

SHASTA STATE HISTORIC PARK LOCAL HISTORY TEACHER'S GUIDE



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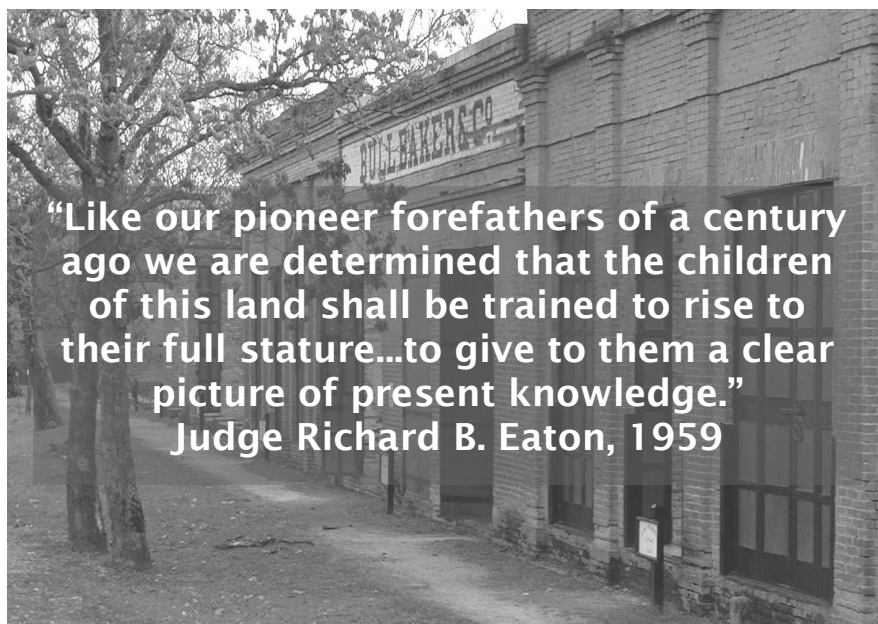
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2014

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Comments and suggestions about
this guide are welcome.

Please contact park staff at
(530) 243-8194 or P.O. Box 2430
Shasta, CA 96087

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

To reserve a field trip date, we require you to complete a School Group Reservation Request (DPR 124). We will need a copy of this form, signed by your school principal, and the \$25 reservation fee before your field trip date is considered "reserved." Per student admission fees vary for school groups; check with the park to see if additional fees are needed.

Field trips are available Thursdays and Fridays, year round for educational field trips. Springtime field trips need to be reserved in the fall, beginning in October. A typical field trip will take approximately 3 hours. Many teachers add ½ hour for lunchtime in the park.

Your school group will be divided into 3 smaller groups, and it is best to have the students divided into their groups before you arrive at the park. The Local History Program consists of tours of the Litsch General Store and the Courthouse Museum. Depending on docent availability and weather, you may also do pioneer activities, a self-guided Union Cemetery tour, or an alternative activity.

We are currently working to make the entire park accessible for visitors with disabilities. To request a sign language interpreter, auxiliary aids, or services for people with disabilities please contact the museum at 243-8194 prior to coming to the park.



PARK RULES

Visitor safety is our highest priority at the park. Please review these with your students:

While touring the park:

- ◆ Stay with your group.
- ◆ Watch your footing – outside trails may be uneven.
- ◆ Cross Highway 299 at crosswalks only and always as a group.
- ◆ Leave historic objects where you find them.
- ◆ Clean up your trash.
- ◆ Report emergencies and unsafe situations to park staff.
- ◆ Stay behind barriers and do not climb on equipment, building ruins, or museum displays
- ◆ Be respectful of other visitors.
- ◆ Leave food and drinks outside of museums.

CONTACT INFORMATION

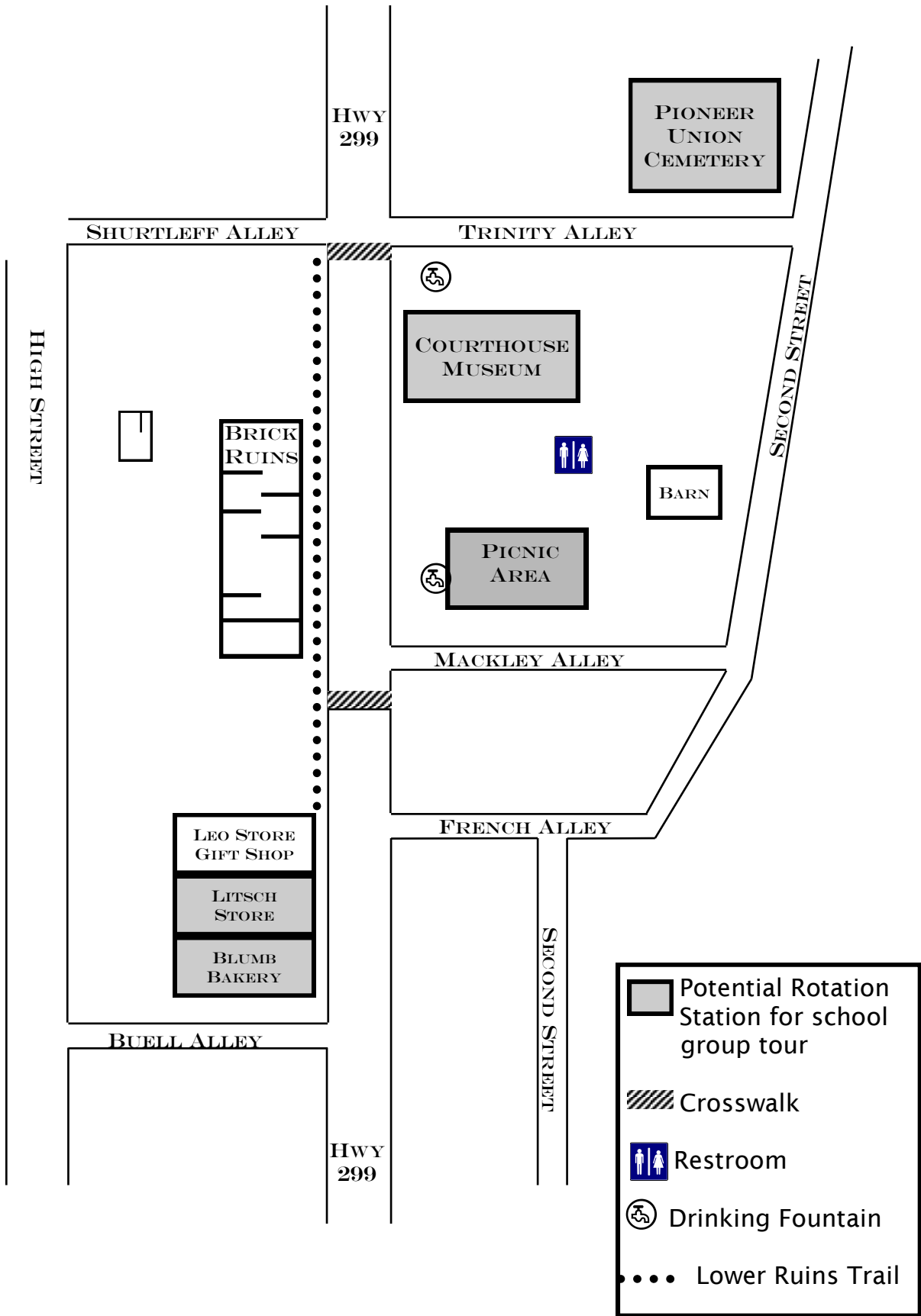
Please direct questions about school tours and all related correspondence to:

Shasta State Historic Park
School Group Tours
P.O. Box 2430
Shasta, CA 96087

Thursday though Sunday:
(530) 243-8194
Fax Number: (530) 243-4493
Email:

shastaseasonals@parks.ca.gov

SHASTA STATE HISTORIC PARK



TEACHER PLANNING

We will generally divide your school group into **three groups that will be rotating through three different stations**. If we need to divide the students differently, then we will let you know right when you arrive. We will give the group leaders a schedule when you arrive. Group leaders are responsible for getting their students to the next station on time.

Each station is generally 40 minutes; you have 10 minutes of walking time between stations. If a group arrives early at their next station, please wait outside until the first group exits.

SAMPLE ROTATION SCHEDULE

TIME	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
9:15-9:30	<i>Orientation and walk to first station</i>		
9:30-10:10	Courthouse Museum	Litsch Store and Bakery	Junior Docent Activities
10:10-10:20	<i>Walk to next Station</i>		
10:20-11:00	Junior Docent Activities	Courthouse Museum	Litsch Store and Bakery
11:00-11:10	<i>Walk to Next Station</i>		
11:10-11:50	Litsch Store and Bakery	Junior Docent Activities	Courthouse Museum
11:50-	<i>Lunch</i>		

STATION DESCRIPTIONS

THE COURTHOUSE MUSEUM



Originally built in 1853 to house a block of three businesses, this building became the second courthouse after the first was destroyed by fire. This courthouse was the county seat of Shasta for thirty years, but in 1888, the county offices were moved to Redding. The building gradually fell into disrepair. In 1922, the Native Sons of the Golden West purchased the courthouse as a piece of pioneer history to preserve. However, in 1937, they gave the courthouse and jail to the State Parks Commission to be the initial unit of the Shasta State Historical Monument. In 1950, Shasta State Historic Park opened with the courthouse restored and renovated to house a museum.



THE LITSCH GENERAL STORE

Shasta served as the hub for commercial business in the 1800s. The Litsch General store was in operation for over 100 years. During this time, the store served as a general store, Wells Fargo transfer point, post office, gas station, and pioneer museum. Today the store has been restored to its 1880s appearance and serves as a reminder of where the term *one-stop-shopping* originates.

JUNIOR DOCENTS PRESENT PIONEER ACTIVITIES

Schedules permitting, students from local schools will present interactive pioneer activities for visiting school students.

THE LOWER RUINS TRAIL-SELF GUIDED

Shasta was a "metropolis" from 1850-1880 until the railroad forged its way to Redding six miles to the east. The brick ruins are a remnant of the Gold Rush

shopping district. Fires destroyed wooden structures in Shasta throughout the early years forcing business owners to rebuild in brick and to install fire resistant iron doors. The structures fell into disrepair when many of the residents of Shasta moved to Redding in the 1880's. Some owners abandoned their businesses completely to move to the new railhead, while others thriftily dismantled the buildings they owned in Shasta and used the bricks to build new structures in Redding. Time took its toll on the deserted buildings. Much of the land that contained the structures and the historic park were purchased by Mae Helene Bacon Boggs and deeded to the state to become Shasta State Historic Park. The Shasta Historical Monument at the beginning of the trail identifies the historic town as a National Historical Landmark - one of the highest designations for historical places. The Italian Cypress tree was planted next to the monument during the 1950 dedication of the park.



PIONEER UNION CEMETERY-SELF GUIDED

Dozens of Shasta County pioneers who died in the 1800s and early 1900s are buried here in the historic Protestant cemetery, the first established cemetery in the county. The cemetery is surrounded by, but not part of Shasta State Historic Park. Buried in the cemetery are Shasta notables such as baker Charles Boell, Phoebe Coleburn - an astute African American business woman, and Samuel Dosh, the founder of the local Shasta newspaper. While the last burial took place in the 1950s, the cemetery still serves an important role in teaching the guests who visit its silent graves the story of Shasta's pioneers.



COURTHOUSE MUSEUM



This written guide can be used for a self-guided tour.

CHANGE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LAND

STOP 1: Native Americans were California's first people. Those who lived in the area of Shasta were called Wintu. They believed they were a part of the land and lived in balance with nature. The Wintu collected seeds and acorns, hunted deer and rabbits, and caught salmon and grasshoppers for food. They skillfully used what nature offered. Examples of how they lived and their artistry are on display in this exhibit:

- Look at these beautifully designed baskets. What were they used for? *Food gathering, storage, gift giving*
- Notice the rocks called mortars and pestles. What were they used for? *Grinding acorns and seeds for food preparation*
- Do you see a picture of a bark building? What was it for? *Shelter, living inside*



WHY THE WORLD RUSHED TO SHASTA

STOP 2: The man's picture you see on the wall is Pierson B. Reading. He was the first white settler in this area. He came here looking for land and found GOLD! Many miners followed him into this area. They found large amounts of the precious yellow metal. Though the gold was plentiful, there wasn't much to spend it on.



- In 1850 an ounce of gold was worth about 12 dollars. What do you think a miner could buy with an ounce of gold in 1850? Open the top drawer of the display to see the answer! *Two pounds of flour and a handful of nails*
 - In the year 2000 an ounce of gold was worth 300 dollars. Open the lower drawer to see what 300 dollars could purchase in the year 2000.
- Miners in the 1850's might have decided to spend their gold to stay in one of the seven hotels located in Shasta. Look at the display showing the Empire Hotel.
- What do the objects like the chamber pot and the handgun say about staying in a hotel in 1850? *No running water or bathrooms inside the hotel. The gun can be interpreted in many different ways—protection, criminal activity.*

BIG TIMES IN THE QUEEN CITY

STOP 3: Shasta was known as the “Queen City of the North” because of its large population and long row of brick buildings housing many different stores. People came from all over the county to do their shopping in Shasta. There are many differences between Shasta City then and large cities now.

- Looking in these displays, what are some differences you see?

Cash box instead of cash register, small clothing, medicine bottles (almost everything is different!)

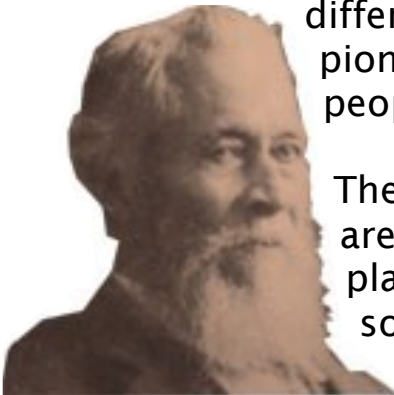


People also came to Shasta for their entertainment.

- Read the plaque about “Good Times in Shasta”. What types of entertainment did 1850’s Shasta residents enjoy that we still have today? *Baseball, dancing, seeing a play, reading a book, bowling, billiards (pool), horse racing*

HALLWAY—FACES IN THE CROWD

STOP 4: The pictures on the walls in this area show the many different people who called Shasta home. The pioneers who came here were a diverse group of people.



There are some unusual objects on display in this area. People coming to Shasta from different places brought objects familiar to them, but some look different from what you might be used to using.

- Who can find a Chinese pillow?
Small bamboo table-like object in the case with the Chinese objects (number 11)
- Where is the early calculator?
An abacus is on display next to the case of Chinese objects
- Does anyone see the reward Wells Fargo gave for catching a stage coach robber?
The rifle

FIRST ART GALLERY ROOM—ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

STOP 5: Looking around, you can see common kinds of arts and entertainment for settlers in Shasta. In this room there are two very early types of stereo systems, a slot machine, examples of toys, paintings and books. If you suddenly found yourself in the 1850's, which object would you most likely go to for entertainment?

- Do any of the historical objects in this room use electricity?

No

- Look around the room and stand by the object you'd pick for your entertainment.



SECOND ART GALLERY ROOM

STOP 6: Looking around the walls of this room you see many different types of paintings.

- Go and stand by a painting with a mountain, or a tree, or lots of sky showing. There are many different paintings to choose from! *The style of painting you are standing by is called a landscape. A painting with an outdoor theme, usually without people, can be classified as a landscape.*

- Now find a painting that has just one person in it. *This type of painting is called a portrait. It is a detailed painting which captures how one person looks.*



- Finally, find a painting with a vase of flowers or some other non-living subject. *Paintings where the artist has arranged a group of "still" objects as the subject is called a still-life.*

Now go back into the Arts and Entertainment room.

- Can you find examples of landscapes, portraits and still-lives?

HALLWAY—TRANSPORTATION MURAL

STOP 7: As you are beginning to see, life in the 1850's was quite different from today. Another big difference was how people traveled. Today you can travel by car, plane, skateboard or rollerblades. People didn't have those choices in the 19th century.

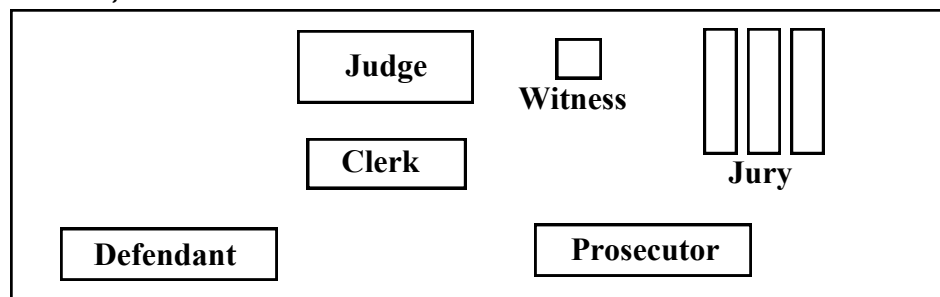
- Using the Transportation Mural as your guide, point out different ways people traveled in the 1800's. *Horses, boats, stagecoaches, wagons, steam engine trains, walking*
- Today the trip between Weaverville and Redding takes about an hour by car. Use the 1882 stagecoach schedule to figure out how long the same trip took in 1882. *Seven hours by stagecoach in 1882*



COURTROOM

STOP 8: This courtroom has been restored to look as it did 150 years ago, when it was busy with trials, weddings and hearings. Many of the things used in this display are originals—meaning they were actually used in this room back when this was the Shasta County courthouse.

- Can you point out which of the objects you think are originals? *Roll top desk, pitchers and drinking glasses, flag, spittoons, judge's desk lamps, clerk's desk, prosecution and defense tables, wood stove, large tax ledger books on tables, and the law books on the bookshelves.*
- A courtroom has “assigned seating” during a trial. Where would each of these people sit: Judge, Jury, Defendant, Witness, County Clerk, Prosecutor?



JAIL

STOP 9: After carefully walking down the 13 unlucky steps, explore the jail! Use the back door to access the stairs in the rear of the building which take you to the next stop.



GALLOWS

STOP 10: This gallows was the last stop for Shasta's worst criminals. The worst punishment issued by the court was to be “hanged by the neck until dead”. Three men were sentenced to hang at this courthouse. All were convicted murderers, and they received the ultimate punishment for their crimes. The gallows were rebuilt on this site for each hanging and then dismantled, as residents felt the gallows were gruesome looking when not needed.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

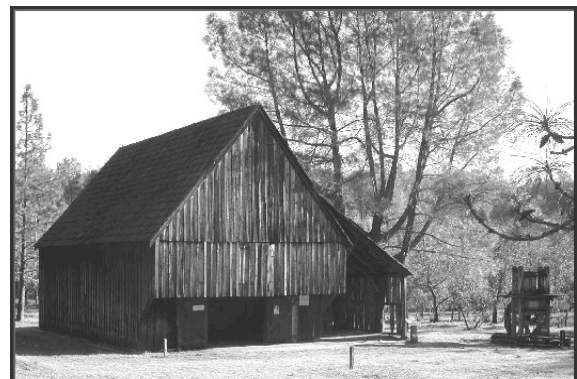
Time and weather permitting, visiting schools sometimes enjoy additional self-guided activities with their students. On the following pages you will find activities for:

SHASTA PIONEER UNION CEMETERY



LET'S SHOP! LOWER RUINS TRAIL

COYLE-FOSTER PIONEER BARN



SHASTA PIONEER UNION CEMETERY

1. At the entrance to the Cemetery, brainstorm with the students: What general information is found on a tombstone?

- *Dates—birth and death*
- *Cause of death*
- *Nationality*
- *Occupation*
- *Relationship to the living*
- *Last Words*
- *Art work*

2. Divide the group, sending them to explore different parts of the cemetery. Have the students examine several different gravesites gathering specific information about the Shasta pioneers buried here.

3. Meet back at the entrance. Share information by answering these questions:

What is the date of the oldest grave you found?

(The oldest grave in the whole cemetery is Singleton Keeling's, 1852. Student answers will vary.)

What is the date of the most recent grave you found?

(The most recent grave in the whole cemetery is Bessie Prehn's, 1957. Student answers will vary)

What different causes of death did you discover?

(Attacked by Indians, illness, childbirth, old age)

Where were the people who are buried here originally from?

(Germany, Ireland, Britain, Italy, France, Bavaria)

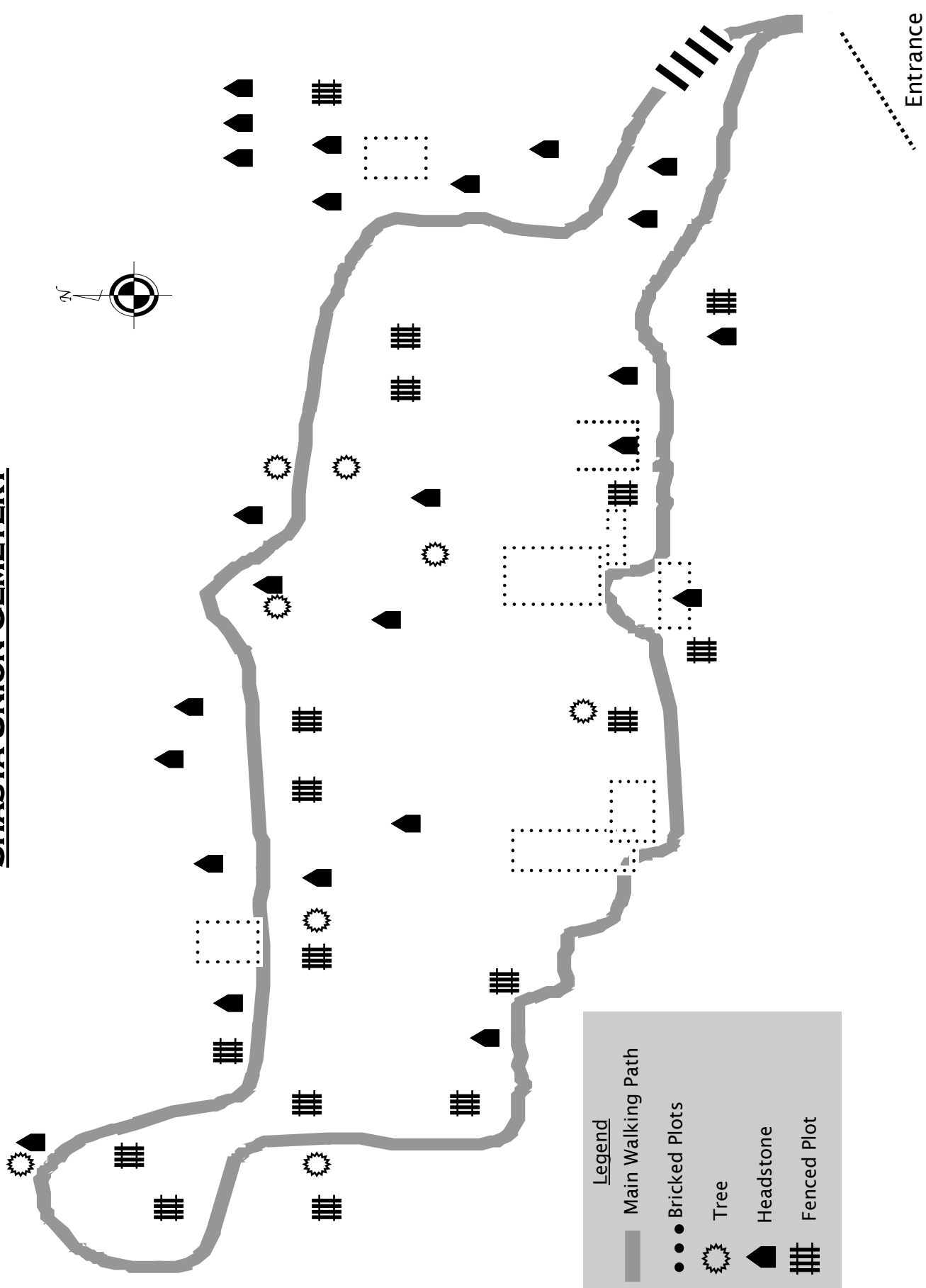
What relationships are shown on the headstones?

(Mother, wife, husband, father, sister, bother, child, friend)

What sort of artwork is carved on the headstones?

(flowers, vines, angels, urns, trees, hands)

SHASTA UNION CEMETERY



Legend

- Main Walking Path
- Bricked Plots
- Tree
- Headstone
- Fenced Plot

LET'S SHOP!

THE LOWER RUINS



TRAIL PROVIDES A

GLIMPSE OF SHASTA'S COMMERCE AND SHOPPING
IN THE 1850'S AND 1860'S.

Begin across the street from the museum at the corner of
Shurtleff Alley moving east with:



CHARTER OAK HOTEL

It stood three stories tall. The bricks were painted yellow---why? *In a town with seven hotels, the unusual yellow bricks attracted attention and customers.*

CALLAGHAN BLOCK

At one time, this block housed a drugstore, bookstore, express company and a saloon, later a toy and candy shop was added. What do we call a number of different shops under one roof today? *A mall*

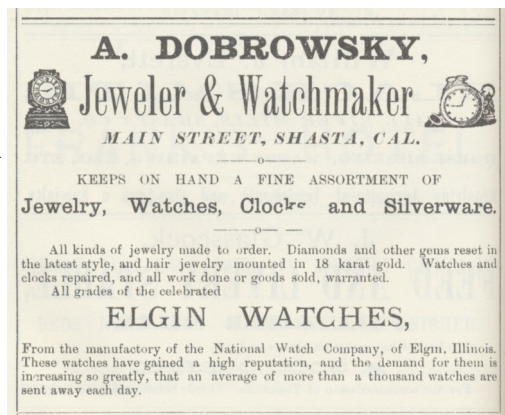


HOLLUB AND ISAACS

This was a dry goods store. What do you think dry goods are? *Dry goods stores of Shasta advertised they sold millinery [hats], crockery, carpets, curtains, wallpaper, cigars and playing cards.*

A. DOBROWSKY

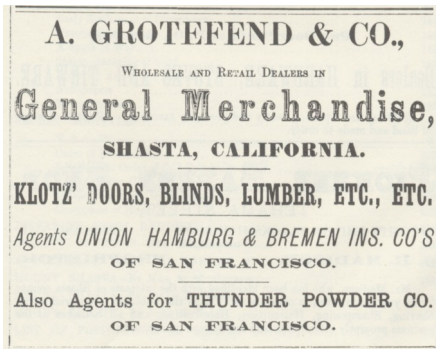
At this store, gold nuggets became jewelry. Watches were made and repaired. Ammunition was sold and gunsmithing done. What does a gunsmith do? *Makes and repairs guns.*



A. DOBROWSKY,
Jeweler & Watchmaker
MAIN STREET, SHASTA, CAL.

KEEPS ON HAND A FINE ASSORTMENT OF
Jewelry, Watches, Clocks and Silverware.

All kinds of jewelry made to order. Diamonds and other gems reset in the latest style, and hair jewelry mounted in 18 karat gold. Watches and clocks repaired, and all work done or goods sold, warranted.
All grades of the celebrated
ELGIN WATCHES,
From the manufactory of the National Watch Company, of Elgin, Illinois. These watches have gained a high reputation, and the demand for them is increasing so greatly, that an average of more than a thousand watches are sent away each day.



A. GROTEFEND

Karl August Grotefend struck it rich above Middle Creek---a pocket of gold worth \$18,000. With his wealth, he purchased the St. Charles Hotel and established a business selling groceries, liquors and provisions. Who needed provisions? *Miners heading out to search for gold.*

BULL, BAKER AND COMPANY

This building housed the largest wholesale business in Northern California. Where do you shop wholesale, if you have a card, in Redding? *Costco*
 After the fire of 1853, this was the most expensive of Shasta's "fireproof" brick buildings. Advram Coleman bought it and became the town's leading hardware merchant.



BENJAMIN SHURTLEFF

This drugstore was owned and operated by a physician, who later became a state senator. His first title was alcalde or mayor. From what language is this title? (*Spanish*)

TOMLINSON AND WOOD

This two-story brick building was constructed in only 13 days, winning the owners a \$600 bet. Wells Fargo and Company and the Shasta Courier had offices here.

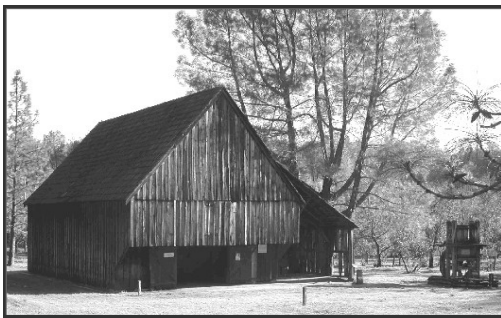


Almost at the end of the trail, there is a cave-like opening in the hillside. This short bricked tunnel was filled with ice brought down from Shasta Bally and used to store meat by Shasta butcher, Peter Hoff.

COYLE-FOSTER PIONEER BARN

Outside the barn are mining and ranching tools used by the Trinity Farm and Cattle Company.

- Find a feed wagon, a rock sled, hay balers, a steam engine and a tallow pot. What is a tallow pot?
The bones, fat, hooves and other parts of slaughtered cattle were placed in this pot. A fire was built underneath and those parts rendered down to make soap and candles.
- Look at the stones on the west side of the barn. These were used to crush rocks containing quartz to separate the gold from the quartz. They are called arrastras stones.



Thomas and Mary Coyle had this barn built in the late 1850's to store hay and to protect their livestock from Indians and inclement weather. In 1959, this barn was preserved from the rising waters of Trinity Lake and relocated to Shasta State Historic Park given by the Foster family.

- The hand hewn timbers of the barn are 40 feet long. Look at how the beams are cut to fit into slots---no nails! This is called mortise and tenon. What building has taken the place of a barn for storage at your house? *Garage.*
- Dismantling the barn took 170 days and reassembling over 300. Each piece was tagged. Can you see those tags along the roof line? This barn is now a museum. Identify some things that belong in a barn and some that do not!

The stagecoach inside and the freight wagon outside were used to transport passengers and goods.

- Which was used for passengers? *Stagecoach*
- Which was used for goods? *Freight Wagon*

The back wheels on the stagecoach are much larger than those on the front---why? *To enable the 90 degree turns necessary on mountain roads surrounding Shasta.*

Freight wagon drivers sometimes met and combined their teams to "make the grade" of a steep hill!