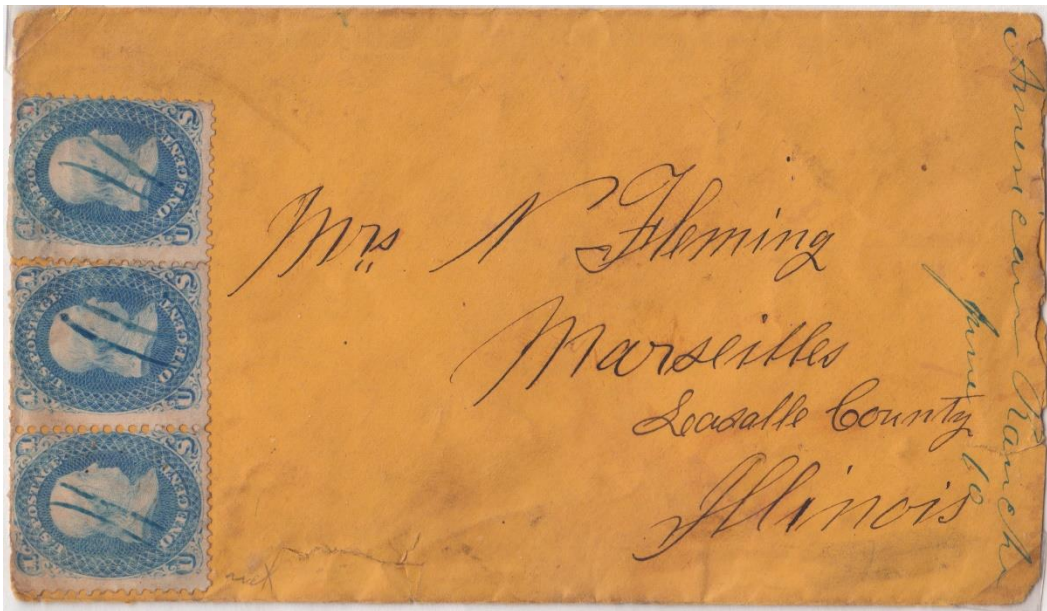


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not 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.

American Ranch Post Office



Letter mailed from American Ranch post marked with a manuscript cancellation (SHA-10). Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The American Ranch was situated on the freight route from the Sacramento River terminal at Red Bluff to the Trinity Mines. The American Ranch was established by Thomas A. Freeman who purchased one hundred and sixty acres of Pierson B. Reading's Mexican Land Grant in 1854. Freeman's ranch and his American Hotel became popular as a stopping place. In 1855 the American Ranch Post Office was established at the hotel with Freeman as the first postmaster. In 1856 Freeman sold the hotel to Elias Anderson. The post office was located about where the southern city limits of Anderson are today. In 1865 Elias Anderson purchased two hundred and ten acres from Pierson B. Redding. In 1872 Elias Anderson granted the California & Oregon a right of way as they laid track to just north of Redding. The California & Oregon Railroad in conjunction with James Ben Ali Haggin passed through American Ranch and laid out a new town just to the north. The town was named in honor of Anderson and grew slowly at first. As more and more business developed around the depot at Anderson, the American Ranch became isolated. In 1878 the post office at American Ranch moved into the town of Anderson. Elias Anderson had to buy lots in the new town for a residence and hotel, but he got some benefit as he was the first postmaster at Anderson.

(No. 11.)

I Elias Anderson being appointed*
Post Master. at American Ranch
in the county of Shasta and State of California
do swear _____ that I will faithfully perform all the duties
required of me, and abstain from every thing forbidden by the laws in relation to
the establishment of Post Offices and Post Roads within the United States: and I
do solemnly swear _____ that I will
support the Constitution of the United States.

Elias Anderson
Sworn before the subscriber A. H. Curtis a Notary Public
for the County of Shasta this Sixteenth
day of March A. D. 1857, and I also certify that
the person above named is above the age of sixteen years, to the best of my
knowledge and belief.

A. H. Curtis
Notary Public, Shasta Co., Cal.

N. B.—The person who takes the oath should sign his name above the Magistrate's certificate.

*Insert Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, or Mail Carrier, (as the case may be.)

The oath filed for Elias Anderson after being appointed the second postmaster at American Ranch. The oath was signed 16 March 1857. All postmasters were required to complete the oath and post a bond or sureties before actually taking office. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

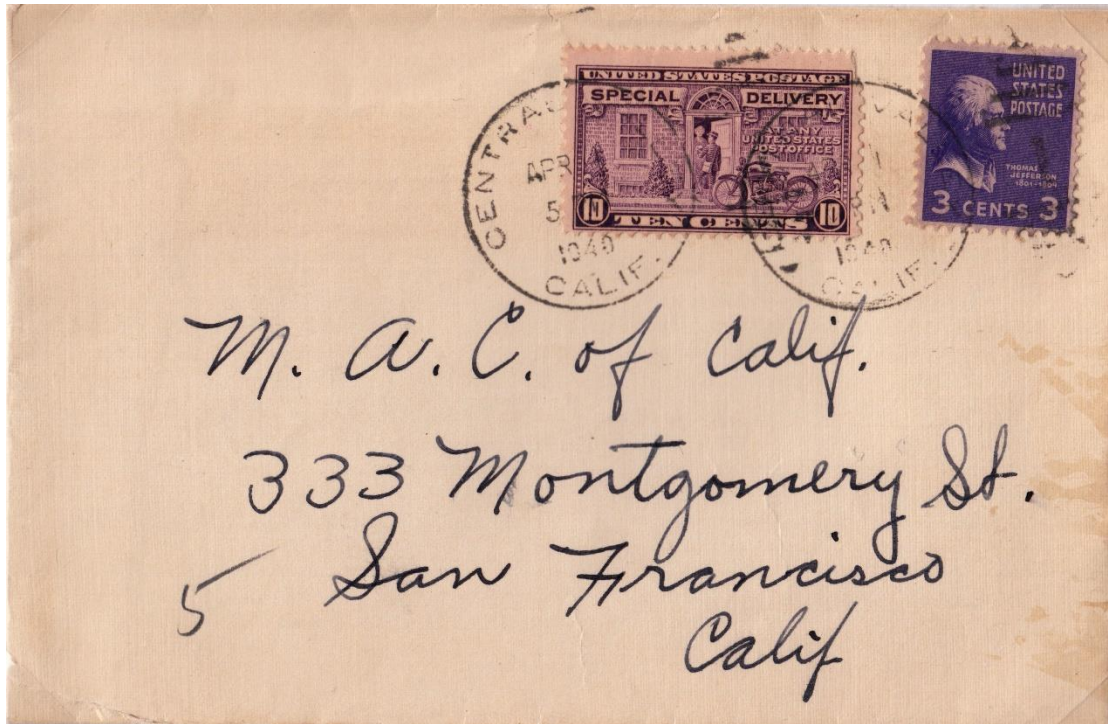
Boralma Post Office



Special delivery letter mailed at the Boralma Post Office in 1904 using postmark SHA-530. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The Boralma Post Office was established in 1901 and its history is entwined with the Trinity Copper Company. The company operated the Shasta King Mine at the site. Boralma is a surname and the site may have been named for an earlier gold miner as it has no apparent relationship to the officers of the Trinity Copper Company. There is speculation that the mine was named after the racehorse Boralma, who was one of two horses to win \$10,000 in 1900 (roughly \$332,000 today). The mine had about 15,000 feet of underground workings and the ore was sent down a 2,000 foot tram and shipped to the Balaklala smelter at Coram. By 1906 the post office was closed, and operations moved to Kennett. The mine was totally idle from 1909 to 1917. The United States Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company later leased the mine in 1918 and operated it until 1919.

Central Valley Post Office



Special delivery letter mailed at the Central Valley Post Office in 1940. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

After the announce in 1937 that a large cement dam was to be built in Shasta County workers hungry for good paying jobs flocked to Shasta County. Many of these workers were coming from other government projects at Hoover Dam or the Central Valley Project and most wanted to live as close to the site of the dam as possible. By 1938 there were five distinct "Boomtown" communities: Central Valley, Summit City Project City, Toyon and Pine Grove. Of the five three would have post offices: Central Valley, Summit City and Project City. Central Valley was established west of Project City on Shasta Dam Boulevard. J.J. Humphreys, L. R. Kronschnabel, Albert Rouge and Charles McConnell all purchased large tracts of land with the intent of subdividing. Quickly, Central Valley became the largest of the boom towns with commercial buildings facing Shasta Dam Boulevard and blocks of residential homes laid out behind. After construction at Shasta Dam was complete in 1945 the town managed to survive thanks to a boom in the post-war lumber industry and a boom in infrastructure improvement. In 1993 the area incorporated as the City of Shasta Lake. The Central Valley Post Office was established in 1938. In 1975 Project City and Summit City became branches of Central City but retained separate cancellation marks. In 1993 the voters officially changed the name of Central City to Shasta Lake at the same time Project City and Summit City became branches of Shasta Lake.



View of early Central Valley. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



View of early Central Valley. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Delta Post Office

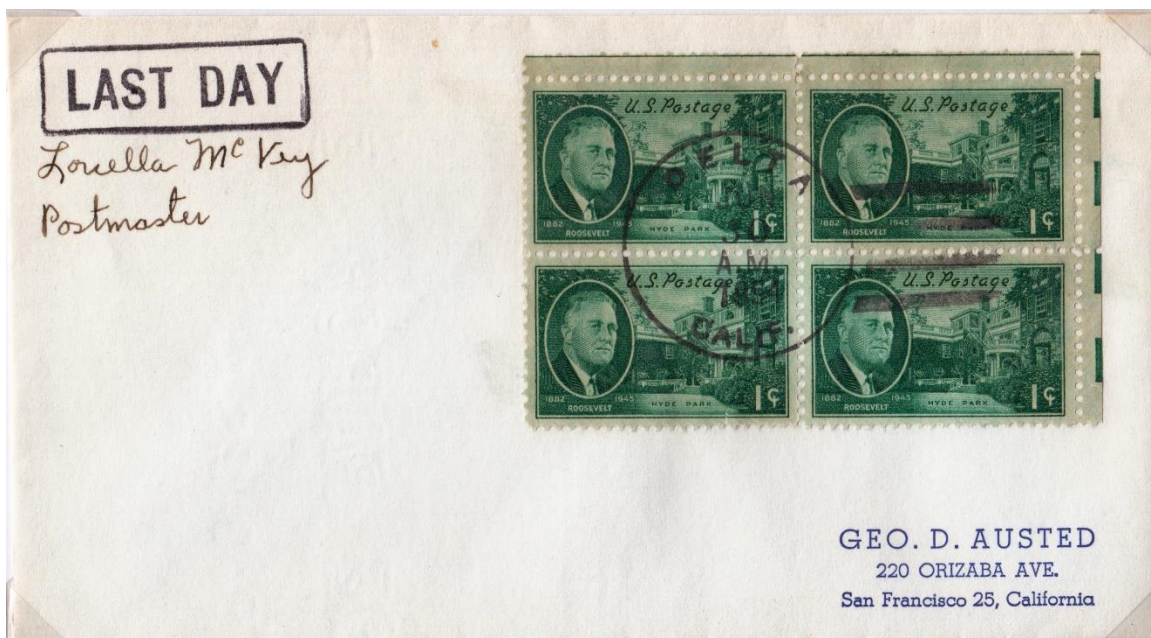


1875 manuscript cancellation from the Delta Post Office (SHA-1400). George Lumen Kingsley 1827-1890 came to California in 1851 and settled in Tehama County in 1862. In 1867 he opened a glove factory in Red Bluff. George was an avid hunter and supplied most of the deerskins used by the company. George later opened a gun shop and owned the Kingsley Opera Building in Red Bluff. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

The Bayles Post Office was in the area where Dog Creek joins the Sacramento River about five miles south of Slate Creek and 6 miles north of Smithson. The area was first known as Dog Town. In 1875 the Central Pacific Railroad stopped laying tracks at the site due to problems with the connecting railroad in Oregon. The town of Delta quickly blossomed as settlers speculated on the site becoming a prosperous railroad terminal just as Redding had in 1872. In 1875 the Delta Post Office was established. The Central Pacific purchased control of the Oregon & California Railroad and continued laying track through the Sacramento River Canyon the next year depopulating much of Delta. The post office was moved four miles north to Slate Creek in 1880. In 1884 the Bayles Post Office was opened to serve the area. The post office was named after Abraham M. Bayles, the first postmaster. The Bayles Post Office remained open until 1948 when a new townsite was laid out due to highway construction and the post office was renamed Delta. Reportedly the name comes from the juncture of Dog Creek and the Sacramento River that on a map resembles the Greek letter delta. The Delta Post Office was closed in 1954 and operations were moved to Dunsmuir in Siskiyou County.



Postcard marked General Merchandise Store and Post Office, Delta, California. James P. Beard who is 4th from the right was the postmaster at Buckeye from 1881 to 1902 while William Smith was postmaster at Delta from 1875 to 1880. Courtesy of t Ralph Hollibaugh.



A 1954 cancel to order cover signed by the postmaster on the last day of service. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

Mount Lassen Hotel Switchboard



Mount Lassen Hotel in Susanville built in 1926.



Mount Lassen Hotel after reconstruction probably about 2017.

Over Thanksgiving 2021 the museum received an email from Lassen National Volcanic Park's museum that they would like to donate an early switchboard that they had been unable to connect to the park's history. The switchboard had been donated by Pat Carr, who also had no recollection of its history. After delivery the search for the switchboard's history began when John Snider noticed the Mount Lassen Hotel written on the dial of the switchboard and traced it to Susanville and a tale of ghosts.



In 1901 the Emerson Hotel was built on Main Street and Lassen Street in Susanville, Lassen County. In 1915 the hotel was destroyed by fire and the site remained vacant until 1926 when the Mount Lassen Hotel was constructed. The new hotel was designed to be earthquake-resistant with wall made of reinforced concrete, eleven inches thick. The hotel had sixty rooms, bar, and dining-room and was built at a cost of over \$300,000 (\$4,711,000 today). In 1947 the hotel was heavily damaged by fire but was quickly reopened. On September 10th, 1994, the suite of rooms on the third floor numbered 300-301 were being used by the manager Jack Shepherd and became the site of a gruesome murder. After the murder, witnesses reported hearing ghostly voices in empty room, dismembered footsteps in the hallways, or apparitions of the beloved manager wandering empty hallways.

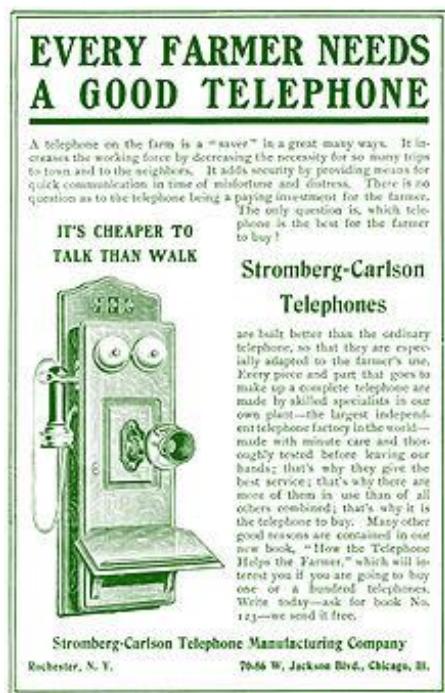
Beyond the paranormal activity some of the facts of the case are known. Jack Shepherd had worked as manager of the hotel for two years and the hotel had been housing long-term residents. No real motive ever came forward and the court documents report, "a sudden quarrel and in the heat of passion." Two residents that the manager knew well were arrested for the murder: Joshua Money aka Alfonso Antonio DeLucia and Jaime Vancleave. The court documents describe both rooms as being covered in pools and splatters of blood and that Shepherd was wrapped in blood-soaked linens and bedding. Shepherd had blunt force trauma to the head from a baseball bat and defensive wounds to the forearms, but the cause of death was blood loss from having his throat cut from ear to ear. After taking Shepherds wallet and ATM card as well as the money in the hotel cash box the pair fled in a car taken from another resident. While being held at the Lassen County Jail, Money attempted to escape. At the trial both perpetrators showed little emotion, and both were sentenced on multiple charges: Money received a sentence of 16 years while Vancleave received a sentence of 15 years to life.

After the murder the hotel apparently closed due to financial problems although in 2009 it hosted a large paranormal investigation. By 2017 the hotel had been put back into use, but the rooms were reduced to fifty. The hotel at 288 Lassen Street now has six commercial storefronts, three meeting

rooms, and space for two restaurants and a bar. If the listing on Trivago can be believed the cost of a room is \$600 per night. It would seem a little haunting has been good for business.

There is no identification plate on the donated switchboard, but it is in a quartersawn oak case with a hand crank (magneto) resembling a Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company model of the 1920s. In 1904 Stromberg-Carlson was taken over by the Home Telephone Company who had major offices and sales in California. It appears the switchboard is the original apparatus installed in the Mount Lassen Hotel and remained in service probably until well after the 1947 fire when the hotel was remodeled. The switchboard still has modern number tapes indicating rooms, Mount Lassen Volcanic Park, and emergency services. Room 301 is not on that list. There are those that would say the missing number 301 is because the room had a ghost. Being more practical it may be because rooms 300 and 301 were combined after the 1947 fire and there was only one telephone for the manager's suite.

As the switchboard represents part of Lassen County's history it was offered to Lassen Historical Society. The switchboard is now awaiting transfer so if there is a strong interest in viewing this item arrange a visit to the museum quickly.



1905 Stromberg-Carlson Telephone advertisement.

The articles for the month of March 2022 are: 1) Rev. Isaac Owen Letter, Shasta 1851, 3) O. C. Lee Letter, Shasta 1851, 4) Robert Lee Reading, and 4) Kate A. Brincard.

Rev. Isaac Owen



The above letter was written by Isaac Owens at Coloma in El Dorado County on October 22, 1851, and posted to his wife Elizabeth S. Owen on October 23, 1851. The address is Santa Clara but instead was sent to Shasta County. Robert W. Crenshaw appears to have forwarded it to the correct address. The letter written inside of the folded page had nothing to do with Shasta County but the author was of historical significance, so it is worth reporting.

Coloma Cal, Oct 22 1851,

Mrs. E. S. Owen

Dear Wife

I am pleased to say that I am well favored with good health. I stopped with Bro. D. Miller Brother-in-law to Sister Highfield of Corydon Indiana - And he has agreed to buy our claim in case you have not sold it. You will please write him immediately on the receipt of this and inform him whether you have sold the place or not - Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of Cold Springs - He will pay all down for the place and make us a good neighbor besides - Don't neglect writing immediately write to me also on the subject - direct your letter to Marysville - Cal, We had a good Quarterly meeting at Placerville five professed religion and six joined
Yours Truly

Isaac Owen

Coloma Cal. Oct. 22, 1851.

Mrs. E. S. Owen

Dear Wife

I am pleased to say that I am still favored with good Health. I stopped with Brother D. Miller Brother-in-law to Sister Highfield of Croydon, Indiana – and he has agreed to buy our claim in case you have not sold it. You will please write him immediately on the receipt of this and inform him whether you have sold the place or not. Direct your letter to Coloma to Mr. D. Miller of Cold Springs. He will pay all down for the place and make a good neighbor besides. Don't neglect writing immediately. Write to me also on the subject. Direct your letter to Marysville, Cal. We had a good quarterly meeting at Placerville. We had five profess religion and since joined.

Yours truly

Isaac Owens.

The letter is interesting in that it points out that no one was immune from gold fever as even though the reverend was on a mission to establish churches, he still made time to stake a claim in Coloma.

Isaac Owen was born in Vermont in 1809 and his father died when he was fifteen. Shortly after his father's death Isaac was converted at a camp meeting. By age 22 Isaac who was mostly self-taught became a licensed preacher and was living in Indiana. In October 1848 Isaac was commissioned the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to California.

Reverend Isaac Owen, his wife Elizabeth S. (Hardin), and their small family set out by ox drawn wagon for California. His first sermon in his new home was to fellow immigrants near Grass Valley on September 23, 1849. The initial assignment to San Francisco was changed when the family reached Benicia. The new assignment would be Sacramento. The ox team was worn so it was decided to ship the household goods back up-river by boat while the family followed with the wagon. Everything they had carefully packed across the Great Plains was lost in a riverboat accident, so they arrived in Sacramento with only a few clothes.

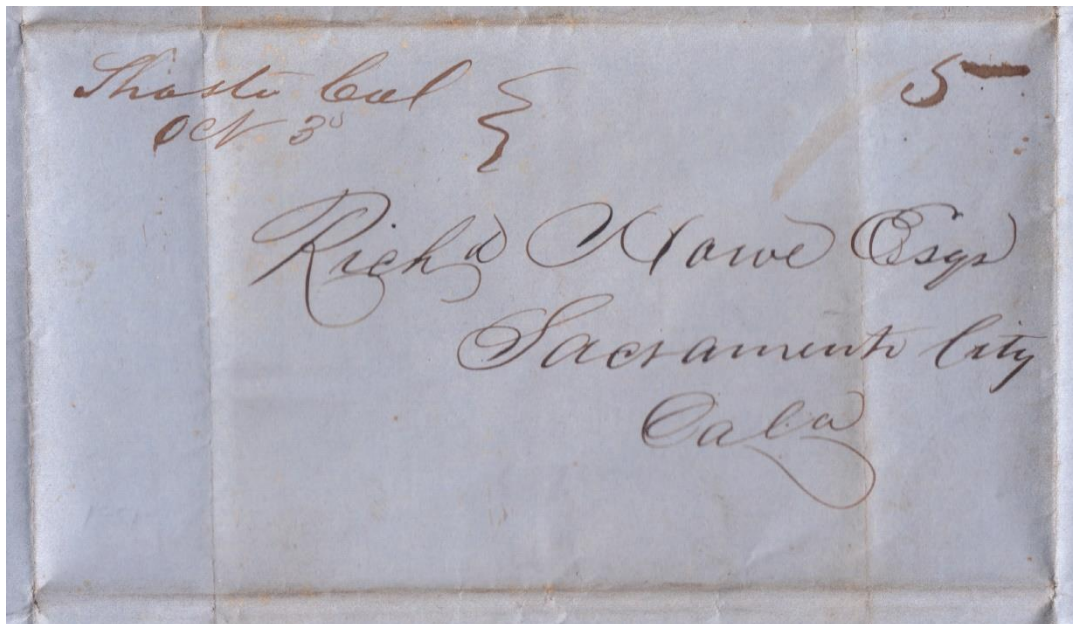
At the first sermon in Sacramento on October 23, 1849, Isaac converted seventy-two members. John Sutter donated a lot for a church and after lumber was received from Baltimore a church was built in a week. All was moving along well until January 1850 when a flood in Sacramento destroyed the church and made the family dwelling unlivable. Isaac moved the family to the San Jose Valley to recuperate but was soon invited to missionary work at Santa Cruz and to assist at San Francisco. In February 1850 while in San Francisco Isaac and Elizabeth's two-year old daughter died and his wife never fully recovered. Isaac move his wife and four other children to the San Jose Valley along with Elizabeth's father before returning to his post in March 1850.

Isaac carried on his missionary work in Central California and helped found the University of the Pacific. Elizabeth died in 1864 and Isaac followed in 1866.



Rev. Isaac Owen

O. C. Lee Letter, Shasta 1851



Shasta City Oct. 3, 1851

Capt. R. Howe

Sac. City

Cal.

Dr. Sir

Mr. Roop will not say positively that he will take the boots. I think I could sell 25 cases more than I have readily and am certain that I can dispose of the balance of the apple butter, cider vinegar and preserves. The kraut you had best dispose of at the best advantage you can. I am selling the apple butter at \$3, gallon cider \$3, and the preserves gallons \$2.50, ½ gallons \$1.25. The cider and apple butter I am obliged to put into 5 and 10 gallon kegs as packing cannot take them in the original packages. The packages cost @2.50 each.

If you send up the balance advise me of the shipment that I may make calculation about paying freight. Downer & Co. has a lot of the best boots, grain leather. How is that? If you send up the boots send 15 cases grain and 10 of the others. That will give me a proportion of each kind with what I have. Write soon.

Yours truly

O.C. Lee

Historical Notes: Almer Lawrence Downer was born about 1807 in New York. In 1850 he was a coal merchant in Utica, New York married to Cynthia (Cynthyanna in 1860) born about 1813 in New York and had five children: James W. born about 1833 in Pennsylvania, Celinda A. born about 1836 in New Jersey, John A. born about 1839 in New Jersey, Eugene R. born about 1846 in New Jersey, and George C. born about 1848 in New Jersey. Also listed with the family was Sophia Wellington who was Cynthia's sister born about 1801 in New York.

Between the time of the U.S. Census of 1850 and 1852, Almer moved his family to Shasta where he advertised as Downer & Company wholesale and retail. Shortly afterwards Almer began a nursery and by 1860 Almer was listed as a farmer in Shasta. There were some changes in the family. Sophia Wellington had remained in New York and was living with a family named Curtiss. These were presumed to be relatives as Almer's son was named George Curtiss Downer. Celinda Myanda Downer married Joseph Isaacs (1824-1873) of the Shasta firm of Hollub & Isaacs (in 1870 Joseph's brother David would be living with the Downers). John A. Downer was a clerk in Shasta and was twice postmaster (December 1863 to March 1865 and from August 1865 to November 1865). James W. who was a clerk in Shasta in 1860 died in 1861.

Almer appears to have followed a gold rush in 1861 to the Washington Territory and set up a business in Lewiston. In 1862 he was appointed postmaster at Lewiston, Washington Territory. In 1863 the Idaho Territory was formed from parts of the Washington Territory and Dakota Territory and the capital was established at Lewiston. The Court Almer is referring to in the letter the Territorial Supreme court but it was not found if his claim stemmed from his post office duties or other duties directly for the Court. In either case he appears to have returned to Shasta in 1864 as he was on the tax roll. Almer may have joined the Lyon Light Infantry that was formed in Shasta as part of the California State Militia (disbanded in 1868).

In 1870 Almer was listed as a Justice of the Peace in Shasta and was known to have served at least until 1871. In 1869 Cynthia had died at Shasta and her sister Sophia Wellington had rejoined the family and listed as keeping house. George was listed as a clerk in a dry goods store along with his son John Joseph born about 1865. Also living with the family was David Isaac listed as a retired dry goods merchant (born about 1814 in England).

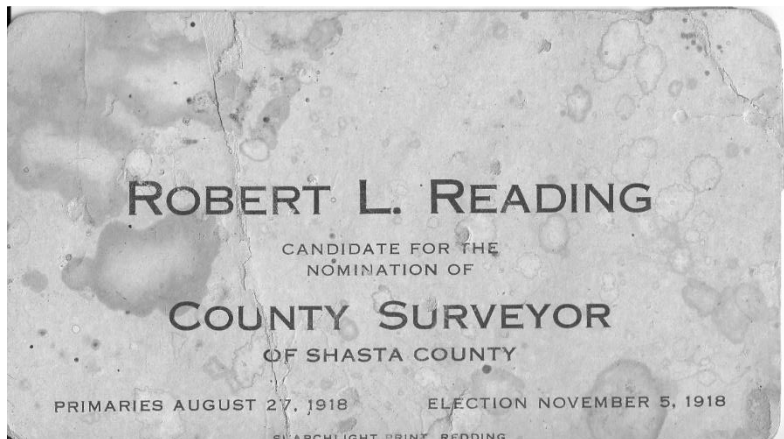
In the 1880 U. S. Census Almer was listed as a retired merchant at Shasta with Sophia Wellington as housekeeper. Living in the home was George C. now 32, a dry goods clerk and his son John Joseph now 15. After 1881 Almer is no longer found. Neither he nor Sophia Wellington were listed as being buried in Shasta County. George was known to have married Alice Street in 1892 and moved to Tehama County where he died in 1924. John Joseph was known to have married Lizzie J. Heer and later divorced. He was last found in 1910 living in Redding and working as a porter.

Roop maybe Isaac Roop born 1822 who operated a store at Oak Bottom and was the interim postmaster at Shasta. He moved to the Honey Lake Valley (Susanville) in 1853. Isaac's brother Joseph operated the Old Dominion Hotel at Shasta in 1850 and purchased the Oak Bottom House in 1851.

Capt. Richard Howe was listed in the 1850 U. S. Census at Sacramento as a hotel keeper born about 1795 in Ohio.

O. C. Lee was listed in the 1852 California State Census as a merchant in Shasta. He was born about 1829 in New York. He is probably listed as C. Lee at Callahan's in Siskiyou County in 1860 as a butcher.

Robert Lee Reading





Robert Lee Reading. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Nell Clarkson. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Robert Lee Reading was born in 1863 in Shasta County. He was the son of Pierson B. Reading who came to California in the Chiles-Walker Party of 1843. Reading obtained a Mexican Land Grant in 1844 for 26,632 acres named Rancho Buena Ventura in what became Shasta County. In 1856 while in Washington D.C. defending his title to the land grant Pierson married Euphan "Fannie" Wallace Washington a direct descendant of George Washington and the famous Lee family of Virginia. Pierson and Fannie had six children: Anna Washington 1857-1906, Alice Matilda 1859-1939, Pierson B. Junior 1861-1862, twing Richard Washington 1863-1925 and Robert Lee, and Fannie Collins 1865-1888 (Robert had a half-sister Jeanette from a previous marriage prior to 1843). Pierson had taken out a loan from his friend Samuel Hensley using the ranch as collateral. After Pierson died suddenly in 1868, Hensley's widow brought suit for repayment of the loan. In the absence of proof of repayment the court ordered the sale of approximately 20,000 acres excluding previous sales and a small portion for the family. In 1871 Fannie moved the remaining five children to Washington D. C. where Robert attended Columbian

College (later George Washington University) and graduated in civil engineering. Robert returned to Redding to manage what was left of the Reading estate which included the Washington Section and 1507 acres around the mansion and bottom land extending to Ball's Ferry Road. Robert later sold these to the firm of Hoxie and Shields and they as a friendly gesture deeded back seven acres around the adobe and a half acre containing the Reading cemetery. Robert worked as a surveyor for the Department of Interior where from 1896 to 1897 he surveyed the Crow Agency in Montana. From 1898 to 1899 he worked in the Yukon Territory in Canada then returned to Anderson in 1899 to supervise the Washington Section. Robert supported himself through surveying and engineer work. In 1904 he ran for County Surveyor and held the office for twelve years. In 1905 Robert married Nellie Clarkson and the couple had a daughter, Elenor Lee (1906). Robert designed the Redding Hall of Records in 1906 and the Redding Free Bridge in 1907. In his later life Robert worked for the California Department of Highways. Robert died of a brain tumor and his interest in the Washington Section passed to his wife and daughter. In 1901 Robert re-registered his father's brand at Anderson (reverse P joined to an R). Robert Lee Reading died in 1918.

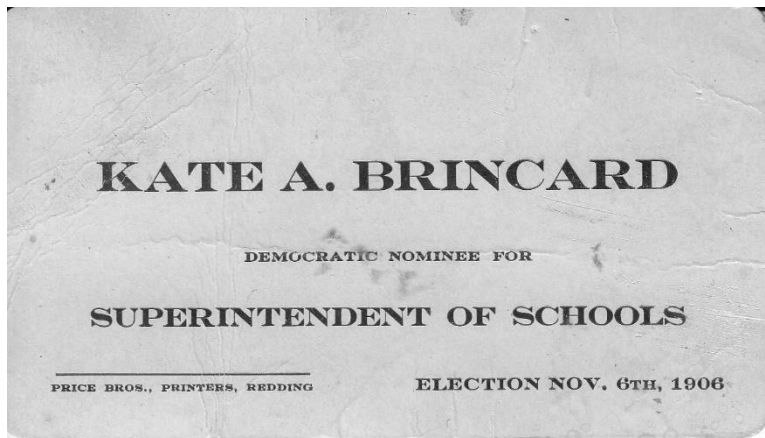


Pierson B. Reading. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Euphan "Fannie" Wallace Reading. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Kate A. Brincard



Election card for Kate A. Brincard for the 1906 election which she lost to Lulu E. White.



One of these women from the Litsch family album is Kate Brincard. The photograph names seven of the women as: Kate Burns Brincard, Nellie Darling, Josie Litsch Pryor, Celina Zorn Hull, Millie and Sarah Grotfend, and Susie Cadwell Rine. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

In 1879 Katie A. Burns married James S. Brincard who was born in 1854 in California. James was the son of Adolphe Brincarde born about 1822 in France and Marie Omberline Parizot born about 1830 in France. Adolphe Brincarde was naturalized in Shasta County in 1861 and was an early gold miner in the Centerville area. In 1860 Adolph was listed as a hotel keeper and listed in the family were three children: Mary born 1849 in France (sometimes given as Shasta; she married Adolph Dubrowski in May 1867 and died five months later), Jule (James) born 1854 in California, and Acteo (Arthur) born about 1856. In 1870 Marie, now Mary, was listed as Mary Tapie, operating the Hotel Francais with five children: James, Arthur, Julia Brincard born 1861, Eugene Tapia born about 1863, and Emile Tapia born about 1864. (Note: Arthur was a merchant at Texas Springs in 1877 and from 1879 to 1880 he was Postmaster of the Brincard Post Office located in the Brincard & Minville General Merchandise Store in Centerville.)

In 1870 James was working as a teamster in Shasta and by 1880 was listed as a merchant in Township 7. James died in 1888 leaving Kate with one child: James L. Brincard born in 1884 (in actuality there were two children). After James died in 1888 Kate turned to teaching and in 1895 was teaching at the Redding Grammar School. In 1900 Kate was living in Millville and working as a schoolteacher. In 1900 she and her son James were boarding with the Owen Daily family. Noted on the 1900 Census was the fact that Kate reported giving birth to two children and two were living at the time of the census. From 1904 to 1906 Kate A. Burns was the Shasta County Superintendent of Schools and had been known to serve on the Shasta County High School Board as secretary. In 1910 Kate was listed as a schoolteacher in San Mateo County then appears to drop off the record.

In tracing Kate's son James, a tentative trail was found. James who had moved to Washington registered for the World War I draft in 1918 giving his mother as the contact in Berkley (Berkeley), California. The search led to a Sarah Jane Burns who was a schoolteacher in San Mateo in 1912. In 1924 Sarah Jane Brincard was listed as a retired teacher in Berkeley, Alameda County and in 1925 she was listed as the widow of James E. Brincard. In 1933 a death notice was done for a Sarah Jane Brincard and linked to three names: Jack Brincard, Grace Brincard, and Julia Brigman. "Jack" was believed to be James L. Brincard. Grace Brincard was born 31 August 1881 and on her death certificate in 1951 stated that her father was James Brincard and her mother Sarah Jane Burns. James L. Brincard's death certificate stated his father was James Stephen Brincard and his mother was Sarah Jane Burns. Grace appears to be the missing child reported in the 1900 U. S. Census. Julia Brigman was born in 1861 as Julia Brincard and married Andrew Culberson Brigman in 1881. Julia's father was Adolph Brincard and her mother was Mary Brincard making her Kate's sister-in-law who did not die until 1941. It would appear, that Kate A. Brincard (nee Burns) and Sarah Jane Brincard are one in the same person. The 1933 death notice indicated the death was in Los Angeles but the burial was in Redding so a check was done against the Shasta Genealogy Society listing of graves and the entry reads: Kate A. Brincard (Sarah Jane ?) born 7-13-Thomas and Clara Burnes who were in El Dorado County in 1860 with a daughter listed as Kate Burnes. Kate turned out to be Mary Katherine born in 1856 in California but died in 1926 in Illinois. There was a Peter and Ann Burns living in Sacramento County in 1860 with a daughter K. A. age four (1856) born in California. The only hit that was found to match was Agnes Burns born in 1832 in Ireland who was a washer-women in Red Bluff in 1860 with two children: Kate born in California in 1855 and James born in 1858 in California. After 1860 nothing was found about Agnes or Kate that connected them to Shasta County. For now, Kate A. Burns early history remains as much of a mystery as to why two names, Sarah Jane and Kate A., were used later in life. If any reader knows the answer PLEASE share.