Sierra County Historical Society

May 11, 1970

Vol. 2 No. 1

$2.00

TWO MANY NAMES!

“long boards”
USED FOR TRAVEL AND WORK (Before 1867)

Visit an OLD IRISH CEMETARY

Sierra City: 1885

PROFITABLE INVESTMENT - SECOND TO NONE.

May 11, 1970

Vol. 2 No. 1

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THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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EARLY ANNALS OF DOWNIEVILLE AND VICINITY

By One of the Earliest Settlers

Number Two

One of the best known mining towns in Sierra County was Forest City, up on Pliocene Ridge, south of Downieville. This community acquired the reputation of having had more names attached to it than any other town in the Gold Belt. In this second installment of "Early Annals of Downieville and Vicinity," which originally appeared in the May 12th, 1860 issue of the "Tuloumne Courier," the annalist tells us how the town received its name.

-Wm. Pickiepoche

Forest City - Its Name

From 1851 to 1853, I was absent on the Feather River, and during that time I am not as competent to chronicle the events which transpired, of which several important ones did - such as the burning of the town - the hanging of a woman - and the first decision gained by the miners, in regard to the right to mine within the town limits, Downieville not then being incorporated. This case was defended and gained by a young lawyer, one of the earliest of his tribe in Downieville, named Howland B. Cossett. Great were the rejoicings on the receipt of the decision in the District Court; by the miners; and from that time until he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, on the 7th of September, 1853, Mr. Cossett was the popular lawyer of the mines.

In the fall of 1853, Forest City was discovered by Michael Savage and his company, a short way above the forks of Oregon Creek. It was then known as "The Forks." In the latter end of the fall, Samuel Hammond, better known as "Old Uncle Sam," opened the first store in the place, and called it the "Yomana Store," from the bluff above the town - being called by the Indians Yomana or Sacred Hill - the most holy spot, in their belief, in all that section of country.
Here the first prospectors nightly congregated to sleep, as being the only log cabin, at that time, in the place. (Part of this log cabin was standing in 1857, greatly dilapidated and unroofed.) Soon, Savage and his party sold out to the Old Dutch Company, for $75,000, part of which was paid down, and part never paid, as far as I know.

About this time, miners having come in pretty thick, a meeting of them was called, and laws made for the better government of the camp, and a Recorder appointed, named Jones - I forget his first name, but he was the younger brother of Samuel Jones, long known in Forest City. The naming of the camp was taken into consideration, and voted on, when the vote was found to be divided between the two names, "Forks of Oregon" and "Yomena." As no final agreement could be come at, the subject was compromised by agreeing to call the place after the first woman who should reside in the place.

Shortly after this, Mr. Davis and his wife Mary came there and built the "Oak Grove Bakery," the first in the place, nearly opposite Hammond's Store. According to the resolution, the place was called indiscriminately "Forks of Oregon" and "Marietta." John Sparks and his wife, Maria, were the next couple. Sparks began building a hotel and boarding-house, a little above the "Oak Grove Bakery;" but on the other side of the street, opposite Tommy Johnson, the Pioneer Blacksmith. Davis soon sold out to Captain Mooney and wife - and now comes the history of the final name.

Mrs. M. was named Forest Mooney. She was a bit of a blue-stockling, and inordinately fond of scribbling. She wrote several pieces, which her husband sent to the Marysville papers. These she dated Forest City, and as the editors
did not know where that might be, they were so published. Her next move was to call together such men as Recorder Jones, and a few of the aristocratic (i.e. non-working) class, in opposition to the hard-working miners, and ask them if "Forest City" was not a more appropriate name than "Marietta." This was done out of envy, as she could not legally have the place named after her. These gentlemen agreed with her in everything, as she was a lady. This was not known for some time amongst the men, until the place was irrevocably known and named abroad as Forest City. The name was not inept in itself, as the place, at that time was literally a forest - but it is the name foisted on the town that I would call attention to.

On the 7th of September, 1853, the first murder was perpetrated, by a gambler named Jack Munty, on the body of a man named Baltimore Jack. It was an election quarrel, and Munty stabbed him in the abdomen. The authorities of Forest City sent him to Downieville, and a large party came over from Forest City with the avowed intention of rescuing Munty out of the hands of the sheriff, Wm. I. Ford. Ford summoned a posse to protect Munty, and amongst the rest, the Prosecuting Attorney, Thaddeus Purdy. In defending the Court Room, in the upper story of Graycroft's building, Purdy was shot and instantly killed. This dispersed the crowd, although the excitement was high for some hours. Munty was subsequently tried, and through his and the gamblers' money, acquitted.

As this is extended now almost too long, I shall close for the present. In my next, I shall touch on some other parts of the environs.
Footnotes:

1. This must have been a typographical error in the original article. It should be 1852.

2. A slightly different version appears in Volume VI of Bancroft's "History of California," in a footnote on page 362: "...at Forest City, first known as Brownsville and Elizaville..." The Fariss & Smith "Illustrated History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties," also follows this version, stating that Brown was one of the first locators and that Eliza was the wife of W.S. Davis. No doubt her name was Mary Eliza.

3. Our Annalist should have spelled this Moody.

4. William Hughes, druggist and Justice of the Peace at Forest City in 1862, was inclined to doubt this statement. In the questionnaire that he returned to the Bancroft Publishing Company (in the Knight Scrapbook at the Bancroft Library), Hughes wrote, "The town was (nic)named Forest City by a lady (this word was crossed out and woman substituted) named Mrs. Moody and who has fortunately since died."

5. Graycroft's is the present Marcellus P. Fischer building.
Ski Racing in the Sierras

Now that the great skier Billy Kidd has won the world's skiing championship for the United States, honors have come back to this country, where they truly belong for, contrary to belief, organized ski racing originated in the United States, and not in Europe. In fact, the first organized ski races in the United States, and, in fact, the world, were started in February, 1867, at La Porte. Before this time, ski races had been enjoyed for thirteen years in the towns of Gibsonville, Howland Flat, Poker Flat, St. Louis, Fort Wine, Poverty Hill, Scales, Sawpit Flat, and Poorman's Creek, all Sierra County Gold Rush towns. But in February of 1867 these races were organized and a great meet was held in La Porte.

Skis (or snow-shoes, as they were sometimes called, but these were not the webbed snow-shoes we know now, but long skis, or "long boards" as they were named) had been in use for travel and work in these snow-bound Sierra towns long before 1867. The men of Sawpit Flats and Poorman's Creek were the first to use skis for both work and fun. In 1853, Charles Nelson had introduced skis in Onion Valley, where as much as twenty-five feet of snow usually fell during the winter. John Porter, known as "Old Buckskin," made the first skis for use in the Sierras. These were long, flat-bottomed boards made of Douglas fir erroneously called spruce. They
were known as "Norway Skates." In 1857 Porter improved these skis by burning a groove in the bottom with hot pine tar. These skis sold for six dollars gold dust a pair. The citizens eagerly bought them as a welcome means of locomotion in the heavy snows of winter.

Besides Porter's improvement of skis with his groove burned in the bottom, another advancement which helped the art of skiing was the development and use of ski dope. The "receiptes" for this dope were a deep, dark secret. Most families developed their own dope and all claimed theirs was the best and caused skis to glide along faster than any other. Bill Clinch of Sawpit developed the first racing dope, or "Sierra Lightning." These dopes were made of many unusual and expensive ingredients, such as spermacetti, Burgandy pitch, Canada pitch, balsam, spruce, tar, glycerine, barberry tallow, camphor, caster oil and other ingredients.

The following is Frank Steward's receipt for Old Black Dope, first used at La Porte in 1861:

- 2 oz. spermacetti
- 1/4 oz. pitch pine pitch
- 1/8 oz. camphor
- 1 tbs. balsam
- 1 tbs. oil of spruce

This should all be cooked together, but the cooking time was a well kept secret. Seven or eight coats of the resulting wax were painted on the bottoms of the skis, with the result that the racer really did go like "Sierra Lightning."
The first snow-shoe races recorded were in Onion Valley and La Porte in 1855. The earliest speed tests were limited to two men. Later these speed tests were free-for-alls. The record time for one of these speed tests was 1800 feet in thirteen seconds from a standing start!

The La Porte gamblers were delighted with the advent of this new sport. In these snow-bound towns there was not much doing during the long winter months. During the 1850's the gamblers and saloon keepers of many of these towns raised purses of several hundred dollars for prizes for the skiers who could make the best time down a track designated by a committee.

On February 12, 1867, the world's first ski club was formed and the world's first ski tourney was held at Lexington Hill near La Porte. The club was named The Alturas Snow Shoe Club. Alturas means heights and La Porte is situated at a height of 4500 feet. The club had vice-presidents from Gibsonville, Sawpit, and Port Wine. Robert Oliver, a Cornish miner of Sawpit Flat, became the club's first champion. Later the Alturas Snow Shoe Club challenged the entire universe.

During this first tourney forty-two men entered and they were divided into six-man squads. These squads zoomed down a 1230 foot course in fourteen seconds from a standing start. Besides the money prizes, there was a championship belt, which the leaders of the different squads eagerly competed for. Robert Oliver and John G. Pollard made the course in fourteen seconds. Since the race was tied, they tried again and Oliver won, and was acclaimed the world's first skiing champion. Oliver's winning time was not exceptionally swift.
for those days, as top velocities of one hundred miles per hour had been clocked at other times.

The women and the youngsters were not forgotten at these tourneys. The first women's champion was Miss Lottie Joy and the junior championship went to Hattie Starr of Gibsonville.

As may be imagined, with so many people competing at such high speeds, accidents were frequent. At one meet, Napoleon Normandin, a squad winner and contestant for the main prize, fell over another man. Normandin dislocated his thigh joint, broke his leg at the thigh, and sustained various internal injuries. But these hard-living, boisterous miners had much compassion for a misfortunate fellow miner. All the purses were put together and other money was collected and the total was given to Normandin to help pay his expenses. (Those were the days before hospital insurance.)

In another accident, one that was comic rather than tragic, one competitor going at about the slow speed of greased lightning collided with a young lady, throwing her "Canada West" and himself, too. The most singular part of the incident was that the race broke one of his skis and the young lady's hoops without serious injury to either. (Imagine skiing in hoop skirts!)

In 1867 ski racing reached a peak in this area. On March 11 of that year at Howland Flat seven hundred people, many of them ladies, lined the Table Rock Course for the opening contests of a four day program. Out
of that tourny came the Table Rock Snow Shoe Club with membership drawn from Howland Flat, Poker Flat and Pine Grove. This tourny produced the first specific commendations for three youthful snow shoers whose names for many years were to be household words in the area: Elias Squires of Gibsonville, Charley Littick of Pine Grove, and Hank Brown of Holland Flat.

During the winter of 1888 there was lots of snow and a great five day tournament was held. The competitions were held in various Sierra mining towns, ending on April 10 in Port Wine. There were cash prizes worth six hundred dollars and three hundred dollars worth of watches to be given to the winners. The fastest time recorded at this meet was twenty-one seconds down a fourteen hundred foot course by Pete Riendear who won the championships belt and $325. On this day there were seventy-two entrants.

Beginning in 1869, fraternal organizations played a major role in organizing and sponsoring these events. From Sierra City the E Clampus Vitus crossed the mountains in a body and it was "Hail to the Clampers" at Howland Flat. The Cosmopolitan Minstrels of Downieville snowshoed to Gibsonville while the Odd Fellows of Pilot Peak slid to La Porte.

During these years, many efforts had been made to improve not only the skis used in the races but the dope waxed onto them. In 1873 two of the leading dope makers of Howland Flat were Hiram Walker, a mining engineer and later superintendent of the Bald Mountain Mine near Forest City, and A.J. Howe, later a Sierra County Court judge. Howe also worked on improving the skis themselves. He perfected a new snow-shoe which had a wider groove on the bottom, tapered ends, and the tops were ridged and streamlined. Tommy Lodd used these new skis in March 1874 and, with the
bottoms slicked with lightning dope, he ran an 1804 foot course in fourteen seconds from a standing start, reaching speeds of 88 miles per hour.

Another maker of skis was Michael J. Sinnott of Downieville. He began work at Howland Flat in 1880 and continued to manufacture skis until 1935. He made many skis of all sizes from very small size for young children to twelve footers for racing and touring. Many of these skis made by Sinnott still remain in older families of western Sierra County.

To the inhabitants of these snow-buried towns there was no visitor hailed with greater delight than the mail-man. Communication was maintained for long periods only by skiers who carried the mail upon their backs. They were always expert skiers and handled only the letter mail.

To end on a lighter note, the following poem was taken from a Mountain Messenger 1879:

The ladies, too with modest grace
Will take their chance to win the race,
And if the dears are not experts
The air seems filled with snow and skirts.

Special thanks to Bill Berry - "The Skier" - March 1967
Georgene Copren

Notes on the Author:
Mrs. Georgene Copren, although a native of San Francisco, has lived in Sierraville, California, long enough to be considered a "native." She has raised her family in Sierra Valley and now enjoys the visits of her grandchildren to the Valley. She is presently teaching Home Ec. at Loyalton High School, and resides in Sierraville with her husband, "Pinkie" Copren.
A VISIT TO THE OLD IRISH CEMETARY

Were a person to travel from Calpine to Beckworth, via alternate highway Twenty Three, he would travel a very pleasantly scenic route indeed. To his right would be the lush farms of Sierra Valley, and to his left would be low hills, covered with evergreen trees or sage brush or both, which gradually build up to the higher mountains. And should a person stop about mid point between the two previously mentioned communities, (seven miles from either town) and scan the mountains to his left, he would be rewarded with a picturesque view of rolling foothills covered with sagebrush, foothills which quickly and steeply rise into the mountains behind them. Closer scrutiny of the hillside would reveal, about one-half mile up the side of the mountain, several ghostly white objects half hidden behind trees, sage and brush. Most people would dismiss the scene as an optical illusion and pass on.

For those more discriminating lookers, closer inspection will indeed reveal ghostly white objects—grave stones. For the hearty viewer who doesn't mind walking up a steep trail for about a half mile or more, there awaits one of the last examples of a truly "Old West" cemetery.

As one approaches the cemetery site, somewhat out of breath after the climb, he will see a timeworn wooden trestle crudely braced by a tepee of wooden sticks, standing awkwardly at the entrance to the yard. A rusty steel gate guards the entrance to the cemetery which is surrounded by a tumbled-down barbed wire fence supported by old posts. The floor of the cemetery is matted with an overgrowth of mangled sagebrush, and twisted trees border the graveyard. The view of Sierra Valley and the mountains beyond is worth the climb up the hill for anyone, but for the amateur historian, the view plus an hour or two wandering through the cemetery makes for a perfect afternoon.

Little is known about the beginning of the cemetery, or graveyard, as it is called in the Sierra Valley region. Few
written records were kept in the 1860s and 70s, and many of these have disappeared. Residents of the area recall stories about the graveyard, and a few direct descendants of people buried in the graveyard live nearby and supply a modicum of valid information.

Putting all the existing stories together, plus adding what printed research exists, it would seem valid to state that a significant number of Irish people, either immigrants directly from Ireland or people who had come from Ireland earlier, settled in the East and then later come West, arrived in Sierra Valley in the late 1860s and 1870s. It has been reported that many of these people came first to work in the nearby mines which at that time existed around the Eureka Peak area. After working the mines for a time, the people began to farm in Sierra Valley.

By the mid 1870s there was a significant Irish settlement in what today is the area around the France Ranch and the present Marble Hot Springs road. Some accounts state that there was a school and a post office at the end of the Marble Hot Springs road. An excerpt from the California Cultivator states that:

The central valley (Sierra Valley) was taken up by a colony of old country Irish—the Sharkeys, the O’Haras, the Giblins, the Marbles (of tennis fame), the Caseys, and the McCauleys.

It can be assumed that these Irish were faithful in the practice of their faith—the Roman Catholic Faith, because soon after their appearance a Roman Catholic Church was built in this area and a priest was assigned to the church and services were held periodically. This church, built about one mile south of the present France Ranch, was roughly in the center of the area considered the Irish area. It stood for many years and was finally abandoned in favor of a church in Loyalton. It was finally torn down and its timbers were used in many of the surrounding ranch buildings. It can be assumed that the Irish people, once a cemetery was needed, would want one near their church. Why the cemetery was built about a mile and a half from the church, and up a steep hill besides, is open to conjecture.

There are many theories concerning why the Westside Cemetery (as it is now called) was laid out where it was. The question naturally arises as to why the cemetery wasn’t constructed nearer the Catholic Church, if not next to it.
One answer to this seems to be that the Old World practice of locating graveyards within the Church yard was not practiced in the western part of the United States, and so contemporary custom would prohibit locating the graveyard within the Church yard. Church buildings came and went in the rapidly changing existences of western boom towns, but cemeteries were supposed to go on forever.

A view of part of the cemetary—looking east out over Sierra Valley.

Another theory is that the Irish, wishing a "Catholic" cemetary (i.e., a cemetary specifically designated as a Catholic burial place and dedicated as consecrated ground) would frown on using existing cemeteries, since none of them were specifically Catholic cemeteries. They would, instead, find one that was close to the Church, consecrated, and yet in keeping with the local custom, would choose a site on a hill overlooking the settlement. This theory seems to have some validity in relation to the location of the cemetary. Another theory would indicate that the location of the cemetery was chosen much like the location of the Sierraville cemetery and the Loyalton cemetery. In this case there was a death in a particular family,

View of cemetery—looking north towards Beckworth.
and that particular family chose a site which it happened to like. As deaths happened in other families, these also chose the site picked by the first family. In a few years a cemetery just happened to come into existence. This theory has some validity in that there is a story that the infant daughter of one of the Irish families died. A cemetery was needed and in that particular year no dry land was available in the valley as the year was a particularly wet one. Hence, the bluff on the high hill was chosen. This may well be true, but there is no historical data to substantiate it. Whatever the reason, the cemetery was chosen, and laid out, and was used from 1874 until the 1930s. It was not used again until the early spring of 1970 when Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, one of the "pioneers" of Sierra Valley, and one of the direct descendants of the original Irish settlers, was laid to rest.

The headstone which has the oldest recorded date in the cemetery, and which is said to be the marking on the first grave in the cemetery.

Following is a listing of the known graves in the cemetery: (Information taken from headstones)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>DATE OF DEATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARLEY</td>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>1847--1917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Father</td>
<td>1840--1885</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herbert</td>
<td>1883--1937</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John T. Farley</td>
<td></td>
<td>1877--1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHARKEY</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>30 July 1890--12 Dec. 1928</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myles</td>
<td>9 Sept. 1855--21 Mar. 1921 Native of Sligo, Ireland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16.
Annie P. Sharkey 1858–1935 Native of Sligo, Ireland
Baby May Sharkey 1912
James Sharkey 1819–1898 Native of Sligo, Ireland,
Catharine (Sharkey) Black, wife of Thomas Black, Native of
Sligo Co., Ireland Died 9 May 1877 26 years old.

McElroy Plot
Margaret, wife of Owen McElroy
Died 11 Feb. 1882 50 years

Freeman Plot
Mabel Freeman 1886–1886

Corecco Plot
Peter Corecco 15 Dec. 1876–18 May 1897

Ramelli Plot
Mary, daughter of M. and M. Ramelli
D 9 Dec. 1893, aged 3 yrs 5 mos
Louis, son of M. and M. Ramelli
D 21 Sept. 1899 aged 2 yrs

Myers Plot
George F. 1837–1926
Delia M. 1843–1926

Winifred
D 23 Oct 1874
1 yr 8 mos 15 days

Connolly Plot
Patrick Connolly
D 14 Aug 1903 65 years Native of Ireland

17.
Merkel Plot  
Michael Merkel  
d 1 July 1823  
81 yrs  
Native of Germany  

Mary, wife of Michael Merkel  
d 7 Oct 1897  
aged 38 yrs  
Native of Ireland  

Hooley Plot  
Eddy Hooley  
1878--1890  
Michael Hooley  
1818--1908  
Ann Hooley  
1835--1915

McGillicuddy Plot  
Lizzie McGillicuddy  
d 28 Aug 1888  
32 yrs 8 mos  
County Cork, Ireland

Mills Plot  
Charles M. Mills  
d 20 Sep 1892  
3 yrs

O'Hara Plot  
Michael O'hara  
d 14 Jan 1904  
77 yrs  
Mary O'Hara  
d 25 July 1900  
79 yrs

Herrican Plot  
John Herrican  
d 23 Nov 1902  
84 yrs  
Margaret Herrican  
d 5 Oct 1903  
80 yrs  
Ireland

McMurray Plot  
John McMurray, Husband of Agnes  
d 26 Oct 1896  
48 yrs 4 mos 12 days

18.
Giblin Plot
James Giblin
D 28 Oct 1890
64 yrs
Co. Sligo, Ire.

James Henry Giblin
B 8 Dec 1866
D 29 Oct 1902

Frank P. Giblin
1863—1939

Ann M. Giblin, wife of
James
D 14 April 1912
85 yrs
Ireland

John M. Giblin
D 9 June 1897
27 yrs 8 mos 17 days

Keefe Plot
Mary E. Keefe, wife of P.H. Keefe
1 Oct 1865—04 June 1902
36 yrs 7 mos 4 days

Patrick Henry Keefe
July 15, 1851—May 27, 1925

Gloster Plot
Margaret, mother of D.M. Gloster
Died 20 May 1888, aged 31 yrs

Daniel Maurece Gloster
25 Mar 1885—11 Jan 1906

Turner Plot
Mildred A. Turner
1912—1914

Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, mentioned earlier in this report, was buried in this plot in the Spring of 1970.

Tom Burner, Nickolus Merkel, Paul Vilmer, Horis Vilmer and Gladys Gould are supposed to be buried in the cemetery although no headstones exist to mark their graves.

The oldest date registered for death is 1874, for Winifred Myers, a one year old girl.
The author wishes to thank the following people for their aid in obtaining valuable information: Mr. Owen P. McGarr of Beckworth, Mr. A. Strang of Sierraville, Mrs. Della Lombardi of Loyalton, and especially Mrs. Harold France of Beckworth. The author also is indebted to the article, "Saga of Sierra Valley" in the California Cultivator.

Notes on the Author:

Miss Janice Nervino was born in Reno, Nevada, in 1952. She attended school in Portola, California, and Loyalton, California. She presently lives with her parents in Beckworth, California, and is a Senior student at Loyalton High. Jan is president of the student body at Loyalton High and was chosen as Girl's State representative and one of the speakers for graduation. She plans to attend Chico State College when she graduates in June, 1970. Jan's initial interest in this subject was the result of an assignment in her history class. She became more interested as she began her research, and the article you have just read is the result of her labors.

Below is a pen drawing of the Cemetery.
There is some information known concerning the many Irish who settled the area and who also rest in the cemetery being discussed, now known as the "Westside Cemetery." While this information doesn't directly bear on the cemetery, it is none the less interesting, as most of the people discussed eventually found their final resting place in the Westside Cemetery.

The early settlers and information about them are as follows:

James Sharkey became a citizen of the U.S. in the state of New Jersey in Warren County on Jan. 1, 1856. Between 1856 and 1878 he was in Downieville, mining. In the early '70s he settled in Sierra Valley and got his deed to 160 acres on July 13, 1878. He passed away in 1898.

Catharine Sharkey, niece of James Charkey, came to live with James Sharkey. She married one Thomas Black. She passed away on May 9, 1877.

Miles Sharkey, a nephew of James Sharkey, came from Ireland in 1877 to live with his Uncle Jim. He homesteaded 160 acres on April 4, 1889. He married Annie Plunket of Ireland that year. She had lived in San Francisco before coming to Sierra Valley as a bride. One son was born to this union. He was named Tom Sharkey.

Tom Sharkey married one Sara McKenzie of La Porte, Plumas County. They had seven girls, six of whom are still living and named Anne, Virginia, Catherine, Lola, Gladys and Evelyn.

George Myers came to California in 1858. In 1869 he was established in Sierra Valley and married Delia Sharkey. This couple had eight children: Benjamen, Catherine, George,
Elizabeth, Anne, Frances and Winifred and Mary. The Myers ranch is now owned by the Carmichaels. (See notes on Elizabeth Myers Truner at the end of this article)

The Keefes lived for a long time in Sattley. Mary Keefe was a Casey. Both husband and wife are buried in the cemetery. The McElroy family lived between Sattley and the grave yard. A grove of Lombardi Poplars now stands where the ranch once was and can be seen today. A granddaughter of this pioneer family, Vesta Thomas, lives in Sattley.

There were, obviously, many more families than mentioned in the previous paragraphs; however, no information is known about them now, or at least this writer. What happened to many of the ranches settled by the early Irish is known, as these ranchers were purchased, in great part, by a second wave of immigrants, the Swiss Italians. The Swiss Italians tended, for the most part, to be dairy farmers. What happened to many of the early Irish ranches is listed below:

The Freeman ranch was on the road to Sattley and no longer exists as the Freeman ranch.
The Markel ranch was purchased by the Folchi brothers.
The Hooley ranch was above Loyalton, then called Smithneck, and is presently part of a development area of the Monarch Company.
The O'Hara ranch was above the present day Sierra Valley Ranch.
The Herrican property now belongs, for the most part, to the Churches.
Frank Giblin's ranch now is part of the Ghidossi ranch.
The Glosters left Sierra Valley and settled in the Alturas region.
The Turner ranch of Sattley is still owned by a descendent of the original Irish clans, Jim Turner.
The McMurray's ranch now is part of what present day Campbell's Hot Springs.
There was, at one time, a school and a post office at the McElroy ranch which was located roughly where the present day Marble Hot Springs road comes into Alternate Twenty Three.
The Keefe resident is now owned by Gordon Church.
This town, located almost in the geographical center of the county, is the principal mining town within its borders. It has post, express and telegraph offices, and is on the well-maintained wagon road leading from Sierra Valley through Downieville, via Camptonville to Nevada City and Marysville, from which last two named cities Sierra City is distant fifty-three miles and seventy-seven miles respectively; the distance to Truckee via Sierra Valley being fifty-two miles. The chief mines are the Marguerite Mine and Mill Co., the Colombo Gold Mining and Milling Co. and the Sierra Buttes Gold Mining and Milling Co. and the South Branch mine three miles east of town. The Marguerite Company have extensive works and a mill crushing forty tons per day. The company employs fifty men. The Colombo Company's works employs sixty men. The Sierra Buttes Company is said to employ two hundred and fifty men in its mines and mills. Besides the above properties operated by the companies, there are many paying claims in the vicinity owned by private individuals. The chances for profitable investment in the locality are second to none in the Sierras.

Lumbering is largely followed in the mountains of the vicinity, and many sawmills are located in the near neighborhood, chief among which may be noted that of Hagerty & Garfield, situated five miles northeast of Sierra City. Sierra City also possesses several large business houses, a brewery, three hotels, a large school house and a water supply that would do good service in case of fire, the natural pressure being powerful enough to throw a stream one hundred and eighty feet high.

The population of the town has been increasing very materially of late, having risen in the last three years from a little over four hundred to about seven hundred, its present figure. Almost due north of Sierra City, at the northern boundary line of the county, is located Gold Lake, one of the most delightful bodies of water in the Sierras; it is four miles long by about two in width, of great depth, and is the source of the Middle Fork of the Feather River; it is surrounded by lofty mountains, creating wonderful echoes to one on the waters, and is bountifully stocked with magnificent trout. A wagon road to the lake from Sierra City will soon supersede the trails and wearying mule transportation now in vogue, when Gold Lake
will assuredly become one of our recognized summer resorts.

Roster of Residents and Their Occupations

Abbe, George N. & Son
Adolp & Williams
Anderson, John
Andinas, Ricardo
Arata, Mateo
Arata, Stefano
Avalanche Hydraulic Mining Co.
    Castagnetti & Co.
Avignon, John B.
Baker, Henry
Ballesteros, Cystano
Barrere, John
Barnhardt, Jacob
Barrett, John M.
Bassett, Hornbeck J.
Bassett, J. H.
Bassett, Mrs. Mary
Bawden, Nicholas
Beard, J.E.
Beard, Samuel F.
Becker, James L.
Bendixon, Thomas Y.
Bigelow, H.H.
Bigelow, Orson
BIGELOW HOUSE, D.N. Mitchell proprietor
Black, George S.
Black, John F.
Blanch, William
Blue Gravel Consolidated Mining Co. 3½ miles NE of Milton, 640 acres
Bon Ton Saloon, J. Girtovich,
Bonanza Saloon, F. G. Rose proprietor
Bone, John
Branden, John
Branden, Ole
Brangata, Roscoe
Brown, Peter
Buckwith, James L.
Bunker, Ezekiel H.
Burleigh, Jackson A.
Busch, August C.

livery stable
dry goods and clothing
carpenter
watchmaker
miner
miner
proprietors

C. Quirolo & Co.
miner
packer
farmer
millhand
amalgamator

hotel-Howard Ranch
(n.b.-now Bassett's Station)
miner
miner

miner
capitalist
farmer

amalgamator
miner
miner

amine
miner
millman
millman
clerk with Richard Castagna
blacksmith with E.H. Bunker
carpenter
Blacksmith, wagon maker and
horseshoer
carpenter

A. C. Busch & Co., Post-
master, agent Wells, Fargo
& Co., and Western Union
Telegraph Co.
Busch A. C. & Co.  (August C. Busch & C. A. Herringlake)  
general merchandise

Busch, Ernst miner
Busch, Henry F. carpenter
Busch, William C. miner
Buse, Julius G. miner
BUTTES BREWERY, F. L. Fischer proprietor
Canessa, G. B. miner
Capron, William teamster
Casserly, William
CASTAGNA, RICHARD
Castagnetti, John
Castagnetti & Co., John Castagnetti

Cereghino, Angelo
Chapman, John
Christiano, Francisco
Chinelli, Frank
Clith, Markey
Cocks (Cox?), William
Colombo, Gold M. & M. Co., W. H. Roda, Superintendent
Colombo Quartz Mining Co., William Penaluna foreman, 1320 acres
Colotta, L.
Consolidated Gravel Mining Co. 2½ miles NE of Milton, 320 acres
Contar, John
Coperan, Williams
Coryell, William A.
Costa, Pedro
Counter, John
Coutu, Gilbert
Cox, William
Craneym, Joseph E.
Croce, Baldisac
Crossman, Thomas
Crossman, Thomas H.
Crowley, O'Keefe & Kelly
Culver & Corbin
Davis, Joseph
Davis, William L.
DeMartini, Antonio
Denner, William
Dermice & Poss
Deroza, Manuil S.
Derbordier, C. & G.
Devine, Thomas
Donaldson, I. M.
Dorsey, Walt
Douglass, R.

miner
miner
carpenter
miner
miner
teamster
general merchandise
Castagnetti & Co.
and others, proprietors.
Avalanche Hydraulic Mining Co.
miner
miner
clerk with R. Castagna
F. J. Seitz proprietor
miner
mine
boots
miners
saloon
teamster
miner
saloon
miner
saloon
machinist at Marguerite M. Co.
Thompson & Cox
amalgamator
miner
miner
miners
miners
amalgamator
barkeeper with C. Quirolo & Co.
miner
miner
miner
(C. Charles & George) Saloon
miner 120 acres
carpenter
miner
fisherman
Doyle, Elizabeth Mrs.
Dozier, William E., physician & surgeon
Demonds, William M.
Eckert, John

Elsredge, William
Ferrari, Joseph
Fischer, Alvin
Fischer, F.L.
Fischer, Frederick
Fischer, Fredrick W.
Fischer, Louis
Fischer, Richard
Fitzgerald, Alfred
Flannery, James
Fletcher, George T.
Fling, Louis
Fling, L.D.
Flint, L.J.

Florence Quartz Mining Co. (J.T. Mooney, S. B. Stephanson, J. Hutchinson & S. N. Wilcox.)

Fornia, Felix
Foss, Lemuel
Frega, Antone
Freita, Antonia J.
Freitaiz, Manuel
Fredson, Joseph
Gardella, Bartholomew C.
Gardella, Michael
Garfield, L.S.
Gilbert, John
Gill, W.G.
Guriovcich, Joseph

Givenovich, Adolph
Goff, Peter
Gonzales, Joseph F.
Gorham, John M.
Gotjens, Henry
Gotjens, Joseph
Grant, George
Green, James S.

Grondona, Joseph
Gutierrez, Martin
Haas, Samuel
Hagerty, James
HAGERTY & GARFIELD (James Hagerty & L. S. Garfield) sawmills, 5 miles NE of Sierra City

widow
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
farmer 320 acres
miner
miner
miner
miner
amalgamator, Marguerite Mfg. Co. (B.C. Gardella & Bros.)
miner
carpenter
proprietor Bon Ton Saloon.
clerk with Joseph Schiaffino
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
Haines, John B. carpenter, Marguerite Mg. Co.
Halverson, Peter mason, Marguerite Mg. Co.
Halverson William miner
Hartley, Samuel
Havens, C.A.
Havens, Philo A.
Havens & Simprich
Hayes, John
Heckman, Anthony
Heringlake, Charles A.
Hill, James
Hobba, Robert
Hooper, J.
Hughes, Watt
Hulme, Charles
Humbert, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Joseph
Hutchinson, William H.
James, Francis
James, James
James, William M.
Jenkins, John
Jenkins, Richard
Jenkins, William
Joos, Caspar
Jordan, George S.
Jose, T.
Keiser, L. Mrs.
Kane, James M.
Kane, J. W.
Keeffe, P.H.
Kendrich, L.
Kicher, Frederich
Kimball, Charles
Kirby, James
Kitts, John
Kneebone, Alfred
Knoll, Bernard
Knuthsen, Henry
Kruse, A.
Kynoch, William
La Bonte, F. X.
Lamers, Mary Mrs.
Lane, Thomas
Langworthy, Philip
Langton, Edward M.
Lauer, Anton
Lawrence, Edward

miner
miner
miner 260 acres
miners
miner
(A. C. Bush & Co.)
miner
miner
miner
watchman, Sierra Buttes Mg. Co.
bookkeeper, Marguerite Mg. Co.
butcher and miner
miner
miner
miner
foreman Sierra Buttes Mg. Co.
music teacher
miner
miner
brewery
millman
soda water manufacturer
boarding house & saloon
civil engineer
miner
proprietor, Mountain House
amalgamator, Marguerite Mg. Co.
carpenter
teamster
carpenter Marguerite Mg. Co.
miner
miner
miner
clerk with A. C. Busch & Co.
labourer Marguerite Mg. Co.
carpenter, Colombo Gold & Mg. Co.
dry goods & varieties
proprietress Sipple Sal.
(Wilson, Lane & Co.)
miner
miner
miner
saloon
Lawton, Lee
Leary, A.
Leary, John F.
Leary, Thomas
Lee, Louisa Mrs.
Leffers, Albert
Lewis, Antone
Lewis, Jeremiah
Little Boulder Mining Co.
Loeffler, O.
Lopez, Jose
Lord, George W.
Lowney, John
Luke, Simon
Magazini, Luke
Malthy, H.G.
Manly, John T.
Marguerite Quartz Mining Co. 782 acres quartz & placer mining land Loganville
Marguerite Mine & Mill Co. of Boston, Mass. (Robert E. Meyer, Superintendent-office and works two miles from Sierra City)
Marowitch, Michael
Martinetti, Isaac
Martinetti & Martini
Martinez, Jose F.
Martinez, Manuel P.
Nata, Jesue
McCarthy, William
McCoy, George
McCoy, A. H.
McCoy, H.
McMullen, John
Meyer, Robert W.
Mills, Thomas
Miner's Hotel
Miskell, Robert
Mitchell, D. N.
Monaghan, Peter
Montero, Aquilino
Mooney, Isaac T.
Mooney, John W.
Mooney, M. F.
Moore, A. L.
Moore, C. L.
Moore, James C.
Moore, John
Moore, John L.
Morrel, Pierre

teamster
farmer & Roadmaster
miner
miner
saloon
miner
miner
miner, Marguerite M. & M. Co.
(W.D. & J. Nolan & S. Taven)
laborer, Marguerite M. & M. Co.
miner
(Spencer & Lord)
saloon
miner
barber shop & baths
engineer, Columbo M. & M. Co.
miner

pumpman, Marguerite M. & M. Co.
(Martinetti & Martini)
(Isaac Martinetti & Edward Martini)
genereal clothing store & saloon
miner
miner
packer
foreman, blacksmith Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
miner
miner
amalgamator, Sierra Buttes M. & M. Co.
woodchopper
superintendent, Marguerite M. & M. Co.
Steward
John G. Rose, Proprietor
timberman
proprietor Bigelow House
miner
speculator
butcher
foreman, Columbo M. & M. Co.
engineer, Columbo M. & M. Co.
deputy sheriff
carpenter
carpenter
miner
miner
miner
Morgan, --
Morrison, George
Morrisey, James
Mountain House (P.H. Keefe, proprietor, 12 miles NE of Sierra City)

Myers, John
Navarone, Vincenz
Navarone, Wilkson
Nelson, Gustave
Nicholas, Fred
Nolan, J.
Nolan, W. D.
O'Farrell, John
O'Keefe, Dennis
Oats, James
Oldham, James
Oliver, J.
Olson, Peter
Or, Richard
Osborne, Richard
Osterman, George
Osterman, Martin & Matthias
Palace Saloon
Parenti, George
Parkin, James
Parsons, William H.
Paul, James
Fayton, Michael
Pearce, Henry J.
Pearce, Isaac & John
Pearce, William J.
Pellymounter, Thomas
Pellow, James
Pellow, John
Penaluna, William
Pergoni, P.
Perkins, William
Perry, Joseph
Perryman, Edward
Perryman, John & Thomas
Peters, Manuel
Peterson, Christ.
Peterson, Henry
Peterson, James C.
Pettingel, Simeon E.
Phillips, Thomas H.
Pigottl, Joseph
Pires, Frank
Pires, J.F.

laborer
teamster
miner
carpenter
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
shift boss, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
miner
blacksmith, Marguerite M & M Co.
farmers
Al Smith, Proprietor
miner
carpenter
miner
gelder, Marguerite M & M Co.
mioner
miner
miner
Constable & Night Watchman
miner
blacksmith, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
mioner
foreman, Colombo Gold Mining Co.
blacksmith
miner
miner
miner
miner
miner
teamster, Marguerite M & M Co.
carpenter, " " " " " miner
miner
carpenter
miner
laborer
M.F. Pires & Co.
Pires, Manuel F.
Pires, M.F. & Co.
Podesta & Co.

Ponta, Joseph
Preston, Thomas

Prosper, C.
Prout, Joseph
Puchia, Eva
Puchia, Lucie
Quinn, Joseph F.
Quirolo, Charles (C. Quirolo & Co., proprietor store & saloon)
Rawlings, James
Reynolds, James & John
Richards, Thomas & Charles
Richards, Phillip & Samuel
Richardson, John
Rickard, William

Rickard, William R.
Rinaldi, Joseph
Robinson, John
Robinson, John
Rodda, W.H.

Rodgers, John
Romano, Catherine Mrs.
Rose, Joseph
Rose, John G.

Rouse, John
Ruez, Jose Jesus
Russell, William
Sampson, James
Sawyer, John J.
Schelter, Julius
Schiaffino, Joseph
Schubert, John A. A.
Schultz, Charles

Schultz, Emile
Schutt, Henry W.
Scott, John A.
SCOTT'S HOTEL
Seith, Jesus P.
Seitz, Anthony
Seitz, F. J.
Seitz, Peter
Serpas, Jose
Sharkey, Richard
Shottler, Julius

M.F. Pires & Co.
boot & shoe makers
proprietors South Branch Sawmill
miner
superintendent, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
laborer
miner
Chambermaid, Scott's Hotel

timberman
Co., proprietor store & saloon)
miner
miners
miners
miner
shift boss, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
miner
miner
butcher
miner
superintendent, Colombo Gold Mining & Milling Co.
miner
farmer
miner
proprietor, Bonanza Saloon & Hotel
miner
miner
carpenter
butcher
physician & surgeon
farmer
general merchandise & liquors
miner
blacksmith, Marguerite Mine & Mill Co.
carpenter
miner
proprietor, Scott's Hotel
John A. Scott, Proprietor
millman
clerk with F. J. Seitz
proprietor City Market
with F. J. Seitz
millman
shoeman
laborer
Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Co. (limited) south side Sierra Buttes
1 mile north side Sierra City

Silva, Manuel E. millman
Simmons, A. D. Mrs. widow
Simmons, Christ. miner
Smith, A. E. foreman, Marguerite M & M Co.
Smith, Al proprietor Palace Saloon
Smith, Alexander carpenter
Smith, E. carpenter, Marguerite Mine & Mill Co.
Smith, Samuel miner
Smith, Theron B. lumberman
Smith, William W. miner
South Branch Sawmill, Podesta & Co. proprietors 3 miles east of Sierra City

South Branch Water Co., A. C. Busch, President
Southy, Samuel miner
Spencer, John E. (Spencer & Lord)
SPENCER & LORD (John E. Spencer & George W. Lord, proprietors, livery & feed stables)
Spine, Bartholomew packer
Stephenson, Samuel R. miner
St. Jo Mining Co., Williams, Tre-ganan, Chapman & Criag, owners,
St. Jo Bar
Steelman, Richard miner
Sunderland, Oliver miner
Swan, William M. miner
Tapia, Joseph M. miner
Tartini, Edward Martinetti & Tartini
Terney, John miner
Thomas, Benjamine G., John, Jong W. & William
Thompson, Charles (Thompson & Cox)
Thompson, Charles A. miner
Thompson, Daniel miner
Thompson Joseph saloon
Thompson & Cox

Tibbey, Miss Lou Charles Thompson & William Cox miners
Tierney, John (gravel mines, 9 miles E of Sierra City)
Tomachiel, Balodesi school teacher
Treat, Charles L. miner
Trebielox, Fredrick brewer
Trelorie, James painter & grainer
Trompetto, John & Louis butcher with J. T. Mooney
Trothen, William T. miner
Tym, S. miners
Uhli, Michael miner
Uren, Philip miner
Ursen, William H.
Valentine, Mateo
Varick, Robert D.
Wade, -- Mrs.
Ward, Varner B.
Warner, Harry
Watts, John
Weber, C.
Weitzell, Adam S.
Wendler, Herman F.
Wilcox, Adam S.
Wilcox, Schuler W.
Willet, Napoleon B.
Williams, James M.
Williams, John
Williams, John
Williams, Richard H.
Williams, Thomas W.
Williams, Mrs.
Wilson, Charles
WILSON, LANE & CO. (Charles E. Wilson & Thomas Lane) Saloon
County Superintendent of schools and school teacher
fruits & confectionery
merchant
miner
miner
mining
miner
porter, Scott's Hotel
barber with A. Magazini
miner
shift boss, Sierra Buttes
Mining Co.
widow
WILSON, LANE & CO. (Charles E. Wilson & Thomas Lane) Saloon
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TEACHER
FRUITS & CONFECTIONERY
MERCHANT
MINER
MINER
MINER
FOREMAN, SIERRA BUTTES MINING CO.
PORTER, SCOTT'S HOTEL
BARBER WITH A. MAGAZINI
MINER
SHIFT BOSS, SIERRA BUTTES MINING CO.
WIDOW
YOUNG ITALY SALOON,
Zerline, B. J. A.

Courtesy of Frank "Beets" Fortes.

(Many of the names listed are still familiar. Some of their descendants still live here or have connections. Some of the names live on in place names.

Note the number of bars and the dearth of the female gender.)

above article was submitted by Mrs. J. McMahan. Notes on
McMahan can be found in previous publications. The article
furnished through the courtesy of Frank "Beets" Fortes and
from the Directory of Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Sierra,
Siskiyou, Trinity, Modoc, and Tehama Counties of 1885.