

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



Site of the old fish ladder at Saeltzer Dam along Clear Creek Road. The ladder was needed when the older Taylor Dam was raised about ten feet.



Remains of the Texas Spring quarry near the junction of Honey Bee Lane and Texas Spring Road. Much of the cut stone was used locally or transported to the Girvan siding for shipment by railroad.



The Kingsbury House in 2008 before being torn down. The house was located in the field to the south of Cemetery Road and north of Placer Road in Igo.

The June newsletter consists of 3 articles: 1) The Loomis Family and the Birmingham Emigrating Company, 2) Interview of James (Jim) Fiske, 3) Preemption

The Loomis Family and the Birmingham Emigrating Company

Writing the story about the Loomis Families for the April edition of the newsletter led to the discovery of other sources and a more complete picture. One source was the journal of the Birmingham Emigrating Company written by Leander Vaness Loomis and published in 1850. The company left Birmingham, Iowa on 11 April 1850 to take the northern Platte River route to the Humboldt River, then to the Carson River and Carson Pass and into Sacramento on the 15th of August 1850 after having travelled by their reckoning 2,182 miles. The company reportedly consisted of about seventy-five members and one hundred horses and was organized along military lines and consisted of eleven members of the extended Loomis family:

1. Leander Vaness Loomis (served as 3rd Lieutenant for a period)
2. Andrew Jackson Loomis (a brother of Leander)
(NOTE: A.I Loomis captain for a period and A.L Loomis 2nd Lt. for a period ?)
3. Abner Washington Loomis (a brother of Leander; served as 3rd Lieutenant for a period)
4. Adroniram Judson Loomis (a brother of Leander)
5. Hiram B. Barnes (brother-in-law of Leander; married to his sister Hannah Bond Loomis; served as the first captain and later as a 1st Lieutenant)
6. Rosetta "Rosetty" Barnes (daughter of John P. Barnes and cousin of Hiram Barnes married to Smith Culberson)
7. Smith Culberson (husband of Rosetta Barnes, served as 3rd Lieutenant for a period)
8. Barnett Barnes (son of James Alexander Barnes and brother of Hiram Barnes; served as captain for a period)
9. Reason Barnes (daughter of James Alexander Barnes and sister of Hiram Barnes)
10. Elisha D. Skinner (a son of Leander's aunt Sarah Loomis and Elisha Skinner; served as secretary)
11. Charles D. Skinner (son of Leander's aunt Sarah Loomis and Elisha Skinner; served as 1st Lieutenant for a period)

It should be noted that one other family members was reported to be a member of the Birmingham Emigrating Company: Israel Philander Loomis (son of Leander's uncle Nathaniel Loomis) who most likely came to California in 1854 with or about the same time as Leander's brother Orrin. Since Philander as he was known is listed in at least two sources he is included in the list.

1. Leander Loomis upon leaving the wagon train in Sacramento began to purchase cattle around Sacramento to drive to the northern mines and sell at a profit. In the 1850 U.S. Census Leander, Andrew and Reason Barnes were listed at Cache Creek, Yolo County. Leander and Andrew Jackson drove the herd to Trinity County. By 1851 Leander was operating the Mountain Market in Weaverville. Andrew joined Leander after two years of mining and Orrin Loomis joined them in

the cattle and butchering business in 1854. In the 1860 U.S. Census Leander is listed as a stock raiser in Lassen District of Tehama county. In 1860 Leander purchased forty acres in Section 25 Township 27 North Range 4 West and in 1861 he purchased 141.6 acres in Section 31 Township 25 North Range 1 West. The Lingenfelter Archives places Leander at Deer Creek in Tehama County in 1862 and another history states Leander built a big packing house east of Red Bluff which is compatible with Deer Creek. On July 23, 1863, Leander married Louise Whetsel with one source citing Tehama County and one Weaverville.

Leander was famous for a ride he made in 1855. Upon hearing of the failure of the Adams & Company of California Leander rode for four days and nights on a relay of horses to beat the steamer carrying the news to Portland, Oregon. Leander made the five hundred mile ride in time to cash thousands of dollars worth of Adams & Company paper an hour before the steamer arrived with the news.

Louise Whetsel was born in 1839 in Weston, Lewis County, Virginia (now West Virginia) and moved to Iowa with her family in 1841. In 1851 she travelled to California with Mr. and Mrs. Mat Bonnifield. After arriving Louise lived with the Elias Anderson family at American Ranch until her marriage. One source stated the couple had five children all born in Nevada but only four were found: Charles, Arthur, Charlotte and Estella.

We know that Leander had moved the family to Nevada by 1864 where Charles Cato Loomis was born. It is not known if Leander moved due to an interest in mines or to continue in the cattle business or both. In the 1870 U.S. Census Leander is listed as a stock broker in Hamilton, White Pine County, Nevada. Leander later moved to Pioche in Lincoln County Nevada (both counties are in eastern Nevada and border Utah to the east).

The family history states he acquired an antimony mine in southern Utah and in the 1880 U.S. Census he is listed as a miner at Moroni, Sanpete County in central Utah. According to family history Leander left Salt Lake City to manage the Sunny Hill Mine northwest of Ono. Leander registered to vote in Sunny Hill, Ono on May 2, 1892. Sometime around before 1900 when the mine "pinched out" Leander moved to his property at Manton where he died on November 7, 1909.

2. Andrew Jackson Loomis was born on January 25, 1825 in New York and moved west with his family to Ohio in 1834 then Iowa in 1840. Andrew crossed the plains as part of the Birmingham Emigrating Company. Andrew, Leander and Reason Barnes were located at Cache Creek in Yolo County for the 1850 U.S. Census where Andrew was listed as a carpenter and the other two as farmers. Andrew purchased cattle with his brother Leander to drive to the northern mines. For two years Andrew worked as a miner before joining Leander in the Mountain Market in Weaverville. Andrew returned east in the spring of 1855 via Panama and New York. Having returned to Van Buren County, Iowa Andrew married Mary O. Shaw who by reports was deeply involved in the Methodist-Episcopal Church. Andrew also became active in the church and was ordained in 1858. Andrew relocated to Kansas around 1858 and lived there until 1869. It is reported that Andrew served a term in the Kansas legislature. In the 1865 Kansas census Andrew was listed as a farmer at Palmyra in Douglas County. On the 1870 U.S. Census Andrew was listed as a farmer at Harrisburg, Linn County, Oregon. In 1880 Andrew was listed as a preacher in

Whitman, Washington and lived there until at least 1892. In 1900 Andrew was listed as a gardener in Spokane, Washington where he died in 1911.

3. Abner Washington Loomis was born in New York on 17 December 1829 and like his brothers moved with the family to Ohio in 1834 and Iowa in 1840. Abner was trained as a gunsmith in Iowa before joining the Birmingham Emigrating Company in 1850. Abner is not listed in Yolo County with Leander and Andrew in 1850 and appears to have gone ahead to the northern mines where he engaged in mining for four years along the Trinity River. He next turned his attention to buying and selling cattle from his ranch on Belle Creek (possibly in Butte County). In 1859 Abner returned east via Panama and New York.

Abner settled in Iowa only for a short period before being drawn into the gold fever of the Pike's Peak rush in Colorado. The April 1860 passage west was easier for Abner as he took the stage from Kansas City to Denver. Abner met Antoine Janise who had been at Cache la Poudre and said he had found gold in the sands. Abner found gold but after prospecting for a month could barely pay expenses so he decided to go in the stock business. Abner purchased a ranch at Pleasant Valley. The operation started small but after Abner build a water ditch his success in growing wheat and potatoes increased. Abner introduced black walnuts to Colorado. During this period Abner also did freight trips as far as Montana and Missouri. During one such trip Abner met Jane Isabelle Allen and the couple were married in Bethany, Missouri in 1862. During the same period Abner was active in a local military style protection organization.

In 1867 Abner sold his farm and purchased a ranch in Spring Canyon that he stocked with a Shorthorn and Spanish cow mix. In 1871 he moved to Fort Collins then Sable, Wyoming increasing his holdings. Abner eventually returned to Ft. Collins where he was a county commissioner for twelve years. His wife Jane died in 1893.

In 1882 Abner and Charles B. Andrews purchased an interest in the Poudre Valley Bank. The bank was incorporated as a state institution in 1893 with Abner as president. Abner remarried Melinda Maxwell. Abner died in Fort Collins on 24 August 1904.

4. Adoniram Judson Loomis was born in New York in 1826 and moved with his family to Ohio in 1834 and to Iowa in 1840. After the Birmingham Emigrating Company arrived at Sacramento he seems to have preceded his brothers to the northern mines. He is reportedly in the 1850 U.S. Census in Weaverville engaged in mining and live stock. On 8 October 1857 Adoniram married Minerva Anderson in Weaverville. In 1860 he is listed as a butcher in Weaverville. In 1868 in the voter registration he is listed as County Clerk and another note stated he served two terms. Also in 1868 he registered as a farmer at Inghrams in Tehama County and there is a note that he moved to Red Bluff in 1869 to engage in the forwarding business, live stock and mining. In the 1870 U.S. Census he was listed as a butch in Red Bluff and in the 1872 voter registration a farmer in Inghrams (near present day Corning). In 1879 he was registered to vote as a trader in Red Bluff and in 1880 a butcher in Red Bluff. Another note states he served twice as County Treasurer. Adoniram died in Tehama County on 25 July 1885.

5. Hiram B. Barnes was born in March 1818 in Harrison County, Ohio and was the son of James A. Barnes and Elizabeth Barnett. About 1820 the family moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio then McLean County, Ohio in 1834. By trade Hiram was a carpenter and joiner. In 1839 he and his family moved to Van Buren County, Iowa. Hiram remained on the family farm until his marriage to Hannah Bond Loomis born in New York in 1822. Hannah was the sister of Leander Vaness Loomis. Hiram was a farmer in Van Buren County until 1850 when he joined the Birmingham Emigrating Company and was elected the wagon trains first captain. Hiram mined in the northern mines for nearly two years before returning to Iowa to farm. In 1861 he enlisted in the 3rd Iowa Volunteer Cavalry along with his father James. Hiram was elected a 2nd Lieutenant and was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant. The regiment served mostly against guerrillas. Due to the absence of the company commander Hiram commanded the company the greater part of the time. Hiram participated in the Battle of Kirksville, Missouri in August 1862 and numerous skirmishes. In March 1863 Hiram was discharged from service due to disability at Ironton, Missouri. Hiram returned to Birmingham, Iowa to farm and operate a livery business for the next thirty years. Hiram died in June 1899.

6/7. Rosette Barnes was the daughter of John P. Barnes and Aly Barnett. John was Hiram Barnes' uncle making Rosette his cousin. Rosette was born in Ohio between 1821 and 1825 and moved to Iowa about 1840. In 1842 she married Smith Culbertson's (the correct name is James Smith Culbertson). James was born in Ohio in 1820 and was living in Iowa by 1841 when he purchased land in Burlington, Van Buren County, Iowa. James and Rosette had no children when they both joined the Birmingham Emigration Company. In the 1850 U.S. Census James and Rosette were listed at Rough and Ready in Yuba County (now Nevada County) where James was mining. Rosette and James were there when the town declared its succession from the Union mainly to avoid taxes. The town rejoined the Union in 1851 when someone pointed out the Great Republic of Rough and Ready couldn't celebrate the 4th of July, then one of the biggest events of the year. It is not known how long they remained in California but by 1870 they were farming at Union, Van Buren County, Iowa. In 1880 James was listed as a retired farmer living in Birmingham with Rosette. It appears that the couple never had children. James died in 1896 and Rosette died in 1897.

8. Baronet (sometimes given as Baronett) Barnes was the brother of Hiram Barnes. All that could be found about Baronet was a note that he was killed in his cabin in California.

9. Reason Barnes was born in 1829 in Ohio and made the move with his family to Iowa in 1839. Reason was the brother of Hiram Barnes. Only skeletal information was found about Reason in California. In 1850 he was listed as a farmer in Yolo County with Leander and Andrew Jackson Loomis. One note said Reason lived in Sacramento and San Francisco immediately after trying mining. Reason next shows up in a voter registration in 1869 for Washington, Colusa County where he is listed as a teamster. He appears to have moved from Colusa County to Mono County as he presented a certificate from Colusa to register to vote. In the 1880 U.S. Census Reason was listed as a farmer at Bridgeport, Mono County. In the same entry was his sister Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Barnes listed as a widow. Lizzie was living in Iowa in

1860 and known to have married Robert Shanks Patterson. In 1882 Reason was registered as a teamster in Bridgeport. In 1886 Reason purchased 400 acres from the Government Land Office in Mono County reportedly near Twin Lakes (Mammoth). In 1888 Reason and Lizzie moved to Willow Ranch in Modoc County where they may have been joined by another sister, Harriet Barnes. Reason appears to have never married. He died in November 1892 at Willow Ranch in Modoc County. Lizzie was believed to have returned to the ranch in Mono County and Harriet lived at Willow Ranch until her death in 1917.

10. Elisha Dyer Skinner was born in 1814 in New York and was the son of Leander Loomis' aunt Sarah Loomis (1792-1852) and Elisha Skinner (1771-1839). About 1829 Elisha moved with his parents to Holmes County, Ohio where he wed Abigail Peckham in 1835. In Ohio Elisha was trained as a civil engineer. Elisha and Abigail moved with his parents to Iowa in 1839 where Elisha worked as a surveyor. In 1846 Elisha was known to have purchased 40 acres from the Government Land office in Van Buren County. In 1850 Elisha left his wife and seven children in Iowa and joined the Birmingham Emigrating Company. He appears to have mined in the northern mines with his brother Charles for about three years then returned to his family in Iowa. In the Iowa census of 1856 Elisa was listed as a farmer in Appanoose County, Iowa. In 1860 Elisa was listed as a surveyor and in 1870 a mail carrier in Caldwell, Appanoose County, Iowa. In 1871 the family moved to Cowley, Vernon County, Kansas where Elisha was listed as a farmer and for at least ten years an assessor. In 1900 Elisha was listed as a surveyor in Jackson, Blue County, Missouri. Elisha was believed to have died in 1906.

11. Charles D. Skinner was born in 1816 in New York and was the son of Leander Loomis' aunt Sarah Loomis (1792-1852) and Elisha Skinner (1771-1839). About 1829 Charles and his family moved to Holmes County, Ohio and in 1839 to Van Buren County, Iowa. In 1840 Charles married Nancy Barnes in Van Buren County and settled into farming. In 1850 Charles left his wife and five children in Iowa and joined the Birmingham Emigrating Company for California (four more children were born later). Charles mined for three years then returned to his family in Iowa. In the Iowa census of 1856 Charles was listed as a miller in Van Buren County. In the U.S. Census of 1860, 1870 and 1880 Charles was a farmer in Van Buren County, Iowa. Charles died in 1890.

Israel Philander Loomis, generally known by his middle name, was the son of Leander's uncle Nathaniel Loomis (1797-1884) and Eliza Ann Peckham. He was born in 1833 in Holmes County, Ohio and appears to have moved to Iowa with his parents about 1839. The Lingenfelter Archives report Philander crossed the plains with cousins, Adoniram Judson Loomis and Leander Loomis, while a Butte County biography stated he crossed with two cousins, Judd who became a Superior Court judge in Tehama County and Leander who lived in Manton. The problem rests with the 1850 U.S. Census that lists him with his parents at Cedar, Jefferson County, Iowa on 28 September 1850 or a month after his two cousins arrived in Sacramento. An article in the Chico Record on June 20, 1913 states he crossed the plain in 1854 by ox-team locating first in Ventura. The next entry found was "on December 14, 1860 Philander was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to one year in San Quentin." Philander was committed from Yolo County.

Philander was known to have married Mrs. Virginia Gargus (maiden name Hall) who started across the plains with her first husband and three children only to have Mr. Gargus die on the journey. Virginia and the children settled near Yreka where she met Philander. In 1867 Philander was registered to vote in Dent, San Joaquin County as a farmer. In 1870 he was registered as a teamster in Belle Mill (on the east side of the Sacramento River across from Red Bluff) in Tehama County. In 1879 he was listed as a farmer in Hanford, Tulare County (in 1893 became Hanford, Kings County) and where his wife died in 1879 leaving four known children (Frank born in Calaveras County in 1868, Charles on Nelson about 1870, Mary about 1872 and Auli about 1873). According to the Butte County biography Philander made a trip to Kansas and Colorado remaining a year each before traveling overland to Oregon where he logged at Princeville. Upon his return to California "the family settled in Lassen County." In 1888 the family moved to Butte County where Philander spent the rest of his life. In 1898 he was registered as a laborer in Oakdale, Butte County and in 1900 as a stage driver at Humboldt, Butte County. For the last years of his life he resided with his son Frank who in 1913 was running the Barber Hotel in Chico. On 19 June 1913 the hotel caught fire and Philander and four others lost their lives.

Of the eleven known members of the Birmingham Emigrating Company three settled in California, one was killed violently in California and seven returned east most to resume their old lives.

Family Tree of Leander Vaness Loomis

Generation 1. Israel Loomis born 29 October 1756 in Union, Tolland County, Connecticut, died 11 May 1826 in Holmes County, Ohio.

(Note: son of Abner Loomis born 1729 in Connecticut and Charity Sprague born 1730 in Connecticut)

Married January 1785 in Ashford, Connecticut Hannah Leavens born 22 November 1764 in Columbia, Connecticut, died 7 November 1847 in Van Buren County, Iowa

1.1 Rhodolphus Loomis born 29 March 1786 at Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 28 April 1845 at Conneaut, Pennsylvania

1.2 William Loomis born 25 July 1788 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York

1.3 Sarah Loomis born 4 July 1792 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 23 March 1852, Van Buren County, Iowa

Married 23 September 1813 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York

Elisha Skinner born about 1791 in Connecticut, died 1839 in Van Buren County, Iowa

1.3.1 Elisha D. Skinner born 24 June 1814 in Norwich, Chenango County, New York, died about 1906

Married 19 September 1835 in Holmes County, Ohio Abigail Peckham born about 1816 in Holmes County, Ohio (daughter of William Peckham and Cynthia Cook)

(7 Children: Fanny E. 1837 Ohio, Lucinda 1838 Ohio, Sarah

- 1840 Ohio, Charles Marion 1842 Iowa, Henry Eugene 1845 Missouri, William about 1846, Easton Cooke 1848 Iowa)
- 1.3.2 Charles D. Skinner born 21 May 1816 in Chautauqua County, New York, died 24 February 1890 in Iowa
Married 12 November 1840 in Van Buren County, Iowa Nancy Barnes born 26 July 1821 in Holmes County, Ohio
(9 children: Alvira 1841 Iowa, Martha 1843, John B. 1845, Elisha H. 1846 Iowa, William 1848, Hiram C. 1856, Edward C. 1861, Erastus Pitt 1863 and Mary A. 1864)
- 1.3.3 Hugh Randolphus Skinner born 1818 Chautauqua county, New York, died 7 July 1901 in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA
Married (1) 20 March 1844 in Jefferson County, Iowa Isabella R. Baird born 1825 in Pennsylvania
(5 children: Lucretia 1848 Iowa, George 1849, Fidella 1850, Milton 1853, Iowa, Julia about 1856)
Married (2) 25 December 1861 in Van Buren County, Iowa Maria Townsend
Married (3) Emily born about 1819
Married (4) Rebecca Taft
- 1.3.4 George Skinner
- 1.3.5 Benjamin Rush Skinner born 1 April 1824 in Chautauqua County, New York, died 8 March 1893, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, CA
Married 24 December 1862 in Sanoma County, CA Sarah Adeline Mallory born 27 October 1844 in Missouri, died 14 January 1910 in San Francisco, CA
(5 children: Dolores Geneva 1866 Sonoma County, Mary Etta 1867 Sonoma County, Hugh Rush 1872 Sonoma County, Theresa Maud 1876, Virginia Lee about 1880)
- 1.3.6 Elias Skinner born 3 September 1827, Holmes County, Ohio, died 1 May 1912 Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa
Married 4 April 1850 in Van Buren County, Iowa Maria Barnes born 28 March 1832 in Ohio, died 6 August 1898 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa
(five children: Cara Abi 1851 Iowa, Hannah Louisa 1855 Iowa, Edward Ames 1860 Iowa, Sarah Collin 1862 Iowa, and Ada Maria 1870 Iowa)
- 1.3.7 Fanny E. Skinner
- 1.3.8 William Cullen Skinner born about 1834 in Holmes County, Ohio, died 25 September 1896 in Humboldt County, CA
Married Lemira E. Stanley born about 1843 in Iowa, died 15 April 1923 in Patterson, Stanislaus County, CA
(1 child: Minnie 1887)
- 1.4 Israel Loomis born 20 March 1795 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died February 1829 at Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York
- 1.5 Nathaniel Loomis born 17 May 1797 in Whitesborough, New York, died

- 1884 Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa
Married 17 October 1826 in Holmes County, Ohio Eliza Ann Peckham
born Killbuck Valley, Holmes County, Ohio, died about 1900 in
Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa
- 1.5.1 William Henry Loomis born 25 November in Holmes County,
Ohio
- 1.5.2 Hannah Mary Loomis born 11 July 1829 in Holmes County, Ohio
- 1.5.3 Isreal Philander Loomis born 9 January 1833 in Holmes County,
Ohio, died 20 June 1913 at Chico, Butte County, CA
Married Jane Hall Gargas born 1839 in Virginia, died 1879 in
Hanford, Kings County, CA
- 1.5.3.1 Frank born about 1868 in California
- 1.5.3.2 Charles born about 1870 in California
- 1.5.3.3 Mary born 1872 in California, died 1943
- 1.5.3.4 Auli Loomis born about 1873 in California
- 1.5.4 Margaret Louisa Loomis born 20 February 1836 in Holmes
County, Ohio
- 1.5.5 John B. Loomis born 7 August 1838 in Holmes County, Ohio
Enlist Co. C 8th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry Regiment 30 June 1863,
promoted 2nd Lt., died in service 30 July 1864 at Franklin,
Georgia
- 1.5.6 Rebecca E. Loomis born 25 October 1840 in Fairfield, Jefferson
County, Iowa
- 1.5.7 James Sharron Loomis born 27 January 1843 in Fairfield,
Jefferson County, Iowa
- 1.5.8 Ann olive Loomis born 3 October 1844 in Fairfield, Jefferson
County, Iowa
- 1.5.9 Nelson Loomis born 22 July 1847 in Fairfield, Jefferson County,
Iowa
- 1.6 Fanny Loomis born 3 March 1799 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New
York, died Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa
- 1.7 Mary Loomis born 1801 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died
20 December 1874, Van Buren County, Iowa
- 1.8 Abner Loomis born 7 July 1803 in Dunkirk, Chautauqua, New York, died
21 September 1873 in Salem, Missouri
Married June 1833 in Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, New York Arme
Hayward born 25 August 1812 in Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, New
York, died 23 October 1893 in Blackwell, Oklahoma
- 1.8.1 Charles Loomis born 12 May 1834 in New York
- 1.8.2 Hanna Jane Loomis born 25 October 1835 in New York, died
1906 in Toledo, Ohio
- 1.8.3 James Loomis born 13 May 1837 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio, died 16 October 1837 in New
Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio
- 1.8.4 Edward Loomis born 24 January 1839 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio

- 1.8.5 Frances Loomis born 4 June 1840 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio
- 1.8.6 Abner Loomis born 2 June 1842 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio, died 7 June 1863
- 1.8.7 Arme Loomis born 3 August 1844 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio
- 1.8.8 George H. Loomis born 5 September 1846 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio
- 1.8.9 Louisa Loomis born 18 December 1848 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio, died 1901 Massillon, Ohio
- 1.8.10 Theodore Loomis born 31 July 1851 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio, died 1884 in Kirksville, Iowa
- 1.8.11 Minerva Ann Loomis born 1 May 1854 in New Philadelphia,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio, died 20 February 1884 in Pine Bluff,
Indiana
- 1.8.12 Benjamin F. Loomis born 14 November 1857, died Clarmore,
Oklahoma

1.9 Henry Dyer Loomis born 11 March 1805 born Pomfret, Chautauqua
County, New York, died Indiana
Married Alma Haywood

1.9.1 Ellen Loomis born 17 October 1837 in Connecticut, died 17
September 1838 in Connecticut

Generation 2 (1.2) William Loomis born 25 July 1788 in Pomfret, Chautauqua
County, New York, died 22 April 1850, Birmingham, Van Buren County, Iowa
Married 9 May 1813 in New York Sylvia Morton born 15 July 1790 in Athol,
Massachusetts, died 10 February 1864 in Birmingham, Van Buren County,
Iowa

2.1 Theodore Sedgwick Loomis born 6 September 1814 in Pomfret,
Chautauqua County, New York, died 7 March 1843 in Pomfret,
Chautauqua County, New York

2.2 Charles Morton Loomis born 20 December 1815 in Pomfret, Chautauqua
County, New York, died 24 July 1840

2.3 William Edwin Loomis born 19 July 1817 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County,
New York

Married (1) 27 August 1846 Mary W. Hamby

2.3.1 Theodore J. Loomis

2.3.2 Addison H. Loomis

2.3.3 Emily H. Loomis

Married (2) 15 January 1861 in Iowa

2.3.4 Eleanor H. Loomis

2.3.5 Mabel Loomis

2.4 Gilbert Percy Loomis born 8 March 1819 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County,
New York, died 17 November 1901 in Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa
Married 3 October 1848 in Birmingham, Van Buren County, Iowa
Susanna Ann Baird

2.4.1 Arethusa Loomis

- 2.4.2 Ashmun Loomis
- 2.4.3 Horner Loomis
- 2.5 Polly Warren Loomis born 31 March 1821 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died Olympia, Washington
Married 3 July 1849 in Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa Alfred Humphrey
 - 2.5.1 Hannah Florence Humphrey
 - 2.5.2 Harriet Elizabeth Humphrey
- 2.6 Hannah Bond Loomis born 23 July 1822 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 3 November 1910 in Birmingham, Van Buren County, Iowa
Married 26 August 1846 in Jefferson County, Iowa Hiram B. Barnes born 1818 in Harrison County, Ohio, died 22 June 1899 in Birmingham, Van Buren County, Iowa
(Note: enlisted Co. H, 3rd Iowa Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, elected 2nd Lt., promoted to 1st Lt., discharged for disability 1863)
 - 2.6.1 Louisa Barnes born 11 December 1849, Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
 - 2.6.2 William A. Barnes born 30 August 1852 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
 - 2.6.3 James A. Barnes born 31 August 1852 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa, died 3 February 1853 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
 - 2.6.4 Belle Barnes born 3 September 1856 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa, died 19 January in Klamath Falls, Oregon
Married 5 March 1877 in Birmingham, Van Buren County, Iowa Abraham Kirkpatrick
(7 children: Claude, Maudie, Clarence Marion, Lester Frank, Hiram Barnes, George Oliver, and Alma Wilma)
 - 2.6.5 Virginia Barnes born 3 December 1858 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
 - 2.6.6 Mary Barnes born 2 August 1860 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
 - 2.6.7 Iola Barnes born 18 September 1865 in Union, Van Buren County, Iowa
Married Isaac B. Snyder
(2 children: Alfred K. and Hannah L.)
 - 2.6.8 Lester Barnes died as child
- 2.7 Andrew Jackson Loomis born 10 January 1825 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 14 August 1911 in Spokane, Washington
Married 7 February 1856 in Van Buren County, Iowa Mary O. Shaw
 - 2.7.1 Sidney Samuel Loomis born 24 November 1856 in Iowa
 - 2.7.2 Sylvia Jane Loomis born 5 July 1858 in Kansas
 - 2.7.3 Frederick Loomis born 14 March 1860 in Kansas
 - 2.7.4 Hiram Loomis born 26 July 1862, died 10 May 1863 in Kansas

- 2.7.5 John Milton Loomis born 19 December 1863 in Kansas
- 2.7.6 William Woodward Loomis born 5 April 1865 in Kansas
- 2.7.7 Mary Alice Loomis born 26 February 1867 in Kansas
- 2.7.8 Alfred Orrin Loomis born 26 June 1869 in Kansas
- 2.7.9 Eva Elizabeth born 1872 in Linn County, Oregon
- 2.7.10 Audry (Andrew) Jesse born 1879 in Whitman County, Washington
- 2.8 Adoniram Judson Loomis born 8 May 1826 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died intestate in Red Bluff, Tehama County July 25, 1885
Married 8 October 1857 in Trinity County Minerva Anderson born 1834 in Ohio, died 5 July 1926 Trinity County
- 2.8.1 Judson Warren Loomis born 1859 in California
- 2.8.2 Charles Clark Loomis born 1861 in California
- 2.8.3 Caroline Loomis born 1863 in California
- 2.8.4 Minnie Angeline Loomis born 31 March 1864 in California, died 2 December 1877 in Red Bluff, Tehama County
- 2.8.5 Clara Loomis born 20 October 1865 in California, died 16 May 1876 in Red Bluff, Tehama County
- 2.8.6 Harry Loomis born Red Bluff, Tehama County 1863, died Red Bluff, Tehama County 19 June 1923. Unmarried
- 2.9 Leander Vaness Loomis born 11 July 1827 in Fredonia, Chulaucus County, New York, died 7 November 1909 in Manton, Tehama County
- 2.10 Abner Washington Loomis born 17 December 1829 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 24 August 1904 in Colorado
Married 2 October 1862 in Bethamy, Missouri Jane Isabell Allen
- 2.10.1 Lelia Loomis
- 2.10.2 Leonidas Loomis
- 2.10.3 Guy Loomis
- 2.10.4 Effie Loomis
- 2.10.5 Jasper Loomis
- 2.11 Orrin Sage Loomis born 3 May 1831 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York
- 2.12 Sylvie Morton Loomis born 20 September 1832 in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York, died 3 October 1832 Pomfret, Chautauqua County, New York
- Generation 3 (2.9) Leander Vaness Loomis born 11 July 1827 in Fredonia, Chulaucus County, New York, died 7 November 1909, Manton, Tehama County
Married July 23, 1863 in Weaverville, Trinity County Louisa Whetsel born August 1839 in Weston, Lewis County Virginia (now West Virginia), died 5 July 1912, Manton, Tehama County
- 3.1 Charles Cato Loomis born 6 December 1864 in Nevada
- 3.2 Arthur Whetsel Loomis born about 1867 in Nevada
Married 27 July 1902 in Shasta County Anna Belle Wheelock born 6 April 1873 in California (see Family Tree of John Jones Wheelock)

- 3.2.1 Anna Mae Loomis born 30 January 1907 in California, died August 1986 in Humboldt County
- 3.3 Charlotte "Lottie" S. Loomis born 9 June 1876 in Nevada, died 24 June 1962 in Tehama County
 - Married 27 July 1902 in Shasta County Frederick John Wheelock born Ono 3 July 1876, died 6 April 1956 in Butte County
 - 3.3.1 Viola Charlotte Wheelock born 8 November 1904 in Shasta County, died 8 May 1989 in Los Molinos, Tehama County
 - 3.3.2 Charles Frederick Wheelock born 21 July 1906 in California, died 6 November 1989 in Butte County
 - 3.3.3 Leander Albert Wheelock born 25 April 1908 California, died 24 September 1989 Sacramento County
- 3.4 Estella "Stella" Morton Loomis born 8 January 1870 in Peoche, White Pine County, Nevada,
 - Generation 4 (3.4) Estella Morton Loomis born 8 January in Peoche, White Pine County, Nevada, died 26 December 1953 in Anderson (Shingletown), Shasta County (see Family Tree of Benjamin Loomis)
 - Married 1 September 1897 in Shasta County Benjamin Franklin Loomis born 21 March 1857 in Mantaga, Illinois, died 11 June 1931 in Shingletown, Shasta County
 - 4.4.1 Louisa Mae Loomis born 16 June 1899 in Viola, Shasta County
 - Generation 5 (4.4.1) Louisa Mae Loomis born 16 June 1899 in Viola, Shasta County, died 13 (12)January 1920 in Anderson (Shingletown), Shasta County
 - Engaged to Walter B. Aldridge

Interview of James (Jim) Fiske

Jim Fiske was the son of Charles and Margaret Fiske. Charles was one of five brothers (Samuel "Sam," Charles, Herbert, Jim, and one more name unknown) who moved to Shasta County around 1900 from Texas. Jim mentioned that it was real culture shock when a black entered a saloon and they wanted him thrown out and almost caused a riot. The brothers purchased a ranch near Cottonwood Creek and Beegum Creek. As was common some of the brothers worked at other jobs for cash. Charles worked at the smelter in Kennett while Sam was a hotel keeper in Dunsmuir in 1910 and City Marshall in Dunsmuir in 1920.

Charles was born about 1883 in Texas. Charles' father was born in Illinois and his mother in Texas. Charles married Margaret prior to 1908 as the 1910 census lists a daughter two years old at the time. Margaret was born in England as were both her parents.

In 1909 Charles was severely scalded in an accident at the Kennett smelter. The prognosis was not good but Margaret followed advice to put egg whites on the skin to help it heal. After collecting every available egg in Redding for months the treatment was successful enough for Charles to return to work. With his knowledge of metals he went to work as a linotypist for the Redding newspaper. The job required him to pour molten lead to set the type.

After 20 years of marriage Margaret divorced Charles and later married Albert Diehl of Beegum. Charles moved to the Sacramento area where he worked for the Sacramento Union, then the Sacramento Bee. Sam purchased the Del Monte Apartments on West Street where Jim stayed until they moved to the Diehl ranch. Jim stayed on the Fiske ranch but later went to town and sold it out from under the other brothers. Jim went to Oregon and married a school teacher and finally purchased a large ranch in Idaho.

The Diehl ranch was about six miles from the town of Beegum on Beegum Creek and stretched from Shasta County across to Tehama County. The ranch was homesteaded by Joseph Diehl with the patent issued in 1882. Jim stated that the Diehl's had a homestead and his mother filed for another but no record could be found under Fiske or Diehl so it might have been filed under her maiden name which is unknown. When asked about Albert Diehl's heritage Jim stated that he was part Wintu. He related that his step-grandmother was caught in a raid by whites from Red Bluff while camped along Cottonwood Creek. The group attempted to kill the entire band but two young girls jumped into the creek and with the aid of reeds survived. He didn't know the names but believed they later married white homesteaders. One married Albert Diehl's father (believed to be Joseph Diehl). Jim did not know the date of the attack but using the dates of birth for Albert and Joseph suspects it was around the 1850s to 1860s.

Jim said due to the divorce and distance to schools that he attended a number of schools. He started kindergarten at Pine Street School, then 1st & 2nd Grade at the Westside School. After moving to Beegum he attended school in South Fork, Igo, and Anderson in Shasta County and Beegum School in Tehama County. When asked if the family moved he said, "No, it was just the custom to board out with relatives or other folks if the school was too far from home." He said it was real common in the old days. He and his younger sister stayed with Mrs. Wilson, who was a relative of Albert Diehl, at Igo. The next year they stayed at the Fernandez place in Igo. When going to school in Tehama County they stayed at the deserted McClinden cabin which was fixed up for them. One of the teachers Jim remembered was Mrs. Jones who taught in Igo he believed from 1918 to 1944.

During high school Jim began working for Alva Graves for a dollar a day and board. Before World War Two Jim began working on airplane hydraulics in Sacramento. When he went into the Army Air Corps they assigned him to do the same work with the 1st Aircraft Assembly Squadron. When asked what the squadron did, Jim explained that most planes, especially fighters could not fly across the Atlantic or Pacific so they were broken down and shipped on cargo vessels to the theatre of operation. Upon reaching the destination the squadron would rebuild the planes for combat. At first he was assigned to Casablanca in Morocco, then Bizerte in Tunisia. In addition to building American planes members of the squadron often helped the British counterparts. A bonus of his work was that he was able to fly in almost all the American and British aircraft utilized in North Africa and Europe.

As the war moved closer to Germany the squadron was reassigned to Brindisi in the British controlled area of Italy, then to Naples on the other coast of Italy. When the war ended Jim was discharged and returned to Beegum.

Shortly after returning, Jim wearing his uniform rode his horse to the dance at the Ono Grange. The band-leader's niece, Lucille, was there and offered Jim a real drink out at the car. Jim and Lucille, who was born in Anderson, were soon married. They opened up the Army-Navy Store in Redding that used to advertise in the Covered Wagon (Shasta Historical Society). Jim and Lucille remain married, although Jim is now retired.

When asked about the "Oh Yes Saloon in Ono" he said it existed but wasn't a big place. Jim said he never went inside and did not know what happened to the place. He thought that later it became a storage building.

Jim did not remember the Wolcott's in Beegum or where the cemetery was. He remembered Joe Selvester and some of the kids from the ranch more than from town. He said there was one funny thing about Beegum which was that the Selvester Store safe was outside. The safe was five or six feet tall and set across the street from the store in an open area. Jim never learned why it was there.

When asked about Albert Diehl's death he said that Albert and Bill Duncan were going to town and saw a pheasant just east of Ono. One of them leaned out the window and shot the bird. While they were stopped, Mr. Paxton who was far back on his property fired what might have been a warning shot. No matter what Mr. Paxton intended the shot hit Albert Diehl in the mouth causing his death. Mr. Paxton was convicted and sent off to prison.

In talking about mining Jim said he used to pan with Albert to make money. He said in the depression panning, trapping, or working on other ranches or jobs was what held a lot of families together. He said the gold and platinum could be sold for cash to jewelers or others. Since some of the gold was not pure they would get less than standard price. Albert always dealt with the Dobrowsky's Jewelry Store because he trusted their honesty. Albert had been trading with the store for years when some cousins from San Francisco came to visit. When the cousins left it was noted that a one ounce vial of newly panned gold and platinum was missing. It seems the cousins stopped by Dobrowsky's store to sell the vial. When asked where it was found the response was on the upper Sacramento River. When some other questions did not ring true the cousins were confronted and told that the vial would be held for the real owners. The cousins did not argue but also did not identify themselves. Mr. Dobrowsky believed it stolen but did not know from whom. About two weeks later the Diehl's came into Redding for the monthly supply trip and stopped to sell their gold. When Mr. Dobrowsky commented on the small amount, Albert responded that a vial had been stolen. Mr. Dobrowski went in the back and returned with the vial and asked if it looked like his. Mr. Dobrowski would not take anything for returning the vial and paid \$29.00 for the contents. Jim was excited because that money got him new chaps, jeans, shirt, shoes and more. (Note: gold was \$32.00 an ounce at .999 fine and platinum was mainly found on Beegum and Cottonwood Creeks but not the Sacramento River.)

When asked to describe the platinum, Jim said it was a whitish metal that acted just like gold in the pan. He said it separated out from black sand just like gold creating a white and gold mix in a vial.

When asked about the Bell Cow Mine, Jim said that was a lucky accident. The Diehl cattle used to be taken up on Arbuckle Mountain for summer pasturage. One

year the bell cow for the herd did not come back so the brothers went to look for her. The cow was found dead and in bad enough condition that it was worthless. The bell and harness were still good. As Sam Fiske leaned down to unbuckle the harness he noticed gold around the cow. Sam found the vein and filed a claim on the Bell Cow Mine in 1927. The ore was rich in gold but Sam did not have the money to start mining so he went back east to obtain capital. There are rumors about highgrading but nothing specific. There was sufficient capital to build a ditch, stamp mill, concentrator and 1053 feet of audits, drifts and crosscuts. There were two parallel quartz veins that produced a good quantity of gold before being lost at a fault. Without vastly increased capital there was no way of tracing the vein. After World War II Jim Fiske sold the mine and equipment for about \$500.00.

When asked about the Bell Cow Ditch being associated with part of the old ditch grade, Jim said no. The ditch grade ditch ran to the old Arbuckle diggings below the Bell Cow Mine.

When asked about an accident that killed Herbert (born Dec. 31, 1888, died June 8, 1931), Jim said he was trying to save money. Herbert had found some blasting powder in another old mine and was going to use it at the Bell Cow Mine. Herbert had his car loaded with the blasting powder and tools and started up Johnson Hill at the beginning of Placer Road and everything exploded. Herbert was killed outright, the car was totally destroyed, and a hole was blown in Placer Street. There was a Coroner's investigation that blamed the unstable blasting powder as the cause of the accident.



The Fiske Family 1929

ARMY & NAVY STORE

REDDING

ANDERSON

RED BLUFF

5 PINE STREET

REDDING, CALIFORNIA

Preemption

Rosena Giles in her book, Shasta County, described how pioneers obtained property rights as, "they bought land or took it, first by squatter's rights, afterward by preemption and homestead rights."

What is preemption?

The first part is clear, in buying land you transfer an established legal title from one party to another party once the transaction is complete.

Squatter's rights are not as clear and led to a lot of bitterness in areas such as the Bald Hills over "jumping" property. In legalese squatting is the process where title to one person's property is acquired without compensation, by holding the property in a manner that conflicts with the original possessor for a specific period. To possess squatter's rights one must be on the property and use it openly with the exclusion of the original owner. They must without permission use the land in a manner inconsistent with the original owner's rights and do so for a specific, CONTINUOUS, period of time. There were a few disputes over the size of the title transferred but the courts held that a squatter only gains title to what he openly used not any larger title if there was one. Most disputes were over the term continuous use.

In the Bald Hill some ranchers working on squatter's rights would temporarily leave the land due to drought, economic necessity, or a hundred other reasons. When they returned they would find others (jumpers) living in the house and using the land under the legal protection of squatter's rights. The jumpers may not have had the best moral claim but they did hold the legal claim. If the law for title was seven years then the clock started when one established open, exclusive, hostile possession. The clock ran until the statutory period was met continuously. Even a temporary break in occupation stopped the clock for the first squatter. The second squatter's clock started when he established open, exclusive, hostile possession and ran until he met the continuous requirement.

Some squatters knowing they would lose their rights used a device know as tacking to gain some economic advantage. Tacking is where a first squatter passes on his period of occupation to a second squatter. The second squatter need only complete the remaining time to gain title.

The difference between squatting and preemption/homesteading is that in preemption/homesteading possession of the property is not hostile. Either the land was considered to have no legal owner or was owned by the government. The government allowed those on the land to use it with the expectation that he would fulfill the conditions. When the conditions were met the government passed the legal title.

The Preemption Act of 1841 was the initial law concerning government land in California. The law permitted occupation of government land by heads of households, widows, or single men over 21, who were citizens of the United States or intended to become naturalized. Up to 160 acres of land could be occupied for 14 months. The Act required a payment set by the government but not less than \$1.25 per acre. After the enactment of the Homestead Act of 1862 claims under the Preemption Act greatly decreased.

The Homestead Act of 1862 was aimed at farmers and gave an applicant title to 160 acres (later up to 640 acres of limited use land) of undeveloped land outside of the original thirteen states. After an application the homesteader had to show occupation and improvement of the land before title was issued. Prior to the Civil War passing the legislation was resisted by Congressmen from the southern states, as they feared large numbers of free farmers on small holdings would threaten plantation slavery. With the beginning of the Civil War the Act was quickly passed. Over the years similar acts included lumber land, grazing land, and stone production. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 ended homesteading except for Alaska where it ended in 1986.

Although the Homestead Act was intended for agriculture in many western states including California the act was seriously bent to work for ranchers. The act was used in arid areas to control water resources. A common scheme was for employees of a large cattle operation to file homesteads around water sources to use as a "farm." Once control of the water was established access to open range could be controlled. No one raises cattle without water. Where one operation controlled the water they had virtual exclusive rights to open range, driving smaller operations out. In time the title to the homesteads were transferred to the large cattle operations.

The fraudulent practices were possible because there was no inspection process. The land office relied on affidavits from witnesses that the claimant had occupied the land and had improved the land. In the absence of a counter claim the procedure was usually accepted. Note that the process assumed that the sworn documents were true. The process made altering the use of the land, period of occupation, or the real party of interest, exceedingly simple. It is no wonder that the Bald Hills had their share of abuse.

It was also common practice for all the children of a large family to claim nearby land as they came of age. After a few generations some families had accumulated sizable estates.