

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).

The articles for October 2023 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County part 4, 2) Gold Rush Letters of Mark Simpkins February 22, 1854, and April 23, 1854, 3) Gold Rush Letter of Theo Hull, September 22, 1854, 4) Gold Rush Letter of George C. Eastman, October 7, 1854, and 5) Brevet Brigadier General William McEntire Dye.

## **Early Photographers of Shasta County, Part 4**

**Irwin Dell** – operated in Redding in 1889.

No biographical data was discovered concerning Irwin Dell.

**Orvil Ovando Dodge** – operated at Cottonwood October 1864.



Orvil O. Dodge.

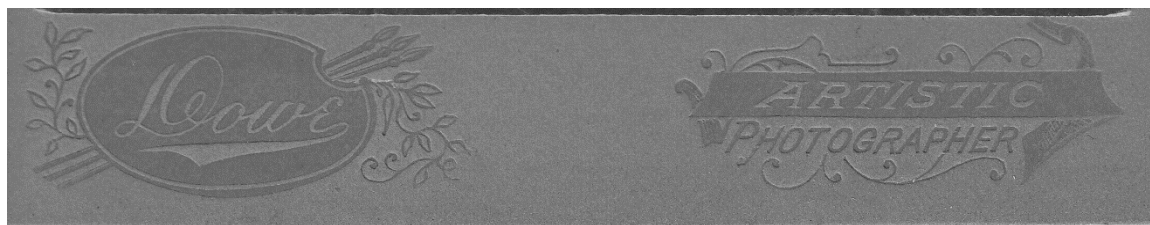
Orvil Ovando Dodge was born in 1839 in Pennsylvania. Orvil was the son of Norman Dodge 1810-1889 and Deborah Press 1818-1843. In 1859 Orvil married Alice Walrad 1843-1924 in Illinois and the marriage ended in divorce in 1863. Orvil opened a photographic shop in Jacksonville, Oregon in 1862 but quickly joined Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Oregon Cavalry serving at Fort Dalles. Orvil was discharged for disability in March 1863 and opened a studio in Phoenix, Oregon that operated until February 1864. In October Orvil opened a studio at Cottonwood but by December 1864 he had returned to Jacksonville, Oregon. Orvil was known to be at Roseburg, Oregon in 1867 and the same year married Louisa Ann Schroeder 1846-1923. In 1871 Orvil was operating at Oakland, Oregon before settling down at Myrtle Point, Coos County, Oregon. In addition to continuing his photography Orvil was noted as a lawyer, Justice of the Peace, editor, miner, and historian. Orvil wrote the History of Coos and Curry Counties and in 1895 was on the U. S. District Court for Coos County. In 1897 Orvil was a U. S. Commissioner for Coos County and by 1901 a receiving clerk and secretary for the U. S. General Land Office. Orvil died in 1914.

### **Duane W. Dowe** – operated in Shasta County 1899.

Duane W. Dowe was born in 1848 in New York and in March 1865 enlisted in Company E, 156<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment. The company was assigned to Nashville, Tennessee as part of the Department of the Cumberland. In September 1865 Dowe was mustered out of service as a corporal. Dowe was first noted as a photographer in the partnership of Rifenberg & Dowe in Reno, Nevada in 1890-1891. In 1889 Dowe would marry Maisie Schofield born in 1873 in California. In 1899 Dowe operated in Shasta County but by 1900 was listed as a photographer at Meadow Lake, Nevada County. In 1910 Dowe was at Winters, Yolo County and in 1911 at Suisun City, Solano County. Dowe was in Vallejo in 1913 and from 1914 to 1920 in San Mateo County. From 1920 to 1926 Dowe appears to have operated part time in San Francisco. Dowe died in the Soldier's Home in Los Angeles County in 1927.



Portrait taken of Anna M. Battams taken by D. W. Dowe.



Trademark of D. W. Dowe, Artistic Photographer.



Portrait of Amelia Blumb taken by D. W. Dowe.

## **Downing** – operated in Shasta County in 1898.

The artist is most likely Eugene Downing who was born in Missouri in 1873. In 1880 Eugene was living with his parents Levi Patterson Downing 1832-1912 and Martha M. Justice 1848-1944 in Ophir, Butte County. He is first noted as a photographer in 1896 when he registered as a “view artist” at Deadwood in Trinity County. In 1898 Eugene registered as a photographer in August 1898 in Siskiyou County. One citation stated he may have traveled as part of a partnership known as Downing & Smith in 1898. By 1900 Eugene registered as an artist in Scott Valley, Siskiyou County and was married to a Susie E. (born in California in 1876). The marriage appears not to have lasted as Eugene was in Mexico between 1905 and 1910 and “not married.” The last entry found for Eugene was the 1920 U. S. Census

for Los Angeles where he is listed as a divorced inventor. After 1920 nothing was found for Eugene Downing.

## **Charles Eames** – operated in Shasta in 1865.

Charles Eames was born in 1829 in New York and moved to Michigan at a young age. Prior to 1854 he married Elizabeth Jane Guthrie. Charles appears to have come to California alone and in the 1860 U. S. Census was listed as a blacksmith at Shasta. Elizabeth appears to have followed shortly after 1860. In 1863 Charles was listed as a blacksmith at Rock Creek near Shasta. In 1865 Charles purchased a license as a photographer but there is no indication of where he learned the trade. Charles appears to have operated for only a short period, turning the business over to his wife Elizabeth by 1868. Elizabeth operated as a photographer in Shasta until about 1869. Charles continued to work as a blacksmith and deputy sheriff until 1885 when he took a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1881 Charles was noted for obtaining a patent for a “machine for upsetting tires.” Shortly after joining the Southern Pacific Charles became ill and died in February 1886 in Redding.



Portrait of a child by Charles Eames. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

**Elizabeth Jane Eames** - operated in Shasta, May 1868 to 1869 but may have been working with her husband as early as 1865.

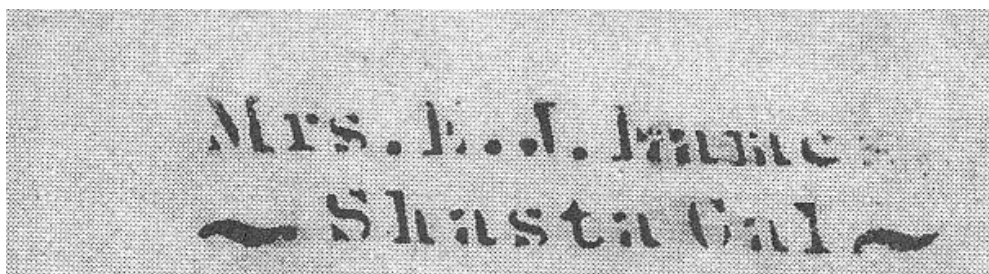


Portrait of Elizabeth J. Eames. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Elizabeth Jane Guthrie was born in 1829 in Ohio. By the 1850s Elizabeth had married Charles Wesley Eames 1829-1886 and in 1854 they had their first child Sarah Augusta Eames 1854-1940 in Michigan. In 1860 Charles was listed as a blacksmith at Shasta without Elizabeth and Sarah. In 1863 Charles was a blacksmith in Rock Creek and their second child Charles was born at Shasta in 1863 (died 1871) so it is not known how or when the family traveled to California. Charles purchased a license to operate a photography stand in Shasta in June 1865. The license may have been primarily for Elizabeth rather than having her file under the Sole Trader Act for her own business. One can presume she worked from Charles' shop before operating John Baptiste Higinbotham's Premium Photographic Gallery in Shasta while he was tending to mining projects such as a quicksilver mine on the South Fork of Clear Creek. Elizabeth was reportedly active at Shasta from May 1868 to the spring of 1869. Higinbotham relocated to Red Bluff in February 1869. It is not known how long Elizabeth worked but the family remained in Shasta where Charles was both a blacksmith and deputy sheriff until 1885. Elizabeth and Charles had a third child, Mary R. Eames that was born in 1869 (died in 1869) and sometime between 1871 and 1875 they adopted a girl, Ollie (Olive) born in 1868 (died 1949). In 1875 the couples last child William Andrew was born at Shasta (died 1941). Charles took a job as a mechanic with the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1885 but quickly became ill. Charles died in Redding in 1886. After Charles' death Elizabeth moved to live with her daughter Sarah's family in Fresno where she died in 1900.



Portrait of Ellen Meta Wills by Elizabeth Eames.

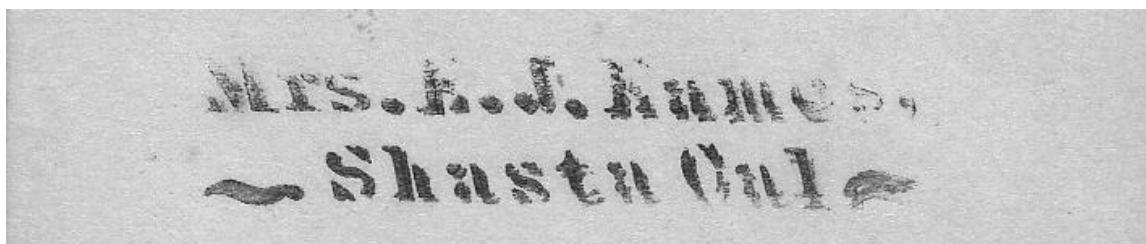


Trademark on photographs of Elizabeth J. Eames.





Portrait of Ida Baehr. The reverse reads "Ida Baehr, Shasta" and in a different hand "Mrs. Bush." To most historians Ida is known as Ida Matilda Schroeder 1847-1920. Ida came to California with her parents in 1850 and her father died shortly afterwards. Ida's mother Augusta married William Ferdinand Baehr and it appears Ida utilized that last name until she married Chauncey Carroll Bush.



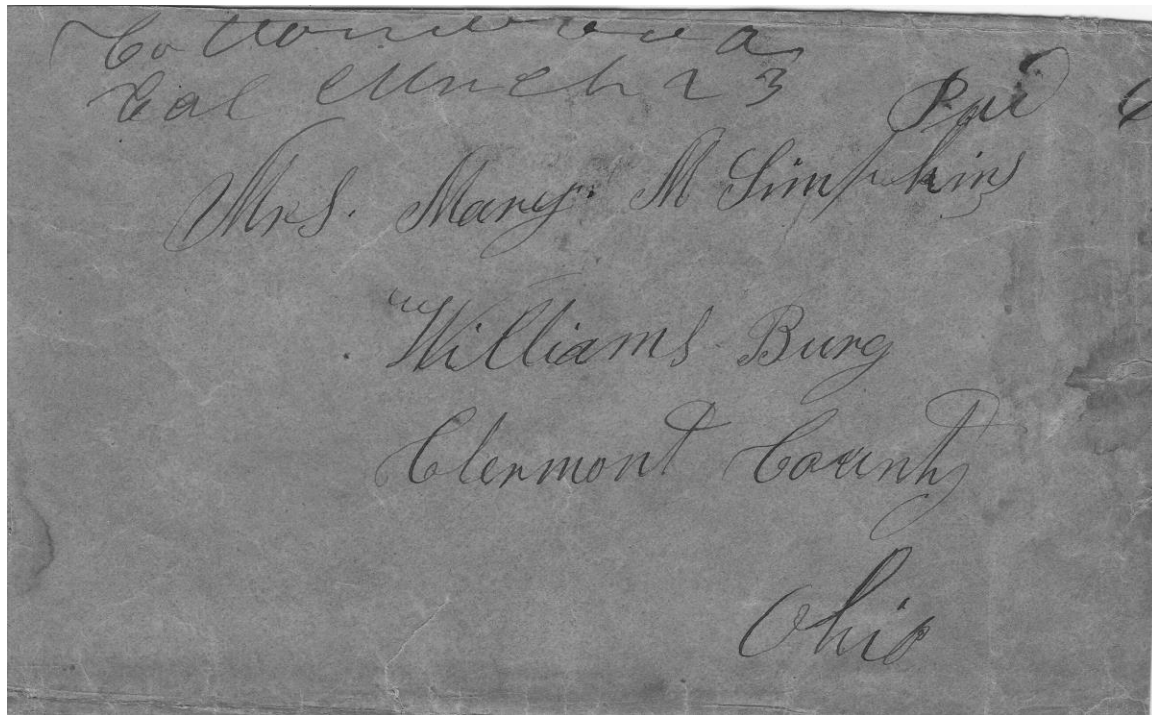
Trademark of Elizabeth that seems to be a handstamp applied to the reverse of the portrait. The portrait did not have an Internal Revenue stamp applied indicating the photograph dates from about 1867 to 1869.



Main Street of Shasta in 1865 looking north. The Eames Blacksmith Shop is on the left side of the photograph.

## Gold Rush Letters

Mark Simpkins, Shasta City, February 22, 1854



Enveloped mailed from the Cottonwood Post Office to Mary M. Simpkins in Clermont County, Ohio using the county name rather than the post office name of Williamsburgh.

Shasta City Cal February the 22<sup>nd</sup> 1834

Dear companion with much pleasure  
I embrace this opportunity to let you  
know that I am well at present  
hoping these lines to find you in  
good health I received a letter from you  
the first of this month dated December  
the first informing me that you had  
got the draft that I sent you and that  
you thought you would ~~have~~ not come  
out well I am glad of it for I want  
to come home I received another letter  
last Saturday from you and your father  
dated December the 18<sup>th</sup> I was glad  
to hear that you were all getting along  
so well I did not write the other mail  
I was out in the mines and I came in  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month as usual  
to write and the mail and express  
office was closed for that mail  
I worked all the forenoon in the  
rain and made about 10 dollars  
and then came to turn on paper to  
write you a few lines I am wet and  
cold I will write more the next time  
no more at present but am  
your affectionate husband Mark Simpson

I want you to mean Stephen if you have  
not all ready seen it. She is git to abt to  
luck, tell me whether you have or not  
oh how I would love to see you and Stephen  
and have a kiss from you. Sweet lips  
I dreamed one night I had come home  
and when I got there I had a fine  
Sun I thought he was running round  
a crab cracking Hickory nuts. I had  
an after dream I thought I had went out  
a prospecting and found a piece of gold  
a bout 5 ft long and as thick as my  
leg I thought I had made my pile I could  
not carry it so I covered it up with  
earth but before I could get Sam  
one to help me bring it in to town  
I awake and found it was a dream  
his Stephen for me. I will call again in 2 weeks  
now good night  
my dearest

fare well but not forever

Shasta City Cal. Feb. the 22<sup>nd</sup> 1854

Dear Companion with much pleasure I embrace this opportunity to let you know that I am well at present. Hoping this comes to find you in good health. I received a letter from you the first of this month dated December the first informing me that you got the draft that I sent you and that you thought that

*you would not come out. Well I am glad of it for I want to come home. I received another letter last Saturday from you and your father dated December the 18<sup>th</sup>. I was glad to hear you are all getting along so well. I did not write this after mail I was out in the mines and I came in on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month as usual to write and the mail and express office were closed for that mail. I worked all the forenoon in the mine and made about 10 dollars and then came to town on purpose to write you a few lines. I am wet and cold I will write more next time. No more at present but am your affectionate husband.*

*Mark Simpkins*

*I want you to wean Isophene if you have not already done it. She is getting to old to suck. Tell me whether you have or not. Oh how I would love to see you and Isophene and have a kiss from your sweet lips. I dreamed one night I had come home and when I got there I had a fine son. I thought he was running around cracking hickory nuts. I had another dream, I thought, I had went out a prospecting and found a piece of gold about 5 feet long and as thick as my leg. I thought I had made my pile. I could not carry it so I covered it up very careful but before I could get someone to help me bring it to town I awoke and found it was all a dream. Kiss Isophene for me. I will call again in 2 weeks. So now good night my dearest.*

*(on reverse) farewell but not forever*

Mark indicates in the letter that he has a daughter Isophene who was not present in August 1850 at the U. S. Census. Given that Mark came to California across the Great Plains in the spring or summer of 1852 an approximate date of birth would have been late 1851 to early 1852. Mark returned home by 1855 but Isophene is not listed in the 1860 U. S. Census.

Mark Simpkins, Shasta City, April 23, 1854



Shasta City Cal April the 23 - 1854

Dear Companion I embrace the present opportunity  
to let you know where I am and how I am I am in  
Shasta and am well and hope these lines may find  
you in good health. I left here the 23 of march and  
went to Marysville but could get nothing to do  
I saw dent posted there and so Nathan McGuire I  
went to Sa dent and took an oyster supper with  
him I went to chess meeting Sunday morning and to  
preaching at eleven and at night and Monday night  
Dent and me went to the lodge the next day we went  
to Gras valley but could get nothing to do I then  
went to Wood hill where I found an acquaintance  
that crossed the plains with me I staid here a day  
so but could not get a situation to suit me so I left  
and went over to Cold Springs I found John Lytle  
there and Abner Daughtry and Charles White and  
John A. Miller and Lin Eversheart the and his wife  
they were well Mr White met with quite a heavy  
loss Sam Hudson or Hudsons broke in to his cabin and  
after having and robbed him of 5 hundred dollars  
while he was at work while I was at Cold Springs  
I worked with Abner Daughtry I was there about  
a week I then went to Mary there I found Jesse  
Hudson William Eversheart George Eversheart  
and Chas. George Jesse was not well he had  
had the ague but he is getting better I did not  
like the looks of the place much I staid there 4  
days I then went to Nevada to see if I could get  
work at my ~~trade~~ trade George went down with me

we staid at Nevada 3 days but could not get employ  
ment to suit us So I went from there to Marysville  
and Judge went back to Oraya there was nothing to do in  
Marysville So I goes on to Sacramento and still there  
was nothing to do So I come back to Shasta I left  
Sacramento at 10 o'clock in the morning and got to Shasta  
the next day at one o'clock I went back to my claim  
and went to work and worked one day and a half and  
made ten dollars and to morrow I shall commence work  
at my trade I still own my little house and stove  
yet and I think I can do about as well here as any  
place in California for I am well acquainted I  
think of going to mining on Spring creek after the  
water gets a little lower if I dont have steady work  
at my trade I back to Shasta the 19th of this month  
I received 3 letters from you one was dated January the  
28th one the february the 14th and one march the  
4th you say your health is very good I am glad  
to hear your health is not good. I wish I was at home  
with you but under the present circumstances I think  
I can not come till next year say in your letter dont put  
me off longer than this Spring. ~~Myself~~ I would willingly  
come this Spring if I had enough money to come home  
and buy a farm but I have not got enough to do that  
there is nothing but the gold that is here that would  
induce me to stay away from you and if I come  
home now I know that I would not be satisfied to  
stay and I dont want to bring you here and you say  
if I ever get home I will never get away again  
well I dont want to leave you again So I think  
while I am here that I had better stay a little longer



for I don't want to leave you the second time for it was  
a hard task the first time and it would be harder the second  
when I get home again I want to stay with you if I  
was to come home know I would have to work about  
through the country and could not be about home more  
than one half the time and you know you don't like to  
stay alone one half the time? you say you would  
rather live in an old cabin and live on corn bread and  
water if I was at home with you then to live so far  
from each other I have no doubt but what you think  
so but I think you would soon get tired of corn  
bread and water and would consent for me to come to  
california again I know you are lonesome and feel bad  
but I think you have a grate deal more trouble then  
there is any need of I don't see that you have any thing  
to be trouble about when you are well only that  
I am knot with you and you should not be in trouble  
about that for it will do no good don't be cast down  
but be cheerful it will be better for your heart in  
mind and body I should like to hear in the next letter  
I get from you that you are well and ~~live~~ lively as a  
cricket there is know cause of being cast down  
cheer up look forward there is better days coming I hope  
you say by the way I write you have said something  
that has hurt my feelings you did and it was this  
you said if I did not come home in the Spring you would  
knot write to me any more you said so in 2 letters  
and it did hurt my feelings at the time and an other thing  
you said if I loved you to come home it would a  
pear from the way note that you rather doubted that  
I ~~loved~~ loved you I love you and I thought

you knew it and when I read those words that I have  
 mentioned it hurt my feelings if I did not love you  
 I should not be so particular to write every mail but  
 I suppose you have know doubts on that subject at present  
 So we will let it pass and we will make it all rite when  
 I get home you ask me to forgive you if you have written any  
 thing that it wounded my feelings I have my forgive  
 ness So don't let that trouble any longer I am glad you  
 are not coming I don't want you to come everything is  
 to undisten here I am content where you are and I will be  
 at home after a while now don't be discouraged for there  
 is no cause in giving up at tripeals there is no cause  
 of your going with your head bowed down cheer up we  
 will all be at home Some of these days when you are  
 are not thinkin a word it I have just had Supper I  
 made Sam basmat and fried Sun fish and fresh Salmon  
 and had a cup of tea write to me direct your letters to  
 Shasta City no more at present but remain your  
 affectionate husband Mark Simpkins

Direct your letters to Shasta City Cal

Shasta City Cal. April 23, 1854

Dear companion I embrace the present opportunity to let you know where I am and how I am. I am in  
 Shasta and well and hope these lines may find you in good health. I left here the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and went  
 to Marysville but could get nothing to do. I saw Dent Fowler and Nathan McGuire. I went to see Dent and  
 took an oyster supper with him. I went to class meeting Sunday morning and to preaching at eleven and  
 at night and Monday night. Dent and me went to the lodge. The next day we went to Grass Valley but  
 could get nothing to do. I then went to Joa Hill where I found an acquaintance that crossed the plains  
 with me. I stayed there a day or so but could not get a situation to suit me so I left and went over to Cold  
 Springs – I found John Lytle there and Abner Daughy and Charles White and Joseph Miller and Lin  
 Everheart and his wife. They were well. Mr. White met with quite a heavy loss. Some person or persons  
 broke in to his cabin one afternoon and robbed him of 8 hundred dollars while he was at work. While I  
 was at Cold Springs I worked with Abner Daughy. I was there about a week. I then went to Omega.  
 There I found Jesse Peterson, William Everheart, George Everheart and Batana Garge. Jesse was not  
 well he has the ague but it is getting better. I did not like the looks of the place much. I stayed there 4  
 days. I went to Nevada to see if I could get work at my trade. George went down with me. We stayed at  
 Nevada 3 days but could not get employment to suit us so I went from there to Marysville and George  
 went back to Omega. There was nothing to do in Marysville so I goes on to Sacramento and still there

was nothing to do so I came right back to Shasta. I left Sacramento at 7 o'clock in the morning and got to Shasta the next day at one o'clock. I went back to my claim and went to work and worked one day and a half and made ten dollars and tomorrow I shall commence work at my trade. I still own my little house and stove yet and I think I can do about as well here as any place in California for I am well acquainted. I think of mining at Spring Creek after the water gets a little lower if I don't have steady work at my trade. I came back to Shasta the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month, I received 3 letters from you, one was dated January the 28<sup>th</sup>, one February 14<sup>th</sup> and one March the 4<sup>th</sup>. You say your health is very poor. I am sorry to hear your health is not good. I wish I was at home with you but under the present circumstances I think I can not come till fall. You say in your letter don't fret me of longer than this spring. Mary I would willingly come this spring if I had enough money to come home and buy a farm but I have not got enough to do that. There is nothing but the gold that is here that would induce me to stay away from you and if I came home now I know that I would not be satisfied to stay and I don't want to bring you here and you say if I ever get home I will never get away again. Well I don't want to leave you again so I think while I am here that I better stay a little longer for I don't want to leave you the second time for it was a hard task the first time and it would be harder the second. When I get home again I want to stay with you. If I was to come home knowing I would have to work about through the country and could not be home more than one half the time and you know you don't like to stay alone one half the time. You say you would rather live in an old cabin and live on cornbread and water if I was at home with you than to live so far from each other. I have no doubt what you think so but I think you would soon get tired of cornbread and water and would consent for me to come to California again. I know you are lonesome and feel bad but I think you have a great deal more trouble than there is any need of. I don't see that you have anything to be troubled about when you are well only that I can not be with you and you should not be in trouble about that for it will do no good. Don't be cast down but be cheerful it will all be better for you. Better in mind and body. I would like to hear in the next letter I get from you that you are well and lively as a cricket. There is no use at being cast down, cheer up, look forward there is better days coming. I hope you see by the way I write I have something that has hurt my feelings. You did and it was this, you said if I did not come home in the spring you would not write to me any more. You said so in 2 letters and it hurt my feelings at the time and another thing you said if I loved you to come home. It would appear from the very note that you rather doubt that I loved you. I love you and I thought you knew it and when I read those words that I have mentioned it hurt my feelings. If I did not love you I should not be so particular to write every mail but I suppose you have no doubts on that subject at present so I will let it pass and will make it all right when I get home. You ask me to forgive you if you have written any thing that wounded my feelings. You have my forgiveness so don't let that trouble any longer. I am glad you are not coming. I don't want you to come, everything is uncertain here. Be content where you are and I will be at home after awhile. Now don't be discouraged for there is no use in giving up at trifles. There is no use of you going with your head bowed down. Cheer up we will all be at home some of these days when you are not thinking about it. I have just had supper, I made some biscuits and fried some fresh salmon and had a cup of tea. Write to me. Direct your letters to Shasta City. No mail at present but remain your affectionate husband.

Mark Simpkins

Direct your letters to Shasta City, Cal.

The trip in March was to the northern end of Mother Lode. Mark stopped first at Marysville in Yuba County before climbing into the Sierra Nevada foothills to Grass Valley in Nevada County. Mark's next stop was at what appears to be Joa Hill but the location could not be found. Mark moved on to Cold Springs which is in El Dorado County before returning to Omega in Nevada County. Omega was established in 1850 near the adjacent Alpha Diggings. When Mark wrote of going to Nevada he probably meant Nevada City the county seat of Nevada County. Mark tried Marysville then Sacramento before returning to Shasta.

There are six Spring Creeks in Shasta County, but Mark is probably referring to the one running east of French Gulch and Whiskeytown and is a tributary of Squaw Creek. The creek runs on the south side of Democrat Mountain and was the site of early placer mining. The creek was known for its gold nuggets including a 184 ½ ounce piece discovered in 1870.

Of the individuals Mark visited five were in Williamsburg, Ohio, two were in Batavia, Ohio, one was in Franklin, Ohio, and two were not found in the 1850 U. S. Census. All three towns are in Clermont County, Ohio and Batavia is the township just west of Williamsburg. The majority appear to have returned to Ohio by the time of the Civil War. One exception was Lin Everhart and his wife. Lin was actually, Lindorf Monroe Everhart born in 1824 in Ohio who married Nancy W. Bryan in 1848. Lin was a saddle and harness maker and returned to his trade and was still in California in 1894. The other "Buckeyes" were John Lytle born 1832 in Ohio, Abner R. Doughty born about 1830 in New Jersey, Nathan McGuire born about 1811 in Pennsylvania, Joseph Miller born 1828 in Ohio, Jesse Peterson born 1825 in Ohio, George Everhart born 1826 in Ohio and William Everhart born about 1826 in Ohio. For those that returned home they may have participated in a second Gold Rush in Clermont County. In 1868 gold was discovered on the East fork of the Little Miami River at Batavia creating a smaller but equally intense rush.

Theo. Hull, Red Bluff, September 22, 1854

Mr Wm D Hayes

Red Bluffs. Sept 22. 1854

Dear Sir: I received yours of the 8th Inst. several days since and have delayed answering on account of having a severe attack of Chills and Fever - a very reasonable excuse I hope. At least if you have ever had them you will consider it so. I have succeeded in treating them and am now gaining health quite fast.

Although I have never had the pleasure of seeing you, I receive your letter as from an old acquaintance and cousin. I recollect of seeing Cousin Martha and your oldest Son at Lafayette. N. J. when I was about Ten years old. We were all visiting at the time. I have often heard of your being in California. Through Aunt Nancy who was at Father's when I left home in the Spring of '52, and my sister Matilda, who has been living with Martha considerable since I left home - but never could learn your address.

I crossed the Plains in the Summer of '52, arriving at Grass Valley quite late in the fall. After roaming through the Mines some Two Months and spending considerable Money, without finding a fair prospect of getting it back, I started for Feather River,



I got as far as Marysville and was persuaded to come to Red Bluffs by a Young Man, with whom I had become acquainted on the Plains, to see his Uncle and have him put us on track to make something. I have stayed here ever since - made a little and lost a little by bad debts. I am now trying to collect, settle up my business and leave for other parts I have an interest in some hay. If I can sell before the rainy season my intention is to go to Burke, about 200 Miles North of this. If not I shall go below next winter.

As you speak of not leaving your present situation before next spring I will leave all description of different business until further correspondence and see which way I make the next turn. There is nothing flattering in this place for to bring any one to it.

Continue a correspondence. If you see an opening for me let me know.

My folks were all well at last accounts. Send my love to your family when you write to them.

Addrup  
Red Bluffs  
Shasta Co  
Cal  
Yours &c Theo. Hull

Red Bluffs Sept. 22, 1854

Mr. Wm. O. Hayes

Dear sir: I received yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant several days since and have delayed answering on account of having a severe attack of chills and fever a very reasonable excuse I hope. At least if you have

*ever had them you will consider it so. I have succeeded in breaking them and am now gaining health quite fast.*

*Although I have never had the pleasure of seeing you I receive your letters as from an old acquaintance and cousin. I recollect of seeing Cousin Martha and your oldest son at Lafayette N. J. when I was about ten years old. We were all visiting at the time. I have often heard of your being in California through Aunt Nancy who was at Father's when I left home in the spring of 1852, and my sister Matilda who has been living with Martha considerable since I left home – but never could learn your address.*

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*As you speak of not leaving your present situation before next spring I will leave all description of different business until further correspondence and see which way I make the next turn. There is nothing flattering in this place to bring one to it.*

*Continue a correspondence. If you see an opening for me let me know.*

*My folks were all well at last account. Send my love to your family when you write to them.*

*Address*

*Yours etc.*

*Red Bluffs*

*Theo. Hull*

*Shasta Co.*

*Cal.*

The family discussed in the letter descends from John Hull born in New Jersey in 1767 (died 1795 in New Jersey) who married Margaret Lantz 1767-1820. John and Margaret had six children: Nancy 1787 – 1875, Benjamin 1788-1864, James William 1787-1860, Martha 1792, Emma 1794-1885 and John H. Hull 1795-1873. John H. Hull was born in 1795 in New Jersey and married Nancy Gills (Gibbs) 1828-1861. John and Nancy had seven children which included Theodore Hull 1828-1885 who wrote the letter and his sister Phebe Matilda 1837-1902 who is mentioned in the letter. Nancy Hull 1787 – 1875 was Theodore's Aunt Nancy in the letter who married George Wood 1780-1830. George and Nancy had a daughter Martha M. Wood 1811-1905 who married William Otis Hayes in 1832 in New York. Martha and William had a son Edward W. Hayes 1839-1889 who is mentioned in the letter. William Otis Hayes to whom the letter is addressed was Theodor's cousin as was Martha.

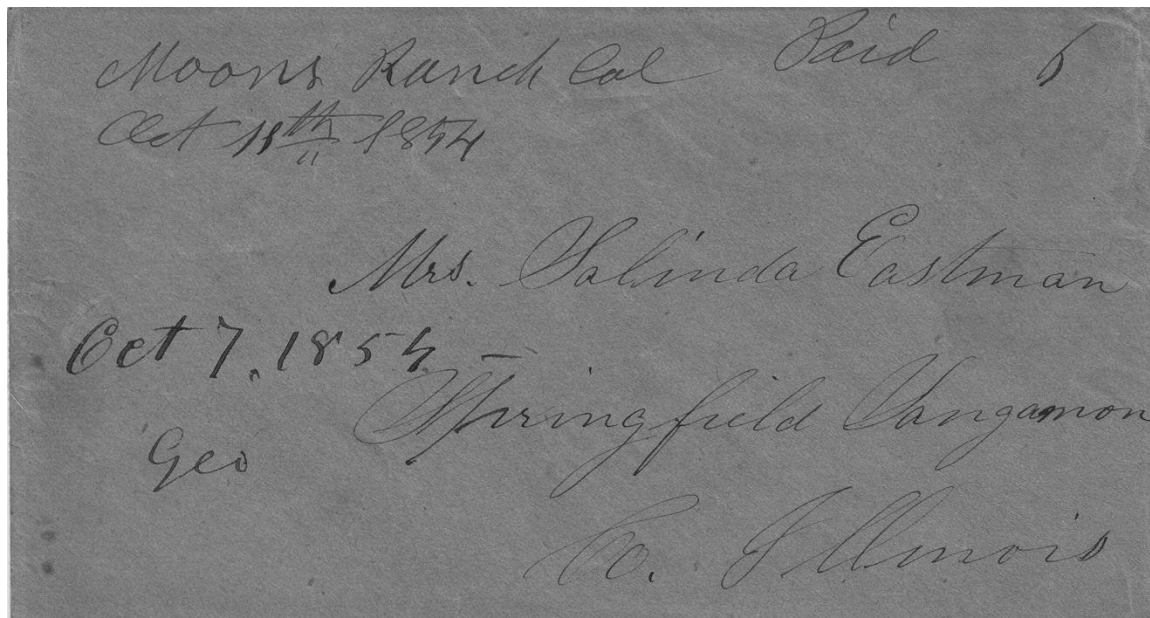
Theodore Hull was born about 1828 in New Jersey. In 1850 Theodore was living with his father John in Warren, Pennsylvania where he was an innkeeper. Theodore was employed as a printer. From the letter Theodore left for California in the spring of 1852 first mining at Grass Valley before settling at Red

Bluffs that was until 1856 in Shasta County. Theodore in 1854 was ready to move to Siskiyou County or "go down below," a term usually meaning going to San Francisco. Whatever Theodore decided he left no footprint. By 1860 he had returned to Warren, Pennsylvania and was working as a clerk and living in his father's inn. In the 1870 U. S. Census Theodore had returned to the printing trade and had married Jemima Gowan (Cowan) born in 1833 in Ireland (died 1890) who in 1860 was staying at John Hull's inn. In 1870 Theodore and Jemima had two children: Jennie 1878 and Theodore William 1879. In 1880 Theodore and Jemima had a confectionary store in Warren. Theodore died in 1885.

William Otis Hayes was born in New York in 1815. In 1832 William married Martha M. Wood and in 1839 they had a son Edward W. Hayes (died 1889). In the 1850 U. S. Census William is listed as a tailor in Wayne County, New York. According to the letter William preceded Theodore to California. William appears to have stayed in California. Edward W. Hayes remained his whole life in New York as did his mother Martha. William shows up on the Voter Registration of San Francisco in 1868 as removed. In 1870 William is listed as a farmer at Putah in Yolo County living alone and in 1873 he registered as a clerk in Oakland, Alameda County. William appears to have dropped from history after 1873 and is not mentioned in the family records of those that remained behind in New York.

Theodore's brother Morris Maurice G. Hull born in 1834 in Pennsylvania had a connection to the letter of Drury P. Baldwin of July 26, 1851. Morris who had dropped out of West Point joined the William Walker Expedition to Nicaragua (1854-1857) as did the brother of J. C. Kewen, the 1851 Whig candidate for Congress. Morris and Kewen's brother died in Nicaragua and J. C. Kewen served as a colonel there in 1857.

George L. Eastman, Moon's Ranch, October 7, 1854



Moon's Ranch Cal Paid 5  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1854

Mrs. Salinda Eastman  
Oct 7, 1854 -  
Geo Springfield Sangamon  
Co. Illinois



The envelope from Moon's Ranch is addressed to Mrs. Salinda Eastman in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. The Moon's Ranch Post Office was established in 1851 in Colusi County. The area did not become part of Tehama County until 1856. The envelope is marked Paid 6, which was the rate established in July 1851 for a one-half ounce letter going over 3,000 miles. The rate would change in April 1855 to ten cents per half ounce going over 3,000 miles.



The Moon House prior to 1910 when it was torn down. The house was a hotel, stage stop, river boat landing, bar, court, ferry landing, post office and more and was located thirty-eight miles below Red Bluff on the Sacramento River.

Rancho Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Mother. Work, work, nothing but work, has kept me from writing to you long since, and I am afraid that I am a few days too late to have this letter go out by the 15<sup>th</sup>. The mail is carried now on this side of the river, only once a week, and I cannot send this to Sac. City until next Thursday, but I hope it will get there in time to go by the mail of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The <sup>new</sup> threshing machine is now at home, and has been at work about ten days; the wheat is threshed but did not turn out so well as we expected an account of the immense quantity of smut which it contained - there was only 1800 bushels of it, when if there had been no smut in it there would have been at least 2500 bushels. What is now worth 3½ cts. pr. lb. or \$2.10 pr. bushel. We are now at work on the barley, had got about 500 bushels threshed when there came a rain, something

littered unknown at this season  
of the year) and wet the straw so  
that it was impossible to thresh  
it. it is now dry enough, and we  
will go at it again tomorrow.

I am in hopes we will get it done  
this week, but it may take a day or  
two longer. Barley is worth but little  
two cts. pr. lb. is the highest price now  
offered for barley, and some persons  
are offering their whole crops at  
1 ct. pr. lb. or .50 cts. pr. bushel.

Thank for time, we have plenty of  
hogs to feed over too, which will pay  
much better than the prices now offered  
for barley, there will be about 2500  
bushels of it, or near that.

We don't hear from you now-a-  
days, what is the reason, the last letter  
which we got was from Hope, which  
was more than a month ago.

I have not answered her letter yet, for  
which my only excuse is, want of  
time (and carelessness). The next I

write, must be to her, and I will  
try and write soon, why you do  
not write I cant imagine, for you  
must know we are all very anxious  
to know what your mind are con-  
cerning Hopes removal to Maryland.

In Hopes last letter, she said that  
the farm would probably be sold.  
I am sorry for that, for of all the  
places in this wide world which  
I have ever seen, that was the  
most like home to me, and should  
I ever return to that country again, I  
would like to find that place as  
it was, and not to find it the  
home of strangers, altered, and chang-  
ed, if this is to be, I care not if  
I never see old Pangamon again.

And still, much as I like that  
place, I would not take it as a  
gift, and be obliged to spend the  
ballance of my days upon it.

I suppose it is still Guss' inten-  
tion to go home next February.

although he says but little about  
it, if you want him to come you  
must write often, and keep him in  
mind of his promise, or he may not  
recollect it, if you have got my  
letters, you know of Gus intended  
visit, but although I spoke of it  
some four months ago, you have not  
in any of your letters, spoken of it.  
We are all well at present, Uncle  
Geo. & myself have been having  
the ague some, but that I sup-  
pose is no news to you.  
Tell Hope that we are well and  
want her to write, you must  
answer this as soon as you get it  
for we are anxious to hear from  
you all,  
Your Affectionate Son  
Geo. L. Eastman

Rancho Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Mother

Work, work, nothing but work has kept me from writing to you long since and I am afraid that I am a few days too late to have this go out by the 15<sup>th</sup>. The mail is now carried on this side of the river, only once a week, and I cannot send this to Sac. City until next Thursday but I hope it will get there in time to go by the mail of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The threshing machine is now at home and has been at work about ten days. The wheat is threshed but did not turn out so well as expected on account of the immense quantity of smut which it contained - there was only 1800 bushels of it, when if there had been no smut in it there would have been at least 2500 bushels. Wheat is worth 3 ½ cents per pound or \$2.10 per bushel. We are now at work on the barley. Had got about 800 bushels threshed when there came a rain something hitherto unknown at this season of the year and wet the straw so that it was impossible to thrash it. It is now dry enough, and we will go at it again tomorrow. I am in hopes we will get it done this week, but it may take a day or two longer. Barley is worth but little. Two cents per pound is the highest price offered



*for barley and some persons are offering their whole crops at one cent per pound or fifty cents per bushel.*

*Thank fortune we have plenty of hogs to feed ours too, which will pay much better than the prices offered for barley, there will be about 2500 bushels of it or near that.*

*We don't hear from you now a days, what is the reason, the last letter we got was from Hope, which was more than a month ago.*

*I have not answered her letter yet for which my only excuse is want of time (and carelessness). The next I write must be to her, and I will try to write one soon. Why you do not write I can't imagine for you must know we are all very anxious to know what your minds are concerning. Hopes removal to Maryland. In Hopes last letter, she said that the farm will probably be sold. I am sorry for that, for in all the places in this wide world I have ever seen, that was the most like home to me and should I ever return to that country again I would like to find that place as it was, and not find it the home of strangers altered and changed. If this is to be, I care not if I never see old Sangamon again. And still, much as I like that place, I would not take it as a gift and be obliged to spend the balance of my days upon it. I suppose it is still Gus' intention to go home next February although he says but little about it. If you want him to come you must write often, and keep him in mind of his promise, or he may not recollect it. If you have got my letters you know of Gus' intended visit but although I spoke of it some four months ago, you have not in any of your letters spoken of it.*

*We are all well at present. Uncle George and myself have been having the ague some, but that I suppose is no news to you.*

*Tell Hope that we are well and want her to write. You must answer this as soon as you get it for we are anxious to hear from you all.*

*Your affectionate son*

*Geo. L. Eastman*

The first of the Eastman family to come to California was Augustus Eastman born in 1818 in Maine and who had by his letter of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1851, come to California about 1849 after crossing the Great Plains. In the 1850 U.S. Census he is listed as a merchant in Shasta with a value of \$1500. In 1851 he was thinking of relocating to the Sacramento Valley and in the 1860 U. S. Census he was listed at Moons (Moon's Ranch) in Tehama County with a value of \$10,000 in real estate and \$7,000 in personal property. In the 1860 U. S. Census entry just above August there was a George Eastman, L.E. Eastman, and G.L. Eastman.

Augustus was the son of David Eastman 1794-to 1845 and Salinda Wood 1797-1871. The couple had four children: August born 1818, Louisa Hope 1822, Charles H. 1830, and George Llewelyn 1833. By the time Augustus left for California his father had died (1845), his brother Charles died in 1849, and his sister had married. His mother Salinda and younger brother George were left in Illinois where the family had settled around 1836. In 1852 George Llewelyn came to California. In 1868 Augustus died intestate in Tehama County but naming his mother Salinda, brother George and sister Louisa as his living relatives. In

1870 George returned to Illinois to take care of his mother who died in 1871. George never returned to California.

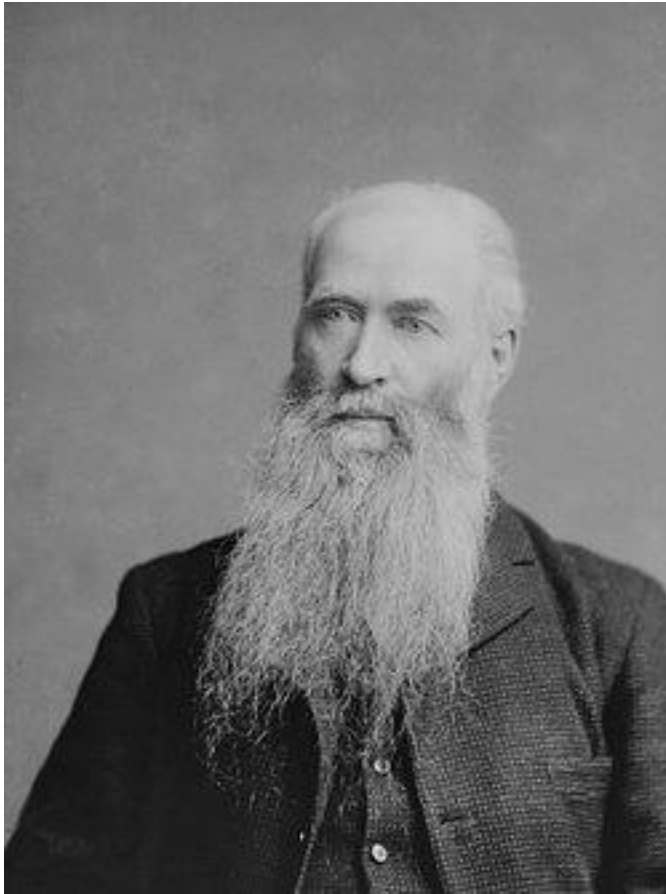
George Llewelyn Eastman was born in 1833 in Maine. After his return to Illinois to take care of his mother George married Margaret E. Eastman 1844-1924. George died in Florida in 1905.

The other George Eastman listed in the 1860 U.S. Census for Moons was George W. Eastman born in 1810 in Maine who was an uncle to Augustus and George. George appears to have come to California early with his brother Edward. George joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Mountaineer Battalion (California) in 1863 and served as a sergeant until discharged in 1865. George died in 1871 and named his brother Edward and his sons George and Thomas, and nephews George Llewelyn previously of Tehama County now Illinois, and nephew John Ayers of Maine as his heirs.

The smut George writes about on the first page is a fungal disease that attacks grain heads causing the seeds to turn to a black powder.

Hope is Louisa Hope Eastman born in 1822 in Maine and George and August's sister. In 1840 Hope married Owen Maynard born about 1810 in Maryland. In 1849 Owen died of cholera and shortly afterward Hope moved to Maryland with her three children (Richard David Maynard 1841, Julia Maynard 1842 and James Herbert Maynard 1846). The move appears to have been made to provide a better support system for the children. Hope returned to Springfield, Illinois in 1870 to take care of her mother but after her death was living with her son Richard in Maryland. Hope died in 1908.

## Brevet Brigadier General William McEntire Dye



Brevet Brigadier William McEntire Dye

One officer at Fort Reading went on to serve in the Egyptian and Korean Armies. That officer was William McEntire Dye, who was made a brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in July 1853 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy. Prior to the Civil War Dye served at Fort Columbus, New York, Benicia Barracks and Fort Reading in California, and Fort Davis in Texas. He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in November 1854 and 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant in February 1856. Dye was Regimental Adjutant from 1 October 1855 to 10 October 1859 and Regimental Quartermaster from 10 October 1859 to 14 May 1861. Dye was promoted to captain on 14 May 1861 but transferred to the volunteer forces as colonel of the 2nd Iowa Infantry on 25 August 1862. Dye served in the Vicksburg Campaign, where he earned a brevet for gallantry to major in the regular Army on 25 August 1862. Dye earned a brevet to lieutenant colonel for gallantry in May 1864 during the Red River Campaign. For action at Mobile, Alabama, Dye received a brevet to colonel in April 1865. In March of 1865 Dye received a brevet to brigadier general for gallant and meritorious services during the war. Dye mustered out of the volunteer forces and was assigned to recruiting duty and duties with the Examining Board in New York between 1866 and 1868.



His next assignments appear to be with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on the Great Plains, where Dye had assignments at Ft. Laramie and Fort Fetterman. Dye was Commanding Officer of Fort Laramie on three occasions during 1868. On 30 September 1870 Dye resigned his commission to engage in farming in Iowa.

In 1873 Dye was recommended by Commanding General of the Army William T. Sherman for service in the Egyptian Army. Dye accepted the position of assistant to General Charles Pomeroy Stone, another American General he may have met at Benicia Barracks where he was the Chief of Ordnance for the Pacific Department. During this period, he served in the Egyptian-Abyssinian War of 1875-1876, where he was wounded at the Battle of Gura. Dye returned to the United States in 1878.

In 1878, Dye began working with the Washington Metropolitan Police as Chief of Police. In 1883 Dye was promoted to Superintendent. In 1886 Dye was appointed Chief of the Army and Navy Pension Bureau. In 1888 Dye was recommended for an official United States Mission to the Kingdom of Korea.

During the period from 1888 to 1895 Dye was the advisor to the King and was instrumental in organizing the military academy and upgrading the weapons and tactics of the army. Between 1895 and 1896, Dye also served as the Commander of the King's Bodyguard. The military contract ended in May 1896, but Dye decided to stay in Korea as a civilian. Between 1896 and 1899 Dye was supervisor of the government farm.

Brevet Brigadier General Dye returned to the United States in 1899 but died shortly afterwards on November 13, 1899, at the age of sixty-eight.