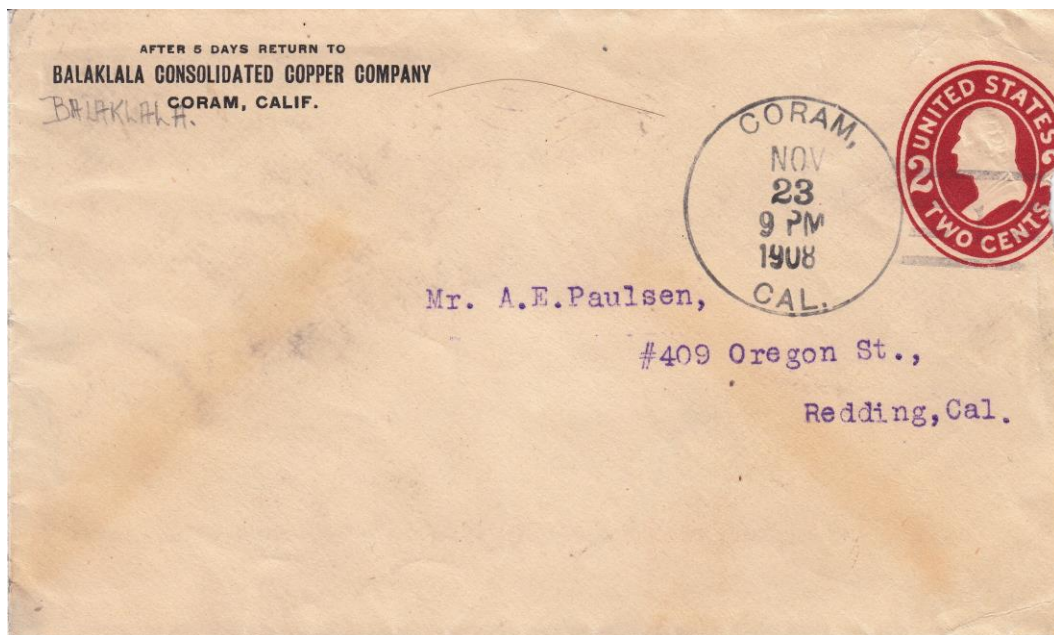


The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at: [www.andersonhistorical.com](http://www.andersonhistorical.com).

#### Coram Post Office



The letter shown above was mailed at the Coram Post Office in 1908. The letter was sent by the Balaklala Consolidated Copper Company to Mr. A. E. Paulsen in Redding. The Coram Post Office was established in 1906 and named for Joseph Coram a part owner of the Balaklala Mine & Smelting Company. The post office was located in the town of Coram located two and a half miles north of Copley and just south of the current Shasta Dam. The first Postmaster was Henry W. Brown. Operations were moved to Kennett in 1922.

The Balaklala Consolidated Copper Company opened up a smelter at Coram in 1906 that could process up to one hundred tons of ore per day. Ore was transported by aerial tramway from the company's mine known as the Balaklala group ( Windy Camp at section 7 Township 33 North Range 5 West and sections 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 33 North Range 6 West MDM) to the smelter. The smelter was closed in 1911 and ore hauled to the Mammoth Smelter at Kennett until the mine was closed in 1919.

With an increase in zinc content in the ore, increasing operational costs, an increase in litigation costs from smoke nuisance claims, and a decreasing price for both copper and silver (a byproduct in the ore) the smelters became unprofitable to operate. The Afterthought, Balaklala, Bully Hill and Mammoth smelters were all idle by 1919. The Balaklala smelter was dismantled in 1920.



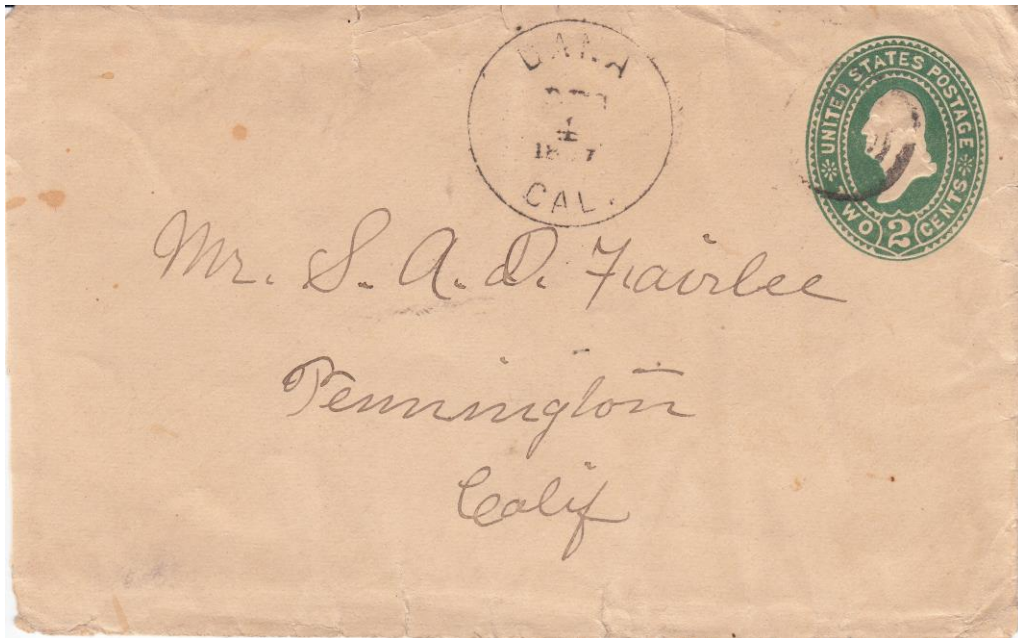
A. E. Paulsen is Arthur Edwin Paulsen born in 1878 in Lewiston, Trinity County. He was the son of Jacob Paulsen (1829-1894) and Louisa S. Goetze (1848-1933). In 1905 Arthur was Postmaster of Deadwood in Trinity County. By 1908 Arthur was associated with California Central Creameries (established in 1904; now Golden State Company, Ltd.). The 1908 communication probably dealt with food services at the smelter or mine.

In 1910 Arthur was listed as a store manager at Trinity Center but by 1920 was the east coast representative of California Central Creameries and living in New York. Arthur was married to Arvilla "Villa" Thompson (1879-1973). Arthur died in 1943.



Passport photograph of Arthur  
Edwin Paulsen 1920

Dana Post Office



The Dana Post Office was established in 1888 and named for Loren Dana who operated a lumber mill nearby in 1867. The post office was located fourteen miles northwest of Fall River Mills. The first Postmaster was Elmer D. Boyes. In 1951 the doors were closed and the operation moved to Glenburn (about six miles northwest of Fall River Mills).

The articles for May 2020 are: 1) Court Documents: 1876 A. P. Gipson vs. Alexander Buckhart, 2) Murder Trial of A. P. Gipson, 3) Rhodes & Company Check from W. P. Daingerfield

Court Document: 1876 A. P. Gipson vs. Alexander Buckhart

<p><i>A. P. Gipson</i></p> <p><i>Bond to keep the Peace</i></p> <p><i>Filed March 28<sup>th</sup></i> <i>A. D. 1876</i></p> <p><i>D. C. Stevenson</i> <i>Justice of the Peace</i></p> <p><i>Filed April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1876,</i> <i>Wm H. Beckford</i> <i>Clerk</i></p>	<p><b>Justice's Court,</b> <i>Shasta</i> County.</p> <p>THE PEOPLE vs.</p> <p><i>Amos. P. Gipson</i> <i>Defendant</i></p> <p>Complaint for <i>Warrant of Arrest</i></p> <p><i>Filed March 28<sup>th</sup> A. D. 1876</i></p> <p><i>D. C. Stevenson</i> <i>Justice of the Peace.</i></p> <p><i>Filed April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1876</i> <i>Wm H. Beckford</i> <i>Clerk</i></p>
---	--

<sup>10.54</sup>  
A. P. Gipson vs  
vs

A Buckhart vs

Appeal Papers

Filed in County Court  
May 27<sup>th</sup> 1876.

Wm H. Rickford  
Clerk

The People

vs  
A P Gipson

Copy of Justice  
Docket

Filed April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1876.

Wm H. Rickford  
Clerk



No. 34

County Court  
**District Court,**

Judicial District,

County of Shasta

A. P. Gipson

Plaintiff--

vs.

Alexander Buckha  
Defendant--

**Memorandum of Costs  
and Disbursements.**

Filed September 9<sup>th</sup> 1876  
Wm. H. Bickford clerk.

By  
Deputy Clerk.

F. Carr

Attorney for  
& appellant

People  
vs  
Gipson

Copy of Docket

Filed Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1876  
Wm. H. Bickford  
Clerk  
cc court

For Clay Taylor  
District Attorney

No. 34

County ~~District~~ Court,  
 Judicial District,  
 County of Shasta

A. P. Gipson  
 Plaintiff -  
 against  
A. Buckhardt  
 Defendant.

Execution.

Filed Dec. 29 1877  
Wm H. Pickford  
 Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Clerk.

Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_

No. 341  
 In County Court  
 Shasta County

A. P. Gipson  
 vs.  
 A. Buckhart  
 Judgment.

Filed Sept. 9, 1876  
Wm H. Pickford  
 Clerk

The records in the case of A. P. Gipson vs. Alexander Buckhart consisted of the following fourteen documents:

Complaint for Warrant of Arrest March 28, 1876

Bond to Keep the Peace March 28, 1876

Copy of Justice Docket April 3, 1876

Appeal Papers May 27, 1876

Notice of Appeal dated May 22, 1876

Appeal

Counterclaim dated April 20, 1876

Justice Court Undertaking of Appeal filed 22 May 1876

Docket dated 25 May 1876

Copy of Docket Sept 4, 1876

Copy of Docket Sept.4, 1876

Memorandum of Costs & Disbursements September 9, 1876

Judgment September 9, 1876

Execution December 24, 1877

The documents were stored together but stem from two incidents and two charges. The first incident occurred on March 28, 1876, when Amos P. Gipson threatened to break the peace and involved Alexander Buckhart. The second incident involved an assault and battery of a Joseph Randles on July 4, 1876. The case was appealed by A. P. Gipson to resolve a question of debts due from A. Burkhart. A. Burkhart counterclaimed and won but the case was appealed to County Court.

The Complaint for Warrant of Arrest was filed by Alexander Buckhart citing that A. P. Gipson had committed the crime of threatening the person and property of Alexander Buckhart. Buckhart stated that defendant Gipson will carry said threats to execution and is guilty therefore of an offense against the law. Buckhart stated that on or about 27 and 28 March 1876, in the town of Millville, Gipson did threaten to kill the complainant by mauling the life out of him and threatened to knock the shit out of the complainant if he did not pay him the sum of \$200.00 and various other threats. Buckhart prayed that a warrant of arrest be issued for Amos P. Gipson. The complaint was made before D. C. Stevenson Justice of the Peace for Sierra Township No. Six.

The Bond to Keep the Peace recited that Amos P. Gipson did on March 28, 1876, come before Justice of the Peace D. C. Stevenson in Justice Court for No. 6 Township and plead guilty to threatening to break the peace by doing injury to the person of Alexander Buckhart. A bond was set at \$200 in gold coin. This was followed by an oath: therefore we Amos P. Gipson, farmer, and C. E. Overmyer, blacksmith, hereby undertake to agree to pay the People of California the aforesaid sum if said Amos P. Gipson does not keep the peace. Signed by A. P. Gipson and C. E. Overmyer.

The Copy of the Justice Docket recited the material in the complaint and stated that A. P. Gibson voluntarily appeared in Court and plead guilty as well as giving bond for \$200 by himself and Charles Overmyer to keep the peace especially concerning A. Buckhardt. The document was signed by Justice D. C. Stevenson and filed with William H. Bickford on April 3, 1876.

A Notice of Appeal was filed by Francis Carr questioning the judgment entered on April 21, 1876, in favor of Alexander Burkhart. The appeal was based on facts of law and fact and dated May 22, 1876. The appeal was signed by Francis Carr as attorney for Amos P. Gipson and sent to Justice of the Peace Caleb Williams as the presiding judge and to James R. Williams as attorney for Alexander Buckhart. James R. Williams acknowledged receipt of the appeal.



In the Appeal A. P. Gipson complains and shows that Alexander Buckhart at diverse times became indebted to A. P. Gibson to wit: about May 1875 A. P. Gipson loaned A. Buckhart the sum of \$70 in gold coin and at another time in 1875 loaned A. Buckhart \$6.00. A. P. Gipson boarded A. Buckhart for a period of two weeks in 1875 and the value was estimated at \$10.00 making a total due A P. Gipson \$86.00.

A. P. Gipson acknowledges the receipt in payment of 1,400 pounds of wheat which at the time was valued at \$30.00 leaving a balance of \$56.00 of which no part or parcel had been paid or satisfied. A. P. Gipson demanded payment of \$56.00 and costs of the legal action. The Appeal was signed by Francis Carr and filed with Justice H. C. Stevenson on May 22, 1876.

Alexander Buckhart counterclaimed stating he was due \$43.25 for work done (it should be noted that five items were for shoe repair and making a pair of boots). The Counterclaim was filed with Justice H. C. Stevenson on April 20, 1876.

In the Justice Court Undertaking of Appeal it stated that A. P. Gipson had posted bond of \$275.00 guaranteed by John Wheatley and F. R. Brown against the Judgement of April 21, 1876, due Alexander Buckhart (the sum of \$33.75 plus costs of \$102.80). The document was filed with Justice Caleb Williams on May 22, 1876.

The Docket for the hearing recites the history of the appeal: this action was brought by A. P. Gipson against A. Buckhart to recover the sum of \$56.00 claimed due on a book account dated May 1875. Summons were issued and made returnable April 18, 1876, and subpoenas were issued for witnesses D. King and F.R. Brown.

There followed an examination of witnesses for A. P. Gipson: G. Derst, J.D. Tipton, J. J. Kern. D. King and John Allen. The examination of witnesses for A. Buckhart included: Joseph Randles, Joseph Moore, James Clare, G. W. Fordney and E. Kenney. Following the examination of witnesses, judgment was rendered for A. Buckhart in the amount of \$33.75 and costs (Justice fees \$9.25 and Constable fees of \$24.80 for a total of \$34.05). The matter was appealed to the County Court by A. P. Gipson. The document was signed in Millville on May 25, 1876, and Filed with W. H. Bickford at the County Court on May 27, 1876.

In the copy of the Docket dated September 4, 1876, stated that on July 11, 1876 Joseph Randles came before Justice of the Peace Caleb Williams of Millville and swore out a complaint for the crime of assault and battery. Joseph stated that on the evening of July 4, 1876, Amos P. Gipson struck, beat and bruised him. Justice Williams issued a warrant of arrest that was given to J. J. Kern the constable of Millville on July 11, 1876. Constable Kern brought Amos P. Gipson before Justice Williams on July 12, 1876. Upon the complaint being read Gipson plead guilty and requested the judgment be passed immediately. Gipson was fined the sum of \$33.10. Signed Caleb Williams, Justice of the Peace. Gibson paid his fine on July 29, 1876. The Copy of Docket was filed with William H. Bickford, Clerk on September 4, 1876 and cites "for Clay Taylor, District Attorney."

The second Copy of Docket filed on September 4, 1876, begins exactly the same as the proceeding document except Amos Gipson made a motion for a continuance that was granted until July 22, 1876. The motion was granted after a \$500 bond was guaranteed by Eugene Parsons and Joseph Yanks. On July 12 Amos P. Gipson withdrew his motion of continuance and pleaded guilty of the assault and battery in the complaint. Gipson requested that the Court pass judgment. The

judgment of Caleb Williams, Justice of the Peace was a fine of \$15.00. On July 29 1876 Gipson paid the fine and was discharged.

A Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements was filed by Francis Carr the attorney for appellant. The costs were Constable Fees \$24.80, Clerk's fees \$7.75, Witness Fees \$3.00, and Justice Fees \$9.25 for a total of \$44.80. The document was filed with William H. Bickford, Clerk.

The case was heard in County Court before County Judge W. E. Hopping. It was found that A. P. Gipson had loaned Alexander Buckhart \$87.00 (\$77 loan and \$10.00 for two weeks board) and had received payment of \$35.25, leaving \$51.75 still owing. A judgment for \$51.75 and costs of \$44.80 payable to Amos P. Gipson was signed by Judge W. E. Hopping.

The execution is a document to the sheriff citing what is owed on a Judgment by the Court and authorizing him to seize personal property to settle the Judgment or if insufficient to seize real property to settle the Judgment. In this case W. E. Hopping was directed to recover the sum of \$96.55 from Alexander Buckhardt. Interest accrued at a rate of seven per cent per annum from the date of the Judgment on September 29, 1876. The Judgment was filed with Wm. H. Bickford on December 29, 1877.

#### Historical notes:

J.D. Tipton was not listed on the 1870 or 1880 U. S. Census.

John Allen: there was a John B. Allen found in the 1880 U. S. Census in township 4.

John was listed as a farmer born about 1852 in Missouri and married to Melissa E. Allen born about 1856 in Missouri.

E. Kenny was not found in the 1870 or 1880 U. S. Census.

G. W. Fordney was George Washington Fordney who was born in 1872. In 1872 George registered to vote as a farmer at Millville. In 1876 George received a patent from the Government Land Office for 160 acres in Section 18, Township 31 North, Range 3 West, MDM. After 1876 nothing was found for George in Shasta County.

James Clare was listed as a miner at Little Cow Creek in 1876. James was listed as being born in Ireland about 1840. James was naturalized in Solano County in 1868. Nothing else was found on James Clare.

G. Derst is most likely George F. Desrch who in 1876 was registered as a farmer at Millville. George was born in 1832 in Bavaria and was first noted at Whiskeytown in 1853 with his wife Anna Maria Kemmelmier. George purchased the Baker Place, a stagestop on Bear Creek, in 1860 and started farming 160 acres. In 1866 Maria as she was known was murdered by a few renegade Indians. In 1877 George married Bridget Moylan born about 1831 in Ireland. Bridget had previously been married to Laurance Hughes who died in 1872. George died in 1900.

Joseph L. Moore was born about 1830 in Indiana. In the 1860 U.S. Census Joseph was listed as a laborer in Colusa County and in 1867 he registered to vote as a farmer at Millville after purchasing 40 acres in Section 29, Township 29 North Range 3 West, MDM. In 1868 Joseph purchased another 160 acres using a script warrant. On the 1870 U.S. Census Joseph was single but by

1880 he was married to Nancy Jane Caylor born about 1853 in Iowa. Joseph and Nancy had at least four children: Sarah Ella, Joseph, Minnie and George. After 1880 Joseph was believed to have moved to San Joaquin County.

David R. King was born in 1827 in New York. In 1855 David married Sarah (last name unknown) born about 1839 in Illinois. In 1865 David and Sarah were in New York but by 1866 David was registered as a blacksmith in Millville. David was still working as a blacksmith at Millville in 1900. David and Sarah were known to have had ten children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. The children were believed to be: Margaret, Blanche, David, Harriet, Earnest, Matilda, Jonathan, Sarah, Marietta, and Charlotta. David died in 1904.

John Wheatley was born in 1838 in Ohio and by 1856 was living in Iowa. In 1863 John registered for the civil War draft as a teamster in Millville. In the 1870 U. S. Census, John was operating a general merchandise store in Millville. In 1871 John married Hattie M. Bidwell born about 1852 in Minnesota. John was still listed as a retail merchant at Millville in 1880. John died in 1884.

Frank R. Brown was a physician in 1880 born in 1837 in England. Frank was the son of Joshua Brown who moved the family to the Western Reserve of Canada in 1855. After teaching for a few years Frank attended Michigan State University in 1860 but dropped out for the gold rush at Cariboo, British Columbia. After mining without success for one season Frank returned to Victoria. From 1864 to 1868 Frank taught in California. Frank returned to Michigan to complete his medical program, graduating in 1869. From 1869 to the summer of 1873 Frank practiced medicine in Plumas County. In the winter of 1873 Frank settled at Millville where he married Julia J. Johnson in 1877. Julia was born about 1858 in California and was the daughter of Dewitt and Mary Johnson of Stillwater. In 1882 Frank moved to Madera County to settle the estate of his brother C. E. Brown and decided to stay. In 1889 Frank purchased a drug store to augment his medical practice. Frank died in 1898. Frank and Julia had three children: Agnes, Alice, and Francis Hargrove.

James Robert Williams was listed in the documents as a lawyer. James was born in 1850 in Missouri and had registered to vote as a lawyer at Millville in 1876. In 1879 James was convicted of two counts of forgery and sentenced to San Quentin for seven years (prisoner 8873). James appears to have had his sentence commuted by the governor in 1880.

Joseph Randles was listed next to Amos Gipson in the 1870 U. S. Census. Joseph was listed as a farmer born about 1829 in Ohio. In 1850 Joseph was farming in Iowa but by 1863 he was on the tax roll for Stillwater as Randall & Company with a hotel. Joseph was married to Rebecca Henry born about 1835 in Ohio. In 1870 the couple had eight children: William, Sarah, Joseph, Matilda, Nancy, Samuel, Charles and Rosa. By 1879 the family had moved to Modoc County. Joseph died in 1922 in Oregon.

Alexander Buckhart also given as Alexander Buckhardt was registered to vote in 1877 as a bootmaker in Adin, Modoc County. Alexander listed his year of birth as about 1843 in "Europe."

Eugene Stevenson Parsons was born in Virginia in 1831. Eugene was the son of John

Rust and Diana Parsons. Eugene was in Shasta County by 1863 as he was registered in the Civil War draft as a farmer at Fort Reading. In 1871 Eugene purchased 160 acres from the Government Land Office in Section 20, Township 31 North Range 4 West, MDM (in 1877 Eugene homesteaded 80 acres and in 1889 another 80 acres in the same section). In 1880 Eugene was listed as a farmer living with Catherine (last name unknown) born about 1832 in Kentucky. Eugene and Catherine had at least five children: Rebecca, Leila, Eugene, Sarah, and Charles. Eugene died in 1898.

Joseph Yank was another near neighbor of Amos Gipson in 1870. Joseph was born about 1830 in Alsace, France. Alsace alternated between French and Germany control and Joseph also alternates between the two countries as his home of record. Joseph's last name appears to have been Yanke until he was naturalized in Shasta County in 1867. Joseph was in Shasta county by 1860 as he married Susanna Rupert. Susanna was born Suzanna Kuchenbach about 1834 in Prussia. Susanna was previously married and brought two children to the marriage: Mary and Margaret Rupert. In 1867 Joseph was listed as a farmer on North Cow Creek. Joseph and Susanna had six children all born in California: William, Elizabeth, Lewis, Susie, Anna S., and Josephine. Joseph purchased 160 acres with a script warrant in 1866 (Section 4, Township 32 North Range 3 West, MDM) and may have purchased 360 acres under the name Yonk in 1862 and 1865. Joseph died in 1891.

Caleb Williams was listed in the documents as Justice of the Peace. Caleb was born about 1809 in North Carolina. By 1836 Caleb was living in Missouri as he married Sarah Updike. Sarah appears to have been married previously as she brought two children named Updike to the marriage. By 1850 Caleb was working as a mail carrier in Missouri and the family had grown by three children. In 1860 Caleb was working as a farm laborer in Missouri, divorced with three children all of whom were working. In 1867 Caleb and his son Ashel (variously given as Asabel, Arel, and Ashael) registered as laborers at Millville. In the 1870 U. S. Census, Caleb was listed as a stone mason and Ashel as a butcher and living next to another name on the documents, David King. In 1880 Ashel was farming at Andrews Creek and listed with the family was Caleb. Caleb was believed to have died in 1887.

James Kern was listed in 1880 as a hired teamster at Klotz Mill born about 1847 in Missouri.

Charles Edwin Overmyer was born in 1836 in Pennsylvania. Charles was the son of Michael and Elizabeth Overmyer. In 1850 his mother and the rest of his family were living in Ohio. Charles first appears in Shasta County in 1866 when he registered as a blacksmith at French Gulch. In 1880 Charles was a blacksmith in Millville and married to Clorinda Powers born in 1851 in Wisconsin. Charles and Clarinda had one son: Charles E. born in 1879. Clarinda's parents were Robert and Elizabeth Powers. In 1890 Charles received a homestead patent for 160 in Section 36 Township 35 North Range 1 West, MDM. In 1900 Charles was listed as a farmer at Round Mountain. Charles died in 1911.

David Chambers Stevenson was born in 1821 in Ohio. In 1865 David purchased 143

acres near Millville. In 1870 David was listed alone as a carpenter at Millville. From the documents David was Justice of the Peace in 1876. On the 1880 U. S. Census David was married to a Sadie E. (last name unknown) born about 1831 in Kentucky. Sadie was listed in 1880 as a music teacher. J.P. Webb and (Hon.) D. C. Stevenson built a mill on a tributary of S. Cow Creek in 1885. David was familiarly known around Millville as "Uncle Dave."

A. P. Gipson: Amos P. Gipson born 1830 in Tennessee. The middle name is listed as Paton and Payton. He was the son of Levi Gipson 1810-1876 and Mary Finn 1810-1899. In 1850 he was living in Missouri but by 1860 he was living at Buckeye in Shasta County. About that time he married Nancy Messingail Williams (1829-1909). The couple had five children: Jefferson Davidson 1860-1944, Nellie Lee 1863-1944, Richard Edward 1866-1900, Robert Lee 1869-1948, and John M. 1871-1950. In 1870 Amos was in the area served by the Stillwater Post Office. In 1878 he was received at San Quentin #8225 for murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and sentenced to life. Amos was pardoned in May 1890 by Governor Robert Waterman and returned to Shasta County. In 1900 he was listed at Shasta as a gold miner with his son Richard. (Note: in 1900 he is listed as widowed but Nancy did not die until 1909.) In 1910 Amos was at Wasco County, Oregon. Amos died in 1911. In 1866 Amos used a script warrant to secure 160 acres in section 20 Township 32 North Range 3 West (he is also listed for a cash sale in 1888 of 80 acres in section 8 Township 32 North Range 3 West while he was in San Quentin.)

William Henry Bickford was a Land Office attorney in Redding in 1898. He was born in 1827 in Massachusetts. He served three terms as County Recorder, 1872 to 1874, 1874 to 1876 and 1876 to 1878. William left St. Louis in 1849 for California by ox team. William first mined at Deer Creek on the Lawson Route then at Feather River and Bidwell Bar. From 1850 to 1853 he engaged in mining in Butte and Nevada Counties. He returned to Ohio in 1853 but returned to California and by the spring of 1855 was mining at Buckeye in Shasta County. He mined at Buckeye until 1870 except for short periods following rushes to Idaho and the Fraser River in British Columbia. In 1878 William also starting a mercantile business. He was a mining partner with Stephen L. Albro at Quartz Hill and partner with Charlie A. Teel in a general merchandise store in Millville. In 1904 he was listed as a Notary Public on Yuba Street in Redding. In 1885 he was appointed receiver of the U.S. Land Office of the Redding District and served until 1890. In 1890 he moved to Redding where he established an office in the McCormick and Saeltzer building as a land and mining attorney. He had been a member of the Shasta Lodge, F.&A.M. in 1856. William died in 1908.

Clay Webster Taylor was a Democratic Senator at the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Sessions (1883-1886) of the California legislature. He was Democratic Delegate to the National Convention at St. Louis in 1876. He was born in 1844 in Michigan and was the son of Enos Taylor who bought a half interest in the Townsend Dam and Ditch. Enos died in 1865 leaving his mining interests to his wife and two sons, Clay W. and Fred A. Taylor. The Taylor group through settlements obtained the entire



dam and ditch (renamed Taylor Dam), ten acres around the dam and 120 acres below the dam. Clay developed another ditch above the Horsetown Bridge. In 1875 the property was sold to Alvinza Hayward. Clay studied law and opened up a practice in Shasta in 1865. From 1870 to 1882 Clay was the District Attorney. After serving in the State Legislature he returned to private practice in Redding. Clay died in 1897.

William Ely Hopping was County Judge from 1872 to 1880. William was elected to seven terms as County Sheriff, 1864 to 1866, 1866 to 1868, 1882 to 1884, 1884 to 1886, 1886 to 1888, 1888 to 1890 and 1890 to 1892. He died in office in January 1892 and Thomas Greene was appointed to fill his term. He was born about 1830 in New Jersey. Listed in El Dorado County in 1850. Reportedly arrived in Shasta County in 1852 as a miner. In the 1860 U.S. Census he was a butcher at French Gulch. In 1863 he was elected Captain of the Trueman Head Rifles in the California Militia. In 1860 he married Bridget Burk and the couple had one child Primrose 1860 (Bridget died shortly afterwards). In 1863 he married his second cousin Harriet Hopping and the couple had three children: Phebe 1863 (died 1864), Harriet 1866, and William 1873.

Francis Carr was born in 1833 in County Donegal, Ireland and arrived in New York in January 1852. In the 1865 New York Census and 1870 U. S. Census Francis was working as a teacher at Rondout, New York. Francis was offered a position in Shasta and took passage for his family via the mule-train route across Panama. The family of four reached San Francisco in July 1874 and waited at the Portland House Hotel owned by Francis' younger brother James until the summer heat subsided. Francis and his small family arrived in Shasta County at the end of summer in 1874 and took up his post as principal of the Shasta Grammar School. After a year the family moved to Millville where Francis resumed a study of law he had begun in New York. Francis was admitted to the bar in 1881 but was known to be practicing at Millville much earlier. Francis later opened a law office in Redding. Francis was married twice: in 1858 he married Catherine Cannon and the couple had two children, Mary Jane 1859 (married William Henry Smith) and James 1861 (died in 1861). Catherine died in 1861 and in 1863 Francis married Mary Ann McParland born in 1841 in Ireland. Francis and Mary had six children: Margaret Ann 1864 (died 1872), Hannah Maria 1868 (died 1872), James 1871 (died 1872), Theresa Ann 1873 (married Benjamin Macomber), Francis Christopher 1875, and William Peter 1878. It should be noted that three of Francis and Mary's children died in a smallpox epidemic that ravaged the maritime village of Rondout (near Kingston, New York) that was home to a large immigrant population. (NOTE: when Francis began practicing law neither the Justice of the Peace Court or County Court required the judge to be an attorney. Further by "reading the law" it was relatively common for lawyers in California to practice prior to admission to a County Bar. In the 1850 only 8% had passed the bar prior to practice. In the 1860s it was 19% and in the 1870s 27%. By the 1890s the system was changed dramatically

but California still did not have an integrated State Bar until 1927.) Francis died in 1896 and Mary survived until 1920.



Murder Trial A. P. Gipson

After looking for information on the murder trial of Amos P. Gipson it was found that Shasta Historical Society had some of the records.

John Schroter was murdered on his farm a few miles north of Millville on or about September 18, 1877. The body was found by Fred Meyers on September 21, 1877, badly eaten by pigs. After an investigation three men were arrested for the murder: Amos P. "Sandy" Gipson, his brother Tom Gipson and John Q. A. Hildebrandt, all residents of the Millville area. On April 30, 1878, the murder trial began in District Court under Judge Alexander M. Roseborough (Rosborough). James Matlock, Aaron Bell and Judge Chadburne represented the defendants while Clay W. Taylor as District Attorney represented the prosecution. The trial lasted until May 10, 1878, when all three men were found guilty of participating in the murder. Amos Gipson received a sentence of life imprisonment for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder while his brother received a sentence of twenty years for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder. On May 15 Amos

Gipson was received at San Quentin Prison and given #8226 while Tom Gipson received #8227; Hildebrandt was not booked with the brothers although he was sentenced to San Quentin. It seems Hildebrandt was sentenced to life for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and received at San Quentin as prisoner 8326 in July 1878. An acquaintance of Hildebrandt later stated that John was persuaded to falsely testify at the trial through fear of the District Attorney and the Sheriff. John ended up at San Quentin and on August 6, 1878, he swore before a Notary Public that the testimony he gave at the trial by him was false. On October 14, 1878, Hildebrandt swore before the Marin County Clerk that he perjured himself on August 6, 1878, and the trial testimony was true. Shortly afterwards the prosecution requested a pardon for Hildebrandt which was granted. One report has the pardon granted by Governor George Stoneman who was in office from 1883 to 1887; the pardon was probably granted by Governor William Irwin who was in office from 1875 to 1880. The two recantings led to an appeal for pardons for Amos and Tom. Governor George Clement Perkins granted the appeal to Tom Gipson in 1882 but Amos' was denied. Francis Carr continued a bitter fight for a pardon with Clay W. Taylor for eight more years. In the end Taylor offered to recommend a pardon if Carr would withdraw from the case. Carr did and a pardon was granted by Governor Robert Waterman in 1890.

The most damning part of the evidence came from Hildebrandt and a Mrs. Reynolds. The only evidence as to the date of Schroter's murder was testimony from John Hildebrandt who stated that on September 17, 1877 he, Amos Gipson and Thomas Gipson planned the murder for the following day. Hildebrandt testified that he was under threat of death from Amos Gipson if he did not help.

Hildebrandt's testimony about the date was not supported by any other witness. Hildebrandt established the date of death as the body was so badly damaged it was impossible to be specific. Hildebrandt and others had previously been out with guns trying to catch Schroter in the act of killing cattle but nothing indicated that Gipson was present at that time. Nor was there any supporting evidence that either Gipson was at the location where Hildebrandt said the conspiracy took place.

Mrs. Reynolds testified that Amos Gipson confessed to her how he and Hildebrandt murdered Schroter. Thirteen witnesses testified that Mrs. Reynolds' reputation for honesty was bad and one testified that Mrs. Reynolds stated she would do anything to convict Amos Gipson. Amos Gipson had fought with her husband previously and there remained ill feelings. The most damning rebuttal to Mrs. Reynolds' testimony came from Daniel G. Hunt who testified that Amos Gipson was at his house fourteen miles away at the time Mrs. Reynolds' alleged the confession took place. Mr. Hunt brought in business books to confirm Amos Gipson was present at his ranch.

Other witnesses testified that Amos Gipson was at the Simpson Hotel in Millville at the time the conspiracy was supposed to occur. Hildebrandt testified that Amos Gipson fired one round with buckshot before leaving the murder site. An examination of the murder scene reported four bullet holes and over ninety buckshot holes indicating multiple shots and possibly multiple murderers.

One witness, R. M. Botsford, testified that Amos Gipson had previously threatened to kill Schroter who was believed to be killing stock. The defense attorney also addressed the relationship of Hildebrandt to Amos Gipson. They were not friends and Amos had thrown Hildebrandt off his farm two years prior. After introducing this and other facts about there being bad blood between the two men, the defense questioned if Amos was likely to have selected or forced an enemy to participate in such a deed.

In reading the evidence nothing would indicate that Amos Gipson was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Yet he was convicted. Between the prior cases in 1876, testimony concerning his drinking, and testimony concerning threats in the trial of 1878, some may have been convinced that Amos had the mindset to commit murder.

After the trial new evidence and new affidavits were submitted supporting Amos' innocence. Many in the community, including some prominent leaders, and four members of the jury signed petitions to have Amos released. In 1890 after twelve years in prison Amos was pardoned because of a political deal. The conviction could have been overturned after appeal, or the case retried, but instead Amos was pardoned quieting any wrong-doing on the part of the prosecution or any need to find a new murderer. Who actually murdered Schroter still seems to be an open question.

Amos returned home to Millville in 1890 and died on March 11, 1911.

#### Historical Notes:

Aaron Bell was the Shasta County Superior Court judge from 1880 to 1891. He was born in 1832 in Pennsylvania. Aaron came to California in 1852 with his brother Joseph E. Bell and settled in El Dorado County. Aaron started as a gold miner and in 1853 he was partner with John Marshall, who made the initial gold discovery of the Gold Rush. Aaron soon was appointed Justice of the Peace, deputy County Clerk, deputy County Recorder and City Clerk of Placerville. Judge Bell was admitted to practice law in 1864 and practiced land law in Sacramento for three years. Aaron was sent to Shasta to help reorganized the Government Land Office and liked the area. At the resignation of the Register at Shasta, Aaron was appointed Register of Land Office in Shasta and served until 1879. In 1879 Aaron campaigned for Superior Court Judge and held the office until 1891. Judge Bell remained interested in mining and purchased mining properties, timber land and bought a box, shingle and lath factory in conjunction with his brother. In 1874 Aaron married Julia Fipps and the couple had three children: Jesse Aaron 1874, George 1878 and Harvey 1887. Judge Bell died in 1903.

R.M. Botsford: nothing was found in the 1870 or 1880 U. S. Census.

Francis Carr was born in 1833 in County Donegal, Ireland and arrived in New York in January 1852. In the 1865 New York Census and 1870 U. S. Census Francis was working as a teacher at Rondout, New York. Francis was offered a position in Shasta and took passage for his family via the mule-train route across Panama. The family of four reached San Francisco in July 1874 and

waited at the Portland House Hotel owned by Francis' younger brother James until the summer heat subsided. Francis and his small family arrived in Shasta County at the end of summer in 1874 and took up his post as principal of the Shasta Grammar School. After a year the family moved to Millville where Francis resumed a study of law he had begun in New York. Francis was admitted to the bar in 1881 but was known to be practicing at Millville much earlier. Francis later opened a law office in Redding. Francis was married twice: in 1858 he married Catherine Cannon and the couple had two children, Mary Jane 1859 (married William Henry Smith) and James 1861 (died in 1861). Catherine died in 1861 and in 1863 Francis married Mary Ann McParland born in 1841 in Ireland. Francis and Mary had six children: Margaret Ann 1864 (died 1872), Hannah Maria 1868 (died 1872), James 1871 (died 1872), Theresa Ann 1873 (married Benjamin Macomber), Francis Christopher 1875, and William Peter 1878. It should be noted that three of Francis and Mary's children died in a smallpox epidemic that ravaged the maritime village of Rondout (near Kingston, New York) that was home to a large immigrant population. (NOTE: when Francis began practicing law neither the Justice of the Peace Court or County Court required the judge to be an attorney. Further by "reading the law" it was relatively common for lawyers in California to practice prior to admission to a County Bar. In the 1850 only 8% had passed the bar prior to practice. In the 1860s it was 19% and in the 1870s 27%. By the 1890s the system was changed dramatically but California still did not have an integrated State Bar until 1927.) Francis died in 1896 and Mary survived until 1920.

Judge Chadburne: nothing was found in the 1870 or 1880 U. S Census.

Amos P. Gipson was born in 1830 in Tennessee. The middle name is listed as Paton and Payton. He was the son of Levi Gipson 1810-1876 Shasta County and Mary Finn 1810-1899. In 1850 he was living in Missouri but by 1860 he was living at Buckeye in Shasta County. About that time he married Nancy Messingail Williams (1829-1909). The couple had five children: Jefferson Davidson 1860-1944, Nellie Lee 1863-1944, Richard Edward 1866-1900, Robert Lee 1869-1948, and John M. 1871-1950. In 1870 he was in the area served by the Stillwater Post Office. In 1878 he was received at San Quentin #8225 for murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and sentenced to life. (#8226 appears to be Thomas Gipson born North Carolina received at the same time on the same charge from Shasta County and listed a musician sentenced to 20 years; pardoned by Governor George Perkins in May 1882.) Amos was pardoned in May 1890 by Governor Robert Waterman and returned to Shasta County. In 1900 he was listed at Shasta as a gold miner with his son Richard. (Note: in 1900 he is listed as widowed but Nancy did not die until 1909.) In 1910 Amos was at Wasco County, Oregon. Amos died in 1911. In 1866 Amos used a script warrant to secure 160 acres in section 20 Township 32 North Range 3 West (he is also listed for a cash sale in 1888 of 80 acres in section 8 Township 32 North Range 3 West while he was in San Quentin.)

Thomas P. Gipson was sentenced to 20 years for second degree murder in 1878 and



reportedly was born in North Carolina about 1840 and listed as a musician. It is known that Thomas was the brother of Amos P. Gipson and the son of Levi Gipson 1810-76 and Mary Finn 1810-1899. On the 1850 U. S. Census there is an Amos but no Thomas Gipson. There is a Bias (Tobias) born in 1848 in Tennessee. Levi Gipson was born in North Carolina. The definitive proof that Thomas was in fact Bias Gipson comes from the Government Land Office records for 1866. In 1866 Bias purchased 160 acres in Section 29, Township 32 North Range 3 West, MDM while Amos purchased 160 acres by script warrant in Section 20 of the same township. In 1870 Levi Gipson was living at Millville (died in 1876). In May 1882 Thomas (Bias) was discharged from San Quentin after being pardoned by Governor George Perkins (1880-1883). Nothing was found on Thomas or Bias after his release from San Quentin.

John Q. A. Hildebrant is John Quincy Adams Hillbrant. John was born in Missouri in 1853 to Lydia Ann Phelps and Perry A. Hillbrant. In 1860 the couple with four children were somewhere served by the Shasta Post Office where Perry was a miner. In 1860 Perry's name was listed as Willbourn. By the 1870 U. S. Census Lydia was married to Charles Cockerill born about 1832 in England. Charles was a farmer at Stillwater. At the time of the murder of Mr. Schroter, John was listed as an unmarried laborer. John was sentenced to life at San Quentin in July 1878. In 1885 John received a "conditional pardon" from Governor George Stoneman. John was released on April 21, 1885, and is believed to have left the state.

James Matlock: nothing was found in the 1870 or 1880 U.S. Census.

Fred Meyers is most likely Frederick Valentine Meyer who had a large holding in the Cow Creek area. Frederick was born in 1829 in the Free City of Bremen. At age twenty-two Frederick and his brother Herman took the Cape Horn route to California. Herman quickly made his way east and settled in Michigan. Frederick moved to Shasta County in 1851 and began to mine. By 1854 Frederick invested his money in land, first buying a 104 acre property northwest of Cow Creek. Prior to the Civil War, Frederick visited his brother in Michigan and married Caroline Louise Notten. The couple returned to Shasta County in 1860. In the 1863 draft registration Frederick appears to be living at Copper City which was having a short mining boom. Frederick appears to have done well as he purchased 160 acres from the Government Land Office in 1865 using a script warrant (in Sections 33 and 34, Township 33 North Range 3 West, MDM). In 1866 Frederick purchased another 160 acres in Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, Township 32 North Range 3 West, MDM just south of the previous purchase. Frederick spent the rest of his life on the Meyer Ranch. In 1908 Caroline died and shortly afterwards Frederick became completely blind. Frederick survived until 1916. Frederick and Caroline were known to have had fourteen children: Anna 1861-1889 who married Fred McBroom, Mary Frederick 1862-1960 who married Frank R. Love, John 1864-1864, Elizabeth 1866 who married Edward Howell, William Henry 1868-1932, Frederick Valentine 1870-1963, Herman 1872-1958, Caroline Louise 1875-1960 who married George Boyle, Adah Julia 1877 who married William Yank, Charles Edward 1879-1962, Olive 1881-1980 who

married J. W. Chatham, Albert 1883-1964, Walter 1886-1966, and Harry Andrew 1890-1971.

Mrs. Joseph Reynolds: nothing was found in the 1870 or 1880 U. S. Census.

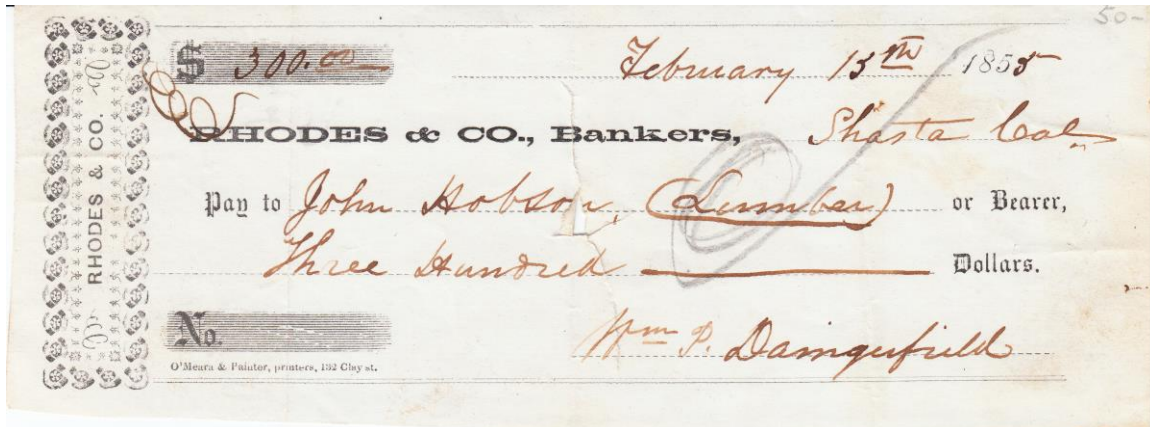
Judge Alexander Madison Rosborough was the District Judge for Modoc, Siskiyou, Trinity and Shasta Counties at the time of the trial. Alexander was the son of Dr. Alexander Rosborough and Jane Porter and was born in 1815 in South Carolina. In 1826 the family moved to Tennessee. In 1836 Alexander joined a volunteer unit of mounted rifles and served against the Creeks in Alabama. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Creek War resulted in the eventual of 15,000 Creek along the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma where they were given a blanket and abandoned. After his service Alexander entered the University of Tennessee graduating in 1839. Alexander took up the law as well as entering journalism with the Columbia Register and in 1849 the Nashville Daily Whig. In 1850 Alexander became superintendent of the Tennessee Mining Company bound for California. Alexander was elected captain of the wagon train and upon reaching California mined at El Dorado County. In 1851 Alexander moved to San Francisco where he worked for the San Francisco Evening Picayune. In 1853 Alexander set up a law office in Yreka, Siskiyou County. In 1855 Alexander was appointed to complete a term as County Court judge. Alexander successfully was reelected to three four-year terms at the County Court. In 1869 Alexander became a District Court judge and served until December 1879. During the Modoc War of 1872-1873, Alexander served as a Peace Commissioner at the request of the Modoc. In 1880 Alexander moved the family to Oakland where he continued to practice law. In 1861 Alexander married Ellen "Nellie" Raynes born in 1843 in Maine. Alexander and Nellie had six children: Helen, Mabelle, Alexander, Francis, Mary, and Joseph. Alexander died in 1900 and Nellie survived until 1921.

John Schroter was first listed in the voter registration of 1867 when he was listed as farmer at North Cow Creek, born in 1833 in Germany. In 1870 John was listed as Schroder born in Luxembourg. At the time of John's birth Luxembourg was considered a member of the German Confederation and had a Prussian garrison for internal security but was a personal possession of William I of the Netherlands. The state was involved in the Belgian Revolution from 1830 to 1839 when it was again independent. Due to economic problems 1 in 5 inhabitants emigrated to the United States between 1841 and 1891. John was in Shasta County by 1862 as he was naturalized at the Shasta County District Court. John was not known to have been married and was murdered in 1877.

Clay Webster Taylor was a Democratic Senator at the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Sessions (1883-1886) of the California legislature. He was Democratic Delegate to the National Convention at St. Louis in 1876. He was born in 1844 in Michigan and was the son of Enos Taylor who bought a half interest in the Townsend Dam and Ditch. Enos died in 1865 leaving his mining interests to his wife and two sons, Clay W. and Fred A. Taylor. The Taylor group through settlements obtained the entire dam and ditch (renamed Taylor Dam), ten acres around the dam and 120 acres

below the dam. Clay developed another ditch above the Horsetown Bridge. In 1875 all of the property was sold to Alvinza Hayward. Clay studied law and opened up a practice in Shasta in 1865. From 1870 to 1882 Clay was the District Attorney. After serving in the State Legislature he returned to private practice in Redding. Clay died in 1897.

#### Rhodes and Company Check from William Parker Daingerfield



The Rhodes & Company check above, dated February 13<sup>th</sup> 1855, shows how transient the population was in the early history of Shasta County. Of the three names associated with the check: John Hobson. William Parker Daingerfield and James M. Rhodes, all had moved by 1862.

In April 1852 James M. Rhodes and Hiram Lusk formed the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company that operated daily stages from Sacramento to Marysville, Tehama, Shasta and north to Yreka and Jacksonville, Oregon. The company was located at Shasta and had a line that connected to Weaverville. The company connected to Wells, Fargo & Company at Sacramento for San Francisco. From a March 1852 announcement, the company was a branch of the Sacramento City Bank (Rhodes, Purdy and McNulty). The Rhodes of the Sacramento City Bank was James' brother John Milton Rhodes. Quickly the two entities became separate but maintained a business relationship. In February the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company was dissolved and James Rhodes continued the business under the name of Rhodes & Company (for a short period Jas. M. Rhodes Express was utilized). In July 1855 James sold the company to his uncle, Jesse Rhodes and Cornelius S. Whitney and the name changed to Rhodes & Whitney's Express. In December 1855 Whitney withdrew and the name returned to Rhodes & Company until 1857.

James moved to Sacramento to become a clerk in the State Treasurer's Office with the aid of his brother John. The bond to put Henry Bates into office was provided by John. Within a short period, Bates was being impeached for missing funds and John, who was responsible for the bond, was facing a run on the Sacramento City Bank. The house of cards built by the Rhodes family crashed in 1857 when both Sacramento City Bank and Rhodes & Company closed their doors.

James returned to Shasta as a salesman for Child's & Company Patent Elastic Fire and Water-Proof Roofing. By 1860 James was living in San Francisco and he died in Sacramento in 1865 with his estate worthless.

Nothing was found on John Hobson although around 1855 there was a Hobson at Shingletown who operated the Dry Mill for a short period then sold out.

In 1855 William Parker Daingerfield was the judge of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and living at Shasta. William and his brother Leroy Parker Daingerfield (1825-1904) had come to California in 1850 where they took divergent courses. William who was born in 1822 in Virginia was a practicing attorney and quickly set up a practice in Sacramento while Leroy went into mining. By 1851 William was admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court. In 1852 Leroy had quit mining and was operating a hotel near Sacramento. In late 1852 or early 1853 the brothers moved to Shasta County where Leroy purchased the 320 acre Aloha Ranch with Dr. Robert N. Slack. In 1853 Leroy & Slack were issued a license to run a ferry across the Sacramento River at the mouth of Bear Creek. In 1854 William was elected to the first of two four-year terms as the District Judge.

In 1855 the Daingerfield & Slack Ferry was sold to George W. McMurty and Leroy returned to Virginia to take up farming. At the outbreak of the Civil War Leroy enlisted in the Confederate cavalry and at the Battle of Philippi in June 1861 lost a leg. Leroy was not through as he was commissioned a captain and served in the commissary department throughout the war. Leroy died in Virginia in 1904.

In 1856 William married Eliza Raymond and the couple quickly had two children: William R. in 1857 and Leroy Edwin in 1859. At the end of his second term as District Court judge, William moved the family to San Francisco. William was quickly elected a judge in San Francisco. In 1863 William and Eliza had their third child, Eliza "Lida." William died in San Francisco in 1880.