

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).

#### Kilna Post Office

William Potter purchased Wright's Ferry across the Sacramento at the mouth of Middle Creek. The ferry was on the Sacramento River Trail that ran north through the Sacramento River Canyon to Yreka in Siskiyou County. The name was changed to Potter's Ferry and the Kilna Post Office was established at Potter's Hotel in 1852. The post office was closed in 1853 and according to Post Office Department records no compensation was paid to William Potter. The name of the post office is sometimes given as Kilua but either way there is no known reason for the post office name. (Note: in 1885 the Waugh Post Office was established near the same site.)

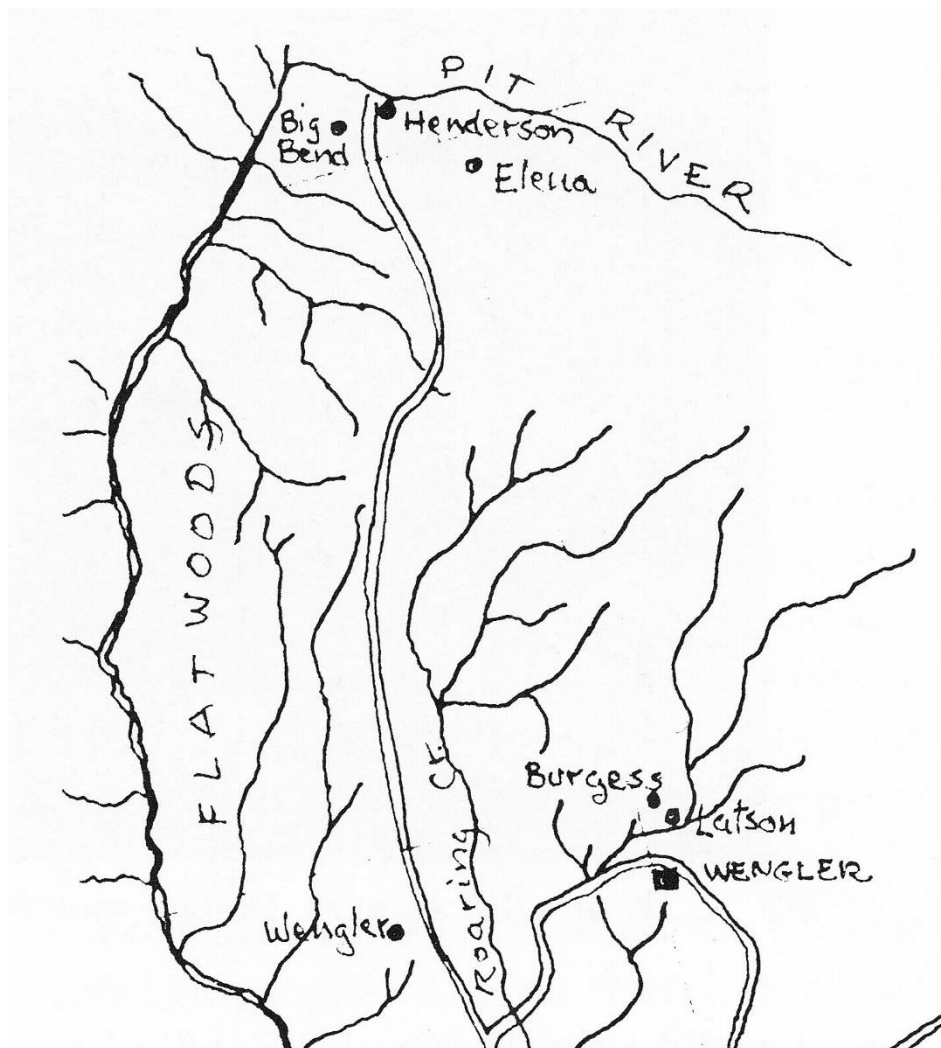


Early photograph of Reid's Ferry landing near the Kilna Post Office site. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

## Latson Post Office

The area known as the Flatwoods for its thick forest of mammoth sugar pines was served by three post offices within half a mile radius: Burgess, Latson and Wengler. Burgess was established first on April 25, 1891, followed by Latson just over a month later on May 29, 1891, and finally Wengler on May 31, 1899. Burgess was located on Cape Horn Creek about eight miles north of Montgomery Creek. The Latson Post Office was one half mile southeast of Burgess. Most literature states that the reason for the name is unknown but in checking the history of the first postmaster, Ella Madellon Leonard the connection was found. Ella Latson married Lewis E. Leonard in Illinois in 1882. Latson is the postmistress' maiden name. The Latson Post Office was closed in August 1895 and the operation moved to Burgess.

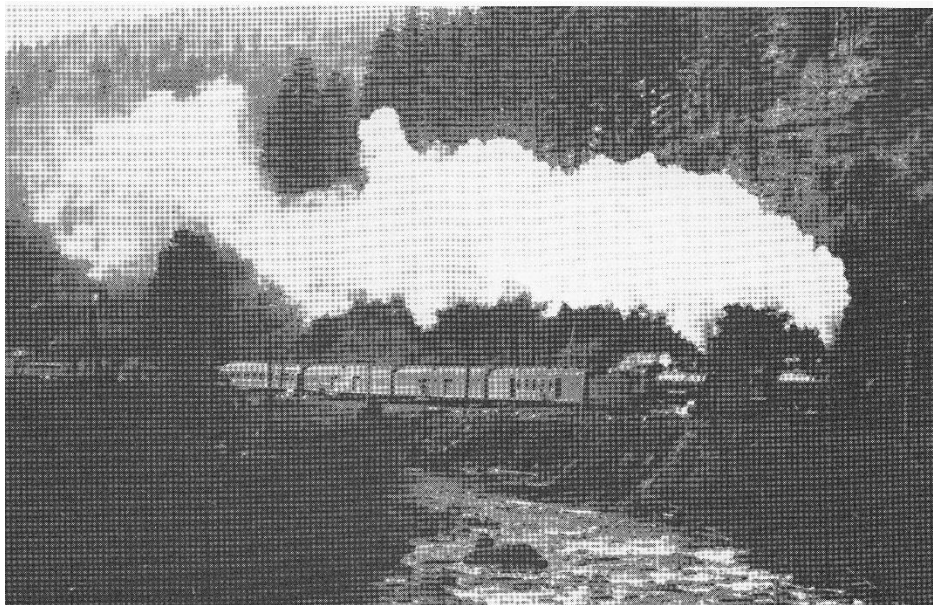
Lewis E. Leonard filed on the homestead of Wilfred Willstrup in 1893 a month after the earlier application was cancelled. Within the year Ella and Lewis' daughter Jessie drowned in nearby Roaring Creek and in March 1898 Lewis' homestead application was cancelled. Within a month James Vaughn applied for the same parcel but the luck must have changed as his patent was granted in July 1904. James' daughter-in-law, Minnie Vaughn would move the Wengler Post Office to the same area in 1937.



The Latson Post Office is in the lower half of the map just below Burgess.  
Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

#### Lisbon Post Office

The Lisbon Post Office was established in January 1886 in the Sacramento River Canyon eight miles north of Delta (Bayles) and seven miles south of Hazel Creek. The post office was only in operation for about ten months. The first and only postmaster was Henry W. Walbridge born about 1839 in Vermont whom in 1880 was a farmer at Table Rock in Siskiyou County. By 1889 Walbridge had relocated to Alameda County. Nothing was found to indicate if the post office was located in a store or hotel but by November 1886 it was closed, and operations were moved to Bayles. The Central Pacific Railroad reached Slate Creek by January 1886, and operated laying track to Hazel Creek in July 1886 so the post office could have been opened for the benefit of the railroad crews.



A Southern Pacific train north of Delta in the area of Lisbon. For thirty miles north of Delta the railroad followed every curve of the Sacramento River.

#### Loomis Post Office

The entry in The History of California Post Offices reads: "Established 4/11/1878. Discontinued 5/14/1879. Moved to Shingletown. Named for B. F. Loomis and early settler. Located 18 miles east of Shingletown. James O. Loomis, 1<sup>st</sup> Postmaster." The entry is troubling for a number of reasons with the first being James O. Loomis, born 1830 in Michigan (died 1895), was the first postmaster at Pino in Placer County and the town changed its name in 1890 to Loomis in his honor. Second Benjamin Franklin Loomis was born in 1857 and only initiated his homestead in what is now Viola in 1888 (the patent was not issued until 1894). Neither James Oscar Loomis nor Benjamin Franklin Loomis had any connection to land eighteen miles east of Shingletown, but a third Loomis did. Homer Whiting Loomis born in 1817 in

Canada purchased eighty acres of land in 1862 and an additional one hundred and sixty acres in 1865 at the Stillwater crossing of the California-Oregon Trail where he established a stage stop and hotel. The area became known as Loomis Corners. Between 1878 and 1879 Homer still operated the hotel and it is the most likely spot for the post office. On the official post office registry Homer W. Loomis was the appointed postmaster. The post office was discontinued in 1879 but services were probably not moved to Shingletown. Homer W. Loomis died in 1882. The ranch was sold to Leon Leighton in 1882 and the nearby Leighton Post Office (1889-1894) was named in his honor.



Homer Loomis' house at Loomis Corners (later Leighton). Courtesy Shasta Historical Society.



Homer W. Loomis, postmaster at Loomis

The articles for January 2023 are: 1) Ida and Louis Schuckman, 2) William Winthrop Sublett, 3) Henry Syman, 4) Clinton Laron Watson, 5) Frank Carroll Wright, and 6) Matilda Maranda Part V.

## Ida and Louis Schuckman



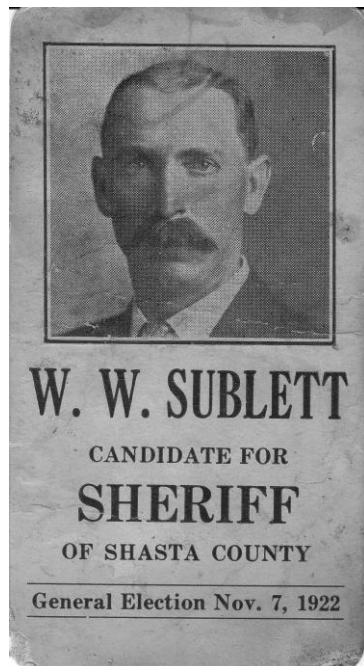
Ida and Louis Schuckman (on left) at the Keswick Depot. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.



Riverside Hotel at Keswick operated by Ida and Louis Schuckman. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Louis Samuel Schuckman was born in Colusa County in 1870. Louis was the son of August Schuckman 1827-1907 and Augusta A. Feidler 1835-1887. Louis' father was born in 1827 in the Principality of Lippe and immigrated to the United States by 1854 as he was naturalized in the Colusa County District Court in 1859. In 1867 August was listed as a farmer but by 1880 he was operating a hotel at Indian Valley in Colusa County. Louis was first noted as an "operator" at Vina in Tehama County the same year he married Ida Elizabeth Dillon born 1873. Ida was the daughter of Vina sheep rancher Larkin William Dillon and Mary Louisa McCartney. In 1896 Louis was an "operator" at Keswick in Shasta County. As Louis was working for the Southern Pacific Railroad "operator" probably referred to telegraph operator or station agent. Louis was known to have shot and killed one of two would be robbers of the Keswick depot in December 1897. From November 1897 to October 1899 Louis and Ida were operating the Riverside Hotel in Keswick. Louis was postmaster of Keswick during the same period. In the 1900 U. S. Census Louis was a railroad agent at San Gabriel in Los Angeles County with two children: Claude Louis 1895-1911 and Everett Vivian 1898-1977. Louis and Ida both contracted consumption (tuberculosis) and died in 1904.

## William Winthrop Sublett



Campaign card for William Winthrop Sublett in 1922. Couresy of Ralph Holibaugh.

William Winthrop Sublett was born in Texas in January 1875. He was the son of William Hosea Sublett 1850-1933 and Mary Linneweber 1851-1940. In 1893 William appears to have been working as a gold miner at Gold Hill, New Mexico and on November 27, 1893, he eloped with sixteen-year-old Mary Anna Williams to Silver City, New Mexico where the couple were married. William remained in New Mexico until 1896 when he, Mary and their first child, Luella (died 1906) moved to Harrison Gulch. William took his profits from mining and purchased a ranch on the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek at



Ono about 1902. In 1920 William was the Supervisor of the County Work Farm and in 1922 successfully ran for County Sheriff. William would remain the Shasta County Sheriff until 1942.

By 1930 William and Mary were divorced after having nine children: Luella born 1894 in New Mexico, Mattie Agnes born 1896 in Harrison Gulch, Jesse LeRoy born 1897 in Harrison Gulch, Floyd Darwin born 1902 in Ono, Elmer born 1905 in Ono, Clarence Merle born 1907 in Ono, Earl Jennings born 1910 in Ono, Eva born 1914, and Vivian born 1917. The family history reports that William married Lynda Booth Shylock in 1932. Nothing was found under the Lynda name but there was an Amy Booth Shallock born in 1900 who was the stepdaughter of Eddy Benjamin Shallock, a constable in Redding. In 1941 William married Bertha Merrill a teacher in Redding. Bertha had been County Superintendent of Schools from 1926 to 1934. William remained active in Redding until his death in 1959. William and Bertha had no known children and Bertha survived William until 1966.



William Sublett & Hiram Baker after a prohibition raid. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Henry Syman





Portrait of Henry Syman. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Henry Syman according to the 1870 U. S. Census was born about 1826 while later documents give his birth as 1820. On his voter registration in 1867 he was born in Prussia while later documents cite Poland. Henry could have been from the Polish territory annexed by Prussia between 1772 and 1795. In 1880 Henry called his birthplace Russian Poland which would be the western portion of Poland annexed by Russia (there was also an Austrian Poland). After 1795 the nation of Poland ceased to exist as an independent nation for 123 years. Henry had immigrated by 1856 or 1857 as he was naturalized in the Tehama County District Court in 1861. In 1867 Henry was listed as a merchant at Ludwig's Bridge just west of Cottonwood on Cottonwood Creek. In 1870 Henry was operating a general merchandise store at American Ranch. In 1874 Henry was proprietor of Syman's Merchantile Store in Cottonwood. On the voter registration of 1886 Henry is listed as a "pioneer" in Cottonwood without identifying what the term meant. By 1896 Henry was again listed as a merchant in Cottonwood. Henry died in 1899 and no evidence was found that he was married.

Clinton Laron Watson



Clinton L. Watson on right at French Gulch Hotel. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Clinton Laron Watson was born at French Gulch in 1871. Clinton was the son of William Watson 1829-1877 and Caroline "Carrie" V. Brown 1843-1927. Clinton's father was from Missouri and his mother from New York and both were in Shasta County prior to their wedding date of 1866. In 1868 William registered to vote as a miner at French Gulch. In the 1870 U. S. Census William was listed as a butcher at French Gulch. William died in 1877 leaving Caroline with three children: Clay 1869, Clinton 1871, and Elsie 1872, as well as an elderly mother, Lorilla Brown 1897 and brother William C. Brown 1830. In 1880 Caroline was farming at French Gulch on land William had purchased in 1866 (in Section 9 & 10, Township 29 North Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian). Caroline homesteaded 39.70 acres under her own name receiving a patent in 1905 (in Section 22, Township 33 North Range 7 West, Mount Diablo Meridian). In 1896 and 1898 Clinton registered to vote as a farmer at French Gulch. In the 1900 U. S. Census the family was still together at French Gulch with Clinton listed as a miner and Clay listed as a farmer. In 1903 Clinton married Frances "Frankie" B. Phillips (nee Hubbard) born about 1868 in California. In the 1910 U. S. Census Clinton was listed as a hotel landlord living with Frankie who was listed as being married twice with one child. Frances Hubbard had previously married Daniel F. Phillips, who was a miner at French Gulch in 1886. In 1920 Caroline was still living on the farm with Clay. Caroline died in 1927 and by 1930 Clinton was living at Fort Meyers, Florida as a vegetable farmer and listed alone. Clinton died at Fort Meyers in 1936.

Frank Carroll Wright



Frank Wright at the forge on the right in French Gulch. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Frank Carroll Wright was born in Igo in 1877. Frank was the son of John Presley Wright 1832-1907, a veteran of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of California Infantry Volunteers during the Civil War, and Hannah Bentley Stoddard 1848-1928. In 1898 Frank registered to vote listing his occupation as a miner at Igo. Frank probably worked in the South Fork Mining District where his parents had a ranch. In 1910 Frank was listed as a blacksmith at a gold mine in French Gulch. On the World War I draft registration Frank was working for J. H. Hassell as a tool dresser. On the 1920 U. S. Census Frank was listed as a rancher at Igo and in 1930 and 1940 he was working on his brothers Harvey and Thomas Wight's ranch. Frank was believed to have worked for a telephone company in Redding after World War II and in 1949 was listed as salesman and living with his sister Grace. Frank died in 1965 and was not known to have married.

## Matilda Maranda Part V

Continued from September through December 2022

The final deed found for Matilda Maranda does not involve the Trinity House that had been purchased in 1853. In 1854 Matilda had sold the Trinity House corral to Andrew and James Hunter and in 1855 sold the Trinity House proper to Fanny Clark. In 1857 it appears there had been a problem with Fanny's mortgage as Matilda later sold her remaining interest to Charles Litsch. Matilda entered into the final deed on 9 July 1858, for \$600 which raises the question: what was Matilda doing between 1855 and July 1858? In going back to review her deposit checks the last one was date October 18, 1855, so they were of no assistance. What we do know is that Matilda attended a Sheriff's Sale ordered by the Court on 30 September 1857, in Shasta and had the highest bid although the property was not transferred until July 1858. The delay of the sale was common to provide the original owner time to pay

off the debt (a process legally known as redemption). The debt was owed by Rhodes & Company for whom we will provide a little history. In April 1852 James M. Rhodes and Hiram Lusk formed the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company that operated daily stages from Sacramento to Marysville, Tehama, Shasta and north to Yreka and Jacksonville, Oregon. The company headquarters was located at Shasta, and they had a line that connected to Weaverville. The company connected to Wells, Fargo & Company at Sacramento for San Francisco. From a March 1852 announcement, the company was a branch of the Sacramento City Bank (Rhodes, Purdy, and McNulty). The Rhodes of the Sacramento City Bank was James' brother John Milton Rhodes. Quickly the two entities became separate but maintained a close business relationship. In February 1854 the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company was dissolved and James Rhodes continued the business under the name of Rhodes & Company (for a short period Jas. M. Rhodes Express was utilized). In July 1855 James sold the company to his uncle, Jesse Rhodes and Cornelius S. Whitney and the name changed to Rhodes & Whitney's Express. In December 1855 Whitney withdrew and the name returned to Rhodes & Company until 1857. James moved to Sacramento to become a clerk in the State Treasurer's Office with the aid of his brother John. A bond to put Henry Bates into the office of State Treasurer was provided by John. Within a short period, Bates was being impeached for missing funds and John, who was responsible for the bond, was facing a run on the Sacramento City Bank. The house of cards built by the Rhodes family crashed in 1857 when both Sacramento City Bank and Rhodes & Company closed their doors. Jesse had returned to Ohio to recruit capital but died in Cleveland without success. Jesse left his estate to Mary who had to defend against court cases in both Shasta and Sacramento Counties. After Jesse Rhodes' death in Cleveland in 1857, Mary Rhodes, the wife whom he left behind in California awaiting his intended return, spent years probating his estate in both Sacramento and Shasta Counties. Most of the express company offices had been mortgaged. The estate's liabilities far exceeded its assets, and she was left penniless but for the support afforded her over the remainder of her lifetime by John M. Rhodes. She died in 1873. James returned to Shasta as a salesman for Child's & Company Patent Elastic Fire and Water-Proof Roofing but by 1860 James was living in San Francisco and he died in Sacramento in 1865 with his estate also worthless.

**ADMINISTRATRIX SALE**  
OF  
**Valuable Real Estate !**

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER ISSUED out of the Hon. Probate Court for the County of Shasta, and State of California, on the 10th day of May, A. D., 1858, in the matter of the Estate of Jesse Rhodes, dec., the undersigned will offer for sale at Public Auction, on

**Saturday, June 5th, 1858,**  
at 1 o'clock, p. m., on the premises, the following described Real Estate, to wit: The

**Fire-Proof Brick Building,**  
and lot on which the same stands, situate in the town of Weaverville, Trinity Co., California, lately occupied by Rhodes & Co., as an Express office, and more particularly described as follows: Commencing five inches from the south-east corner of Jas. S. McCain's store, on Main street, in said town, running thence southerly along the west line of said street 20 feet 4 inches, thence westerly at right angles with said street 75 feet, thence northerly parallel with said street 20 feet 4 inches, thence easterly at right angles 75 feet to the place of beginning, together with the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Title perfect, and immediate possession given.

**TERMS---CASH !**  
MARY RHODES, Administratrix  
Of Estate of Jesse Rhodes, dec.  
Weaver, May 12, 1858. 17ts.

Notice placed by Mary Rhodes under orders of the Shasta Court to sell the Weaverville office of Rhodes and Company to pay debts. Note: the date of sale is about nine months after the sale of the Shasta office.

The deed itself recites that it was entered into on 9 July 1858, between John A. Dreibelbis and Matilda Maranda. "Whereas at a regular term of the District Court of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for the State of California in open Court in Shasta County on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1857 it was among other things ordered, adjudged, and decreed in a certain case then pending between Matilda Maranda Plaintiff and Jesse Rhodes and Mary Rhodes Defendants that the whole or so much of the mortgaged premises mentioned and set forth in the complaint in said cause to be sold by the Sheriff, or under his direction at public auction in the County of Shasta where the said mortgaged premises directed to be sold are situated, the said Sheriff first giving at least twenty days public notice of the time and place of such sale with a correct brief description of said mortgaged premises in one of the public newspapers printed in

the County of Shasta and by posting at least three notices in the County according to the practices of the Court. And whereas the said John A. Dreibelbis Sheriff as aforesaid and party of the first part to the represents in pursuance of the judgement of the said Court did on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September AD 1857 sell at public auction in front of the Courthouse door in said County aforesaid the mortgaged premises herein of the particularly described having first given the previous notice of the time and place of said sale with a description of the said mortgaged premises as required by the judgement aforesaid, at which sale the premises were struck off to the party of the second part to the represents for the sum of \$600 that being the highest sum bidden for the same. The property is described as beginning at the west corner of a lot owned by Mr. Nicholson as the City Hotel property on the northeast side of the Main or principal street of Shasta thence running north easterly at right angles with said street 160 feet, thence northwest parallel with said street 18 feet, thence south west at right angles 160 foot, thence along the line of said street 18 feet to the place of beginning being the same premises now occupied as an express and banking house by Rhodes & Company. Also, that certain other piece of land in the Town of Shasta aforesaid now occupied by said Rhodes & Company as a corral lying about 160 yards northwest from the lot last described and lying on the west side of an ally running north from Main Street.

Signed John A. Dreibelbis ex sheriff

H. A. Corliss Notary Public

Recorded by H.I. Van Horn by A. C. Taylor deputy"

The deed answers in part the initial question of what was Matilda doing between 1855 and 1858? Matilda appears to be a "capitalist" or what now is described as an investor. Matilda appeared as a creditor against Jesse and Mary Rhodes, then purchased the 18 foot wide brick Rhodes & Company building on Main Street in Shasta. Was it to set up a new gambling establishment? Matilda after the purchase of the building moved to Scott Bar in Siskiyou County where she died in February of 1860. Matilda's administrator of her estate cites she owned a house and lot in Shasta and a barn and lot in Shasta which corresponds to the property purchased from Rhodes & Company.

#### Historical Notes:

H. A. Corliss is actually Homer A. Curtis who was born in New York about 1825. Homer was trained as a lawyer and was in Shasta County by 1851 when he was elected as District Attorney serving until 1852. Homer was listed as a Notary Public in 1853. From 1856 to 1858 Homer was the Superintendent of Schools. Homer was Justice of the Peace in Shasta in 1858 and in the 1860 U. S. Census he was listed as an unmarried lawyer. At the time of the deed Homer was again serving as a Notary Public. Homer again served as District Attorney from 1864 to 1866. Homer was not listed in the 1870 U. S. Census and was believed to have returned to New York where he married and had a son born in 1872.



H.I Van Horn is actually Harvey J. Van Horn born 1825 in Pennsylvania. He was the son of William Bennet (1800-1830) and Mary Van Horn and by 1829 the family was living in Ohio. In 1850 Harvey was still in Licking County, Ohio. In September 1854 Harvey married Anna Elizabeth Horn (1836-1904) in Sacramento. By November 1855 Harvey was serving as deputy County Recorder. In September 1855 the couple had their first child Carrie Stella (Stella in the 1860 census) at Shasta. Harvey was elected to two terms as County Recorder, 1856 to 1858 and 1858 to 1860. In April 1857 their second child Ida Hart (Ada in the 1860 census) was born at Shasta. Harvey and Anna were divorced, and she married John A. Ruff in February 1861. Tragedy struck in October 1862 when first Carrie Stella then five days later Ida Hart died at Cottonwood (both are buried at the Anderson Pioneer Cemetery). Harvey Van Horn died in June 1865 according to the Shasta Courier. In 1861 Anna married Dr. John Augustus Ruff (1812-1870) with whom she had one child Samuel Francis Ruff (1861-1947). In 1871 Anna married Elmus Nickolas (1822-1902). Anna Elizabeth died in Anderson in 1904.

Nicholson/ Nicholson: nothing was found other than he owned the City Hotel in Shasta in 1858.

A.C. Taylor deputy recorder: in the 1860 U.S. Census there is an A. C. Taylor listed as a miner age 29 born in New York.

John Augustus Dreibelbis was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1860. John was reportedly a Mexican War veteran who established a ferry across the Pit River in 1853 within one mile of the Silverthorne Ferry even though regulations specified ferry permits had to be over one mile apart. In 1853 John was part of the party that confirmed the feasibility of the Noble's Trail and in 1855 took part in the Battle of Castle Rocks (Castle Crags) against the Modoc. From 1855-1857 John served as County Sheriff. In June 1860 John was appointed Indian Agent in the Northern District and in 1862 purchased 40 acres near Shingletown. During the Civil War John reportedly served as a major in the California Militia.

#### New Information from contributors:

Marilyn Rountree provided a packet of research concerning Bridget Jackey. The Matilda Maranda deed of 24 January 1853, stated as a means of title insurance that Elizabeth Williams would defend the deed as was granted by Bridget Jackey on 10 February 1852, which was the same deed delivered to Elizabeth Williams by the County Sheriff on 13 July 1852. The recital appears to indicate that Bridget Jackey possibly sold the property to another party and the property subsequently came under the jurisdiction of the court. The court would have ordered a Sheriff's sale for nonpayment of a mortgage, debts, or any number of other causes. The Sheriff appears to have seized the property, posted legal notices of the sale, and at the sale Elizabeth Williams was the highest bidder. As the Sheriff had an interest in the Trinity Hotel it raises the question if the sale was in his interest to recover a mortgage. The deed does not tell us from whom Bridget acquired the Trinity House which would be worth researching.

On the 1850 U.S. Census Bridget Jacque or Jacquett, age 30 was listed at Shasta with two children: Lewis born about 1845 in South Australia and Richard born about 1848 in South Australia. The 1850 Census did provide one note of interest concerning the dwelling #224: there were 13 residents indicating it was a hotel and Bridget was the sole female resident. The first three listed as living at the residence was Robert Huston born about 1825 in New Jersey who later lived in Jacksonville, Jackson

County, Oregon, followed by **David Conzant** and **William Bonnifield**. It indicates that dwelling #224 was in fact the Trinity House. The 1852 California Census enumeration appears to have an irregular order, so Marilyn ran a search using variations of the last name and the result was edifying: on page 17 accomplished in August 1852 was Bridget Jacky born in Ireland about 1821, seamstress, with C. Jackey 9, and B. Jackey 4. All listed their previous residence as Australia. There were three other entries under the Jacky name. The census was accomplished over a period of two months in July and August 1852 and it also lists: Bridget Jacky age 31, washing, born in Ireland with Lewis Jackey born about 1845 in Australia, and Richard Jacky born about 1848 in Australia. The last three entries were different in one respect: the last residence was listed as California. The census indicates what is in the deed, that Bridget left the Trinity House in February 1852 then worked doing washing and then as a seamstress, both jobs were in high demand in early Shasta and paid astonishing wages. In both sets of entries there is a constant: the family is Bridget and two children and the person taking the census was the same person: J.M. Coats age 26, a miner born in Indiana. Considering that the census was performed over two months there is a likely explanation: human error caused by changing residences within Shasta as that would account why one past residence was Australia and another California. One question was immediate: if the father was alive where was he during this period? Bridget was known to have died between 1853 and 1855 without any burial listed in Shasta County so there is a possibility the remains were moved to a different county. There is a newspaper legal notice published in the *Shasta Courier* that the Public Administrator D. D. Harrill would make a final settlement of the Estate of Bridget Jackey on 23 July 1855. The notice raises a second question: what happened to the children? To answer both questions Marilyn turned to tracking the children.

(Historical note: Drury Dobbins Harrill was the County Public Administrator from 1854 to 1856. Drury was born in 1809 in North Carolina. He reportedly settled or “squatted” on Rancho de Briesgau before the Supreme Court decided on the Mexican land grant. He was known to have established Emigrant Ferry (Immigrant Ferry) across the Sacramento River at the mouth of Cow Creek in 1852 with Samuel Francis and Charles Smith. In 1853 he was a partner with A. S. Wells and the operating name changed to Wells’ Ferry. Drury operated the Shasta & Pittsburgh Express Company in 1853 and was Postmaster in Shasta 1853 to 1854. He built the Buncombe Mill, which is also call Harrill’s Mill, on Cow Creek in 1856 with George Furman and later purchased the Westcott & Bartlett Soda Factory in Shasta. In 1870 was listed as a carpenter. In 1828 Drury married Nancy J. Hawkins and the couple had three children: Henry L. 1840, James Wesley 1847, and Drury McDaniel 1852. Drury died in 1878.)

One of Marylin’s discoveries was crucial: the marriage records for the Catholic Church in Adelaide, South Australia for 1844. Adelaide was the capitol of South Australia, the only freely settled province in Australia which was established in 1836. The first settlers arrived in November 1836 and purchased land. From the land sale an Emigration Fund was created to pay the cost of transferring a poor, young labor force for the colony. The colony was established on the promise of freedom of religion which appealed to many Irish Catholics. A comment was noted that by 1842 one third of the houses in Adelaide were empty due to early economy struggles, but by 1845 the economy had turned around and the colony was exporting products. Bridget was born in Ireland, assuredly Catholic, and probably part of the labor force. The church record describes her as Bridget Casey, marital status single/spinster, age full (meaning she reached her majority) and marrying Richard Jackay, born in England, marital status single/spinster, age full, on 17 November 1844. The date of immigration would be prior to September 1849 as Richard was naturalized in September 1854 in Nevada County. Richard

was not found in the 1850 U.S. Census while Bridget was registered in Shasta with the two children. There is a William Jagus, age 27, born in England registered in Sacramento as a grocer but the connection is tenuous at best. Richard was not found in the 1852 California Census while Bridget was registered in Shasta with the two children. Bridget died on July 15, 1854, in Shasta of apoplexy and Richard was in Nevada County in September 1854. The family dynamics appear to be that Bridget worked and cared for the children while Richard most likely searched for gold. Bridget must have purchased a lot in Shasta after she left the Trinity House as there was a delinquent tax notice in the *Shasta Courier* in December 1859 for a town lot. After Bridget's death the family dynamics changed: Richard was listed as a farmer in Red Bluff, Tehama County in 1860 with Lewis Jackey age 16 and Richard Jackey age 12. Richard was farming 250 improved acres with 9 horses, 9 milk cows, 40 other cattle and 25 pigs and the implication is that he had earned sufficient money to purchase the ranch as he was not on the Government Land Office records. Since neither son was in school both were probably ranch laborers. By the 1870 U.S. Census both boys had moved off the ranch and Richard was listed alone as a stock dealer. In 1870 Richard was listed as having 8 horses and 500 pigs. Richard was not found on the 1880 U.S. Census and died shortly afterwards on 21 May 1881, and was buried in the Tehama Cemetery (his grave marker cites he was 61 years old).

As to the children, the eldest was Lewis Nicholas Jackey, who was born about 1845 in South Australia. Both the first and last name have multiple variations with Luis being common. In 1850 and 1852 Lewis was living in Shasta with his mother. A July 1851 edition of the *Daily Alta California* lists a letter being held at the San Francisco Post Office for a Lewis Jackey. Although the family undoubtedly came through San Francisco when they immigrated from South Australia the notice may have been for someone else as Lewis would have been only about six years old. By 1860 Lewis was reunited with his father and working on the ranch in Cottonwood, Tehama County. Lewis was not found in the 1870 U.S. Census but he undoubtedly remained in Tehama County as he registered to vote in 1872 as a laborer in Red Bluff. Lewis as a minor gained citizenship through his father's naturalization in 1854. In 1880 Lewis was living on the farm of William and Roberta Langheim in Red Bluff and working as a laborer. Lewis appears to have saved sufficient money to buy a farm of his own as in April 1885 he received a patent from the Government Land Office for a cash purchase of 155.71 acres in Sections 18 and 30 of Township 28 North Range 3 West between Cottonwood and Red Bluff. After 1885 nothing was found on Lewis Jackey.

The youngest child of Richard and Bridget Jackey was Richard Phillip Jackey, who was born about 1848 in South Australia and would have been one or two years old when the family immigrated. In 1850 and 1852 Richard Phillip, or R. P. as he was often listed, was living in Shasta with his mother. By 1860 Lewis was reunited with his father and working on the ranch in Cottonwood, Tehama County. Lewis was not found in the 1870 U.S. Census but in 1871 he registered to vote in Tehama County as a laborer. By 1879 Richard had moved to Modoc County and took up residence in Cedarville where in the 1880 U. S. Census he was listed as a sheep shearer. There is an indication that he may have become a businessman as in December of 1886 he was appointed the postmaster. At the time, post offices often were incorporated inside established businesses and when these changed so did the postmasters and location of the post office. Richard served as postmaster until removed in October 1891. In 1892 Richard registered to vote as a photographer. Richard died in Cedarville on 24 May 1896. Richard must have been popular as a July 1901 newspaper story cites, "last week a handsome tombstone was placed on

the grave of R. P. Jackey in the Cedarville Cemetery. The Cedarville Dramatic Club subscribed \$26.45 towards it and the balance was raised by subscription."

New information: Jo Giessner answered a few questions with entries from Giles' Centennial History of Shasta County, California: "Early Hotels. 1850-St. Charles, erected by Jas. Macly & Co. Trinity House, erected by W. S. Bonnifield. These were the first two frame buildings in Shasta. Built from lumber whipsawed by Jonathan Otis \$1000 per 1000 feet." Note it should read Jas. Maclay & Co. By 1852 Shasta had seven hotels, the St. Charles, Trinity, New Eldorado, Globe, Shasta, old Dominion, and Kossuth House. Another find was made in Boggs' My Playhouse Was a Concord Coach: "RECORDS OF SHASTA COUNTY, Tuesday, June 17, 1851. Know all men by these presents that we David Corsaut & William Bonnifield of the County of Shasta & State of California for and in consideration of the sum of twenty five hundred dollars to us in hand paid by Bridget Jackey of the same place the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have this day bargained sold released remised and quit claimed unto the said Bridget Jackey her heirs & assigns forever all our rights title interest & claim (being two undivided thirds in & to a certain house and lot situated in the town of Shasta County and State aforesaid and bounded & described as follows to wit: beginning at a stake on the South West line of the main or principal street of said Town at the South East corner of the lot now occupied by J. Callahan & Co. thence South East along the South West line of said street one hundred and twenty six feet to a stake thence S. W. at right angles with said street one hundred and sixty feet thence N. W. parallel with said street one hundred and twenty six feet thence North East one hundred and sixty feet to the place of beginning together with our entire interest in the furniture and fixtures of said house and the corral attached or connected with said house, known as the Trinity House with all and singular the privileges & appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way wise appertaining. Witness our hands & seals this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1851.

DAVID CORSAUT (LS)

WILLIAM BONNIFIELD (LS)

A.S. BALDWIN

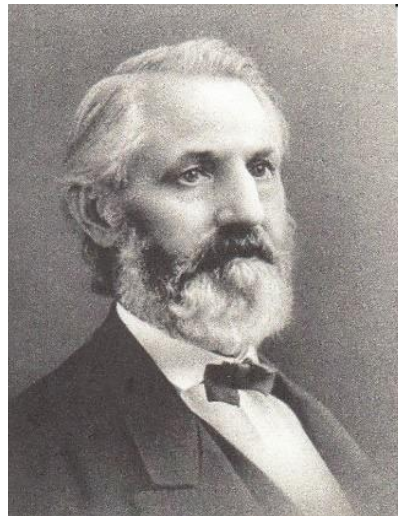
R.T. SPRAGUE

Filed for record 6 P.M. September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1851

JESSEE ROBINSON, Recorder By JOHN C. BYRNS Depty."

Jesse R. Robinson was born in August 1825 in New York and came to California in 1849. Jesse may have trained as a physician prior to coming to California as he is later listed as Doctor Robinson. In the 1850 U.S. Census he was listed in Shasta as a landlord. In the election of 7 October 1850, Jesse was elected to the combined office of Recorder and Assessor on the same slate as David Corsant. In February 1851 both Jesse and David Corsant attended the Court of Sessions that appointed John C. Byrnes as Recorder-Assessor and William Bonnifield, County Surveyor. In 1854 Jesse married Lavina Jane Constant (1834-1931) and by 1855 the couple was living in Oregon. Jesse joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Oregon Cavalry Regiment raised in December 1861 as the regimental quartermaster. The headquarters of the regiment was at Fort Walla Walla, Washington. Jesse must have been impressed with the regimental commander Col. Reuben F. Maury as he named his third child Maury A. Robinson. The regiment was mustered out in 1866 and Jesse settled in Oakland by 1868. In 1880 and 1882 Jesse was elected Oakland Assessor. In his later years Jesse became a fruit raiser in Vacaville. Jesse died in Solano County in 1899 leaving three children: Chester Larned 1856-1933, Edward Constant 1856-1940, and Maury 1860-1946.

R.T. Sprague is Royal Tyler Sprague who was born in 1814 in Vermont. Royal move to New York where he taught elementary school before moving to Zanesville, Ohio. Royal took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in Ohio. In 1844 Royal married Francis Blocksom in Ohio. In March 1849, Royal left his wife and two children, Anna Maria (1845-1879) and Arthur Hale (1848-1922), and took the Applegate Trail to California. Royal mined on Clear Creek for a short period before opening a law practice at Reading's Springs (Shasta). In April 1852 Royal returned to Ohio to bring his family west by the Isthmus of Panama. In 1852 Royal was elected on the Democratic Ticket to California Senate at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session (1852). Royal was reelected for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> term. In 1853 Royal cofounded the first public school in Northern California in conjunction with Benjamin Shurtleff and Isaac Roop. Royal was President Pro Tem in the California Senate in 1855. Royal was appointed an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court in 1867 and moved his residence to Sacramento in 1868. Royal became Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court in January 1871 but died in February 1872. Royal and his wife Francis had two children born in California: Ella (1853-1855) and Frances Royal (1864-1957).



Royal T. Sprague in 1870

A.S. Baldwin was Albert Stewart Baldwin who was born about 1824 in Ohio. In 1848 to 1849 Albert attended the medical school at Western Reserve College (now Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine). Albert was listed in the 1852 U.S. Census as a physician practicing in Shasta. In March 1853 Albert's advertisement in the Shasta Courier read physician and surgeon, "office nearly opposite the Shasta Book Store and a few doors below the Post Office." In June 1853 Albert announced a partnership with Dr. J. A. Raymond but in September 1853 he announced he would be absent from California. Albert returned by July 1854 when his office was listed as "a few doors above the St. Charles." In 1866 Albert relocated to San Francisco where he practiced medicine until his death in 1883. In 1874 Albert married Mary Elizabeth Beers in Alameda County.

John C. Byrns is listed in the 1850 U. S. Census and as John C. Byrnes in his appointment to Recorder and Assessor at the Court of Sessions session of February 12, 1851 (at the same session William Bonnifield was appointed County Surveyor). In the 1850 U.S. Census John was listed as a trader, born about 1793 in Pennsylvania, previous living in Illinois.

New information on John A. Dreibelbis and Andrew Hunter:

John A. Dreibelbis was believed to be the son of Jacob Dreibelbis who was born in Pennsylvania in 1782 and Anna Margaret (Margaretta) Musch who was born in France in 1784. If the family history is correct John was born James Augustus in 1817 in Schuylkill County Pennsylvania. James enlisted in 1847 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment listing his occupation as carpenter. The regiment floated down the Ohio River to New Orleans then boarded ships to participate in the Siege of Vera Cruz under General Winfield Scott. Following the capture of Vera Cruz, the regiment march to capture Mexico City. James was discharged in 1848 with the notation DIH (believed to be discharged in hospital). For a man with many reported accomplishments there are few entries for him in public records such as the various U.S. Census. Marilyn Rountree and Jo Giessner were able to provide some confirmation through newspaper files. John was in Shasta County by 1853 and reportedly established a ferry across the Pit River along with a partner within a mile of one operated by George W. Silverthorne. The license for John was not found, but an article in March 1855 cites a "Pitt River ferry belonging to John Dreibelbis was carried away" by high water. In 1858 George Silverthorne who had been the sole owner since 1854 moved his ferry where it continued to be operated by the Silverthorne family until 1944. No conformation was found that John was part of the initial group sent by the merchants at Shasta to prove the feasibility of the Noble's Trail, but John was well associated with the trail as was pointed out in a November 1853 *Shasta Courier* stating that John had been over the trail four times and was well qualified to make presentations to the Pacific Railroad Committee. In February of 1854 John did participate in a Pacific Railroad Convention at Red Bluff and Marysville that tried to raise funds to survey the Noble's route (John being proposed as one of the surveyors). In May of 1857 John was superintendent of the crews' making improvements on the "Shasta Emigrant Road from Shasta to the Honey Lake Valley". Also, in 1857 John along with Royal T. Sprague and W. S. Jenkins testified to exaggerations of the snow levels on the Noble's route made by others to deter its utilization as a possible railroad route.

John was well known for his dealings with Native Americans. In June of 1854 John called for assistance from Fort Reading after twelve Chinese and two whites were killed on the Cloud (McCloud) River. Col Wright who had previously resolved a conflict on the McCloud River was unable to send troops to separate the two factions. In January of 1855 John appealed for assistance from Indian Agent Henley to resolve starvation in the tribes around the Pit River. The Indian Agent replied stating, "My authority however goes no further than to remove and subsist Indians on reservations selected for that purpose. I have no authority to feed them in their present location." John proposed a temporary reservation be established in the Pit River region which might lead to their removal by consent to the Nome-Lackee Reservation. John was suggested as sub-agent as he was "best acquainted with the feelings and wants of the Indians." John would later be appointed Indian Agent for the Northern District of California in 1860.

In June of 1855 John did participate in the Battle of the Crags (Castle Crags). Rumors of a lost gold mine spurred a rush to Siskiyou County causing a disruption of food resources for the Modoc and multiple wanton killings. The Modoc retaliated and drove off a regular military force from Fort Jones. Chief Wielputus who was a traditional enemy of the Modoc, gathered twenty-nine Shasta and asked his son-in-law Reuben Gibson to recruit settlers to drive off the Modoc. Gibson gathered a volunteer militia that included John Dreibelbis and poet Joaquin Miller and attacked the Modoc near Castle Crags killing their chief and restoring an uneasy peace to the area.



John was on the Democratic Ticket for Sheriff in August 1855 but later in the month announced he was ill at William P. Daingerfield's Ranch (William was on the same ticket for District Judge). The illness seems not to have hurt his campaign as in September 1855 it was announced he beat Jackson on the Know Nothing ticket. There was obviously no lame-duck period as in November 1855 Sheriff Dreibelbis and Deputy Sheriff William Magee along with seventy-five guards participated in the first legal execution by hanging in Shasta County. John escorted A.E. Higgins, who had been convicted of the murder of D. C. Goodwin, about one half mile north of town to the specially constructed gallows. The execution was watched by a crowd of about 2,500. John was spared his second hanging in January 1857 when Charles Blair received a stay of execution from Governor Johnson. The rest of John's service as Sheriff seemed relatively plain: collecting Chinese Miner's Tax, escorting an insane man to the Insane Asylum of the State of California at Stockton (founded in 1851), holding property sales upon orders of the Court, and operating a jail. John was in the newspapers for two of these issues: in January 1856 there was a complaint that he had not collected the Miner's Tax since October 1855 (his defense was no blank licenses had been forwarded by the State) and in 1859 he was cited for issuing script for the operation of the jail to be paid by Shasta County. The law required the Sheriff to keep the jail without additional pay from the County. Friends put through an "Act to provide for the compensation of the keeper of the County Jail in the County of Shasta, and the payment of such serviced in former years." The act of the State Legislature told the Board of Supervisors they may issue new script that will be binding against the County. John was then serving on the Board of Supervisors, and it is not known how the matter was resolved.

In August 1858 John was nominated for Supervisor of the 1<sup>st</sup> District and won as he served from November 1858 to February 1860. In February 1858 there was a notice that a portion of the Dreibelbus & Ludwig Bridge over Cottonwood Creek had washed away in heavy rains. Frederick Wilhelm Ludwig had purchased 360 acres and the unfinished bridge from John Graff in 1855. From the article it appears John was a partner in the first toll bridge in Shasta County. The business relationship also explains why John made an application to the Board of Supervisors approved in April 1858 to purchase land in Section 16, Township 29 North Range 4 West at the bridge site. No patent was found listed by the Government Land Office, but Ludwig received a patent for neighboring land December of 1861. John is listed as purchasing two forty-acre parcels in Section 25 Township 31 North Range 1 East in 1862. The land is east of Shingletown of the road to Honey Lake Valley, and this may be the location of Dreibelbis Flat named in his honor. It was noted that John also had a residence in Shasta as he was listed on High Street in May 1858 and in November 1858 an advertisement noted to call upon him for produce from Honey Lake Valley at his corral opposite the American Hotel.

In March 1860 John represented Shasta County at the California Democratic Convention in Sacramento starting a tumultuous year. John was appointed a Democratic delegate to the National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina in May of 1860. After 54 ballots the compromise candidate Stephen Douglas failed to reach the 2/3 vote necessary to stand as the party candidate and the convention adjourned to be reconvened in Baltimore. The pro-slavery delegates held their own convention that nominated John C. Breckenridge of Kentucky and endorsed a pro-slavery platform. At the Baltimore Convention the fracturing of the Democratic Party lead to the rise of the anti-slavery Republican Party and later a little-known Abraham Lincoln defeated the Southern Democrat John C. Breckenridge, the Democrat Stephen Douglas, and the Constitutional Union candidate John Bell. While in the east John accepted the appointment as Indian Agent for Northern California from James Buchanan who wanted compromise at

the 1860 Convention. The appointment led to multiple newspaper comments: "Dreibelbis is the man who went to Charleston as a delegate, voted with the Yanceyites, and came back an Indian Agent." Others cite, "Major John Dreibelbis, a delegate from California to the Charleston Convention, and who went with the Breckenridgers." Whatever the reality John returned to growing Indian problems centering on Mendocino County and was replaced by the incoming administration and surrendered his office in July 1861, three months after Confederate forces opened fire on Ft. Sumter. John used the honorific title of Major while performing his duties as an Indian Agent and this appears to be the reason he was cited as serving in the California Militia during the Civil War. No records were found that he was appointed an officer in the California Militia.

After John's appointment as an Indian Agent ended his newspaper trail thins almost to the point of extinction. There is a note that in November of 1862 he was taken ill in Humboldt (presumably the area in northern Nevada) after examining an ox that died suddenly. In 1873 there was a notice in the Red Bluff Sentinel that a Government Land Office patent for Tehama County remained at the Shasta Land Office (it is possibly the 1858 transaction on Cottonwood Creek). There are speculations that John moved to San Francisco, possibly married Mary Ann Lane born about 1820 in New York, and died around 1875.

James and Andrew Hunter: By family history James and Andrew were the sons of John Hunter (born in Scotland in 1781) and Elizabeth Brown. James oldest sister Agnes was born in Scotland in 1821, while James and Andrew were born in Ireland. According to the family history the family arrived in New York and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before settling in Linn County, Wisconsin Territory about 1830 (the county became part of Iowa on 1838). John and Elizabeth Hunter had five children: Agnes Matilda born 1821, Andrew 1826, James 1827, John birth date unknown, George birth date unknown, and William birth date unknown. It is not known which of the children made the trip to California and from the appearance of Andrew Hunter's will the family was not close other than James and Andrew. The brothers had a ranch on Cottonwood Creek by 1853 and the livery stable on Trinity Alley in Shasta by 1854. In June 1854 the brothers had won a legal claim for \$393.30 plus costs against John Temple (his ranch on the north side of Cottonwood Creek about two miles from William Lean's was seized and subject to a constable's sale in front of the "Belle" in Red Bluff). By 1858 the brothers had left Shasta County and in October 1858 James married Celia Stewart (1834-1898) in Sonoma County. On the 1860 U.S. Census James was listed as a farmer at Vallejo, Solano County with \$5,000 in real estate and \$5,000 in personal property. James was living with Celia born in Indiana, and James W. age one born in California. On the same page Andrew Hunter was listed as single, also a farmer with \$5,000 in real estate and \$5,000 in personal property. James would go on to have four other children: Sarah Agnes 1863, Flora Jane 1866, Harvey S. 1873, and Alena Maude 1877. Andrew appears to have never married and in 1900 was living as a lodger in San Francisco and listed as a manufacturer. By 1901 James had also in San Francisco where he was listed as a "specialist." The 1907 San Francisco Directory lists both Andrew and James at 3621 Clay Street (Andrew was listed as retired and James as a capitalist). James posted the following notice in August 1907, "Andrew Hunter beloved brother of James Hunter, a native of Ireland, aged 81 years, 2 months, and 3 days." Andrew named James the executor and the estate was estimated as \$21,000 in real estate and annual rents of \$1700 in Solano County. A portion of Andrew's will follows:

William Hunter, brother 1\$ and 1\$ for each of his children if any,  
John Hunter, brother 1\$ and 1\$ for each of his children if any,

George Hunter, deceased brother 1\$ and 1\$ for each of his children: John, Edward, William, Mary, and Elizabeth.

Agnes Hunter Hamilton, deceased sister 1\$ and 1\$ for each Alice and Maggie Hamilton

Robert, James, and Agnes Safely 1\$ each and 1\$ for each of their children if any.

James Hunter, brother, the remainder of the estate.

James Hunter died in San Francisco in October 1918.

The first collaborative challenge is coming to a close. In February we will post any new material sent in by readers and in March summarize the findings. I would like to thank the four readers who participated for proving that 1) collaborative work is possible, and 2) even if readers do not want to “write” they can still have an important voice.