

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.

The articles for October 2023 are: 1) Early Photographers of Shasta County part 3, 2) Gold Rush Letter of John L. Durkee, Whiskey Creek, June 21, 1852, 3) Gold Rush Letters of Mark Simpkins, Shasta September 5, 1852, January 1, 1853, and February 18, 1853, 4) Ora Sylvanus Holton, and 5) David Nelson Honn

Early Photographers of Shasta County part 3

Clark Views and Postcard Delta

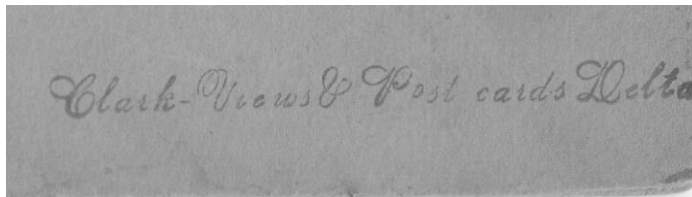
No identifying data was found out concerning the company Clark Views and Postcard Delta. All of the photographs in the Hollibaugh collection labeled Clark Views and Postcard have Delta as an integral part of the handstamp and involve either the Vollmer Ranch or views of Delta.



View of Delta by Clark – Views & Post Card.



Vollmers Ranch after 1910 taken by Clark – View & Post Card Company at Delta.



Trademark of Clark – View & Post cards at Delta

Columbia Photographic Tent (Darlington) – operated in Shasta County in 1890s.

The Columbia Photographic Tent was operated by Charles A. Darlington and operated in Shasta County about 1890 and in Trinity County about 1893. Biographical material is provided under the artist's name.

Charles Fox Crawford – operated from Buckeye in 1900.

No definitive identification was accomplished but a Charles Fox Crawford registered to vote at Buckeye as a farmer in 1889 and 1892. Charles was born about 1815 in England and naturalized in Ohio in 1844. Charles may have married Comfort Baughman in 1842 in Ohio and

was listed as a farmer in Ohio in 1850. In 1860 Charles was listed as a farmer in Illinois and in 1880 a merchant in Kansas. Comfort appears to have died prior to Charles moving to California.

John D. Cress – operated in Shasta County in 1913.



John D. Cress.

John D. Cress was primarily known as a Seattle, Washington based photographer who was known for his logging scenes and billed himself as the “forest photographer.” John often worked for magazines and the lumber industry and sold photographs to lumber mills for promotions. John was born at Gettysburg in Pennsylvania in 1864 and grew up playing on the battlefield. John’s father was Dr. James Cress 1830-1911 who was a surgeon in the Civil War and his mother was Margaret Rebecca Durboraw 1830-1905. In the late 1870s John was living in Maryland, working as a printer and became interested in photography. In 1891 John married Marie Flinn and in 1910 was working as a newspaper photographer in Ohio. Marie died about 1910 and in 1912 John married her nurse Mildred S. Mather born 1868 in India. In the same year John moved to Seattle, Washington where he found his niche as a forest photographer. Many of John’s photographs are simply trees and designed to interest lumber firms. Some of his larger specimens are on albumen paper and average several feet in length. John died in Seattle in 1940.



Shasta Land & Timber Company mill at Bella Vista in 1913 by John D. Cress.



Log train at the Shasta Land & Timber Company mill at Bella Visto in 1913 by John D. Cress.



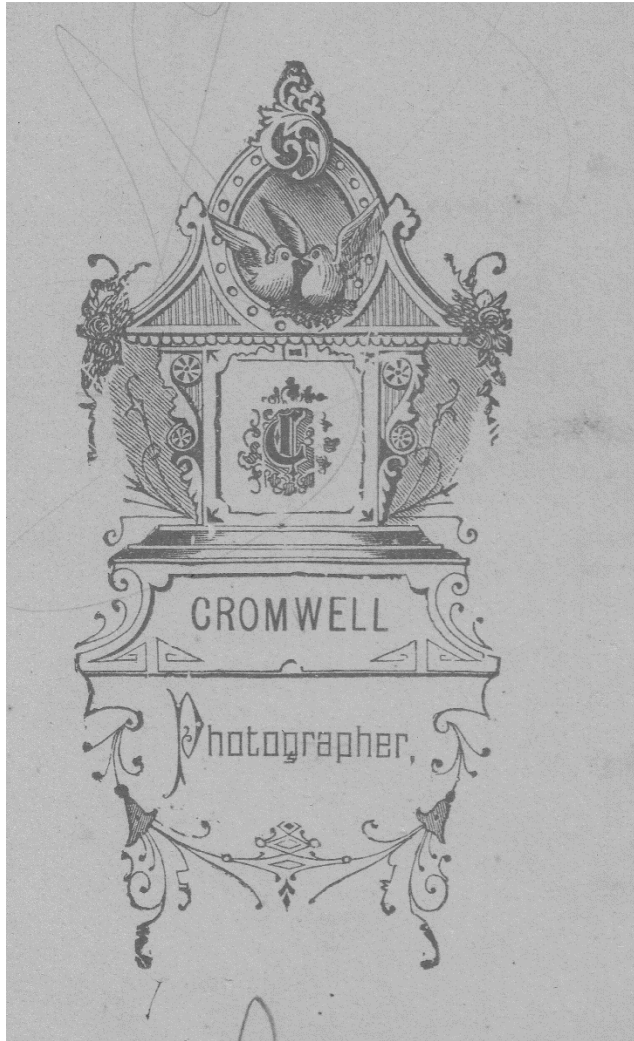
Lumber coming into the Shasta Land & Timber Company mill at Bella Vista in 1913 by John D. Cress.

Oscar Cromwell – operated from 1879 to 1924 at Millville, Harrison Gulch, Red Bluff, Kennett and Delta as well as Adin in Modoc County.

Oscar's correct name was William Oscar Cromwell born in 1838 in Maryland. He was the son of William J. Cromwell 1809-1877 and Jarada Adna Getzendaner 1819-1899. Oscar's parents had moved the family to Union in El Dorado County by 1850 where his father was a miner. Oscar began mining in El Dorado County in 1868 and by 1870 was a laborer at Carson City, Nevada. In 1879 was first noted as a photographer at Millville where he remained until 1892 when he moved to Adin in Modoc County. For a short period in 1884 Oscar formed a partnership with John Oliver Welsh. By 1896 Oscar had returned to Millville but by 1900 was working in the mining communities: Harrison Gulch 1900, 1906 Red Bluff, 1908 Kennett, 1910 Delta and 1914 in Kennett. Oscar stated he was retired in Red Bluff in the 1920 U. S. Census but in 1924 was working as a photographer. Oscar died in Red Bluff in 1929 and was believed never to have been married.



The banner in the photograph reads, "Pitt River School, Emory Null Teacher March 27, 1893."
The photograph was taken by Oscar Cromwell.



Trademark of Oscar Cromwell.



Portrait of two unidentified children taken by Oscar Cromwell.



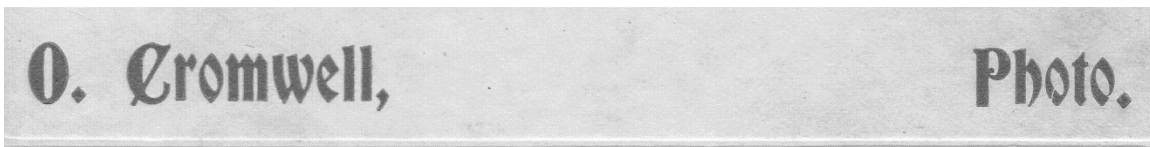
Portrait of Jacob Willard Zumwalt taken prior to 1915 by Oscar Comwell.
Courtesy of Anderson Historical Society.



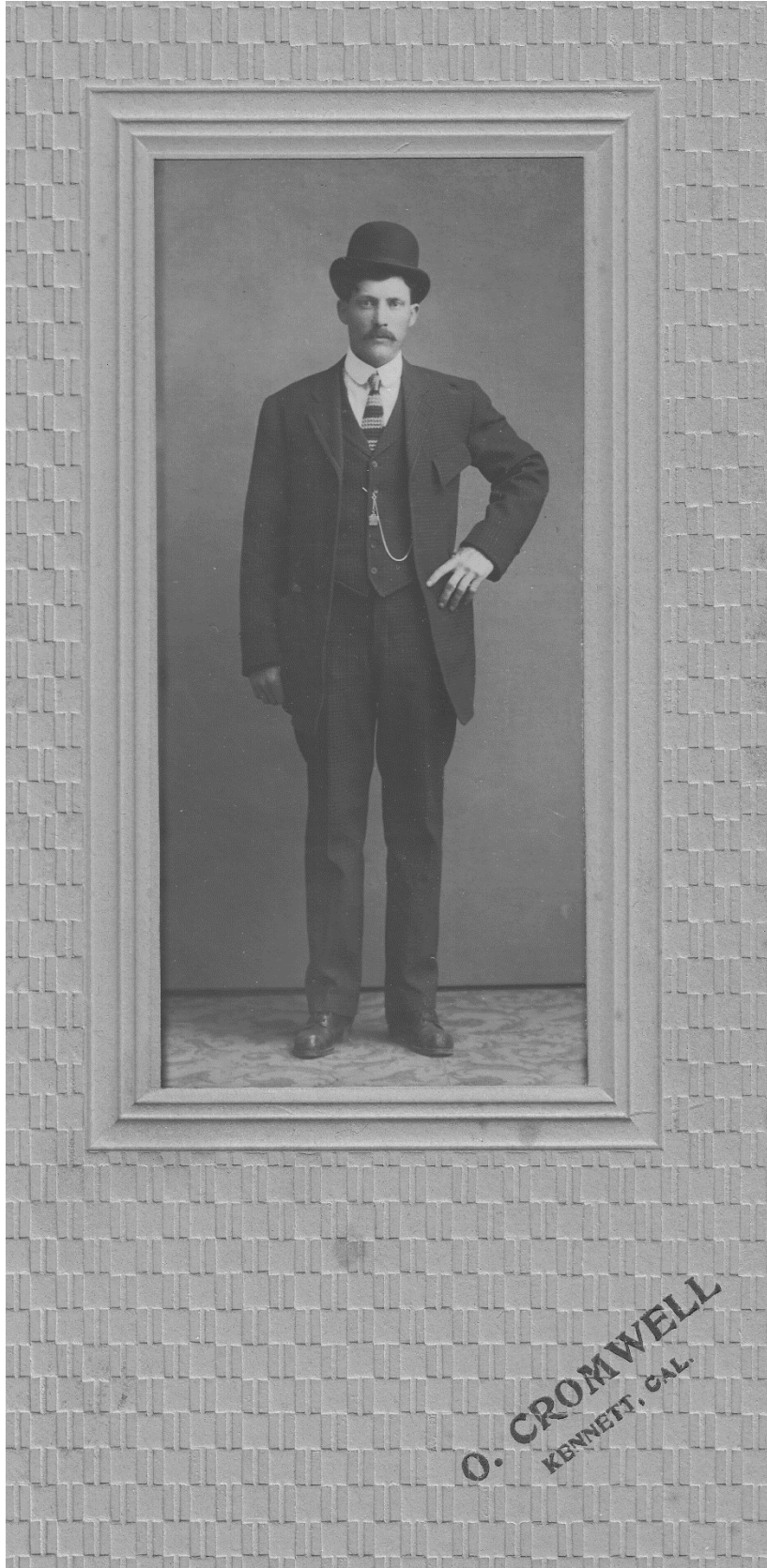
Portrait of an unidentified man taken by Oscar Cromwell. The trademark uses a leafy glade font. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Portrait of Spencer Deryl Bagley at nine months and twenty days (born 1906 in Bieber) taken by Oscar Cromwell.



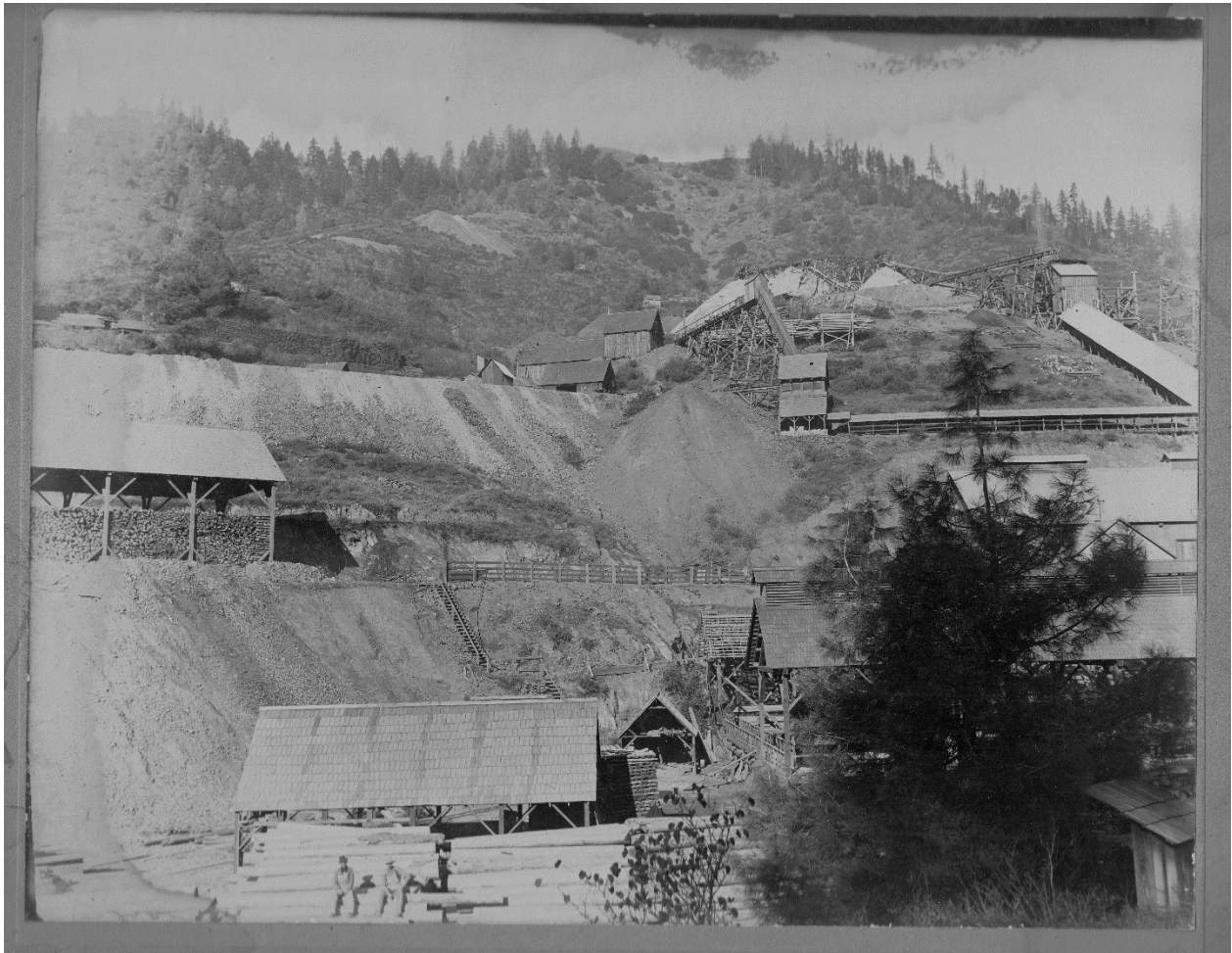
Trademark of Oscar Cromwell.



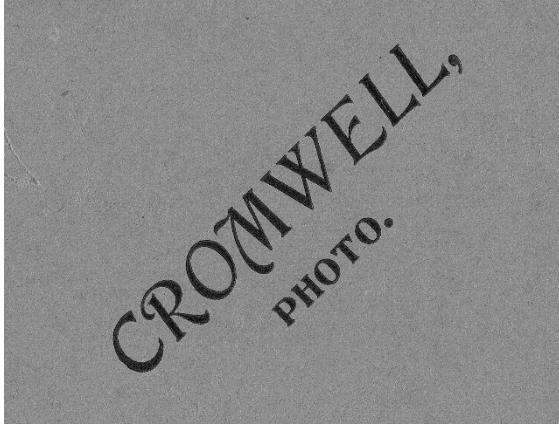
Portrait of an unidentified man taken by Oscar Cromwell at Kennett.



Trademark of Oscar Cromwell at Kennett



Unidentified mine photograph with Oscar Cromwell trademark on the reverse.



Oscar Cromwell trademark from the photograph above.

John Cunningham – operated in Shasta County in 1880.

John Henry Cunningham was born in 1855 in Missouri and was the son of Abraham Cunningham 1816-1896 and Samantha Patience Cadle 1826-1896. He was brother-in-law to another Shasta photographer John William Daily who married John's sister Rosalie Arminda 1861-1934. John's father served in the 1st Missouri State Militia Cavalry during the Civil War before moving the family to Shasta County. In 1877 John was listed as a laborer at Shingletown but in 1880 he was listed as a photographer in Township 7. In January 1885 John married Cora Lee Phelps 1866-1940 in Colusa County and appears to put his photography behind him. In 1886 John was a laborer at Shingletown. From 1894 to 1897 John was the postmaster at Plateau. In 1900 John was listed as a farmer at Shingletown but in 1910 was listed as a laborer in Colusa County. In 1920 John was listed as a teamster and truck driver at Chico, Butte County. John was listed as retired at Chico in 1930 and died in Placer County in 1933. John and Cora had nine children: Elsie 1885, Meda 1887, Irma 1891, Lottie 1892, Mary 1894, Osie 1896, Lilian 1899, Durwood 1901 and Archie 1904.

John William Daily – operated at Shingletown about 1884 to 1886.

The name on his grave marker is John William Dailey and that is what is listed in various registrations and census material but his father's name is given as Daily. John was born in 1851 in Missouri and was the son of Thomas Daily 1827-1910 and Margaret Lenora Kincaid 1831-1912. On the 1870 U. S. Census John was living in Oregon and gave no occupation. In 1873 John was in Colusa County, California and in 1877 he was in Shasta County where he marries Rosalie Arminda Cunningham 1861-1934. Rosalie was the daughter of Abraham and Samantha Cunningham and brother of Shasta photographer John Henry Cunningham. In 1880 John was listed as a photographer in Orland, Colusa County and in 1886 a photographer at Shingletown. In 1891 John seems to have transitioned into farming. In the 1900 U. S. Census John was farming in Redding. In 1910 and 1929 John was listed as a carpenter in Anderson. John and Rosalie had five children: Elmer Clement 1878-1908, Thomas Albert 1881-1971, Any Viola 1891-1927, John Clifford 1900-1961 and Nelda 1906-1989. John died in Anderson in 1929.

Charles A. Darlington – operated in Redding in 1893.

Around 1890 to 1893 Charles A. Darlington operated the Columbia Photographic Tent in Shasta and Trinity Counties. Charles A. Darlington was known to have been a partner with William S. Valentine at Weaverville in the spring and summer of 1893.

Dr. Darragh & Professor Godfrey – operated at Shasta April 1858 to December 1859.

From about April of 1858 to December of 1859 Dr. J. C. Darragh, a dentist and photographer born in Pennsylvania about 1825 and Professor G. K. Godfrey operated a combination photographic studio and dental office at the Eagle Hotel in Shasta. There is no indication that Professor Godfrey was a photographer or what roll he played in the partnership. More on Dr. Darragh is presented in the following entry as from December until at least 1861 he operated alone.

Professor G. K. Godfrey is believed to be Grove Kendall Godfrey born in 1826 in New York. In 1856 he published the Vigilante newspaper in Shasta and in the 1860 U. S. Census was listed as a newspaper agent in Shasta. From 1860 to 1862 Godfrey was Superintendent of Public Instruction and from 1862 to 1864 Superintendent of Schools for Shasta County. By 1870 Godfrey was living in Siskiyou County where he was again Superintendent of Schools. Godfrey was in Modoc County in 1878 as Postmaster of the Cedarville Post Office. Godfrey died in Modoc County in 1880. Godfrey was survived by his wife Maggie, born in 1831 in Ireland. Maggie died in 1892. The couple only had one known child: G. K. Godfrey born 1874 (died 1874).

PICTURE GALLERY!

Eagle Hotel, Shasta.

DR. DARRAGH & PROF. GODFREY,
H^AVING ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES
permanently in this place, are prepared to
take at all hours of the day,

GENUINE AMBROTYPES!

Photographs and Melainotypes,
at twenty-five per cent. less than former prices.
All pictures taken upon thick plate glass, wa-
ter proof, and will stand forever.

Landscape Views Taken,
and Paintings and Drawings copied at shortest
notice.

Ladies and gentlemen are invited to call and
see our specimen likenesses.

DR. DARRAGH, Surgeon Dentist,

Will perform all necessary operations on Teeth,
both for their beauty and preservation, in the
most scientific manner.

DARRAGH & GODFREY,
Shasta, April 16, 1858. ap17-3m

Advertisement from the Shasta Courier dated April 16, 1858 for Doctor Darragh & Professor Godfrey. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Dr. J. C. Darragh – operated at Shasta 1857 to February 1861.

J. C. Darragh was believed to be John C. Darragh born about 1825 in Pennsylvania. Darragh claimed to have a degree as a dental surgeon from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery (opened in 1845). When Darragh arrived in Shasta in early 1857 he opened a combined photographic studio and dental office in S. F. Baker's Daguerrean Gallery in the Eagle Hotel and associated with Professor G. K. Godfrey from April 1858 to December 1859. After the partnership was dissolved Darragh continued to operate in Shasta until at least February 1861.

Darragh next appears at Gold Hill, Nevada in July 1865 where he operated a combined photography studio-dental office. In 1866 Darragh was listed at Carson City and by 1870 at Washoe City, Nevada. Darragh was known to continue as a photographer in Nevada until at least 1875.

Peter Datesman – operated in Shasta County from 1893 to 1894 and from 1897-1899.

Peter Datesman was born in Pennsylvania in August 1832 and appears to have begun working as a photographer in Burlington, Iowa in 1863. By 1864 he had settled at Marshalltown, Iowa where he operated a photographic studio for six years. On the 1870 U. S. Census his occupation was given as “daguerrian” meaning his photographs were daguerreotypes. While at Marshalltown Peter married Fannie Matilda Gearhart (Gerhart) and had the couple’s first child Lillian (given as Alice in 1880) about 1867. Peter next established a studio at Eldora, Iowa where the couple’s second and third children were born: Clara about 1873 and Bessie May about 1879. From 1886 to 1887 Peter operated a studio at Blue Springs, Nebraska before coming west.

Palmquist has Peter relocating to San Francisco in 1888 and working there until 1893. Peter registered to vote in Shasta County in 1888 as a photographer so he may have come to Redding before settling in San Francisco. In 1893 Peter purchased John Charles Franklin’s gallery on Market Street in Redding. Peter’s studio burned in 1894 and he was known to have set up a tent studio before moving into a new studio. Peter was still registered to vote as a photographer in Redding in 1894 and 1896. From 1897 to 1900 Peter was operating as the Progressive Art Gallery in Redding. On the 1900 U. S. Census Peter was at Redding alone while Fannie and the children had relocated to Oregon. Peter was known to have worked in Sacramento in 1901 before joining the family in Oregon. From 1904 to 1910 Peter was listed as a photographer in Portland, Oregon. Peter was still living in 1915 but on the 1920 U.S. Census Fannie was listed as widowed. Fannie followed Peter in 1925.



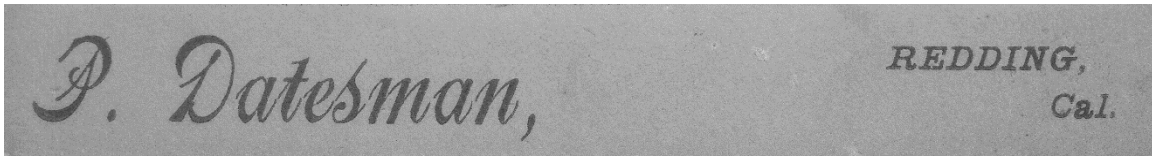
P. Datesman,

Redding,
Cal.

Portrait of Robert Litsch by Peter Datesman.



Portrait of Robert Holtby Bartell taken by Peter Datesman.



Script trademark for Peter Datesman.



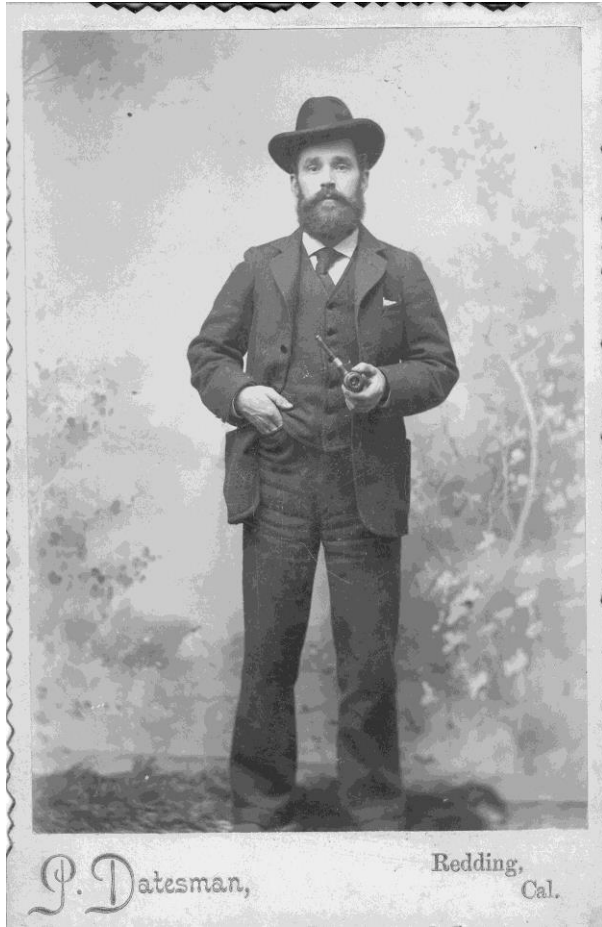
Portrait of Hilda Litsch taken by Peter Datesman.



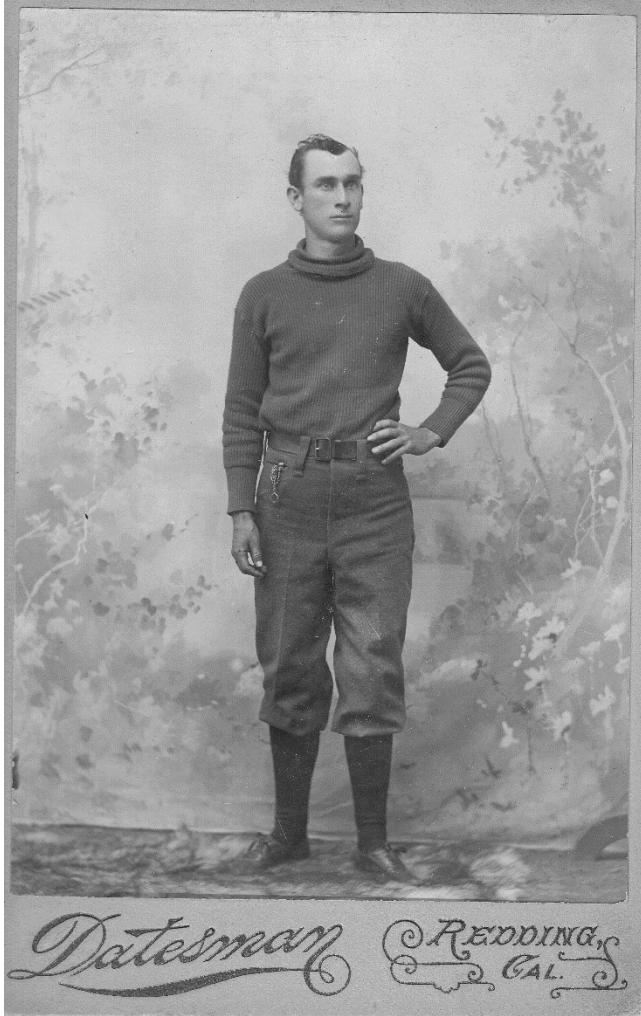
Trademark using different font and two periods after the first initial.



Two additional portraits of an unknown baby but differing from the example above. The photograph on the left has the “hand of God” removed while the one on the right shows a similar backdrop but the baby appears on a chair rather than a fur rug. Both portraits have a single period after the initial P.



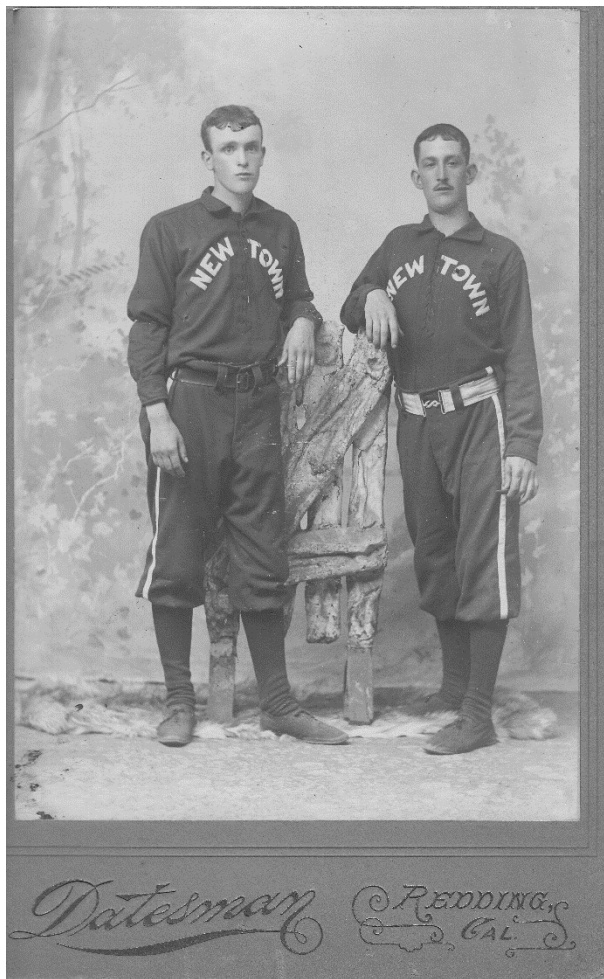
Portrait of an unknown man at Buckeye.



Portrait reported to be of Frank Hiatt taken by Peter Datesman.



Trademark of Peter Datesman using script but without the first initial..



Portrait of two members of the Newtown Baseball Team (one reported as George Hiatt) taken by Peter Datesman.



Portrait of an unknown man at Buckeye.



Portrait of Ida Rachel Rippin nee Hildreth and Ada Chamberlain Ward her cousin taken at the Datesman studio.

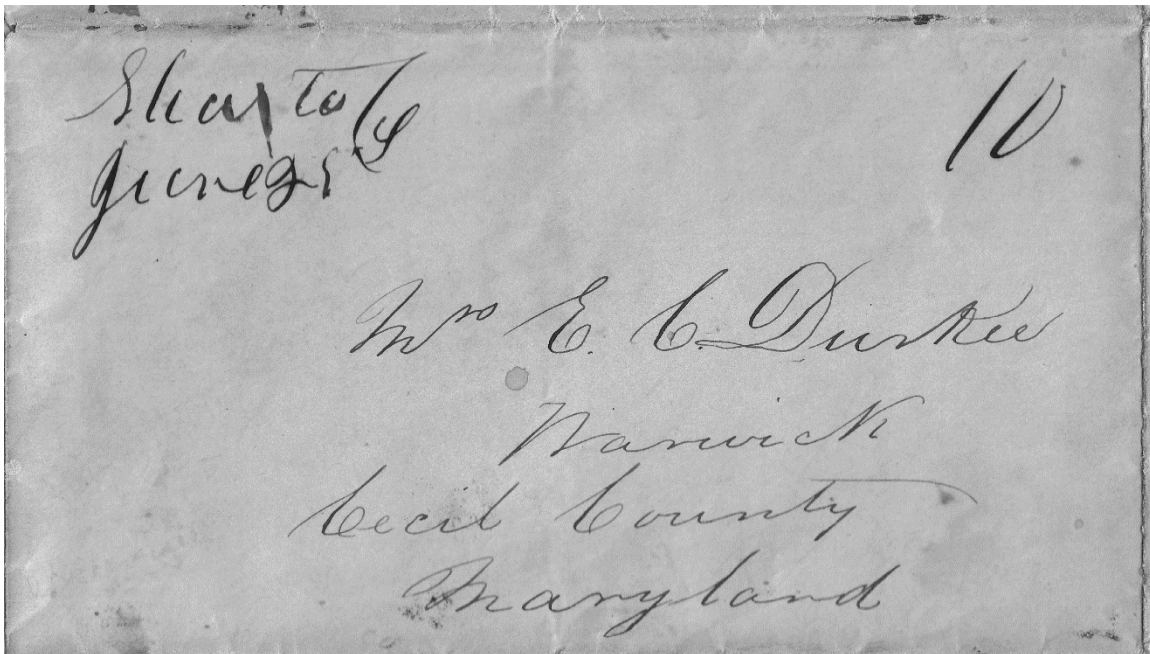


Different trademark for Peter Datesman.



Portrait of an unidentified man with a slightly different trademark for Peter Datesman.

John L. Durkee, Whiskey Creek, June 21, 1852



Envelope mailed at Shasta on June 21, 1852 using the rate set in July 1851 of ten cents for $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce for over 3,000 miles sent collect. In April 1855 prepayment was made compulsory.

Whiskey Creek June 21st 1832

Dear Aunt

This letter is in answer to yours of the 22nd April. I received 3 letters from you May 25 dated March 5th March 20th and April 5th which I answered May 25th which I expect you have before this in some of your letter you complain that I dont you dont receive my letter regularly I will assure you that it is not my fault as I write at least once a month and sometime twice. I sometimes get very lonely and home sick in this country because times are getting so much harder than they used to be but I will try the mines until I make something to come home with for I have made up my mind to come home better off than I was when I left or else to stay away for sometime I have now been in the mines 2 months and a half and have worked very hard and have not made \$5. above my expenses but in the mines there is no telling

the luck of a Louscy ball as the saying is for
a person don't know the minute he
may strike on quite a pile so I find
and work in hope you need not let every
body know that I have nothing, I am
very glad to hear that Father is in
the Lane Henderson is he Capt of her
what was the reason that Clem did
not stay in the Atlas I am afraid
he never will do much for himself
you speak of sending Sisters Daguerrotype
out by the Girak chance if you send
it by private conveyance direct it to
the care of Gen. H. Hosselroop by San
Francisco, I think it very strange
that I never can get a letter from
Uncle David as I write to him sometimes
what is the reason of it does he not
get my letters or does he not want
to correspond with me what is his
son Sam doing and what kind of
a lad is he, he must be a large
boy by this time, I have a specimen
of Quartz and Gold to send you but
I have no chance of sending it but
I hope before long I will be like Passay
that is I can send it by myself

I am very sorry to hear that Helen's
health is so bad I hope she is
better before this "what is the reason"
that sister does not write to me
sometimes has she forgotten me
or what is it she can't be always
be so busy that she can't find time
for when there is a will there is
away even if it took her a month
by writing one line every 24 hours
I think hard of her, in your next let
me know all the news of Cecil and
how all the people are and who is
dead who is married and all the other
gossip when you write to Cousin Ann
give her my love and tell her to
remember me to Miss Mary Kernan
when she sees her I must finish
my letter as this is my cook day
and I must get supper for my Partners
give my love to sister and Helen Kiss
the children for me not forgetting the
last one remember me to Mr. Mouton
and Tom Ford and all the other Folks

Your nephew as ever
John L. Dunshee

Sent my letter to
San Francisco

Whiskey Creek June 21st 1852

Dear Aunt

This letter is in answer to yours of the 22nd April, March 20th and April 5 which I answered May 25 which I expect you have before this. In some of your letters you complain that you don't receive my letters regularly. I will assure you that it is not my fault as I write at least once a

month and sometimes twice. I sometimes get very lonely and home sick in this country because times are getting so much harder than they used to be but I will try the mines until I have something to come home with for I have made up my mind to come home better off than I was when I left, or else stay away for some time. I have now been in the mines two months and a half and have not made \$5.00 above my expenses but in the mines there is no telling the luck of a lousy calf as the saying is for a person don't know the minute he may strike on quite a pile, so I live and work in hope. You need not let everybody know that I have nothing. I am very glad to hear that Father is in the Jane Henderson. Is he the captain of her? What was the reason that Clem did not stay in the Atlas? I am afraid he never will do much for himself. You speak of sending sister's daguerreotype out by first chance. If you send it by private conveyance direct it to the care of George H. Hossefross Esq. San Francisco. I think it very strange that I never get a letter from Uncle David as I write to him sometimes. What is the reason of it. Does he not get my letters or does he not want to correspond with me? What is his son Sam doing, and what kind of lad is he? He must be a large boy by this time. I have a specimen of quartz and gold to send you but I have no chance of sending it but I hope before long I will be like Paddy that if I can send it by myself. I am very sorry to hear that Helen's health is so bad. I hope she is better before this. What is the reason that sister does not write to me sometimes. Has she forgotten me or what is it. She can't be so always busy that she can't find time, for when there is a will there is a way even if it took her a month by writing me one line every 24 hours. I think hard of her. In your next let me know all the news of Cecil and how all the people are, and who is dead, who is married and all the other gossip. When you write to Cousin May, give her my love and tell her to remember me to Miss Mary Kesnan when she sees her. I must finish my letter as this is my cook day and I must get supper for my partners. Give my love to sister and Helen. Kiss the children for me and not forgetting the last one remember me to Mr. Morton and Tom Ford and all the other folks

*Your nephew as ever
John L. Durkee*

*Send my letters to
San Francisco*

The cover of the letter was addressed to Mrs. E. C. Durkee and the greeting was to "Dear Aunt." Elizabeth C. Durkee nee Wheeler was the writer's stepmother but as it turns out also the writer's aunt. John Leonard Durkee was born in Maryland in 1824 to John Aloysius Durkee 1790-1866 and Mary Adeline Wheeler 1802-1834. John A. Durkee's first wife died in 1834 and in 1841 he married her sister Elizabeth who thus become stepmother and aunt.

John's father was a sea captain by trade and the ship Jane Henderson was based out of Baltimore. The Jane Henderson was built for John Henderson & Company in 1848-9 and was a 638-ton vessel built for the English trade. The captain in 1849 was named Wallace but it is possible that John's father was captain in 1850. The 1850 U. S. Census lists John A. Durkee as a captain although it does not specify a ship.

It is not known when John L. Durkee arrived in California, but as he feared in the letter he did not return to Maryland. By 1860 John was in San Francisco and his life parallels George H. Hossefross who is mentioned in the letter. George who was born in Maryland in 1826 was a

volunteer fireman in Baltimore and an apprentice in the U. S. Navy before moving to San Francisco in 1849. George quickly joined the San Francisco Volunteer Fire Department and became the foreman of Monumental Engine Company No. 6. In 1851 George was appointed chief engineer of the volunteer fire department serving until 1853. In 1858 George was elected San Francisco Superintendent of Streets and Highways. In the 1860 U. S. Census George owned the Pacific Mechanical Bakery. George founded the Fireman's Charitable Fund and Exempt Fire Company. George died in San Francisco in 1864 from consumption (TB).

John L. Durkee was in San Francisco by 1860 and was working as a policeman. In 1862 John was Deputy Superintendent of Streets and in 1864 San Francisco Fire Marshall. John retained the position of Fire Marshall until after 1880. John died in San Francisco in 1897.

John L. Durkee married Mary Durkee born about 1832 in Maryland. John and Mary had three children: Mary Louise 1869-1941 who attended the school for the deaf and dumb, Elizabeth T. about 1872-1956 and John R. about 1874.

Mr. Morton was a relative as Mary Theresa Durkee married Hamilton Morton and Tom Ford was the son of Rev. John Ford of Baltimore. Nothing was found on Miss Mary Kesnan.

Mark Simpkins, Shasta, September 5, 1852



Yhassta calafornia September the 5

Dear Mary we reached this place august the 31 and I would have written the same evening but the mail onely goes down for the States on the 10th and ²⁵ of each month August and I left Stevens' train at the Marys river I am four hundred miles from Sacramento and went what is called nobles cut off it is said to be the best route and the nearest it cost five dollars each to get our ~~baggage~~ baggage and provision hauled from the river to Yhassta and we walked John william went on to the city John says he was coming up to Yhassta and he would bring our letters or if he did not come he would send them by mail we have bin here 5 days and have not heard or seen any thing from him if he does not bring them or send them by next week we will send by the express for them we are well and from what I can learn we are in about best mine in section but it is dull time at present ^{it is so dry they cant} miners are ^{worth the gold} paying from seventy five to one hundred dollars per month I havent gone to the mines and if I can get steady work I shall remain intown I worked part of a day at the rate of 5 dollars per day and borden I worked yesterday for seven dollars per day and borden my self) Corduroy is high it is from 12 to 18 dollars per week I will give you the price of produce at retail flour 18 ^{cents} to 22 per pound meal 16 per pound potatoes 12 1/2 per pound onions 20 per pound pork is 40 per pound beef 18 to 25 mutton 50 per pound veens 15 per pound butter 75 to 100 per pound eggs I have not seen but I have bin tolled by persons having heard

That they have paid 50 cents a piece and chickens 5 dollars a piece
a good dog is in greate demand I saw a man that 300 had
died dollar for one to take to the mines and could not
get one at that a good milks cow is worth from 150 to
225 rice is 31 cents pr pound cloffe 50 pr pound ~~dry~~ dried
apples are 20 pr pound coffee 25 Sugar 25 to 28 hay is from
5 to 7 cents pr pound malased 2 dollars pr gallon lard
50 cents pr pound This is is one of the hardist places I
ever saw the p most of people pay no respect to
Sabbath we had preaching to day on the Side walk some
would stop awhile and others would pay no atten-
tion I went down ~~the~~ streets about 1 or 2 o'clock to day and
every store and shop was open and men at work all
over town I must tel you sum about the rout
from fount ~~la~~ Maria to Ghasta I wrote you a letter
from gran river but perhaps you did not get it for I
sent it a packer who was going to the States we had
quite a time with our captain we out of Galt and tea
and was like to run out of coffee and Sugar and Soap
So we appointed a committee one from each mess I was
one of the committee from No 2 and we made out a bill of
what he should get it was 400 pounds of Sugar,
100 pounds of coffee 100 pounds Galt 30 pounds of
Soap 9 pounds of tea the price he paid for the
Sugar 50 cents pr pound coffee 50 cents tea ~~2~~ 2 dollars
pr pound This was pretty dear but he had to cum it
he had bin barin down on the men to hard now we
begin to have interesting times we got to the
North plate river on the 25 of June John I went

out hunting and I killed a wolf five or six
on the 20th here we hear we had fun again he had made
a bargain with a man at the lower ferry for the boat
and wanted us to ferry the teams over but we
thought it dangerous the ferry boat was three canoes
with plank across them ~~I~~ So we made him cross
at the upper ferry where we had a good boat he
had to pay five dollars a wagon and fifty cents for
each man and fifty cents ^{a piece} for all the cattle he ferried
we swam the most of the cattle but Gum of them
he had to ferry we got to independence rock on the 28th this
is a lar rock it covers over ~~of~~ Gum 30 or 40 acres of ground
and think it was three or four hundred ft high we past
what is called the devils gate this is singular looking
place it is where the Queete water river runs between
two rocks which stand nearly perpendicular and from 3 to 5
hundred ft high I went out hunting the 29th and did not
eny thing and did not into camp till 10 o'clock that
nite the next day I went out again I was about five
miles from the train and I killed a moos deer and I cut
of the Yaddle and of I went I carried it Gum to miles
and found i was givin out I laid down cut the meat of
the bones and gathered it up and on i went over the hills i
went for the road but i had get so far ahead of the train
that it did get to me till the next morning i staid in another
camp the nite we got to Wash pass on the 3rd of July on the nite
of the fourth we had a snow storm Gum of the company
went out hunting on the 5th and me with them our ore
driver killed to deer John Lytle killed a faun and a bear
I killed 3 eagles We then went to camp and the way we ~~got~~

venisan was a site i wis you ~~could~~ have had a mes or to
of it was fine) we gat to green river on the ninth here we
Saw Malankton Sharp and gorge and heving i was sick
before i gat to the river but i soon gat well we got to
Lave river on the 14th This is a grate ~~full~~ place for grassheppers
i Saw as meny as 16 of them on one Speer of grass at once
we gat to the Gody Springs on the 17th of July These Springs
cover a large piece of ground they boil up and form a crust
and it get almost as hard as a rock This crust will heap
up til it gets 15 or 20 ft high ten it will brake out in an other
place the water taste Gum like Gody water The same day we
the old crater which was once a burning volcano the mouth
of this place the rocks wer burned to a Gender like that
of Stone cole and the had melted and run together there is
places near this the rocks is cracked open you can step acrost
with eas and you can se down then for 20 ft there is a large
creechets hear the men say the indians eat them these creechets are
almost as large as a mouse this looks a large story to one that
has never saw them but a men as i can recaled it is true
while i writing a man con in with a peece of gold that waid 18 oz

Mary how i would like to see you and Adophene
or hear from you I should like to no how you are getting
along I hope you are ~~doing~~ doing well I dont no what
i can do at my bisnes the prospect is beter then when
i first came Mary I want you to still pray for me for
i feel i need them and i will try to pray for my self and
you I fee verry thankful that i have bin blest with
health while meny others as I stant and raged as I
there remains are resting on the plains I let ever
live in that way that we may not feel to die i will
write more about the rout in my next letter if I
Should get ~~another~~ a letter from you before the mail
stant on the tenth i will write another letter
I must eat supper and go to meeting so no more
at present onley kiss I see for me and tel her to
be a good girl I remain your most affectionate
husband
Mark Gimpkin (i will write in
2 weeks
again)

Shasta California September the 5

Dear Mary we reached this place August the 31 and I would have written the same evening but the mail only goes down for the States on the 10th and 25th of each month. Augustus and I left

Steven's train at the Mary River some four hundred miles from Sacramento and went what is called Noble's Cutoff. It is said to be the best route and the nearest. It cost five dollars each to get our baggage and provisions hauled from the river to Shasta and we walked. John William went on to the city. John said he was coming up to Shasta and he would bring our letters on. If he did not come he would send them by mail. We have been here 5 days and have not heard or saw anything from him. If he does not send them by next Wednesday we will send by the express for them. We are well and from what I can learn we are in about best mining section but it is dull time at present. It is Sunday they can't work the gold. Miners are paying from seventy-five to one hundred dollars per month. I haven't gone to the mines and if I can get steady work I shall remain in town I worked part of a day at the rate of 5 dollars per day and board. I worked yesterday for seven dollars per day and boarded myself. Boarding is high, it is high it is from 12 to 18 dollars per week. I will give you the price of produce at retail: flour 18 to 22 cents per pound, meal 16 per pound, potatoes 12 ½ per pound, onions 20 cents per pound, pork is 40 per pound, beef 18-25, mutton 50 per pound, beans 15 per pound, butter 75 to 100 per pound, eggs I have not seen but I have been told by persons living here that they have paid 50 cents a piece and chickens 5 dollars a piece. A good dog is in great demand. I saw a man that 300 hundred dollars for one to take to the mines and could not get one at that. A good milk cow is worth \$150 to 225. Rice is 31 cents per pound. Soap 50 cents per pound. Dried apples are 20 per pound, coffee 25, sugar 25 to 28, hay is from 5 to 7 cents per pound, molasses 2 dollars per gallon, lard 50 cents per pound. This is one of the hardest places I ever saw. The most of the people pay no respect to Sabbath. We had preaching today on the side walk. Some would stop a while and others would pay no attention. I went down the street about 1 or 2 o'clock today and every store and shop was open and men at work all over town. I must tell you some about the route from Laramie to Shasta. I wrote you a letter from Green River but perhaps you did not get it for I sent it by a packer who was going to the States. We had quite a time with our captain. We were out of salt and tea and was like to run out of coffee and sugar and soap so we appointed a committee, one from each mess. I was one of the committee from No. 2 mess and we made out a bill of what we should get. It was 400 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of coffee, 100 pounds salt, 30 pounds soap, 9 pounds of tea. The price he paid for the sugar 50 cents per pound, coffee 50 cents, tea two dollars per pound. This was pretty dear but he had to commit. He had been bearing down on the men to hard, now we began to have interesting times. We got to the North Platte River on the 25th of June. John and I went out hunting and I killed a wolf. We crossed the river on the 26. Here we had fun again. He had made a bargain with a man at the lower ferry for the boat and wanted us to ferry the teams over but we thought it dangerous. The ferry boat was three canoes with plank across them. So we made him cross at the upper ferry where we had a good boat. He had to pay five dollars a wagon and fifty cents for each man and fifty cents a piece for all cattle he ferried. We swam the most of the cattle but some of them had to be ferried. We got to Independence Rock on the 28th. This is a large rock, it covers some 30 or 40 acres of ground and think it was three or four hundred feet high. We passed what is called the Devil's Gate. This is a singular looking place. It is where the Sweetwater River runs between two rocks which stand nearly perpendicular and from 3 to 5 hundred feet high. I went out hunting the 29th and did not get anything and did not get into camp till 10 o'clock that night. The next day I went again. I was about five miles from the train and I killed a moose deer and I cut off the saddle and off I went. I carried it some two miles and found I was given out. I laid

down, cut the meat off the bones and gathered it up and on I went over the hills. I went for the road but I had got so far ahead of the train that it did not get to me till the next morning. I stayed in another camp that night. We got to South Pass on the 3rd of July. On the night of the fourth we had a snow storm. Some of the company went out hunting on the 5th and me with them. Our ox driver killed a deer, John Lytle a fawn and a hawk. I killed three eagles. We then went to camp and the way we ate venison was a sight. I wish you could have had a mess or two of it was fine. We got to Green River on the ninth. Here we saw mountain sheep and gorged and having I was sick before I got to the river but I soon got well. We got to leave the river on the 14th. This is a great place for grasshoppers. I saw as many as 16 of them on one spear of grass at once. We got to the Soda Springs on the 17th of July. These springs cover a large piece of ground. They boil up and form a crust and it gets almost as hard as a rock. The crust will heap up till it gets 15 or 20 feet high then it will break out in another place. The water tastes some like soda water. The same day we saw the old crater which was once a burning volcano. The mouth of this place the rocks were burned to cinders like that of stone coal and they had melted and run together. There is places near this the rock is cracked open, you can step across with ease and you can see down them for 20 feet. There is a large cricket here the men say the Indians eat them. These crickets are almost as large as a mouse that looks like a large stone to one that has never seen them but as near as I can recall it is true. While I was writing a man came in with a piece of gold that weighed 18 ounces.

Oh Mary I would like to see you and Isophene or hear from you. I should like to know how you are getting along. I hope you are doing well. I don't know what I can do at my business. The prospect is better than when I first came. Mary I want you to still pray for me. I feel I need them and I will try to pray for myself and you. I feel very thankful that I have been blessed with health while many others as stout and rugged as I their remains are resting on the plains. O lets ever live in that way that we may not fear to die. I will write more about the route in my next letter. If I should get a letter from you before the mail starts on the tenth I will write another letter. I must eat supper and go to meeting so no more at present only kiss I see for me and tell her to be a good girl. I remain your most affectionate husband.

Mark Simpkins

I will write in two weeks again

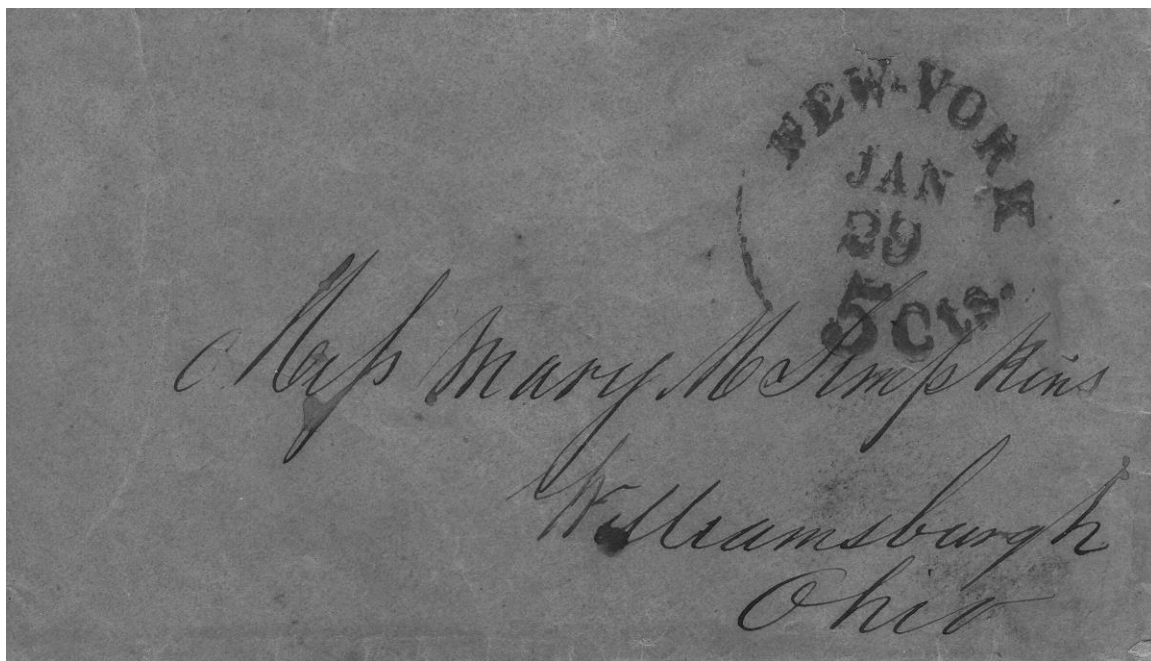
Marys River is a stream running roughly north to south that is a tributary of the Humboldt River in Nevada.

The Noble's Immigrant Trail was pioneered by William Noble in 1851 and was an easier and shorter route into the northern Sacramento Valley than the Lassen Trail. The Noble's route linked the Applegate Trail and ended at Fort Reading and Shasta in Shasta County. In 1852 businessmen from Shasta contributed \$2,000 for work to make the trail more negotiable for wagons. By 1854 3,228 people used the trail into Shasta County.

From Mark's description his party probably left Iowa and followed the Platte River west into present day Nebraska. When they reached the junction of the North Platte on the 25th of June they followed it northwest to Fort Laramie which had been purchased by the U. S. Army in 1849. Ft. Laramie is probably where they obtained supplies before moving on the Green River. The ferry crossing in the letter was probably on the Platte or North Platte and there would be more dangerous crossings ahead. Independence Rock and Devil's Gate were well known

landmarks on the Oregon Trail and both are associated with the Sweetwater River, a tributary of the North Platte River in Wyoming. The trail passed directly by Independence Rock where many travelers to California and Oregon carved their names. Devil's Gate could be seen but the trail did not pass through the natural formation carved by the Sweetwater River. The Green River is a tributary of the Colorado that flows from north to south across western Wyoming. The river is crossed by the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails but the main crossing was on the Oregon Trail where the Big Sandy River joins the Green. The crossing was one of the most dangerous crossings on the Oregon Trail and the site quickly had a number of ferries. From the Green River the trail moved northwest to Fort Hall and the Snake River. Before reaching Fort Hall the party visited another landmark: Soda Springs in Idaho. The springs are bubbling pools of carbonated water caused by volcanic activity. The water is alkali and many pioneers and their animals became sick from drinking too much of the spring's water. After following the Snake for about fifty miles the California bound parties went southwest to the Humboldt Basin.

Mark Simpkins, Shasta City, January 1, 1853



Envelope sent by express to an office in New York then placed in the U. S. Mail on January 29, 1853. The envelope is stamped with a charge of five cents which was the collect rate of one-half ounce under 3,000 miles set in 1851. The envelope is addressed to Mrs. Mary M. Simpkins at Williamsburg, Clermont County, Ohio which is just east of Cincinnati. Note the post office was established as Williamsburgh.

Shasta City Cal January the 1st 1853

Dear Mary I received a letter from you
and one from James wait the 21st of december
they was dated the 23 and 24 of october, three
express got in the next evening and brought me
one from Sacramento dated the 3 of october the other
State mail got in ~~yesterday~~ the 25 and brought me
another letter it had bin 7 weeks since I got a
letter the 21st and then I got 4 letters in
less then one week the last one was dated ^{last} novem
ber the 7th the mail is very uncertain while the water
is so high the mail starts from here in the morn
ning so to be certain to get down in time for the
steamer at the 15 you said you would like to know
how I got along mending and washing my close I
can mend them tolerable well but I hire my wash
ing you shake of being at the county have I Dubos
you saw a grate many fine things there the ladies
of Shasta ~~made~~ He made a bare bone the purpos of
raising munny to finish paying for the church
the have it in the masonic hall it open at last
knight and has bin kep up all day and will be
open til 11 o'clock I did not go I was not aware
that the mail closed so soon til yesterday so I thought
I had better write you a letter then go to the store
the first letter you sent to Sacramento I did not get
nor that paper but I have got all the rest up to
november the 7th you said James waits wanted then

clapboard if he will take them just as they come
with out cutting them and will pay you the let
him have them at 40 cents for hundred you need
the munny but if you dont need the money you may
let them be you said you would like to know how
my clothes held out I have found this yet that you
made for me they are tolerable good yet my vest is good
and my pocket handkerchief and a neck handkerchief I
wore my neck handkerchief to Kansas and have not wore
them since my coat will last till Spring with care
but my boots and shoes and socks and pants are
worn out I got a quart of brandy and just got a
pint and we put it in my canteen before we left
cincinnati and we had over a pint left when we got
to Shasta you said that father had and brother
David was a going to write I have not got
there letters yet but I shall look for them next
mail when I read the death of Sarah in the
letter I got from James I feared sometimes that
she was not prepared to die but when I got the
letter you had sent to Sacramento and read that
she was so happy when she was on her death bed
my fears were gone altho we are called to mourn for the
loss of our sister we do not mourn as those that have
no hope we can look forward to a time when we
shall give them see them again if we live the life of
the righteous Sarah is gone from a world of sorrow
and care and disappointments to enjoy the Society of those
who have gone before Mary we both have friends

What have you before us and I bless god that if
we are faithful that ere long we shall meet then where
we shall part no more where the busy toils and cares
of life will have an end and we shall not have to take the
the panting hand again and sickness sorrow pain and death
are felt and feared no more) O let us lay up treasure
in heaven which moth and rust do not corrupt nor
thieves break throu and steal for where our treasure is there
our hearts are also) Tel mother kin and mother Simpkins
and father and all the rest that sends these you will
wishes to me that I shall not hope I shall not only
have these good wishes but that I shall have these prayers
also for I feel that I need them you said you was a
pride if I got sick I would have nobody to take care of me but
you need not be anxiety for I have got friends here that
would not see me suffer but there is no one that would
take the care of me that you would Miss day said they
had got their back well fixed said wouldn't take none
wood then and) tell her when I come home I will show
her how we do to save wood on the plains we would
cook a meal with a mity little wood) it had snowed
twice this winter snow from 4 to 6 inches deep it froze
the ice here one night about a quarter of an inch
thick) the snow is from 4 to 5 feet deep on the
level at weaver ville about 40 miles north of this
place and flour was one dollar and a bit a pound here
one dollar potatoes one dollar at weaver ville) I am
still at work at the same place and at the same place
I have three hundred dollars deposited in the bank or
as some say

granna wanted to know if California like life I
thought it would it does not neither is the gold
as easy to get hold of as I thought I thought
a man could make 6 and 8 dollars a day a digging
a mos any place but in this I was mistaken
no body would believe how the ground has bin dug
up if a man has a claim that pay him 6 and
8 dollars a day he thinks he has a verry good claim
now and where there is one that works that much
there is 10 that dont make over 3 and 4) it is
so rainy we cant do any thing out doors (consequently
is fluded again) here is a view of Shasta taken from
the upper end of the town it does not show the buildings
on the north side of the Street I am at work opposite
the city drug store and am looking across the St Charles
this looks verry nice what you can see of it where
the flag is hanging out by the pine tree is the arcade where
the fire first started I boarded the next door above at
the time it burned to the city drug store and there they got
it stoped and burned all the buildings on the opposite
side of the Street up to where I work with the exception
of a stone house and a tavern) take good care of this
box I should to see it if I ever should get home) this place
is well supplied with Springs that com out of the that
you see back of the building) the Streets are verry muddy
at present and there is but little buisnes doing at
present) I had like to forget to say any thing about
the box of Hops here that was in the letter I have
bin expecting it for sometime it has grown nice I want
since I left) I dont know how long I shall stay here some
we are all most out of work and not much prospect
of any more fine Sometime) I'll direct your letters to
Shasta City Cal for if I go away it will not cost me
but 4 cents more on each letter write every two weeks
no more at present but ever remaine your
affectionate husband M Simpson

Shasta City Cal. January the 1st 1853

Dear Mary I received a letter from you and one from James Wait the 21st of December. They was dated the 23 and 24 of October. The express got in the next evening and brought me one from Sacramento dated the 3 of October. The other States mail got in the 25 and brought me another letter. I had been seven weeks since I got a letter 'til the 21st and then I got four letters in less than one week. The last one was dated November the 7th. The mail is very uncertain while the water is so high. The mail starts from here in the morning so to be certain to get down in time for the steamer of the 15. You said you would like to know how I get along mending washing my clothes. I can mend them tolerable well but I hire my washing. You spoke of being at the County Fair. I suppose you saw a great many fine things there. The lodges of Shasta made a fair for the purpose of raising money to finish paying for the church. They have it in the Masonic Hall. It opened last night and has been kept up all day and will be open 'til 11 o'clock. I did not go. I was not aware that the mail closed so soon 'til yesterday. So I thought I had better write you a letter then go to the fair. The first letter you sent to Sacramento I did not get nor that paper but I have got all the rest up to November the 7th. You said James Waits wanted them clapboards. If he will take them just as they come without culling them and will pay you then let him have them at 40 cents per hundred. You need the money but if you don't need the money you may let them be. You said you would like to know how my clothes hold out. I have four shirts yet that you made for me, they are tolerable good yet. My vest is good and my pocket handkerchief and neck handkerchief. I wore my neck handkerchief to Kansas and have not worn them since. My coat will last till spring with ease but my boots and shoes and socks and pants are worn out. I got a quart of brandy and just got a pint and put it in my canteen before I left Cincinnati and we had over a pint left when we got to Shasta. You said that Father Kain and brother David was going to write. I have not got their letters yet but I shall look for them next mail. When I read the death of Sarah in the letter I got from James I feared sometimes she was not prepared to die but when I got the letter you had sent to Sacramento and read that she was so happy when she was on her death bed my fears were gone. Although we are called to mourn for the loss of our sister we do not worry as those that have known hope we can look forward to a time when we shall see them again if we live the life of the righteous. Sarah is gone from a world of sorrow and care and disappointment to enjoy the society of those that have gone before. Mary we both have friends that have gone before us and I bless god that we are faithful that we shall meet them where we shall part no more. Where the busy toils and cares of life will have an end and we shall not have to take the parting hand again and sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. Oh let us lay up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal for where our treasure is there our hearts are also. Tell mother Kain and mother Simpkins and father and all the rest that send their well wishes to me that I hope I shall not only have their good wishes but that I shall have their prayers also for I feel that I need them. You said you was afraid if I get sick I would have nobody to take care of me but you need not be uneasy for I have friends here that would not see me suffer but there is none that would take care of me that you would. Miss Day said they got their back wall fixed so it would take none more wood than ours. Tell he when I come home I will show her how we done to save wood on the plains. We would cook a meal with a mighty little wood. It has snowed twice this winter from 4 to 6 inches deep. It froze ice here one night about a quarter of an inch thick. The snow is from 4 to 5 feet on the level at Weaverville about 40 miles north of this place and flour was one dollar and a bit a pound, beans one dollar, potatoes one dollar at Weaverville. I am still

at work at the same place and at the same house. I have three hundred dollars deposited in the bank on Adam's Express. Grandma wanted to know if California looked like I thought it would. It does not, neither is the gold as easy to hold of as I thought. A man could make 6 and 8 dollars a day digging almost any place but in this I was mistaken. Nobody would believe how the ground has been dug up. If a man has a claim that pays him 6 and 8 dollars per day he thinks he has a very good claim now and where there is one that makes that much there are 10 that don't make over 3 and 4. It is so rainy we can't do anything out doors. Sacramento is flooded again. Here is a view of Shasta taken from the upper end of town. It does not show the buildings on the north side of the street. I am at work opposite the City Drug Store and I am boarding opposite the St. Charles. This looks very ruined. What you can see of it where the flag is hanging out by the pine is the arcade where the fire first started. I boarded the next door above at the time. It burned to the City Drug Store and there they got it stopped and burned all the buildings on the opposite side of the street up to where I work with the exception of a storehouse and a tavern. Take good care of this for I should like to see it if I ever should get home. This place is well supplied with springs that come out of the hills that you see back of the buildings. The streets are very muddy at present and there is but little business doing at present. I had like to forget to say anything about the lock of Isophene's hair that was in the letter. I have been expecting it for some time. It has grown right straight since I left. I don't know how long I shall stay here for we are almost out of work and not much prospect of any more for some time. Still direct your letters to Shasta City, Cal. For if I go away it will not cost me but 5 cents more on each letter. Write every two weeks. No more at present but remain your affectionate husband.

M. Simpkins

Mark Simpkins was born about 1823 in New Jersey. In the U.S. Census of 1850 done in August he was in Williamsburg, Clermont County, Ohio where he was working as a carpenter. In 1850 he was married to Mary M. who was born in Ohio about 1824. By 1860 Mark had returned to Ohio and was again working as a carpenter. Along with Mary were three children: John R. age 5, Harriet J. age 2, and a one-month old who had not been named (Isabella).

In 1870 Mark was a farmer in Cumberland, Clark County, Illinois and he and Mary added two additional children Oscar born about 1863 in Ohio and Ida born about 1867 in Illinois. In the 1880 U. S. Census Mark is a farmer in Benton, Polk County, Missouri along with Mary and children John, Ella, Oscar and Ida. After 1880 Mark and Mary were not found.

Mark Simpkins, Shasta City, February 18, 1853

S. Shasta City Cal. Feb. 18th 1853

Dear Mary I received a letter from you
the 8th of february dated december 25th
and I received another on the 17th from you
and your father and one from John Beckwith
dated the 12 and 17th the first one informed
me that you had the tooth ache and head
ache but the last one informed me that you
were all well. you spoke of wanting Josephine
dont let her sack longer than this spring tell
her that pa says she must quit sucking you
said you would like for me to come home
this spring but dont think I can come so soon
for the summer is the best time for my busi-
ness I would willingly come if I could
bring a bout one thousand dollars home
but mary you must not get down hearted
you must be as cheerful as you can I sent
you a letter last month with a draft of
350 dollars on adams expres in Cincinnati I speak
of this for fear you have not got it I want
you to speak of it in 3 or four letters and tell
me if you have got it and how you have disposed
of it I just got in yesterday from the river
and the mail had gone before I got in so I will
send this by expres, may there is nothing here
that would entice me to stay from you if
there was no gold to be got it I am lucky

Mark Simpkins

I will be home I am of these days for
this is no way for married people to live
three thousand miles from each other you said
you wanted to know if I got to ride or
whether I had to walk I rode but it was all
most as bad as if I had walked I was sick
only 2 or 3 days I thought of home a little and
almost wished I had staid there I am glad
you had the tax paid I was afraid you would
not have money to spare to pay it and it would
be left till next fall I am well at present
I havent time to write much they tel your father
that I will write him a letter the next
mail tell me if the folks ar all crasy yet
to come to Oregon and California if so tell
them for me that they had better stay
where they are then to come here for they will
see the elephant if they come here kiss that
fat of ours for me Do no more my love till
next mail write to every two weeks and
write long letters tell me about every thing
and every body remember me to al my
ingure friends fare the well for a while
I like to have forgot it had not rained here more
then a month and the gras is growing and the folks
have made garden and the mandaneta was in
bloom 3 weeks ago here is some more seeds
plant them in a gravelly piece of ground up
and mind the hens dont scratch them up

Shasta City Cal. Feb. the 18, 1853

Dear Mary I received a letter from you the 8th of February dated December the 5th and I received another on the 17th from you and your father and one from John Beckwith dated the 12th and

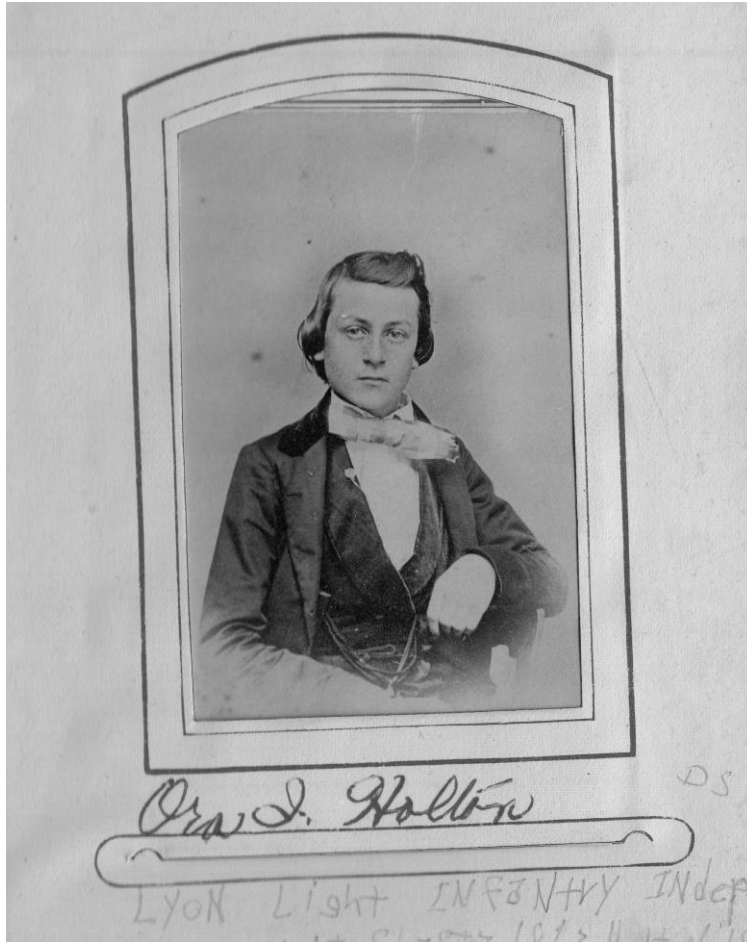
17th. The first one informed me that you had a toothache and headache but the last one informed me you were well. You spoke of weaning Isophene. Don't let her suck longer than this spring. Tell her that Pa says she must quit sucking. You said you would like for me to come home this spring but don't think I can come so soon for the summer is the best time for my business. I would willing come if I could bring about one thousand dollars home but Mary you must not get downhearted. You must be as cheerful as you can. I sent you a letter last month with a draft in it of 350 dollars on Adams Express in Cincinnati. I speak of this for fear you have not got it. I want you to speak of it in 3 or four letters and tell me if you have got it and how you have dispersed of it. I just got in yesterday from the river and the mail had gone before I got in so I will send this by express. Mary there is nothing here that would entice me to stay from you if there was no gold to be got. If I am lucky I will be home some of these days for this is no way for married people to live three thousand miles from each other. You said you wanted to know if I got to ride or whether I had to walk. I rode but it was almost as bad as if I had walked. I was sick only 2 or 3 days I thought of home a little and almost wished I had stayed there. I am glad you had the tax paid. I was afraid you would not have money to spare to pay it and it would be left till next fall. I am well at present. I haven't time to write much thus tell your father that I will write him a letter the next mail. Tell me if the folks are all crazy yet to come to Oregon and California. If so tell them for me that they had better stay where they are than to come here for they will see the elephant if they come here. Kiss that pet of ours for me. So no more my love till next mail. Write to me every two weeks and write long letters. Tell me about ever thing and everybody. Remember me to all my inquiring friends. Fare the well for a while. Oh I like to have forgot it has not rained bone more than a month and the grass is growing and the folks have made gardens and the manzanita was in bloom three weeks ago, Here is some more seeds. Plant them in a garden piece of ground and mind the hens don't scratch them up.

Mark Simpkins

(signed at the top of the page)

The term "see the elephant" began before the Gold Rush and meant gaining experience of the world at a significant cost. It is associated with California as tens of thousands rush in but only a few actually benefited from all the gold.

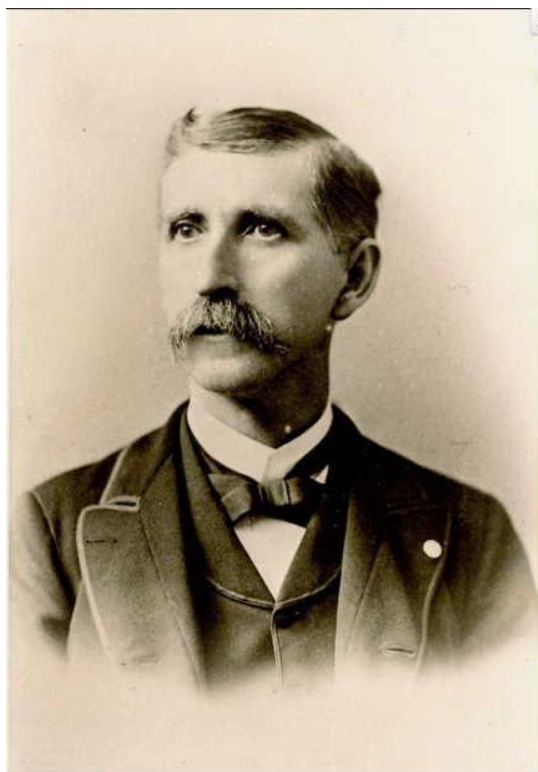
Ora Sylvanus Holton



Portrait of Ora S. Holton. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Ora Sylvanus Holton was born in 1837 in New York. Ora was the son of Charles S. Holton 1807-1878 and Mary Ann Holton 1816-1889. In the 1850 U. S. Census, Ora was living with his parents in New York. On the 1863 Civil War draft registration Ora was listed as a clerk in Shasta. Ora was listed as a corporal in the Lyon Light Infantry, a California Militia company raised in Shasta in 1863. Ora appears to have remained in the militia until 1869 when the Lyon Light Infantry was dropped during the restructuring of the militia system. Ora had qualified as a 1st Lieutenant in February 1866 and was commissioned in November 1867. After the Civil War Ora registered to vote as a miner at Shasta in 1866. In the 1870 U. S. Census Ora was listed as single and a newspaper dealer living with John Tiffin in Shasta. Ora was believed to have returned to New York by 1880 and died there in 1907.

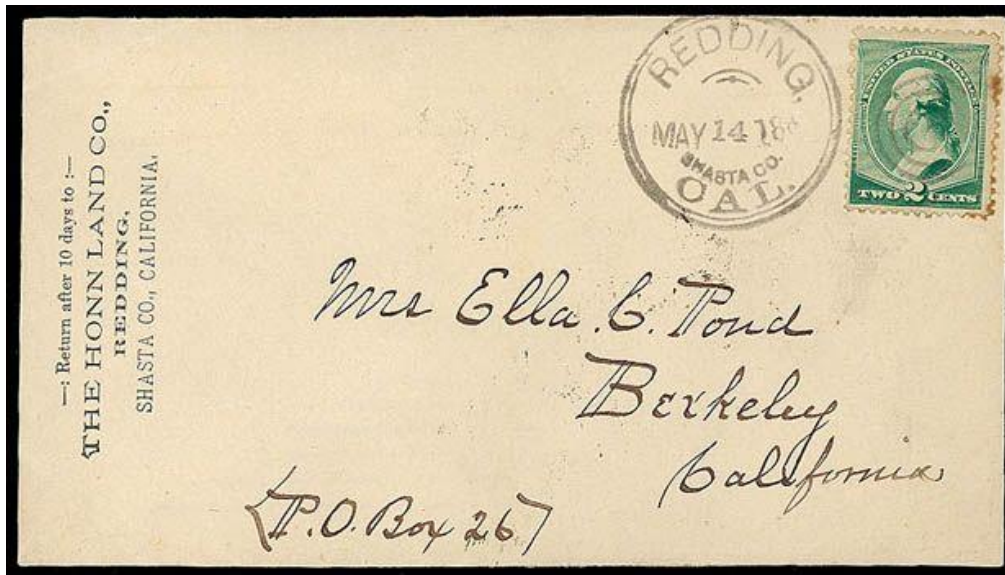
David Nelson Honn



Portrait of David Nelson Honn. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.

David Nelson Honn was born in Knox County, Ohio in 1838. David was the son of John Hoffman Honn 1806-1873 and Catherine Hamilton Vance 1817-1887. In 1858 David married Grizella Jane Morrison 1839-1913 in Illinois. Grizella was the daughter of Joseph Morrison and Jane Thompson. In October 1862 David enlisted in the 93rd Illinois Infantry Regiment for three years. David served with the 93rd through the Yazoo Pass Expedition, the Vicksburg campaign, the Chattanooga campaign, the March Through Georgia, and ended the war in the Carolinas campaign. David mustered out of the Army in October 1865 and by 1866 was farming in Pottawattamie County in Iowa. David kept moving ever westward: in 1877 he was farming in Nebraska, then Wyoming, and finally California in 1883. David first settled in San Francisco where his brother-in-law Cyrus R. Street was Secretary and Land Officer of the Immigration Association of California. Cyrus had married David's sister Mary, then later his sister Samantha. David quickly became a land examiner seeking out sites suitable to bring settlers from the east. An office of the association had opened in Shasta County in 1881 and David was assigned to review land in Tehama and Shasta Counties. On one trip to Red Bluff David found suitable land for his own family in the Cottonwood District of Tehama County. On another trip David scouted the Big Bend area of Shasta County and was later cited in 1884 for bringing two hundred and fifty new settlers to the area. In 1885 David established himself in Redding and opened the Shasta County Land and Loan Company with a branch office in San Francisco. From 1910 to 1920 David was known as a real estate agent operating throughout Shasta and Tehama Counties for all types of property including mineral lands, timber land and farms. In addition to promoting immigration to Shasta County, David was also the founder of the Redding Chamber of Commerce in 1908 and its first president. David is remembered in Redding for three

subdivisions that bear his name. David was long listed as a Republican but during the brief existence of the Popularist movement he was one of their fiercest advocates and edited the Shasta Popularist (ceased printing about 1895). David's wife Grizella died in 1913 leaving six children: Frank Lawrence 1859, Mary Sylvania 1861, Henry Morrison 1863, Paul Millman 1866, Bessie Delight 1873, and John Joseph 1877 (another son David Elmer born in 1871 had died in 1894). In 1915 David married the widow of George Groves, Emma R. Groves. David would die in Redding in 1922 and Emma would survive him until 1925.



Envelope from the Honn Land Company in Redding. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.