

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](http://www.andersonhistorical.com).

### Ono Post Office

Form 1550, **REGISTRY BILL.** *May 2*, 190*4*

**REGISTERED LETTERS, etc., from** *SHASTA, CAL.*

To P. O. at *Ono, Cal*, in Reg. P'kge No. *63*

All Registered Letters or Parcels sent in this Package with this Bill must be described below.

REG. NO.	CLASS.	ADDRESSED TO
<i>63</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Voluntine Bell</i>

SENT BY *Chas. J. Litch*, P. M. RECEIVED BY *Edw. J. Wheelock*, P. M.

*SHASTA, CAL.*

The Postmaster making up Registered Letters, etc., for dispatch, will fill up the other side of this Bill, and write the name of his Post Office, County, and State in the blank address on this side.

The Postmaster receiving this Bill in Registered Package will at once compare entries with letters, etc., inclosed; make entries on record of registered matter received; stamp postmark below; sign this Bill on other side, noting any errors, and return it to the mailing Post Office without cover.

A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card on other than official business.

**Post Office Department.**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS. POST OFFICE AT *Ono*

Stamp here and at Post Office

**RETURN TO:**

Postmaster at \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_

*SHASTA, CAL.*

*1904 MAY 2*

The Registry Bill shown above was initiated by the Postmaster of the Shasta Post Office, Frank Litsch, to track a registered letter to Volentine Doll of Ono in 1904. The card was received by the Postmaster of Ono, Fred J. Wheelock, on May 3, 1904, and returned to Shasta the next day.

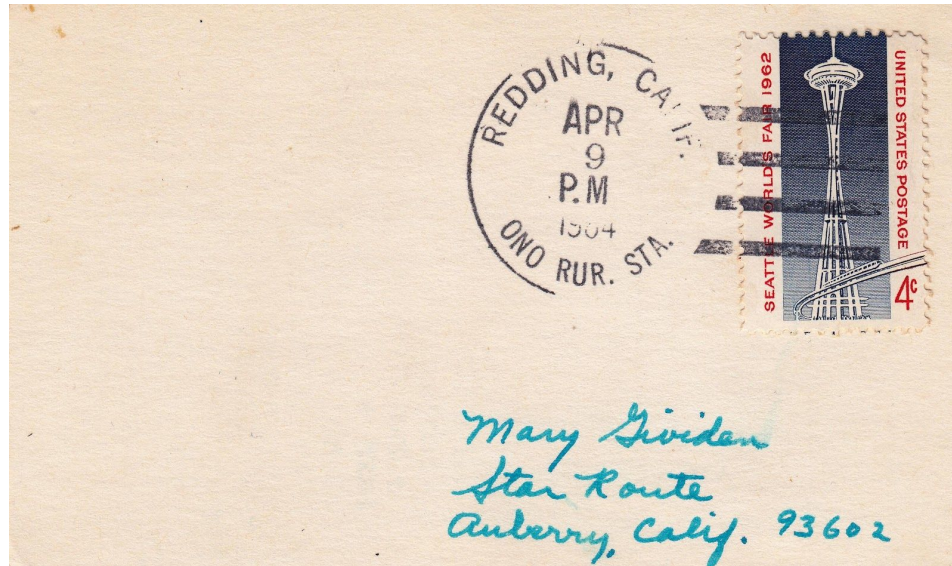
The Ono Post Office was established 1883. The town initially requested the name Eagle Creek but this was rejected by the Post Office Department probably because of a similarity with Eagle Creek, Colorado. Other names such as Oro Fino were suggested but finally the matter was turned over to the Rev. William S. Kidder for consideration. The reverend suggested Ono a Biblical name from 1 Chronicles 8:12 for a village near current Tel Aviv. Others have suggested Nehemiah 6:2 "let us gather together in the villages on the plain of Ono" or Nehemiah 11:35 "Ono, the valley of craftsmen." Whatever the verse the Post Office Department accepted the name. The post office was located six miles southwest of Igo. In 1963 the post office became an independent rural station of Redding and in 1966 a rural branch. The post office was finally closed in 1972 and operations moved to Igo. The move set off a local war as many still used Ono in the address line. Forty years later the Post Office Department accepts Igo or Ono as-long-as the zip code is correct.

The recipient of the registered letter was Volentine Doll (sometimes given as Valentine) who was born in 1837 in Baden, Germany. Volentine immigrated in 1854 and was naturalized in Shasta County Court in 1861. In 1880 he was listed as a farmer on the South Fork of Clear Creek but by 1900 was farming just east of Eagle Creek in Ono. Volentine married Harriet E. Smith (1856-1918) the daughter of George Smith of Ono and the couple had at least six children: Wallace 1880, Creasa 1882, Elsie 1884, Clifford 1886, Charles 1891 and Eugene 1895. Volentine died in 1906.

Frank Litsch, the Postmaster of Shasta in 1904 was born in 1835 in Baden, Germany and was naturalized in the Shasta County District Court in May 1858. In 1885 he was listed as a merchant in Shasta. Frank came to Shasta County with his older brother Carl in 1853. In 1860 Frank was listed as a baker probably for his brother who was partner in the Spatz & Litsch Bakery & Saloon. In 1873 Frank opened the Litsch Store in Shasta. The general merchandise store remained open until 1959 although Frank sold the store to his brother's widow and son Frank in 1895. Frank married Caroline Sheure (born 1843, died 1922) in 1863 and the couple had at least three children: Elizabeth 1865, Joseph 1867, Emma 1872. Frank was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1888.

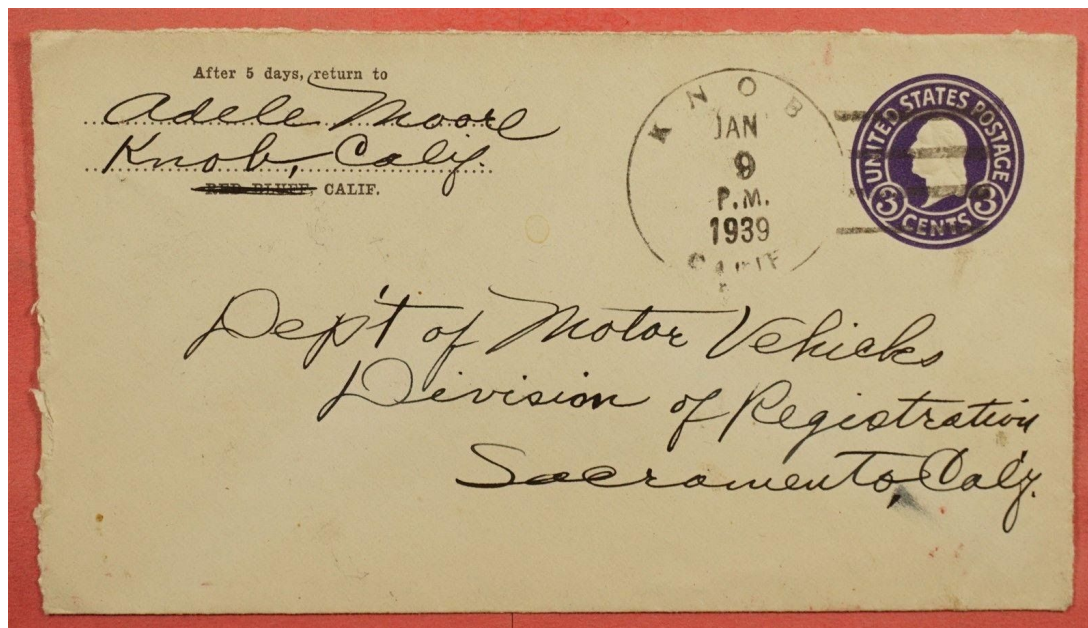
Fred J. Wheelock the Postmaster of Ono in 1904 was born in 1875 in California. He was the son of John J. Wheelock a farmer at Ono. In 1900 he was working on his father's farm. In 1910 he was still listed as postmaster. In 1918 Fred was working as a grocer in San Francisco but by 1920 he returned to Shasta County where he was a farmer at Round Mountain. In 1940 Fred was once again listed as a postmaster but the location was not given. Fred married Charlotte "Lottie" Loomis (1876-1962) the daughter of Leander V. Loomis and the couple had three children: Viola C. 1904, Frederick Charles 1906, and Leander Albert 1908. Fred died in 1958 in Butte County.





Letter from Ono in 1964 as a Rural Station of Redding

Knob Post Office

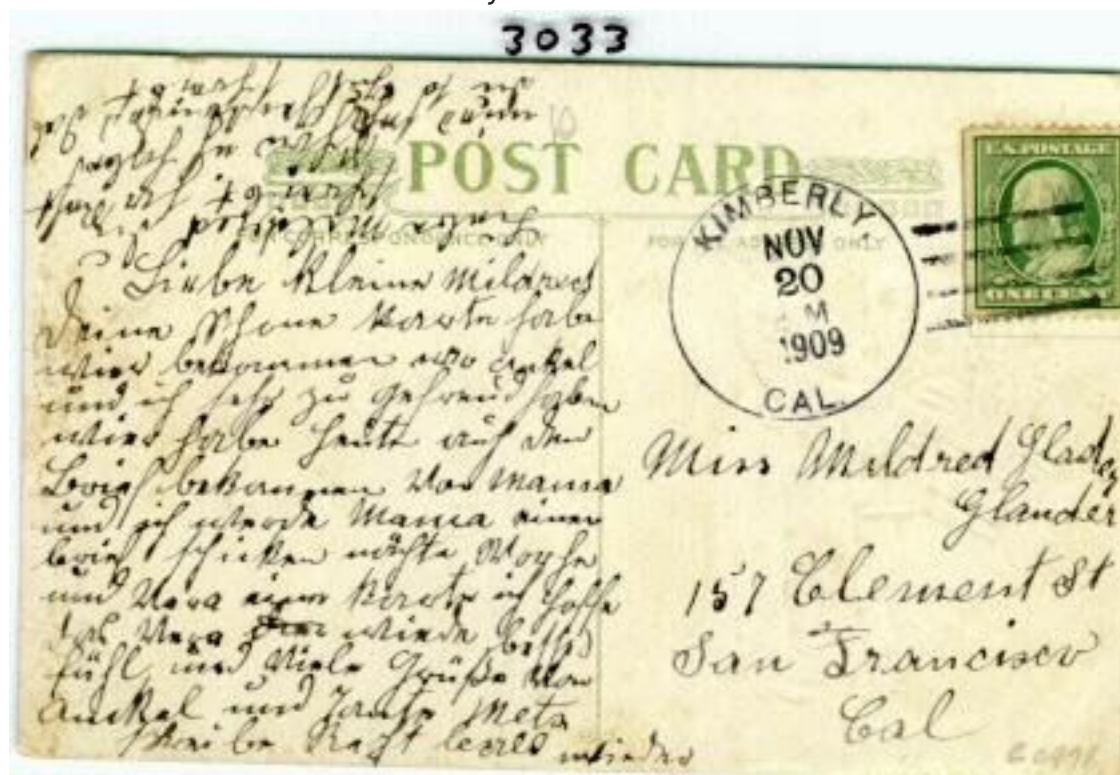


The Knob Post Office was established seven miles northwest of Platina in 1896. The requested name was Harrison Gulch for the mining community it was to serve but the Post Office Department rejected the two-word name. The post office was finally named after the physical feature that overlooks the site, Knob Peak. Many communities took on the name of the post office but locally the town remained Harrison Gulch. After World War One mining activities gradually

declined and finally in 1944 operations were moved to Platina.

The letter was mailed by Adele Moore in 1939 and the back is marked "teacher." Adele was born in 1871 in Illinois and in the 1940 U.S. Census she was listed as a public school teacher married to Joseph B. Moore (born 1872 in England) who was a miner at Harrison Gulch. In 1930 Joseph was a mine promoter in Calaveras County while Adele taught public school. In 1920 Joseph was a salesman in Sonoma County while Adele taught school. In the draft registration of 1918 Joseph was listed as a mine superintendent at Harrison Gulch. Joseph and Adele were known to have two children: Cecil 1903 and Alfred 1904. Joseph died in Ono in 1945 and Adele survived until 1966.

#### Kimberly Post Office



The Kimberly Post Office was located on land owned by the Balaklala Consolidated Copper Company about six miles northwest of Coram. The company operated a store, dormitories, and the post office for its employees. The area was named Kimberly after Peter J. Kimbeley the president of the Balaklala Mining Company of San Francisco. That company was taken over by the First National Copper Company in 1905 and they operated under the Balaklala Consolidated Copper Company name. The site name transferred to the Post Office that was established in 1907. The company smelter at Coram closed down in 1911 but the mine continued to operate until 1914. The post office was closed in December 1913

and operations moved to Kennett. The company reopened the mine in 1915 and operated until 1919 but the post office did not return.

The post card was written in German and mailed from the Kimberley Post Office in 1909 to Miss Mildred Glander. Mildred M. Glander would have been about eight at the time. She was the daughter of Fredrick Glander (1874-1911), a grocer in San Francisco, and Catharina Brunjes (1872-1957) both born in Germany. In 1930 Mildred was a clerk at a drug store in San Francisco. By 1940 Mildred had married Gilbert Beck and later married Clarence W. Hamilton.



Housing at the Balaklala Mine about 1910

Mammoth Post Office





In 1900 Rudolph Saeltzer and associates of Redding purchased the Mammoth Mine. The group sold the mine in 1904 to U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company that operated under the name Mammoth Copper Mining Company. In 1905 a Mammoth Smelter was opened at Kennett and supplied at first by an aerial tramway. In 1907 the tramway was replaced with the Mammoth Mine Railroad. The Mammoth Post Office was established in 1907 three miles northeast of Kennett on the Squaw Creek. The mine and smelter were closed by 1919 and the post office discontinued in 1921. In 1923 the post office was reopened when mine operations were resumed only to be closed again in 1925 when the mine was closed and the smelter dismantled. Postal operations were moved to Kennett.



Mammoth Copper Mine

The articles for January 2021 are: 1) Gertrude Aloha Treat, 2) John Mathias Layton, and 3) Merle Wallace Roberts.

Gertrude Aloha Treat



The postcard above was mailed to Miss Donna Treat the daughter of Gertrude Aloha "Gertie" Williams and Alvin Treat by Uncle Ted from Inyo County in 1937. Uncle Ted was Donna's mother's brother Theodore Ward Williams (1899-1956).

Gertrude Aloha Treat got her unusual middle name from her place of birth: the Aloha Ranch on Balls Ferry Road. Gertrude was born in 1910 to Gertrude L. Rockhold 1879-1976 and Theodore Harvey Williams 1869-1947.

Theodore was the son of John Shepard Williams 1823-1883 and Sarah Elizabeth Davidson 1830-1893. John Shepard was born in 1823 in Vermont and married Sarah Elizabeth Davidson in 1852 in Michigan. Sarah was the daughter of Dr. Kenneth Anderson Davidson. John was the son of Doctor Albermarle and Ruth Williams. Both families moved to Shasta County in 1871. His father-in-law purchased the Gas Point Store that John managed. John's occupation was given as carpenter. In 1872 John was listed as a ranchman in Janesville. In 1875 he was Postmaster at Gas Point and started a coffin business. In 1881 the family moved to Pinckney to escape malaria that was severe around Gas Point. John built a new store and house from which he functioned as the first Postmaster. John and Sarah moved to Gas Point with five children all born in Michigan (George D. had died in Michigan): Kenneth (Kineth) Shepard 1853, Elida "Lida" Frances 1855 (married George Willis Raymond-divorce- then Hugh Edwin Fagan), Lillie Marietta 1860 (married Charles Ezra Fisher then Edward Enoch Harris), Mary Elizabeth 1863 (died 1887), and Theodore Harvey. John died in 1883 in Shasta County and Sarah died in Ono in 1893.

Sarah's father was Kenneth Davidson (often given as Kinneth) born 1801 in New York. In 1827 he married Sarah Ann Burnham (1809 New York). According to family history he moved his family to Michigan in 1835 but it is probably earlier as



his daughter Mary was born in Michigan in 1832. By family history he studied medicine and speculated in land at Pinckney, Michigan. His first wife Sarah died in 1847 and in 1848 he married Mary Piper (1808 Pennsylvania). In 1850 he is listed as a mason in Michigan with his wife Mary and six children: Sarah Elizabeth 1830 New York (married John Shepard Williams), Mary 1832 Michigan, Harriet 1835 Michigan, Marietta 1836 Michigan, George 1838 Michigan, Anna J. 1849 Michigan (Note: by family history there were eleven children with five dying in infancy). By family history Kenneth with daughter Mettie (Marietta) started by wagon train for California shortly after daughter Sarah's marriage in 1852. The wagon train took them to Los Angeles where Kenneth purchased land and raised sheep. By family history he sold the land due to uncertain land titles and moved north to Michigan Bar in Sacramento County in 1854. He reportedly built the Davidson Ditch to sell water to miners. In 1860 and 1870 he is listed as a physician at Cosumnes in Sacramento County. In both 1860 and 1870 he is listed alone as Marietta had married Charles W. Brewster. He is reported to have arrived in Shasta County in 1871 where he purchased a hotel, store and cracker factory and farmland at Janesville. He was joined by son George Washington and his daughter Sarah and her husband John Shepard Williams. Wife Mary and daughter Anna were still in Michigan in 1880. He reportedly operated the cracker factory while his son-in-law, John S. Williams, operated the store. In 1871 he was listed as a physician and was later the author of "An Act to Regulate Practice in California" that successfully passed the legislature. It was through Dr. Davidson's exertion that much of the town of Gas Point was abandoned temporarily due to malaria. Much of the town was moved to Pinckney. In 1885 he (or his heirs) received a homestead patent from the Government Land Office for 156 acres (S ½ NW ¼ and Lot/tracts 3 and 4 in Section 2 Township 29 North Range 6 West). Dr. Davidson died in 1884 and is buried in the Pinckney Cemetery which he deeded as a public cemetery.

Gertrude Lucinda Rockhold was the daughter of Henry Madison Rockhold and Emma (Emily) Wilkerson. Henry was born in 1840 in Missouri. Henry was listed in the 1863 Civil Ward Draft Registration as living at Grand Isle in Colusa County. In the agricultural report of 1870 Henry was farming 80 acres of improved land and had 40 acres of woodland, and 120 acres of other land. In 1875 Henry registered to vote as a farmer at Janesville. At the same time Henry's father Lloyd Robert Rockhold also registered to vote at Janesville. Lloyd, his wife Jane Connor, and part of the family quickly returned to Missouri but Elwiza Rockhold married Thomas Henderson Maupin and Nancy E. Rockhold married Richard Green both in Shasta County. In 1877 Henry married Emma (Emily) Wilkerson 1855-1945. In the 1880 U. S. Census Henry was listed as a farmer in Township 7 with two daughters: Elizabeth born in 1878 and Lucinda G. (Gertrude Lucinda) born in 1879. In 1881 Henry and Emma were members of the Eagle creek Baptist Church. In 1887 Henry purchased 159.44 acres from the Government Land Office in Section 2 of Township 29 North Range 5 West, MDM. In 1897 Henry purchased an additional 160 acres from the Government Land Office in Section 34 of Township 30 North Range 6 West, MDM. In the 1900 US Census Henry was listed as a farmer at Igo and the family had grown by five more children: Mary E. 1881, George W. 1885, Ernest S. 1889, Edith 1891, and Olga 1893. On the 1910 US Census Henry was still listed as a farmer at Igo but the

only child left at home was Olga. By 1920 Henry and Emma had moved to Anderson. Henry Madison "Doc" Rockhold died in 1924 and was buried in the Pinckney Cemetery. Emma survived until 1945.

Gertrude's mother was listed in the 1860 Iowa Census as Elizabeth Cummings and in 1870 as Emily Stuart at American Ranch. It appears Elizabeth had married William W. Stuart who was born in 1812 in Connecticut and in 1870 was farming at American Ranch. In the 1860 Census Emily was listed as Wilkerson and in 1870 as Stuart (the name at the marriage was given as Wilkerson).

Gertrude Aloha "Gertie" Williams was born on the Aloha Ranch on Ball's Ferry Road in 1910. The ranch began as a 320 acre purchase of Leroy P. Daingerfield and in 1910 was a major fruit orchard owned by Wallace McKinney Alexander of Hawaii. By the 1920 US Census Gertrude's father was working in Tehama County as a timekeeper and sealer for a logging company. Gertrude attended and graduated from Red Bluff High School in 1927. Gertrude attended San Jose State College but contracted tuberculosis and was unable to complete her college program. Gertrude returned to Anderson where she met Alvin Treat. Gertrude and Alvin were married in Oregon in 1929 and returned to Anderson.

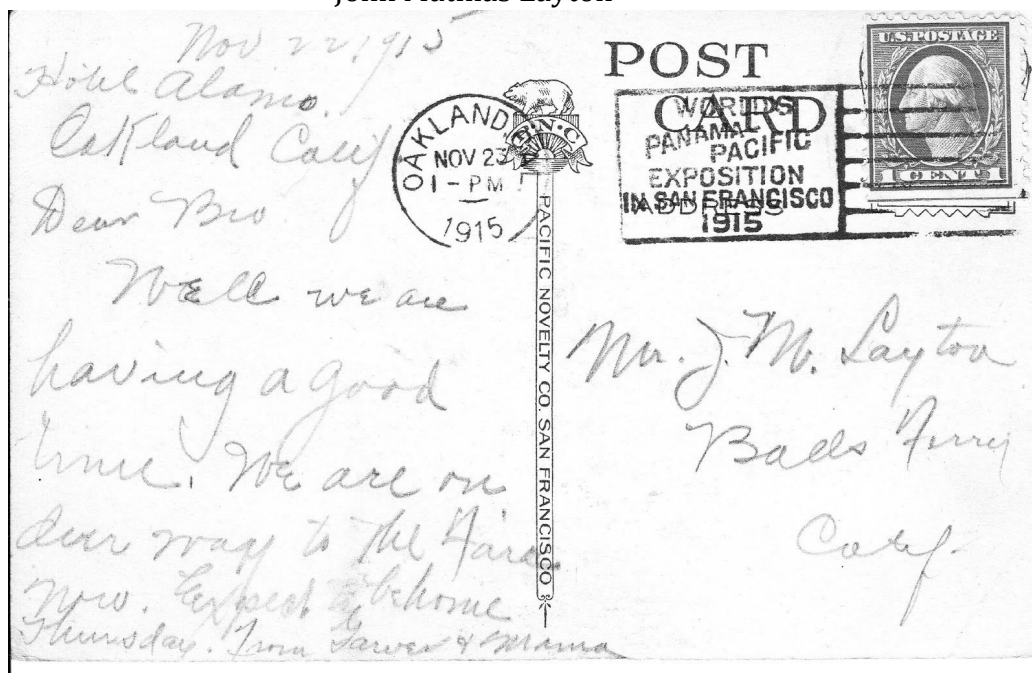
The first of Alvin Treat's family to come to California was Timothy Treat who was born in Vermont in 1786. Timothy served in New York during the War of 1812 before moving to Michigan in 1834. Timothy's wife Louisa Bentley died in 1860 and in 1863 Timothy moved to Elk Grove in Sacramento County. Timothy's son Ira Hascal Treat( born 1830 in New York) made the move with his father. Ira married Alice Ann Dunning in 1869 and the family had five children: Mattie B. 1871, Lois V. 1872, William Warren 1874, Harriet Mariah 1877 (died 1885), and Carrie Ann 1882. Sometime after 1880 William moved to Anderson and in the 1900 US Census was listed as a farm laborer at Anderson. In 1910 William was listed as a farmer and single but in 1920 William was married to Stella F. Roberts with three children Alvin born 1907, Harold born 1909 and Vida Margaret born 1910 (died 1912). Stella was the daughter of Richard Trembath Roberts and Lucitta McConnell and her story is told in the third article titled Merle Wallace Roberts.

In 1930 Alvin Treat was listed as a stock farmer in Anderson and the couple had their first daughter Francis E. born in 1929. Francis was quickly followed by the couple's second daughter Donna Lee in 1930. By 1940 the family was living and operating a dairy on North Street in Anderson. Alvin brought in the first Brown Swiss Cows to Northern California in 1941 and sold and delivered milk throughout Anderson. In 1979 a year before Alvin's death he was still listed as a farmer. At some point in his later life Alvin served as Mayor of Anderson. Gertrude was active in the Native Daughters of the Golden West and survived Alvin until 2007.



Theodore Harvey Williams and Gertrude L. Rockhold. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.

John Mathias Layton







The card above was sent from the Hotel Alamo in Oakland in 1915 by the brother of J. M. Layton. It is presumed that John Mathias Layton's brother Garver Davis Martin and his mother Amanda Emily Martin had been visiting the Panama-Pacific Exposition that was held in San Francisco between February and December 1915. The question the card raised was how the two brothers were listed with different last names? The answer came through a Social Security death notice that gave John's mother's maiden name as Misenheimer (variously given as Misenhamer in 1860 and Mistenheimer in 1870) and his father as Layton.

Amanda Misenhamer was the daughter of Matthias Misenhamer born in 1820 outside of the United States and Nancy Misenhamer born about 1822 outside the United States. In the 1860 U. S. Census Amanda was one year old and living on her father's farm in Illinois. In the 1870 U. S. Census her father's name was given as Mathias Mistenheimer and his wife given as Elizabeth. Amanda's name was given as Emily and her father worked in an iron plant in Missouri. John Mathias Layton was born in 1875 in Illinois (Missouri in the 1880 US Census) making Amanda (Emily) at most fifteen at the time of marriage. The full name of whom Amanda married was not found but the marriage had ended by 1879 when Amanda married John Garver Martin born in 1844 in Indiana. In the 1880 U. S. Census Amanda's name was given as Emma and John was listed as a stepson to John Garver Martin. In 1880 John was the only child and the family was living in Kansas but by 1883 they were in Missouri where Ethel Viola Martin was born. In 1885 Orpha Martin was born in Missouri. In 1887 Earl Rice Martin was born in Kansas and by 1894 the family was in California where Garver Davis Martin was born. In 1898 John G. Martin was granted a homestead of 160 acres in Section 8 of Township 30 North Range 2 East, MDM. John G. Martin would have had to have settled on the land on Bailey Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of Battle Creek, by 1893.

In 1900 John G. Martin was listed as a farmer at Shingletown living with Emma (Amanda) and Ethel, Orpha, Earl, and a niece Myrtle L. Garrison born in California in 1884. In 1900 John Mathias Layton was not found. In the 1910 US Census John Mathias Layton was listed as a farmer in Sierra Township of Tehama County living with his mother Amanda E. and brothers Earl and Garver. Amanda Emily Martin died in 1918 and was buried in the Parkville Cemetery. In the 1920 US Census John Mathias Layton was listed as a farmer at Cottonwood in Shasta County living with his father, stepbrother Earl and stepsister Ethel. John Garver Martin died in 1926 and was buried in the Parkville Cemetery. In 1930 John Mathias Layton was listed as operating as a gas and oil merchant at Cottonwood and living with his aunt Ella Davis. John Mathias Layton died in 1954 and was buried in the Parkville Cemetery with his mother and stepfather as well as his stepsister Ethel Viola Morgan and stepsister Orpha L. Garrison. No record was found that John Mathias Layton ever married or had issue.



This photograph of the cottonwood Hotel has a notation that this is the John Martin family. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Merle Wallace Roberts





12. CHATEAU-THIERRY (Aisne) - Ruines du Quartier de l'Hôtel-de-Ville  
après le bombardement (Photo 1918) M. D.

*Soldier's  
Mail.*

CARTE POSTALE

APR 10 1919  
705

Dear Brother:

I am getting  
fine and hope you  
are all the same. I  
got a letter from Augusta  
the other day with some  
pictures she sent to  
me.  
Are you working now?  
From your brother  
Clay.

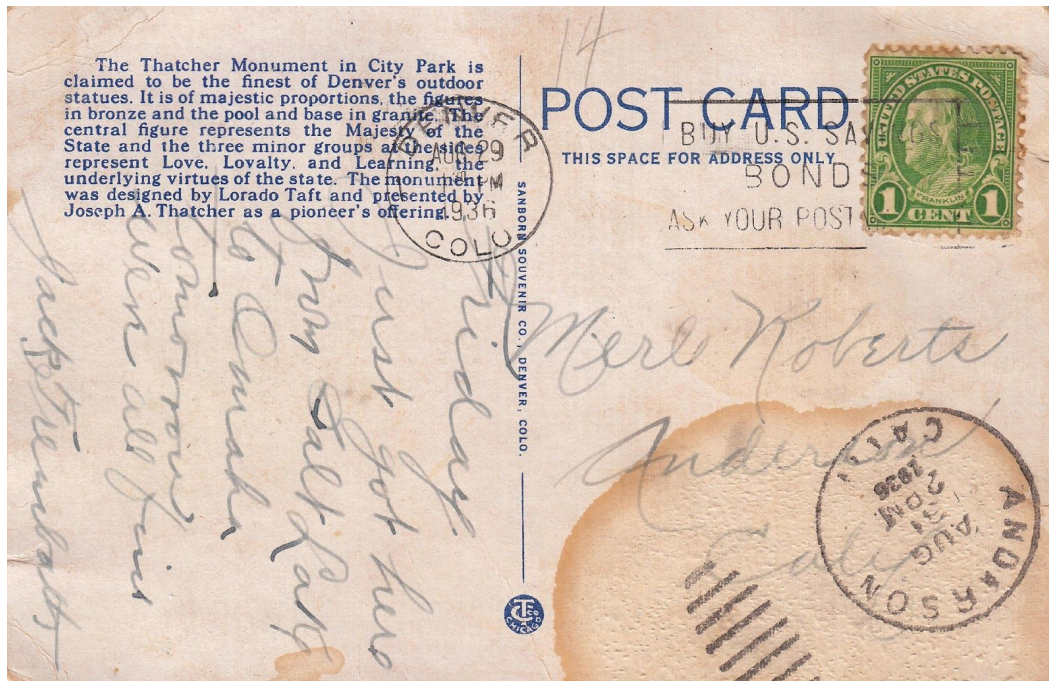
CORRESPONDANCE

ADRESSE

Mr. Mule Roberts,  
Schilling,  
Snasta Co.,  
California,  
U. S. A.



“Soldier’s Mail” sent free from France during World War One. The card is a picture of Chateau Thierry after German shelling. Clay was Merle’s older brother born in 1896. Clay enlisted in November 1917 and was discharged from Letterman Army Hospital in November 1920.



The two cards listed above from the museum collection were both written to the same person: Merle Wallace Roberts. Merle was born in Whiskeytown in 1899 and was the son of Richard Trembath Roberts (1841-1912) and Lucitta “Lou” McConnell (1860-1947). Richard was born in England and was a miner by trade. Richards immigrated prior to 1876 as he married “Lou” in Shasta County. Richard was naturalized in Shasta County in 1878 and on the U.S. Census of 1880, 1900, and 1910 worked as a gold miner at Whiskeytown.

Lucitta McConnell was born in Tennessee in 1860 and was the daughter of William McConnell (1829-1881) and Martha Barger (1851-1930). Between 1870 and 1876 William moved his family to Shingletown where he farmed until his death in 1881.

In 1910 Lucitta was not listed with the family but Richard was living with their seven children: Stella 1885-1945, Christine Evelyn 1888-1954, William 1889-1961, John 1883-1962, Augusta “Gussie” 1894-1977, Clay Cecil 1896-1975, and the youngest Merle William 1899-1980.

In 1918 on the First World War Draft, Merle was listed as farming at Schilling (Whiskeytown) but by 1920 was working as a teamster. In 1920 and 1930 U. S. Census Merle was living with his mother and older brother John. In the 1930 census Merle was listed as an auto mechanic in Anderson and still single. On the 1940 U. S. Census Merle was living in Shasta with no occupation given. Also, on the 1940 listing was Ella Mae Robinson born in 1889 in Indiana who was listed as a housekeeper

(along with her three children). Ella was the widow of Frank C. Robinson who was on a highway crew living in Shasta in 1930. On the World War Two draft registration Merle was listed as self employed and Ella Mae Robinson was listed as his contact. No marriage record was found but the joint headstone lists Merle Wallace Roberts 1899-1980 and Ella M. Roberts 1889-1975.



Merle and Ella Roberts. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.



Merle's mother "Lou" McConnell. Courtesy of Ancestry. com.