment, the court ordered much of the ranch sold to repay the debt. The unsold portion of Latona passed to James Ben Ali Haggin who was cooperating with interests of railroad development. The Latona Company's rights seem to have passed to

the California & Oregon Railroad Company who concentrated on the development of the two towns they laid out at Anderson and Redding.

The railroad did attract new farmers to the land along the Sacramento River between Anderson and Latona. In 1898 the Latona School District was established that carried on the name. The first few teachers were Olive Bedford (1899), Ella McCandless (1904), Mrs. E. Shepard (1908), and J. L. McCarthy (1911). The school was believed to have been annexed into Cascade Union about 1950. Now all that remains to remind people of the high expectations of 1854 is a road named Latona.

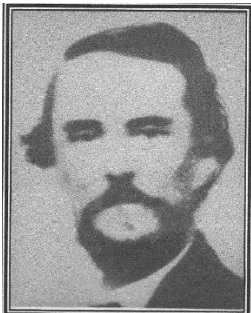
John S. Follansbee



A deposit receipt written to John S. Follansbee about the time he was a partner with James Loag in Shasta. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

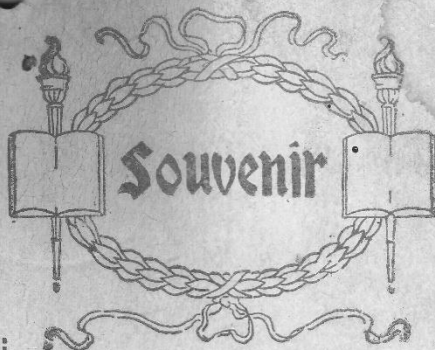
John Simons Follansbee was born about 1823 in Massachusetts and arrived in Shasta in the fall of 1849 and stayed through that first severe winter. On the 1850 U. S. Census John is listed as a twenty-seven year old trader in Shasta, but his birthplace is given as New Jersey. In early 1852 William H. Noble had convinced the businessmen of Shasta that he had found an easier wagon route into California but wanted \$2000 to survey the route. The businessmen were delighted at the prospect of having wagon trains making Shasta their first stop in California but had reservations about throwing away the money. To settle their reservations when Noble set out on May 3, 1852, he was accompanied by five citizens of Shasta including John S. Follansbee. Within a period of a few months the survey party returned to Shasta and verified all that William Noble had claimed. About the time he accompanied William Noble, John was a partner with James Loag in his horse and packing business. In 1852 John also purchased 160 acres at Pacheco from Pierson B. Reading in partnership with Charles Kyle and

Eugene Parsons (later selling his share to Parsons). In December of 1860 John married Cecelia J. Kean born about 1839 in England. In the 1860 U. S. Census Cecelia's father James Kean, born about 1810 in England, was listed as "magistrate" meaning a civil officer who administers the law. As Joel T. Landrum was the County Judge and William P. Daingerfield the District Judge, James was probably the Justice of the Peace for Shasta. Cecelia's mother was also named Cecelia, born about 1811 in England. The next entry on the 1860 Census after James Kean was the city jail that included John S. Follansbee age thirty-six from Massachusetts as Sheriff, W. W. Augel age twenty-nine from New York as Deputy Sheriff and two prisoners, one Chinese. John served as sheriff from 1860 to 1862 and was reelected from 1862 to 1864. While serving as sheriff in 1863 to 1864, John was also in the California Militia with the rank of Commissary Major. John appears to have studied the law as in 1866 he was elected Shasta County District Attorney and in 1868 was reelected. After the end of his second term as District Attorney John set up a private law practice in Shasta but from 1871 to 1873 John was appointed to the Government Land Office at Shasta. In the 1870 U. S. Census John was listed as an attorney at law living with Cecelia and three children: John born about 1862, Mary E. born about 1863, and Jenny C. born about 1864. Also living with John and Cecelia was Florence Flynn born about 1855 in California and Elbert K. Flynn born about 1858 in California. The Flynn children had been listed with James Kean in 1860 but it was not established if they were adopted, relatives, or had some other relationship. Also listed in the 1870 Census with the family was a domestic Maria C. Dix. Maria was Native-American, and the employment relationship was unknown. The relationship could have been consensual, but many young Native-Americans were forced into involuntary servitude permitted under California's Act for the Government and Protection of Indians first enacted in 1850. When John left the Government Land Office in 1873, he moved the family to San Francisco where he registered to vote as a clerk. John died in San Francisco in 1875.



John SimonsFollansbee

Nettie Way



Clear - Creek - District

Girvan, Shasta Co., Cal.

1897-1898.

PRESENTED BY.

Mettie May,

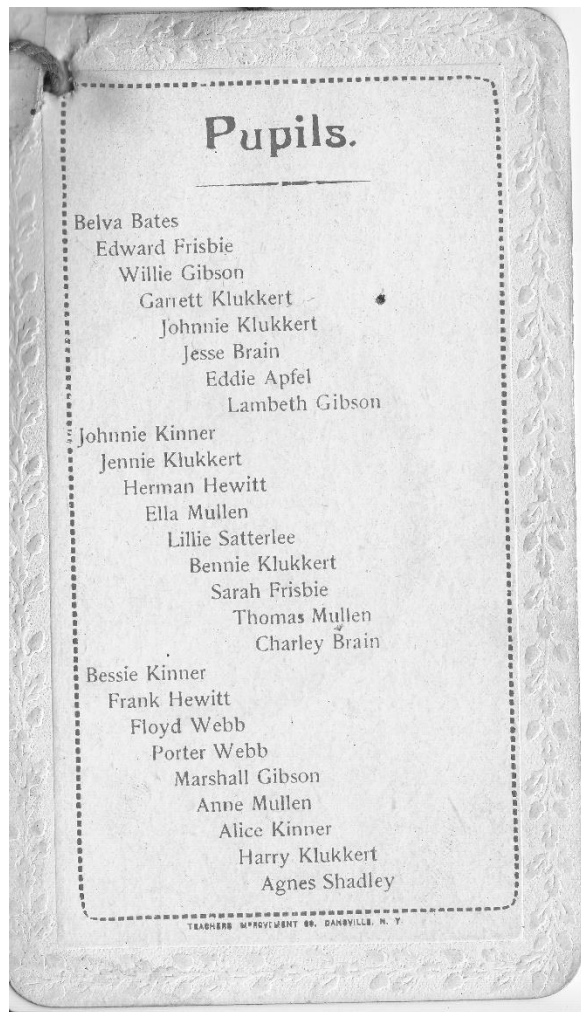
TEACHER.

DIRECTORS:

E. P. White

R. Bates

R. Brain



The school souvenir above started out as a promising project, but it ended about where it started. Nettie way was teaching at the Clear Creek School near Girvan during the 1897 to 1898 school year. All that remains of the school is a cement foundation just west of Highway 273 on Clear Creek Road. In May 1898 Nettie married John N. Baker in Shasta County and was replaced for the next school year by Maude Anderson. From this point the story led to speculation until one of our readers connected Nettie to John Newton Baker born in Millville in 1865 and died at Montgomery Creek in 1908.

Nettie was the daughter of Jonathan Riley Way born in 1853 in Indiana. In 1880 Jonathan was living with his parents, Benjamin Way (1831-1909) and Martha Jane Lasswell (1831-1909), in Newville, Colusa County. In 1872 Jonathan had married Margaret A. Dillman in Illinois. Margaret came to California with Jonathan but in 1880 U.S. Census she was living separately in Newville as a border. Margaret was living with a daughter, age eight born in Illinois. Later in 1880 Margaret married William Byron Philbrook. Margaret died in 1931. After Margaret's marriage in 1880 it was not known if Nettie lived with her mother in Tehama County or her father in Shasta County. In 1882 Jonathan registered to vote in Shasta county as a farmer at Big Bend. In 1886 Jonathan purchased 40 acres from the Government Land Office in Section 34, Township 32 North Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. In 1895 Jonathan received a

homestead patent for 160 acres in Section 23, Township 35 North Range 1 West, Mount Diablo Meridian.

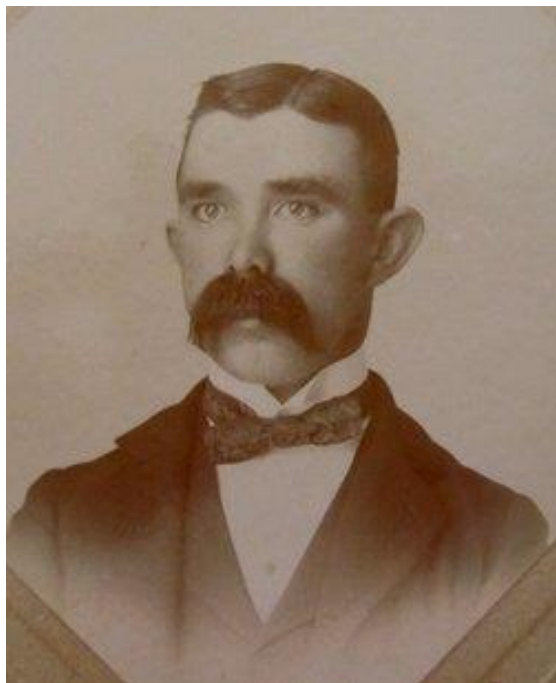
Jonathan's father also moved to Shasta County as he received a homestead patent for 160 acres in Section 14, Township 35 North Range 1 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. In the 1900 U. S. Census Jonathan was listed with his parents at Big Bend. Jonathan died in 1907. Benjamin and Martha both died in 1909.

Nettie was teaching at the Clear Creek school in 1897 and in 1898 married John Newton Baker whom she may have met visiting her father, as in 1900 he was living at Big Bend where John was a stock raiser. John was the son of William Hambleton (Hamilton) Baker (1825-1896) and Sarah Caroline Boyes (1835-1914). John's father had registered as a farmer in 1867 in Millville. In September 1900, after the census John and Nettie had a daughter: Hazel Viola Baker (died of scarlet fever in 1914). In 1902 John listed Hereford cattle for sale giving his location as Ydalpom (Copper City). John died in 1908.

In 1909 Nettie married Oliver Herman Yancey (born in 1849 in Illinois). Oliver was the son of Thomas Yancey (1827-1892) and Emeline Yancey (1831-1911). Oliver's parents were living in El Dorado County in 1860 where his father was a teamster. In 1876 Oliver married Hannah Melvina Cravens (1858-1943) in Colusa County. Hannah was the daughter of William H. Cravens and Polina J. Estill. Oliver and Hannah had six children: Myrtle Edna 1877, Katherine Elma 1880, Elora Olive 1882, Chester Walter 1890, Glenia L. 1894, and Neva Irene 1896. In 1900 Oliver was working as a laborer in a lumber yard in Red Bluff and living with Hannah and five children: Myrtle, Elora, Chester, Glenia, and Neva. After the 1900 U. S. Census Oliver and Hannah divorced (Hannah moved to San Luis Obispo County with the children).

In the 1910 U. S. Census Oliver and Nettie were living in Redding with Hazel Baker. In 1910 Oliver was working as a vegetable peddler. In 1920 Oliver was listed as owning his own farm in Chico, Butte County. On the 1920 U.S. Census Oliver and Nettie are listed with three children: Dorothy A. 1910, Doris Marie 1912, and Riley O. 1917. Oliver Herman Yancey died in 1922.

In 1925 Nettie married George Alexander Thompson (born 1862 in Iowa). George was the son of Alexander H. Thompson (1830-1893) and Mary Ann Harper (1842-1896). George had married Angie I. Melvin in 1900. Angie died in 1911 leaving George with one son: Eugene Melvin 1906. In the 1930 U. S. Census George was listed as a painter in Chico living with Nettie and Riley Yancey. George died in 1932 and Nettie followed in 1939.



John Newton Baker, first husband of Nettie Way. Courtesy of Find A. Grave.

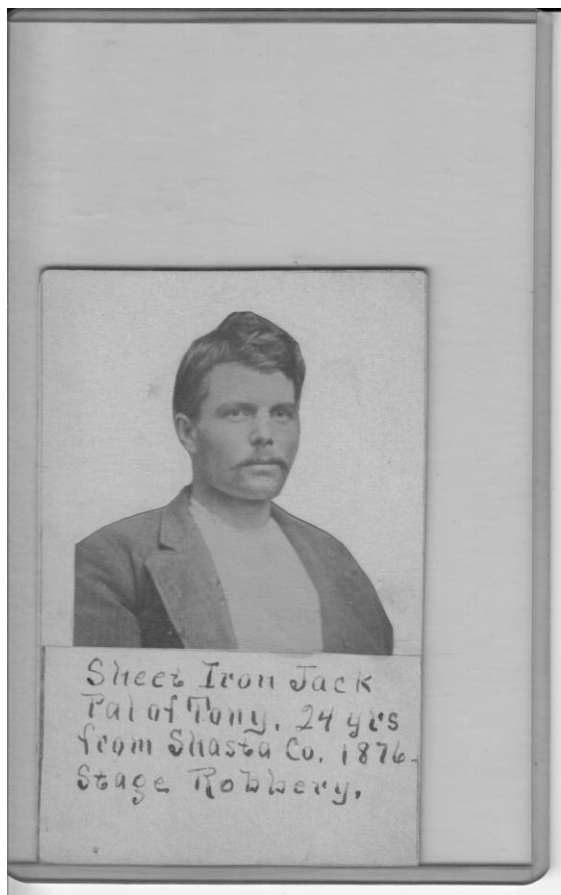
H101 Leighton's Live Stock Register							Brands and Marks of Shasta County, Cal. H101		
No.	Style of Brand	Its Location	NAME OF OWNER	HIS POSTOFFICE	Residence from P.O.	Recorded Day Mo Yr	DEWLAPS AND WATTLES	STYLE OF MARK IN RIGHT EAR	STYLE OF MARK IN LEFT EAR
101	X	T	Hunter, Mrs. S. B.	French Gulch	NE 4	17 7 68		Under-half crop	Under-bit
102	92		Hardenbrook, Frank	Bayha	S 1	11 10 84		Crop and split	Crop and under-bit
103	H		Hollenbeak, Asa	Pittville	N 5				
104	∞	1	Hitze, Christian	Baird	0			No mark	Crop and under-hack
105									
106									
107									
108									
109									
110									
111									
112									
113									
114									
115									
116			JOHN N. BAKER YDALPOM, SHASTA CO., CAL.				JOHN N. BAKER YDALPOM, SHASTA CO., CAL.		
117			Has a few pure-bred Hereford cattle for sale. None better for general purpose or range cattle. He also has grade Herefords for sale. . . .				Has a few pure-bred Hereford cattle for sale. None better for general purpose or range cattle. He also has grade Herefords for sale. . . .		
118			Write him for particulars.				Write him for particulars.		
119									
120									

Advertisement of John N. Baker selling cattle at Ydalpom (Copper City) in 1902. The advertisement was found in Leighton's Live Stock Register: Brands & Marks of Shasta County, Cal. 1902.



Nettie Way Yancey and Oliver Herman Yancey standing. The photograph was taken between 1909 and 1911 as Emaline Yancey seated on the left died in 1911. The child on the right was listed as probably being Dorothy Yancey who would have been one year old. The child is most likely Hazel Viola Baker (born in 1900) who died in 1914. Courtesy of Find A Grave.

John Allen (AKA John D. Gundlack, AKA Cast Iron Johnny, AKA Sheet Iron Jack)



Prison photograph for Jack Allen, AKA "Sheet Iron Jack" from his 1876 conviction and sentencing to San Quentin Prison. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

John Allen arrived in Shasta county after the Civil War claiming to be a veteran. John's age and place of birth varied with his incarcerations in the California State Prison system. His date of birth varied from 1844 to 1851 and place of birth from New York to Canada. Most sources say he was born about 1850 in New York. In 1866 John set up a barber shop at Shasta but his easy way of spending money did not match his business efforts and soon numerous questions about his activities were being raised. The questions were answered shortly afterwards when a group of ranchers caught John leading a string of "stray" horses into the hills. The ranchers were armed with shotguns and after John attempted to flee, they fired at him with little of the usual effect. The shot made a tin sound and bounced off his personal protection and gave him the name Sheet Iron Jack or Cast Iron Johnny. John escaped and one source cites that he was wanted for twenty or thirty horse thefts in Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties. There are numerous tales of his exploits but few confirmed. There is the story of Allen who knew that no one in a Tehama County posse could identify him joining the posse and stole three of their horses. Another tells is of John stopping at a local dance, while being pursued by a posse, to dance with all the pretty girls. What is known for sure is that John's luck ran out when he walked into a Shasta saloon and got drunk. In an ensuing fight John drew his pistol and shot his opponent whereupon the other patrons marched him to jail. John was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and was received at San Quentin Prison on February 18, 1875 on a two-

year sentence. John was discharged by order of the court on July 13, 1875. The release was for a retrial and some sources state John escaped, but the reality seems to be the charge was reduced to simple assault resulting in a fine and time served.

Once outside of jail. John quickly fell in with John A. Toney whom he had met in prison and Frank Chapman who had no known prison record, to start a new career as a stage robber. On November 3, 1876, John and his two partners held up the mail stage between Reid's Ferry and Buckeye taking \$1,100. Afterwards John would do the planning while Toney and Chapman would perform the actual robberies. The pair robbed the Weaverville to Redding Stage on November 6, 1876, but there was no express box aboard. On November 8, 1876, the same stage was robbed for \$1,100. On November 11, 1876, the Yreka to Redding Stage was robbed but again there was nothing in the express box. John, thinking his partners were cheating him turned Toney and Chapman into the authorities for the reward but was immediately arrested himself. John pled guilty to three counts of robbery and was sentenced to twenty-four years at San Quentin Prison and was received as prisoner 7313. Governor George C. Perkins conditionally commuted the sentence to ten years. The condition was that John leave California and never return. John was discharged on June 25, 1883.

As one might expect, John failed to honor the terms of his release and stayed in California. In early 1884 John was drunk in a saloon in Tehama county and the sheriff attempted to get him to simply leave town. John resisted and it took the sheriff, two deputies, and a handful of civilians to force him into jail. John's luck turned worse as it was quickly discovered that the railroad station safe had been robbed of over \$700, most of which was found on John when he was thrown in jail. While being held in jail, a San Francisco detective arrived with a warrant for John's arrest for stealing a valuable horse in San Francisco and selling it in San Joaquin County. John was convicted on the grand larceny charge from San Francisco and sentenced to six years at the new Folsom State Prison. In April 1884 John became inmate 781 at Folsom and was not discharged until 1888. John may have served additional sentences as he finally left California in 1895. John is believed to have moved to Oregon where he lived on the Modoc Reservation. Whatever the reality of how John ended his life, he left multiple tales and some still claim he buried treasure near Igo and on the trail to Whiskeytown.

Blanche Genevieve Clements



The reverse of the portrait has the notation "Baby Blanche Clements taken October 10, 1882, age three years eight months." Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Blanche Clements was born in 1879 and was the daughter of Clara Augusta Zorn and John Clements. Clara was born in Shasta in 1856 and was believed to be the daughter of Henry Zorn. Henry was born in Germany was believed to have married Angelica Laux who was born in the Grand Duchy of Hesse in 1825. Angelica had three daughters: Celina 1855, Clara Augusta 1856, and Clementina 1860. In 1867 Angelica was listed as an oil, paint, and glass merchant in Shasta. Angelica was possibly divorced as Henry Zorn died in January 1868 while Angelica married Charles Boell in 1867. Charles Boell was a saloon owner and Angelica along with the three daughters were listed with him in the 1870 and 1880 U. S. Census. Clara Augusta married John Clements in 1878. Charles Boell died in 1880 and Angelica in 1889.

John Clements was the son of Henry Clements who was born in England about 1824. John immigrated in 1849 and was settled at Red Bluff by 1873. John was born in Louisiana about 1844 and in 1880 was postmaster at Red Bluff. In 1900 John was listed as a transportation agent at Red Bluff and Blanche was "attending school." In 1910 John had moved the family to Berkeley in Alameda County where he was an electrician and Blanche with her sister March were both teaching public school. Prior to 1918 Blanche married Paul Arthur Stoll the son of Paul Stoll, who immigrated in 1873, and Emma Stoll. Paul Stoll operated a harness shop in Red Bluff in 1910 where Paul Arthur worked. In 1910 Paul was listed as divorced. On the

draft registration of 1918 Paul was working for a hardware company in Albany, Alameda County and married to Blanche. By 1920 Blanche had returned to teaching public school at Oakland. In the 1930 U. S. Census Blanche was an art teacher in Albany and Paul was the assistant manager of a hardware store. After 1930 nothing was found.

John Hansel Benton

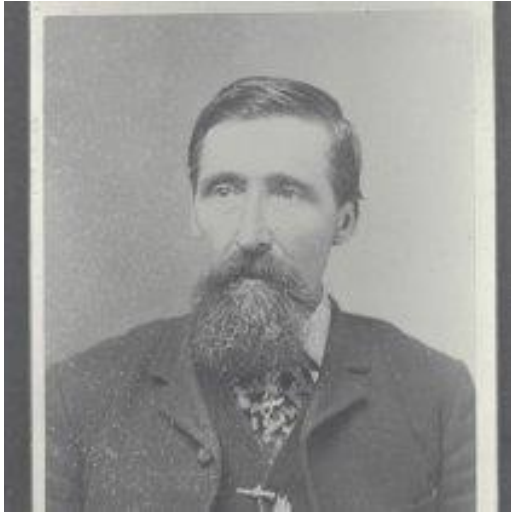
John Hansel Benton was the 1st of eight children born to Able Benton 1811-1869 and Rhoda Rachael Goodwin 1815-1892. John was born in 1832 in Missouri and left home between the 1850 U.S. Census and 1855. John's family remained in Missouri and were supporters of the Confederate States of America. John's brother Peter Goodwin Benton served in the 8th Missouri Infantry and another brother Mark served in the 11th Missouri Infantry. Following the Civil War John's parents and his brothers and sisters moved to Red River County, Texas where they remained.

It was not found how John came to Shasta County, but he was here in March of 1855 as he married Aurelia Miller. Aurelia was born in 1826 in Tennessee and was the daughter of Willie B. Miller 1798-1838 and Jane Miller 1805-1895. In 1850 Aurelia was living with her mother Jane and five other children in Missouri. Again, it is not known how the family came to California, but it appears three of the children remained in Missouri and three came to California. Aurelia's brother John Forrest Miller 1838-1911 and brother Campbell Bates Miller 1836-1919 settled in Millville. In 1860 Jane was living in Antelope, Tehama County with H. C. Dougherty age 54 and Cynthia Dougherty age 40 (there may have been a family connection as the Dougherty's were from Tennessee). In 1860 John was listed as a farmer at Millville with Aurelia and five children all born in California: Nancy Jane 1856 (married James David Anderson), Clementine 1857 (married Samuel Alexander Thompson), Clay 1858, Elizabeth 1859 (Married John Steven Piner), and Yell 1860 (Find A Grave uses 1858 but in the 1860 U. S. Census he is one month old).

In the 1870 U. S. Census John was listed as a sawmill laborer in Township 6 (Millville) and the family had grown by three additional children: Thomas Hart born in 1862, Martha L. 1863 (married John R. Lowdon) and Rhoda Bell 1869 (married William Ernst Menzel). In 1878 John was listed as a farmer at Shingletown and in 1883 received a homestead patent for 160 acres on Battle Creek (Section 30, Township North Range 1 East, Mount Diablo Meridian). In 1880 John was listed as a farmer with only Aurelia, Yell, Thomas Hart, Martha, and Rhoda remaining at home.

John's interests in the lumber industry quickly passed to his son Thomas Hart Benton who in 1895 purchased William Betts' mill near Plateau (founded in 1893). The original Betts-Benton Mill was powered by water from the Cunningham Ditch and Thomas later moved the operation to Battle Creek (the mill was sold to the Red River Lumber Company in 1909). Thomas went on to establish another mill in the Flatwoods in 1905 and a mill at Turtle Bay in 1906. It was Thomas Hart Benton that first introduced the traction engine to lumber operations in Shasta County. Benton Field in Redding is named for Thomas' son 1st Lieutenant John Benton who was killed in 1927 in an accident during a friendship mission to Central and South America.

Aurelia died at Manton, Tehama County in 1895 and in 1900 John was living with his son Thomas Hart's family in Shingletown. In 1910 John was living with his daughter Nancy J. Anderson in Shingletown. John Hansel Benton died in 1912.



John Benton courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Jeff Reed on the left and John Hansel Benton cutting trees about 1890. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Evelyn Katherine Blandin (nee Hiatt)



Evelyn Katherine Blandin. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

The progenitor of the Hiatt family in Shasta County was William Thomas Hiatt. In the 1850 U. S. Census William was age fourteen, born in Kentucky, and living in Missouri with Martha A. Hyatt age twenty-eight. Martha's maiden name was Hill and she was born about 1822 in Tennessee. Living with Martha in 1850 were six other children all born in Missouri: John age 12, Polly age 10, Sarah age 8, Rebecca age 6, Syntha age 4, and Amanda age 2. In later years Amanda identified her parents as John H. Hiatt and Martha Hill, while Rebecca identified her parents as William Hiatt and Martha Hill. About 1855 at age nineteen William Thomas Hiatt married Ann Rebecca Bellamae (Bellama). Ann was born in March 1837 in Missouri and was the daughter of William and Nancy Bellama.

By family history William and Ann joined a large wagon train leaving St. Joseph, Missouri in 1857. Members of the wagon company included some of William's extended family and a Zimri Bullock who had been engaged to Ann's sister but, unfortunately, she died prior to the wedding. Once California was reached the Hiatt party separated with most of those looking for farmland, including Jesse Hiatt, going to Yolo County. William, Ann and Mr. Bullock opted to seek their fortune in gold mining and settled at Michigan Bluff (previously Michigan City) on the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River in Placer County.

By family history William remained at Michigan Bluff for three years before moving north to Shasta County. In the 1863 Civil War draft registration William was listed as a married miner, born in Kentucky at Buckeye northeast of Redding on the east side of the Sacramento River. In 1867 William registered to vote as a miner at Buckeye. In the 1870 U. S. Census William was listed as a miner in Township 5 (Buckeye Post Office) living with Anna and six children all born in California: Alice F. about 1858, Mary Emma about 1861, George B. about 1863, Willis M. about 1865, Ella G. about 1867, and William Frank about 1869. In 1876 William acquired the Albro & Brincard Placer Mine, which was on 30 acres in Section 5, Township 32 North Range 5 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. In the same year a scarlet fever epidemic claimed the lives of George, Alice, Mary Emma, and Ella. After the deaths the family moved to a new home at Quartz Hill that was purchased from fellow miner Stephen L. Albro. In 1880 William was still working as a miner in Township 5 and the family had grown by two additional children: Maud about 1874 and John T. about 1878. In 1882 the last child of William and Anna joined the family: Robert (note: William and Anna had ten children with Annie who died in infancy). In

1891 William purchased eighty acres from the Government Land Office in Section 15, Township 32 North Range 5 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, and in 1892 received a mineral patent with Stephen A. Meek for the Hiatt Meek claim in Section 15, Township 32 North Range 5 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. John Hiatt was killed in 1899 by gas at the Mammoth Mine (the mine in Old Diggings rather than the Mammoth Mine near Kennett), while Frank and Willis continued developed of what later became the Cleveland Mine. William in his years at Buckeye supplemented his mining with farming, raising livestock, planting an orchard, and working on the county public roads. Ann Rebecca Hiatt died in 1901 outliving seven of her ten children. William Thomas Hiatt died in 1910 after cancer surgery. William was survived by Robert and Willis who were mining at Quartz Hill and Frank who was mining in Alaska.

Our story now shifts to Robert A. Hiatt who was born in Buckeye in 1882. In 1900 Robert was working as a miner but was living at home with William and Anna. About 1902 Robert married Katherine (also given as Catherine) May Clements. Katherine was born in March 1880 in Missouri and was the daughter of Gabriel G. Clements and Sarah R. Zinn. Gabriel Clements had registered as a blacksmith in Red Bluff by 1884. By 1880 Sarah's relatives, John Zinn and his three sons Robert, George, and James, were also mining at Buckeye. By 1910 Robert was working as a quartz miner on his "own account," and the family had three children: Evelyn K. about 1903, Dorothy Frances about 1905, and Elmer about 1907. Also boarding with the family in 1910 was Vergie Robinson who would later marry Robert's brother Willis. On the draft registration form for World War I in 1918, Robert was listed as a foreman at H. J. Sallee's Reid Mine at Whitehouse where the family was living. In 1920 Robert was still listed as a laborer in a gold mine living with Katherine and the three children. Robert Alonzo Hiatt died in 1921. Katherine was living with Dorothy's family in Sacramento in 1930 and in 1940 with daughter Evelyn's family in Placer County. Katherine appears to have returned to Redding during World War II where she died in 1978.

Evelyn Hiatt born in 1903 grew up in Buckeye with her parents Robert and Katherine Hiatt. At age sixteen Evelyn was working as a clerk in a dry goods store in Redding. In 1927 Evelyn married Howard Clair Blandin who was born in 1899 in California. In the 1930 U. S. Census the couple were living in Sacramento where Howard was an assistant Cashier at a building & loan company and Evelyn was a bookkeeper at a produce company. In 1940 the couple were living in Placer County where both Howard and Evelyn were accountants. In 1940 Howard and Evelyn were listed with two sons: Robert Wallace born 1923 and Bradford Leland born 1934. At some point after World War II Evelyn returned to Redding and Howard appears to have remarried (to a Mary Elizabeth 1900-1981). Evelyn was a self-employed bookkeeper in Shasta County for the rest of her life and was actively involved in both local and professional issues. Evelyn was a charter member of Shasta Historical Society and its president from 1969 to 1970, the local and district president of the Business & Professional Women's Club, president of the Shasta County Water Safety Council, and board member of the Buckeye Water District. Evelyn Blandin died in 1987.



The Hiatt home at Quartz Hill with Willis and Frank standing in the rear and Maud, Ann Rebecca, William Thomas, and Robert seated. The written note on the edge reads "George Albro born in this house May 1862." Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.



Post card showing Johnie Kemble, Peter (mountain lion), Catherine Hiatt, and George Zinn. The photograph was taken in May 1908 when Peter was being raised by Robert and Catherine Hiatt. Johnie Kemble had killed Peter's mother and brought her two cubs home to raise. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.