

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.

The articles for January 2024 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County Part 6, A. F. Gaines to Hyde, 2) Gold Rush Letter David Spangler Epler, South Fork Scott River November 23, 1856, 3) Gold Rush Letter John Fowler, Bald Hills, January 7, 1857, and 4) Clementina "Tina" Zorn (Mrs. Frank Kindleberger)

Early Photographers of Shasta County

A. F. Gaines – operated in Redding in 1889.

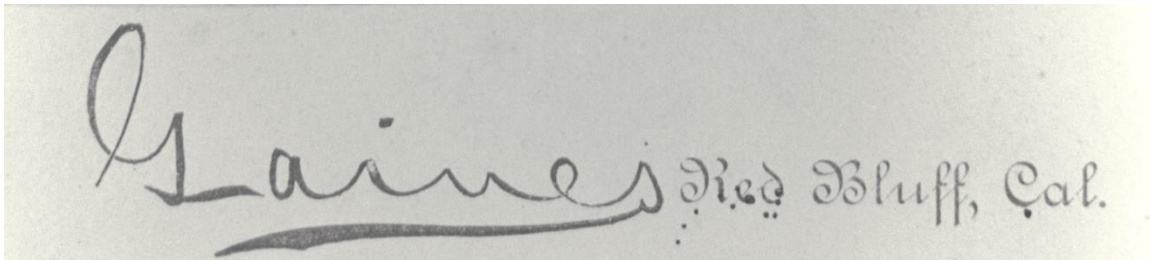
No biographical data was found on A. F. Gaines other than he was at Redding in 1889.

F. H. Gaines – operated in Red Bluff in September 1887.

Flave (also given as Flavel) H. Gaines was born about 1847 in Missouri. In 1870 he was working in a dry goods store but by 1880 he had established himself in Missouri as a photographer. By the early 1880s Flave had settled as a photographer in Sacramento with his wife Mona L. McWilliams born 1848 and three children: Clarence, Stella and Lora. Mona died of consumption in 1884. Flave was known to travel in northern California and was at Red Bluff in September 1887. Flave died in Sacramento in 1899.



Portrait of three unidentified women taken by F. H. Gaines. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Trademark of Flave H. Gaines.

Franklin Quirk Gates – operated from 1892 to 1906 in Anderson.



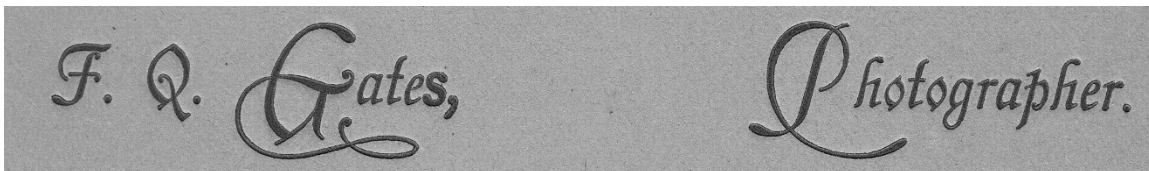
Portrait of Franklin Quirk Gates.

Franklin Quirk Gates was born in 1871 in Minnesota. His parents William Cummings Gates 1830-1906 and Margaret Ann Archer 1841-1941 moved to the Dakota Territory about 1880. Franklin moved to Anderson in Shasta County in 1892 and registered as a photographer. In 1896 Franklin married Grace Mabel Sutton 1880-1951. Franklin and Grace's two children: Charles Archer 1897-1971 Thelma Juanita 1902-1974 were born in Shasta County.

Sometime after 1906 the family moved to Santa Clara County where he appears to have tried stock farming but by 1920 Franklin had opened up a photography studio in San Francisco. In 1930 Franklin was still listed as a photographer in San Francisco. Franklin died in 1938.



"Baby Bunk Hildreth" (Edward Hildreth 1891-1892, the son of Mahlon Parker Hildreth) taken by Franklin Quirk Gates.



Trademark of Franklin Quirk Gates.



Franklin Gates may have kept some ties to Anderson after 1906 as a number of photographs in the Anderson Historical Society collection are marked as Gates in 1909. This example is the Everett Baker Store float decorated for the Floral Carnival in Anderson on May 1, 1909.



The Fraternal Brotherhood Float at the Floral Festival in Anderson on May 1, 1909 and marked Gates.

John B. Gibbs – operated at French Gulch about 1895 to 1896.

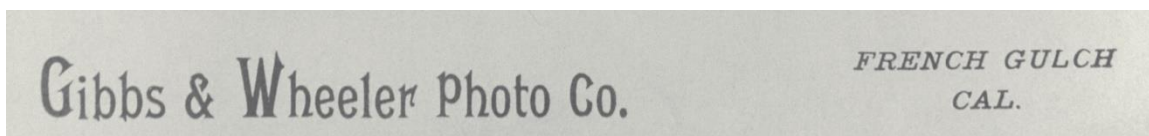
John B. Gibbs was born in 1861 in North Carolina and appears to have begun his photographic career in Oregon. A note was published at Medford, Oregon in 1893 that the partnership of Gibbs & Wheeler had moved from Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon to Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. In 1895 the partners were working at French Gulch in Shasta County. In 1896 a note in the Jackson County newspaper cited that Gibbs had written from Lewiston in Trinity County that the partnership was dissolved and that Gibbs had married a Miss Dollie Lease at French Gulch. Gibbs did marry Mary Leas (born in 1872 in Iowa) in 1876 and on the 1900 U. S. Census he was operating a boarding house at Lewiston. In 1910 Gibbs was operating a stock ranch at Junction City and in 1920 was working on a fruit ranch in Sonoma County. On the 1930 U. S. Census Mary was listed as a widow with four children: Edith 1897, Florence 1900, Georgia 1903 and Donald 1908.

Gibbs & Wheeler Photo Company – operated about 1895 to 1896 at French Gulch.

A long-term partnership begun in Oregon at least by 1893 with John B. Gibbs and Wheeler. The partners operated at French Gulch about 1895 to 1896. Biographical material is provided under each artist's individual name.



Portrait of an unidentified woman taken by Gibbs & Wheeler at French Gulch. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Trademark of Gibbs & Wheeler.

Green, Arthur H. – operated at Castle Crags about 1892.

Arthur H. Green was born about 1859 in South Africa. His father was born in Canada and his mother in England and Arthur immigrated in 1884. In 1890 he was listed as a warehouseman in Vina,

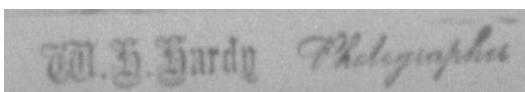
Tehama County and was naturalized the same year. In 1892 Arthur registered at Castle Crags then disappears from the record. In 1910 Arthur was on the U. S. Census in San Jose and listed as a commercial photographer. Arthur was believed to have died in 1939.

William Henry Hardy – operated in Shasta County in the 1890s.

William Henry Hardy was born about 1842 in Ohio. In February 1865 William enlisted in Company K, 185th Ohio Infantry Regiment. His unit was assigned to Nashville Tennessee but were diverted to duty in Kentucky until being mustered out of service in September 1865. William first was found as a photographer in Redding in the 1890s before moving to Santa Clara County. Between 1905 and 1910 William was listed at San Jose, Los Gatos and Sunnyvale. In 1911 William was admitted to the National Home for Disabled Veterans in Los Angeles where he was believed to have died in 1913.



Portrait of a young girl taken by W. H. Hardy. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Trademark of William H. Hardy.



This photograph taken by Hardy is from the Mammoth Mine in Buckeye rather than the copper mine to the northwest with the same name.

Hellen, Lottie M. – operated in Redding in 1900.

The artist's married name was Mrs. Lottie M. Hellen but in the 1900 U. S. Census for Redding she was listed as divorced and born in Oregon in 1873. In 1900 she was living with her sister Ora Payne born in 1881 in Oregon. Ora's parents were listed as Thomas Jefferson Payne and Mary Warren. Prior to operating in Redding Lottie was listed as a portrait artist in San Francisco. It appears Lottie relocated to Oakland late in 1900 where she was associated Miss E. Garniere (Hellen & Garniere) and Mrs. Emma Warren (Hellen & Warren). Nothing was found about the artist after 1901.

Edwin Bliss Hendee – operated at Shasta from August 1855 to August 1856.

Edwin Bliss Hendee was born about 1824 in Vermont and started his photographic career in New York City around 1845. Edwin was the brother of Denny H. Hendee who was a well-known photographer. The Hendee brothers left for California in 1849 and arrived at San Francisco in January 1850. While waiting spring, Edwin worked for a short period at a gallery in San Francisco before the brothers moved to Sonora to mine gold. At Sonora Edwin purchased daguerreotype equipment and started a business under the name Hendee Brothers.

In 1851 the brothers separated with Edwin first moving to Marysville before returning to San Francisco. Edwin operated for a short period of time at Benicia in 1851. In 1852 Edwin formed a partnership with a photographer named Edwards in Auburn.

By August Edwin was at Shasta operating out of the Eagle Hotel. Edwin publicized the new stereoscopic views and by May 1856 was doing ambrotypes. From August 1856 to January 1857 Edwin was operating in Weaverville. Edwin reunited with his brother in Oroville in April 1857 under the name E. D. & D. H. Hendee but the partnership only lasted a few months. For a period Edwin drops out of photography and in the draft registration of 1863 he was listed as a farmer at Oroville.

In December 1863, Edwin reunited with his previous partner Edwards under the name Edwards & Hendee at Rough and Ready. The partnership lasted into 1864 when Edwin appears to have returned to farming. In 1869 Edwin's nursery was successful enough that he opens a branch in San Francisco. Edwin left the Oroville operation to a supervisor and resided in San Francisco where he died in 1871.

John Baptiste Higinbotham – operated at Shasta 1864 to April 1866, January-May 1867, 1868-1869, Red Bluff April 1866-January 1867, 1869-1873, Millville May 1867, and Igo 1875.

John Baptiste Higinbotham was born in New York about 1817 and appears to have begun his photographic career in Michigan in 1857 where he was a partner in Higinbotham & Selkirk (1862) and Higinbotham & Green (1863) In 1864 John was in California with Oliver H. P. Norcross (Norcross & Higinbotham) conducting a traveling ambrotype and photographic gallery. In September 1864 the partners were at Weaverville and Junction City in Trinity County.

The partnership appears to have ended in October 1864 when John occupied the gallery of John Oliver Welsh in Shasta. John remained in Shasta until 1866 when he temporarily joined Oliver Norcross to buy the Burgess Gallery in Red Bluff. In 1867 John operated in three towns: from January to May he operated out of the Odd Fellow's Block in Shasta, in May he was at Millville, then returned to Red Bluff. John operated in Shasta in 1868 before returning to Red Bluff in 1869. John was known to operate at Red Bluff until 1873.

John's interests included mining as he was noted as developing a quicksilver mine on the South Fork of Clear Creek possibly in conjunction with Reall Monroe Bottsford. In 1875 John registered as an artist in Igo near his mining interest. There was no successful mercury operation on the South Fork of Clear Creek and it appears John drops off the record after 1875.

Bessie Honn – operated in Redding from about 1900 to about 1907.

Bessie Delight Honn born in 1874 in Iowa was the daughter of local real estate developer David Nelson Honn 1837-1922 and Grizzella Morrison about 1840-1913. In 1899 she was listed in the Los Angeles Directory but in 1900 was living with her parents in Redding and operating a photographic studio. About 1907 Bessie married Charles Frazier born about 1863 in Canada. The couple relocated to Los Angeles and it is not known if Bessie continued to work as a photographer. By 1930 Bessie and Charles were divorced. Bessie died in San Francisco in 1958.



Portrait of Ivy Palmer taken by Bessie Honn.



Trademark of Bessie Honn's studio in Redding.

Thomas Houseman – operated at Baird about 1880.

Thomas Houseman was noted primarily as a San Francisco photographer but was known to have contracted specific jobs in other areas. About 1880 Thomas contracted with Dr. Livingston Stone 1836-1912 to photograph the U. S. Fish Hatchery that he established at Baird in 1872. The commission included not only photographs of the fish hatchery but also the McCloud River area and the local Winneman Wintu who provided most of the working staff. The majority of these photographs now rest in the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institute.

Thomas was born in New York City in 1828 and in 1848 sailed to California to mine gold. Thomas quickly teamed up with George S. Lawrence in Calaveras County before they tried their luck in Trinity County. By 1851 the search for quick riches had died and Lawrence became a jeweler in San Francisco while Thomas opened an optical shop. By 1855 the partners reunited to establish Lawrence & Houseworth specializing in the new craze in stereographs and equipment. Lawrence left the company in 1868 and Thomas continued on as Thomas Houseworth & Company doing both photography and optical work. After 1870 Thomas's business began to decline but he continued working in photography until 1904 when he became a fulltime optometrist. Thomas Houseworth died in San Francisco in 1915.

Edgar Wade Howell – operated in Redding in 1891 to 1893.

Edgar Wade Howell was born in 1858 in Napa County. Edgar was the son of David Howell 1828-1885 and Martha Ellen Wade 1840-1931. In 1885 and 1886 Edgar registered to vote in Redding as a painter. By 1891 Edgar was working in Yreka, Siskiyou County and was associated with John C. Franklin (Franklin & Howell) and was often in Shasta County as part of the partnership. In 1896 Edgar was still working as a photographer in Yreka but by 1900 had become an attorney. About the same period Edgar married Minnie Rose Eggers 1874-1969. By 1910 Edgar had moved to Seattle, Washington to practice law. Edgar died in Washington in 1943.

Hudson – operated in Redding in 1898.

No biographical data was found on Hudson other than he had a short-term partnership with Emil F. Seifert in Redding in 1898.

William Hyde – operated in Shasta County about 1875.

William Hyde was born in Kentucky in about 1833. In 1870 he was operating in Oroville and from 1871 to 1872 in Chico, Butte County. In 1870 William was associated with another photographer, A. E. Brinkenhoof in Chico. William was believed to be the partner of Thomas G. Brooks (Brooks & Hyde) in Shasta County about 1875.

Gold Rush Letters

David Spangler Epler, South Fork Scott River, November 23,
1856

51430J
South Fork
Scott River

Siskiyou Co Cal
Nov 23rd 1856

Dear brother

It has been about
a few days since I have
written, but as the day is stormy
without, I thought it would be
very good past time to pen you
a few lines, informing you
that I am in good health, also
to give you a few words of caution
about directing your letters, for
I am confident that I don't
get one third of your letters I
have received but 4 letters, all told
since I landed in California
3 of which was written by yourself
of the following dates, Feb 14th 56, Apr
27th 56, July 23rd 56 and one from
you & Nancy of Feb 14th. Be very careful
that you have ^{them} rightly stamped.
If you can ^{get} the stamped envelope
similar to the one in which
this is enclosed it would, be
much the best. From the fact
your letters have a long distance
to travel before they reach me

and where the stamps are merely pasted on it is liable to be rubbed off before it reaches its destination. I have answered every letter I have received and have written several others besides. I do not want to lose a single line you write. You cannot imagine the satisfaction ^{it is} to me in this mountain land to hear that there is a letter in the Express Office for D. S. Epler. I assure you I lose no time until it is under my perusal.

We had quite a lively time here on the day of the election about the time the polls opened a couple of the Game Cocks had a set too a broken nose and couple of black eyes was the result so commenced the morning. Things went on quietly until in the afternoon when some of the boys who had been imbibing pretty freely during the day began to feel their coats. They commenced on Fremont men who were far and far between.

Swearing that they could
whip any damned rascal that
would vote for Fremont. The
Black Republican Party finding
they were rather weak. Concluded
they had better go home and go
to work. So off they went. After
the polls were closed and the
judges & clerks were making out
the returns, an hombre whose
vote one of the judges had chal-
lenged came in and hunted the
said judge a challenge to meet
him with pistols at certain
place the next morning at six
o'clock. The judge informed him
that he did not get any particular
time to settle his difficulties
that there was no time like
the present so he pitched into
the hombre and gave him a
nice pair of black eyes. So
ended ~~the~~ the Election day
on the South Fork of Scott River
a day long to be remembered -
Mr Geo Cattle Fremont "The Feather
Bed mountaineer" was not quite
so popular in California as his

friends imagined he had
better be looking after his
Mariposa Grant or the boys
will dig it all up while he
is prospecting after the Preside^{ment}
I wish you to write often
and neither spare paper ink
nor pens. My Compliments
to all. Direct your letter
as follows:

South Fork Yreka Siskiyou Co
Scott River Cal

I ever remain your
affectionate Brother
Jas. M. Epler } J. S. Epler

South Fork

Siskiyou County

Scott River

Nov. 23rd 1856

Dear Brother

It has been but a few days since I have written but as the day is stormy without I thought it would be a good past time to pen you a few lines informing you that I am in good health also to give you a few words of caution about directing your letters for I am confident that I do not get one third of your letters. I have received but four letters all told since I landed in California three of which was written by yourself of the following dates Feb. 14th '56, April 27th '56, July 23rd '56 and one from Jno. & Nancy of Feb. 14th. Be very careful that you have them rightly stamped. If you get the stamped envelope similar to the one in which this is enclosed it would be much the best. From the first your letters have a long distance to travel before they reach me and where the stamp is merely pasted on it is liable to be rubbed off before it reaches its destination. I have answered every letter I have received and have written several others besides. I do not want to lose a single line you write. You cannot imagine the satisfaction it is to me in this mountain land to hear that there is a letter in the express office for D. S. Epler. I assure you I loose no time until it is under my perusal.

We had quite a lively time here on the day of the election. About the time the polls opened a couple of the game Cocks had a set too. A broken nose and a couple of black eyes was the result. So commenced the morning. Things went on quietly until in the afternoon when some of the boys who had been imbibing pretty freely during the day began to feel their oats. They commenced on Fremont men who were few and far between swearing that they could whip any damned rascal that would vote for Fremont. The Black Republican Party finding they were rather weak concluded they had better go home and go to work, so off they went. After the polls were closed and the judges and clerk were making out the returns an hombre whose vote on the judges had challenged came in and handed the said judge a challenge to meet him with pistol at certain place the next morning at six o'clock. The judge informed him that he did not set any particular time to settle his difficulties that there was no time like the present. So he pitched into the hombre and gave him a nice pair of black eyes. So ended the election day on the South Fork of Scott River a day long remembered. Mr. Jno Cattle Fremont, the feather bed mountaineer was not quite so popular in California as his friends imagined. He had better be looking after his Mariposa Grant or the boys will dig it all up while he is prospecting after the presidency.

I wish you to write often and neither spare paper ink nor pens. My copliments to all. Direct your letter as follows

South Fork Yreka Siskiyou Co.

Scott River Cal.

I ever remain your affectionate brother

Jas. M. Epler

D. S. Epler

The letter was written by David Spangler Epler, who was born in Indiana in 1829. He was the son of David Epler 1804-1877 and Elizabeth Neil Spangler 1807-1829 who may have died in childbirth. It was not found when David came to California or by what route but he was listed as a miner in Siskiyou County on the California State Census of 1852. David appears to have liked the life of a miner as in the U.

S. Census of 1870 he was listed as a miner in Jackson, Oregon. The last entry found for David was in 1876 when he registered to vote as a miner at Crescent City in Del Norte County. After 1876 nothing was found about David although he was believed to have died in California.

The letter was addressed to James M. Epler who appears to be David's half brother. David's father remarried and in the 1850 U. S. Census had six children. David was absent in 1850 U. S. Census so there is a possibility David came to California prior to 1852. James was born in 1837 and attended college becoming a lawyer. James served for ten years in the Illinois House and Senate before moving to Washington where he died in 1920.

In the letter David is advising his brother of new postal regulations. In 1855 postage stamps were made compulsory. Although first printed in 1847 the supply of stamps were not readily available especially in the territories added after the Mexican War. Some did not like the stamps because they could fall off but in 1856 there were two choices: use the stamps or used stamped envelopes. The stamped envelopes were made by private contractors beginning in 1853, and sold at the post office for the cost of postage plus a small charge for manufacturing. In 1856 the contractor was George F. Nesbitt & Co. and envelopes were printed in three cent or ten cent varieties. In April 1855 prepayment became compulsory and the rates were set at three cents per half ounce under three thousand miles and ten cents per half ounce over three thousand miles. David later in the letter talks about the letters going to an express office. These were private carriers that provided a need to carry mail between established post offices and isolated camps for an additional fee.

David addresses the "Black Republican Party" and the term was used by many as the Republican Party formed in 1854 was opposed to the expansion of slavery into the western territories, at the time particularly Kansas. The candidate of the Republican Party was John Charles Fremont or as David calls him John Cattle Fremont. Fremont would lead five expeditions to the west and the penny posts of the period named him "the pathfinder," while David uses "the feather bed mountaineer." Many in California remembered him from the Mexican War as commander of the California Battalion and his later attempt to retain the governorship during the military occupation. Other remembered him when he was junior U. S. Senator from California in 1850 to 1851 when he was a free soil democrat. In 1847 Fremont purchased seventy square miles in the Sierra foothills known as Las Mariposa (Mariposa Grant in David's letter) and shortly thereafter gold was discovered making Fremont very rich. The gold also caused a long and bitter dispute over ownership and squatter's rights that made Fremont many additional detractors.

In 1856 Fremont was the first candidate for president from the Republican Party with William L. Dayton running for vice president. The Democratic Party nominated James Buchanan and the Know Nothings (American Party) nominated Millard Fillmore. James Buchanan easily won the election and Fremont even failed to carry his home state of California.

January 7, 1857, Bald Hills, John Fowler

Palau Hills Cal^a Jan^y. 7. 1874.
Dear Father —

Hereafter you will please direct your letters to me at Shasta and I wish you to loose no time in answering this letter —

In Coming up to this place my horse let down in one of his fore legs in the hard road while under a full lope, and fell so quick I could not guard against it. I was caught with my left knee under the saddle & the horse rolling over me almost bursted me, but now my scabs have fallen off and I am "Erect on my pasterns" with a gain of 13 pounds since my departure from Sac. City. I am well pleased with my present location and have not the slightest doubt as to the money making ~~part~~ part —

The major portion of this letter will be a studied one — I have been making all the enquiries necessary and have been prepared to write for several days but forgot that our teamster was to leave tomorrow morning & that I ought to have my letter ready for him to carry out to the Bluffs so as to be mailed in the first mail for the States

We have no mail but an expressman rides here every Sunday —

On account of these circumstances
I cannot write as fully as I at first
intended but I will write as fully
as I can tonight —

Sam Love has a Rancho of 160 acres
all enclosed with a fence and with
80 acres broken up — The 80 acres we are
now breaking up to seed, and the
major portion is already seeded and
the balance will be put in as soon as the
weather will permit —

Upon the Ranch there is not a foot of
ground but will show the color of gold
and at least 55 acres of the land will
yield to a Chinaman \$2. per day and to
an American \$3. per day in Gold washing
I went up the other day and prospected
with a pan & a stick to stir it with in
order to keep my hands out of the water
and in all the places I prospected the
average yield of gold was \$3. per day to
the hand — to say nothing about any future
improvements which may be made in
saving the fine, light gold —

We have a trading house with four rooms
in it together with bunks &c. to sleep all
transient gentlemen & a boarding House ditto

with \$2.50 for supper, breakfast & Lodging
and now! to the poor devil who has the
misfortune to own a mule who is required
to be fed on hay and barley.

It will take about \$230. to buy barley to
seed this 55 acres of ground, and although
the barley can be made to pay for itself
double for hay, it will not mature & it
it will remain in Cultivation until such
time as we can get money enough ahead
to hire all the hands necessary to work

* I mean that it is rarely that miners
go inside of enclosures.

out the ground — It is a rare
chance for miners in California to pitch
into ground under Cultivation, and in-
as-much as there is at present, better paying
ground than ours — nobody will interrupt
us — Miners can do better elsewhere — and
before the Rich Diggings are dug out
we will have had a School Land Warrant
located on the land at \$1.25 per acre
and the gold on our premises will
be ours at our pleasure to take out.

Surveyors are at work all the time and
there is but little doubt but that the
land will be surveyed so soon that
we can locate a Land Warrant &
get the title to the Land long before
the Rich diggings will so far give
out as to make our place an

object for mining purposes. —

Just here I have to say that my fingers are almost frozen, and having to get up from time to time to attend to traders, and being anxious to get my letter off, I am compelled to write on our ledger by the side of the window but now I have retired to the parlor and can write in peace and some slight comfort.

The Ranch Cost \$2250.

Invoice of goods 46.68.

\$ 6918.

If I had \$1410.85 it would make me a full partner with Sam Love not only in the goods but in the Ranch also — and I

think it a safe speculation -

We are making arrangements for an orchard and vineyard - Our trees in order to get an advanced size and growth will cost us about \$100.00 - Our grape Scions will cost us comparatively nothing - and with this outlay on our rich ground which is worthless for mining purposes and consequently will not be interfered with for mining purposes, each year will add at least \$1000. in value to the Ranch and the devil himself cannot prevent it.

Our Trade is Comprised of the following mining regions

Bald Hills
Arbuckle
Red Gulch
Bee Creek
Roaring River
Watson Gulch
Duncan Basin

Alderson Gulch and also all of the
trade in the direction of Horse Town
untill it gets over half way and
then the miners patronize Horse Town
we have several buildings here
rented out to Chinese which not
only bring us in rent but at the
same time gives us the Chinese trade
because they buy ~~they~~ all their goods
from us with the understanding that
we sell to Chinese Traders for Cost and

We buy Our goods at Sac. City
and it costs us about 29 pr. Cent. to
get them here - and from time to time
as we increase ~~which is weekly~~ our
stock (which is weekly) we have to go
in debt and consequently we have to
pay a higher price than if we had the
cash to buy at San Francisco - thereby
making the per Centage added on by
the Sac. City merchants for ourselves -

As the matter stands, one great ad-
vantage we have is the largest stock of
goods - but in having the great grand
stock of goods we are compelled to
go on credit for small amounts, to our
jobbers at Sac. City. - and until we can
make enough to pay out and have a
surplus we will have to buy our goods
at Sac. City instead of buying at San Fran-
cisco for cash & making the profits which
we are taxed for by the Sac. City merchants

Carriage and 5 pr. Ct. Premiums - ~~with~~
~~the understanding on our part that we~~
~~can add up our "Cost and Carriage"~~
~~Column so as to make it foot up right.~~

In a few days we shall have a
branch over at Engles for the purpose
of catching the Trinity River trade, and
we will have to pack there - We sell
at present to Engles about \$100. worth per
week, and when we send our trader
over we will have a "Digger go-between"
and in a few hours can send any goods
we have to Engles (on our partnership account)
which may be called for by miners or traders
who may come from Trinity and don't
wish to come ~~to~~ to the Bald Hills.

In Bald Hills we have some three
or four Chinese traders all of whom
buy from us - we also have two firms
of American traders - One firm has a
Capital of about \$600. and the other of
about \$900. and the big firm is headed
principally by a woman from away down
East and does the most of the "Calico
Squaw trade" but not enough to justify
in keeping the ~~door~~ open these cold days

~~in company~~ I have been in communication
with Sam. Love for some time and was
almost as well posted up before I
came here as I am now

Love was ahead of them before I went
into the Concern a long ways, and now
they are lingering and gradually drying up
for want of money to keep a full stock

Our firm is composed of Love
Howler & Co. — The Co. part is
composed of Elijah Poorman and his
wife — Poorman is a machinest by
trade, also a good Clerk in a miners
store, a man of good sense, stout and
able and as Grand Mother Alley used to
say "Blood thirsty for work" — Mr. Poorman
(none of my St. Jo relations) Cooks & washes.

We have a hired hand to do heavy work &
he takes his pay in Rot Gut at 25 cts. pr.
dose. The man we send to Engles is
named James Jeunett, a strange disposed

man — For instance, he is from Boston and says "thar" and "wher" He is the best trader in the California mines, and his pay will depend on the income of the Engle trade.

Before I come to the point I may as well say that political races in this County dont cost like they do in the more populous Counties —

Sam Dove is the most popular trader in this County and can contrroll more whig & Know nothing votes than any single man in the County. I am to run for Clerk next September on the D. ticket — And before a nominating Convention the fact of my prospects for receiving oposition votes will in my opinion secure me the nomination in which event the story will be told as the Democrats have a good majority & a sure one — If I dont get the nomination I intend to run anyhow — The clear profits of the office will be not less than \$7000. per year.

There are several applicants for the office and my arrival and permanent location in this County together with my 4 years reputation as foreman in the Sac. Ct. office has created quite a sensation - They have been soliciting me to come to Shasta the County Seat for some time to visit but as I think it a political move I see proper to stay away - I wish

to see how the land lies before I converse with them.

In order to make this race it is necessary for me to settle permanently and consequently I have put in my own dab with the Gartner money all of which I am fully satisfied will yield a rich profit whether I am elected or not - I think if I am elected next September - two years thereafter I can return home with \$20,000 Cash barring the "act of God & Public enemies"

I forgot to state that my share and that of Sam Love is in proportion to the amount put in, and that Poorman is to receive $\frac{1}{3}$ of what we make Store farm, boarding house & all, and in the settlement Love & myself are to own Ranch, stock & all - Poorman has nothing to go on & only takes his share of gains, He also works the farm.

I have perhaps "acted improperly" in taking this step without your permission but I presume after my statement of the Circumstances you will think me somewhat justified -

It is mortifying to me but the truth will out and I cannot carry this thing through (or any part of it, maybe) without help - I know that you will think your judgment the best and that you could make a more safe investment of the money yourself, and if you succeeded you could donate to me according to your

understanding of my wants - But on my part I think that under my present state of Circumstances that I can make five dollars to one.

However mortifying it may be to me nevertheless I have to come to it at last and assume the attitude of a beggar - Nevertheless I leave it to your own judgment and shall not complain at any course your judgment may prompt you to take

I wish you to consult the whole family, and advise yourself as to my merits & claims in comparison with the merits and claims of the balance of the family, in connection with your ability to provide for the ^{up} Foster Race,

I would like to have a family Consent to lend me some assistance, but yet under the Circumstances I would not accept it without the Consent of Mother and you both, and if mother does not Consent I will not accept a cent. ~~but I think~~ - If you are able and you and mother both Consent, I would accept any help great or small notwithstanding the Counter judgment of any of the rest of the family for the reason that I have labored hard since I have been here and have made nothing and I will not go home unless I can go better in a pecuniary point of view than when I started. And although some of them might think it a doubtful Speculation, still I think I would be received

at home by all with arms as open by all when my shirt tail fluttered in the breeze, as though it had thousands in my pocket and present matters of Judgment would be discussed harmlessly - I am not fully posted now as to the state of your affairs and I don't know what you could conveniently do if you wished, and I will state my wants & you can judge for yourself.

I have a Mortgage on a Water Ditch for \$800. with \$10,000. And for the balance of my investment I have as Security the Ranch and Stock in trade.

I shall keep the Gartner money until I hear from you & the same is all secured outside of a Volcanic eruption or something similar -

I would like at all events to have the use of the money until the next September Election for if I have to give it up I would be short of funds and would have to do something to make a living - And I would not sponge on Sam and I am afraid to go into the water to mine - Therefore I wish you to secure to me the use of the money until that time. - If you cannot do so, by all means write to me quickly so that I can draw out, and if I cannot make some shift till September I can at least have my labor

I am fully satisfied of success and would like to have some money and without knowing I should think that you and Theodore and Frank together might rusele up some money for me to assist me in this matter and at the same time not injure yourselves even if it went to the devil.

We can buy at least 50 ounces of gold dust per week and also take in a considerable amount for goods but it amounts to nothing.

The Expressman comes out once a week and brings from \$500 to \$1000 in coin & takes our dust & sends it to the San Francisco Mint and out of our dust the coinage on account of the alloy yields about 50¢ per week.

° We cannot get the dust without keeping
the store & not then without keeping the
largest stock of goods and in order to
keep a full stock we cannot at present
spare sufficient coin from out of the
store and be without the use of the
money while the dust is being
transmitted to San Fran^{ca} for coining.

I have not light enough to keep
the line and my hand is almost frozen
and I will stop — Exercise your
own judgment but do it with a view to
the fact that drinking, ~~drinking~~ & gambling
are not among my sins — Whatever you do
will satisfy me — What I have written
will be a source of some information

to you but on reflection I don't
suppose it would have much more
effect in regard to securing assistance
than if I had said "daddy gimme some
money" —

If you or Theodor ^{or Ben} can do
anything for me do it: It not say so
and talk plain without fear of hurting
my feelings — I will have a fortune
in Cal^{if} if I live even ~~if~~ if I have
to butt it out of a quartz rock with
my pumpkin head.

One thing I will add before I close by way of Argument, and that is — the investment I have made is secure and nothing can upsets us unless the Lord takes a decided stand against us. We are bound to make something or keep our goods and we can take our goods back to Sacramento and sell them there for much more than my interest to say nothing of our horses, mules & things — But I want an interest in full in the Ranch for there is gold enough in it to make us all rich if we can keep it in Cultivation & inclosed until it is surveyed & we can locate a school land warrant on it. I would write you some good news but it is dark & cold & I will put it off till my next. Your Son
Wm. Fowler John Fowler

Bald Hills, California, January 7, 1857

Dear Father —

Here after you will please direct your letters come at Shasta and I wish you to loose no time in answering this letter.

In coming up to this place my horse let down in one of his fore legs in the hard road under a hard lope, and fell so quick I could not guard against it. I was caught with my left knee under the saddle and the horse rolling over me almost burst me, but now my scabs have fallen off and I am "erect on my posterns" with a gain of thirteen pounds since my departure from Sacramento City. I am well please with my present location and have not the slightest doubt as to the money making part —

The major portion of this letter will be a studied one — I have been making all the enquires necessary and have been prepared to write for several days but forgot that our teamster was to leave tomorrow morning and that I ought to have my letter ready for him to carry out to the Bluffs so as to be mailed in the first mail for the States.

We have no mail but our expressman rides here every Sunday –

An account of these circumstances I cannot write fully as I at first intended but I will write as fully as I can tonight –

Sam Love has a rancho of 160 acres all enclosed with a fence and with eighty acres broken up – The eighty acres we are breaking to seed, and the major portion is already seeded and the balance will be put in as soon as weather will permit –

Upon the ranch there is not a foot of ground but will show the color of gold and at least fifty-five acres of the land will yield to a Chinaman \$2 per day and to an American \$3 per day in gold washing.

I went up the other day and prospected with a pan and a stick to stir it with in order to keep my hands out of the water and in all the places I prospected the average yield of gold was \$3 per day to the hand – to say nothing about any future improvements which may be made in saving the fine light gold –

We have a trading house with four rooms in together with bunks etc. to sleep all transient gentlemen and a boarding house ditto – with \$2.50 for supper, breakfast and lodging and woe! to the poor devil who has the misfortune to own a mule who is required to be fed on hay and barley.

It will take about \$230 to buy barley to seed this fifty-five acres of ground, and although the barley can be made to pay for itself double for hay it will not mature and will remain in cultivation until such time as we can get money enough ahead to hire all the hands necessary to work out the ground – It is a rare chance for miners in California to pitch into ground under cultivation, and in-as-much as there is at present better paying ground than ours – nobody will interrupt us – Miners can do better elsewhere – and before the Rich Diggings are all dug out we will have had a School Land Warrant located on the land at \$1.25 per acre and the gold on our premises will be our pleasure to take out –*

**I mean that it is rarely that miners go inside enclosures.*

Surveyors are at work all the time and there is but little doubt but the land will be surveyed so soon that we can locate a land warrant and get the title to the land long before the rich diggings will so far give out as to make our place an object for mining purposes –

Just here I have to say that my fingers are almost frozen, and having to get up from time to time to attend to traders, and being anxious to get my letter off, I am compelled to write on our ledger by the side window but now I have retired to the parlor and can write in peace and some slight comfort.

The ranch cost \$2250.

Invoice of goods \$4668. _____ \$6918.

If I had \$1410.85 it would make me a full partner with Sam Love not only in the goods but in the ranch also – and I think it a safe speculation –

We are making arrangements for an orchard and vineyard – Our trees in order to get an advanced size and growth will cost us about \$100.00 – Our grape scions will cost us comparatively

nothing – and with this outlay on our rich ground which is worthless for mining purposes each year will add at least \$1000 in value to the ranch and the Devil himself cannot prevent it.

Our trade is comprised of the following mining regions:

Bald Hills

Arbuckle

Red Gulch

Bee Creek

Roaring River

Watson Gulch

Duncan Basin

Alderson Gulch

And also all of the trade in the direction of Horsetown until it gets over half way and then the miners patronize Horsetown. We have several buildings here rented out to Chinese which not only brings us in rent but at the same time gives us the Chinese trade because they buy all their goods from us with the understanding that we sell to Chinese traders for cost and carriage and 5 percent premium (crossed out section: with an understanding on our part that we can add up our “cost and carriage” column so as to make it foot up right.)

In a few days we shall have a branch over at Engles for the purpose of catching the Trinity River Trade, and we will have to pack there – We sell at present to Engles about \$100 worth per week, and when we send our trader over we will have a “Digger” go-be-tween. And in a few hours can send any goods we have to Engles (on our partnership account) which may be called for by miners or traders who come from Trinity and don’t wish to come to the Bald Hills.

In Bald Hills we have some three or four Chinese traders all of whom buy from us – we also have two firms of American traders – One firm has a capital of about \$600 and the other of about \$900 and the big firm is bossed principally by a woman from way down East and does most of the “calico squaw trade” but not enough to justify keeping the door open these cold days.

I have been in communication with Sam Love for some time and was almost as well posted up before I came here as I am now.

Sam was ahead of them before I went into the concern a long ways, and now they are lingering and gradually drying up for want of money to keep a full stock.

We buy our goods at Sac. City and it costs us about twenty-nine per cent to get them here – and from time to time as we increase our stock (which is weekly) we have to go in debt and consequently we have to pay a higher price than if we had the cash to buy at San Francisco – thereby making the percentage added on by the Sac. City merchants for ourselves.

As the matter stands one great advantage we have is the largest stock of goods – but in having the great grand stock of goods we are compelled to go on credit for small amounts, to Jobbers at Sac.

City – and until we can make enough to pay and have a surplus we will have to buy our goods at Sac. City instead of buying at San Francisco for cash and making the profits which we are taxed for by the Sac. City merchants.

Our firm is composed of Love, Fowler and Co. – The company part is composed of Elijah Poorman and his wife – Poorman is a machinist by trade, also a good clerk in a miners store, a man of good sense, stout and able and as Grand Mother Alley used to say “blood thirsty for work” – Mrs. Poorman (none of my St. Jo. Relations) cooks and washes. We have a hired hand to do heavy work and he takes his pay in Rot gut at twenty-five cents per dose. The man we send to Engles is named James Jennett, a strange disposed man – For instance he is from Boston and says “thar” and “wher.” He is the best trader in the California mines and his income will depend on the income of the Engle trade.

Before I come to the point I may as well say that political races in this Country don’t cost like they do in the more populous counties –

Sam Love is the most popular trader in this country and can control more Whig and Know Nothing votes than any single man in the county – I am to run for Clerk next September on the D. ticket – And before a nominating convention the fact of my prospects for receiving (opposition) votes will in my opinion secure me the nomination in which event the story will be told as the Democrats have a good majority and a sure one – If I don’t get the nomination I intend to run anyhow – The clear prospects of the office will be not less than \$7000. per year.

There are several applicants for the office and my arrival and permanent location in this County together with my four years reputation as foreman in the Sac. Clerk’s office has created quite a sensation – They have been soliciting me to come to Shasta the County Seat for some time to visit but I think it a political move I see proper to stay away – I wish to see how the land lies before I converse with them.

In order to make this race it is necessary for me to settle permanently and consequently I have put in my own dab with the Gartner money all of which I am fully satisfied will yield a rich profit whether I am elected or not – I think if I am elected next September – two years there after I can return home with \$20,000 cash baring the “act of God and public enemies.”

I forgot to state that that my share and that of Sam Love’s is in proportion to the amount put in, and that Poorman is to receive 1/3 of what we make store, farm, boarding house and all and in the settlement Love and myself are to own the ranch, stock and all – Poorman has nothing to go on and only takes his share of gains, he also works the farm.

I have perhaps acted improperly in taking this step without your permission but I presume after my statement of the circumstances you will think me somewhat justified –

It is mortifying to me but the truth will out and I cannot carry this thing through (or any part of it maybe) without help – I know that you will think your judgment the best and that you could make a more safe investment of the money and if you succeeded you could donate to me according to your understanding of my wants – But on my part I think that under my present State of circumstances that I can make five dollars to one.

However mortifying it may be to me, never the less I have come to it at last – and assume the attitude of a beggar – Never the less I leave it to your judgment and shall not complain at any course your judgment may prompt you to take.

I wish to consult the whole family, and advise yourself as to my merits and claims of the balance of the family, in connection with your ability to provide for the Fowler Race.

I would like to have a family consent to lend me some assistance but under the circumstances I would not accept it without the consent of Mother and you both, and if mother does not consent I will not accept a cent. (Crossed out: but I think -) If you are able and you and mother consent, I would accept any help great or small notwithstanding the counter judgment of any of the rest of the family for the reason that I have labored hard since I have been here and have made nothing and I will not go home unless I can go better in a pecuniary point of view than when I started, and although some of them might think it a doubtful speculation. Still I think I would be received at home by all with arms as open by all when my shirt tail fluttered in the breeze, as though I had thousands in my pockets and present matters of judgment would be discussed harmlessly –

I am now fully posted as to the state of your affairs and I don't know what you could conveniently do if you wished and I will state my wants and you can judge for yourself –

I have a mortgage on a water ditch for \$800 worth \$10,000 and for the balance of my investment I have as security the ranch and stock in trade.

I shall keep the Gartner money until I hear from you and the same is all secure outside of a volcanic eruption or something similar –

I would like at all events to have the use of the money until the next September election for if I have to give it up I would be short of funds and would have to do something to make a living – And I would not sponge on Sam and I am afraid to go into the water to mine – Therefore I wish you to secure to me the use of the money until that time – If you cannot do so, by all means write to me quickly so that I can draw out, and if I cannot make some shift till September I can at least save my labor. I am fully satisfied of success and would like to have some money and without knowing I should think that you and Theodore and Frank together might rattle up some money for me to assist me in this matter and at the same time not injure yourselves even if it went to the Devil.

We can buy at least fifty ounces of gold dust per week and also take in a considerable amount for goods but it amounts to nothing. The expressman comes out once a week and brings from \$500 to \$1000 in coin and takes our dust and sends it to the San Francisco Mint and out of our dust the coinage on account of the alloy yields about \$50 per week – We cannot get the dust without keeping the store and not then without keeping the largest stock of goods and in order to keep a full stock we cannot at present spare sufficient coin from out of the store and be without the use of the money while the dust is being transmitted to San Francisco for coining.

I have not light enough to keep the line and my hand is almost frozen and I will stop – Exercise your own judgment but do it with a view to the fact that drinking, whoring and gambling are not among my sins – Whatever you do will satisfy me – What I have written will be a source of some information to you but on reflection I don't suppose it would have much more effect in regard to securing assistance than if I had said “dady gimme some money.”

If you or Theodore (or Ben added above) can do anything for me do it. If not say so and talk plain without fear of hurting my feelings – I will have a fortune in California if I live even if I have to butt it out of a quartz rock with my pumpkin head.

One thing I will add before I close by way of argument, and that is – the investment I have made is secure and nothing can upset us unless the Lord takes a decided stand against us. We are bound to make something or keep our goods and we can take our goods back to Sacramento and sell them there for much more than my interest to say nothing of our horses, mules and hogs – but I want an interest in full in the ranch for there is gold enough in it to make us all rich if we can keep it in cultivation and inclosed until it is surveyed and we can locate a school land warrant on it.

I would write you some general news but it is dark and cold and I will put it off till my next.

Your Son

William Fowler

John A. Fowler

The author of the letter was John A. Fowler, the second child and oldest son of William Fowler and Comfort Alley, born in 1825 in Indiana. John moved with his family first to Iowa then settled in Missouri in 1836. After attending the newly opened University of Missouri from 1844 to 1845, John returned to the family home in Buchanan County and worked as the clerk of the Circuit Court. John was believed to have taken a wagon train to California in 1852 along with a company of men from Buchanan County. By 1853 John was well settled in Sacramento where he did work as a deputy in the County Clerk's office and as the clerk for the Common Council for the city of Sacramento.

After leaving the Common Council John communicated with Samuel Love who was connected to Buchanan County. Samuel seemed to need capital and John a new location. It appears that he did not run for County Clerk of Shasta County in 1857 but he did campaign unsuccessfully in 1861. It appears that John never received an infusion of money from Missouri and the partnership broke up. John was in Tehama County in 1863 and believed to have worked as a deputy in the county Clerk's office. John returned to Shasta County when his friend Charles McDonald was elected clerk for the 1864 term. John died in the office as deputy clerk in May of 1865. John never married nor got home as he was buried in the Masonic Cemetery at Shasta in what is now an unmarked grave.

John A. Fowler was addressing the letter to his father William Fowler who was born in Kent County, Delaware on March 5, 1798. His father, John A. Fowler (born in 1770) married Mary Polly (born 1771 in South Carolina) in 1793. John died at age thirty leaving a widow and three young children (Sarah Fowler 1795-1871, William Fowler and Mahala Fowler 1800-1860). Mary Polly was remarried in 1803 to Emory Hobbs (born 1769 in Delaware) and the family moved to Virginia. Mary and Emory had one child, Elizabeth Hobbs (1804-1894). About 1816 the entire family moved to Franklin County, Indiana. William was sent to live with an aunt in Urbana, Ohio to take advantage of better schools.

After his education, William returned to Franklin County, Indiana where at age twenty-two he married the daughter of a Methodist minister, Comfort Lancel Alley (born 1800 in Virginia). William initially engaged in farming until about 1825 when he moved to Greensburg, Decatur County, Indiana and opened up a general merchandise store. William was interested in politics and was a strong Jackson Democrat. William was elected to two terms (six years) in the Indiana House of Representatives before being elected to the Indiana Senate. At the end of his

three-year term in the Senate his party wanted him to run for the U.S. Congress but William declined to follow his dream of moving the family west.

In May 1837, William, Comfort and their five children (Emeline E. Fowler born about 1823, John A. Fowler born in 1825, Mary A. Fowler born about 1829, Theodore Fowler born about 1832 and Gilbert Fowler born in 1835) set off for the "Black Hills Purchase" in the free territory of Iowa. After difficulties over land titles the family moved on to the newly acquired Platte Purchase in northwest Missouri in 1836.

When the family arrived, the Platte Purchase was wild, had not been surveyed, and a claim to a farm was made by preemption. William joined the settlers association formed for their mutual protection, as the district was politically unorganized. When Roberts County (the name was changed in 1839 to Buchanan County) was organized in 1838 the Governor appointed the first officers, including William Fowler as Clerk of the County Court. In the first election William was elected as the Clerk of both the Circuit Court and County Court. William was to hold both offices for fourteen years. With his election William moved the family to Sparta the new County Seat. In about 1846 he again moved the family to the new County Seat of Saint Joseph.

In Saint Joseph, William purchased the old Robidoux Blacksnake Hills trading post built in 1826 and rebuilt it into the brick, three-story City Hotel (renamed the Occidental Hotel in 1870). The hotel was rented and William invested wisely. The family settled into a mansion in Washington Township (which included incorporated Saint Joseph) and later purchased a farm. The family had grown by three additional children (William Fowler born in 1838, Julia Fowler born about 1841 and Louisa Fowler born in 1844). In 1852 William ended his fourteen years with the court system and concentrated on his investments and farm.

William remained active in Democratic politics. After the death of Andrew Jackson in 1845, William transferred his support to Colonel Thomas Hart Benton, who was President Jackson's and Martin Van Buren's legislative right-hand-man. Benton who moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1815, served as the state's U.S. Senator from 1821 to 1851. Benton advocated "hard money" (gold or silver as money) to favor the small farmers and tradespeople of the West. He promoted territorial expansion considering unsettled land to be insecure and thus encouraged the dispossession of Native Americans and laws favoring homesteading. At the same time Benton discouraged land speculation. Benton was instrumental in settling the Oregon question opposing those he regarded as far-reaching and greedy. Benton advocated the annexation of Texas while opposing the machinations that led to annexation and the Mexican American War. In 1851 Benton, a southerner and slave owner, was denied a sixth term in the Senate after declaring himself against the institution of slavery. In 1854 Benton was elected to a term in the U.S. House of Representatives. His opposition to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise led to his defeat for a second term. In 1856 Benton ran for Governor of Missouri but was defeated. In 1856 and 1857 Benton undertook a lecture tour warning of the dire consequences if the North and South did not end their dispute over slavery. Benton did not live to see his predictions come true as he died of cancer in 1858.

During the rise of an anti-Benton party in Missouri, William remained both a friend and supporter of Thomas Hart Benton. The leadership of the Democratic Party in Missouri turned increasingly to support of secessionists. After the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the outrages inflicted upon Kansas, William turned towards the Republican Party as the only hope

of preserving the country from pro-slavery domination. William aided in the organization of the Republican Club of Saint Joseph and was elected its President.

With the onset of actual conflict in the Civil War, William's pro-Union stance and support of Abraham Lincoln put both he and the family in danger. During the pro-Confederate riots and occupation of Saint Joseph by the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guards the family was forced to flee first to Kansas then to Nebraska. The Fowler's family mansion was to be occupied by Brigadier General Meriwether Jeff Thompson of the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard who was formerly mayor of Saint Joseph as well as a family friend. The family returned to St. Joseph each time it was reoccupied by Union forces. The experience caused William to actively serve his country. Initially he served as the commissary officer for State troops in St. Joseph with the rank of major. With the reorganization of the pro-Union Missouri State Militia, William was appointed quartermaster lieutenant of the 5th Cavalry Regiment of the Missouri State Militia under the command of family associate, Colonel W. R. Reneck. With the institution of the draft law, William was appointed Provost Marshal of the 7th District of Missouri that included St. Joseph. In the same period 1862-1863, William was elected to the Saint Joseph City Council.

William served as Provost Marshal until 1865 and faced a myriad of problems, such as what to do with Confederate deserters now subject to the draft. The solution was to draft Confederate deserters but to assure them they would not be assigned to service against Confederate forces. At the conclusion of the Civil War William was appointed to a patronage position as Post Master of Saint Joseph from March 1865 to March 1866. In 1866 William concluded his public life to give attention to the care and management of his properties. William died in Saint Joseph on November 23, 1880.

John's older sister was Emeline E. Fowler was born in 1823 in Indiana who married Benjamin Franklin Loan in 1848 (he is the Ben addressed in the letter). Emeline was noted as a writer, socialite and political activist in her own right. Her husband Benjamin was born in Kentucky in 1829. He studied law in Kentucky before moving to Saint Joseph in 1838. Benjamin was admitted to the Missouri bar in 1840 and quickly entered local politics. Benjamin was a Whig but refrained from larger issues until the Civil War. From 1845 to 1846 and from 1848 to 1849 Benjamin was the Saint Joseph City Clerk and City Attorney. In 1852 to 1853 Benjamin served on the Saint Joseph City Council. In November 1861, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Benjamin was appointed a Brigadier General in the Missouri State Militia due to his strong pro-Union sentiment. Benjamin helped raise the 6th Regiment of Cavalry of the Missouri State Guard. From March 1862 to June 1862 he commanded the District of Northwestern Missouri of the Department of Mississippi with headquarters at St. Joseph. Benjamin's next assignment was to the Central District of Missouri, Department of Mississippi where he engaged in the Battle of Yellow River in August 1862. The battle demonstrated the civil war within the civil war that occurred in Missouri. Brigadier General Loan's Missouri State Militia forces were pursuing Colonel James Poindexter's pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard forces. Loan's rout of Poindexter ended the conflict of regularly constituted forces in northwest Missouri but did not stop pro-Confederate recruiting and guerrilla activities that plagued Missouri until the end of the war. With reorganization of Union forces, Benjamin commanded the District of Central Missouri, Department of Missouri from September 1862 to June 1863. Benjamin was known as a radical and in 1862 promoted banishment from Missouri either to the South or North of those

citizens refusing to take the loyalty oath to the Union. In June 1863 he expanded the use of executions for non-uniformed Confederate recruiters and those who “harbor, conceal, or abet,” such rebel officers. Benjamin was offered a seat on the Missouri Supreme Court in 1862 but rejected the offer.

In early 1863 Benjamin ran for the U.S. House of Representatives on the Republican ticket. Upon his election he resigned his commission to take his seat. He also registered for the draft stating his occupation as lawyer and the entry had two notations: prior service as a brigadier general Missouri State Militia and unsubscribed due to age. Benjamin was first appointed to the House Committee on Military Affairs and quickly promoted to the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. The Congressional committee was tasked with the power to investigate any aspect of military affairs, such as lost battles, appointments of commanding generals, atrocities, prisoner of war affairs, profiteering, etc. Benjamin was the only member of the committee with any military experience. At times the committee helped President Lincoln and at others it was the bane of Lincoln, but it always had influence. One of the former members was Andrew Johnson of Tennessee who was Lincoln’s Vice President during the second term and future President after Lincoln’s assassination.

In 1867 Benjamin claimed in Congress that Andrew Johnson was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate Lincoln even though George Atzeredt was assigned by John Wilkes Booth to kill the Vice-President. Benjamin implied that Johnson had tampered with the Booth diary and pointed out that John Wilkes Booth had visited Johnson’s home on the day of the assassination. Benjamin is probably best remembered for his opposition to the 1867 Treaty of Purchase for Alaska. Benjamin stated, “this inhospitable and barren waste would never add one dollar to the wealth of our country or furnish homes to our people.” Benjamin was unsuccessful in his bid for reelection in 1868 due to the resurgence of the Democratic Party in Missouri angry over corruption in President Grant’s administration and attempts of Republicans to execute an “internal reconstruction” by banning politically powerful former secessionists.

President Grant who had served in Missouri at the beginning of the Civil War appointed Benjamin to a minor appointment at West Point from 1868 to 1869. Benjamin was also offered missions to Venezuela and Brazil, the governorship of the New Mexico Territory, and territorial judgeships but opted to return to Saint Joseph and the practice of law. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1876 and was an unsuccessful candidate for the U. S. House of Representatives in the same year. Benjamin died in Saint Joseph in 1881. Emeline survived her husband and lived in Saint Joseph until her death in 1914.

The Theodore mentioned in the letter is John’s brother Theodore Fowler, born in Greensburg, Indiana in 1832, and worked as a salesman prior to the Civil War. In 1854 Theodore married Martha Hopkins who died in 1855. In 1862 Theodore joined the 25th Enrolled Missouri Militia (Platte County Railroad Guards) serving until 1863. In 1863 Theodore joined a short-term unit the 3rd Missouri Provisional Regiment. In 1863 Theodore registered for the federal draft but does not seem to have been called. After the war Theodore worked for the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Postal Service. Theodore died in Saint Joseph in 1907.

Notes concerning the letter:

- (1) Sac. City was the old name for current Sacramento.
- (2) The Bluffs means Red Bluff. In 1857 there were post offices at American Ranch, Cottonwood, Horsetown, Middletown, and Shasta that could have been used. It seems a

matter of convenience that the letter was sent to Red Bluff. In 1857, Red Bluff was a terminus for boat transportation from Sacramento and a center for trans-shipment northward.

(3) The Bald Hill Express Company was begun in 1857 and ran from Shasta to Bald Hills; Murray & Armstrong's Shasta and Arbuckle Express was begun in 1854 and ran from Shasta to Arbuckle via Horsetown.

(4) Samuel Ewing Love was born December 23, 1816 of Irish parents. His parents moved to Saint Louis in 1814 where Samuel was born. In 1817 the family moved to Pike County, Missouri. Samuel came to California on or before 1850 as he was listed at Rough and Ready, Yuba County in the 1850 U.S. Census. Samuel moved to Shasta County prior to 1855 as he was on the tax assessment for that year owning a ditch and money at Arbuckle. Samuel died in October 1865 and his will left his assets to his sister Mary Ann Love Gorin (1818-1884) of Scotland County, Missouri, his brother Andrew Love (1808-1890) of Nephi, Utah, and his brother John Love (1818-1897) of Waynesville, Illinois.

Samuel E. Love was listed in the 1860 U.S. Census as, male age 41, merchant, assets \$1020 land, \$5000 property, born Missouri. Note: the entry is with W. Gray, born in New York, a 45 year old merchant with assets of \$500 land, \$4000 property.

In the 1855 Tax assessment Love was listed as having a ditch & money as the Arbuckle South Fork Company.

In the 1860 Tax assessment: Love & Fowler at Watson Gulch had 1 ditch valued at \$4000.

In another 1860 Tax assessment, Love and Gray at Watson Gulch, had merchandise, money, gold dust & debts.

In yet another 1860 Tax assessment, S.E. Love of Watson Gulch, had 160 acres, gold dust, debts and horse.

In the 1861 Tax Assessment there was only S.E. Love at Watson Gulch with debts & horse.

Samuel Love was issued a land patent from the U.S. Government Land Office on 11/1/1860 for 160 acres in sections 21 and 22 of Township 30 North, Range 7 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. The location of the farm is south west of Ono in the Bald Hills (BLM Serial Number CACAAA015713). In Deed Book G, page 791 (February 11, 1861) Samuel E. Love sold the 160 acres to William Knowlton, who was a storeowner at Bald Hills, in consideration of \$825.

In June 1863 Samuel E. Love and John Able (Deed Book H, page 693) purchased a mining claim in the Pittsburg Mining District from Andrew J. Burnett in consideration of \$900. The claim was on the first extension south of the Williams & Killenger ledge or lode.

In Deed Book H, page 353 (November 18, 1862), Samuel E. Love was the high bidder at a Sheriff sale following a Writ of Execution from the District Court. The property was the sawmill known as the Wooster & Wilson Sawmill on the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The sale in consideration of \$380 included a dwelling and dam two miles north of the mill across the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek that was intended to build sufficient water to run logs to the mill. On the same day Samuel E. Love deeded the property back

to Seward Wooster (Deed Book H, page 356) in consideration of one dollar. Also see note 21.

(5) Upon formation of the State of California the public land was retained under the ownership of the U.S. Government Land Office. Sections of land were granted to the State Land Records Office to sell for funds for schools. In one such transfer in 1861 the federal government transferred a half million acres to California for additional School Land Warrants. Under California statutes founded in 1852 the Governor could grant warrants from 160 acres up to a maximum of 320 acres. The warrants were not specific and were transferable so the holder could file on any land within the transferred area. John wanted to get hold of a warrant to file on the farm they had started to develop. The warrant holder would have to pay the State two dollars per acre (John said \$1.25) and surrender the warrant for cancellation. When ownership of the land for the farm was transferred to Sam Love it was by patent from the Government Land Office by preemption (cash sale) rather than School Warrant.

(6) Bald Hills: currently a large geographic area but in the 1850s a town site. Prior to 1857 the Court of Sessions made the road from Horsetown to Bald Hills a public roadway. The public road ran from Horsetown, Piety Hill and Eagle Creek to the settlements on the Middle and North Fork of Cottonwood Creek. Another road ran from Ludwig's Bridge to Roaring River along Cottonwood Creek. Bald Hills sits geographically in the middle of the other mining areas designations by John in his letter.

Arbuckle was northwest of Bald Hills in a mountainous basin. The mining district was initially worked by the Cunningham party by treaty agreement with the Wintu. A second party under Watson cut a rough wagon road through the area to the Trinity Diggings while the Cunningham party was still working the site. The Cunningham party abandoned the district as more miners flooded into the area and paid no attention to the treaty leading to open warfare. In 1851 the district was again a center of mining activity and by 1858 was large enough to establish an election precinct.

Red Gulch: the only Red Gulch identified in the area around Bald Hills is under Whiskeytown Lake. The name Red Gulch was used in other areas of Shasta County so it could be a smaller gulch in the area of the Bald Hills.

Bee Creek was the site of the Bee Ditch or Lynn and Wheelock's Ditch in 1855 and is just west of current day Ono on the west side of the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek.

Roaring River was southeast of Bald Hills in the steep Roaring River Canyon. The settlement was moved a number of time to accommodate mining operations. The area was heavily mined in the 1850s and 1860s.

Watson Gulch was northeast of Bald Hills on the trail to Duncan Basin, Arbuckle and Trinity County. Gold mining was begun by the Watson party in 1850. By 1858 the settlement was large enough to have an election precinct.

Duncan Basin is northwest of Bald Hills between Watson Gulch and Arbuckle. The area was first worked for gold by B.C. Duncan in 1854.

Alderson Gulch was not found. The only reference was in the Report of the State Mineralogist 1886, that states Alderson Gulch was in the area of Cottonwood Creek and Roaring River.

(7) Engle's Digging was an early mining camp near Roaring River on the trail up Cottonwood Creek. Some of the early prospectors were Alonzo Engle and Alex Cunningham in 1850. The early prospectors were searching for gold deposits reported by a miner named Engles from Oregon. Engles disappeared after being supplied with mining gear and provisions, so the town John referred to was probably the site of a store run by Austin Engles, a brother of Alonzo Engles.

(8) After gold was discovered in Trinity County, in 1848 by P. B. Reading, the area quickly became a destination in the Northern Mines. One of the most direct routes to the Trinity mines was north from the steamer terminus in Tehama County then up Cottonwood Creek following roughly the Jedediah Strong Smith route. With the opening of the Shasta-Weaverville Road over Buckhorn Summit in 1858, the route lost its popularity. Love-Fowler and Company were trying to increase their trade by maintaining a subsidiary store at Engle's Diggings near Cottonwood Creek to serve those moving into Trinity County.

(9) Digger was a derogatory name applied to Native Americans. The term initially referred to those groups such as the Piutes that dug roots for subsistence but was extended to almost all California tribes. The term indicates one who holds a low place in the scale of humanity.

(10) The Sole Trader Act of 1852 allowed married women to carry on business in their own name. In 1857 none are listed for Bald Hills but two were listed for Clear Creek Township. If a woman was unmarried, widowed or divorced she could conduct her own business without filing under the Sole Trader Act. Finding the name of the competition would be difficult without more details.

(11) Jobbers are wholesalers who operate on a small scale or who sell only to retailers and institutions.

(12) Elijah Poorman was listed in the Bald Hills in September 1858 as an inspector for the election while S.E. Love was an election judge. Elijah and his wife were not on the 1850 or 1860 U.S. Census for Shasta County.

(13) Grand Mother Alley would be Mary Osborne the wife of Samuel Jay Alley. Mary was born about 1768 in North Carolina and died in Illinois in 1856.

(14) No records were found on James Jennett other than a draft registration dated late in 1863. The entry stated Bald Hills which sometimes means the town in Humboldt County but in the original document it clearly states Shasta County in the heading. James Jennett was born in 1826 in New York and died in 1884 in Arizona. His occupation on the draft registration was miner.

(15) The Know Nothing movement operated on a national level during the mid-1850s. Their promise was to purify American politics by limiting the influence of Irish Catholics and other immigrants who were seen as hostile to republican values and controlled by the Pope in Rome. The name Know Nothing came from the early semi-secret organization of the party where members were supposed to respond to inquires by saying, "I Know Nothing." The party was predominantly middle-class and the membership was severely fragmented over the issue of slavery. In the 1856 presidential election the party ran former President Millard Fillmore but he only obtained 23% of the vote. The local candidates John was discussing would probably be nativist, anti-Chinese,

anti-Catholic, pro-temperance, and protestant. The party was practically dissolved by 1860.

(16) Some county officers were paid a salary such as the County Judge at \$2,500 and District Attorney at \$2,000, while others such as Supervisors were paid per diem. Other elected officers, such as the County Clerk, were paid by keeping the fees paid for filing papers in their office. John is estimating that he could have pocketed \$7,000 in fees per year.

(17) The Gartner money seems to be from a legal action through his brother-in-law, who was a lawyer in St. Joseph, Missouri. John seems to have secured the money but does not have permission to utilize the funds.

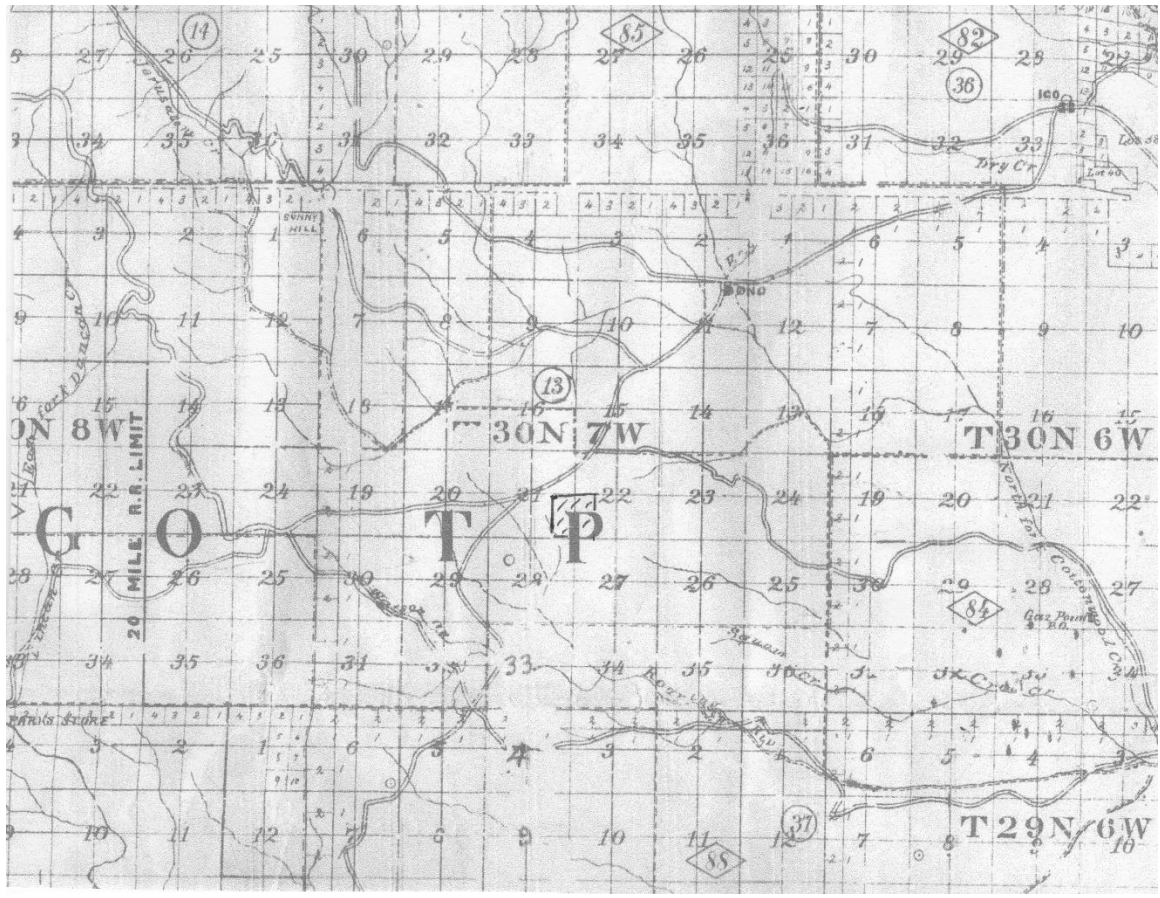
(18) Pecuniary means involving a money penalty or fine.

(19) In Deed Book G, page 335 (December 22, 1858) William S. Barnum, his wife Electra L.M. Barnum and E. B. Barnum deeded the "Cottonwood Ditch" to Samuel E. Love and John A. Fowler in consideration of \$7,500. The ditch is described as beginning at a point (a dam) on the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile below the forks of said creek. The deed was witnessed William Knowlton, Justice of the Peace. In Deed Book H, page 338 (June 3, 1862) John A. Fowler deeded the "Cottonwood Ditch" to Samuel E. Love in consideration of \$3,000. Neither legal description was sufficient to provide an exact location of the ditch.

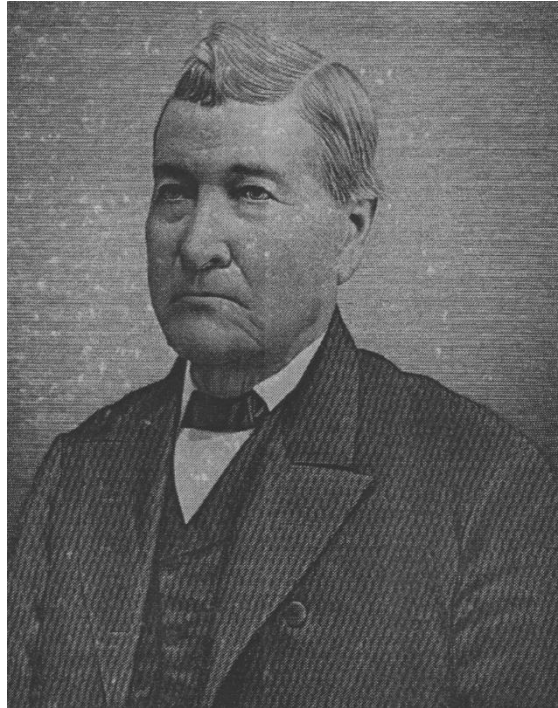
John A. Fowler was on the 1860 Tax assessment as Love & Fowler at Watson Gulch with one ditch valued at \$4000.

Samuel Love was also noted to be the mortgage holder on the North Fork of Cottonwood Company in 1854 although no deed was found. The company consisted of the brothers Isaac and John Park and who owned mining claims and the North Fork of Cottonwood Ditch, also known as the Conner Ditch (running 1 mile north of Watson Gulch to the area of Mitchell Gulch).

(20) The political system in California during the 1850s and 1860s was very different than the direct vote of today. When John was seeking office the caucus system was utilized. A caucus could be described as a meeting of members of a particular party to select candidates or decide policy. Shasta County provided the first step by establishing voting precincts. At a local party precinct meeting each party elected delegates based on population to the County level caucus. At the County level the party selected its slate of candidates and elected State delegates who in turn selected the State candidates and the national delegates. John describes a system where would-be office holders really campaigned for delegates and support at the County level caucus. The system was subject to the control by cliques and political intrigue. The electorate was also very different: besides a poll tax and limited registered voters (much of the population was transient), a large percent of the population was disenfranchised (women, Native Americans, Chinese).



The Samuel Love Ranch noted in crosshatch in the center of the map (east half of the southeast quarter of section 21 and west half of the southwest quarter of section 22, both in Township 30 North, Range 7 West, Mount Diablo Meridian). From the 1891 Carl R. Briggs & Company map (Courtesy Shasta Historical Society)



William Fowler (Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri)

Clementina “Tina” Zorn (Mrs. Frank Kindleberger)



Portrait of Clementina Zorn
taken from a set of seven girls
in the Litsch family album. Courtesy
of Ralph Holibaugh.

Clementina “Tina” Zorn was born in Shasta in 1860 and was believed to be the daughter of Henry Zorn. Henry was born in Germany in 1831 and 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 was a saloon owner and Angelica and the three daughters were listed with him in the 1870 and 1880 U. S. Census. Clara Augusta married John Clements in 1878 and Celina became the second wife of Sheriff Sylvester Hull in 1881. Charles Boell died in 1880 and Angelica in 1889. In 1890 Clementina married Frank Kindleberger born about 1860. In 1900 Frank was an electrician at Red Bluff and in 1910 a foreman of a lime kiln in Delta. After 1920 the family was living in San Francisco where Frank was an engine mechanic and later a clerk in a dry goods store. Frank and Clementina had three children: Mervin Bernard 1892-1980, Ester M. 1894-1976, and Helen Jean 1897-1978. After 1930 no records were found on Frank or Clementina.