

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.

Articles for the month of May 2024 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 10 Payne to Southern Pacific Railroad Company, 2) Olin J. Lawry, 3) Allen Wilkins, 4) Kenneth Victor Blair, and 5) Jennie Bailey.

Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 10

Mrs. Agnes Spatz – operated in Shasta 1865 to May 1866.

Miss Agnes Miers married John Henry Spatz in Shasta in October 1855. Agnes was born about 1838 and in 1860 his birthplace was described as Louisiana while in 1880 it was listed as Germany. John was born about 1826 in Hesse-Darmstadt and had to have migrated prior to 1845 as he was naturalized in Kentucky in 1850. John's trade was carpenter and in Shasta he was the partner of Charles Litsch in the Spatz & Litsch Bakery and Saloon. Mrs. Agnes Spatz issued an advertisement in November 1865 stating, "Photographer! Mrs. Spatz at her Photographic Gallery, Wilhelm's Block is in receipt of a large supply of the latest and most approved material known in the arts and is prepared to take pictures...." In January 1886 Mrs. Spatz moved her studio to High Street and reduced her prices: \$1-4 for an ambrotype, \$4.50 for a dozen photographs and \$2.50 for a half dozen. Four months later John and Agnes put their house up for sale and announced their intent to leave Shasta.

Agnes and John Henry did in fact move to San Francisco where John worked as a carpenter and Agnes went into the fancy food trade. John and Agnes at the time of the relocation had three children: Henry born about 1856, Charles about 1858 and Agnes A. about 1862. The family later moved to Alameda County but it was not found when John and Agnes died.

Strong, Nathan Bixby – operated at Redding c1889-1892.

Nathan Bixby Strong was born in Oakland, California in 1860. Nathan was the son of Reverend Joseph D. Strong 1823-1907 and Margaret Dewing Bixby 1831-1866. On the 1870 U. S. Census Nathan was attending school in Massachusetts and his older brother Joseph (born 1854 in Rhode Island) was already practicing photography. By 1878 Nathan registered to vote in San Francisco as a studio artist. In 1880 Nathan had set up a studio at Eureka that he operated until 1888. In 1886 Nathan married Ida Woart Richmond 1860-1912 with whom he had three children: Richmond 1887, Margaret 1891 and Hawley (Stanley) 1892. For about a year in 1889 Nathan was at Chicago, Illinois before returning to San

Francisco. Between 1889 and 1892 Nathan operated for a short period at Weaverville then Redding. In 1892 Nathan settled in San Francisco where he was listed as an engraver or photo engraver at least until 1904. From 1908 to after 1912 Nathan was listed as a photo engraver and lithographer in Alameda County. On the 1920 U. S. Census Nathan was listed at Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County as a photo engraver and married to Frances A. Strong 1868-1935. In 1930 Nathan was listed as a studio photographer in San Francisco but by 1940 had retired to Alameda County. Nathan Strong died in 1943.

Sutton - operated out of Shasta from December 1875 to June 1876.

No biographical date was found on Sutton other than he entered into a short-term partnership with Oscar Cromwell from December 1875 to June 1876. The partners were known to have traveled to Trinity County in May and June 1876. The studio in Shasta was known as the Live Yankee Gallery.

Sutton & Cromwell- operated out of Shasta from December 1875 to June 1876.

Sutton & Cromwell was a short-term partnership between Sutton and Oscar Cromwell that operated out of Shasta from December 1875 to June 1876. The partners were known to have traveled to Trinity County in May and June 1876. Biographical material is provided under the individual artist's names. The studio in Shasta was known as the Live Yankee Gallery.

Swain – operated in Shasta County in August 1876.

No biographical data was found on Swain other than he entered into a short-term partnership with John Oliver Welsh and traveled in Shasta County in August 1876.

Swain & Welsh – operated in Shasta County in August 1876.

Swain & Welsh was a short-term partnership between Swain and John Oliver Welsh. More biographical material is presented under each artist individually.

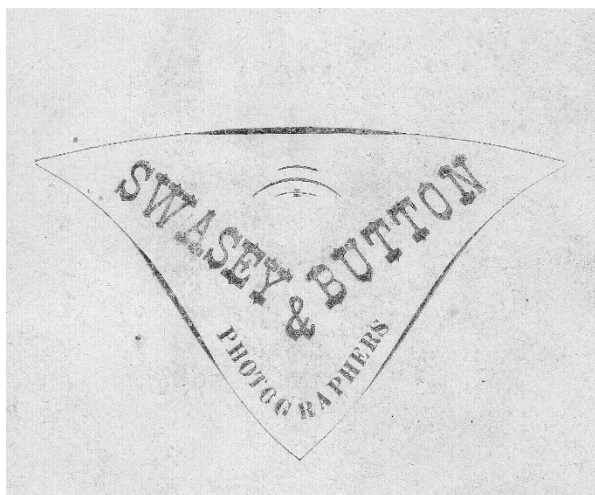
Swasey & Button – operated in Shasta County May to September 1876.

Benjamin Swasey was born in 1822 in New Hampshire. He was the son of Benjamin and Lydia Ladd Swasey. In 1845 Benjamin married Emily Marshall 1823-1868 in Massachusetts and quickly had two children: Marshall B. 1846-1846 and Emily Augusta 1847-1921. Benjamin was an early gold rush pioneer coming around Cape Horn in 1849. By September of 1849 Benjamin was in Shasta County mining at Gold Gulch, a tributary of Salt Creek. The profits from his mining allowed Benjamin to purchase a store and hotel at Lower Springs, just east of Shasta. Benjamin was joined by his wife and daughter in Lower Springs and by 1857 Benjamin and Emily had three more children: Frank Marshall 1852-1924, Fred Park 1855-1900, and Alice Jane 1857-1946. In 1862 the family sold the hotel and moved to San Francisco, partly due to bad debts and grub staking others and partly for educational opportunities for the children. Benjamin quickly turned to photography and worked for a number of the renowned photographers of the time such as George Morse.

In 1868 Emily died in a smallpox epidemic. By 1870 the children were living apart: Emily married to Gilbert Barber Daniels (1854-1926) and the younger three living together. Frank Marshall was working as a printer and the younger two younger children were in school. In 1872 Benjamin married Nellie Dalton 1846-1920 and while in San Francisco had a son George Herold 1874-1962. In 1875 Benjamin applied for Patent 171,062 "an improvement in printing photographic pictures." The method seems to be using two negatives: an original and an ornamental background that when exposed together fused the two. Clients did not have to visit a parlor and stand before a background and older negatives could be improved. By 1876 when Benjamin returned to Shasta County Frank Marshall was a photographic printer and Fred Park a photographer.

When Benjamin returned to Shasta County in May 1876 he had a partner. Charles G. Button. The partners opened the French House Gallery in Shasta and quickly began to tour. In September 1876 the partners were in Igo and in December 1876 Cottonwood. About December, Charles Button left the partnership and may have returned to San Francisco. Benjamin continued the tour to Millville, Shingletown and other local towns. In September 1877 Benjamin was in a short-term relationship with his son under the name Swasey & Son. Peter Palmquist believes the partnership was with Frank Marshall but it could have been Fred Park who was active at the time and years later opened his own shop in Redding. After 1878 the trademark for Benjamin was simply B. Swasey, Photographer.

In 1879 Benjamin and Nellie had their last child Benjamin Swasey, Junior, 1879-1912. As Benjamin became older he developed interests other than photography. From 1881 to 1882 Benjamin was the Assistant County Assessor. In 1885 he stopped touring and settled permanently in a gallery at the rear of the Dobrowsky Jewelry Store. At about the same time he settled on a hundred and sixty acre parcel near Lower Springs and devoted time to the production of fine fruit. Benjamin received his homestead patent in 1888. Shortly afterwards Benjamin left the photography business. Benjamin died in 1914 and Nellie survived until 1920.



Trademark of Benjamin Swasey and Charles G. Button 1876.



Unidentified girl taken by Swasey & Button.



Unidentified woman taken by Swasey & Button.



Unidentified man taken by Swasey and Button.



Portrait of an unidentified girl taken by Swasey & Button.

Swasey & Kline – operated in Shasta County in July 1897.

Swasey & Kline was a short-term partnership between Fred P. Swasey and Charles W. Kline in July 1897. More biographical material is provided under the entry for Charles W. Kline and under Swasey & Button for Benjamin Swasey.



Portrait of two unidentified men taken by Swasey & Kline.

Swasey & Kline, Photographers.

Trademark of Swasey & Kline.

Swasey & Son – operated in Shasta County in 1877 with Benjamin Swasey and Frank Marshall Swasey. See entry under Swasey & Button and Frank Marshall Swasey.

Alice Swasey – operated at Redding 1895 to 1898.

The exact identity of Alice Swasey was not confirmed but two local photographers, Benjamin Swasey and Frank Marshall Swasey had daughters named Alice. Benjamin's daughter Alice Jane Swasey was born in 1857 in Shasta County but by 1880 was teaching school outside of Shasta County. Benjamin's son Frank Marshall had a daughter Alice C. Swasey born in Shasta County in 1879 and is the more likely candidate as she remained in Redding until after 1900. In 1900 she was listed as a bookkeeper in Redding and shortly afterward married Alva Adams Wilson 1879-1963 and relocated to Mendocino County. Alice died in Mendocino County in 1969.

Benjamin Swasey – operated in Shasta County from 1876 to 1891.



Portrait of Benjamin Swasey. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

SWASEY'S HOTEL.

Lower Springs.

TWO MILES BELOW SHASTA.



THIS HOUSE IS LOCATED IN A good mining district, and possesses superior advantages for the accommodation of miners and the traveling public. Teamsters are assured that every attention will be paid to their wants. Hay and Barley always on hand at the lowest market prices.

BENJ. SWASEY.

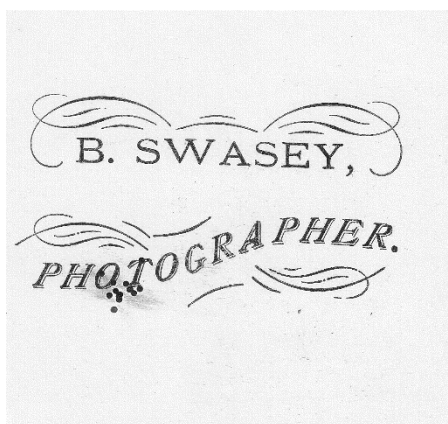
Lower Springs, Dec. 1857.

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Advertisement for Benjamin Swasey's Hotel from the Shasta Courier dated September 10, 1859.



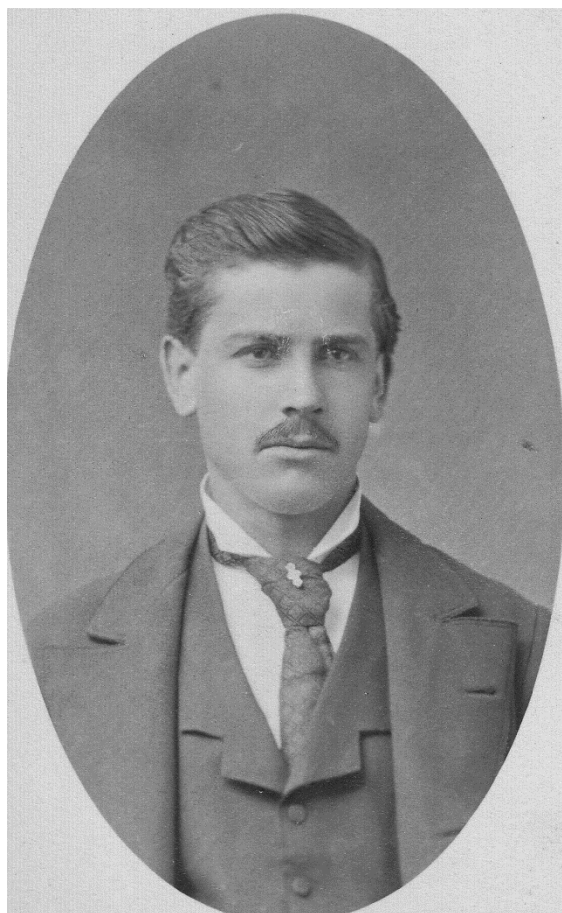
Portrait of Donna Coleman taken by Benjamin Swasey.



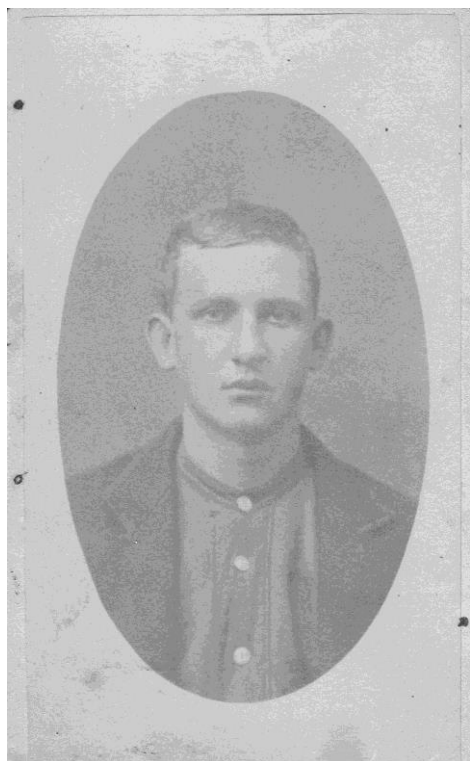
Trademark of Benjamin Swasey.



Portrait of a woman titled "Lizzie" taken by B. Swasey.



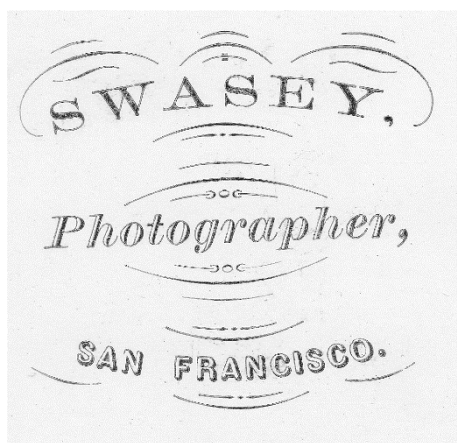
Portrait of Jacob Foster taken by Benjamin Swasey.



Portrait of an unknown man taken by Benjamin Swasey.



Portrait of Josephine Litsch Pryor taken by Benjamin Swasey while living in San Francisco.



Trademark of Benjamin Swasey in San Francisco.



Portrait of an unknown baby taken by Benjamin Swasey in San Francisco. The trademark is embossed.

Frank Marshall Swasey – operated in Shasta County about 1877.



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

Frank Marshall Swasey was born at Lower Springs in Shasta County in 1852. Frank was the son of Benjamin Swasey 1822-1912 and Emily Marshall 1823-1868. In 1862 Frank moved to San Francisco with his parents where his father took up photography. Frank learned the printing trade at the San Francisco Bulletin. About 1877 Frank returned to Shasta County where he probably worked as a photographer for a short. In 1878 Frank registered to vote as a phrenologist but the following year he purchased the Redding Independent, a newspaper from Ben Frank & Son. Frank operated the paper alone until 1880 when he associated with J. H. Cooper as Swasey & Cooper. Frank was generally considered a journalist while his father and brother Fred Park Swasey were known for photography. In 1883 Frank was the proprietor and editor of the Redding Free Press. In the 1900 U. S. Census Frank was listed as the Registrar of the U. S. Land Office in Redding.

Frank retired in 1905 and moved to Berkely in Alameda County. Frank was married to Emma K. Robbins (sometime given as Robinson) 1854-1915 and the couple had six children: Edgar M. 1875, Emily L 1878, Alice c. 1879, Olive 1881, Nellie F. 1884 and Ruth R. 1893. Frank died in 1924

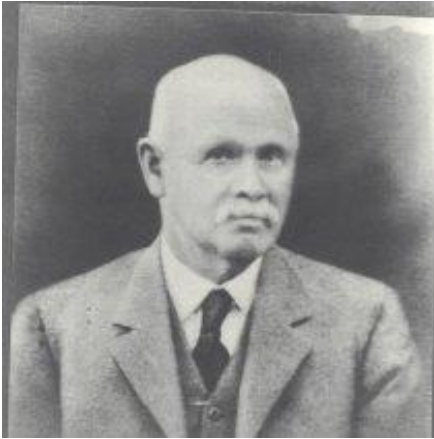
Fred P. Swasey – operated in Shasta County from 1897-1900.



Portrait of Fred Parks Swasey

Fred Park Swasey was born at Lower Springs in Shasta County in 1855. Fred was the son of Benjamin Swasey 1822-1912 and Emily Marshall 1823-1868 and moved with his parents to San Francisco in 1862. His father took up photography in San Francisco and Fred followed in his footsteps. When his father returned to Shasta County in 1876 Fred remained in San Francisco working as a photographer and doing photograph retouching. About 1892 Fred moved to Oakland in Alameda County where he worked as a photographer until about 1896. Fred was working as a photographer in Shasta County by 1897 and in the 1900 U. S. Census he was the subscription manager for his brother Frank's newspaper the Redding Free Press. When Fred returned to Shasta County he had a short-term partnership with Charles W. Kline, Fred died in 1900 without ever being married.

Olin J. Lawry



Dr. Olin J. Lawry as Mayor of Redding.
Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Olin Joseph Lawry, the son of James and Ann Lawry who were both born in England, was born in New York in 1844. His parents soon moved the family to Illinois to farm. In 1864 Olin became one of the "100 Day Men" joining the 141st Illinois Infantry Regiment— those that enlisted for 100 days to augment existing manpower of the Union Army for an all-out push to end the Civil War. Olin served from June 16, 1864, to October 27, 1864, in garrison duty in Columbus, Kentucky (the Civil War dragged on until April 1865). The experience may have spurred his desire to study medicine as the 141st lost no men to combat but 30 to disease (roughly 4% of the 842 men in just 100 days). After the Civil War Olin attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. Olin graduated in 1876 when being a "Rush Doctor" was a highly prized commodity in the American West. Aside from medicine Olin had an interest in mining so in 1878 he settled in Igo where gold and silver mining were the main industry. Luckily Olin had to settle for setting up a medical practice rather than mining. Within two years he moved his practice to Redding where he was the city's (it had a population under 5,000) first resident physician. It was during the period of residence in Igo that he met and married Leonore A. Vance. Leonore was born in 1852 in Illinois and was the daughter of Dr. George E. Vance. Doctor Vance was an eclectic practitioner whose practice centered on the use of botanical remedies along with other substances and physical therapy (Dr. Vance died in Redding in 1888).

In 1881 Dr. Lawry's office was at the Gleaves & Averill's Drug Store in Redding but by 1885 he was practicing medicine and proprietor of the City Drug Store in Redding. Dr. Lawry took on a special practice as the physician for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. Dr. Lawry was a leader both in the medical field and in civil involvement. He was at times president of the Shasta County Medical Association, ran for County Coroner, and served a term as mayor of Redding.

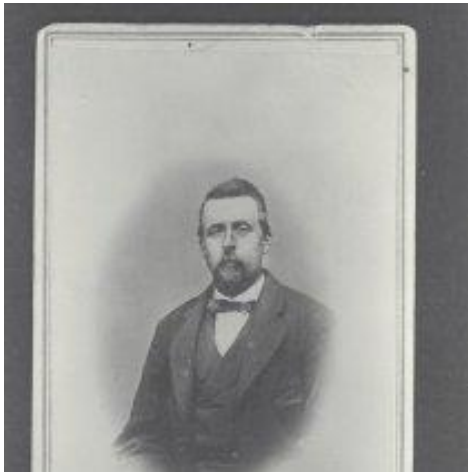
Olin and Leonore had two children: George V. born in 1880 and Anna born in 1883. Anna went on to study at Stanford University but returned home to take care of her ailing mother. Leonore died in 1915 and Anna did not return to university as she married Laurence Kennedy who in 1914 formed the law firm of Carr & Kennedy. George Vance Lawry graduated from Stanford in 1905 and became president of Fire Underwriters. In 1918 Olin married Lenore's younger sister Irena Fidelia who was born

in 1854. Olin retired from the practice of medicine about 1915 and died in Redding in 1923. Fedelia survived her husband until 1927.

Allen Wilkins



Allen Wilkins in the uniform of the 49th Ohio Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Courtesy of findagrave.com.



Allen Wilkins courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Allen Wilkins and wife courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

A question was asked why so little could be found about Allen Wilkins in Shasta County. The short answer would be he appears to have only been here for a short period from around 1868 to 1872. Allen was born in Knox County, Ohio in August 1838 and by 1850 was living in northwest Ohio in Seneca County. In August 1861 Allen enlisted in Company A, 49th Ohio Infantry Regiment. The regiment was raised at Camp Noble in Tiffin in Seneca County in August and September 1861. The regiment had the distinction of being the first Union regiment to enter Kentucky after Confederate forces violated the state's neutrality stance. The regiment was raised for three years and served for much of that time in the Army of the Cumberland where it saw heavy fighting. The regiment was at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi, and the Battle of Stones River during 1862. In 1863 the regiment served at the Battle of Chickamauga, Siege of Chattanooga, and Battle of Missionary Ridge. In 1864 the regiment was part of the March on Atlanta and the Battle of Atlanta. Allen's term of enlistment ended in February 1864, but he reenlisted with the regiment. Allen was present for operations against General Hood in northern Georgia and Alabama but was discharged from service in October 1864 by a surgeon's certificate of disability. The regiment lost a total of 363 men during service (most regiments being between 900-1000 men): 202 due to combat, 161 due to disease, and the remainder as prisoners of war.

After his discharge Allen appears to have returned to Ohio but in 1868 registered as a carpenter at Ludwig's Bridge near present day Cottonwood. In the 1870 Census Allen was listed as a farmer at American Ranch. The entry prior to Allen's was Elias Anderson. The 1870 agricultural census is telling as Allen is listed with no land ownership. He was raising 170 swine and growing wheat and it maybe that he leased land from Elias Anderson. From this point the trail is difficult to follow. It appears that Allen returned to Ohio where he married Louisa M. Rugg in December 1870. The photograph from Shasta Historical Society would indicate the couple returned to Shasta County but no documentation was found. In the 1880 U.S. Census Allen and Louisa are listed in Marion County in Kansas. Allen was working as a carpenter and the family had one son, Wallace age 8, born in Kansas. In the 1885 Kansas State Census, Allen and Louisa are listed with a second child, Pearl. Pearl's age is listed as 46 but the 1900 census has her age as 16 so she was born about 1884. In 1886 Allen is listed as a civilian contractor in the quartermaster's office at Camp Reynolds, Angel Island (in San Francisco Bay). In 1888 Allen registered to vote as a carpenter in Los Angeles County and in the 1900 U.S. Census he is listed as a farmer at Gardena in Los Angeles County. Living with Allen in 1900 were Louisa, Pearl now age 16, and a

son Eugene age 14 born in Kansas. On 13 February 1903, Allen was admitted to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, and died the same day from tuberculosis. Allen was buried in the adjoining National Cemetery.

If anyone has more data on Allen Wilkins could you please share it with the Society.

Kenneth Victor Blair



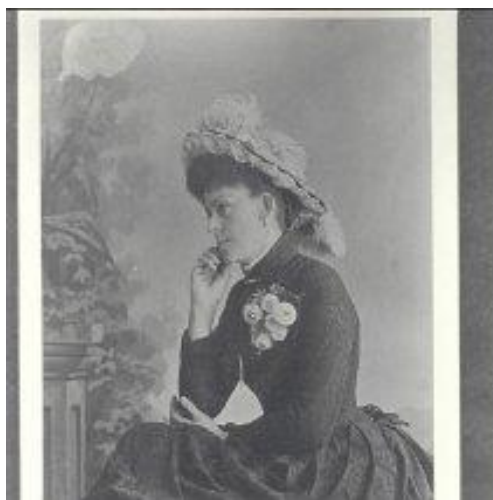
Kenneth Victor Blair courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

The question that started this article concerned the headstone inscription: California CPL HQ DET 319 Engineers World War I. Simply translated Kenneth Blair served during World War I as a corporal (a junior noncommissioned officer above a private and below a sergeant) assigned to the headquarters detachment of the 319th Engineer Regiment. Three important things were not said about the 319th Engineers: 1) it was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division, 2) it was a Regular Army unit, and 3) it was designated a pioneer regiment. On the 1917 draft registration Kenneth Victor Blair was working as a commissary clerk for the Mammoth Copper Mining Company in Kennett. Kenneth enlisted in the Regular Army in March 1918, and at the time divisions were organized as Regular Army (1st through 8th Infantry Division), National Guard, or National Army (draftees). Kenneth was sent to Camp Fremont at Menlo Park for training. He was probably assigned to the headquarters because of his civilian clerical skills. The 319th was designated a pioneer unit which was a cross between infantry and engineers. They fought as infantry while carrying out construction and clearing operations at the front lines. To demonstrate the confusion their insignia was crossed rifles (infantry insignia) with a P added at the intersection of the rifles. All the other engineers wore castle insignias. At this point the luck of the draw worked in Kenneth's favor. The 8th Division was scheduled to go to France but the commanding officer General William Graves and about 8,000 men were diverted to the American Expeditionary Force, Siberia in August 1918 where it was caught up in the Russian Civil War. One Infantry Brigade and the 319th Engineers were sent in November 1918 to France. The 319th Engineers would have been involved

in the heaviest fighting except after being pushed back during the Meuse-Argonne Campaign the German command sued for peace. The 319th was diverted to Brest on the coast of Brittany to build a huge camp where U.S. troops could embark for home. After embarkation the 319th was returned to Camp Lee, in Virginia. The 319th lost no men to combat and Kenneth was discharged in June 1919. The last of the troops diverted to Siberia came home in April 1920 and lost 189 men while in Siberia. Kenneth volunteered to serve but luck seemed to have been on his side throughout the war.

Kenneth Victor Blair was born at Whiskeytown in Shasta County in 1889. His father was James Drummond Blair who was born in Northern Ireland in 1829. James came to Whiskey Creek in 1851 to mine and was successful enough to open a saloon and hotel. In 1869 James married Eunice Francis Crocker who had been born in Whiskeytown in 1853. James had served as County Supervisor and both James and Eunice had served as local postmasters. Kenneth was quickly deprived of his father as he died in 1892 leaving Eunice with seven children at home. Luckily Martha (Mattie) was teaching, while Everett, Maurice, and Francis worked in local mines, Briceland was a blacksmith, so Kenneth could stay in school. In 1910 Eunice with sons Francis and Kenneth were living at Delta where Kenneth was working as a laborer in a smelter. From February 1914 to March 1917 Kenneth was the Postmaster at Kennett and on the 1917 Draft Registration he was a commissary clerk for the Mammoth Copper Mining Company. After his service during World War I, Kenneth was employed as a bank clerk in the Bank of America in Redding. In 1930 Kenneth was a clerk at a lumber mill in Alameda County but shortly afterwards joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue as an investigator. (The Bureau of Internal Revenue was the proper name of the agency until the 1950s when it was changed to the Internal Revenue Service.) In 1940 Kenneth was still with the Bureau as an investigator stationed in Sacramento. In 1950 Kenneth was stationed in San Francisco with the Alcohol Division. (In 1972 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives separated from the Internal Revenue Service.) James died in San Francisco in 1952 having never married.

Jennie Bailey



Jennie Bailey possibly in a hat of her own creation as she was a milliner in 1900. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Joseph Hutchens Bailey who was commonly known as "Uncle Joe" was born in New York in 1832. As a young man Joseph moved to Iowa where in 1855, he married Hester M. Hewitt. The couple quickly had two sons: William in 1857 and Charlie in 1858. Early in 1864 the family decided to move to California forming the Bailey-McMurphy party of thirteen wagons, 35 yoke of oxen, 40 mules and horses, and two milk cows per wagon. The party moved to the staging point of Omaha, Nebraska which sits on the Missouri River. Shortly after leaving Omaha the party joined with another party of twenty wagons who had an experienced leader. The party moved to Fort Laramie; Wyoming then took the southern route through Salt Lake City, then the Humboldt River to California. The journey took six months and other than a few stolen cows was without incident. When they came through the Honey Lake Valley some members of the party decided to settle while the rest went on to Sacramento. Joseph and his family came north to Shasta County settling first at Four Mile House near Lower Springs on the road to Shasta. Jennie Bailey was born at Four Mile House but later moved to the Churn Creek Bottom area where Joseph had purchased eighty acres. During the winter and spring of 1872-1873 Joseph was a teamster during the Modoc War. In the 1880 Census Joseph was still a teamster except the family had moved into Redding. Reportedly Jennie moved into her parents' house on West Street when she was ten years old and lived there the rest of her life. In 1880 Jennie's brother was listed as a tinner and Charlie as a drover in Redding. William died in 1884. In 1900 Joseph was working as a delivery man, while Charlie was a teamster, and Jennie was a milliner (a person who makes or sells hats). Joseph was known to work at Reid's Ferry which was about one-half mile north of Redding and now within Redding city limits at the site of Diestelhorst Bridge. Joseph was the City of Redding's night watchman for two years before becoming the night watchman for the McCormick-Saeltzer Store in Redding. Charlie joined Joseph at the "Big Store" before his death in 1915. To help her parents after Charlie's death Jennie took a job as janitor at the West Side Grammar School. From about 1918 until her death in 1928 Jennie's mother Hester was confined to her bed with most of the care falling on Jennie. After her mother's death Jennie continued to work at the grammar school until it closed around 1937. Jennie was much loved by the children and was active in the social life of Redding, as well as performing in local theatrical performances. Jennie had been engaged to be married but her fiancée died. Jennie never married and lived in the house on West Street until her death in 1958.