

RENAISSANCE  
VINEYARD & WINERY INCORPORATED

November 2, 1984

Mr. Richard Mascolo  
Chief, FAA Wine and Beer Branch  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 6237  
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Mascolo,

Enclosed you will find our petition to establish NORTH YUBA as an American Viticultural Area. The complete U.S.G.S. maps are being sent under separate cover. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at the address and telephone below.

We look forward to the acceptance of our application.

Sincerely,



James R. Bryant  
Treasurer

JRB:ns

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF  
THE NORTH YUBA VITICULTURAL AREA

Made to the

DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D. C. 20226

November 1, 1984

CONTENTS

Petition. . . . .	1
Footnotes. . . . .	8
Maps. . . . .	10
Appendices	
Appendix A. . . . .	13
Appendix B. . . . .	16
Appendix C. . . . .	24
Appendix D. . . . .	33
U.S.G.S. Maps. . . . .	36

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
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Date: November 1, 1984

To: Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20226

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This is a petition to establish NORTH YUBA as an American viticultural area in accordance with Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 4 (labeling), and, in particular, with Section 4.25a. In support of this petition, we submit the following information.

I. EVIDENCE THAT THE NAME OF THE VITICULTURAL AREA IS LOCALLY AND/OR NATIONALLY KNOWN AS REFERRING TO THE AREA SPECIFIED IN THE PETITION:

NORTH YUBA is the name locally known as referring to the area in Yuba County, California, which is specified in this application. This is the name used by Pacific Bell Telephone to designate this area, which includes the communities of Dobbins, Renaissance and Oregon House.

In addition, please see Appendix A for letters from the Yuba County Sheriff, Robert R. Day, and from the president of the Greater Marysville-Yuba City Chamber of Commerce, Robert C. Epley confirming local usage and acceptance of the name NORTH YUBA as pertaining to the area specified in the petition.

II. HISTORICAL OR CURRENT EVIDENCE THAT THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VITICULTURAL AREA ARE AS SPECIFIED IN THE APPLICATION:

NORTH YUBA was a strong participant in California's first "wine boom" in the 1850's and 1860's and in subsequent early viticultural development, and nineteenth century township maps show the location of ranches where extensive grape-growing and winemaking was carried out within the boundaries of the proposed viticultural area. Indeed, the very name Yuba is derived from the Spanish word for grape.(1) For documentation of this historical development of viticulture in NORTH YUBA, please refer to Appendix B.

As for the delineation of precise boundaries for NORTH YUBA, historical evidence is inadequate. In fact, although the area has long been known by this name, until now no one has been motivated to establish exact, formal boundaries. Therefore, for the purposes of this petition, we have taken into account, in addition to the historical evidence and customs of usage, the combined factors of elevation, temperature, rainfall and soil types to determine and define boundaries for the viticultural area which clearly distinguish it from the surrounding region. These factors are considered in detail in Part III of this petition.

The letters from local authorities, which confirm the usage of the name NORTH YUBA for Part I of this petition, also confirm that the boundaries of the proposed viticultural area are as specified and as described in detail in Part IV.

III. EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES (CLIMATE, SOIL, ELEVATION, PHYSICAL FEATURES, AND THE LIKE) WHICH DISTINGUISH THE VITICULTURAL FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED AREA FROM SURROUNDING AREAS:

The 16,000 acre area of NORTH YUBA ranges in elevation from about 1500 to 2500 feet. Lying between the high Sierras to the east and the Sacramento Valley to the west, NORTH YUBA's borders define a region uniquely suited to viticulture: the area escapes both the early frosts and snow of the higher elevations, and the heat and mold-inducing fogs (2) of the lowlands. The seven-mile North-South extent of the region is similarly defined by rising elevations and colder climate to the North and by the lower areas along the river to the South.

Temperature data collected at Renaissance Vineyard over the past nine years shows that NORTH YUBA's growing season is distinctly cooler than the neighboring valley and warmer than the adjacent mountains. Another characteristic of NORTH YUBA's climate is the cool summer night temperatures, often dropping 30 degrees from daytime highs, allowing the region's grapes to retain sufficient acidity to balance the high sugar levels induced by California sunshine.

Similarly, rainfall data shows NORTH YUBA as a distinct region. According to U.S. Weather Bureau information (3) the mean annual precipitation at Dobbins-Colgate weather station is 40.4 inches, compared to 61.9 inches at the Camptonville station to the east and 20.7 inches at

Marysville to the west. The map of mean annual precipitation dramatically distinguishes the NORTH YUBA area from surrounding areas (Map 1). NORTH YUBA's geography also ensures appropriate ventilation for viticulture, an important factor in the prevention of bunch rot. The foothill winds are an additional cooling factor in summer, contributing further to the development of proper acidity in the area's grapes. These cooling winds are distinguished from those of the valley to the west;

The prevailing southwesterly winds in the valley are due to the north-south orientation and heating of the Sacramento Valley, which deflects the westerly winds coming through the Carquinez Straits northward. At higher elevations, however, the winds conform more closely with the free flowing westerly winds over northern California (4).

The soils of the NORTH YUBA area are generally not sufficiently fertile for most types of agriculture, and today -- except for the 360 acres of Renaissance Vineyard -- the area's land is used mostly for livestock, lumbering and recreation. However, the noble, light-yielding vinifera grape varieties thrive where most other types of agriculture are inappropriate, as evidenced by the many famous vineyards of Europe which are located on steep slopes with lean or stony soils. Consequently, yields are low, comparable to the standards in quality wine areas in France and Germany: two tons per acre or less.

The attached "General Soil Map of Yuba County (Map 2) prepared by the University of California at Davis and Yuba County, shows NORTH YUBA comprising a distinct grouping of soil types, with an obvious demarcation from the higher elevation soil types to the east and from the large Auburn-Sobrante-Las Posas Association extending over the lower foothills to the west. This grouping includes two "foothills" soils and two "mountain" soils, intermingled in a unique complex, with a very small area of the Auburn-Sobrante-Las Posas Association on the western boundary. The two foothills soils are the Sierra-Auberry Association, described as shallow to deep, medium-textured, rocky soils developed from granitic rocks; and the Englebright-Rescue Association, described as moderately deep to deep, medium-textured cobbly and rocky soils developed from basic igneous rocks. The mountain soils of NORTH YUBA are the Dobbins Association, comprising deep to very deep, well drained, cobbly and non-cobbly soils developed from basic igneous intrusive rocks and the Rackerby-Dobbins Association of moderately deep to deep, moderately well drained, stony and rocky soils from basic igneous intrusive rocks. Appendix C provides detailed information on these soil types.

The pioneers of NORTH YUBA were aware of the suitability of local geography for orchards and vines (documented in the historical material in Appendix B). Although these early viticultural achievements were later discontinued, this was not due to any natural geographic factor, but simply to the disappearance of markets as the banning of



hydraulic mining in the 1880's resulted in a population exodus and a severe local economic decline. The following quotation confirms the early winegrowers' appreciation of the foothills environment:

The soil on the river bottom in the valley is deep black alluvial, well adapted for the production of almost any kind of grain, vegetables or fruit. Back from the river and extending even up the slopes of the foothills, the surface earth is of a red color called the "red lands." While not as productive as the first mentioned, wheat can be raised to the extent of 15-20 bushels to the acre. The culture of the vine is carried on here to a great extent. The foothills are in some places quite rocky and are utilized principally for grazing; vineyards and orchards thrive in the soil of the little mountain villages. (5)

IV. THE SPECIFIC BOUNDARIES OF THE VITICULTURAL AREA, BASED ON FEATURES WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (U.S.G.S.) MAPS OF THE LARGEST APPLICABLE SCALE:

The exact boundaries of the proposed viticultural area have been surveyed. A copy of the survey description and the geographic coordinates is attached as Appendix D.

V. A COPY OF THE APPROPRIATE MAP(S) WITH THE BOUNDARIES PROMINENTLY MARKED:

Copies of the aforementioned U.S. Geological Survey maps are enclosed with the area described in Section IV of this petition prominently marked.

We trust that our petition will receive your prompt and favorable consideration. Should you have additional questions or wish to clarify any matters in this petition, please contact us either by mail at Post Office Box 1000, Renaissance, California, 95962 or by telephone at (916) 692-2222.

Respectfully,



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RENAISSANCE VINEYARD AND WINERY, INCORPORATED  
Karl Werner, President

Date: November 1, 1984

FOOTNOTES

Footnotes

1. History of Yuba and Sutter Counties, by Peter Delay, 1924.
  
2. Soils of the Yuba Area, California, 1969, a cooperative study carried out by the Department of Soils and Plant Nutrition, University of California, Davis and the County of Yuba.  
  
"Occasionally, during the winter, ground or 'tule' fogs form in the valley at night. Sometimes these fogs persist for several days, filling the entire Sacramento Valley to a thickness of several hundred feet.", p. 128.
  
3. Ibid, p. 127
  
4. Ibid, p. 128
  
5. History of Yuba County, California, by Thompson and West, 1879, p. 121.

MAPS

MAP SHOWING  
MEAN ANNUAL  
PRECIPITATION  
FOR YUBA COUNTY

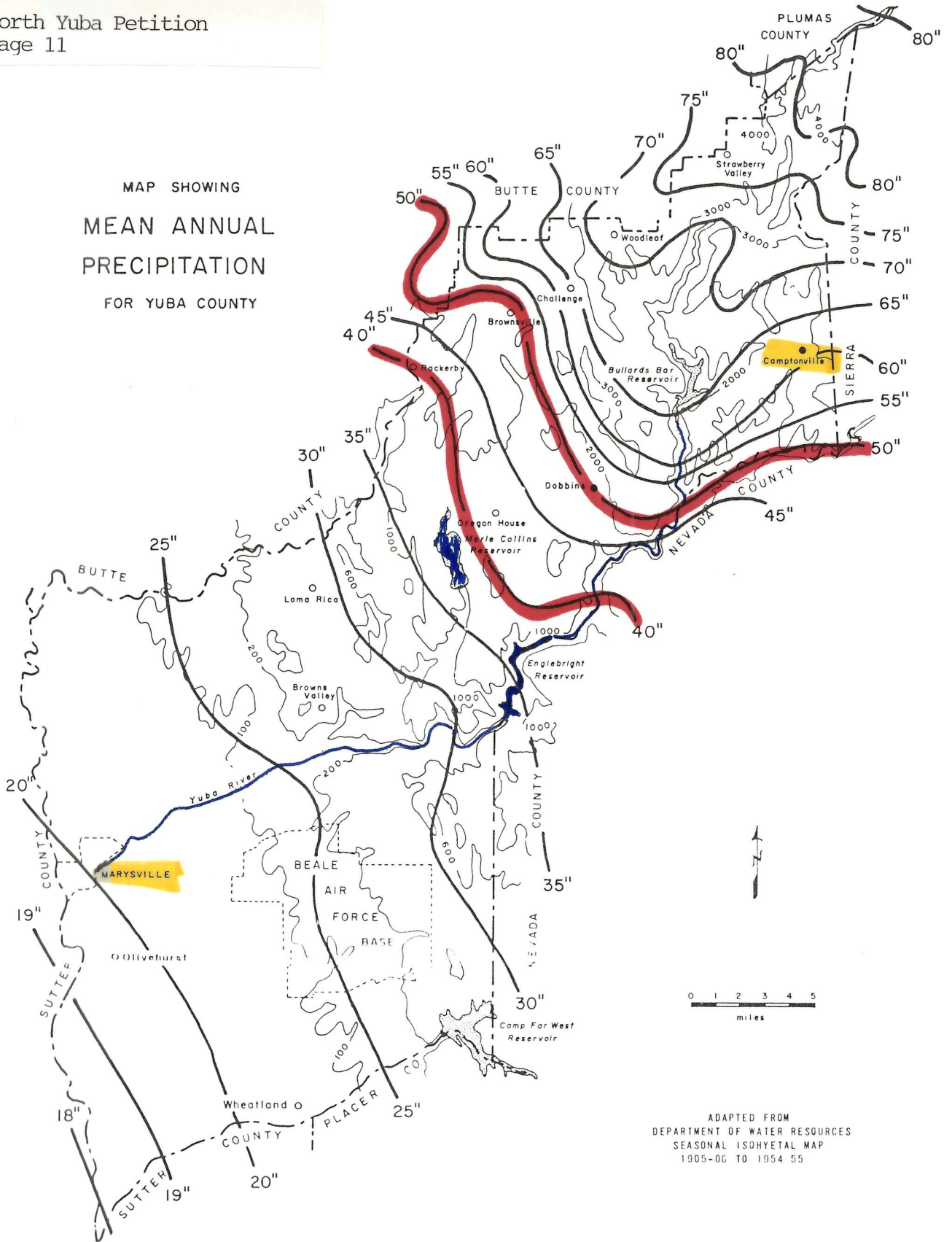


Figure 13. Average number of inches of annual precipitation at various elevations.

APPENDIX A

# The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF - CORONER



ROBERT R. DAY  
SHERIFF - CORONER

(916) 741-6331

October 16, 1984

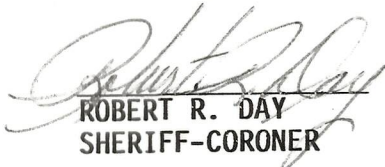
Mr. James Bryant, Treasurer  
Renaissance Vineyard and Winery, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1000  
Renaissance (Oregon House), CA 95962

Dear Mr. Bryant:

In response to your request, the area within Yuba County which is locally known as NORTH YUBA is approximately bordered by the Yuba County-Nevada County line east of Dobbins on the east, the middle fork of the Yuba River on the south and Dry Creek on the west and north. This area is also designated NORTH YUBA by Pacific Bell in its 1984 Marysville and Yuba City Area Telephone Directory and embraces the communities of Dobbins and Renaissance (Oregon House).

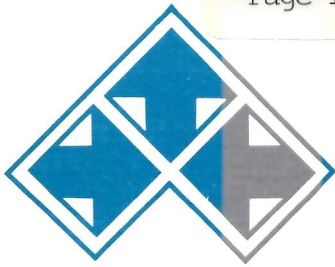
I hope the above serves to verify that your area has been historically and is currently known as NORTH YUBA.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT R. DAY  
SHERIFF-CORONER

RRD/etj





*The Greater*  
**Yuba City-Marysville Chamber of Commerce**

*Serving Yuba and Sutter Counties*

H. R. "HANK" TWEITH  
Executive Vice-President  
Res. (916) 673-0853

P.O. Box 1429  
10th and E Streets  
Marysville, California 95901  
Telephone (916) 743-6501

October 29, 1984

James R. Bryant, Treasurer  
Renaissance Vineyard & Winery, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1000  
Renaissance (Oregon House), CA 95962

Dear Mr. Bryant:

As a long time resident of Sutter and Yuba Counties, I can say with some authority that the area encompassing the communities of Renaissance (Oregon House) and Dobbins has long been known as North Yuba. The area is roughly bounded by the middle fork of the Yuba River on the south, Dry Creek on the west and north, and Dobbins Creek on the east. Incidentally, in the report of the Committee on Derivations and Meaning of the Names of the Counties to the California legislature in February, 1850, General Vallejo stated that 'Yuba' was a variant of the Spanish 'uva' (or grape) and that the Yuba River was so named because of the quantities of wild grapes found growing on its banks.

Best wishes to you and Renaissance Vineyard and Winery in your efforts to establish North Yuba as a premier American viticultural area.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT C. EPLEY  
President

RCE:clc



APPENDIX B

Appendix B

NORTH YUBA's contribution to early California viticultural development included the ranches of Paul Vavasseur (120 acres) in Parks Bar Township; Augusta Leubmann (150 acres) in New York Township; and Jerome B. Johnson (240) and H. L. Dobbins (over 2000 acres) in Foster Bar Township. Apart from the wine made on site in NORTH YUBA, the wineries of Marysville provided an additional market for local grapes. The following historical references, maps and illustrations are drawn from the 1879 publication, History of Yuba County, California by Thompson & West, reprinted by California Traveller, Volcano, California, 1970; and from History of Yuba & Sutter Counties, California with Biographical Sketches by Peter J. Delay, 1924, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, California. (In some cases the text specifies that vines were grown and wine made on these properties, while in other cases this is documented in the illustration.) A third historical source is Leon D. Adams' The Wines of America, Third Edition, 1984.

- (a) From History of Yuba County, California by Thompson & West, 1879

p. 80

The first permanent settlement on the site of the town [Frenchtown] was made in 1854 by Paul Vavasseur...

Vavasseur makes considerable wine every year.

p. 89

1. On Dry Creek, one mile below the crossing of the Camptonville Road, J. A. Paxton settled in 1850 and built a hotel and kept a trading post. Fruit was set out as early as 1853 and now there are 6,000 fruit trees and 50,000 grape vines. Hon. L. B. Clark has owned the ranch since 1870 and makes a great deal of wine every year.

p. 93

The many little valleys among the hills [in Foster Bar Township] are well cultivated and large quantities of grapes, apples, pears, peaches and plums are annually raised.

(b.) From History of Yuba and Sutter Counties, California, 1924, by Peter Delay:

p. 152

[The Marysville Winery]: At its zenith, none in the state enjoyed a higher reputation for the excellence of its products. The business was established by a stock company in 1872 and was purchased by the late Gottlieb Sieber in 1884. The distillery consisted of very substantial buildings equipped with the latest improved continuous stills, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of high-grade brandies and sweet and dry wines per year...Until it

ceased operations in the late nineties, the winery afforded a ready market to the grape-growers of the two counties.

p. 834

Homer L. Dobbins came to Yuba County in 1914 associated with olive orchards in the Erle District. In 1917 he organized the Yuba Vineyards Co. and its first purchase was a tract of 880 acres, known as the Toland property, which the company began to develop to vineyard. Next, 550 acres were purchased from C. F. Boardman, and then an additional acreage of 880 acres was purchased from William L. Vance. Of this land 760 acres have been planted to Thompson Seedless grapes and kadota figs.

(c.) From The Wines of America, Third Edition, 1984, by Leon D. Adams:

pp. 416-7

In Yuba County, which borders Sutter and Butte, wine growing was begun in 1855 by Charles Covillaud from Cognac, who planted grapes at Simpson's Crossing, a mile north of Marysville, the city Covillaud named for his wife, the former Mary Murphy. Within five years the county had four more wineries and 800 acres of vines, which expanded by 1930 to 1000 acres, but then were gradually replaced by orchards of peaches and prunes.

Yuba County again has 461 acres of vines. Most of them are on the spectacularly contoured, drip-irrigated

360-acre Renaissance Vineyard, a winegrowing project begun in 1973 in the foothills gold country near Oregon House, thirty miles northeast of Marysville. ...Leading the vineyard project is ...Karl Werner, the winemaster in the 1950's of Schloss Vollrads in the Rheingau and in the early 1970's of the Callaway Vineyards at Temecula. Construction of the 300,000-gallon Renaissance Winery was begun in 1979, when its first wines were made under an air-supported plastic dome. When completed, it will be a classic Greek temple with formal gardens, a pool, statuary, and two underground levels for wine aging and bottling. Werner says its first vintages of estate-bottled White Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc will reach the market by 1988, to be followed by an aged Cabernet and eventually by a champagne.

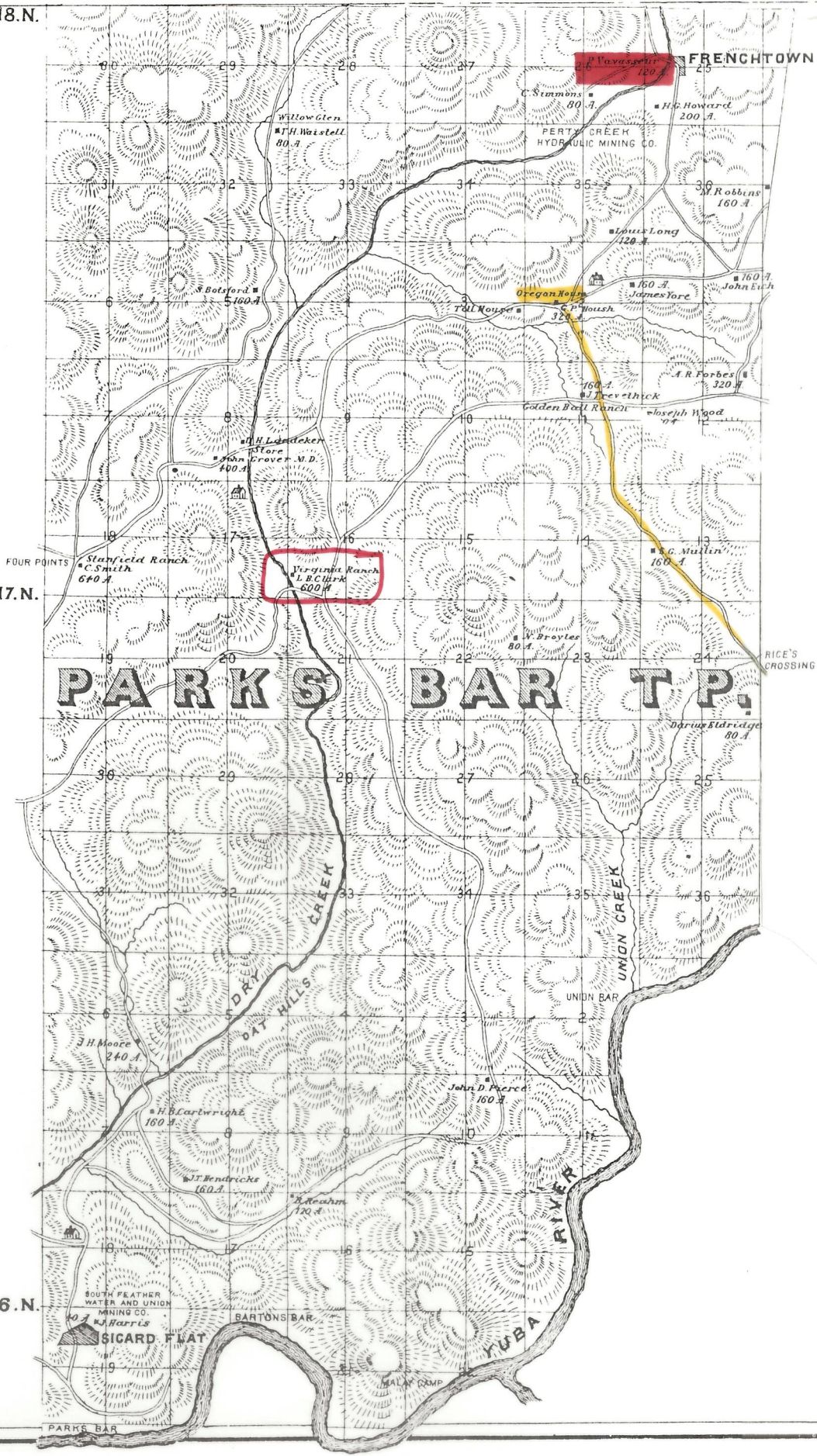
T. 18. N.

T. 17. N.

T. 16. N.

FRENCHTOWN

PARKS BAR T.P.



Parasport 120 A.

Willow Glen T.H. Waisell 80 A.

C. Simmons 80 A.

H.C. Howard 200 A.

M. Robbins 160 A.

Louis Long 120 A.

S. Botford 160 A.

Tal House 32 A.

160 A. James Yore

John E. Coch

H. Landecker  
Flare  
John Grever M.D. 400 A.

A.R. Forbes 320 A.

FOUR POINTS  
Stanfield Ranch  
C. Smith 640 A.

Virginia Ranch  
L.B. Clark 600 A.

S.C. Mullin 160 A.

W. Brayles 80 A.

RICE'S CROSSING

Darius Eldridge 80 A.

J.H. Moore 240 A.

H.B. Carlwright 160 A.

T. Hendricks 160 A.

H. Acorn 120 A.

John D. Pierce 160 A.

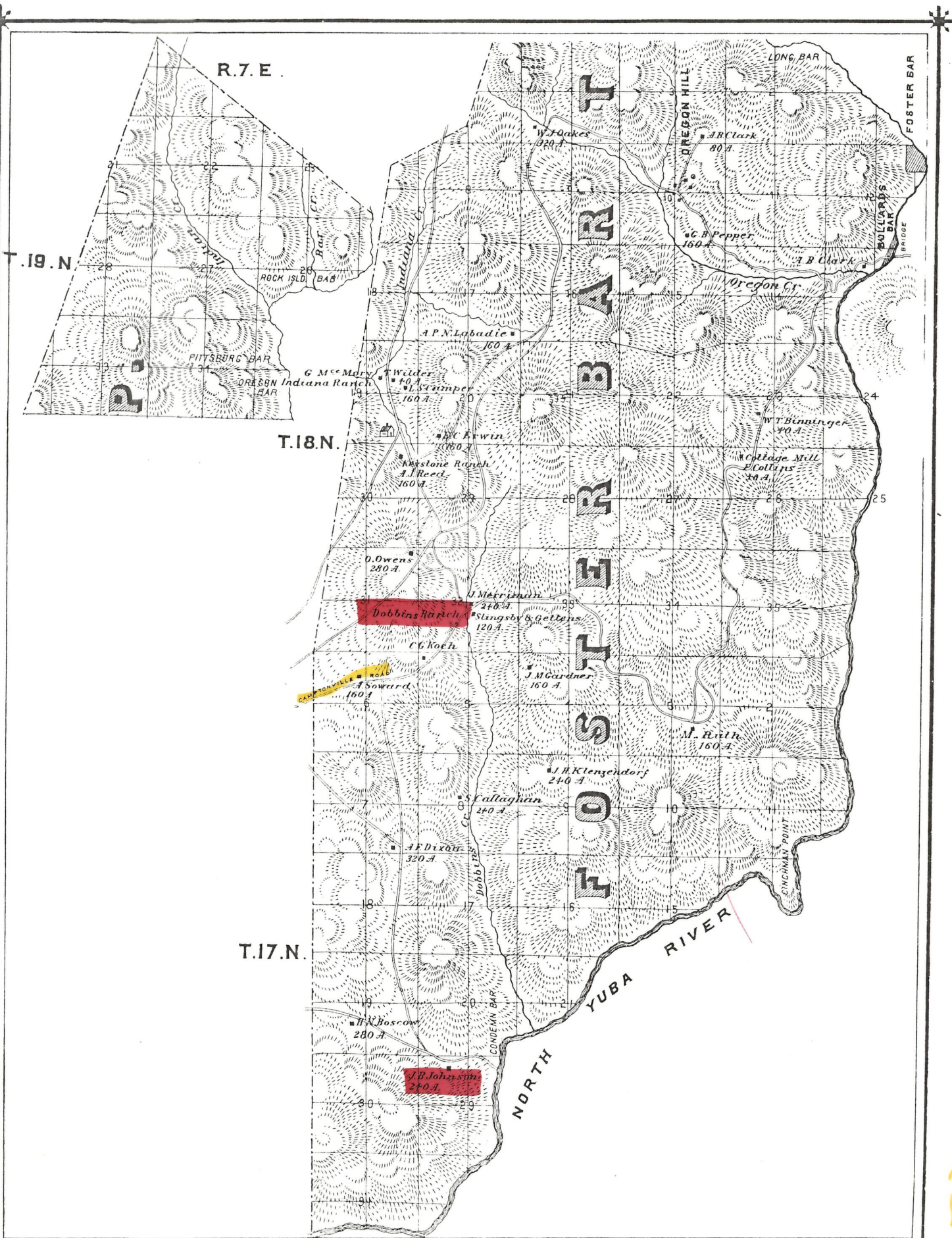
SOUTH FEATHER WATER AND UNION MINING CO.  
Harris

BARTONS BAR

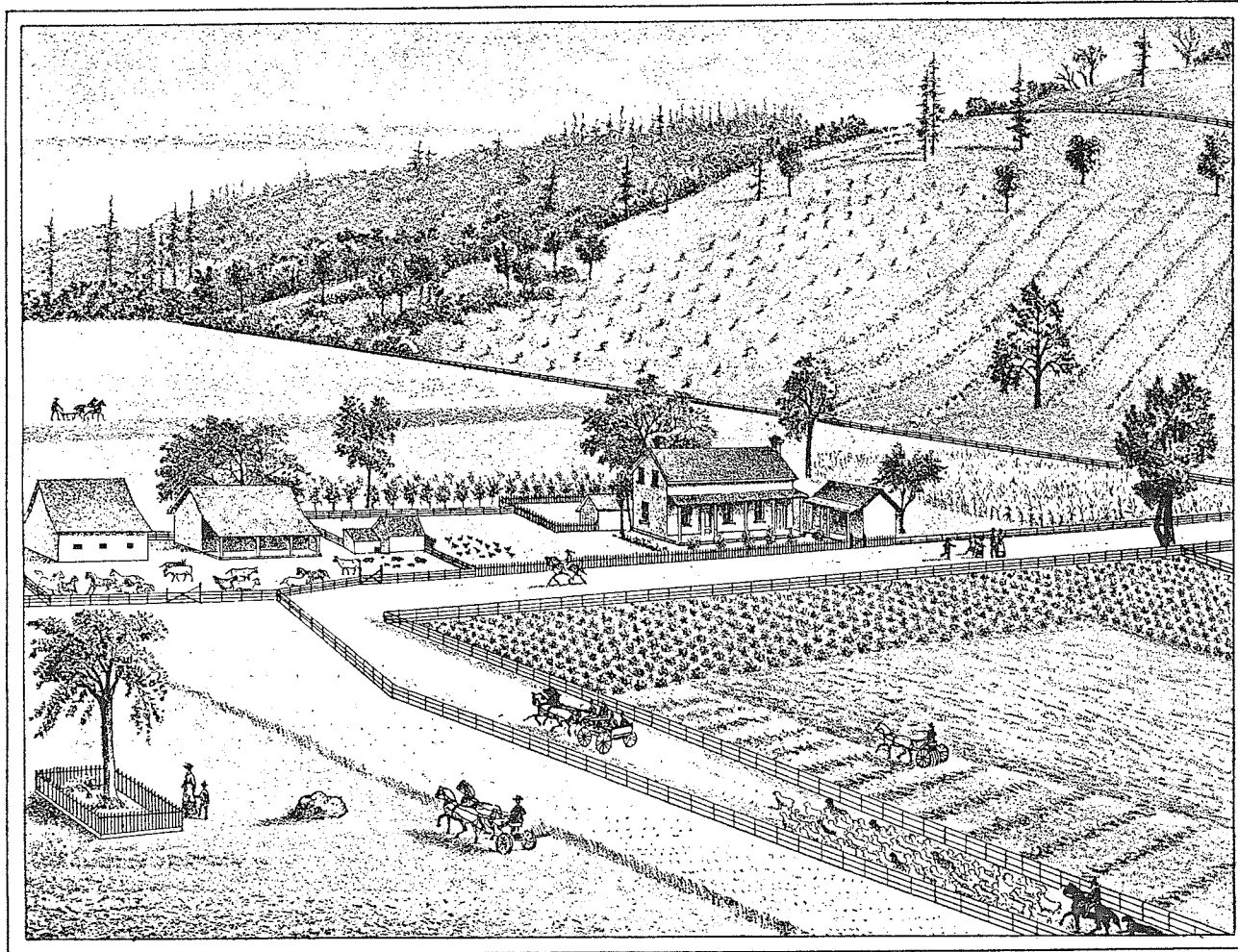
YUBA RIVER

MALAN CAMP

PARKS BAR







RESIDENCE AND FARM OF **JEROME B. JOHNSON**. FOSTER BAR TP. YUBA CO. CAL.

North Yuba Petition  
Page 24

APPENDIX C

Appendix C

This material is from Soils of the Yuba Area, California, pp. 14-17, a cooperative study by the Department of Soils and Plant Nutrition, University of California, Davis and the County of Yuba.

5B. Sierra-Auberry Association

Shallow to deep, medium textured, rocky soils developed from granitic rocks.

This soil association occurs mostly in the upper foothills of the county, generally at elevations between 1,000 and 2,000 feet. The most extensive areas are located in the vicinity of Rackerby, Oregon House, and Dobbins. Smaller areas are located near Stone House and north Timbuctoo at elevations of 500 to 1,200 feet. The terrain is mostly rolling to hilly, but some areas near Colgate Powerhouse are on steep to very steep slopes. The annual precipitation ranges from 30 to 50 inches, some of which occurs as snow at higher levels. The natural vegetation consists mostly of annual grasses, oaks, and shrubs, but at higher elevations a few Digger pines and yellow pines grow in some areas.

This association covers about 9,900 acres or 3.2 percent of the survey area. The Sierra soils make up about 55 percent of the association and the Auberry soils 15 percent. The remaining acreage is most Cienaba and Chualar soils with minor areas of Argonaut and Ahwahnee soils.

The soils in this association are shallow to deep and well drained. They are developed from granitic rocks, mainly quartz diorite and granodiorite, except for the soils around Lafferty Peak and Paynes Peak which are formed from tuffaceous rocks.

The Sierra soils have a grayish brown or brown, medium acid, loam surface soil and a reddish brown to yellowish red, slightly acid, sandy clay loam subsoil. They are moderately deep or deep to weathered granitic bedrock. Rock outcrops are common in many areas. Auberry soils also have a grayish brown to brown, medium acid, loam surface soil, but the subsoil is a brown to light yellowish brown, medium to strongly acid, sandy clay loam. They are mostly moderately deep to weathered granitic rock.

Cienaba and Ahwahnee soils are pale brown to grayish brown, sandy loam soils that change little in texture with depth. Cienaba soils are shallow and Ahwahnee soils are moderately deep. Both soils have numerous rock out-crops.

Chualar soils are deep alluvial soils formed in outwashed materials mainly from other soils of the association. They occupy nearly level to gently sloping bottomlands mostly in the vicinity of Oregon House and Dobbins. The soils have a grayish brown, loam surface and a brown to strong brown, sandy clay loam subsoil.

The Sierra, Auberry, Cienaba, and Ahwahnee soils are used primarily for winter and spring range. Many areas of Sierra and Ahwahnee soils have dense stands of brush that limit their use for grazing. The few yellow pines on the Sierra soils generally are non-commercial or of low quality. Chualar soils are also used for range, but they hold the greatest potential for extensive development. They are well suited for climatically adapted orchards of the area.

5C. Englebright-Rescue Association

Moderately deep to deep, medium textured, cobbly and rocky soils developed from basic igneous rocks.

The soils in this association are located in the upper foothill region of the county, generally at elevations of 1,000 to 2,700 feet. They occur in the transition zone between the woodland-grass soils of the lower foothills and the forested soils at higher elevations. The soils occur on gently rolling hills to steep canyon slopes under open to dense stands of shrubs, hardwoods, and grass. Thin stands of yellow pine occur on some of the more humid slopes at higher elevations. The mean annual precipitation ranges from 35 to 55 inches, part of which occurs as snow during the winter months.

This association covers about 11,500 acres or 3.7 percent of the survey area. The Englebright soils are dominant and make up about 65 percent of the association. Rescue soils account for 30 percent of the acreage and the remaining 5 percent is mostly Argonaut soils. Small areas of mixed alluvial lands and Dobbins soils are included.

The Englebright soils have a brown, medium acid, granular, loam surface soil and a reddish brown to yellowish red, medium acid, clay loam subsoil. They are moderately deep or deep to weathered basic igneous rock, mainly gabbro-diorite and gabbro. Most areas are cobbly or rocky and drainage is good. The Rescue soils are similar to the Englebright soils, but they have a weak, massive surface soil and are less acid. Rescue soils generally occur on the dryer, south facing slopes and ridgetops under a

oak-shrub-grass cover and the Englebright soils are commonly found on the more humid, denser vegetated north slopes. Some areas of Englebright soils have thin stands of yellow pine.

The Argonaut soils are redder colored and more strongly developed than the Englebright and Rescue soils. They have a reddish brown, loam surface and a reddish yellow to yellowish brown, dense clay subsoil. They are moderately deep and moderately well to somewhat poorly drained.

Soils of this association are used primarily for annual range, wildlife habitat, and watershed. Some areas of Englebright soils support thin stands of yellow pine, but timber sites are generally low to very low. The minor inclusions of Dobbins soil support better stands of timber.

#### SOILS OF THE MOUNTAINS

The mountains of Yuba County are part of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. This is a region of gently rounded ridges, rolling hills, and steep canyon slopes that is deeply entrenched by the Yuba River and its tributaries. Elevations range from 1,600 feet to more than 4,800 feet. The precipitation increases rapidly with increasing elevation; it ranges from 45 inches to more than 80 inches, much of which falls as snow at higher elevations. The natural vegetation is chiefly mixed forests of conifers and hardwoods, with some shrubs. A few areas have dense stands of brush.

The soils in the mountains are used primarily for the production of timber. Christmas trees are harvested from some areas. A few places have been cleared for apple orchards, lumber mills, townsites, or other uses.

There are six soil associations in the mountains of Yuba County. They are separated mainly on the basis of depth, stoniness, and kind of parent rock.

6A. Dobbins Association

Deep to very deep, well drained, cobbly and noncobbly soils developed from basic igneous intrusive rocks.

The soils in this association occur on gently rounded ridges and rolling hills to steep hillsides and canyon slopes that border minor drainageways and creeks. They are located in the northeastern part of the county, generally at elevations of 1,300 feet to 3,500 feet. Most areas are scattered throughout a broad zone extending northward from the Yuba-Butte County line near Forbestown. Several isolated areas are located in the vicinity of Woodleaf and Greenville. The natural vegetation consists of mixed stands of conifers, hardwoods, and shrubs. Some of the more open areas at lower elevations also have a thin ground cover of grasses. The mean annual precipitation ranges from 45 inches to more than 65 inches, some of which falls as snow during the winter months.

This association covers about 11,900 acres or 3.9 percent of the survey area. The Dobbins soils make up about 95 percent of the association. The remaining 5 percent consists of small areas of Colluvial land and Rock land plus minor inclusions of Rackerby, Wisheylu, Sierra, and Challenge soils.

Dobbins soils are deep to very deep, well-drained soils. They have formed in weathered material from basic igneous rocks, mainly gabbros and gabbro-diorites. They have a brown, granular,

loam surface and a red, firm, clayey subsoil. Many areas are essentially free of gravels and cobblestones while other areas have numerous rock fragments throughout the profile. A few areas have surface stones or rock outcroppings.

The Dobbins soils are extensive timber producing soils. Timber sites generally range from low to high. Some logged areas have moderate sheet erosion and shallow gullies. These soils are also managed for watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Some areas with more open forest stands, especially at lower elevations, have enough grass cover to provide limited spring and summer range for livestock. A small acreage has been cleared for apple orchards and irrigated pasture.

#### 6B. Rackerby-Dobbins Association

Moderately deep to deep, moderately well drained, stony and rocky soils from basic igneous intrusive rocks.

The soils in this association occur at intermediate levels in the north-eastern part of the county, generally at elevations of 1,500 to 3,000 feet. The most extensive areas are located between the Indiana and Cummings Ranches, northwest of Daken Flat, east of Lake Francis, and around Lake Mildred. The topography is mostly gently undulating to hilly, but a few steep slopes drop off sharply to minor creeks and drainageways. The mean annual precipitation is 40 to 55 inches, some of which occurs as snow. The vegetation consists mainly of moderately dense to dense stands of shrubs interspersed with some hardwoods and conifers. Timber sites are very low or noncommercial.



This association covers about 5,800 acres or 1.9 percent of the survey area. The Rackerby soils account for about 50 percent of the association and the Dobbins soils about 35 percent. The other 15 percent is mostly Wisheyllu soils, small areas of Challenge, Dobbins, and Englebright soils, and less extensive areas of mixed alluvial land and Rock land.

The Rackerby soils are moderately well drained and moderately deep to weathered gabbro or gabbro-diorite rock. They are cobbly or stony, and rock outcrops are common. The surface soil is a brown, gritty loam that abruptly overlies a strong brown to yellowish red, dense clay subsoil. This subsoil horizon restricts air and water movements and limits root development.

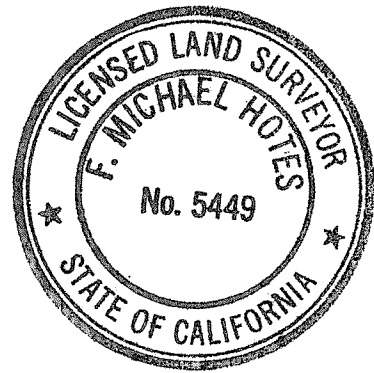
The Dobbins soils in this association are a moderately well drained variant of the Dobbins series. They have a reddish brown, loam surface like typical Dobbins soils, but it is abruptly underlain by a strong brown to yellowish brown, dense clay subsoil similar to that of the Rackerby soils. The soils are generally moderately deep to weathered gabbro or gabbro-diorite. Cobblestones occur throughout the profile and some rock outcroppings are common.

Wisheyllu soils are also developed from gabbros or gabbro-diorites, but they are not as well drained as the Rackerby or Dobbins variant soils. They have a dark brown or grayish brown, loam surface and a brown, heavy clay loam or clay subsoil that becomes light brownish gray or olive brown in the lower part. Depth to weathered bedrock is 20 to 42 inches.

The soils of this association are used mainly for wildlife habitat, watershed, and recreational purposes. The sparse stands of timber are of very low or noncommercial quality.

Woodland-grass areas of Wisheylu soils and open or cleared areas of Rackerby and Dobbins soils provide limited spring and summer range for livestock. Soils in this association are particularly susceptible to erosion. Some areas which have been burned or cleared are now moderately to severely eroded. Road cuts and fills quickly develop gullies if runoff waters are not properly controlled.

APPENDIX D



BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

of

NORTH YUBA VITICULTURAL AREA

for

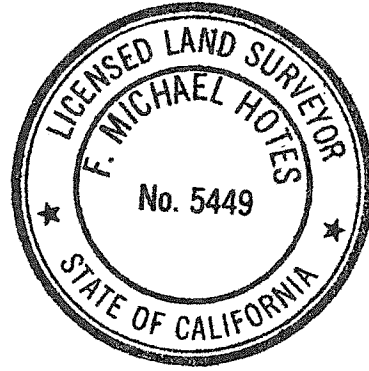
Renaissance Vineyard & Winery, Incorporated

An area of land situate in the County of Yuba, State of California, as shown upon the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle Maps: "Oregon House", "Rackerby", "French Corral", and "Challenge", and including portions of Township 16 North, Range 6 East; Township 17 North, Range 6 East; Township 17 North, Range 7 East; Township 18 North, Range 6 East; Township 18 North, Range 7 East, all of Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Woods Creek and the mean high water line of Harry L. Englebright Lake, located in the S.E. 1/4 of Section 35, T 17 N, R 6 E, M.D.B. & M.;

1. Thence, Northeasterly, 3 miles more or less, along Woods Creek to the end of said Creek;
2. Thence, North, 0.5 miles, to Rice's Crossing Road;
3. Thence, Northwesterly, 2.5 miles, along Rice's Crossing Road, to its intersection with Marysville Road and Frenchtown Road;
4. Thence, Northeasterly, 0.7 miles, along Frenchtown Road to the Road to Lake Mildred, located in the N.W. 1/4 of Section 2, T 17 N, R 7 E;
5. Thence, Northwesterly, 1.0 miles, along said Road, to the mean high water line of Lake Mildred;

(continued)



6. Thence, Northerly, 0.2 miles, along the mean high water line of Lake Mildred to Dry Creek as it intersects Lake Mildred;
7. Thence, Northeasterly, 1.1 miles, along Dry Creek to the intersection of Dry Creek with Frenchtown Road;
8. Thence, Southerly, 0.2 miles, along Frenchtown Road to the intersection of Frenchtown Road with Frenchtown-Dobbins Road;
9. Thence, Easterly, 1.0 miles, along Frenchtown-Dobbins Road to the intersection of Frenchtown-Dobbins Road and Indiana School Road;
10. Thence, Easterly, 0.8 miles, <sup>along Frenchtown-Dobbins Road</sup> to the N.E. corner of Section 31, T 18 N, R 7 E, located in Marysville Road;
11. Thence, Easterly and Southeasterly, 1.1 miles, along Marysville Road, to the intersection of Marysville Road and Lake Francis Road;
12. Thence, Southerly, 3.0 miles, along Lake Francis Road, to the Middle Fork of the Yuba River at the Colgate Powerhouse;
13. Thence, Southwesterly, 1.0 miles, along the Middle Fork of the Yuba River, to the mean high water line of Harry L. Englebright Lake;
14. Thence, Southwesterly, 8.0 miles, more or less, along the mean high water line of Harry L. Englebright Lake, to the intersection with Woods Creek, being the point of Beginning and containing 16,000 acres more or less.

End of Description

Prepared by:  
F. Michael Hotes, Land Surveyor  
P. O. Box 267  
Oregon House, CA 95962

*F. Michael Hotes*  
F. MICHAEL HOTES, L.S. 5449  
Date: November 1, 1984

North Yuba Petition  
Page 36

U.S.G.S. MAPS

(Enclosed)

RENAISSANCE  
VINEYARD & WINERY INCORPORATED

The enclosed are the boundaries of the proposed NORTH YUBA viticultural area as found on the appropriate U. S. G. S. maps.

RENAISSANCE  
VINEYARD & WINERY INCORPORATED

January 11, 1985

Mr. Michael J. Breen  
Coordinator, FAA  
Wine and Beer Branch  
Post Office Box 385  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Dear Mr. Breen,

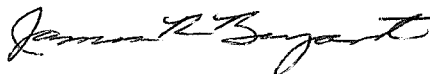
I enjoyed our conversation today; it's a pleasure working with you and encouraging to see our 'North Yuba' petition proceeding so well.

Enclosed you will find pages from our local telephone book which illustrates that the communities of Dobbins and Oregon House are listed as 'North Yuba' while Brownsville, just to the north of the proposed boundary, is included in 'Challenge'. I trust this will help to substantiate that the proposed area is locally known as 'North Yuba'.

In another area, data collected from three field stations in our vineyard over the past nine years establishes that the mean annual temperature is 59 degrees F, the average annual rainfall is 40-45 inches, and that the growing season approximates 225 days. The elevation is about 2,000 feet above sea level.

Please let me know if you require additional information. Thank you for your continuing assistance.

Sincerely,



James R. Bryant  
Treasurer

JRB:ns



# Marysville and Yuba City Area

Area Code 916  
January 1984

**White Pages include listings for Butte, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties and part of Glenn, Placer and Sierra Counties except Soda Springs and Truckee**

See back cover for area served

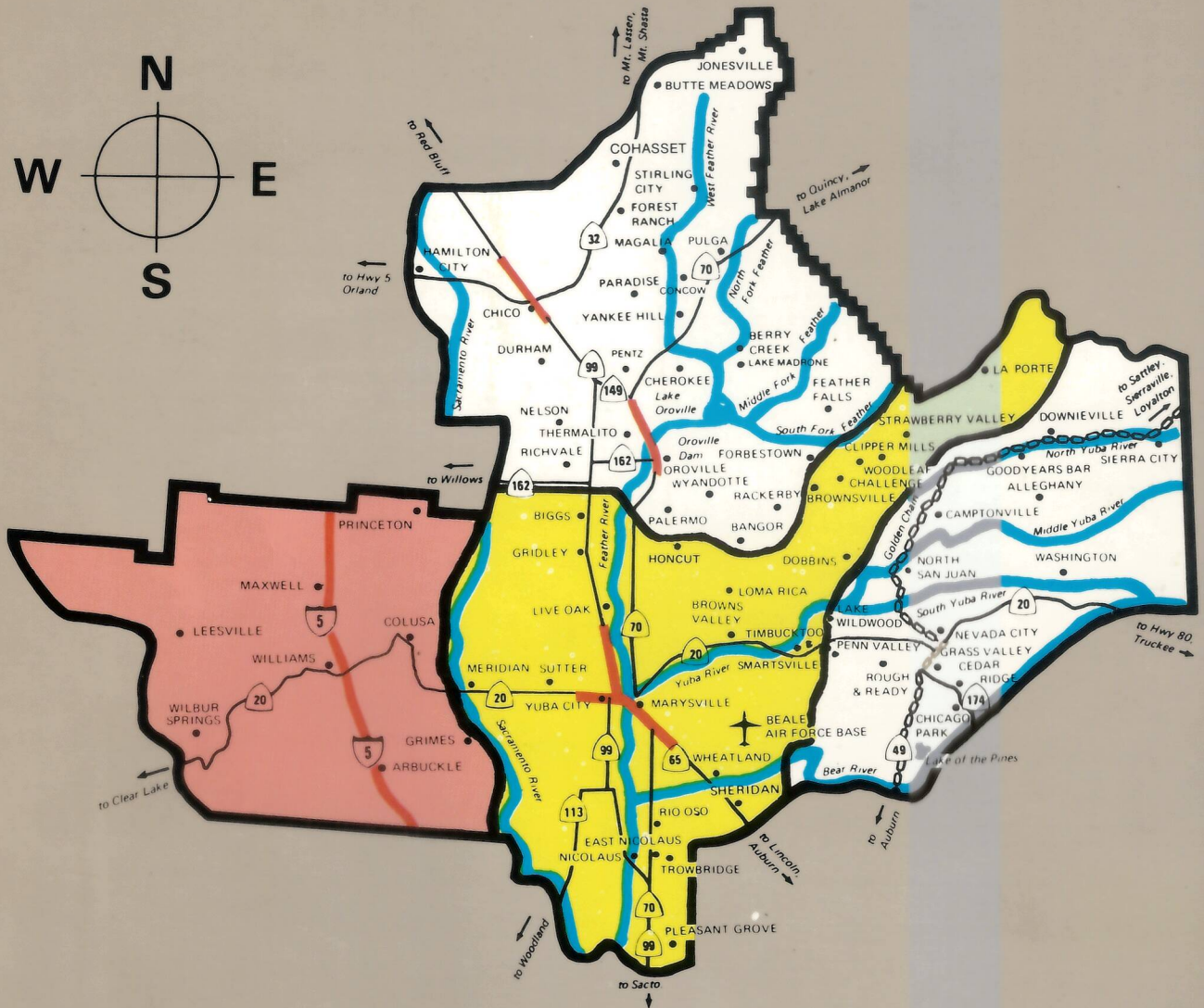


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**Pacific Bell**  
**Yellow Pages**

# Marysville and Yuba City Area



The white pages in this Directory contain listings for the white and yellow portions of this map.

Yellow portion of map shows area of Yellow Pages.

For calling area, charges and dialing instructions, please see the customer guide pages.

Zip Codes See front of Yellow Pages

Listings for:  
■ See the Colusa County Directory

RENAISSANCE  
VINEYARD & WINERY INCORPORATED

December 6, 1984

Mr. Michael J. Breen  
Coordinator, FAA  
Wine and Beer Branch  
Post Office Box 385  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Dear Mr. Breen,

Enclosed you will find the following items:

1. The soil survey of Nevada County. The Soil Conservation Office in Nevada County requests that this survey be returned; a mailing label for that purpose is enclosed.
2. The soil surveys for the Chico and Oroville areas in Butte County. There apparently is no single survey for all of Butte County available. The two maps supplied, when combined, cover most of the area.
3. The soil survey of Sutter County in the event you are interested.
4. A map of Yuba and Sutter Counties with the area of Renaissance Vineyard approximately indicated.
5. Several photographs of Renaissance Vineyard. For orientation, #1843 is taken from the Yuba River side of the vineyard and faces basically east. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are in the distant background. #9841 is taken from the central part of the vineyard and is in a northwesterly direction. The foothills increase in altitude from left to right.

I hope that these materials are of value in helping you to gain a 'feeling' for the NORTH YUBA area. I look forward to hearing from you again as the petition progresses.

Sincerely,



James R. Bryant  
Treasurer

JRB:ns

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

113 Presley Way - Suite One, Grass Valley, CA. 95945

December 3, 1984

Mr. James Bryant  
P.O. Box 1000  
Oregon House, CA. 95962

RE: Nevada County Soil Survey

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a soil survey of the Nevada County Area, California.

Per our phone conversation, I must reiterate that there is a limited supply of these soil surveys. Please return this copy to us when you are finished using it. I have enclosed a self addressed label for your convenience.

We hope that this soil survey is useful to you. We appreciate your assistance in its return.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Moxley*  
Pamela Moxley  
Secretary/Bookkeeper

/pm

*Returned by mail  
12/11/84  
12/11/84*



RENAISSANCE  
VINEYARD & WINERY INCORPORATED

November 24, 1984

Mr. Michael J. Breen  
Coordinator, FAA, Wine  
and Beer Branch  
P.O.Box 385  
Washington, DC 20044-0385


Dear Mr. Breen:

I enjoyed our conversation this morning and appreciated the opportunity to learn a bit more about the process of establishing a viticultural area.

Enclosed you will find the material you requested. Please return the books to the Yuba County Library, 303 Second Street, Marysville, CA 95901 when you have no longer a need for them.

I am looking forward to the successful conclusion of this application; please let me know of any way that I can assist you toward that end.

Sincerely,

  
James R. Bryant  
Treasurer

JRB:eb

*P.S. The enclosed photograph will give you an idea of this area and our vineyard!*

HISTORY

OF

YUBA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS DESCRIPTIVE OF ITS SCENERY,

Residences, Public Buildings, Fine Blocks and Manufactories.

FROM ORIGINAL SKETCHES BY ARTISTS OF THE HIGHEST ABILITY.

THOMPSON & WEST.

OAKLAND, CAL.

1879.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1879, by THOMPSON & WEST, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

MAPS OF YUBA COUNTY BY TOWNSHIPS.....PAGES 1 TO 19.

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTORY.

A Historic County—The Importance of Marysville—Difficulties Encountered in the Preparation of the Work—The Plan—Acknowledgment of Assistance Received—Authorities. 21

## CHAPTER II. HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA.

Discovery—Early Voyagers—Origin of the Name—Establishment of Missions—Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco—Secularization—Revolution—Settlement of Yerba Buena—Russians at Fort Ross—Americans' Desire for the Possession of California—Blunder of Commodore Jones—Thomas O. Larkin's Efforts to Secure the Territory for the United States—Arrival of Fremont—Acts of the Bear Flag Party—Construction of the Noted Flag—Seizure of Monterey by Commodore Sloat and Yerba Buena by Captain Montgomery—The Mexican War—Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo—Subsequent Events. 22-24

## CHAPTER III. INDIANS.

Col. J. J. Warner's Account—The Scourge of 1833—General John Bidwell's Description of its Effects—Theory Regarding its Contraction—Division of the Indians of California—Adam Johnson's Report—Local Indian Tribes in Yuba and Sutter Counties—Characteristics—Features—Dwellings—Hair—Ornaments—Covering—Manner of Gathering Food—Kinds—Preparation for Eating—Water Craft—Weapons—Festivities. 24-27

## CHAPTER IV. TRAPPERS.

California Valleys Occupied by Trappers in 1820—Mr. Wm. H. Ashley—Expeditions of Jedediah S. Smith—A Curious Document—Captain B. L. E. Bonneville—The Ewing Young Party—The Story of Indian Peter—Hudson Bay Company's Operations in California—Death of Wm. G. Ray and Withdrawal of the Company from the Territory. 27-29

## CHAPTER V. SACRAMENTO DISTRICT.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Captain John A. Sutter—His Settlement at New Helvetia—A Noted Party of Emigrants—Fremont's First Exploration—Arrival of Governor-General Michelorena—Courtesies Extended by Captain Sutter—Journey to Monterey—Revolution of Native Californians—Insurrectionary Actions of Captain C. M. Webber and His Subsequent Imprisonment at Sutter's Fort—A Curious Document—The Californians Victorious—Appearance of Fremont on His Second Exploration—His Trouble with the Authorities—Attack on the Forces under Lieutenant De Arce—The Mexican War—Arrest and Trial of General Fremont. 29-31

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE HISTORY OF THE DONNER PARTY.

Scene of the Tragedy—Organization and Composition of the Party—The Departure—Election of George Donner as Captain—Hasting's Cut-off—Rest at Reno—Ascent of the Mountains—Arrival at Donner Lake—Snow Storms—Construction of Cabins—Starvation—"Forlorn Hope Party"—Captain Reasin P. Tucker's Relief Party—The Sufferings at Donner Lake—James F. Reed's Relief Party—"Starved Camp"—The Third Relief Party—Heroism and Devotion of Mrs. George Donner—The Fourth Relief Party—The Survivors. 31-32

## CHAPTER VII. GOLD DISCOVERIES.

Discovery of Gold near San Fernando Mission by Baptiste Rouelle in 1841—Slow Working of the Mines—Visit of Dr. Sandelin—His Opinion of the Country in regard to its Mineral Wealth—His Advice to Captain Sutter—Pablo Gutierrez finds the Precious Black Sand on Bear River—The Necessity of a Batea—Efforts to Secure One—Death of Gutierrez and Abandonment of the Search by General Bidwell—Preparations for the Construction of Sutter's Mill—James W. Marshall the Contractor—The Discovery in the Mill-Race at Coloma—The Credit Due to Captain Sutter. 32-33

## CHAPTER VIII.

### EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE VALLEY.

Sutter's Endeavor to Hold the Land Embraced within his Map—Settlements in the Upper Portion of the Valley—Locations Southeast of Sutter's Fort—Murder of Lindsay and Prompt Punishment of the Indians by Sutter and his Forces. 33-34

## CHAPTER IX.

### SETTLEMENTS IN YUBA COUNTY TO 1848.

Theodore Cordua—Theodore Sicaud—Don Pablo Gutierrez—William Johnson and Sebastian Kyser—George Patterson—Charles Roether—Jack Smith—Baptiste Rouelle—An Emigrant Party of Importance—Arrival of the Donner Party—Sketch of the Life of Claude Chana—Settlements in Sutter County—Hock Farm—Nicolau. 34-35

## CHAPTER X.

### YUBA COUNTY IN 1848.

Changes in the Settlements—Effect of the Discovery of Gold at Coloma—Circumstances attending the Discovery in Yuba County by Jonas Spect—His Journal—Movements of Messrs. Nye and Foster—Biography of Jonas Spect—Arrival of Major S. Cooper and Party—Sketch of the Life of John Rose—Chana and Party Mine on the Yuba River—Election of Alcaldes of the District—Sale of One-half of the Cordua Ranch to Charles Covillaud. 35-37

## CHAPTER XI.

### YUBA COUNTY IN 1849.

Sale of One-half of Cordua's Ranch by Mr. Covillaud to Michael C. Nye and William Foeter—The Name Changed to "Nye's Ranch"—Purchase of a Tract of Land on Yuba River, by

Rose, Reynolds, and Kinloch—Election of a Board of Commissioners to Frame a Code of Laws for the District—Adoption of their Report, and Election of Alcalde and Sheriff—The Town of Vernon—The *Placer Times*—Constitutional Convention—Table of Delegates from Sacramento District—Camp Far West—Purchase of the Interest of Messrs. Nye and Foster, by Mr. Covillaud—Subsequent Sale of One-half to J. M. Ramirez and J. Sampson and One-half to Theodore Sicaud—The Kennebec Company—Appearance of the Ranch in the Last Portion of the Year—Survey Made by Mr. August Le Plonjean—Activity in Real Estate Transactions—Fears Relative to the Validity of the Title—The Name Changed to Yubaville—Settlements on Bear River—Acts of John S. Moore, the Counterfeiter. 37-39

## CHAPTER XII.

### YUBA COUNTY IN 1850.

Causes for the Growth—Population—Arrival of the Steamer Lawrence—Advertisement for the Sale of Lots in Marysville—Arrival of Mr. Stephen J. Field—The Title Quieted by a Deed from Captain John A. Sutter to Messrs. Covillaud, Ramirez, Sicaud and Sampson—First Election of Officers in the Town—Mr. Stephen J. Field Chosen First Alcalde—The Town Named Marysville—Depredations of Cattle Thieves—Formation of Yuba County by the First Legislature—Downsville—Origin of the Name—Appearance of Marysville in February—Sale of Sicaud's Interest to Messrs. R. B. Buchanan and Gabriel N. Swezy—Religious Condition of the People—Condition of Business—Eliza—Election of the First County Officers—The Gold Lake Excitement—The Benefits Attained—Another Similar Excitement—The *Marysville Herald* Started—Judge Field Elected to the Legislature—Cessation in Steam Navigation to Marysville—Movements Towards Incorporating—The Town of Linda Started—Report of L. W. Taylor, Treasurer, for the Year. 39-44

## CHAPTER XIII.

### SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF MARYSVILLE TOWNSHIP, AND INCIDENTALLY OF YUBA COUNTY.

Original Boundaries of Yuba County—First Division of County into Townships—Incorporation of the City of Marysville—Election of First Officers—Boundaries of the City—Formation of Nevada County—Mine Discovered on Yuba River at Marysville—Mayor Miles' Proclamation—Second Segregation of County into Townships—Acts Relating to the Incorporation of the City of Marysville—Present Boundaries—Formation of Sierra County—First Election of Officers—Third Division of Yuba County into Townships—Present Townships—Population of the County at Different Periods—Business Interests of Marysville in 1853, and at the Present Time—Table of Brick Structures Erected from 1850 to 1855—Literary and Musical—Mortality Report for 1852—Other Items of Interest. 44-47

## CHAPTER XIV.

### COURTS AND BAR OF YUBA COUNTY.

Introduction of Law into California—The Courts under the Mexican Law of 1837—Proclamation of Governor Bennett Riley—Election of Alcaldes at Marysville and Eliza—Courts as Established by the Constitution—Supreme Court—District Court—County Court—Court of Sessions—Probate Court—Recorder's, Mayor's, and Police Courts—Justice's Court—Courts under the New Constitution—List of Attorneys with Records. 47-51

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to await in vain his return) being the leaders. This was the "Forsorn Hope Party," over whose dreadful sufferings and disaster we must throw a veil. Death in its most awful form reduced the wretched company to seven—two men and five women—when suddenly tracks were discovered imprinted in the snow. "Can any one imagine,"—says Mary Graves in her recital,—"*the joy these footprints gave us? We ran as fast as our strength would carry us.*" Turning a sharp point they suddenly came upon an Indian rancherie. The acorn-bread offered them by the kind and awe-stricken savages was eagerly devoured. But on they pressed with their Indian guides, only to repeat their dreadful sufferings, until at last, one evening about the last of January, Mr. Eddy, with his Indian guide, preceding the party fifteen miles, reached Johnson's Ranch on Bear river, the first settlement on the western slope of the Sierras, when relief was sent back as soon as possible, and the remaining six survivors were brought in next day. It had been thirty-two days since they left Donner Lake. No tongue can tell, no pen portray, the awful suffering, the terrible and appalling straits, as well as the noble deeds of heroism that characterized this march of death. The eternal mountains, whose granite faces bore witness to their sufferings, are fit monuments to mark the last resting place of Charles T. Stanton, that cultured, heroic soul, who groped his way through the blinding snows of the Sierras to immortality. The divinest oration—"He gave his life as a ransom for many"—is his epitaph, foreshadowed in his own noble words, "I will bring aid to those famishing people or *lay down my life.*"

Nothing could be done, in the meantime, for the relief of the sufferers at Donner Lake, without securing help from Fort Sutter, which was speedily accomplished by John Rhodes. In a week six men fully provisioned, with Captain Reasin P. Tucker at their head, reached Johnson's Ranch, and in ten or twelve days' time, with provisions, mules, etc., the first relief party started for the scene at Donner Lake. It was a fearful undertaking, but on the morning of the nineteenth of February, 1847, the above party began the descent of the gorge leading to the lake.

We have purposely thrown a veil over the dreadful sufferings of the stricken band left in their wretched hovels at Donner Lake. Reduced to the verge of starvation, many died (including numerous children, of whom seven were nursing babes) who, in this dreadful state of necessity, were summarily disposed of. Raw-hides, moccasins, strings, etc., were eaten. But relief was now close at hand for the poor stricken sufferers. On the evening of the nineteenth of February, 1847, the stillness of death that had settled upon the scene was broken by prolonged shouts. In an instant the painfully sensitive ears of the despairing watchers caught the welcome sound. Captain Tucker with his relief party had at last arrived upon the scene. Every face was

bathed in tears, and the strongest men of the relief party melted at the appalling sight, sat down and wept with the rest. But time was precious, as storms were imminent. The return party was quickly gathered. *Twenty-three members started, among them several women and children.* Of this number two were compelled to return, and three perished on the journey. Much hardship and privation was experienced, and their provisions were soon entirely exhausted. Death once more stared them in the face and despair settled upon them. But assistance was near at hand. James F. Reed, who had preceded the Donner party by some months, suddenly appeared with the second relief party on the twenty-fifth of February, 1847. The joy of the meeting was indescribable, especially between the family and the long absent father. Reprovisioned, the party pressed on, and gained their destination after severe suffering, with eighteen members, only three having perished. Reed continued his journey to the cabins at Donner Lake. There the scene was simply appalling,—starvation and disease were fast claiming their victims. March 1st (according to Broom's diary), Reed and his party arrived at the camp. Proceeding directly to his cabin, he was espied by his little daughter (who, with her sister, was carried back by the previous party) and immediately recognized with a cry of joy. Provisions were carefully dealt out to the famishing people, and immediate steps were taken for the return. Seventeen comprised this party. Half starved and completely exhausted, they were compelled to camp in the midst of a furious storm, in which Mr. Reed barely escaped with his life. This was "Starved Camp," and from this point Mr. Reed, with his two little children and another person, struggled ahead to obtain hasty relief if possible.

On the second day after leaving "Starved Camp," Mr. Reed and the three companions were overtaken by Cady and Stone, and on the night of the third day reached Woodworth's Camp at Bear Valley in safety. The horrors of Starved Camp beggar all description, indeed, require none. The third relief party, composed of John Stark, Howard Oakley, and Charles Stone, were nearing the rescue, while W. H. Foster and W. H. Eddy (rescued by a former party) were bent on the same mission. These, with Hiram Miller, set out from Woodworth's camp the following morning after Reed's arrival. The eleven were duly reached, but were in a starving condition, nine being unable to walk. By the noble resolution and herculean efforts of John Stark, a part of the number were borne and urged onward to their destination, while the other portion were compelled to remain and await another relief party. When the third relief party under Foster and Eddy arrived at Donner Lake, the sole survivors at Alder Creek were George Donner, the Captain of the company, and his heroic wife, whose devotion to her dying husband caused her own death during the last and fearful days

of waiting for the fourth relief. George Donner knew he was dying and urged his wife to save her life and go with her little ones with the third relief, but she refused. Nothing was more heart-rending than her sad parting with her beloved little ones, who wound their childish arms lovingly around her neck and besought her with mingled tears and kisses to join them. But duty prevailed over affection, and she retraced the weary distance to die with him whom she had promised to love and honor to the end. Such scenes of anguish are seldom witnessed on this sorrowing earth, and such acts of triumphant devotion are her most golden deeds. The snowy ceremonies of Donner Lake enshrouded in its stilly whiteness no purer life, no nobler heart than hers. The terrible recitals that close this awful tragedy we willingly omit.

The third relief party rescued the five last survivors but one; the fourth and last relief party rescued Lewis Kesseberg on the seventh of April, 1847. Ninety names are given as members of the Donner Party. Of these, forty-two perished, six of whom did not live to reach the mountains, and forty-eight survived. Twenty-six, and possibly twenty-eight, out of the forty-eight survivors are living to-day, several residing in San Jose, Calistoga, Los Gatos, Marysville, and in Oregon.

Thus ends the narrative of horrors, scarcely without a parallel, certainly not in the annals of American history, of appalling disasters, fearful sufferings, heroic fortitude, self denial and heroism. The mind turns with relief from its recital.

## CHAPTER VII. GOLD DISCOVERIES.

*Discovery of Gold near San Fernando Mission by Baptiste Rouelle in 1841—Slow working of the Mines—Visit of Dr. Sandoz—His Opinion of the Country in regard to its Mineral Wealth—His Advice to Captain Sutter—Pablo Gutierrez finds the Precious Black Sand on Bear River—The Necessity of a Bates—Efforts to Secure One—Death of Gutierrez and Abandonment of the Search by General Bidwell—Preparations for the Construction of Sutter's Mill—James W. Marshall the Contractor—The Discovery in the Mill-Race at Coloma—The Credit Due to Captain Sutter.*

THE finding of gold at Coloma by Marshall was not the real discovery of the precious metal in the territory. But the time and circumstances connected with it, together with the existing state of affairs, caused the rapid dissemination of the news. People were ready and eager for some new excitement, and this proved to be the means of satisfying the desire. From all parts of California, the Coast, the United States, and in fact, the World, poured in vast hordes of gold-seekers. The precious metal had been found in many places, but the most notorious of these discoveries were the following. Baptiste Rouelle, who settled on Feather river in 1848, was a Canadian Frenchman, and had been trapping many years in the Rocky mountains, whence he had found his way into New Mexico, where he lived for some years and followed placer-mining. From New Mexico he came to the southern part of California at the

Peak, thirty miles from Monterey. Castro's forces appeared, but beyond a few mock assaults, did no fighting, so that on the fourth day, Fremont deemed it expedient to avoid actual collision, and slowly marched north toward Oregon. Having passed the border he was overtaken by Lieutenant Gillespie, an army officer, with dispatches, the contents of which, and the existing state of affairs, caused him to return. Passing down the Sacramento valley, he encamped in the Buttes, in Sutter County. Fremont, while here, was informed by Mr. Knight that a party of Mexican soldiers under Lieutenant De Arco, in charge of a band of horses, were traveling from Sonoma to the southern country. Fremont immediately sent out a party, which, after passing Sutter's Fort, and without the knowledge of Captain Sutter or any consultation with him, attacked the Mexicans on the Cosumnes river, June 11th, capturing the horses and sending Lieutenant De Arco and his men to report to Castro. The movement was claimed to be in defense of American settlers, but the real facts in the case were that no settler ever implored Fremont for aid. All Americans believed or prayed that the territory should come under the control of the United States; they desired, however, the change to be brought about by peaceful measures. The hunters who usually wintered at Sutter's Fort, were the first to rally around Fremont's camp. Sutter, having at one time complained of the acts of Fremont, the latter came down and told the generous old pioneer that if he did not like what he (Fremont) was doing, he would set him across the San Joaquin river, and he could join the Mexicans. Tuthill, in his "History of California," states that the party who attacked Lieutenant De Arco were under the leadership of Captain Merritt, and that they were the persons who marched on Sonoma, and formed the nucleus of the "Bear Flag Party." Following this assault on the Mexicans and the acts of the "Bear Flag Party," Castro retreated to Los Angeles, and was promptly followed by Fremont. Before any action occurred, the news of the raising of the stars and stripes at Monterey by Commodore Sloat was heralded. Then followed a series of conflicts, mostly of slight importance, the battles in California being supplementary to the war in the East and South. After the war was ended, it became necessary for the conquering forces to appoint a Governor. A contest ensued as to whether Lieutenant Fremont, who had received a commission from Commodore Stockton, or General Kearney, should be the ruler. It was finally ended by Fremont, under orders, accompanying General Kearney on his march east. At Fort Leavenworth Fremont was arrested, and at Fortress Monroe, a court-martial found him guilty of mutiny, disobedience and disorderly conduct, and he was by its sentence, deprived of his commission. This ended his connection with the army, but did not serve to dampen his ambition, or sully his reputation as one to whom the gratitude of all American citizens is due.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE HISTORY OF THE DONNER PARTY.

Scene of the Tragedy—Organization and Composition of the Party—The Departure—Election of George Donner as Captain—Hastings' Cut-off—Rest at Reno—Ascent of the Mountains—Arrival at Donner Lake—Snow Storms—Construction of Cabins—Starvation—"Forlorn Hope Party"—Captain Beaman P. Tucker's Relief Party—The Sufferings at Donner Lake—James F. Reed's Relief Party—"Starved Camp"—The Third Relief Party—Harshness and Devotion of Mrs. George Donner—The Fourth Relief Party—The Survivors.

[The data for the following narrative have been gleaned from "The History of the Donner Party," a work from the pen of Mr. C. F. McGlashan, and published by Messrs. Crowley & McGlashan, proprietors of the *Truckee Republican*, to which we refer the reader for further information on the subject.]

THREE miles from Truckee, resting in the green lap of the Sierras, lies one of the loveliest sheets of water on the Pacific Coast. Tall mountain peaks are reflected in its clear waters, revealing a picture of extreme loveliness and quiet peace. Yet this peaceful scene was the amphitheatre of the most tragic event in the annals of early California. "The Donner Party" was organized in Sangamon county, Illinois, by George and Jacob Donner, and James F. Reed, in the spring of 1846. In April, 1846, the party set out from Springfield, Ill., and by the first week in May, had reached Independence, Missouri, where the party was increased until the train numbered about two hundred or three hundred wagons; the Donner family numbering sixteen persons, the Reed family, seven, the Graves family, twelve, the Murphy family, thirteen, were the principal families of the Donner party proper. At Independence provisions were laid in for the trip and the line of journey taken up. In the occasional glimpses we have of the party, features of but little interest present themselves, out of the ordinary experience of pioneer life. A letter from Mrs. George Donner, written near the junction of the North and South Platte, dated June 16, 1846, reports a favorable journey of 450 miles from Independence, with no forebodings of the terrible disasters so soon to burst upon them. At Fort Laramie a portion of the party celebrated the Fourth of July. Thereafter the train passed, unmolested, upon its journey, George Donner having been elected Captain at the Little Sandy river, on the 20th of July, 1846, from which act it took the name of "The Donner Party."

At Fort Bridger, then a mere trading post, the fatal choice was made of the route that led to such fearful disasters and tragic results. A new route, via Salt Lake, known as Hastings' Cut-off, was recommended to the party as shortening the distance by three hundred miles. After due deliberation, the Donner party of eighty-seven souls (three having died), were induced to separate from the larger portion of the train (which afterward arrived in California in safety), and commenced their journey by way of the Hastings' Cut-off. They reached Weber river, near the head of the canyon, in safety. From this point, in their journey to Salt Lake, almost insurmountable difficulties were encountered, and instead of reaching Salt Lake in one week, as

anticipated, over thirty days of perilous travel were consumed making the trip—most precious time in view of the dangers imminent in the rapidly approaching storms of winter. The story of their trial and sufferings in their journey to their fatal camp at Donner Lake terrible; nature and stern necessity seemed alike arrayed against the weak. On the 19th of October, near the present site of Wadsworth, Nevada, the destitute company was happily supplied by one C. T. Stuart with food and mules, together with two Indian vaqueros, furnished Captain Sutter, without compensation.

At the present site of Reno, it was concluded to rest. Three or four days' time was lost. This was the fatal act. The storm clouds were already brooding upon the mountains, only a few miles distant. The ascent was ominous. Thick and thicker grew the clouds, outstripping in threatening battalions the now eager feet of the alarm emigrants, until at Prosser creek, three miles below Truckee, October 28, 1846, a month earlier than usual, the storm set in, and they found themselves in six inches of newly-fallen snow. On the summit it was already from two to five feet deep. The party, in much confusion, finally reached Donner Lake in disordered fragments. Frequent and desperate attempts were made to cross the mountain tops, but at last baffled and despairing, they returned to camp at the lake. The storm now descended in all its pitiless fury upon the ill-fated emigrants. Its dreadful import was well understood, as laden with omens of suffering and death. With slight interruptions, the storm continued for several days. The animals were literally buried alive and frozen in the drift. Meat was hastily prepared from their carcasses, and cabins rudely built. One, the Schallenberger cabin, erected November, 1846, was already standing about a quarter of a mile below the lake. The Breen family appropriated it. The Murphys erected one three hundred yards from the lake, marked by a large stone twelve feet high. The Graves family built theirs near Donner creek, farther down the stream, the three forming the apexes of a triangle, and distant 100 yards or more. The Donner brothers, with their families, hastily constructed a brush shed in Alder Creek valley, six or seven miles from the lake. Their provisions were speedily consumed, and starvation, with all its grim attendant horrors, stared the poor emigrants in the face. Day by day, with aching hearts and paralyzed energies they awaited, amid the beating storms of the Sierras, the dread revelation of the morrow, "hoping against hope" for some welcome sign.

On the sixteenth day of December, 1846, a party of seventeen were enrolled to attempt the hazardous journey over the mountains, and pass into the valley beyond for relief. Two returned, and the remaining fifteen pressed on, including Mary Graves, her sister Mrs. Sarah Fosdick, and several other women,—the heroic C. T. Stanton and the noble F. W. Graves (who left his wife and seven children at the lake

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PETER J. DELAY

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

1924

## INTRODUCTORY

"Tierra de las Uvas!"—The Land of the Grapes! Such was the greeting to the territory now comprising the County of Yuba by the early Spanish settlers. Their exclamation was prompted by the prolific growth of the wild grape along the river and the creeks. From the word "Uvas" came the name Yuba, which the county bears today. Yuba County has proved to be the natural home of the grape.

Half mountain, half valley, lying well to the center of Northern California, Yuba County, with her fertile acres, numbering 393,800, stretched over 625 square miles, boasts a wealth of resources. A third the size of the State of Delaware, this rich, fertile and productive domain can easily afford a livelihood to a people considerably in excess of the population shown by the last government census. Only development is necessary; and this is well under way while this volume is being edited.

Yuba County is outlined by Honeycut Creek on the north, Bear River on the south, the Feather River, which stream divides Yuba and Sutter Counties, on the west, and the foothills of the Sierras on the east, with the Yuba River meandering its full length through the center.

Owing to the topography of this territory, its climate is not a matter of latitude and longitude. Its average mean winter temperature is 50.1 degrees Fahrenheit; the mean summer temperature, 78.3; the mean annual temperature, 64.2; the rainfall in normal seasons, from eighteen to twenty inches.

Even without water the low, fertile lands of Yuba County have yielded fruit and nuts which are first to reach the market. Hops, hay and grain grow abundantly under natural conditions. In the foothills and mountains rich gold mines exist; while in the valley reaches of the rivers, particularly at Hammonton and Marigold, nine miles east of Marysville, the county seat dredge mining has helped to place the county in the front rank as the heaviest gold-producing territory in the world. Dairying also has become a leading industry.

The county seat of Yuba County is Marysville, with a population of 6000. It is beautifully situated at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers. It is on the main line of the Southern Pacific, Western Pacific and Sacramento Northern railroad systems. The latter road has a branch line connecting Marysville and Colusa. For years a terminal point, Marysville enjoys the same freight rate on shipments from the East as San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. It is an important shipping point and trading center for a vast territory, including the great farming and mining sections by which it is surrounded. It is easily one of the best business towns on the Pacific Coast, and is one of the best-improved and best-equipped. A large cannery gives employment in the fruit-harvesting seasons to many people.

Sutter County may well be called "The God-made Home of Tree and Vine." Sutter County can't help being great. It holds within its borders every conceivable attribute to make it one of the foremost agricultural sections of the world; and that it is rapidly coming into its heritage, is undisputably written in the story of its development since its incipiency.

### Marysville Woolen Mills

Among the great industries of Yuba County in the three and a half decades following the year 1867, there were none that attracted more widespread interest and proved of more importance than the manufacture of woolen goods. Among the manufacturing establishments in this part of California, the Marysville Woolen Mills stood preeminent in their line.

It was in 1867 that the plant was established, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Located at the corner of Second and B Streets, for thirty years the mill continued uninterrupted operations, until destroyed by fire in the year 1899. When rebuilt, the mill was constructed on a larger scale, being equipped with the latest improved machinery operated by means of electricity. The late D. E. Knight, who gave to Marysville the race-track grounds, now known as Knight Recreation Park, was for years the moving spirit at the head of the concern. The trade, which was large, extended over the Western and Northern States, Mexico and British Columbia, and finally to London, England. Besides giving employment to many, the establishment provided a home market for the wool-raisers of Yuba and Sutter Counties. It was an institution of which Marysville was justly proud; for its blankets, underwear, and suit material became known both in Europe and America. Toward the end of its career, after the death of D. E. Knight, the establishment was owned by John Martin. A second fire left the mill in its present ruined condition.

### The Marysville Winery

Another establishment that flourished early in Marysville was the Marysville Winery. At its zenith, none in the State enjoyed a higher reputation for the excellence of its products. The business was established by a stock company in 1872, and was purchased by the late Gottlieb Sieber in 1884. The distillery consisted of very substantial buildings equipped with the latest improved continuous stills, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of high-grade brandies and sweet and dry wines per year. Sieber was assisted in the management of the concern by his son, Henry Sieber, now of Berkeley, Alameda County. Until it ceased operations in the late nineties, the winery afforded a ready market to the grape-growers of the two counties.

### Buckeye Flour Mills

An influential factor that contributed to the prosperity of the city of Marysville, and of Yuba and Sutter Counties in general, in the days when the farmers of the two counties depended chiefly upon grain-raising, was the Buckeye Flour Mills at Fifth and Yuba Streets. The name of the late Justus Greely, father of the present county auditor and recorder, Fred H. Greely, was almost synonymous with the concern, at the head of which he stood for years. During Mr. Greely's regime, shipment of Buckeye flour to China began. The concern has since been absorbed by the Sperry Flour Company.

### A Faithful Watchman

The Buckeye Flour Mills, and its successor, the Sperry Flour Company, had about its properties for many years a well-known night watchman, Samuel Harrington, whose death was only recently recorded. On August 9, 1893, during an encounter by night with a trespasser on the property of his employers, Harrington was shot in the arm and disabled for some time. Besides more substantial recognition as a reward for his faithfulness at all times, the flour company gave Mr. Harrington favorable mention and extended tribute in a magazine published by the concern.

"Sam" Harrington had as his loyal companions during many a night his well-trained dogs; and woe be to the intruder who ignored these faithful

was also used for rodeos during the early days. Mr. Walsh had secured a squatter's quit claim to the place, which he later sold, moving to the Bushby ranch on the Marysville road. There he built a home but afterward sold the property to Mr. Bushby, whose family have since lived upon it. Mr. Walsh next became owner of a farm on the Sacramento road, which at that time traversed Bear River at Johnson's Crossing and continued on through the Oak Grove country to Smartsville; he also bought the toll house, on the Sacramento road, and built a portion of the toll road. He was one of the honored pioneers of Northern California and his life was a long, active and useful one. The mother had come to California in 1858, and in this State her marriage occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh were the parents of seven children: John E., Phillip, Edward, Mary, Nellie, William and Charles.

Mr. Walsh obtained the greater part of his education in the Smartsville public school and remained at home assisting his father until he reached the age of twenty-four years. He then started out on his own account and engaged in threshing, sheep-shearing and various kinds of farm work. For several years he has devoted his attention to stock-raising and is now the owner of a 240-acre ranch in the hills, four and a half miles southeast of Smartsville. He has a thorough knowledge of his occupation, gained through broad experience and careful study.

Mr. Walsh was married in Grass Valley in August, 1884, to Miss Anna Quick, who was born on December 8, 1860, in Hansonville, Yuba County, a daughter of Granderson and Libby (Morgan) Quick, natives of Virginia. In 1859 they crossed the plains to California, locating at Timbuctoo, which at that time was the largest settlement in Rose Bar Township. The father engaged in mining and also participated in public affairs, serving at one time as constable of Timbuctoo. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh had three children: Charles Eugene, Walter Lucien and Marie. Mrs. Walsh died on April 9, 1923, beloved by all who knew her, and is deeply mourned by her husband and children and a large circle of relatives and friends. She was, for several years prior to her marriage, a successful public school teacher in Yuba and Placer Counties. She attended the common schools at Timbuctoo and the high school at Oakland, Cal., and completed her education for teaching at the San Jose State Normal, from which she graduated.

Mr. Walsh votes according to the dictates of his judgment, placing the qualifications of a candidate above party ties, and where matters of progressive citizenship are concerned his support is never found wanting. He was a member of Smartsville Parlor, N. S. G. W., until the organization lost its charter through lack of membership. Laudable ambition has prompted him to strive earnestly and untiringly for the attainment of his purpose and he deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for it has been won through hard work and straightforward methods.

**HOMER L. DOBBINS.**—Yuba County has cause to be proud of the constructive work of Homer L. Dobbins, who has for years been prominently connected with the horticultural and viticultural development of this section of the State. He was born in White County, Ind., April 26, 1887, a son of Simon and Mary (Pefly) Dobbins, both natives of Indiana, and is the eleventh in a family of thirteen children born to his parents, both of whom are now deceased.

Homer L. Dobbins attended Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Ind., and then entered Purdue University at Lafayette, Ind., and was graduated in the agricultural department with the class of 1908. He came to California in 1909 and homesteaded a quarter-section of land in Lassen County, where he lived until 1914. He then came to Yuba County and

was here associated with development work in the olive orchards of the Erle district. In 1917 he organized the Yuba Vineyards Company, and its first purchase was a tract of 880 acres, known as the Toland property, which the company began to develop to vineyard. Next, 550 acres were purchased from C. F. Boardman; and then an additional acreage of 880 acres was acquired from Ernest Hutchinson; and the last tract secured was 160 acres purchased from William L. Vance. Of this land, 670 acres have been planted to Thompson Seedless grapes and Kadota figs; and about 500 acres have been sold to individuals who intend to locate on their property within the next few years. In order to get sufficient water to irrigate this extensive tract of land, Mr. Dobbins has brought water through the Bushby ditch for four and a half miles. Mr. Dobbins is the president and manager of this company, and through his efficient direction of its constructive program the growth and development of Yuba County have been carried forward in a most substantial manner.

The marriage of Mr. Dobbins occurred at Reno, Nev., in April, 1912, and united him with Claudine Wright, a native of San Francisco, and a daughter of Harry and Ethel C. Wright. Harry Wright is a tea importer, with headquarters in San Francisco. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins: Homer, Jr., Jean Elizabeth, and James Morton. Mr. Dobbins is a prominent Mason, being a member of the Royal Arch Chapter and Sciots of Marysville, and the Scottish Rite body of Sacramento. In politics he is a Republican.

**CHARLES W. MERZ.**—What science has done, or is every day doing in one way or another, to aid the California automobilist, is well illustrated in the busy life and accomplishments of Charles W. Merz, the proficient and very popular "tire doctor" of 507½ Fifth Street, Marysville. He is a native son, born in Browns Valley, Yuba County, on February 2, 1898. Grandfather Merz was a pioneer of San Francisco, where he was engaged in the wholesale grocery business. The father, George Merz, was a native of California, and married Miss Minnie Walker, a native daughter of the State, also of an old pioneer family.

Coming of old pioneer stock, and having inherited native impulses making for greater individual independence and initiative, Charles Merz began to shift for himself and make his own way at an early age. He was educated in the schools of San Francisco and Oakland and the Marysville High School. As a boy he sold papers on the streets of San Francisco and Oakland, finally returning to Marysville in 1912. For a while, he attended school by day and worked in the Marysville Theater in the evenings; and seven years ago he started to work in the automobile industry, securing employment with Dunning Bros. Later, he joined the Goodyear Company at Sacramento. Again coming to Marysville, he opened a business for himself, and has since gone ahead rapidly. He will fix an old tire, or sell a new one; does his work well, and is happy in the patronage of a large number of satisfied customers. He is agent for the India Cord Tires, and also represents the Kelly Kat or Kelly solid rubber tires, and the Firestone solid tires. His business having grown to such proportions that he found it necessary to enlarge his quarters, he is now maintaining a place for pressing solid tires on trucks. This place is located at 717 E Street, and is completely equipped with the necessary machinery and appliances, including a hydraulic press for pressing on truck tires.

Mr. Merz also owns twenty acres devoted to the growing of peaches and prunes at Live Oak, in the Sunset Colony in Sutter County; and between his regular tire business and his horticulture ventures, he is one of the busiest



