

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.

Albertson Post Office

The Albertson Post Office was established in 1883 four miles west of Millville and ten miles east of Redding in what is now Palo Cedro. The post office was named for William Armstrong Albertson who first settled on Cow Creek in 1859. In 1882 he moved to the Palo Cedro area and built a blacksmith and wagon-making shop where the post office was later located. The post office was renamed Roberts in 1885 and Palo Cedro in 1893. William Albertson was the first Postmaster of Albertson and the second Postmaster of Roberts.



First post office in Palo Cedro (Albertson) being torn down.
Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Alfa Post Office

The Alfa Post Office was established in 1888 and located seven miles northwest of Glenburn (then Burgettville). Reportedly the post office was named for a major crop in the area, alfalfa but there is a second local story for the name. The first Postmaster was Alexander Clark Hill who reportedly named the post office after one of his daughters. Reportedly the name was modified

because there was an Alpha Post Office in Nevada County. Alpha A. Hill was born about 1866 in Oregon, but the Alpha Post Office had been closed since 1862. The Post Office Department may not have wanted to reissue the name thus requiring the modification. Alexander Hill had established a road, stage stop and store north of the Fall River Valley that quickly developed, even to having a newspaper, the Alfa Advance, for a short time. Competition from a different road caused the area to lose population and by 1895 the post office was moved three miles west to Dana.



Alfalfa fields near the Alfa Post Office. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Beegum Post Office

The Beegum Post Office was established in 1895 and located 10 miles southeast of Knob and forty-two miles northwest of Red Bluff. The site of the town had long been used as a crossing point of the trail from Red Bluff to Hayfork and on to the Trinity mines. Much of southwestern Shasta County was better served from Red Bluff rather than Cottonwood or Shasta. As quartz mining activities increased in western Shasta County, particularly around Harrison Gulch, the site became a stopping place for freight wagons before climbing through Goldboro Gulch. Franklin and Sarah Wolcott, the first postmaster, built a boarding house and blacksmith shop for freighters. The town that grew up at the site lined both sides of Beegum Creek that was the border line of Shasta and Tehama Counties. In 1900 the post office moved to the Tehama side of the town and remained there until the post office was closed in 1917 and operations moved to Knob.

Beegum is a colloquial name for a hollow gum tree in which wild bees hive. In the southeastern part of the country beehive and beegum became interchangeable. Locally it refers to a nearby peak honeycombed with holes that were inhabited by bees.



Wolcott's board house is in the upper portion of the picture and was destroyed in a fire in 1903. In the foreground is the stable and blacksmith shop. Courtesy of Jack Schneider.

Bell's Bridge Post Office

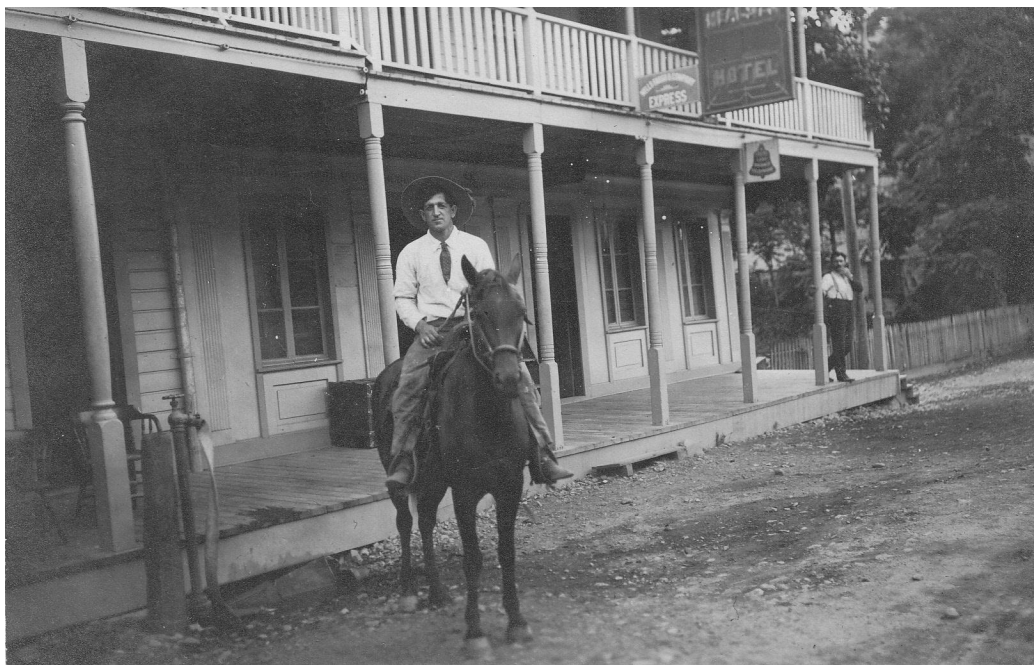
Bell's Bridge was founded in 1851 when Joseph Jones Bell established a ferry across Clear Creek on the route from Red Bluff to Shasta. The site was also the road junction leading to Horsetown and the Clear Creek diggings. Bell built a toll bridge on the site in 1853. The initial log house quickly became a stage and freight stop. In 1859 Bell purchased 1,338 acres from Pierson B. Reading and established a ranch. At the same time Bell built a three-story hotel with a dining room that increased the popularity of the stop. In 1870 a post office was established at Bell's Bridge with an office in "Bell's Mansion." The post office was discontinued in 1871 as local placer mining declined. In 1872 the California & Oregon Railroad coming north from Anderson passed through Bell's Ranch. Bell granted the railroad twenty-three acres upon which to build a siding (later named Girvan). The railroad revitalized the area and in 1873 the post office was reestablished and remained open until 1881 when services were moved to Redding. Not surprisingly Joseph Jones Bell was the first postmaster.



Bell's Mansion site of the Bell's Bridge Post Office. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society

The articles for October 2022 are: 1) Russel Keton Bassham, 2) Rosaline N. Bell, 3) Charles Boell, 4) Mary Elizabeth Burdick, 5) Brigham Leighton Letter, 6) Herman Emile Anton Giessner, and 7) Matilda Miranda Part II.

Russell Kenton Bassham



Russell K. Bassham in front of the hotel in French Gulch. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Russell Kenton Bassham was born in 1899 either in French Gulch or Bayles in Shasta County. Russel was the son of Francis "Frank" Alva Bassham 1858-1945 and Nancy J. Sevedge 1856-1925. In 1900 and 1910 Russell's father was a teamster at French Gulch so Russel grew up around horses. In 1918 Russell registered for the draft in Trinity County as farming for himself. In 1920 Francis and Russell were farming in Trinity Center, Trinity County. Russell married Winifred Helen Westmoreland 1905-1992 in Cali, Columbia in 1926. In 1930 Russell was listed as a packer for tourists and a rancher at Trinity Center. On the 1940 U. S. Census Russell was listed as a miner at Trinity Center with two children: Hazel 1934-1996 and Donald R. 1936-1990. In 1942 Russell registered for the World War II draft as a miner at the Washington Mine in French Gulch. Russell died in French Gulch in 1980 and Winifred followed in 1992.

Rosaline N. Bell



Candidate card for Roseline N. Bell for the 1898 election. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Rosaline N. Bell was born in 1871 in Missouri. Rosaline was the daughter of Edmund Bell 1838-1889 and Mary "Minnie" Nancy Adair 1836-1924. In 1880 the family was living in Ophir, Colorado where her father was a gold miner and teamster. The family still resided at Ophir for the 1885 Colorado Census but must have moved to Ono shortly afterwards as Edmund died

there in 1889. In 1894 Rosaline was teaching at the Eastside Grammar School in Redding. In 1898 Roseline unsuccessfully ran for Superintendent of Schools on the Regular People's Party (they appear to be part of the Popularist Party founded in 1892 and dissolved by 1909). In 1900 Rosaline was teaching at Shasta. Rosaline never married and died at the age of 31 in 1902. Rosaline's mother Mary Bell remained in Shasta County until she died in 1924.

Rosaline's three sisters, Jennie B. 1865-1914, Margaret Ella 1874-1952 and Ruth B. 1879-1914 were all Shasta County residents. Jennie married Jesse A. Bell in 1896 in Colorado, while Margaret Ella married Bruce Richard Ross in Shasta County in 1907. Ruth married Louis Lorenz Garrecht in 1899.



Rose Bell. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

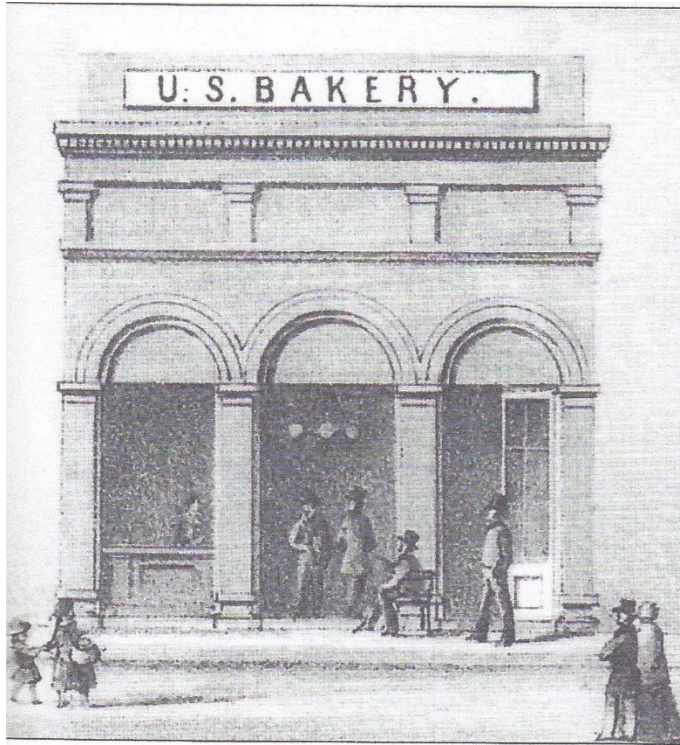
Charles Boell



Portrait of Charles Boell taken at the Imperial Gallery in San Francisco. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Charles Boell was born in the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1816 and had to have immigrated by 1852 as he was naturalized in the Shasta County District Court in 1856. Charles was trained as a baker and in 1865 purchased J. Henry Spatz's lot in Shasta. Charles built the U. S. Bakery and for a few years was partners with Henry Blumb. The U. S. Bakery was also a saloon that sold wine, brandies, and liquors but at the same time was respectable enough to attract older women especially on Sunday after church. The partnership dissolved in 1875 with Blumb establishing a new bakery. In 1878 the U. S. Bakery was severely damaged by fire and Charles sold the lot to Henry Blumb. Charles purchased the Garrecht Saloon where he operated a bakery until his death.

In 1870 Charles was listed as a saloonkeeper in Shasta and married to Angelica born in 1825 in the Grand Duchy of Hesse. Angelica's maiden name was probably Laux and she was believed to have been married to Henry Zorn who died in Shasta in 1868. Angelica was listed as an oil, paint and glass merchant in Shasta in the 1867 Pacific Coast Directory. Angelica may have been divorced as she married Charles in 1867. Angelica had three daughters: Celina 1855-1945, Clara Augusta 1856-1943, and Clementina born in 1860. Charles died in Shasta in 1880 and Angelica followed in 1889.



Mary Elizabeth Burdick



Portrait of Mary Elizabeth Burdick taken by John C. Franklin who operated in Shasta County from 1890 to 1893. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Mary Elizabeth Edwards was born in 1872 in Missouri. Her father Jesse Melvin Edwards 1847-1914 was a veteran of Company A, 50th Illinois Volunteer Regiment from January 1864 to July 1865. While Jesse was a member of the 50th Illinois he served in Sherman's March Through Georgia then the Carolina Campaign. After the Civil War Jesse returned to Illinois where he married Rachel C. Jones (1847-1926) in 1867 before moving to Missouri. Jesse was listed as a farmer in Missouri until 1888 when he brought the family across the plains in a covered wagon. By 1894 Jesse was farming in Modoc County. In May 1894 Mary married George Henry Burdick. George who preferred to be called Henry was born in 1869 in Rhode Island. George was the son of Clark Burdick 1821-1886 and Mercy Ann Burdick 1838-1902. It is not known why George came west but he is first noted in Shasta County in the Voter Registration of 1890 where he was listed as a cook in Redding. In the U. S. Census for 1900, 1910 and 1920 George was listed as a restaurant cook and a hotel cook. Henry was known to have cooked at the Temple Hotel on Market Street with his brother-in-law William F. Edwards and at the Golden Eagle Hotel on Yuba Street. Henry worked at the Grotto Restaurant in 1891, Burdick's in the

Louve Saloon in 1902, the Black Diamond Saloon in Kennett in 1915, as well as working in Herault in 1918, and the Algomah Lumber camp near Klamath Falls in 1919. George died from a severe heart condition in Redding in 1921.

George and Mary were known to have five children: Ruth Ann (married Randall John Craner Presleigh), Clara B. 1897 (married Glenn South), Jesse Elisha 1904 (married Melba J. Bloxham), and twins Janette "Nettie" 1907 (married a Brinkeroff) and Henrietta who died as an infant. When George died, Mary converted their house on the corner of Market and Sacramento Streets into a boarding house and cared for her aunt Anna E. O'Neil for five years (the wife of Josiah O'Neil a lawyer at Millville). In 1927 Marry received guardianship over her nephew Ora Stephenson. In the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s Mary made her home with her daughter Ruth A. Presleigh who went to work at the County Clerk's Office in 1928 and was County Clerk from 1939 until her death in 1957 (Ruth's son Randall was a District Attorney for Shasta County). Mary died in 1961.



The City Hotel on the corner of Tehama Street in Redding. The two men in chef's attire are Mr. Edwards on the left and George Burdick on the right. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Henry's 1891 advertisement in the Redding Free Press.

Brigham Leighton Letter

WELL TRIED AND CHOICE VARIETIES.

A Clean, Healthy Stock,

TRUE TO NAME.

PRICES LOW.

Shasta County Nursery,

Located Six Miles East of Redding.

B. LEIGHTON, Proprietor.

Leighton P. O., Cal., Oct 12 1890

J. H. Settlement's
Woodburn Or-

Dear Sir -

Please quote me
your lowest trade prices for French
prune, peach and Bartlett pear trees. F.O.B.
by the thousand in 10 ~~th~~ lots assorted
and oblige

Yours truly
B. Leighton

N.B. Please mention size and age of trees.

The Leighton family connection with Shasta County begins with Leon Leighton born in Vermont in 1855. He was the son of Lott Brigham Leighton born about 1826 in Vermont and Isadore Fish born about 1832 in Vermont (daughter of Jonathan Fish 1782-1854). In 1878 Leon started for Shasta County, California where his uncle Franklin Washington Fish (born 1836 Vermont; Isadore's brother) had started a farm. F. W. Fish was registered in 1871 as a farmer in Castoria, San Joaquin County, then in 1872 in Merced County. Franklin Washington Fish registered as a farmer at Buckeye in 1879. Leon registered to vote in 1878 as a teacher in Stillwater. In 1880 Leon was living with his uncle's family and taught school as well as farming for his uncle. Leon first taught at Stillwater Creek but later taught at Igo, Union, Bass, Pine Grove, and Inwood.

Late in 1882 Leon purchased Loomis Corners Farm (Homer Loomis) at Stillwater and wrote to his brother Brigham who was living on his parent's farm in Webster County, Iowa to come to California and run the farm while he taught school. Brigham born in 1860 in Massachusetts had just married Alice Almeda Altizer (born 1864 in Wisconsin) in October 1880, and they had just had a son Harley Brigham born in 1881. The newborn delayed the trip, so it was not until May 1883 that the family left for California. The family reached Loomis Corners in time for the birth of their second child Earnest Eli in August 1883.

Brigham's wife Alice died in 1886 at the age of twenty-two leaving him with two children. Brigham married Amelia "Minnie" Crosby (born 1865 in Nova Scotia, Canada) in Redding in 1887. Brigham purchased 160 acres south of Old Alturas Road in the Salmon Creek Road area. The farm became widely known for its orchards and raising nursery stock. Leighton Brothers apples were featured at the 1889 and 1902 County Fair. In 1889 he was cited for experimenting with brome grasses. In 1892 Brigham was listed as residing at Dryden in the area of the Leighton Post Office. Brigham and Minnie had four children: Charles H. 1888, Lloyd William 1892, Clyde C. 1895, and Royle Lott 1900.

In 1889 a 4th Class Post Office was established five miles north of Roberts and six miles east of Redding and named in honor of Leon and Brigham Leighton. The Post Office was discontinued in 1894 and mail was moved to Redding. In 1891 Leon's wife Ida M. Leighton was Postmaster.

In 1910 Brigham moved the family to Gilroy in Santa Clara County to farm but by 1920 had moved to Ceres in Stanislaus County. Minnie died in 1928 and Brigham was living with his youngest child, Royale in the 1930 U.S. Census. Brigham died in Stanislaus County in 1936.

Brigham and Alice's two children: Harley B. born 1881 in Iowa and Earnest E. born 1883 in Shasta County both remained in Shasta County. Harley received a 160-acre homestead patent in 1890 in section 10 Township 32 North Range 4 West MDM. Harley died in Redding in 1964. Earnest farmed forty acres on Salmon Creek Road. Earnest married Sarah Emma Fleming born in 1891 in the Cherokee Strip of the Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). Earnest was a constable from 1918 to 1938. Earnest died in 1974 in Redding. Brigham and Amelia's four children Charles all made the move to Santa Clara where Clyde died in 1907. The remaining three children moved to Stanislaus County and did not return to Shasta County. Charles married Electra Gwendolyn Pepperdine and had three children: Charles R. 1915, Dorothy 1919, and Mary Jan 1922. Charles died in Santa Clara County in 1921. Lloyd married Wenonah Gladys Ackley and had three children: Lloyd Gordon 1918, Gladys Geraldine 1920, and Francis Eugene 1923. Lloyd

died in 1976. Royle married Cecilia Emminger and had two children: Royle James 1931 and Donald Edward 1932. Royle died in 1973.

Leon was teaching at Stillwater in 1878-1879 and at Buckeye in 1885. Marriage must have been in the air in the fall of 1887 as the two brothers married two sisters. Brigham married Amelia "Minnie" Crosby in September 1887 and Leon married Ida May Crosby (born 1863 in Nova Scotia, Canada) in December 1887. After marriage Leon appears to have focused on farming. In 1896 Leon was listed in the Dryden Precinct. By 1910 Leon had moved his small family to Stanislaus County where he was later joined by his brother. In 1920 Ida May died. Ida and Leon's only child, May Jeanette who married Bertram Arnold Storer in 1912, had her husband die in 1924. In 1930 Leon was living with May Jeanette and her children and in 1940 Leon was living with his nephew Royle. Leon died in 1941.

Hermann Emile Anton Giessner

by JoLoree Giessner
July 2022

Hermann Emile Anton Giessner was born at the Maier & Zobelein Brewery in Los Angeles on 22 May 1887, to August Wilhelm Giessner and Katherine Belohlavek Giessner. Younger brother, Maximilian Otto Giessner would arrive in January 1889, about a year before the family relocated to northern California and the colony of Cassel, named for Kassel, Germany. Their mother died in 1892. A.W. married Bertha Wagner on 16 November 1893, giving his young sons a stepmother.

Soon after the marriage, A.W. purchased grazing land from Bertha's brother. This was out of Burney Valley on the old road to Whitmore. Hermann spent from April 15 to Sept 15 during the years 1900 to 1904 there overseeing the livestock. He was just 13 years old. When not working, he attended Hat Creek School at Cassel obtaining an 8th grade education.

At seventeen, not seeing a way for the further education he desired, he left home and hired on with Cox and Clark, the large northern cattle company of Lassen and Modoc counties. He located in Big Valley, near the town of Bieber. He was the driver of the horse-drawn camp wagon, prepared meals and supplied campfire fuels.

Having heard the tales of oil industry work and big money, he later found his way south and the oil rigs of Fresno County. His address in 1910, was Fresno, California. From there he even went to Oklahoma and considered relocating there for oil work.

A.W. wrote to Hermann often, especially during his long illness, regarding business affairs and health matters. He strongly encouraged him to come home and take over the creamery he had purchased from partners in 1913. August W. Giessner died on 14 August 1914. Martin Karpe (1884-1950), son-in-law, had been running the creamery. Hermann took over in September 1914 and obtained the deed of ownership with the settlement of the estate in April 1915.

Hermann's 1914 return to Cassel and the Creamery brought busy times for him. He fell in love with Johanna Clara Haynes, known to all as Annie, sister of his brother Otto's wife, Eva Ruth Haynes. The couple married at the Temple Hotel in Redding, 11 June 1915, followed by a reception of friends and family at their Cassel Creamery home.

A disruption to dairy farmers and the creamery was the eruption of Lassen Peak: "The Cassel creamery, located at the bottom of Hat Creek valley, just on the outer verge of the mud flow of Friday is running, but all water has to be hauled from a spring a mile away..." --Searchlight, May 26, 1915.

The couple's firstborn, a son, died in 1916, however, in 1918, Leroy Herman (1918-2006) arrived a healthy baby. Katherine Johanna was born in 1921, in Breckenridge, Texas. The Oil fields had again lured Hermann to that type of work and the money.

Another daughter, Bettie Mae arrived in 1922 in Long Beach, California, as Hermann located back in California but still in the oil industry.

Then Cassel became a bustling community with the building of Hat 1 and Hat 2 power plants in 1920-21, Pit 1 in 1922, and with more Pit River work to be done, he thought the country air, being near family and good business would be a change for the better.

The *Searchlight* ran a story on 1 June 1923: "CREAMERY AT CASSEL IS TO BE STARTED UP – Herman Giessner Back at His Old Post and Will Make Things Hum – Cassel, May 21—The Cassel Creamery, which has been closed for four years, is to be reopened right away by the original proprietor, Herman Giessner. He has been away in the oil fields for a few years, but he has come back here to stay and to run the creamery as of old.

The creamery is well located in a good dairying region. The climate is just right for butter making and handling cream products. The market is right at hand, for the Pacific Gas and Electric employing so many men at Pit No 3 and in camps nearby makes a heavy local demand. Giessner will ship butter, ice cream and cream to outside points, for he an ice making machine in connection with his creamery.

With dairymen in this part of the county shipping cream to San Francisco, it is reasonable to expect that it will be greatly to their advantage to market their milk and cream almost at their doors.

Running the creamery will be no experiment with Herman Giessner, for he ran it successfully as long as he ran it. The only reason he quit was because he thought he could make a million or two more easily in the oil fields. He is now satisfied to come back here, stay on his farm, and run the creamery. Giessner is a rustler and a hard worker."

The startup was not without problems, there was a fire in the creamery building and equipment had to be repaired, updated, and approved. Hermann persevered but only for a few years.

Searchlight, Aug. 4, 1923: "CASSEL CREAMERY REBUILT AND ONCE MORE IN OPERATION – Herman Giessner has Rebuilt Plant destroyed recently by Fire – Herman Giessner has rebuilt the creamery that was destroyed by fire two months ago. The new plant is in operation and will be of great service to the farmers of Hat Creek Valley and other nearby regions.

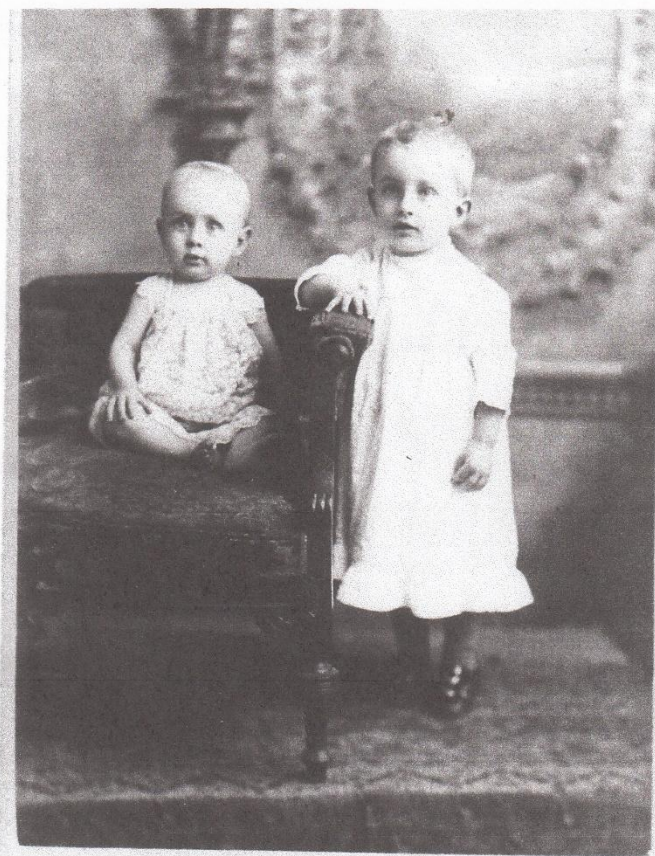
Giessner makes not only butter, but ice cream and ice as well. He is no novice at the business, for he has had years of experience. He is prepared to pay the highest market price for milk and cream and to turn out manufactured products of the highest quality, either wholesale or retail."

While Hermann was working long hours and traveling for sales and product delivery, Annie was busy keeping house, helping with the creamery, and raising the children. William Richard (1924-2006) was born at Cassel. Nearby sisters, Bessie and Eva helped when they could. The stress and strain on the entire family was building. Hermann missed the oil industry and always in the forefront of Annie's mind was education opportunities for their children.

By 1926, the family was back in Long Beach. It is unclear if someone else tried to make a go of the Cassel Creamery, but it was soon closed forever. The property remained in the family another generation, with William handing it down to his son, Richard, before it was sold.

Hermann died 20 November 1969 in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California, having continued working in the oil industry until he just couldn't work any longer. He is buried in the Burney District Cemetery. The couple had lost another son in 1926 in Long Beach and sometime along their lives had separated and then divorced. Annie returned to a little house in Burney for many years and died at Mayer's Memorial Hospital on 3 August 1992. She enjoyed traveling and visiting her children and grandchildren before she too gave in to old age. Annie is buried in the Burney District Cemetery.

The four surviving children, Leroy (1918-2006), Katherine, (1921-2011) Bettie (1922-2009) and William (1924-2006) went on to obtain college educations, military, careers, city-lives, and families of their own. LeRoy spent his life in New York and Connecticut, while Katherine, Bettie and William remained in California.



Wesner,

21 West First St.,
Los Angeles, California.

Giessner Brothers

abt. 1889 before leaving
Los Angeles for Cassel.

Sitting: Maximilian Otto Giessner b: Jan 28, 1889

standing: Hermann Emile Anton Giessner
b May 22, 1887

born @ Maier & Zobelstein Brewery
in LA

"Otto" my Grandfather

- Jo Loree Giessner



Hermann Emile Anton GIESSNER

Johanna Clara Haynes

married 11 June 1915

Redding, CA

1st home

Cassel CA



Rebuilt after fire
"New" 1923

Original Cassel Creamery
building built about 1911.



1924 @ Cassel

Annie holding William "Bill"
Hermann

front: LeRoy, Katherine, Bettie

TWO POUNDS

NET WEIGHT

Chis Butter
Is Churned From
Purest Cream

and in this Package will retain its Purity and Sweetness

CASSEL, CALIF.

H. GEISSNER

From the Famous
Hat Creek Section

Cassel
Creamery Butter

Pasteurized

Cassel
Creamery
Butter



(Unknown)

Hermann
Giessner

later years
So. Cal
oil
industry

Matilda Maranda: Part 2

Who was the first woman in Shasta?

The initial segment of Matilda Maranda's story was presented in September 2022. The article led to the discovery of five deeds in the County Recorder's office that expanded the initial story of both Miranda and the town of Shasta. In reviewing the first deed it was immediately clear that to do the five deeds justice they would need to be presented in segments as most of the participants were at best little known. We would like to make the research a challenge: we will place our monthly research out for review and readers can respond to fill in portions or correct misconceptions.

The first deed is dated 24 January 1853, in which Elizabeth Williams sold the Trinity House to Matilda Maranda for \$2700. The property was described as being located on Main Street adjacent to a saddle shop currently occupied by "a French lady as a saloon." The lot appears to have an 80-foot front on Main Street and be 130 feet on the west side, 80 feet in the rear, and 160 feet on the east side. The deed also included a corral on the northeast side of the ally directly in the rear of a lot owned by J. Wiener and known as the Trinity House Corral. Elizabeth Williams pledged to defend the title as it was granted from Bridget Jackey on 10 February 1852, and as conveyed to her on 13 July 1852, by David Constant, sheriff through deputy William Bonifield. The deed was notarized by Homer Curtis and recorded by Thomas W. Dawson. Matilda did not sign the deed: she had been born in Chile about 1828 and we know from subsequent deeds she could not write as she always used an X with a witness.

We started our search with Bridget Jackey who sold the Trinity House in February 1852. There was a comment in the Images of America Old Shasta that "by 1853 there were over 200 women in town. The first women in the tiny town was reported to be an unnamed female imported by the owners of the Trinity Hotel to keep and manage the house." (In 1852 there were 208 women on the census roll and 147 female children of varying ages but in 1850 there were only four women.) In 1850 the U.S. Census listed Bridget Jackey and three others: Elizabeth Lean age 22 no occupation born in New Jersey listed with a daughter May who was less than a year old, Harriet Johnson 29 with her husband and two minor female children born in Pennsylvania, and Nancy Miller age 25 with no occupation given born in Tennessee.

In 1860 Elizabeth Lean was still in Shasta County married to William Lean a farmer born in England about 1825 who was farming at Cottonwood. Elizabeth had three children: May born about 1853, William born about 1855, and Joseph born about 1857. William seems to be a partner with J. R. Lassiter in establishing Lean's Ferry across Cottonwood Creek in 1852 and built the Olive Branch Hotel and Tavern in 1853.

Harriet Johnson was married to a Shasta landlord, B. H. Johnson in 1850 with son George 15 born in New York, daughter Margaret age 9 born in Illinois and a daughter Mary Ann age 6 born in Illinois. In 1852 B.H. Johnson was ranching in Siskiyou County with his family, except George. In 1860 B. H. Johnson had returned to Illinois with his family and was operating a hotel.

Nothing was found on Nancy Miller or her children Henry age 6, James age 4, and Louisa age 2 all born in what appears to be Missouri but stated as Massachusetts. In the 1850 census Nancy and her children were in the same residence as Charles A. Grotefend, but no other connection was found.

Bridget Jacquett age 30, born in Ireland, was in Shasta for the 1850 U.S. Census performed in October 1850. Bridget was listed with Lewis age 5 born in South Australia and Richard age 2 born in South Australia. In the 1852 California Census Bridget Jacky was listed as 31 (born about 1821) in Ireland, working as a seamstress, with two male children C. Jacky age 9 and B. Jacky age 4. What is telling is the 1852 census provided a section for previous residence and for Bridget it was Australia. The residence was South Australia which was the only state not to receive convict labor (the first settlement was 1836). Bridget was still in Australia in 1848 and had been there since about 1843 or before and was not a convict fleeing a sentence. A search for the history of Bridget was negative except for a note that the *Daily Alta California* newspaper reported she had died on July 15 in Shasta. The Shasta Probate record for the Estate of Bridget Jackey (35-E) confirms Bridget died between 1853-1855.

If the first woman in Shasta was imported to work at the Trinity House, I think we can rule out Elizabeth Lean and Harriet Johnson who came with their husbands to raise families rather than entering into a new occupation. It is true that the first woman in Shasta could have simply not responded to the census or departed prior to the census but there are indications to discount this possibility. A note cites that David Couzant 21 born Canada and William Bennifield 31 VA miner built the Trinity House in the summer of 1850. In the 1850 census David and William are listed just three entries above Bridget.

Another history note cites that in 1851 the Trinity House was used as a temporary jail with 8 prisoners awaiting trial on the second floor (until April 1854 when a jail was constructed prisoners were placed in irons and a keeper or the sheriff paid to guard them, while boarding them out). The Shasta County Sheriff was listed as David Corsaut who from every indication is David Couzant and the builder of the Trinity House. David served from October 1850 to 1851 and April 1853 to 1854. It seems very likely that he would house prisoners in his own establishment. Until the Court of Sessions authorized the construction of a courthouse in January 1854, court was listed as being held in hotels and gambling establishments. Prior to August 1851 the Court of Sessions rented a court room from D. Corsant & Company. Could the Trinity House have been the site of the court, especially as the prisoners were upstairs? (Note the first permanent courthouse was a log building on the west side of High Street, roughly behind where the Litsch Store is today. It was not until 1861 that part of the Loag building was purchased (the current Courthouse Museum).

There definitely is a connection between Bridget Jackey (Jacquett), David Couzant (Corsaut, Corsant), William Bennifield (Bennifield), and the Trinity House but the deed raises three questions: 1) was Bridget Jackey the woman imported by the first owners of the Trinity House, 2) did she purchase the Trinity House on a mortgage in February 1852, and 3) was there an action in foreclosure necessitating a Sheriff's sale that resulted in the transfer of July 1852? Bridget Jackey may have been "imported" from South Australia with the first owner, possibly Couzant, paying the transportation. It also indicates that Bridget may have failed to complete the contract or mortgage due to illness (the census was accomplished on July 16, 1852, so her death was most likely July 15, 1853). An action for foreclosure would have resulted in a court ordered sale carried out by the Sheriff with the debt paid in this case to himself. Anyone care to go to the records office of the Shasta County Superior Court and apply to read what Probate file 35-E has to say?

It might help readers if we provide a location for the Trinity House using the Shasta Historic State Park map below as it has a north south orientation. The Trinity House was in the corner of Main Street (Highway 299 on the Map) and Trinity Alley roughly where the Empire Hotel is marked on the map. The Trinity House Corral was northeast, so it was probably on the opposite side of Trinity Alley.



Data on others mentioned in the deed: on the 1852 California Census accomplished in July 1852 Matilda Maranda was on Page 7 Line 29, while on Line 24 was what looked like Rose Garvind (Gavand), a hotel keeper from France, and on Line 30 to 32 J. Calahan 40, a merchant born in Ireland, Miss Ann Calahan 20 born in Ireland, Daniel Calahan age 6 born in Mississippi, and J. Calahan age 3 born in Mississippi. All four of the Calahan family had previously lived in Mississippi. Also listed on Page 7 were Joseph Isaacs, A. L. Downer, J.G Doll, and S. Soloman so Matilda was in prominent company. Bridgett Jackey and her two children was ten pages further

back, but the next two lines after Bridget's entry were J. Callahan 32, merchant, born in Ireland, and A. Callahan 28, merchant born in Ireland, with both previously living in Mississippi. In an article on the fire of June 14, 1853, the following businesses on Main Street were listed together Madam Gavand's Restaurant, Trinity House, Jane's House, and Callahan's dwelling House and all were destroyed.

Elizabeth Williams: no Elizabeth Williams was found in the 1850 U.S. Census or 1852 California State Census.

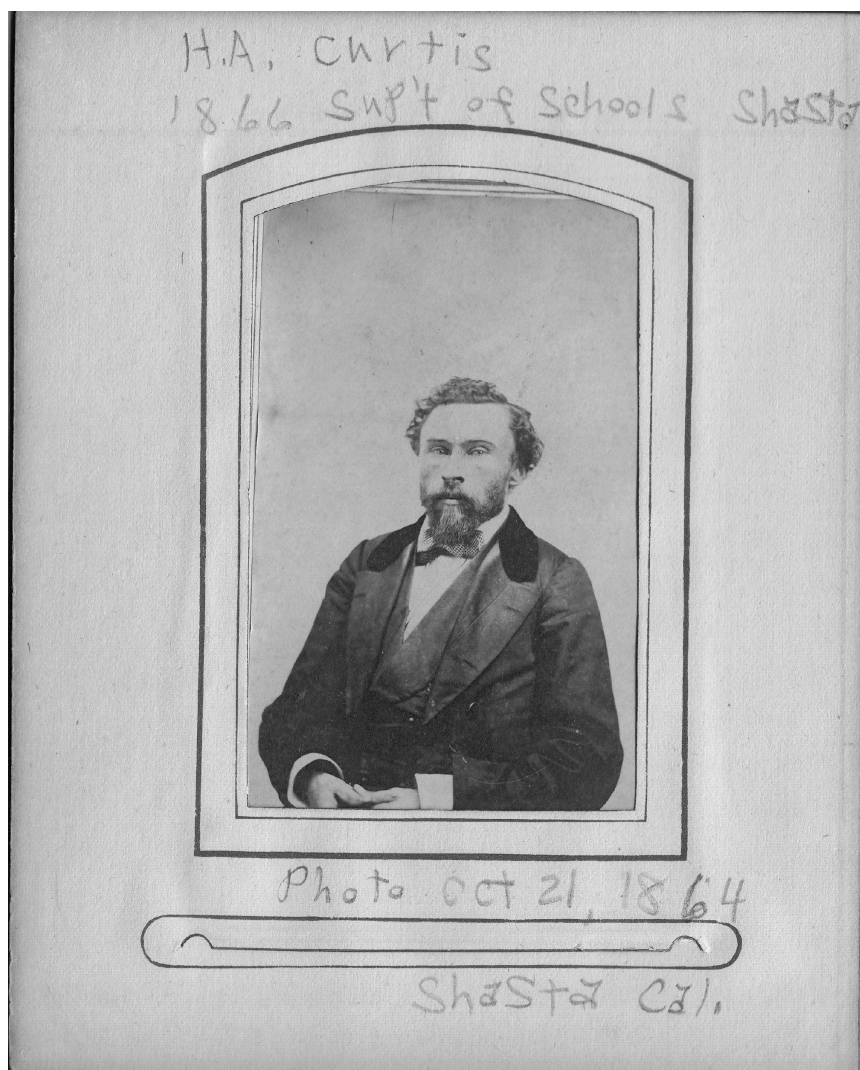
J. Wiener appears to be Jacob Wiener (Weiner) one of the early Jewish merchants in Shasta who was a dry goods dealer. In 1856 he was part of Wiener & Davega and later the vice president of the Shasta Hebrew Benevolent Association.

The French lady operating a saloon was Rose Garvind (Gavand). In 1853 she operated Madam Gavand's Restaurant and was married to a miner, possibly Harry also born in France. We received a comment that the Madam's husband died, and she started a hotel at Middletown (Centerville), but no proof was found.

David Corsant: in 1850 he was listed as David Couzant born about 1829 in Canada. In 1851 D. Corsant & Co. rented a court room to the Court of Sessions and he was believed to have operated a store in Shasta in 1851-2. In the summer of 1850, he reportedly built the Trinity House with William Bennifield. David is variously listed as Sherriff from 1850-1851 & 1853-1854 (Michael Oppenheimer served from 1851-1853).

William Benifield: in the 1850 census he was born about 1819 in Virginia and listed as a miner (next to David Couzant). Reportedly in the summer of 1850, W. S. Bonfield and David Casanant built the two-story frame building, the Trinity House. In 1853 William was a Deputy Sheriff under David Corsant.

Homer A. Curtis was born in New York about 1825. Homer was trained as a lawyer and was in Shasta County by 1851 when he was elected as District Attorney serving until 1852. Homer was listed as a Notary Public in 1853. From 1856 to 1858 Homer was the Superintendent of Schools. Homer was Justice of the Peace in Shasta in 1858 and in the 1860 U. S. Census he was listed as an unmarried lawyer. Homer again served as District Attorney from 1864 to 1866. Homer was not listed in the 1870 U. S. Census and was believed to have returned to New York where he married and had a son born in 1872.



Portrait of Homer A. Curtis from the Litsch album. The photograph was reportedly taken on October 21, 1864. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

Thomas W. Dawson: nothing was found other than he was listed as County Recorder in 1852-1854 and 1854-1856.

TO BE CONTINUED