

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.

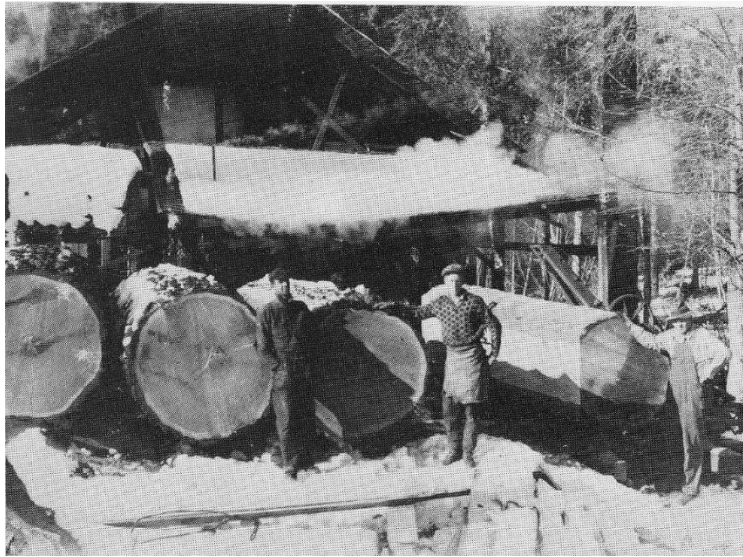
Pineland Post Office



Letter mailed in 1906 using cancellation SHA-3450. The letter is addressed to Dr. Clarence Colin Richardson who was born in Butte County in 1879 (died 1953) who was in business with Sara Hennigan's family up until 1912. Dr. Richardson was a D.D. S. but returned to school to become an undertaker. In 1912 he established his own furniture store in Chico and from 1922 to 1925 was mayor of Chico. Sara Hennigan was the daughter of early Butte County settlers John P. Fritter and Mary Marilda Coon. Sara married James B. Hennigan in 1890 who fled Butte County in 1901 due to legal problems. Sara, who was born 1868 in Butte County (died 1926), appears to have been working as a teacher when the letter was written. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

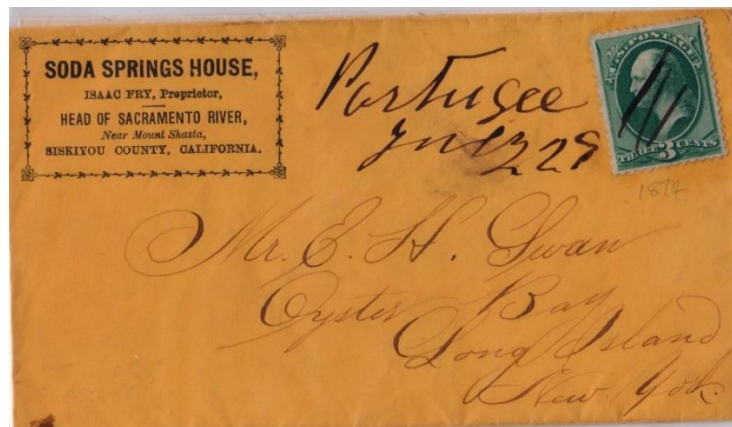
When the application for a post office was filed it stated it was about five miles north of Montgomery Creek and three miles south of Burgess and would serve about forty-eight customers. The area is generally regarded as part of Big Bend. The Post Office Department was given the alternative names of "Harmony," "Surprise," or "Ayr." The Post Office went with Pineland as the area was covered in vast pine forests including large tracts owned by the Shasta Lumber Company. The application was filed by Hiram George Works whose homestead was listed as the southeast quarter of section 18 in Township 35 North, Range 1 East, MDM. Local history states that the post office remained in the one location during its entire sixteen-year history but that is questionable. The first postmaster was Hiram Works (1862-1929) between 1901 and 1904. By 1910 Hiram was living in Chico and listed as a lumberman. The second and last postmaster was Helen Hall the wife of Edwin G. Hall who had a homestead in sections 18

and 20 in Township 36 North, Range 1 East, MDM about five miles north on the Big Bend Road. What is definite is that the Pineland Post Office was discontinued in 1917 and operations were moved to Montgomery Creek.



Pineland Mill

Portugee Post Office



The envelope was sent between 1870 and 1877 using a manuscript cancellation (SHA-3630). In 1860 Isaac Fry was living with Ross McCloud and his family in Shasta Valley, Siskiyou County and listed as a landlord. Ross McCloud had built a house at Soda Springs in 1853 and after a few years sold it to Isaac Fry and a Mr. Manning who kept it as a “public house.” The establishment was also known as Fry’s Hotel. It appears Isaac was proprietor of the Soda Springs House prior to his death in 1874. Courtesy Ralph Holibaugh.

Hazel Creek is a seven-mile long tributary of the Sacramento River that enters the river from the east at Sims Flat Campground about seven miles north of Delta. In 1855-1856 the area

was on the Sacramento Trail and heavily worked for gold. The area was first named Shenanigan's Gulch and by 1856 Portuguese Flat (named for the large number of miners from Portugal and the Azores). Mining decrease into the 1860s but the settlement survived as a stage stop and mercantile center. An election precinct was formed in 1868 and in 1870 a post office was opened and named Portuguese. The area is now known as Pollard Flat. The post office was discontinued in 1877 and the name changed to Hazel Creek.



Hotel of Postmaster Simon F. Southern. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Roaring River Post Office



Letter mailed between 1874-1877 using manuscript cancellation SHA-3920. The letter is addressed to George Lumen Kingsley & Company in Red Bluff. George (1827-1890) came to California in 1851 and was a well-known hunter. George settled in Tehama in 1862 and

operated a sheep ranch. In 1866 George opened a large tanning and glove making business in Red Bluff. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Roaring River is an eleven-mile-long tributary that flows through the Bald Hills to join the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek just above the junction of the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek and Cottonwood Creek, just west of Pinckney and south of Gas Point. The name comes from the echo of rapids in the canyon along its lower course. The area was the site of early placer gold discoveries and the town tended to be moved to new mining areas along its lower course. By the 1860 the population dwindled but the area was revitalized when water from ditches such as the Roaring River & Middle Fork of Cottonwood Ditch allowed the dry diggings to be worked year around. The Roaring River Post Office was established in 1874 but was closed by 1877. After the closure many mining operations were taken over by Chinese. In the 1930s Roaring River and nearby Crow Creek were the site of intensive gold dredge operations that destroyed the few remains of the town.



James S. Drew, 2nd postmaster at Roaring River

Roberts Post Office

The Albertson Post Office was established in 1883 four miles west of Millville and ten miles east of Redding in what is now Palo Cedro. The post office was named for William Armstrong Albertson who first settled on Cow Creek in 1859. In 1882 he moved to the Palo Cedro area and built a blacksmith and wagon-making shop where the post office was later located. The post office was renamed Roberts in 1885 and Palocedro in 1893. William Albertson was the first Postmaster of Albertson and the second Postmaster of Roberts.

The first Postmaster of the Roberts Post Office was Mary Margaret Roberts the wife of Benjamin Franklin Roberts for whom the post office was named. Benjamin had been born in 1846 in Pennsylvania. Benjamin enlisted in the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment and just prior to the end of the war was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in Company D, 3rd U. S. Colored Infantry. The 138th Pennsylvania was involved in numerous battles including the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Winchester, and the Siege of

Petersburg. The 3rd U.S. C. I. was assigned to Florida in 1865. In 1873 Benjamin was listed as teaching at North Cow Creek and in the same year married Mary Margaret Stanford (1854-1935). In 1880 Benjamin was teaching in Township 7 but in 1885 was listed as a merchant at Junction (Palo Cedro). Benjamin died in 1897.

In 1893 the name of the post office was changed to Palocedro, and changed to Palo Cedro in 1906.



Benjamin Franklin Roberts during the Civil War in the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment.



Letter sent in 1885 to Miss Lulu Anderson using cancelation SHA-3930. “Lulu” is Louella Estella Salmon born in 1865 in Maine. Lulu was the daughter of William Bennett Salmon and Annie Marie Burnham. In 1874 Lulu’s mother married Thomas Benton Armstrong 1841-1922 and by 1880 Lulu was using her stepfather’s name. In 1888 Lulu married Emory Marion Null 1866-1942, a pioneer teacher in Shasta and Modoc Counties. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The articles for July 2022 are: 1) Anna Nickolas Letter, 2) Burney Valley Bulletin Letterhead, 3) Andrew Jackson Millsap Letter, and 4) Fred Staser.

Anna Nickolas Letter

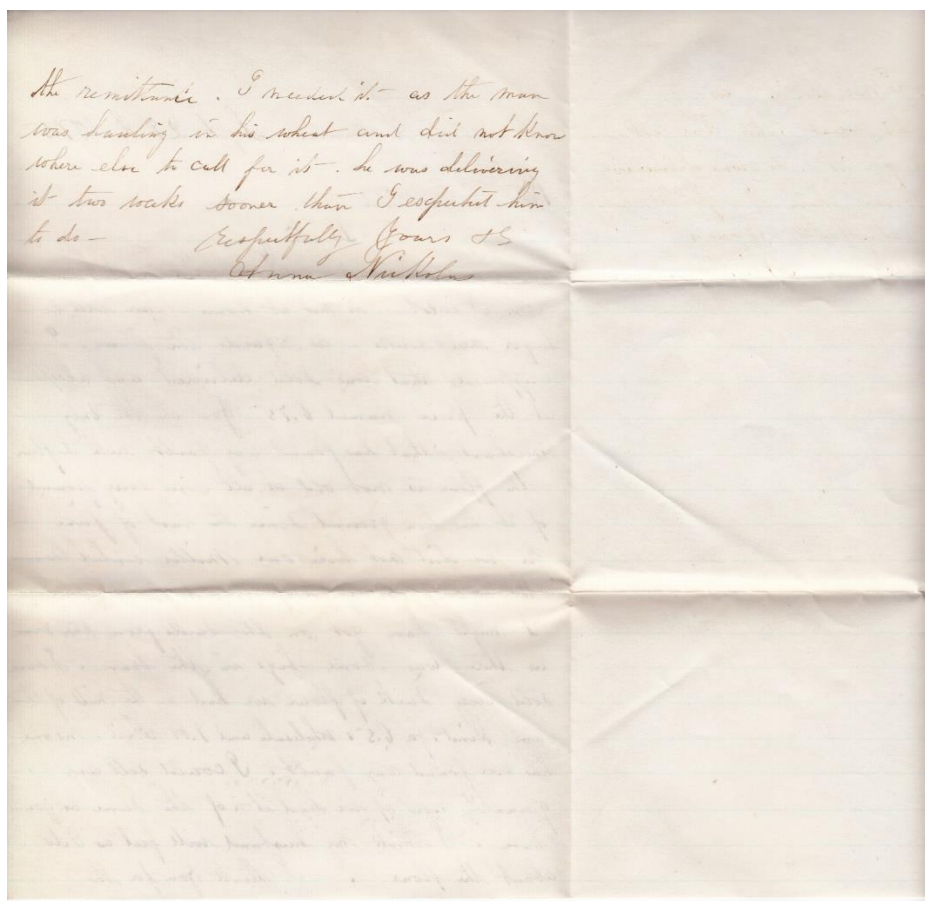
Cottonwood Sept 28th '875-

Mr Frank Licht.

Dr Sir.

Your letter is at hand.

Mr Nicholas is not at home - nor will he
be for three weeks. as regards the flour, I
supposed that you sold delivered and accepted
at the price named 6.75. You are the only
merchant that has found any fault with the flour.
The flour is not old at all. as every pound
of it has been ground since the last of June
for we did not hire our miller until then.
The weevil you speak of is not in the flour.
It might have got on the sacks from the barn
as there were some bags in the barn. I have
sold every sack of flour we had in the mill of the
same kind for 6.50 wholesale and 7.00 retail. no one
has ever found any fault. I could sell any
quantity now if we had it of the same as you
have. I think my husband will feel as I do
about the flour. I thank you for the



Letter from Anna Nickolas whose husband Elmus had just purchased the Furham Mill at Ludwig's Bridge west of Cottonwood and written to Frank Litsch (1835-1907) who operated the Litsch Store in Shasta from 1873 to 1895. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

Cottonwood September 29th, 1875

Mr. Frank Litsch

Dear Sir:

Your letter is at hand; Mr. Nicholas is not home – nor will he be for three weeks. As regards the flour: I suppose that was sold delivered and accepted at the price named 6.75. You are the only merchant that has found any fault with the flour. The flour is not old at all as every pound of it has been ground since the last of June for we did not hire our miller until then. The weevil you speak of is not in the flour. It might have got on the sacks from the bran as there were some bugs in the bran. I have sold every sack of flour we had in the mill of the same kind for 6.51 wholesale and 7.00 retail. No one has found any fault. I could sell any quality now if we had it of the same as you have. I think my husband will feel the same as I do about the flour. I thank you for the remittance. I needed it as the man was hauling in his wheat and did not know where else to call for it. He was delivering it two weeks sooner than I expected him to do.

Respectfully yours
Anna Nickolas

(enclosed with the letter was a receipt:

Cottonwood Sept. 29th 1875

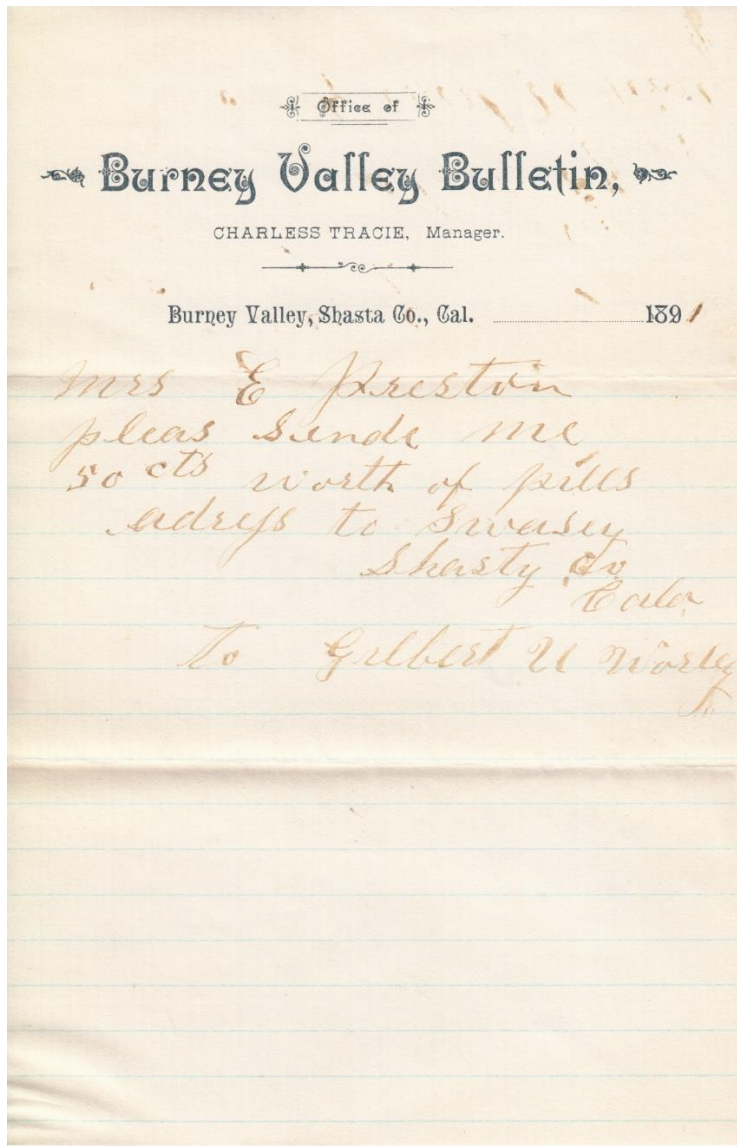
Received of Frank Litsch three hundred (300.00) dollars on account.

A. Nickolas)

Elmus Nickolas was born in Pennsylvania in 1822 and nothing was found about his early life. In 1863 Elmus registered for the Civil War draft as a single farmer at Buckeye. In 1867 Elmus purchased the John D. Birdsall farm at American Ranch. In the 1870 U. S. Census Elmus was listed as a grist miller at American Ranch living with Luke Lukes (1839-1908) who was born in England and working was a miller. With Luke was his first wife Clarissa J. Hill who was born in Canada in 1849 and died later in 1870 in Red Bluff and their son Arthur W. Lukes born about 1869 in Canada (by 1880 Luke was a Miller in Solano County but by 1900 was a flour miller at Shingletown with his second wife Persis Richardson). In 1871 Elmus married Anna Ruff the widow of Doctor John Augustus Ruff (born 1812 in Virginia). Anna had married Dr. Ruff in 1861 in Shasta County under the name Annie Van Horn (divorced). Dr. Ruff who was in the 1852 California Census in Shasta had been married previously to his first cousin Mary A. Ruff who died in 1860 leaving him with three children: Mary Elizabeth 1843, Andrew Augustus 1845, and John Lanaway 1848. Anna would have one child with Dr. Ruff: Samuel Francis 1861. In 1870 Anna was listed as a farmer at living Cottonwood, Tehama County with three children: Andrew Augustus, John Lanaway, and Samuel Francis. From the information in the letter Elmus had purchased the flour mill built by George Furman (Furnune) in 1860 at Ludwig's Bridge about two miles west of Cottonwood, on Cottonwood Creek in 1875. In addition to the flour mill Elmus purchased 400 acres on the south side of Cottonwood Creek (Elmus may have purchased other land in the area earlier as he was known to have sold 600 acres south of Cottonwood Creek and some land north of the creek in 1888 to John O'Keefe). In the 1880 U. S. Census Elmus was listed as a farmer in Township 7 living with Anna and a stepson Samuel Ruff. In 1886 Elmus registered to vote as a farmer at Cottonwood. In 1892 Elmus was living in Anderson and after 1896 was listed as a "capitalist."

At this point there is some confusion in local history: Dottie Smith and Myrtle McNamar have Stacy Nichols (Nicholas) purchasing the Ball's Ferry Flouring Mill and later moving his "father's" mill to Ball's Ferry consolidating both. No records were found that Elmus and Anna had a son named Stacy. There was a Stacy Mahlon Nichols (1856-1916) who married Amanda E. Hammons in Shasta County in 1877 except he was the son of Isaac Gibson Nichols (1818-1892). There is a similarity of names but the Stacy Nichols who moved the Ludwig's Bridge mill to Ball's Ferry was not Elmus' son nor probably even a relation. The Ball's Ferry Flouring Mill did come to be owned for a short period by Luke Lukes who lived with Elmus in 1870. In 1900 Elmus and Anna were living in Anderson with a niece Lena J. Moore born in 1863 in California (Lena was the daughter of William Moore and sister of Laura Moore who married Samuel Francis Ruff). Elmus Nickolas died in Anderson in 1902 and Anna followed in 1904.

Burney Valley Bulletin Letterhead



The letterhead above was from the office of the weekly newspaper the *Burney Valley Bulletin* and dated 1891. The letterhead cites Charless Tracie as manager. Charless was born in 1866 in Kentucky and moved to Redding in December of 1886 with his parents. Charless initially worked as a printer for the *Redding Free Press* before becoming manager and editor of the *Burney Valley Bulletin*. From 1890 to 1894 Charless was the postmaster of the Burney Valley Post Office. In 1901 Charless became manager of the *Courier Free Press* in Redding and stayed until it was sold in 1905. After the sale Charless changed trades and worked as an accountant. In 1892 Charless married Alice Clark of Millville who was a schoolteacher for thirty years. In 1900 Charless was living in Igo and operating a farm in addition to his newspaper work. In 1910 Charless was a bookkeeper at a grocery store in Redding and by 1920 was managing the grocery

store. In 1930 Charless was listed as a bookkeeper at a foundry in Redding. Charless retired in 1936 and died in 1952.

The note reads:

“Mrs. E. Preston
Please send me 50 cts. worth of pills
Address to Swasey
Shasty Co.
Cala.
to Gilbert U. Worley”

In checking the history of the *Burney Valley Bulletin*, the actual owner during Charless' employment was Frank Marshall Swasey (1852-1924). Frank was the son of early Shasta County pioneer of Lower Springs and noted photographer Benjamin Swasey. Frank for a short period of time was also a photographer but purchased the *Redding Independent* in 1879, then the *Redding Free Press* in 1883, where Charless was employed. At first it appeared Gilbert wanted the pills sent “care of” Swasey, but after further review it appears he wanted them sent to the Swasey Post Office that operated from 1888 to 1891. In 1892 the Swasey Post Office was renamed Glenburn.

The letter has multiple misspellings and Gilbert Worley was only known to have attended school until the 4th grade. Gilbert was born in 1864 in Iowa and was the son of Thomas J. and Mary J. Worley. Sometime between 1870 and 1880 Gilbert's father remarried and moved the family to Fresno County. In 1887 Gilbert married Ollie B. Ross 1872-1943. Gilbert reportedly lived in Carbon for thirty years but in 1900 and 1910 they were listed as farming in Burney Valley. In 1920 Gilbert was listed as a farmer at Corning in Tehama County before spending fifteen years at Fern. About 1930 Gilbert suffered from paralysis and died in 1940. Gilbert's illness may have been the cause of him writing to Mrs. E. Preston.

Emily Preston was often referred to as “Madam” or “Doctor” although she had no medical training. Emily was a well-known spiritual leader and healer in San Francisco in the late 1860s that prescribed her own home brewed remedies and concoctions. In 1871 Mrs. Preston had an epiphany and claimed she was able to literally perceive the word of God written on walls of light in front of her, and also to receive photographs of heaven and hell. Through the medium of these photographs Emily was able to perceive the true nature of things and diagnosis cases at a distance (by mail). In 1875 Emily married the wealthy lawyer Hartwell Lytton Preston and in 1877 or 1878 the couple founded the Preston Colony in Sonoma County that grew to include a 20-room hospital, stores, and its own school and post office. After 1886 a wealthy client donated a formal church known as the Free Pilgrim Covenant Church. Mrs. Preston believed that people became ill because their blood circulation had stopped or there was inflammation deep within the body. Mrs. Preston's primary cure was to cause blistering to drain the disease. Her overall treatment did provide a degree of palliative care as it included exercise, fresh air, mineral water, and herbal tonics to build up strength. In 1903 Mrs. Preston published a pamphlet titled a Price List of Medicines and How to Use Them and had customers from across the west. The unregulated conditions of the late nineteenth century medicine began to come to an end with the passage of the first Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 that provided legal grounds for prosecution. In 1912 the law was amended to include fraudulent labeling but by then the company was closed. Mrs. Preston died in 1909 of a heart condition.



Portrait of Fred P. Swasey (seated) and his brother Frank Marshall Swasey (standing).

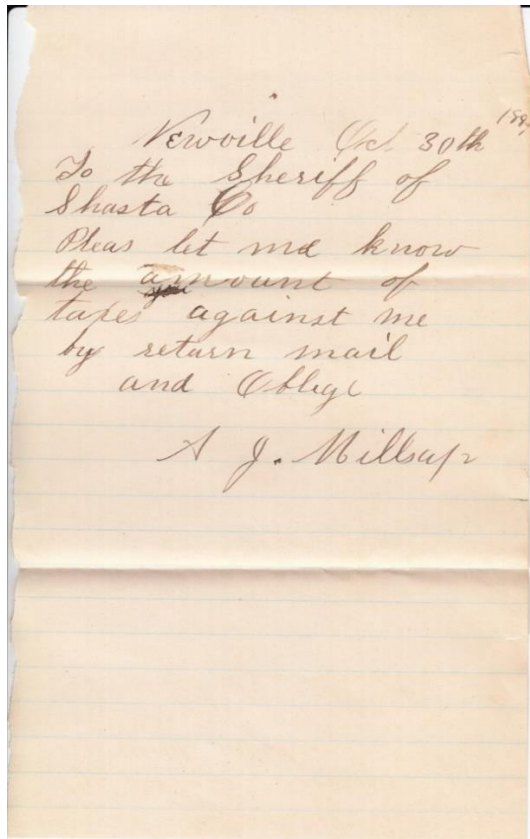


Charles and Alice Tracie. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Mrs. Emily Preston

Andrew Jackson Millsap



The letter reads:

"Newville Oct. 30th 189 (4)

To the Sheriff of Shasta Co.

Pleas let me know the amount of taxes against me by return mail and oblige

A.J. Millsaps"

Note: Newville is an unincorporated community in Glenn County about eighteen miles west of Orland. A post office operated at Newville from 1868 to 1918. The Millsaps family was associated with an area just south of Newville known as Chrome. The Millsaps Cemetery sits between Newville and Chrome and the surrounding area is still known as Millsaps.

Note: at the time of the letter Glenn County was in its infancy having broken off from Colusi (now Colusa) County in 1891.

Note: the letter is addressed to the Sheriff of Shasta County as that office was combined with the tax collector until 1894. As such the letter was probably addressed to Albert F. Ross, Senior.

The history of the Millsaps in California began in 1852 when four brothers and one sister settled in Sacramento. The family consisted of Joseph P. Millsaps 1819-1892, George Washington Millsaps 1822-1905, William Hiram Millsaps 1825-1902, Andrew Jackson Millsaps 1834-1916, and Elizabeth Millsaps 1839-1917. After about a year the family moved to northern Colusi County near Newville where they were respectively known as Joe, Wash, High, Dick, and Betty (later Mrs. Biswell). All four brothers established stock ranches.

The author of the letter was Andrew Jackson Millsaps born in 1848. Andy as he was commonly known was the son of George Washington Millsaps 1822-1905. There is an old stage stop and small cemetery just north of Beegum Creek that was known as Millsaps (Millsap's) and it is known that at least three members of the family were associated with the area southwest of Eagle Creek (Ono). Andrew Jackson Millsaps 1848-1915 and his brother James W. Millsaps 1857-1951 were listed as farmers at Eagle Creek (now Ono) in 1885-1886. Andrew Jackson's ranch near Eagle Creek seems to be the subject of the letter to the sheriff.

Another of Andrew Jackson's brothers Frances Marion Millsaps 1853-1930 received a homestead patent in 1891 for one hundred and sixty acres near the Diehl family (later the Bland ranch). The patent was for the north half of the northeast quarter and north half of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 29 North, Range 8 West, MDM. The homestead is near the junction of Fidler (Fiddlers/Fiddler) Creek and Beegum Creek as well as the old road through the Bald Hills to Eagle Creek. The three brothers appear to have come to Shasta County as the area was being opened as sheep range and by the 1930s most of the Millsaps had moved to Tehama or Glenn Counties.



Photograph of George Washington Millsaps. Courtesy of Find A Grave.

Fred Staser

M		Cottonwood, Cal.	Sept - 1 - 1915
		To	
		FRED STASER, Dr.	
		Horse-Shoer	
		AND	
		GENERAL BLACKSMITHING	
Aug.	24	sharp 2 picks 50	1.50
	27	" " " "	1.00
Sept.	12	" " " "	2.25
	16	2 tolls 1 pick 25	14.50
	17	sharp 1 pick	25
	18	ironing 1 pick + fitting 100	25
	25	sharp 1 pick + round hook	50
	28	" " " "	25
	29	" " " "	25
Oct.	1	threading rods	25
	2	sharp 1 pick	25
Paid			\$26.95

Although the bill above is from Fred Staser the correct name would be William Frederick Staser. "Fred" was born in 1872 who was the son of Henry Charles Staser (born 1840 in Indiana) and Nancy A. Cochran (born 1840 in Illinois). Fred's grandfather Conrad Staser (1806 Baden Germany - 1849) died near Fort Kearney, Nebraska while making the trip to California and his grandmother Amy "Ama" Hooker (1807 Tennessee-1858 Indiana) who had stayed in Indiana died in 1858. Conrad and Amy had a son John Frederick Staser born in 1829 in Indiana who married Nancy Ann Cochran (Jones) in 1858. By the 1860 U.S. Census John and Nancy were living in Cottonwood, Tehama County. John died in October 1862 leaving one child, Elizabeth

Christine Staser (1861-1916). It appears that a second son of Conrad and Amy's, Henry Charles Staser accompanied his older brother and new wife to Tehama County. Henry married his brother's widow in December 1862 at Corning, Tehama County. Nancy Ann was listed as Burns (her parents were named (?) Burns and Susan Cochran and she may have used both names).

Henry reportedly enlisted in September 1861 and there are two stories: he enlisted as a musician at Ft. Jones in 1861 and he enlisted in Company M, 2nd California Cavalry (the regiment did have a band when it was formed). Both stories may be correct: the U. S. Army post had been closed in 1858 so he would have enlisted in the town of Fort Jones where the first company commander of Company M did recruit in 1861. Henry was not found in the roster of the company, but the pension application filed by his wife confirms he was a member. Company M, 2nd California Cavalry was assembled at Camp Alert in San Francisco in 1862. The company was assigned to Utah Territory and by January 1863 participated in the Battle of Bear River in current Idaho (having had three killed in action, 1 die of wounds, 13 wounded). What started as a battle with the Shoshone evolved into a massacre after which the company was stationed at Ft. Bridger in Wyoming from May 1863 to May 1864. From May 1864 to August 1864 the company surveyed a road from Salt Lake City to the Colorado River near Fort Mojave. Henry's term of service expired in September 1864, and it appears that Henry remained as a veteran volunteer until Company M was discharged in October of 1866. For the remainder of his service Company M was stationed at Camp Douglas, Utah Territory, Ft. Bridger, Wyoming Territory, and Ft. Laramie, Wyoming Territory. Henry registered to vote as a blacksmith in Tehama County in November 1866 and in the 1870 U.S. Census he was listed as a stock rancher at Paskenta, married to Nancy A. Cochran, with four children: Cal E. (Elizabeth Christine) 1861 (daughter of John Frederick Staser), Minnie J. born 1863, Caroline "Carrie" 1865, and Ida Francis 1869 (there was another daughter Catherine born in 1864 or 1867 who died in 1867).

There are some doubts in the Henry's history based on the birthdates of the children. In 1880 Minnie was listed as age 15 (1865) which fits Henry's Civil War service if he did not serve as a Veteran Volunteer after 1864. Caroline was listed as 13 in 1880 and a birthdate of 1867 would fit Henry's Civil War service. Henry purchased the stock ranch at Paskenta using an agricultural college script and the patent was granted in 1874 but it appears he started a second stock ranch in Shasta County shortly afterwards. Henry appears to have filed an intent to homestead for the southeast quarter in section 2, Township 29 North, Range 5 West, MDM. The homestead was granted to his orphan children under the name Staser: Minnie, Caroline "Carrie", Ida Francis, Mary Ellen, William Frederick, and Charles Henry in 1892. Henry and Nancy had three additional children after the 1870 U.S. Census: Mary Ellen born in Tehama County in 1870, William Frederick born in 1872, and Charles Henry born at Cottonwood, Shasta County in 1874. Henry died shortly after the birth of his last son. No exact date was found but Nancy filed for his Civil War pension in 1877. By 1880 Nancy was married to her third husband: William Erastus (Erasmus) Burch born about 1831 in Indiana. William had a neighboring ranch in section 2 and in 1880 was living at Watson Gulch and Jerusalem Creek with Nancy, Minnie, Caroline, Ida, Mary, William, and Charles. In 1886 William Burch registered to vote as a farmer at Cottonwood. William died in January 1900. In 1900 Nancy was living with her son Charles. Nancy married her fourth husband John Trewblood in 1901 and in 1902 was serving as postmaster at Proberta, Tehama County. Nancy died in 1913.

William Frederick "Fred" Staser was born in 1872 and in 1896 registered to vote in Cottonwood, Tehama County as a laborer. In 1899 Fred married Emeline "Emma" L. Furrer (her headstone reads Mary L. Furrer) who was born in 1881. In 1910 and 1929 Fred was listed as a blacksmith in his own shop in Cottonwood. Fred and Emma had five children: Roy Charles 1901, Mabel C. 1902, Frederick F. 1903, Myrtle A. 1905, and Melba 1916. Fred filed for divorce in 1922 citing that the couple had not spoken in years. By 1930 both Emma and Fred were remarried: Emma to John T. Dotson and Fred to Lucy Casebeer. In 1930 Emma was listed with John Dotson, a barber in Cottonwood and living with Melba Staser. Lucy was divorced from Francis Marion Casebeer (1874-1937) with whom she had ten children. Lucy's maiden name was Lucy Matilda Hardten. In 1930 Fred was listed as a laborer at Cottonwood with Lucy and two children: Evelyn Casebeer 1910 and Frederick Charles Casebeer 1915. In 1932 Cottonwood was stunned by the murder of Fred Staser in his home. Fred had been beaten to death with a rolling pin reportedly while his wife was visiting her daughter. Although investigated, no arrest for the murder was found. Lucy died in Cottonwood in 1945.