



Memorial and Biographical History

← OF →

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ILLUSTRATED.

Containing a History of this Important Section of the Pacific Coast from the Earliest Period of its Occupancy to the Present Time, together with Glimpses of its Prospective Future; Full-Page Steel Portraits of its most Eminent Men, and Biographical Mention of many of its Pioneers, and also of Prominent Citizens of To-day.



"A people that takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."—*Macaulay*.



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Mr. Sherman Marsh, the eldest son of M. L. Marsh, an enthusiastic and successful demonstrator of the worth of Nevada County as a fruit-producer. On the lower part of the place is a portion of the old Mulloy apple orchard, the first orchard planted for profit in the vicinity of Nevada City. In addition to Sherman, who takes charge of the office, Mr. Marsh has two other sons: Charles T., who runs the engine at the Harmony mine, and John M., who is employed in teaming, hauling lumber from the mills, etc.

Mr. D. Marsh, the other member of the firm, is a younger brother of M. L. Marsh, who came to California in 1862. Like his elder brother, he is a man of push and energy and a valuable citizen. Mr. M. L. Marsh is a leading director of the Agricultural Association, and a member of the Masonic order of high standing. He is also President of the Nevada County Winery, an institution that is doing good work in advertising the county, the wine product of which is pronounced excellent by connoisseurs.

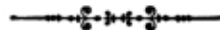


STEPHEN R. FORTNA, farmer near Yuba City, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, October 24, 1828, a son of David and Ann Maria (Rigler) Fortna, natives also of that State. David Fortna, a miller by trade, followed his calling in Dayton, Ohio; Wayne County, Indiana, and Centerville, until 1842. In 1843 he sold out and moved to Hancock County, Illinois, where he died in 1860, at the age of sixty years. He was a very active man all his life. By his first marriage he had six sons and one daughter, and by his second two sons. Politically he was a Democrat.

Mr. Stephen R. Fortna, the present subject, was brought up on a farm, receiving his education in the common school and six months in the Centerville Seminary. He was very studious, and qualified himself well for business. At the age of twenty-four years he entered the counting-room at Pontoosuc, Illinois, as a book-

keeper, and remained there until 1860; then, sailing from New York, on the North Star, to the Isthmus, and thence on the Golden Age, he arrived at San Francisco April 15. He at once went to Colusa County to visit friends, and then to Marysville with the hopes of obtaining employment as a book-keeper, but in vain. He then engaged with J. Gray and made \$3 a day. In September he filed a homestead claim upon a portion of his present home place, two miles southwest of Yuba City; this ranch now contains 240 acres of choice farming land, devoted principally to general agriculture. It is well improved.

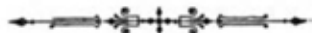
Mr. Fortna is a Democrat, and as such he has taken considerable interest in the public welfare. He was a member of the State Assembly in 1883-'84, and has also served ten years as President of the Board of Education. He is a member of Enterprise Lodge, No. 70, F. & A. M. at Yuba City; of Yuba City Lodge, No. 185, I. O. O. F., of which he is now a Past Grand; is also a member of Sutter Lodge, No. 39, A. O. U. W. He was married in 1852, to Miss Emma S. Spilman, a native of Illinois and daughter of Hezekiah Spilman, who was a native of Kentucky and a pioneer settler of the Prairie State, where he remained until his death in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Fortna's children are ten in number, as follows: Anna M., deceased; Mary A., wife of W. J. Gray; Emma M., wife of L. L. Hickok; Frank W., Sarah A., Amanda V., Stephen R., Lotta C., Albertus W. and Charles H.



M. HARRIS, dealer in saddles and harness, and manufacturer of the same, at Marysville, dates his birth in 1828, in Hampden County, Massachusetts. In 1842 he removed to Indiana and in 1852 to California, and at first mined at Placerville, in 1852-'53; in 1855 he followed mining in Butte County, and also ditching to some extent. Then he entered the hotel business there, and one year

later returned to mining, which he followed until 1860. For the next six years he was engaged in freighting to Virginia City, Nevada; and finally he came to Marysville, where he was at first foreman of a harness shop for two years; and then he bought the shop which he still owns. He manufactures the Harris saddle, which is now used in Montana, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and in fact throughout the coast States. He employs six men throughout the year, having the largest shop in the city. At the present time he is a member of the City Council. He belongs to Yuba Lodge, No. 5, I. O. O. F.

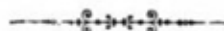
His father, Noah Harris, was born in Massachusetts, in 1796, was a sea captain, and finally died in Hampden County, Massachusetts, in 1838. His mother, whose maiden name was Permelia Muker, was born in Vermont, November 4, 1799, and died in Marysville, in 1883. Mr. Harris was married to Miss Aldesittia Hubbell, at La Porte, Indiana, in 1850; she is a native of Tompkins County, New York. Their only son, Allen L., is foreman of his father's establishment.



HON. ERASTUS BOND, the Assessor of Nevada County for the past four years, is one of the most energetic and useful citizens of the county. He has led a busy life, always active and engaged in large affairs, and always at the front. Mr. Bond was born in Cattaraugus County, New York, June 8, 1829, but while still in his 'teens set out to do for himself, educating himself and then going to Illinois, where he began teaching, at Hennepin and elsewhere. His father was a farmer, and both he and his mother lived to a great age. In 1852 Mr. Bond decided to come to California, although to do so he gave up bright prospects in Illinois. He crossed the plains in a prairie schooner behind an ox team, being five months on the journey. At first he mined in Sierra County, being interested in the St.

Louis mines. Here he remained for eight years, and then in 1860 went to Virginia City, leaving there again in 1865 and prospecting through the Meadow Lake region, and finally coming down to Blue Tent, near Nevada City, and remaining for some time. In 1876 Mr. Bond prospected for quicksilver in Lake County. The company of which he was a member spent \$18,000 there and accomplished nothing. In 1884 he became manager of the National Exchange Hotel of Nevada City, being also then appointed a special timber agent for the Government. This position he kept for only six months, when he resigned and went to hotel-keeping. In 1866 Mr. Bond was the candidate for the office of County Assessor on the Republican ticket, being elected again in 1890. Mr. Bond has always taken an active part in politics, having been chairman of the First National Republican Club at Virginia City, and an effective worker, always energetic and always associated with good men. He has done a great deal toward opening up the mining regions, having prospected or packed almost all over the mountains, and always spending his money freely to help a deserving cause.

He was married in Virginia City to Miss Plunkett, a native of Saratoga, New York. They have had but one child, now deceased.



MOODY C. CLARK, a prominent citizen of Sutter County, was born June 19, 1826, in the Province of Quebec. His grandfather, William Clark, was born in Andover, Massachusetts, February 14, 1771, married Betsey Danforth, who was born in Hollis, Maine, May 10, 1774, settled on number 9, range 10 of Stanstead in 1797, and died March 27, 1846. His wife died February 14, 1843. Their children were William D., born December 16, 1795, and married Electa May; Ballard, born August 31, 1797, married Hannah Rogers, and later in life Marilla Whitchee. Ballard Clark was born in Vermont and settled with his