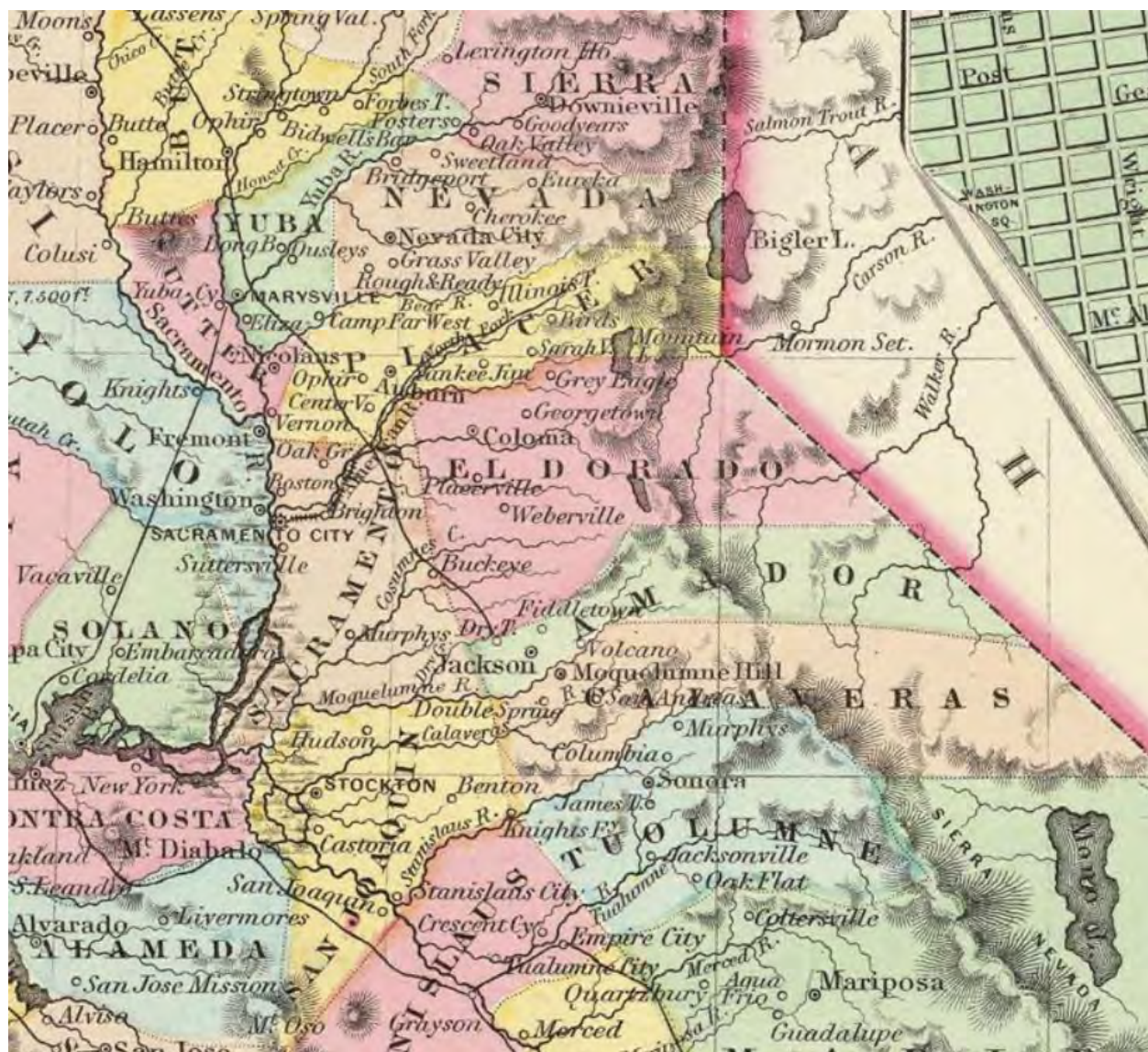


This file provides supporting information and images of some places

that are mentioned in the McConnell letters and journal.



1856 map showing California as it was when the McConnells arrived and some of the names that show up in their journals.

Georgetown (No. 484 California Historical Landmark)

[← BACK](#)



0 Thumbs Up!

[Click here to give your thumbs up.](#)



Photo © www.tripadvisor.com

Georgetown was founded on August 7, 1849 by a sailor named George Phipps, who first pitched his tent near the head of what has since been called Empire Canyon. Georgetown was nicknamed Growlersburg because of the heavy nuggets that "growled" in the miner's pans.

The first log house in Georgetown was erected on about September 20, 1849 and became the first store. By January 1, 1850, the number of buildings had increased to a dozen. Most of these buildings operated as stores. In the summer of 1850 a stage line had been created from Georgetown to Coloma and on to Sacramento. The "Georgetown Cut-Off Road" provided a way for those emigrating on the Carson Emigrant Trail to get to Georgetown and was essentially a highway to other mining areas,

including river bars on the Middle Fork of the American River: Ford's Bar, Volcano Bar, Big Bar, Sandy Bar, Junction Bar, Gray Eagle, and others. Georgetown also served as a distributing point for supplies to those working on the bars and flats in the surrounding area.

Thomas and Samuel came through Georgetown Cut-Off in 1850.

Image Source: <http://www.sierranevadageotourism.org/content/georgetown-no-484-california-historical-landmark/sie81731087E9AD5384D>



History | Douglas County, NV - Official Website

www.douglascountynv.gov - 1024 x 733 - Search by image

Early Mormon pioneers settled Carson Valley and established the town in 1850, first known as Mormon Station, then part of the Utah Territory.

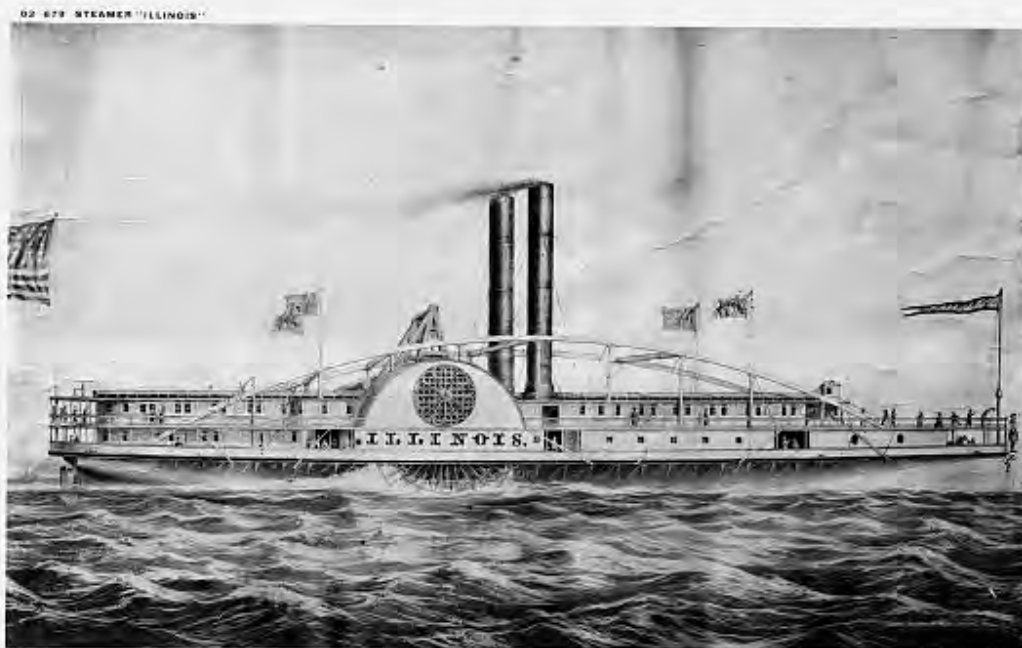
Thomas and Samuel travel near Mormon Station in 1850.



The SS Golden Gate: built in 1851, burned in 1862 off Manzanillo, Mexico

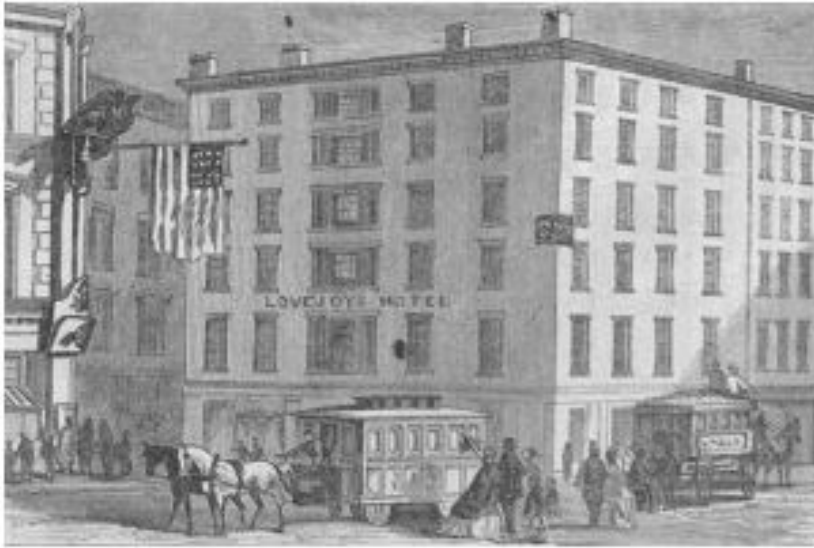
Thomas sailed on the Golden Gate from San Francisco to Panama in 1853.

Image Source: <http://freepages.misc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ssgoldengate>



Thomas sailed from Panama to New York in 1853 on the Illinois and he and Louisa sailed on the steamship Illinois from New York to Panama in 1856.

Image Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/det.4a16170/>



Thomas stayed at the Lovejoy Hotel in New York in 1853 on his way back to Vermont from California.

Image Source: <http://blogs.nycldshistory.com/nycldshistory/2013/01/22/when-attention-was-bad-returning-missionaries-in-manhattan-1858/>



New York Crystal Palace designed by Karl Gildemeister. The image is an 'oil-color' plate by George Baxter, London, dated 1 September 1853

Louisa and Thomas visited the Crystal Palace in 1853.

Image Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Crystal_Palace



Thomas sailed on the George Law in 1853.

Image Source:

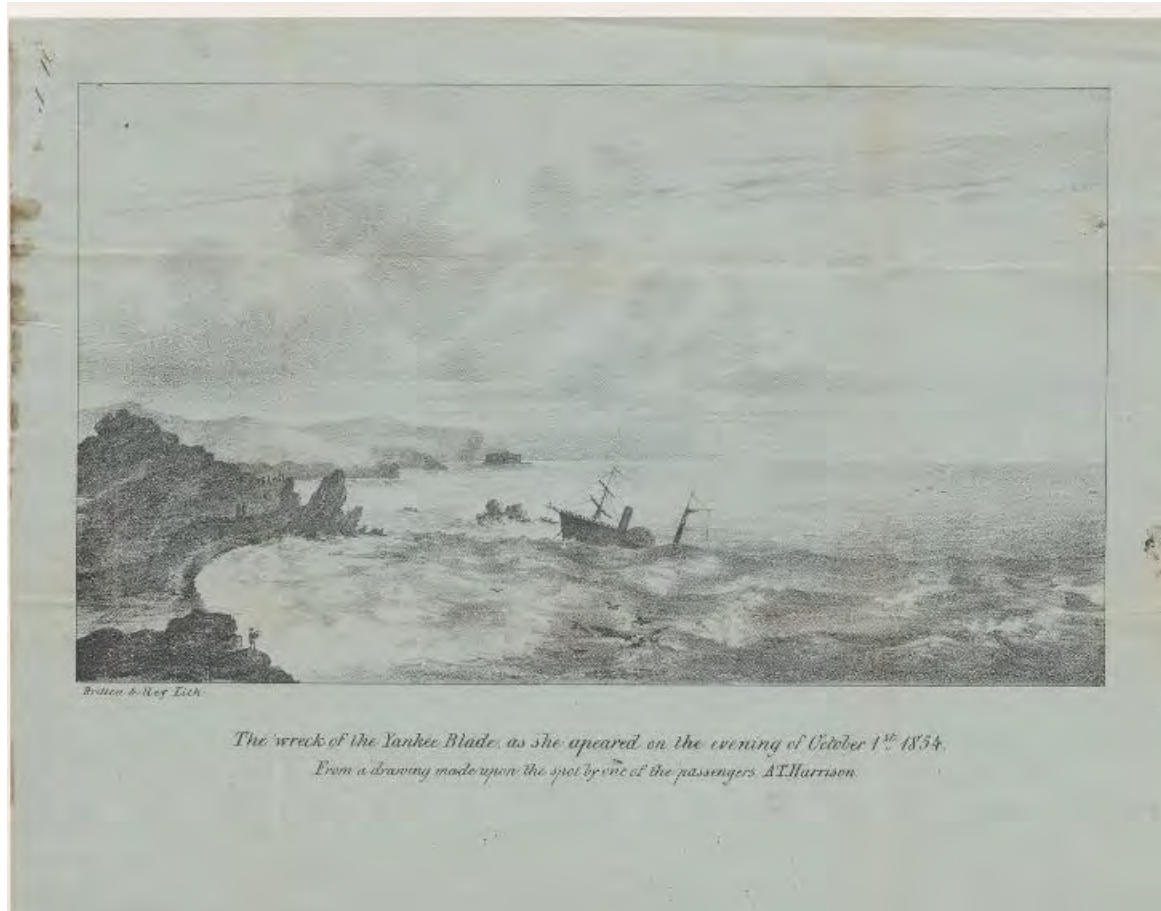
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~godfreyshefamily/index.htm?ssmain=p42.htm>;

The McConnell's

In 1849, the first McConnells to come to California were Thaddeus (age 19) and his brother Samuel, then their brother Thomas in 1850. These three young men left Vermont in search of a better life out west and found themselves setting up shop in Garden Valley, California. Here the three brothers went into partnership and opened a store where they sold potatoes and tomatoes to prospective gold miners. The business flourished until 1857 when the store burned down.

The McConnell's store referred to in the journal.

Source: <http://www.mcconnellestates.com/OurStory/default.html>



Thomas McConnell's brother, Francis, was a passenger on this fatal sailing but survived. Referenced in the journal.

Image Source: <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7n39p542/?docId=tf7n39p542&layout=printable>



TOMB OF COLUMBUS.
One of the most famous works of art in existence, situated under the dome of Havana's Cathedral.

Thomas stopped to see the Tomb of Columbus in Cuba on his way back to NY 1856.

Image Source: <http://www.studenthandouts.com/Cuba/008-Columbus-Tomb.htm>

Henry Ward Beecher



By DEBBY APPLEGATE

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) was the most popular and controversial Christian minister in the United States for more than three decades, from the 1850s through the 1880s. [A notoriously paradoxical figure](#), Beecher was famous both for both his warmhearted liberal theology, which he dubbed “The Doctrine of Love,” and his fiery public crusades. As he liked to joke, “I

am a peace-man, except when I wish to fight.”

Thomas went to hear Henry Ward Beecher (brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe) speak in Brooklyn, NY.

Image Source:

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/b/henry_ward_beecher/index.html



Louisa and Thomas stayed at the Cataract House in Niagara Falls shortly after their marriage.

Image Source: <http://www.niagarafallsunergroundrailroad.org/index.php/sites/48-2-site-of-the-cataract-house>



Astor House in New York City

Louisa and Thomas stayed at the Astor House in New York City.

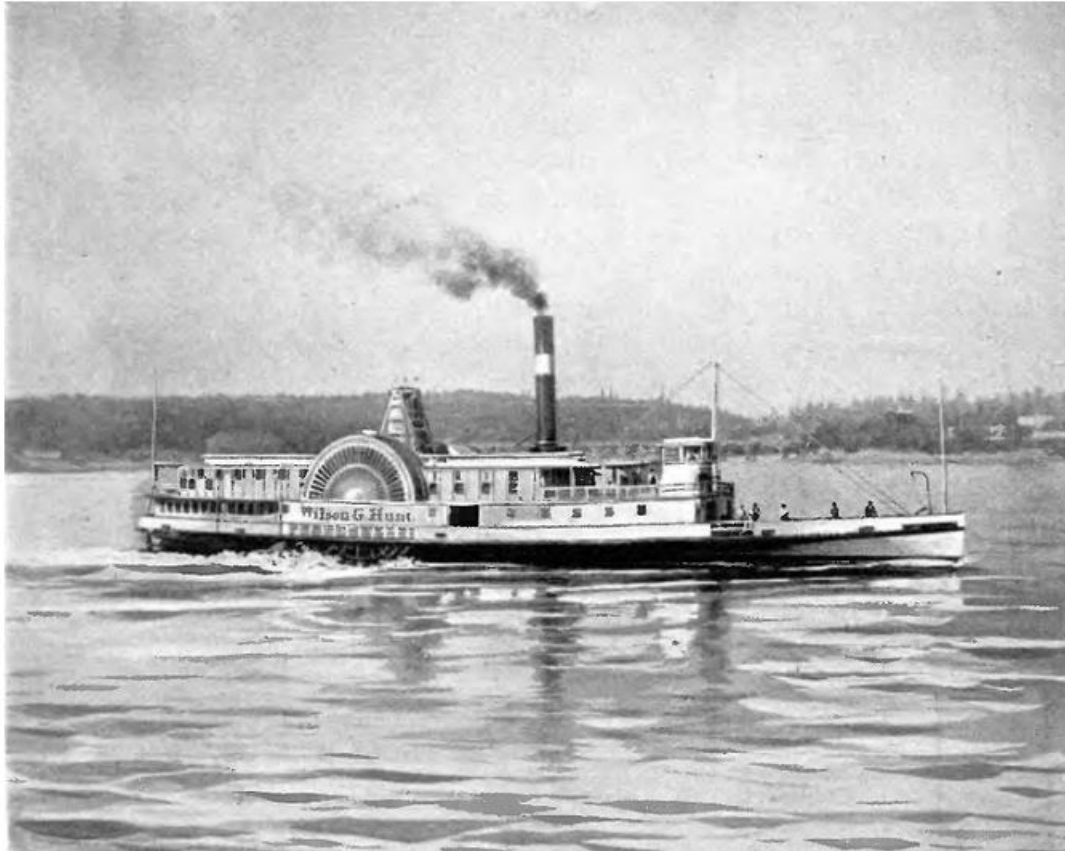
Image Source: <http://hugginsactuarial.com/about-us/historical-background-of-actuaries/>



SS Golden Age, source unknown

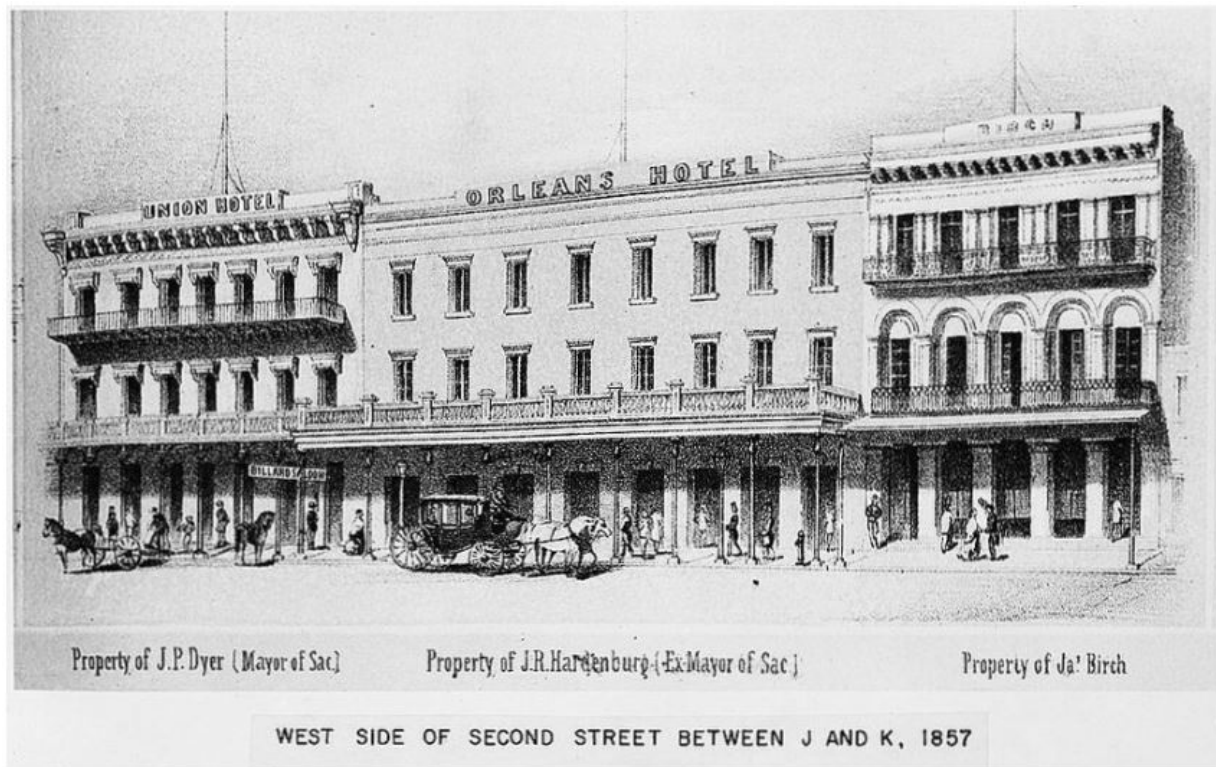
Thomas and Louisa sailed on the Golden Age from Panama to San Francisco in 1856.

Source: <http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/stories-found-within-the-major-shipping-list-project-1852-1923>



Thomas and Louisa took the William G. Hunt from San Francisco to Sacramento in 1856.

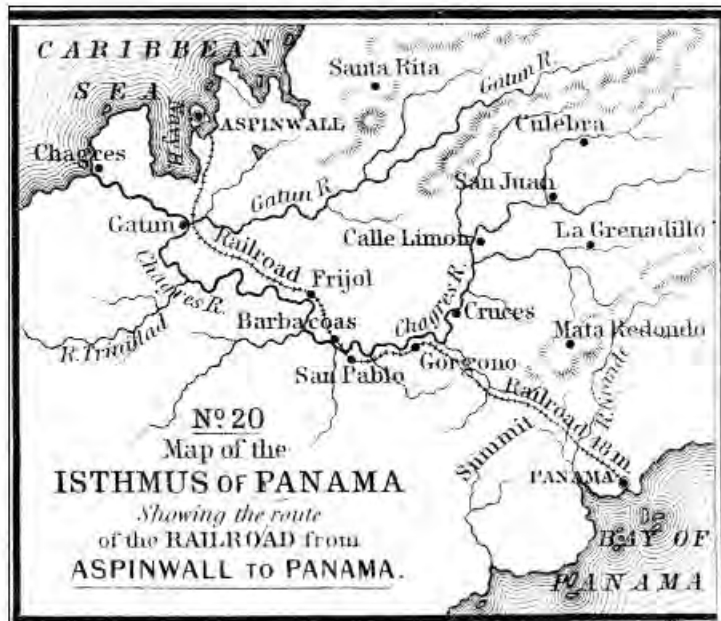
Image Souce: http://tripsintohistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ChrysopolisWilson_G_Hunt_sidewheeler.jpg



Thomas and Louisa stayed at the Orleans Hotel on arrival in Sacramento from San Francisco.

Image source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orleans_Hotel#mediaviewer/File:Orleans_Hotel.jpg

Detail of the Isthmus of Panama, 1858



Isthmus of Panama map after the railroad was built but before the canal.

Thomas and his brothers travelled before the railroad. Thomas and Louisa arrived in 1856 after the railroad was completed.



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McConnell Home from Sacramento History Online, McConnells in Yard, Daughter Mary Left

Image Source: <http://www.sacramentohistory.org/search.php?imageid=527>



[View Large Image](#)

Title	[McConnell home]
Date	[188-]
Description	1 photographic print ; 7 1/4 x 8 7/8 in.
Subject(s)	<p>McConnell, Thomas (1), Bostwick, Mary A. (1), Horseback riding (13), Houses--California--Sacramento County (1), Carriages & coaches (6), Sacramento County (Calif.) (130)</p> <p>Group portraits (51), Photographic prints (633)</p>
Summary	View of a two-story brick colonial-style home of Thomas McConnell near Elk Grove. Shows McConnell and his wife standing in the front yard behind a picket fence; in front of the fence: daughter, Mary A. Bostwick, sitting on horse at left; other friends and relatives to the right including two women in a horse-drawn buggy.
Owning Institution	California State Library, California History Room
Copyright	© California State Library, California History Room
Call Number	2002-0174
Filing Location	PHOTO: SACRAMENTO CO.: MCCONNELL STATION

Documentation for the Photo of McConnell Home

Source: <http://www.sacramentohistory.org/search.php?imageid=527>

ESTIMABLE COUPLE CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McConnell of McConnell's Station
Keep Open House for the New
Generation.

Yesterday in the comfortable home at McConnell's Station, where they began their married life, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McConnell received the congratulations of their friends. It being the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day. Owing to Mrs. McConnell's recent illness, the invitations were necessarily limited to family connections and very intimate friends, but the event was nevertheless a very notable one in this community.

Mr. McConnell has always taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the public good, and has served his chosen state on many occasions, notably as a member of the constitutional convention, and Mrs. McConnell has always been a pattern of womanly virtue.

Four children have blessed the union of hearts. In old Vermont fifty years ago, three daughters, Miss Anna, Miss Jennie and Mrs. Mary Postwick, and one son, George, who has four charming children to cheer the declining years of their grandparents.

It is not given to many in this age of "prudent" marriages and nerve-racking business to celebrate their golden wedding, and fewer still, after fifty years in a community, enjoy the universal admiration and love of their neighbors; but both of these rare blessings have come to Mr. and Mrs. McConnell. Their home yesterday was fragrant with a wealth of blossoms sent by friends, and several tables were needed to display the beautiful wedding gifts.

The rooms were simply decorated, the trimmings being limited to cut flowers, golden ribbon and amaranth heavy with the ripe berries, which seemed singularly appropriate to the occasion.

Mrs. McConnell was handsomely gowned in white, accented with lace trimmings, and her three daughters were also in white.

After congratulations had been received the guests were entertained by piano selections by Miss Anna McConnell and Miss Anna Woodbridge, songs by Mrs. Mary Rose and Mrs. Sande of Pittsburg, and "That Old Sweetheart of Mine," read by Miss Emilie Con-

nolly. Miss Anna McConnell and Mrs. Sande also sang a duet which they had sung at Mr. and Mrs. McConnell's silver wedding. Miss Winona McConnell, their eleven-year-old granddaughter, recited an original poem which she had composed in honor of the occasion.

The dining-room was used as a punch-room and the luncheon tables were spread on the lawn, in the shade of the largest trees planted years ago by the venerable host.

The guests were seated at three tables, which were all gay with flowers, the middle one at which the bride and groom were seated being trimmed in yellow and the other two in pink. After a delicious luncheon Miss Anna McConnell gracefully presided as toastmistress, giving first a little story of her father and mother's courtship, and then some interesting items about the home, which was probably the very first settlement in this valley. After this, felicitous speeches were made by H. M. La Rue, Mr. Ballou, Mr. Stickney, William Sims, Mayor Beard, D. A. Lindley, George McConnell, Mrs. Lindley, Mrs. Beard, Mrs. A. J. Johnston, Mrs. Bradford Woodbridge, Mrs. H. Welstock, each having a word of congratulation and appreciation, to which both Mr. and Mrs. McConnell feelingly responded. At 3 o'clock the Sacramento guests departed, and the neighborhood friends began to arrive. The music and recitations of the morning were repeated and the guests were refreshed at tables spread under the fruited orange trees on the north side of the house. Dr. Caples, on behalf of the Elk Grove grange, presented Mr. McConnell with a handsome gold-headed cane as a token of the esteem and admiration they entertain for him, and the ladies of the grange remembered Mrs. McConnell with a beautiful gold brooch. Mrs. Caples making the presentation speech. Between 5 and 6 o'clock the last of the carriages rolled away and Mr. and Mrs. McConnell were left, with their family, to "fragrant retrospections," to recollections of half a century of integrity and prosperity, to reflections upon the joy of true friendships and, best of all, to the memories of fifty years of mutual wedded love.

Founder of McConnell Station Passes Away

Phoman McConnell, one of the last of the pioneers of Sacramento county, passed away Tuesday at the advanced age of 92 years. McConnell was the founder of McConnell station, where he owned considerable property.

The aged man came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1850, and went to Coloma, El Dorado county, where he engaged in the mercantile business with his brother. He later operated a sawmill.

He also imported the first Spanish Merino sheep into California in 1866. McConnell moved to Sacramento county in 1868, from which date he has lived in the county continuously.

His wife died ten years ago, but he leaves four children, George McConnell, Miss Anna McConnell, Mrs. Mary Bostwick and Miss Jennie McConnell.

Lodi Sentinel

Thomas McConnell's Obituary in 1919

[illegible]

THOMAS McCONNELL

Thomas McConnell, after whom McConnell Station in Sacramento county was named, where is located his present home, is a pioneer Californian, having carried on an active and successful business and public career in this state since 1850. He has been closely identified with the various departments of activity, both public and industrial, in this part of the state, and in former years was considerably interested in politics.

Mr. McConnell was born in Pittsford, Rutland county, Vermont, January 30, 1827, his parents being Thomas and Clarissa (Curtis) McConnell, both natives of that state. The McConnell family is of highland Scotch stock, the home later being transferred to the north of Ireland, and thence to America in pre-Revolutionary days. Mr. McConnell's paternal grandfather was a soldier in the American Revolution, and the martial spirit pervades the family throughout. Mr. McConnell's father died in Vermont in 1854, and in 1863 the widow came to California, following the settling of several of her sons here, and she died in this state. The Curtis branch of the family was of English origin, being early settlers of Connecticut and later of Vermont.

Mr. McConnell was reared in Rutland, Vermont, where his parents had moved when he was three years old. He was brought up in accordance with strict Vermont principles of economy and industry, which elements of his early training had much to do with his subsequent success. At the age of nineteen he taught a school at a wage of eleven dollars and a half a month, and then for two terms attended a military school at Norwich, after which he taught in the village schools of Rutland and Clarendon, but never receiving more than eighteen dollars a month. These wages seemed especially insignificant to him after he had been awhile in free and easy California during the golden days.

In the spring of 1850 Mr. McConnell sailed from New York and crossing the isthmus reached San Francisco in August. He went direct to Eldorado county, and joined his brother Thaddeus near Garden Valley, where the latter had engaged in a gardening enterprise, the high prices then commanded by vegetables making this a very profitable venture. The brother Samuel, who had previously located there, soon joined them and they got into the mercantile business, supplying the demand for a large territory. The lumber business was also a successful adjunct, their sawmill producing over a million feet of lumber each year. The store was burned out in 1857, and in the year previous Mr. Thomas McConnell had moved to Sacramento county, where he bought the ranch on which he has ever since lived, and where the village of McConnell Station grew up.

Mr. McConnell has done much for the stock business in this portion of the state. In 1856 he and his brother Thaddeus brought seven Spanish Merino sheep from Vermont, transporting them via the Isthmus of Panama, and these were the first high-class sheep of that breed to be brought to the Pacific coast. This importation and continued breeding and further importations stimulated the sheep industry so that permanent benefit was rendered to the industry. Mr. McConnell has continued to engage in sheep-raising to a greater or less extent ever since. One year he sheared as high as sixteen thousand sheep. His fine ranch of fifteen hundred acres borders the Cosumnes river, and his residence is on the banks of the same. McConnell Station was established and given its name in 1869. Mr. McConnell has owned large tracts of land in various parts of the west, and he and his brothers have played leading parts in the live-stock and agricultural industries on the Coast.

While now a staunch Republican and an upholder of the cardinal principles and policies of the party, Mr. McConnell was at first a Democrat. He was a Douglas Democrat, and as such represented Eldorado county in the famous state convention of 1854 which met in the Baptist church in Sacramento, and in which there was almost a pitched battle between the slavery and anti-slavery factions, each of whom nominated officials. Mr. McConnell states that every man in the church on that eventful day and evening had a weapon of some sort, and scenes both grim and humorous were enacted during the proceedings. This famous political event of California has gone down in history as the "Broderick-McGowan Convention." Mr. McConnell represented Sacramento county in the constitutional convention of 1878-79. He was formerly an active member, a master for some years, as well as a charter member of Elk Grove Lodge No. 173, F. & A. M. He is a member and past master of Elk Grove Grange, P. of H., at Elk Grove. He is president and one of the incorporators of the Elk Grove Park Association.

June 19, 1856, Mr. Connell (sic) was married at Rutland, Vermont, to Miss Louisa Chaplin, who was born at Pittsford, Vermont, April 29, 1827, being a daughter of George W. Chaplin. Mr. and Mrs. McConnell have four children: Anna L., who is at home and a teacher of music; Mary A., at home; George W., a resident of McConnell Station; and Jennie A., at home. Miss Jennie McConnell is the treasurer and a director in the Elk Grove Park Association, and she organized the Ladies' Friday Club, of which she served as president.

Source: History of the New California Its Resources and People, Volume II

The Lewis Publishing Company - 1905

Edited by Leigh H. Irvine

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Lodi Sentinel

Thomas McConnell's Obituary in 1919



McConnell State Recreation Area – Location of Thomas McConnell's Sheep Farm

Source: Rutland Historical Society



McConnell State Recreation Area – Location of McConnell Sheep Farm on Merced River

Source: Rutland Historical Society



McConnell State Recreation Area – Location of McConnell Sheep Farm

Source: Rutland Historical Society



McConnell Road – Outside McConnell State Recreation Area

Source: Rutland Historical Society



Elk Grove Cemetery where the McConnell families are buried.



Thomas McConnell Family plot with headstones of Louisa and Thomas at Elk Grove Cemetery.

Source: Rutland Historical Society



Headstones of Louisa and Thomas McConnell – Elk Grove Cemetery

Source: Rutland Historical Society