

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.

Brewster Post Office

In the eight-mile section of the Sacramento River Canyon between Castella and Hazel Creek there were three post offices: Brewster 1893, Flume 1903 and Deerhaven 1918. All three were of short duration and all established after the Central Pacific Railroad connected San Francisco and Portland, Oregon in 1887. The Brewster Post Office was established in 1893 one mile south of Castella. The post office was named for William H. Brewster. Most sources cite Brewster surveyed the area in the early 1860s. William H. Brewster was a Yale University educated professor of "agricultural sciences." He was second in command of the Whitney Expedition from 1860 to 1864 that reported on the area for the California Geological Survey. Brewster is most known for a book that compiled his letters titled, Up and Down California in 1860-1864; the Journal of William H. Brewster. The Brewster Post Office was closed in 1895 when operations were moved to Castella.



Part of the survey party of 1860 to 1864: from left to right are James T. Gardiner, Richard Cotter, William H. Brewster and Clarence King. Courtesy the Library of Congress.

Brincard Post Office

Brincard was the second of four post offices to serve the Centerville area. The Middletown Post Office served the area from 1856 to 1858. Postal service was discontinued as placer deposits were depleted. The Centerville Mining District early transitioned to quartz mining and included the West Point, Golden jubilee, Florida, Miner's Dream and Big Gem mines. By local history one of the local discoveries was made by Adolphe Brincard, a French miner. The area quickly attracted a large French population and developed a local wine production. Arthur Brincard, the son of Adolphe Brincard, and Adolph Minville opened a combined general merchandise, saloon and produce store in the late 1870s. Maria Brincard was known for operating the Hotel Francais. In 1879 the Brincard Post Office was established in the Brincard & Minville Store. The first postmaster was Arthur Brincard and the second was Adolph Minville. The post office was closed in 1881 when services were moved to Igo. Nine years later postal services were reestablished at Centerville with the opening of the Dolde Post Office.



The Yankee John Mine near the Brincard Post Office. California Division of Mines and Geology.

Deerhaven Post Office

In the eight-mile section of the Sacramento River Canyon between Castella and Hazel Creek there were three post offices: Brewster 1893, Flume 1903 and Deerhaven 1918. All three were of short duration and all established after the Central Pacific Railroad connected San Francisco and Portland, Oregon in 1887. The Southern Pacific Railroad opened up a siding in support of lumber operations at the mouth of Flume Creek in 1901. The siding was initially named Kolka but was changed in 1903 to Flume. The Flume Post Office was established in 1903 and discontinued in 1904. The Deerhaven Post Office was opened in 1918 and the location was given as three miles north of Hazel Creek that places it near the old Flume Post Office site. The post office was reportedly named for a nearby meadow favored by deer. Economically the Sweet Briar Ranch and siding were operational the area in 1918 and may be associated with Deerhaven. The Deerhaven Post Office closed in 1919 and operations moved to Hazel Creek.

Eilers Post Office

The Eilers Post Office was established in 1895 and located on the stage route six miles southwest of Round Mountain and seven miles northeast of Oak Run on North Cow Creek. The area had been called Good Hope and consisted of about sixty people in the winter and more in the summer. George R. Eldridge the first and only postmaster applied for consideration of a post office and named it after Luppe (Lupe) "Lu" Eiler an early gold miner who discovered the Thousand Lakes Valley and led William Magee the U.S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor of California to the area for a survey in the early 1880s. Eiler established a ranch at Round Mountain about 1865 and was postmaster at Round Mountain in 1877. The application may have been written in the possessive form as there is no S on the end of Eiler. The post office was discontinued in 1899 and operations moved to Round Mountain.



Postmaster George Eldridge. Courtesy
Shasta Historical Society.

Altering Brands 101

The following article was found in a box from the Shasta County Cattlewomen and had the date 1927 written on the back. As the Shasta County Cattlewomen were not formed until 1961 it is not from them, but someone thought it interesting enough to save. It is not about Shasta County per se, but the crime itself still exists. One Shasta County brand inspector said, "as the price of beef goes up so does the theft." Now that modern thieves back a big rig up to a cut fence, herd in cattle, then speed away, the crime doesn't look the same, but from a historical perspective the article is still interesting.

THOUGH in the old days there was a lot of sport and good-natured rivalry in originating fancy and complicated cattle brands, big and intricate branding was not merely cowboy's fun and nothing else. There was a genuine need of intricate, or large and heavy branding. For consider how a simple brand like LP could be and was altered by three brief applications of the red-hot iron to a Coffee Pot.

LP LP LP

It behooved the owner to be more complex. A brand spread well over a cow's ribs, a brand that looked like a tarantula or a sky full of forked lightning could not be so easily doctored or blotted out. But a simple brand was known as a "rustler's delight." Such a one was that adopted by an eastern Kansas farmer who moved to the west and went into the cattle business. He took as his brand the simple two-line Backward Seven. And here is what a rustler did to it:

A A A

The rustler called it the Rail A brand. He had done his work so neatly that a jury, in court, failed to convict him. But everybody knew he was guilty, and after the trial the same jury rode the gentleman out of town on a rail—a wagon-tongue being the substitute for an actual rail in that treeless range country.

Just as a cowman took pride in originating a mark that would puzzle the rustlers to alter, so did the rustler have his pride in neatly changing anything that came his way. It is said that any

rustler worth his salt could change almost any simple brand to a three-leaf clover. This is exaggeration but it points the fact that many brands could readily be changed to something more or less resembling the clover, as with the 7U or Y6, herewith:

U U U
Y Y Y

A big brand used to come out of Mexico—and so far as this writer knows it may have originated or been extensively used in the United States—that, while neither simple nor intricate, must have been impossible to alter satisfactorily, if at all. It has been called the "rebus brand" and it was usually burned well over an animal's ribs.

NO

It was read "Keno," which was the name of a gambling game much played in the West. One can imagine the artists—the Rembrandts and Michael Angelos of brand altering days losing their rest trying to puzzle out a way to meet this competition and put over some pretty alteration that they could feel proud—and sure—about.

Perhaps the most famous brand-altering story in the West has to do with the well known XIT brand of the Panhandle of Texas. Whether

the story is true or not, it is a cow-land classic. The story goes that a man was charged in court with altering the XIT to a five-pointed star with a cross in the center. The prosecuting attorney was not able to show the jury, by actual demonstration, how this could be done, and the jury turned the accused loose. Whereupon the man obligingly showed the court how the trick was turned. In the following illustration, which is supposed to be an imitation of what the man drew with a stub pencil on the back of an old envelope, the lines of XIT are left solid the better to show the correlation of old and new lines, but in practical brand-changing the essence of the art was to conceal the old lines by making them harmonize perfectly with the new, or vice versa.

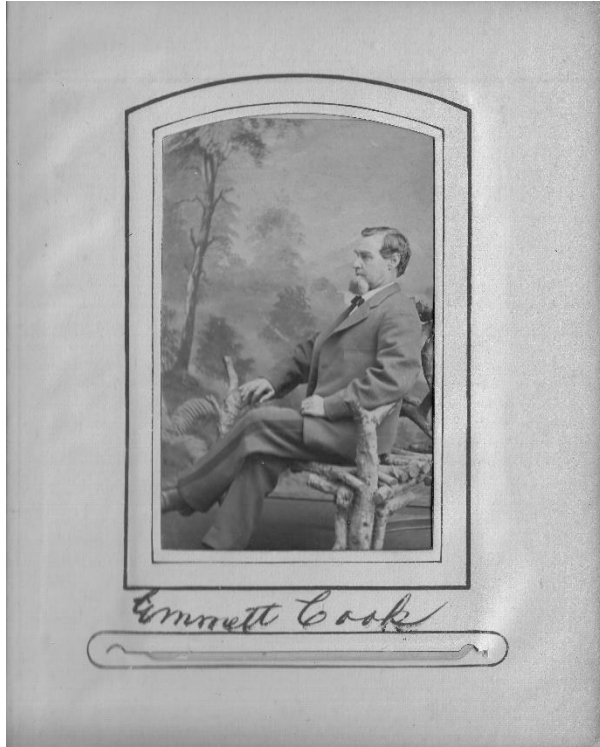
XIT XIT XIT

There are two other little classics of the range, among many, that are likely to be discussed anywhere in Cattleland where brand-altering yarns are being spun. One has to do with the changing of the Double-X to a six-pointed star, and the other with the joke that was slipped over on the Army when its horse brand US was changed to the "Two Dollars." The XX was made a star by the addition of six lines, and the US was altered by burning an S over the U and a U over the S. #

XX XX XX
US US US

The articles for the month of November 2022 are: 1) Joseph Emmet Cook, 2) Jerry Culverhouse, 3) Mary J. Culverhouse, 4) Louisa Eliza Diestelhorst, 5) Roy Smith Duggins, 6) Samuel Cooper, 7) Herbert Bass, and 8) Matilda Miranda Part III

Joseph Emmet Cook



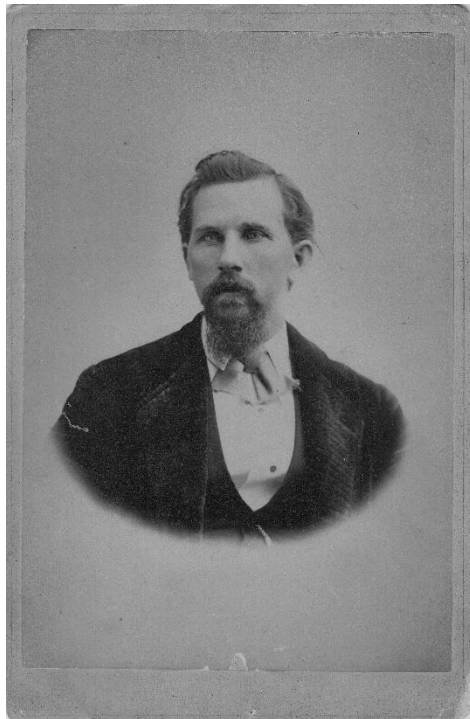
Emmett Joseph Cook from the Litsch family album. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.



Portrait of Joseph Emmet Cook identical to the one above except for the addition of a cane and left hand. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Joseph Emmet Cook was born in 1826 in Missouri. Joseph was the son of John Cook 1798-1849 and Louisa "Louvicy" Pennington 1802-1870. During the War with Mexico Joseph served in the U. S. Navy. The entire U.S. Navy at the beginning of the war was only 7,500 men. Congress authorized an expansion to 10,000 men but recruitment was slow, and the strength was rarely over 8,000. The U.S. Navy organized a blockade of Mexico along both the Pacific coast and Gulf of Mexico and participated in the siege at Vera Cruz and conquest of California. Nothing was found that indicated where Joseph served but by the 1850 U. S. Census Joseph was listed at home with his mother in Missouri. It is not known how Joseph traveled to California, but he was listed in the 1852 California Census as a merchant in Shasta. In the draft registration of 1863 Joseph was listed as a laborer in Cottonwood and in 1867 he registered as a clerk at Horsetown. In the 1870 U. S. Census Joseph was listed as a saloonkeeper in Shasta. Emmet Cook was noted as having a business in Redding on September 2, 1872, when the railroad office was formally opened but he was still listed as a saloonkeeper residing at Shasta in the 1880 U. S. Census. Joseph is cited as building the Mountain House (hotel) at Cottonwood in 1884. In 1900 Joseph was a resident of the Veteran's Home in Los Angeles and died the same year. Joseph appears never to have married and was buried in the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

Jerry Culverhouse




Portrait of Jerry Culverhouse from the Litsch album. The photograph was taken by Brooks & Hyde who operated in Shasta County about 1875. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Jerry Culverhouse was born in 1838 in Tennessee, and nothing was found concerning his parents or status during the civil War. The Earliest document found relating to Shasta County was a pay receipt issued at Shasta from the Oregon Stage Company for driving the stage in January 1867. In May 1867 Jerry registered to vote in Shasta giving his occupation as stage driver. Jerry may have resided in Butte County prior to moving to Shasta as that is where he married Mary J. Cloud who was born in 1847 in Missouri. Mary was the daughter of William Morgan Cloud 1822-1904 and Emeline Cloud 1828-1918 who were farming in Butte County by 1860. In the 1870 U. S. Census Jerry was still listed as a stage driver living in Shasta. Jerry was noted as having contracted for the mail route from Shasta via Roaring River to Red Bluff in 1874. Life changed for Jerry in February 1875 when he was driving stage from Shasta to Redding and three armed robbers attempted to stop his stage at Lower Springs. Rather than stopping Jerry whipped up the horses. One of the would-be robbers fired a load of buck shot at the coach hitting Jerry in the back and head. The horses were startled but Jerry kept them under control until he could safely stop a distance from the robbers. The injuries cost Jerry his right eye but after seven surgeries in San Francisco he returned to work. By 1877 Jerry was working as a deputy sheriff and starting his own stage line from Yreka to Shasta via Scott Valley (the line was later extended from Trinity Center to Cinnabar). Jerry entered into a short-term partnership with W. Taggart in 1876 and then with Majors (Redding, Big Valley & Alturas Stage Line) in 1878. The partnership with Major lasted about three or four years and Jerry became known for innovations. Jerry used sleighs over Hatchet Mountain and from Bass to Burney in winter and for the comfort of his passengers had a coach built with beds. In 1881 Jerry was proprietor of the Redding & Lakeview Stage Line and increased his involvement in mail contracts. In 1882 Jerry was noted for having the star route (four-year contracts) from Igo to Anderson. In 1886 to 1887 Jerry had five contracts for \$20,434 annually. In 1901 to 1902 he had four contracts for \$6857.48. Jerry and Mary were early residents of Redding and he quickly became involved in community affairs. When the town of Redding took a vote to incorporate, Jerry was elected to the Board of Trustees with C. C. Bush as President and James McCormick, W. W. Williams, and James F. Scammon as members. The second election was held in April 1888 and Jerry was elected as President (now Mayor) with James McCormick, Peter Shearer, W. L. Smith, and Fred Deakin as board members. In 1910 Jerry was listed as being retired and living in Redding. Jerry and Mary were not known to have had any children. Jerry died in Redding in 1917 and Mary survived him until 1941.



Second portrait of Jerry Culverhouse from the Litsch album. The photograph was taken by Swasey and Button. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

CALIFORNIA AND OREGON COAST



OVERLAND MAIL CO.,
Barlow & Sanderson Proprs.
WINTER ARRANGEMENTS.

STAGE leaves **READING** daily at 6 o'clock a.m.,
 by the Sacramento River Road for
 Dog Creek, Southern's, Bailey's, Soda Springs,
 Strawberry Valley, Yreka, Jack-
 sonville, and Roseburg.


There Connecting with the
Oregon & California Road for Portland
Scott Mountain Route

STAGES LEAVE **READING** at 6 o'clock a.m. for
 Tower House, Trinity Center, Callahan's, Fort
 Jones and Yreka.

Passengers to Weaverville change stage at the
 Tower House.

W. S. STONE, Gen'l Supt.
W. L. SMITH, Div. Agt.
JAMES ROGERS, Agent, Reading.

READING, BIG VALLEY & ALTURAS
Stage Line.
Major & Culverhouse - - Proprs.



STAGES LEAVE **READING** EVERY MONDAY,
 Wednesday and Friday for
MILLVILLE, OAK RUN, MONTGOMERY
CREEK, BURNET VALLEY, FALL
CITY, BIG VALLEY, ADIN
AND ALTURAS.

RETURNING.

LEAVES **ALTURAS** EVERY MONDAY, WED-
 nesday and Friday.

JAMES ROGERS, Agent, Reading.

Advertisement for the Reading, Big Valley and Alturas Stage Line. Courtesy Ralph Holibaugh.

Mary J. Culverhouse



Portrait of Mary Culverhouse from the Litsch album. Photograph taken by Swasey & Button. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Mary J. Culverhouse's maiden name was Cloud and she was born in Missouri in 1847. She was the daughter of William Morgan Cloud 1822-1904 and Emeline Cloud 1828-1918. By 1860 William was listed as a farmer in Butte County but he later moved to Modoc County. In 1866 Mary married Jerry Culverhouse a stage driver. The wedding was in Butte County but is often reported as Virginia City, Nevada because that town's newspaper reported the wedding. By 1867 the couple was settled in Shasta County where Jerry drove stage, took mail contracts and developed his own stage line. The family moved to Redding by 1872 and when the first passenger train was scheduled to stop at the Redding depot, Mary took the stage to Red Bluff so she could be on the first train. Jerry and Mary remained in Redding the rest of their married life. In 1917 Jerry died and in 1920 Mary was living alone in Redding. In 1930 Mary was living with her brother George Cloud and in 1940 Mary was living with a live-in housekeeper. Mary died in Redding in 1941.

Louisa Eliza Diestelhorst



Portrait of Louisa Eliza Diestelhorst. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Louisa Eliza Diestelhorst was born in Shasta County in 1852. In the 1860 U. S. Census her name is given as Eliza but afterwards Louisa was used. Louisa was the daughter of J. G. J. Diestelhorst who was born in the Kingdom of Hanover which at the time was in personal union with the United Kingdom (George IV was king in 1821). J. G. J. probably stood for Johann Gutlieb Justus Diestelhorst and at various times he is listed as John, George, George Justus and on his naturalization as Gotlieb Fustus (the Germanic J misread as F). John married Caroline Nina Meine in 1850 and was trained in Germany as a carpenter and cabinet maker. In 1851 John brought his new wife and his two sisters to California by ship. After landing in San Francisco John worked for six months to earn money to purchase 160 acres that he worked for another six months. By 1852 John had moved to Shasta but was again short of funds so they took in washing until they had saved enough money to purchase a small vegetable garden and some milk cows. Although hurt by the winter flood and the loss of mules in a raid by starving Wintu, John quickly recovered and increased his garden and cow herd. John and Caroline remained in Shasta until 1865 and the couple's first four children were born there: Louisa in 1852 who by some accounts was the first white child born in the town of Shasta, William H. 1856, Augustus Justus 1858 and Caroline J. 1858. By family history John purchased eighty-three acres at what was then known as Poverty Flat where he began to raise hay and other produce. In 1865 John sold the Shasta farm and moved to a 160-acre farm purchased from the government land office. The purchase was in Section 13, Township 32 North Range 2 West, Mount Diablo Meridian on Clover Creek east of the Sacramento River. At the Clover Creek ranch three additional children were born: Mona about 1860 (given as Jane Marie in 1870), Charles 1862 and John 1865.

The farm at Poverty Flat would eventually fall within the town limits of Redding when it was founded in 1872. The Diestelhorst name continues to be associated with sites in Redding

such as Diestelhorst Bridge built in 1915 on family land (first named Reid's Ferry Bridge) and used for traffic until 1997 (now a pedestrian bridge), the Diestelhorst Ferry which operated across the Sacramento from 1905 to 1915, the Diestelhorst waterwheel built by John to irrigate the Redding ranch, and the Diestelhorst Dredge which first operated at the mouth of Middle Creek before being moved to Clear Creek. John and his son John owned the gold dredge which had been designed and built by John's sons Charles and John. As John got older he sold part of the property to his sons. In 1885 John was still farming 120-acres. Caroline died in 1889 and John would follow in 1903.

Louisa was living with her parents on the 1870 U. S. Census. Sometime around 1874 Louisa met and married Andrew Christian Knudsen who was born about 1849 in Germany. On the census roll Andrew is listed as born in Germany but speaking Danish which suggests he was from Schleswig-Holstein (a German duchy in personal union with the King of Denmark before it was annexed by Prussia in 1867). Andrew was naturalized in San Francisco in 1876 so he had immigrated at least four years earlier. At the time Louisa and Andrew were married Andrew was working as a hotel porter in San Francisco. Their first child, Anna C. was born about 1875. Andrew worked as a porter until at least 1888 and by then there were three additional children: Andrew Christian 1877, Jennie Louise 1880 and William M. 1882. In 1890 Andrew was listed as a baker and in 1892 a cigar dealer. In 1898 Andrew was listed as a merchant in San Francisco. On 23 September 1899 Louisa reportedly committed "suicide by drowning" at Redding. No case file was found for Louisa in the Coroner's index. Andrew remained in San Francisco where in 1900 he was a bookkeeper for a pie baking company and in 1920 a hotel elevator-man. Andrew died in 1924.

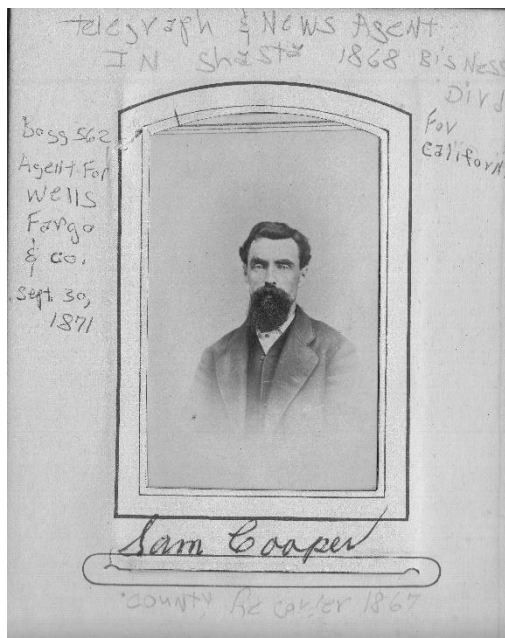
Roy Smith Duggins



Coroner Roy Duggins at the Baird Store. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Roy Smith Duggins was born in 1892 in Butte County. Roy was the son of Alex Duggins 1860-1921 and Alice Electra Beeves 1871-1908. In the 1900 U. S. Census Roy's name is given as Leroy but after that date it is always given simply as Roy. Roy's father was a farmer and after the death of Alice in 1908 his father married Mandy Graham and moved to Cottonwood. In 1910 Roy was in Yuba County where his father was working on a gold dredge. On the 1917 World War I draft registration Roy was working on his father's ranch near Cottonwood. Roy was drafted and was sent to France as part of the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 8th Division and returned as a corporal in Company A, 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division. Only half the troops of the 8th Division landed prior to the German surrender. Roy appears to have been assigned to the 1st Division for the occupation of Germany until August 1919. By the time of the 1920 U. S. Census, Roy had returned to Cottonwood and was working as a farm laborer on his father's ranch. There is a Roy Duggins who received a patent in 1920 for 320 acres in Sections 14 and 24, Township 30 North Range 6 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, which may account for Roy being listed as a stock raiser in Igo in the 1920s. In the late 1920s Roy married Georgia Lela Key born in 1906 in Oregon. In the 1930 U. S. Census Roy was listed as a farmer at Cottonwood and the family now included two children: James Alexander born about 1928 and Betty Mae (May) born about 1930. In 1936 Roy was elected County Coroner and Public Administrator. In 1940 Roy was listed again as Coroner and the family had grown by the addition of Henry Edward born about 1931. From at least 1949 to 1960 Roy operated the Shasta Dam Liquor Store in Redding. Roy died in 1963 and Georgia followed in 1989.

Samuel Cooper



Portrait of Sam Cooper from the Litsch album. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Samuel Cooper was born about 1835 in New York and was listed as a clerk in Shasta County in 1860. On the draft registration of 1863 Samuel was listed as a hotelkeeper at

Whiskeytown. Samuel was appointed to fill the vacant County Recorder and Auditor office at the death of George Forbes in 1867. According to the data on the photograph Samuel was a telegraph and news agent at Shasta in 1868. Pearson B. Reading died in 1868 leaving five minor children and his wife Fannie Washington Reading as his administrator. When Fannie's authorization as administrator was revoked in November 1869 Samuel Cooper was substituted as administrator of the estate and E. Garter appointed as attorney for the minor children. The unsold portions of the Reading grant were subject to a foreclosure on a mortgage and sold on July 20, 1871 to James B. A. Haggin. In the 1870 U. S. Census Samuel was listed as an express agent in Shasta. From 1870 to 1874 Samuel served two terms as County Treasurer then drops from the record.

Herbert Bass



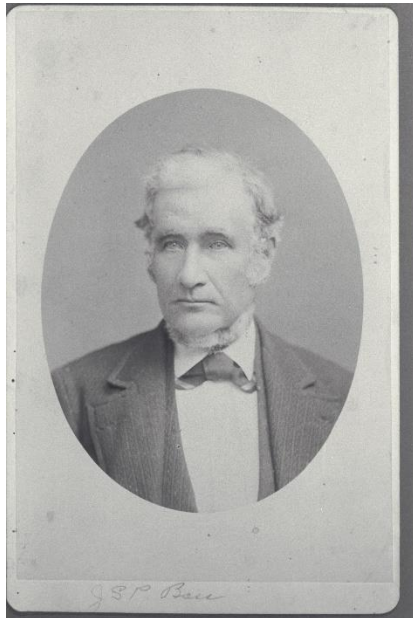
Herbert Bass (1853-1917) 2nd postmaster at Montgomery Creek 1880-1881. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Herbert Bass was born in 1853 in Shasta and by local lore was the second white child to be born in the town. Herbert's father was John Stephen Patton Bass 1821-1909 who came to Shasta County in 1851 from Missouri. John arrived in Shasta County a widower with one daughter. In Shasta, John married Lucinda Bradley (nee Brewer). Lucinda had been married to James Bradley and the couple with their three children had left New York in 1848 bound for California. Two of the children contracted scarlet fever in Missouri and died. Lucinda, James and their remaining son arrived in Reading's Spring in 1849 (it would become Shasta in June 1850). Mr. Bradley established a rudimentary hotel, and in the Spring of 1851 left Lucinda in charge to go prospecting in Trinity County. James was found murdered and within a year Lucinda and John Bass were married. John was involved in mining but also bought and sold horses and mules essential for the freighting companies. John occasionally financed pack trains to the

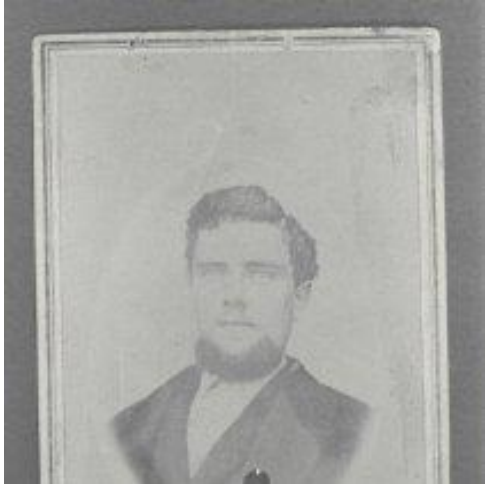
mines to the west and north of Shasta. Just after the birth of Herbert in 1853 John acquired a tract of and at Stillwater (now known as Mountain Gate). John set up a hotel (Bass Station) for those traveling the Oregon-California Trail via the Sacramento River Canyon or Pit River. John would go on to serve in the California State Assembly and County Board of Supervisors.

Herbert grew up on the farm at Stillwater and in 1875 was listed as a stock raiser at Stillwater. Herbert next had a partnership with Ned Snow in a hardware store in Millville. While in Millville Herbert met and married Ida Francelia Powers who was teaching at the nearby Clover Creek School. Ida who was born in 1857 was the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Powers who came to California in 1866. The couple moved to Montgomery Creek in 1880 and purchased land from Ida's brother Leander Powers 1847-1916. Leander had started a store in 1877 to serve the new bridge and toll road. Herbert established a hotel where the teamsters halted at a steep hill. Herbert soon took over Leander's store and became the second postmaster of the Montgomery Creek Post Office from August 1880 to June 1881. In 1886 and 1896 Herbert registered to vote at Montgomery Creek as a merchant. In 1891 and 1892 Herbert and Ida purchased an additional 490 acres of land from the Government Land Office. From 1893 to 1901 Herbert served on the Board of Supervisors representing District 3. In 1891 Herbert built a water-powered sawmill near Big Bend. Herbert later sold an interest to John Buick and Matt Wengler (Bass, Wengler, & Buick Sawmill). In the 1900 U. S. Census Herbert was listed as a lumberman at Round Mountain. The partners sold the sawmill to Thomas Hart Benton in 1910 and the same year Herbert was listed as a merchant at Round Mountain. While operating the sawmill Herbert started the first telephone line connecting Redding and Fall River Mills in 1904. Herbert died in 1917 and Ida sold the telephone line to George Johnstone in 1920. Ida would follow Herbert in 1927.

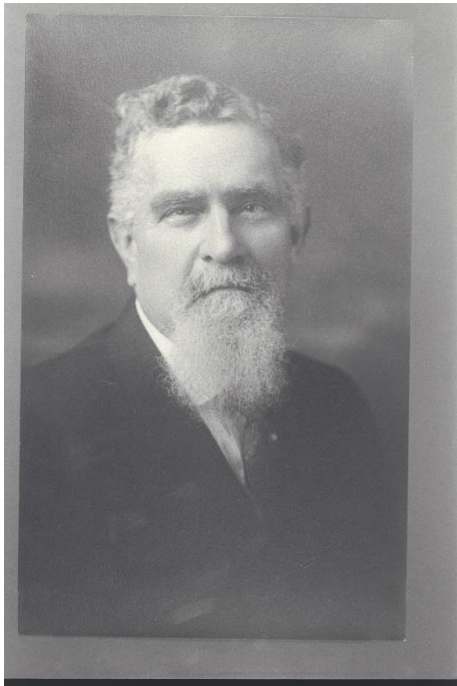
Herbert and Ida were known to have four daughters: Clara 1882-1932, Bessie L. 1884-1940, Pearl F. 1886-1957, and Bertha F. 1893-1975.



Herbert's father John S. P. Bass. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Herbert Bass. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Herbert Bass. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society



Ida Powers Bass. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Ida Powers Bass. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Matilda Maranda: Part III

(Continued from September and October 2022)

On the Deed of the 7th of July 1854, Matilda Maranda sold the Trinity House Corral on the northeast side of Trinity Alley for \$250.00. The lot was sold to Andrew and James Hunter of Shasta. The first description simply described the corral as a lot behind J. Wiener's lot. The new deed added some detail: beginning at a point on Trinity corner about 50 feet from the south most corner of a lot owned by Wiener, running eastwardly along said avenue (Trinity Alley) 120 feet, thence at right angle with said avenue northwardly 70 feet to Hunter's Lot, thence westwardly 120 feet, thence southwardly 70 feet to the starting point. The deed was witnessed by H.A. Bently and an X for Matilda Maranda. Thomas W. Dawson was County Recorder, but it was recorded by George F. Alford, deputy.

General history discoveries:

We know from the first deed dated 24 January 1853 that Matilda Maranda purchased the Trinity House and Trinity House corral from Elizabeth Williams. An article in the *Sacramento Steamer Union* reports that on 13 April 1853, about daybreak, James Nolan, a gambler, and Alex Murdoch of Whiskeytown were engaged in a game of Monte at the Trinity House. Monte is a game where three or four cards are dealt face-up and players bet on which card will be matched first as cards from the rest of the deck are turned over one at a time. Murdoch noticing that Nolan pulled two cards, grabbed Nolan by the collar and attempted to secure the gambler's bank. A scuffle ensued with both parties breaking free. Murdoch "drew his revolver, cocked it and letting the muzzle hang down, threatened to shoot Nolan unless he delivered over the money won." Nolan having reached the bar reached over it and procured a pistol which he aimed at Murdoch's chest exclaiming, "you have drawn a pistol on me and threatened to shoot – now shoot and be damned." Nolan fired and struck Murdoch in the neck just above the collarbone killing him instantly. Sheriff Cozart (Corsant, Couzant, Corsaut), "residing near" and hearing the difficulty, got up from his bed and hurried to the scene, in time to arrest Nolan and place him under guard.

Murdoch was popular and soon miners from Whiskey Creek and other camps were crowding into Shasta and demanding that Nolan be surrendered. The sheriff resisted the mob's demands as long as it was safe to do so, then he relinquished Nolan into their hands. The mob formed a "jury" and held a "trial." Upon the finding of guilty Nolan was hung in Shasta at seven o'clock on the same day the killing took place.

The article provides a hint of the type of establishment the Trinity House had become and indicates that Sheriff Couzant was living on the property. The sale of the corral raises another question: corrals were normally an amenity for overnight hotel guests, so had the business changed to focus only on gambling and other "entertainment?"

Another set of articles run in the *Shasta Courier* in early September 1853, provided some information on the relationship between Thomas W. Dawson, who was the incumbent running for County Clerk, and David Corsaut, who the incumbent running for County Sheriff. Thomas W. Dawson forwarded a "card" (what we would today call a letter-to-the-editor) to the *Shasta Courier* with the instructions that the sheriff could read it before publication. Sheriff Corsaut replied with a similar card and the mudslinging began. Neither the initial card nor the replies provided much substance, but they did provide some insight into the individuals involved in Matilda's story. Dawson's initial card implied that the sheriff did not possess the qualifications indispensable to his office. The sheriff in return related that the Court of Sessions ordered the Clerk to report to the people the conditions of the finances of the county and the Clerk reported to the District Attorney that he "had not sufficient data upon which to give the information." A later comment cites, "Thomas W. Dawson, who holds some half a dozen offices by virtue of his office of County Clerk"while "David Corsaut, the Sheriff of Shasta County, who holds that office alone." What was insinuated in the card of Dawson was addressed at the end of Corsaut's Card: "Mr. Dawson had uttered foul, malicious slanders against my public conduct and private character. He has reported in various parts of the county that I was a public defaulter to Shasta County in the sum of five to eight thousand dollars-that I was not qualified to discharge the duties of the office of Shasta County Sheriff-that I was a man of bad character, and a common whore-house pimp." Corsaut continued that Dawson now denies making the charges and pronounced them false. In response Dawson stated publicly his

choice of candidate was W. A. Nunnally and ended with, "The sober decision of the public is all that I ask."

There was no restriction on the type of business in which a county officer could be engaged, but most offices required an official bond be filed with the treasurer. Many of the well-respected politicians such as Charles McDonald operated saloons. Prostitution was tolerated if not accepted as a legitimate business undertaking (it was not until 1872 that the California Penal Code addressed prostitution). In 1853 David Corsaut had divested himself of the Trinity House, but he still appears to be living on the premises in April 1853 and appears to be morally tarred as being connected to prostitution in September 1853. At the time of the "cards" the 1853 Shasta County election was in transition. First the office of Count Clerk held considerably more power as the office of County Clerk was combined with County Recorder and Auditor and by extension clerk to the Court of Sessions. The office of sheriff did not pick up substantial authority until the office was combined with tax-collector in 1868 (lasting to 1894). In 1853 the Court of Sessions consisted of the County Judge and two Justices of the Peace who had court duties over misdemeanors and administrative duties to manage county property and business affairs (lasting until 1855). In 1853 County Conventions provided slates of candidates but the atmosphere was super-charged with the nativist Know Nothing Party developing into the American Party, the Whigs splintering to add the Free-Soil Party, while the Northern Whigs were forming the new Republican Party, and the Democratic Party. Cliques, mud-slinging, and drunken brawls along political lines were a fact of life in the period. The mud-slinging of Dawson appears to have worked as W. A. Nunnally was elected the new County Sheriff in September 1853 and Thomas Dawson was re-elected County Clerk. Sheriff Corsaut reacted strenuously to being called a defaulter and it may have to do with the fact that the county had few resources. When California became a state a great majority of the land was federal property, and the money from the initial sales went to the Federal Receiver at the General Land Office. Once sold the land came under California tax control. In 1853 most of the income of the county was through fees and special taxes such as road taxes, taxes to vote, taxes to be exempted from militia service, and tax stamps on documents, steamer tickets, bills of lading, etc.

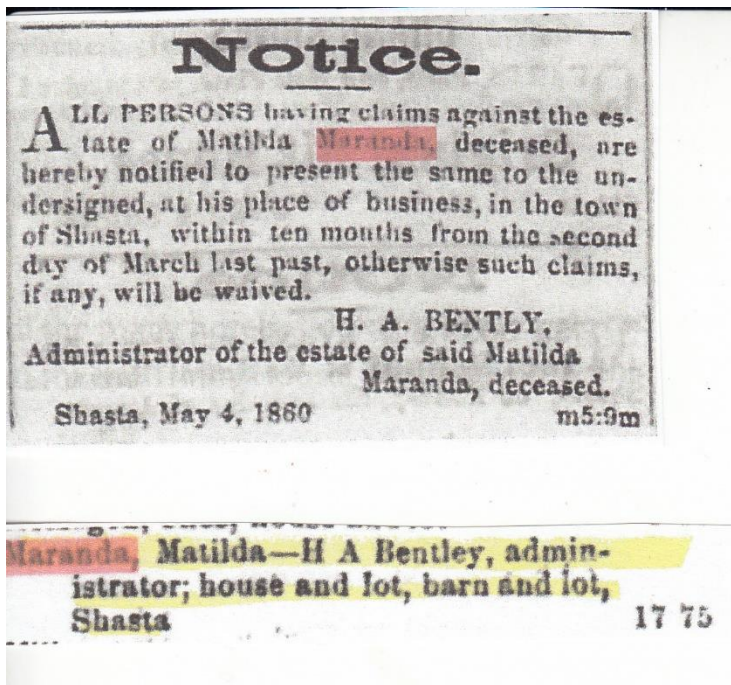
Individual discoveries:

Andrew and James Hunter: an August 13, 1853, notice in the Shasta Courier notes a stray horse with Spanish brands came to the Hunters Ranch on Cottonwood Creek. Another notice in the Shasta Courier dated April 8, 1854, cites a horse, saddle and bridle left at Hunter's Corral on February 24th 1854, will be sold at auction on April 15, 1854, if the owner does not come forward to pay the charges. The notice was made by A & P Hunter. In a notice from the Shasta Postmaster dated January 13, 1870, lists an uncollected letter for James Hunter.

J. Wiener: Jacob Abraham Wiener was born in Bavaria in 1823 and immigrated to the United States around 1844 as he was naturalized in New Orleans in 1849. By 1852 Jacob was in Sacramento where he married Sophie Honigsberger (born 1832 in Bavaria). The couple moved to Shasta and appeared to have a dry goods store on Trinity Alley. The Shasta Republican ran an advertisement in March 1856: "Wiener & Devega, Dealers in Dry Goods, Crockery, etc have removed their stock of goods from their old stand to Will's Fire Proof brick building next to

Tomlinson & Woods where they will be happy to wait on customers.” In March 1857 Jacob Wiener and B. Devege were founding members of the Shasta Hebrew Benevolent Association (Jacob was Vice President and Devege was Treasurer). Jacob was known to have three children: Albert 1855, Michael 1856, and Andrew 1859. By 1860 Jacob and the family had moved to Sacramento and in 1866 Jacob registered to vote in San Francisco as a retail jeweler.

H. A Bentley: was listed on page 9 in the 1852 California Census as being born about 1826 in New York and working as a blacksmith. Haskell Averill Bentley was the son of John E. Bentley 1794-1849 and Sophia Bissell 1792-1870. On the 1860 U.S. Census Haskell was listed as a livery born about 1820 in New York. In 1860 Haskell’s younger brother William Robbins Bentley born in New York in 1828 was also living in Shasta as a grocer but at a separate address.



The first notice was from the Shasta Courier for August 11, 1860, (note the name is BENTLY). The second notice was from the same newspaper dated December 1, 1860. The research indicates the possibility of a business relationship with Matilda operating the corral and barn as Haskell Bentley was

a blacksmith. A business relationship would have allowed Haskell to go before a probate judge and file as administrator for Matilda’s estate. In a family history Haskell is reported to have died in 1852, but the Shasta Courier reports the death of H. A. Dick Bentley on May 21, 1875, at age 55. Was there some reason the family wrote him out of their history?

Thomas W. Dawson: Thomas W. Dawson was a candidate for County Clerk in July 1853. It should be noted that between 1851 and 1860 the office of County Clerk was combined with County Recorder and County Auditor. The election of 1853 caused a full-page article in the Shasta Courier on September 3, 1853, about the mudslinging between Dawson and Sheriff Corsaut (called a pimp). In February 1854 Dawson was granted a leave of Absence. In October 1870 the Shasta Courier noted Dawson’s return from Texas.

George F. Alford: In February 1854 the California Legislature meeting in Benica granted a leave of absence to Thomas W. Dawson and throughout 1854 notices, deed, etc. continue to cite Dawson but countersigned by Geo. F. Alford. In the advertisement below, the Saint Charles Hotel is listed as owned by A. Grotefend, D. D. Harrill, and George A. Alford (probably as Grotefend & Company). In 1855 R.O. DeWitt & Alford were operating the St. Charles Hotel, but by agreement dated November 29, 1855, the partners provided a notice of dissolution. In the

spring of 1856 Grotefend tore down the wood frame hotel and built two brick store buildings. (R. O. DeWitt is Robert Oscar DeWitt who was born in 1832 in Kentucky. In 1850 Robert was listed as a tailor in Kentucky along with a brother John listed as a druggist. By 1861 Robert was living in Yreka where he was working as a druggist/apothecary and married to Sarah Isabelle Chase. Robert died in Yreka in 1884.)



The drawing is from an 1852 letter sheet showing various towns in northern California. The drawing shows the St. Charles Hotel on Main Street at the center of the right hand side of the road.

A. GROTEFEND. D. D. HARRILL. GEO. F. ALFORD.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.



THE PROPRIETORS of this well known and commodious Hotel, take this means of informing the Public that their entire establishment has been completely revised and thoroughly re-fitted, and their customers are assured that they are now prepared to receive them under more favorable circumstances than ever.— Extensive additions and improvements have been made to the sleeping department of the establishment, which is under the direction and charge of a Housekeeper whose reputation for cleanliness and neatness is a guarantee for the order in which it will be kept.

THE TABLE

Will at all times be provided with every substantial and delicacy the market can afford, and the BAR will be supplied with all kinds of

Superior Liquors, Cigars, &c..

The Sacramento and Marysville stages, and the passenger trains to and from Yreka and the Northern Mines, arrive and depart daily from this Hotel, rendering great convenience to the traveling public.

GROTEFEND & CO.
Sas a, Dec. 9, 1854. de161f

NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing under the name and firm of

CATEY & JONES,

Is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Either of the undersigned is authorized to collect accounts due the concern. All those having claims against the late firm are requested to hand in their accounts.

C. B. CATEY.
GEO. F. JONES.

July 20, 1854.

de15 31*

The 1854 advertisement seems to indicate that Grotefend & Company consisted of Karl August Grotefend (1824-1889), Drury D. Harrill (1809-1878; Postmaster at Shasta April 1853 to January 1854), and George F. Alford.

A note of thanks for Marilyn Rountree and Jo Giessner for participating in the challenge to find new material.

To Be Continued