

# **History of Valentine Camp**

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## Abstract

Located in Mammoth Lakes, California, Valentine Camp and the nearby Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory form the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, a field research station in the University of California's Natural Reserve System. The University's tenure at Valentine Camp began over 40 years ago, but the area's history goes back thousands of years. Before the arrival of Euroamericans in the nineteenth century, the region was home to Paiutes and other Native American tribes. Land just east of Valentine Camp was surveyed under contract with the United States government in 1856, and mineral deposits in the mountains just west of Valentine Camp brought hundreds of miners to the vicinity in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Even as mining in the region waned, grazing increased. The land that became Valentine Camp was patented in 1897 by Thomas Williams, a rancher and capitalist who lived in Owens Valley. It was Williams's son, also Thomas, who sold the 160 acres to Valentine Camp's founders. Those founders were very wealthy, very influential men in southern California who could have, and did, vacation wherever they wanted. Anyone familiar with the natural beauty of Mammoth Lakes would not be surprised that they chose to spend time at Valentine Camp. Valentine Camp was donated to the University of California Natural Land and Water Reserve System (now the Natural Reserve System) in 1972 to ensure the land's continued protection.

*"We gave the land because we love it. I can't think of a more stable and careful caretaker than the University of California."*

-Carol Valentine, 1972

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was completed at the request of Dan Dawson, Director of the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (VESR). I am grateful for the opportunity to learn more about Valentine Camp, and for Dan's supreme patience while I did so. Dan also supplied me with key documents to start the research: Carol Valentine's brief history of the camp, and the chain of title that had been prepared when the land was transferred to the University of California. At the county offices in Bridgeport, California, Barry Beck and Amber Reigle of Mono County's Assessor's Office, and Ruth Hansen, Deputy Clerk, Mono County Clerk-Recorder's Office, allowed me access to their archives and helped me find copies of relevant documents. Larry Weitzel, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, Sacramento, sent me a copy of the original patent certificate for the land that became Valentine Camp and researched the price paid for the parcel. Mark Davis, of the Southern Mono Historical Society, conducted a search of the collection archived at Hayden Cabin to provide some additional information. Kathleen Wong, the Principal Publications Coordinator of the University of California's Natural Reserve System, supplied key information about the transfer of Valentine Camp to the University. Deborah Harnke, Reference Librarian, Bureau of Land Management Library National Operations Center, Denver, and Michele Hartshorn, Assistant Clerk-Recorder of Inyo County, provided useful direction. Jeff Burton of Trans-Sierran Archaeological Research prepared some of the maps used in this review, and Emily Farrell assisted in the search for documents. I also thank Jeff Burton, Dan Dawson, Bill Gillespie, and Kathleen Wong for providing comments on earlier drafts.

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## Introduction

In 1972 Valentine Camp became part of the University of California's Natural Land and Water Reserves System (NLWRS), now UC's Natural Reserve System (NRS). The NRS not only serves the University of California's mission of scientific research and teaching, but also provides environmental information and education to local communities throughout the state. Valentine Camp's 156 acres<sup>1</sup> in Mammoth Lakes and the 55 acres of the nearby Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) form the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (VESR), administered by UC Santa Barbara. But Valentine Camp was not always the site of ecological research and environmental education. Sometime after donating the property to the University, Carol Valentine compiled many details about the camp's origin and use in her "Brief History of Valentine Camp."<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Valentine was married to Edward Robinson Valentine, son of William Lucas Valentine. The elder Valentine was likely the Camp's primary founder.<sup>3</sup>

Richly illustrated with old photographs, Mrs. Valentine's history is still available and served as the starting point for the current research, which is intended to supplement, rather than replace, her work. This report includes a summary of prehistoric and early historic land use in the vicinity, a discussion of the chain of title, some biographical notes about the owners, and an annotated bibliography of sources used in this research.

## Location and Setting

Valentine Camp is located within the generous municipal boundaries of the incorporated Town of Mammoth Lakes, which is in southwest Mono County, California. Mammoth Lakes lies at the western edge of Long Valley and at the base of the Sierra Nevada, where orogeny, volcanism, and glaciation have created a spectacularly dramatic landscape. The dominant land forms of the area are Mammoth Mountain and other peaks and ridges of the Sierra Nevada range to the

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<sup>1</sup> Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve website, at <http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/valentine/about-valentine-camp>.

<sup>2</sup> Carol Valentine, n.d. "A Brief History of Valentine Camp." Available online at the VESR website, <http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/sites/vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/files/vesr/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20Valentine%20Camp%20updated%2010-20-15.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Archie Crosby, who worked for the Valentine family beginning in 1918, remembered that the land was called Valentine Camp from the beginning (cited in Valentine, page 3), but Art Hess, who started a sawmill in Mammoth in 1922, referred to Valentine Camp as "Millionaire Cabin," apparently including the founders and their 160 acres. Hess was a prominent person in Mammoth and employed up to 15 people, but it is not known if his term was widely used. See Hess 1990.

west and south. The resurgent domes of the Long Valley Caldera, which created the Casa Diablo obsidian source, occur to the north and east within a few miles. Mammoth Pass, a long-used trade route over the Sierra Nevada, is less than four miles west of Valentine Camp. The climate of the area is semi-arid, with cold winters and mild summers, but water is usually abundant in the Mammoth Lakes area, with streams fed by Sierran snow. Average annual precipitation is 20 to 25 inches.<sup>4</sup>

With elevation at Valentine Camp ranging from about 8000 to 8550 feet above sea level, vegetation includes Jeffrey pine, white fir, red fir, and lodgepole pine, with some more open areas of sagebrush and meadows. Mammoth Creek, a perennial stream, flows through the middle of the parcel. As part of the University of California Natural Reserve System, Valentine Camp has been the subject of numerous ecological studies, and descriptions of the Camp's geology, flora, and fauna are available on the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve website.<sup>5</sup>

Valentine Camp is west of the original town of Mammoth, now called Old Mammoth, and north of Old Mammoth Road, just outside the modern town's defined urban limit.<sup>6</sup> The Camp lies within the south ½ of the northeast ¼ and the north ½ of the southeast ¼ of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. Although Valentine Camp was originally defined by these aliquot parts, it was resurveyed in 1962 at the request of William Lucas Valentine's son, Edward Robinson Valentine, and again after Edward's death in 1968. At the time the parcel was donated to the University of California, about 24 of the original 160 acres had been separated from the main camp parcel by road construction, trade, or sale, and the remaining acreage was described in metes and bounds.

Paleoclimatic data for the region suggest significant changes during the potential span of human occupation in the area.<sup>7</sup> When humans were first in the region, most commonly estimated to have been between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago, the Great Basin was undergoing rapid climatic changes, causing alpine glaciers to retreat, lakes to shrink, and the distribution of plants and animals to shift to higher elevations. The intensity and length of the subsequent warming trend, or trends, has been debated, but warm and dry periods that occurred about 2000 years ago and again from about 1100 to 750 years ago may have had significant effects on prehistoric subsistence patterns in the Mammoth Lakes area. Shifts to warmer temperatures and less precipitation would have made high elevation areas and usually-wet meadows more habitable.

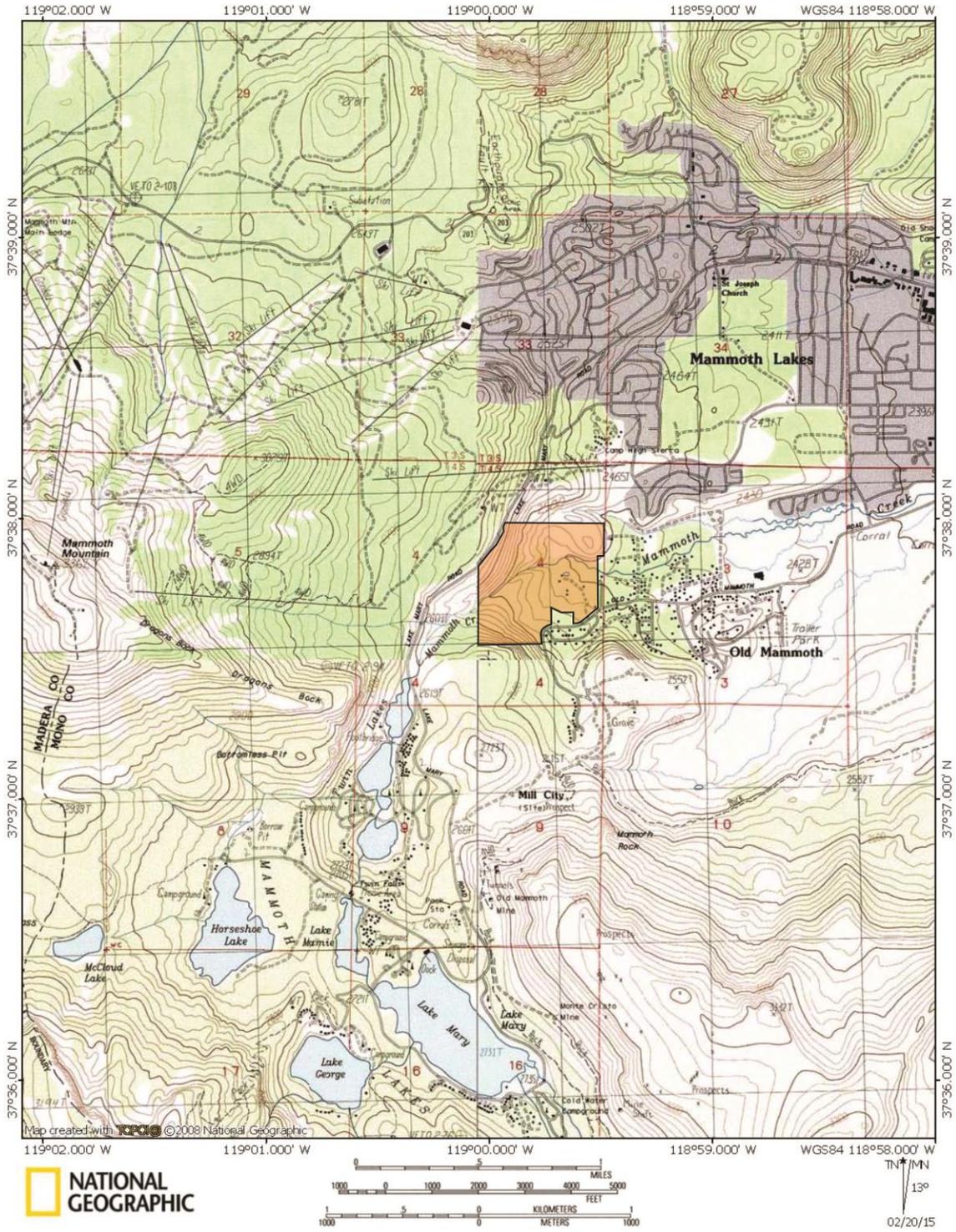
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<sup>4</sup> Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, "About Valentine Camp," at <http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/valentine/about-valentine-camp>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/>

<sup>6</sup> Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Bettinger 1982; Mehringer 1986; Skinner et al. 1990.



*Valentine Camp at the time of its donation to the University of California, indicated by orange shading. The National Geographic base map includes parts of the 1994 USGS Mammoth Mountain, Old Mammoth, Crystal Crag, and Bloody Mountain topo maps.*

Even more dramatic environmental change in the Long Valley area was caused by recurrent volcanism. Twenty eruptions at Mono Craters have been dated to within the last 10,000 years through either radiocarbon or obsidian hydration analysis.<sup>8</sup> Two extensive pumice deposits which blanket much of the Eastern Sierra region have been dated to 640 and 1190 years ago. Combined environmental and archaeological data suggest that recurrent eruptions in the Inyo-Mono volcanic chain altered the region's plant, animal, and water resources drastically enough to curtail use of the area for at least short periods of time. Volcanism also had a positive effect on human use of the area: obsidian from the nearby Casa Diablo resurgent domes was an extremely important stone for the manufacture of tools before Euroamerican contact.

## **Archaeology**

Many of the archaeological sites that have been recorded in the Mammoth Lakes vicinity are lithic scatters, where early travelers and traders reduced chunks of obsidian into more portable (and more valuable) bifaces or cores. Artifacts at these sites often suggest recurrent but short-term use, with stone-working the main activity. Production of obsidian bifaces for trade appears to have peaked between 3,000 and 1,000 years ago, but the collection and processing of food in the region may have increased over time.<sup>9</sup> Five archaeological sites were recorded within Valentine Camp itself as part of a survey conducted for a timber harvest plan.<sup>10</sup> Four are lithic scatters (predominantly of obsidian flakes but one site included basalt flakes); the fifth site consisted of two stacks of hand-sawn or axe-cut lumber, possibly from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century mining operations. A historic site recorded along Lake Mary Road near the northwest boundary of Valentine Camp was associated with Hans George, a pioneering skier in the area, and an early rope tow.<sup>11</sup>

One of the largest prehistoric occupation sites recorded in the Mammoth Lakes area is located about a mile east of Valentine Camp, where archaeological investigations were conducted as part of environmental studies for the Snowcreek Development.<sup>12</sup> The Snowcreek Site was used

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<sup>8</sup> Wood, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> Most of the archaeological investigations focusing on Long Valley and the surrounding region were conducted as part of environmental impact studies for proposed projects, under the National Historic Preservation Act or the California Environmental Quality Act. Because the reports usually contain site location information, their contents are often unpublished or confidential, to prevent vandalism or other damage. However, a BLM overview (Busby et al. 1979) and the Snowcreek data recovery and monitoring report (Burton 2010) are both available online and are good starting points for those interested in previous research and relevant sources. Full citations are found in the bibliography.

<sup>10</sup> Nernir 2002.

<sup>11</sup> Furnis 2000.

<sup>12</sup> Burton 1992, 2010; Burton and Farrell 2006a,b.

by Native Americans from as early as 2000 B.C. to late prehistoric times, primarily as an obsidian workshop and subsistence camp. Most site use (as indicated by biface production) occurred between 100 and 600 A.D., with the peak of occupation ca. 300 A.D. The lack of standardization in the obsidian tools recovered from the site suggests that the site was used by a diverse group of people. Midden, bedrock mortars, fire-cracked rock, and ground stone show that a variety of food-processing activities occurred there, as well. Use of the site as a hunting base camp appears to have increased after A.D. 600.

Much of the obsidian production, trade, and travel in the Mammoth Lakes area likely occurred during the summer months, when the high Sierran passes were free of deep snow. Long Valley offered a variety of food resources during snow-free months. In the spring, Tui chub, speckled dace, and Owens sucker may have been fished from creeks, while roots and greens along creeks and meadows might have replenished dwindling winter stores. Small game, deer, and antelope could have been hunted nearby. In the summer, grass seeds were collected from meadows and drier upland areas. The Jeffrey pine forests provided one of the major food sources for the Owens Valley and Mono Lake Paiute: Pandora moth larvae, or *piagi*.<sup>13</sup> One of Valentine Camp's neighbors, Clarke Keeley, remembered Paiutes camping in the area in the mid-twentieth century,<sup>14</sup> and Paiutes collected *piagi* in the Jeffrey pine forests at least into the 1980s.<sup>15</sup>

### **Paiute and other Native American Residents**

Although most closely associated with the Owens Valley Paiute and the Mono Lake Paiute, Long Valley was also used by several nearby groups: Benton and Round Valley Paiute lived to the east, Monache and Yokuts to the west, and Southern Sierra Miwok to the northwest. Primary sources for the ethnography of the inhabitants of Long Valley include works by Julian Steward, Emma Lou Davis, and Omer C. Stewart.<sup>16</sup> Excellent summaries of the history of the Owens Valley Paiute and Northern Paiute (including the Mono Lake Paiute) can be found in the *Handbook of North American Indians*.<sup>17</sup> Due to friendly relations with the Paiute, small groups of Monache or Miwok spent extended visits on the east side.<sup>18</sup> Men crossed over the Sierran passes even in winter using snowshoes, and remained in villages on the San Joaquin River until the early salmon runs; women crossed the passes to exchange pinyons for acorns. Mammoth Pass was the primary

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<sup>13</sup> Fowler and Walter 1985; Liljebblad and Fowler 1986.

<sup>14</sup> Leslie Dawson 1997.

<sup>15</sup> Fowler and Walter 1985.

<sup>16</sup> Steward 1930, 1933, 1934, 1938; Davis 1964, 1965; and Stewart 1939, 1941.

<sup>17</sup> Liljebblad and Fowler 1986: 412-434; Fowler and Liljebblad 1986:435-465.

<sup>18</sup> Gifford 1932; Cain 1961:94.

route for many of these trips, especially for those whose home territory was on the west side of the Sierra Nevada. The trade and travel resulted in widespread bilingualism, multiculturalism, and inter-group marriage.<sup>19</sup>

The Mammoth Area's high elevation, ca. 8,000 feet, would seem to inhibit year-round habitation, but other parts of Long Valley were occupied year round by an indigenous population. Sterud<sup>20</sup> cites unpublished material collected by Davis that the Mammoth Junction Site was used by Mono Lake Paiute in ethnographic times, and Steward mentions two or three Northern Paiute who claimed to have come from a village on Hot Creek, *Panwihumadu* ("fish creek place").<sup>21</sup> Doyle reported a large "fandango" on Hot Creek in the 1880s, which was attended by local Paiute as well as Washo, Shoshone, and Indians from Tulare.<sup>22</sup> Hall discusses other evidence for permanent occupation of Long Valley and concludes that "in all likelihood, there were probably some Paiute who spent the better part of their lives in and around Long Valley."<sup>23</sup>

### **Conflicts with New Arrivals**

Although claimed as part of New Spain and then Mexico, no records of any Spaniard or Mexican exploring the Eastern Sierra have been uncovered.<sup>24</sup> The British trapper Peter Skene Ogden probably traveled through what is now Mono County and the Owens Valley around 1830, and small parties of immigrants heading for California occasionally traversed the area.<sup>25</sup> Prospecting and mining east of the Sierra Nevada began in the 1850s; the Lost Cement Mine, near Mammoth Lakes, was purportedly discovered in 1857.

The first permanent herds of cattle were brought into Owens Valley in 1861 to supply the growing mining camps of the Inyo-Mono region. The newcomers let their cattle graze on the Paiute's irrigated agricultural fields and cut pinyon trees for lumber and firewood, reducing the Paiute food supply greatly by the winter of 1862.<sup>26</sup> Paiutes killed cattle to replace their depleted

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<sup>19</sup> Liljeblad and Fowler 1986:415-416.

<sup>20</sup> Sterud 1965:9.

<sup>21</sup> Hall 1983:49.

<sup>22</sup> Doyle 1934:203.

<sup>23</sup> Hall 1983:51.

<sup>24</sup> Busby et al., 1979:37.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid: 37-39.

<sup>26</sup> Cavelle 2011.

game and plant foods; ranchers retaliated by killing Paiutes.<sup>27</sup> Ensuing battles escalated, until the military “ultimately engaged in a ‘scorched earth’ campaign against the Indians, burning all their stores, houses, and equipment.”<sup>28</sup> The main fighting was over by 1863 and most of the Paiute in the region were exiled to a reservation at Fort Tejon, south of Owens Valley. Some of the Indians who remained after the forced removal continued attacks: one of these was “Joaquin Jim,” a Yokuts leader who lived in Long Valley, near Deadman Creek and the North Obsidian Mountain.<sup>29</sup> Hostilities ended after the death of Joaquin Jim at Casa Diablo Hot Springs in the winter of 1865-66. Over the next few years most of the Paiute returned; however, by then even more of their lands had been appropriated, and they became largely dependent on the Euroamerican economy. For example, Reed wrote of one Paiute woman who lived at Whisky Creek, near where Crowley Lake is now, who drove her horse and buggy into Mammoth Camp every week to do laundry for Olive Barker’s family.<sup>30</sup> Reed also included a photograph captioned as “Dave Jackson, Indian Packer, ... one of the first packers in Mammoth” who retired to Indian Ranch on lower Hot Creek.<sup>31</sup> Although there is no current Indian reservation in Long Valley, members of the Benton, Bishop, Big Pine, Ft. Independence, Lone Pine, and Mono Lake tribes continue to have strong ties to the area.

## **The Establishment of Federal Lands**

As was common across the west, the federal government considered the Eastern Sierra as public land, regardless of prior Native American occupation and use. The General Land Office was created in 1812 to handle and “dispose of” public lands,<sup>32</sup> but the U.S. land policy dates back even earlier, to 1785 when the Land Ordinance was created. Public lands were to be surveyed into townships six miles on a side and divided into 36 one-mile-square sections, each containing 640 acres. Land was to be sold at no less than \$1 per acre in tracts no smaller than 640 acres. Later laws modified these conditions. For example, the Act of April 20, 1820, titled “An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands,” allowed individuals to purchase public land in smaller amounts (down to 80 acres) for a minimum of \$1.25 per acre.<sup>33</sup> Patents giving people title to the land were signed by the United States President.

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<sup>27</sup> Liljeblad and Fowler 1986:430.

<sup>28</sup> Liljeblad and Fowler 1986:430, citing Chalfant 1922:146-147.

<sup>29</sup> Wright 1879.

<sup>30</sup> Reed 1971:24.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid: 41.

<sup>32</sup> BLM GLO Reference Center, online at <http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/reference/> .

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

Even after the 1820 Land Act was enacted, some provisions of the original Land Ordinance remained in effect, such as the stipulation that legal sale and settlement of public land could not occur until the land had been surveyed and the survey accepted by the Federal Government. In 1855, A. W. Von Schmidt was commissioned by the U.S. Government to map lands east of the Sierra Nevada, which included Long Valley. Von Schmidt's survey, conducted in 1856, included parts of the east and north boundary of Township 4 South Range 27 East, coming within a half-mile of the future Valentine Camp. In 1878 William Minto conducted additional survey in the township, delineating 40-, 80-, and 160-acre parcels within Section 4, where Valentine Camp is located. Minto's work was incorporated into the 1879 GLO plat (reproduced below), which shows "Dickinson's Toll Road" going through the SE¼ of Section 4, just nipping the southeast corner of the land that became Valentine Camp.

In 1893 the Sierra Forest Reserve was established to protect over four million acres of forest in five California counties.<sup>34</sup> In 1907, the reserves were redesignated "National Forests," and the land west of Mammoth became part of the Inyo National Forest.<sup>35</sup> An early ranger cabin reportedly became the first structure at Valentine Camp, when it was moved to the site from the meadow to the east.<sup>36</sup> The ranger cabin had been located north of Mammoth Creek, just east of the current Old Mammoth Road crossing.<sup>37</sup>

## **Mining and Ranching**

Documented mining activity in the Mammoth Lakes area itself dates from 1877 when gold and silver were discovered near Lake Mary by four prospectors trying to relocate the Lost Cement Mine. The Mammoth Mining Company was organized and four town sites were subsequently built: Pine City, Mill City, Mammoth City, and Mineral Park. Pine City appears on the 1914 USGS maps as in Section 9, almost a mile south of Valentine Camp. The 1953 USGS map places Mill City on the section line between Sections 4 and 9; this jibes with the GLO 1879 mineral claim map, which depicts a sawmill in the same location. This location puts Mill City about a quarter-mile south of the southernmost extent of the Valentine Camp parcel before it was reduced in size. Caldwell places Mammoth City, the largest settlement, along the old toll road that became Old Mammoth Road, between Mill City and Pine City. The 1879 GLO mineral map depicts no structures here, but a wide strip centered on the road is labeled "mineral land."

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<sup>34</sup> Busby et al. 1979:73.

<sup>35</sup> The presidential proclamation that designated the Forest Reserves is available on the BLM GLO Records website.

<sup>36</sup> Valentine n.d.:6.

<sup>37</sup> Burton 1992:10.



The location of Mineral Park is less precise, including in some descriptions just the location of the buildings and in others the surrounding area. Mammoth historian Gary Caldwell put it in the pines, straddling Old Mammoth Road:

At the foot of the grade, west of the meadow and condominiums, along today's Old Mammoth Road lay Mineral Park. So named, wrote George W. Forbes (with tongue in cheek?), "because no trace of mineral has ever been found in the vicinity" (22 Jan. 1880). ... At Mineral Park [Forbes] noted "a saw mill, brewery, stores and saloons scattered among the pines." The 1880 census listed also a hotel, stable and pasture, boarding house, toll house and a dozen cabins. The sawmill Forbes mentioned, owned by John McFarland and Robert Fraser, was the sole reason for Mineral Park's existence. The sawmill itself was located above Mineral Park, "a few hundred yards below" the Mammoth mill complex....<sup>38</sup>

Adele Reed describes a slightly bigger area, including at least the west edge of the old Bodle Meadow:

In the earliest days this general area was known as Mineral Park and extended from the meadow [where Charles Wildasinn built his cabin] to the foot of the grade below Mill City.... An early map in the Ben Noxon collection, author unknown, has the name Mineral Park Hotel and Store. Gus Cashbaugh of Bishop recalled, "The summer of 1893, I went with my father, hauling produce by wagon and team from his ranch up to the people living in tents at Mineral Park below Mill City."<sup>39</sup>

Charles Wildasinn's cabin still stands and is located where Golden Creek Road now intersects Old Mammoth Road,<sup>40</sup> so by Reed's definition, Valentine Camp would have been within Mineral Park. Reed describes the origins of Valentine Camp, again placing it in Mineral Park:

#### **Valentine Camp**

Tom Williams sold a large acreage in the Mineral Park area to a group of wealthy Los Angeles businessmen in 1915. Early in the '20s they fenced it and with the help of Ed Chamberlain and John Tibbits, the carpenter team from Bishop, built a number of handsome log cabins, including a cook cabin and dining room. Florence Nicoll presided

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid:34-35.

<sup>39</sup> Reed 1982:43-44.

<sup>40</sup> Burton and Farrell 2006:23-24.

over the dining room and one of the largest of cook stoves for a good many years, while husband Lloyd Nicoll was in charge of maintenance work.<sup>41</sup>

During the peak of mining activity, in 1879, twenty stamps and a steam-powered engine were added to the mill at Mill City. However, a decline in productivity, severe winter weather, discontent of the stockholders, and a fire that destroyed half of Mammoth City led to the closing of the mill and the eventual abandonment of the towns. By 1881 only a few prospectors worked in the area.<sup>42</sup> In 1895 major work was again started at the Mammoth mines. In 1898 a ten-stamp mill was constructed at Mammoth City, using the old water turbine from Mill City. Again the mine did not pay off, and was closed the same year. The limited success of the mining enterprises helped to preserve what would become the region's most important economic asset: its spectacular natural beauty.

## **Roads and Recreation**

In the 1870s, mining precipitated the construction of roads and trails to connect the Mammoth area towns with Bodie and Bishop, and with the central valley of California. A wagon toll road was built by J. L. C. Sherwin from northern Owens Valley to the Lakes District mines at Mammoth in the 1870s. The alignment as depicted on an 1879 map reproduced in Caldwell's history<sup>43</sup> lay to the east of today's Old Mammoth Road and Valentine Camp. However, the 1879 GLO plat, surveyed in 1878, shows "Dickenson's Toll Road" going through the southeast quarter of Section 4. The USGS 1914 Mt. Morrison 30-minute topographic map also shows the road alignment from Mammoth (now Old Mammoth) to Pine City going through the southeast quarter of Section 4, similar to the current alignment of Old Mammoth Road. The "toll trail" over the Sierra Nevada Mountains through Mammoth Pass was built by J. S. French to connect Mammoth with the central valley of California; this trail probably followed earlier Paiute trails. During the height of the mining boom in 1879, a saddle train made the round trip from Mammoth City to Fresno Flats (now Oakhurst) twice a week. The saddle train was served by the Pine City feed and livery stables, whose corral and pasture were located where the Mammoth Lakes Pack Station is now situated.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Reed 1982:66. Note, Mrs. Valentine's history spells Lloyd and Florence's last name as Nichols, but the Mono County "Index to Voter Registration Affidavits 1940" corroborates Reed's spelling. The 1930 census lists Lloyd D. Nicoll as born in 1912.

<sup>42</sup> Caldwell 1990.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid:14-15.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid:151.

In the early 1900s Mammoth was promoted as a resort community. East of the current Valentine Camp, Mammoth's first resort, the two-story Wildasinn Hotel (later destroyed by fire) was built by Charles F. Wildasinn.<sup>45</sup> Power for the Wildasinn Hotel was supplied by the water turbine (a Knight Wheel) salvaged from the mining operations and brought down from the mill site with a sled.<sup>46</sup> Wildasinn also built a cabin, a small store, and a sawmill. The sawmill, located on the north side of Mammoth Creek, was sold and moved to what is now the Shady Rest campground area in 1908. All the remaining buildings but the cabin were bought by Charlie Summers, who in 1918 built a new hotel and store called Mammoth Camp.<sup>47</sup>

The wagon road to the Lakes Basin was improved to accommodate automobiles in 1920. The Forest Service contributed \$4,000 to the effort, and several individuals donated funds. A Bishop newspaper article called for volunteer labor.<sup>48</sup> The beginning portions of the Fresno Flats Trail may have been incorporated into the auto road as well, because the destination was no longer the Mammoth Mine, but the lakes beyond. The 1920 road facilitated recreation developments in the Lakes Basin, and probably improved access and increased traffic through the southeast edge of Valentine Camp. Wildyrie, located at Lake Mamie's outlet, was begun in 1923, and eventually had 20 cabins, a service station, post office, store, and dining room. Tamarack Lodge, on Twin Lakes, was built in the early 1920s and remodeled in the 1930s; a store and tent houses were constructed in the early 1930s at Lake Mary.<sup>49</sup> Small fishing, backpacking, and packer outfits also developed to serve a growing clientele of recreationists.<sup>50</sup>

The 1920 road was superseded by the current Lake Mary Road/State Highway 203, constructed in 1937. When State Highway 203 was completed to the north of Mammoth, most businesses moved there, and Mammoth became "Old Mammoth." Although some businesses in "new" Mammoth remained open all winter, it was not until skiing was developed and promoted beginning in the 1940s that the town experienced year-round tourism and mail service.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Reed 1982:44.

<sup>46</sup> Caldwell 1990:26.

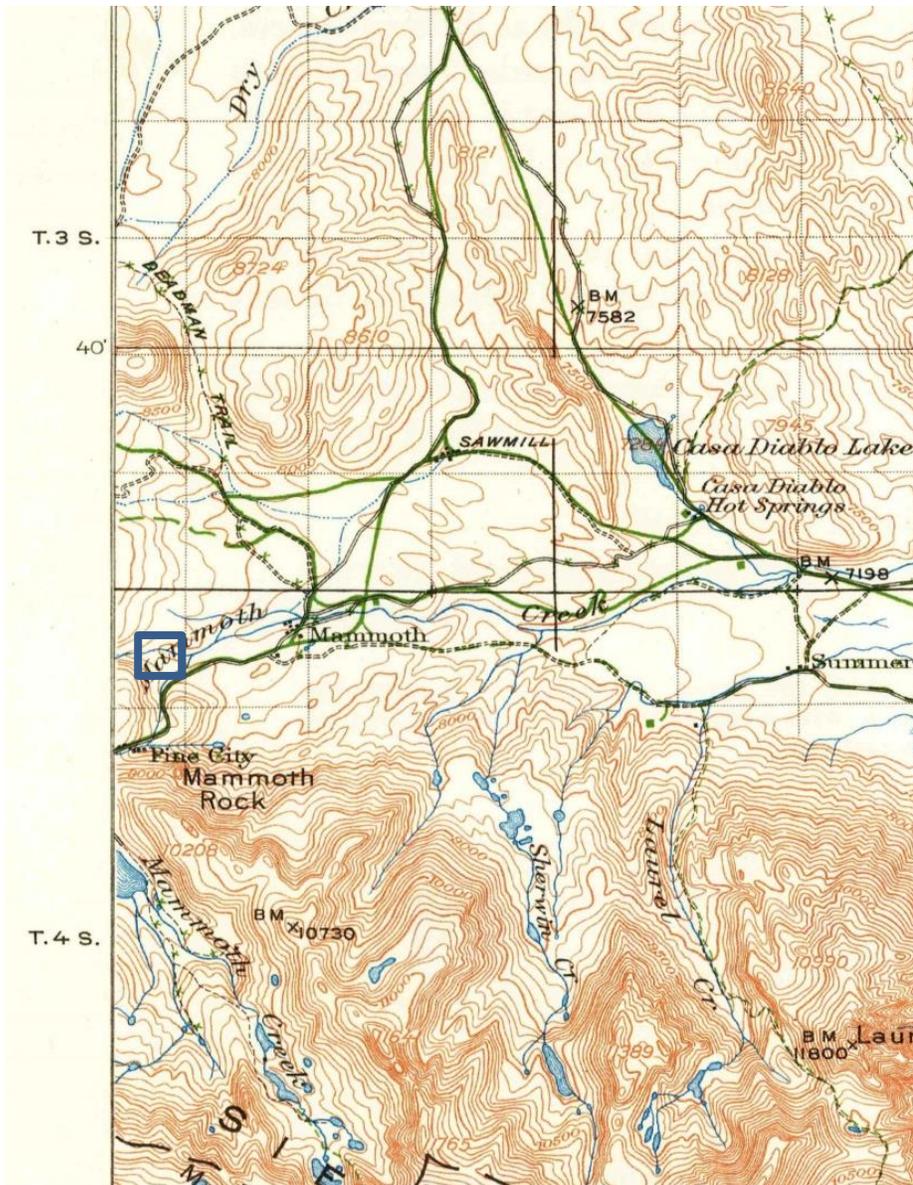
<sup>47</sup> Reed 1982:44-49.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid:72-75.

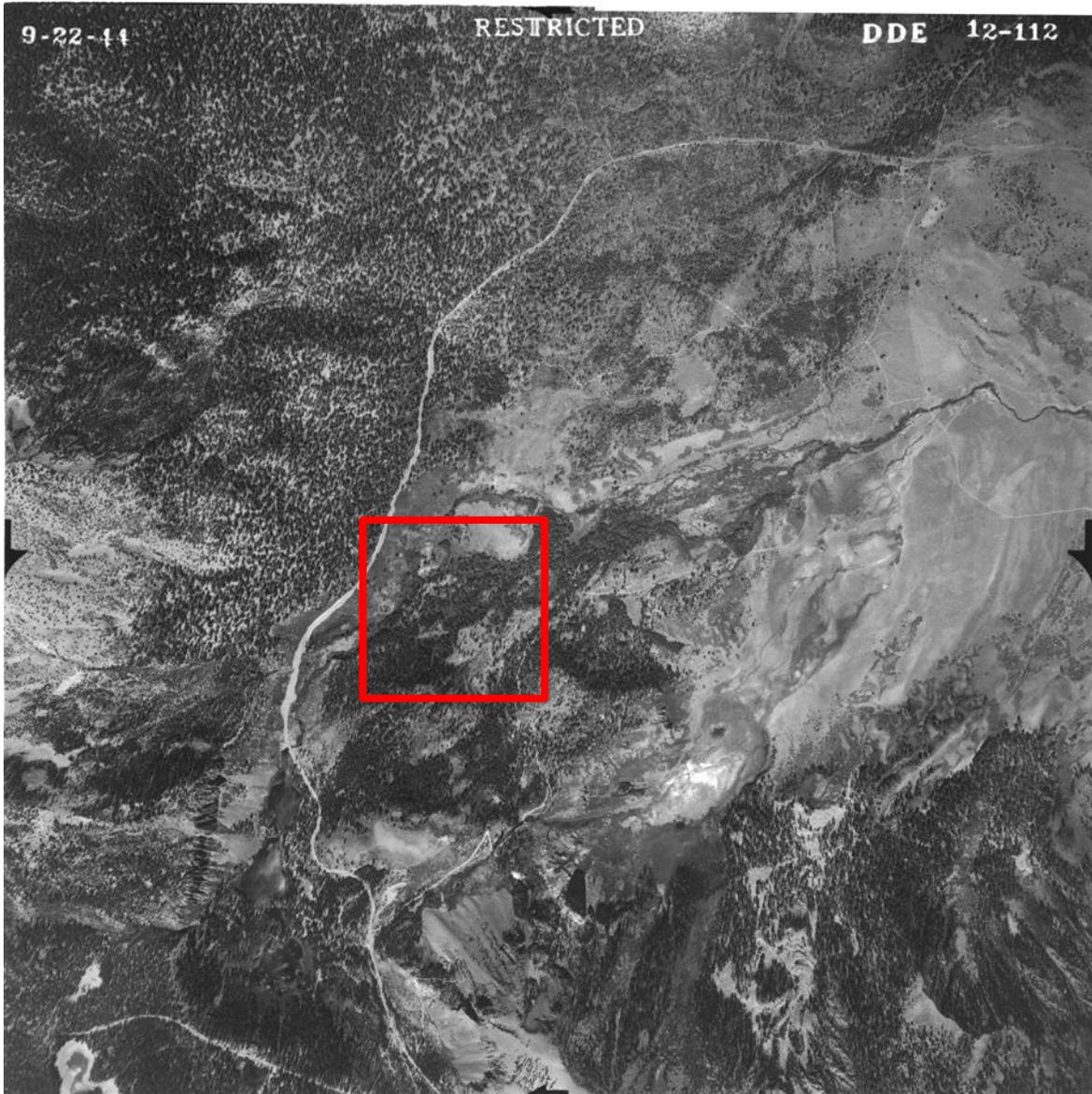
<sup>49</sup> Ibid:77-79.

<sup>50</sup> Faust 2000:7.

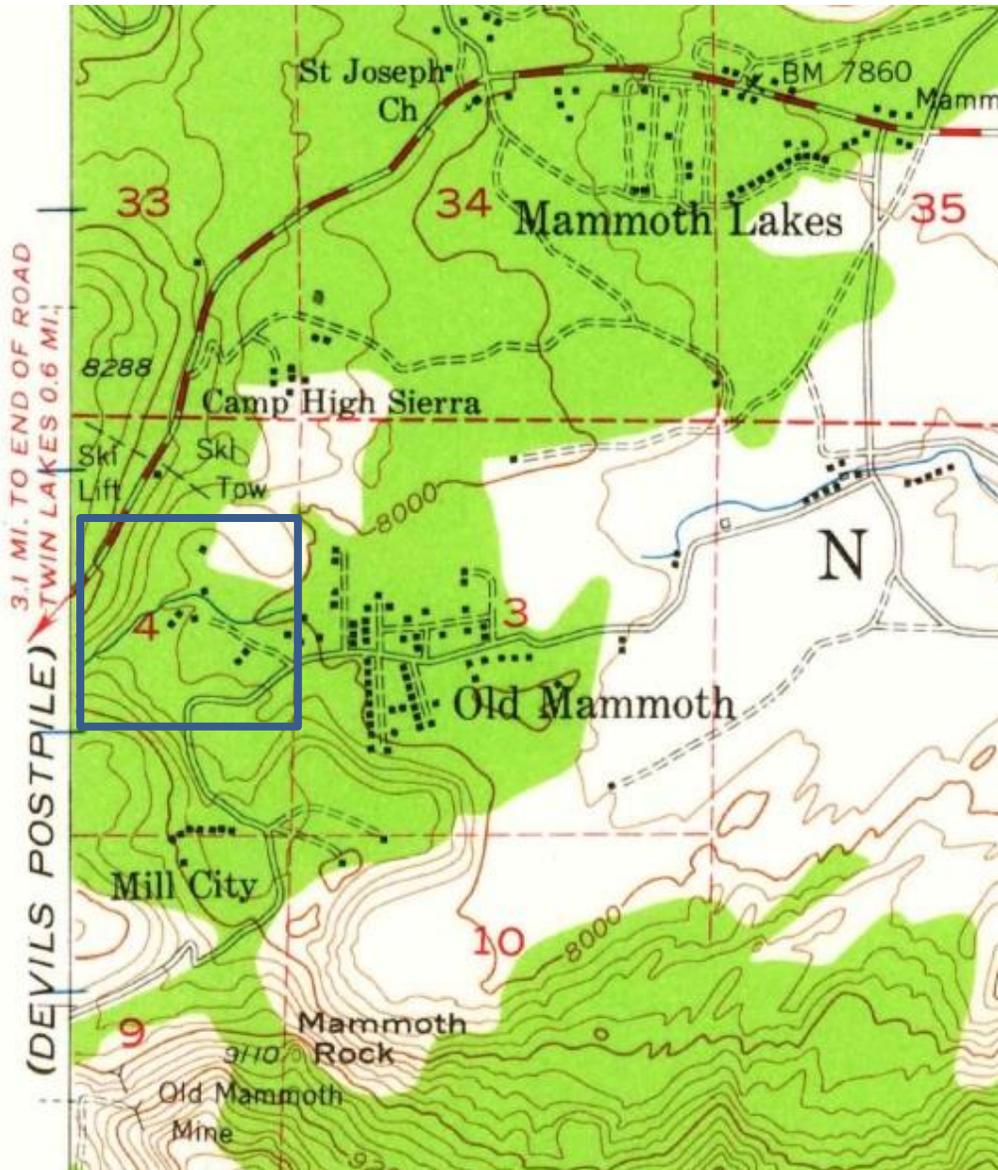
<sup>51</sup> Reed 1982.



From the USGS 1914 Mt. Morrison topographic map. Approximate location of original Valentine Camp outlined in blue. As expected for this date, no buildings are depicted in the area that became the Valentine Camp parcel. The road alignment from Mammoth (now Old Mammoth) to Pine City goes through the southeast quarter of Section 4, but (like Dickinson's Toll Road) it stays south of an unnamed tributary of Mammoth Creek in the Camp area, and may have crossed only the far southeast corner of the 160 acres of the original Camp.



*In a 1944 aerial photograph of Mammoth lakes area, the new highway completed in 1937 is dominant, visible as the white line that curves through the middle of the photo. Approximate original boundary of Valentine Camp is outlined in red. There appears to be a road into the middle of Valentine Camp, but the old road up toward the Lakes Basin is also apparent near the Camp's southeast corner.*



*In this portion of the 1953 USGS Mt. Morrison topographic map, the blue-outlined square is the approximate boundary of the 160 acres that formed the original Valentine Camp. Old Mammoth Road swings north of the tributary of Mammoth Creek, apparently north of its original alignment as depicted on previous maps.*

## **Valentine Camp**

Carol Valentine's narrative and the chain of title prepared when the parcel was donated to the University of California provide the starting point for unfolding the history of Valentine Camp itself. As she describes in her account, she had married Ed Valentine, son of Valentine Camp founder William Lucas Valentine, in 1958; Mrs. Valentine not only experienced the camp first-hand, she learned about the history of the camp as part of the family and the Mammoth Lakes

community. Mrs. Valentine also included information she garnered from the Valentine's long-time chauffeur, Archie Crosby, and verified some of her own memories by checking with others who had participated in the camp's early days.<sup>52</sup>

The chain of title, compiled by Inyo-Mono Title Company in 1972, includes copies of the relevant entries regarding Valentine Camp that had been filed with the Mono County Recorder's Office. Information extracted from the copies is tabulated in Appendix A. At first glance, there are a couple of discrepancies between Mrs. Valentine's account and the chain of title. For one thing, her sources indicate that the Camp was purchased in the 1910s,<sup>53</sup> while the chain of title starts with an entry dated 1921. Most surprisingly, the camp was named after her father-in-law, William Lucas Valentine, yet his name never appears in the chain of title. A little more digging in the archives begins to resolve these discrepancies.

### **The First Private Owner**

In the chain of title for Valentine Camp, the first entry is the transfer of 160 acres from the General Land Office (GLO) to Thomas Williams of Inyo County, recorded at the request of Thomas Williams on January 11, 1921. The land is described as T4S R27E, Section 4, MDBM, S ½ of NE ¼, and the N ½ of SE ¼. The transaction involving the GLO is cited as "Certificate No. 588," and a hand-written copy of the first part of it is included in the chain of title documents that Inyo-Mono Title Company provided to the University of California. The date of the recording could give the impression that the land was patented in 1921, which would be too late for it to have been resold to the Valentine Camp founders in the 1910s. The BLM's Sacramento Office kindly provided a copy of the complete original certificate. This document is clearly dated August 30, 1897, which fits much better with Mrs. Valentine's account. Neither the original Certificate No. 588 nor the hand-written copy in Mono County's record book lists the price that Thomas Williams paid for the land, but the BLM was able to determine that he paid the "full price" of \$2.50 per acre, rather than the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. Total cost, then, was \$400 for the 160-acre parcel.<sup>54</sup>

The next question: who was Thomas Williams? A search of census records and the county voter register reveals two persons named Thomas Williams in the region around the time of the patent filing. One was born in December, 1837, in Wales. In 1870 he was listed as a farmer living at Bishop Creek; his real estate was estimated to be worth \$1,000 and his household included

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<sup>52</sup> Valentine n.d.

<sup>53</sup> Valentine placed the purchase around 1916 (Valentine n.d.:6) or 1919 (Archie B. Crosby's account in Valentine n.d.:3). Reed (1982:66) dated it to 1915.

<sup>54</sup> Larry Weitzel, BLM California State Office, personal communication, February 18, 2015.

two male farm laborers who worked for him.<sup>55</sup> Williams became a naturalized U.S. citizen on September 3, 1877. In 1880 he was listed as a 40-year-old farmer, married to Susan Williams, age 25, with a 2-year-old daughter. The 1900 census lists the 62-year-old Williams' marital status as divorced; Susan is listed in the census as living in Los Angeles. Rather than "farmer," as he had been described in the previous two censuses, in 1900 Williams's occupation is "capitalist." But he died in 1909, so he was not the Thomas Williams who appears in documents dated 1921.

The second Thomas Williams in the area in 1900 is the son of the first Thomas Williams. In the 1900 census he is listed as a 19-year-old student. This Thomas would have been a minor, about 16 years old when the 160 acres in Section 4 were patented, so it is very unlikely he could have filed Certificate 588. The mystery of the two Thomas Williamses becomes clear, however, in the pages of the county recorder's book immediately following the patent copy. In Book T pages 67-73, is the "Decree Settling Final Account and Distribution of Estate" of Thomas Williams. This decree was originally dated March 4, 1911. In 1921, son Thomas Williams requested that the original 1897 patent be recorded in the County Recorder's book. On the same day, he requested recording of the decree that proved that he, along with his siblings, had inherited the property. The copy made by the Mono County recorder in 1921 begins:

Thomas Williams died intestate near Bishop CA on the 22 of December 1909, leaving widow Julia E. Williams and daughters Winnie Lyman, Maggie Eddie, Clara Smith, and Mabel Williams and his son Thomas Williams....

As listed in the decree, the elder Thomas Williams estate included over \$25,000 in cash, stocks, and bonds as well as three ranches in Inyo County (the G. W. Reynolds ranch, 240 acres; the J. B. Chamberlain Ranch, 160 acres; and the Bowman [? difficult to read] Ranch, with 80 acres). His Mono County holdings included not only the land that became Valentine Camp (the S ½ of NE ¼ and N ½ of SE ¼ of Section 4, T4S R27E) but also 240 acres within Sections 3 and 10 of the same township (the SW ¼ of SE ¼ and the E ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 3; and the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 10). At the end of the entry the recorder attests that it is a true copy of the Decree as it appears in Volume 21 page 65 of Inyo County's book of deeds.

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<sup>55</sup> 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

CERTIFICATE  
No. 588

Whereas Thomas Williams, of Inyo County, California

has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Registrar of the Land Office at Independence, California whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Thomas Williams

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the South half of the North east quarter and the North half of the South east quarter of Section four in Township four South of Range twenty seven East of Mount Diablo Meridian in California containing one hundred and sixty acres...

according to the Official Plot of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said Tract has been purchased by the said Thomas Williams

Now know ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Thomas Williams

and to his heirs, the said Tract above described. To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said Thomas Williams

and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and canals used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way therein for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

In testimony whereof J. William McKinley, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the thirtieth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty second.

By the President: William M. McKinley  
By J. M. M. Keen, Secretary  
C. L. Brush, Recorder of the General Land Office

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There is no reason to doubt the accounts that Valentine Camp was purchased in the 1910s, at least two years before it was officially recorded in 1921. Although real estate sales today are routinely recorded within weeks of the transaction, recording is not mandatory. The California Department of Real Estate notes that the state set up the county recording system to inform people planning to purchase land about the ownership and condition of the title, but the “general purpose of recording statutes is to permit (rather than require) the recordation of any instrument which affects the title to or possession of real property.”<sup>56</sup>

The recording that the younger Thomas Williams requested in 1921 was most likely initiated to establish a clear chain of title for the parcel. This may have been precipitated by a request from the Valentine Camp founders, or Williams may have wanted to ensure that the county tax assessor was informed that he no longer owned the parcel. In any event, the record indicates that Thomas and his wife Edna granted the Valentine parcel to William G. Kerckhoff of Los Angeles for the sum of \$10 in February 1921. In 1922, Kerckhoff paid taxes to Mono County on the 160 acres (assessed at \$1,600) and a “fence etc.” valued at \$100, which indicates there were no substantial structures on the property at that time.

In spite of the recorded purchase price being a total of \$10, there is no reason to doubt Archie Crosby’s account that the price was \$20 per acre.<sup>57</sup> The recorded \$10 likely has little relationship to the actual price: although the first code of ethics adopted by the National Association of Realtors in 1913 advocated showing the actual price paid for real estate in a deed, the practice was not at all universal. If Valentine Camp’s founders paid \$20 per acre, the total price would have been \$3,200. Adjusted for inflation, that would have the buying power of almost \$70,000 today. Although that still seems like a ridiculously huge bargain in today’s Mammoth Lakes, it might be fairer to compare it to the cost of a similarly sized parcel of land two long-days’ travel from the nearest major city, and far from such amenities as paved roads and utilities. For comparison, Mammoth’s first garage owners, Harold and Lillian Guseman, bought a one-story cabin in Mammoth in 1923 for \$250.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> <http://www.dre.ca.gov/files/pdf/refbook/ref05.pdf> .

<sup>57</sup> Crosby’s account in Valentine n.d.:3.

<sup>58</sup> Reed 1971:30.



*LEFT: Left to right, Thomas Williams (1880 – 1940), Susan E. Chappel Williams (1855 -?), and Thomas Williams (1838 – 1909). Undated photograph from Ancestry.com; based on the youth of the younger Thomas Williams, it was probably taken in the early 1890s. In 1897 the elder Williams patented the land that would become Valentine Camp.*



*LEFT: Thomas Williams the son, who sold the land for Valentine Camp. Undated photograph from Ancestry.com. According to the 1920 census, this Thomas Williams was married to Edna and had one daughter and two sons (one named Thomas Williams). Although Williams looks like he could be a city-dweller in this portrait, he was indeed a rancher. He and his wife owned a stock ranch in Inyo County, and a letter by Tom Rigg published in Reed (1982:44-45) indicates that Williams ran cattle in the Mammoth Lakes area: “In the summer of 1914 I was working for Tom Williams at Windy Flat where he had cattle. I took the cows over to Deer Creek, he had a permit....”*

## Intermediaries

The Valentines' chauffeur Archie Crosby indicated that a Dr. McQueen of Bishop served as intermediary for the purchase,<sup>59</sup> and another account states that the land was purchased from Dr. McQueen.<sup>60</sup> Crosby's explanation was that because of the water rights controversy, local landowners had become suspicious of anyone from Los Angeles. The 1900 census lists a "Jno Simpson McQueen" in Inyo Township No. 1; McQueen is 36 at that time and lives with his wife, two daughters, and one son. In the 1920 census he is listed as John S. Macqueen, 54, whose occupation is dentist; he was then living with his wife, two sons, and one daughter (by that time the eldest daughter was probably away at school or married). They lived on East Line Street in Bishop. McQueen had patented 320 acres in Inyo County in 1899 through the Desert Land Act of 1877,<sup>61</sup> and owned a lot with a log house in the Mammoth Camp Tract.<sup>62</sup> However, there is no evidence that he had ever owned the 160 acres that became Valentine Camp, so his role as intermediary must have been informal. By 1936 McQueen lived in Los Angeles.<sup>63</sup>

In her history of the camp, Mrs. Valentine notes that there may have been another intermediary, Lee Summers, an attorney from Bishop. As someone who could have facilitated a real estate transaction ca. 1918, this Lee Summers is difficult to track down. There is a Lee Summers in Bishop in the 1920 census, but this Lee was born in 1912, too young to have helped with the acquisition of Valentine Camp. But by 1940 Lee lived in Mammoth, and worked as a packer and hunting and fishing trip leader.<sup>64</sup> Lee's father, Lloyd Summers, was born in 1884, so he would have been old enough to facilitate the Valentine Camp purchase, but his occupation is listed as rancher, not lawyer. Lloyd's 1918 draft registration lists him as a stockman living in Bishop, as does the 1920 census. However, Lloyd spent at least part of his time in the Mammoth area: Reed indicates that Lloyd and his wife Sybil lived in a cabin near Lloyd's parents, Charlie and Libby Summers, on Laurel Creek.<sup>65</sup> Reed explains that Charlie and Libby Summers were the founders of Mammoth Camp:

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<sup>59</sup> Valentine n.d.:3.

<sup>60</sup> Piluso 1975:6.

<sup>61</sup> BLM General Land Office Records.

<sup>62</sup> Mono County Assessor's records, 1924, pages 15-16. The record indicates that at that time, his land was worth \$150, and a log house and other improvements were worth \$650. The Southern Mono Historical Society has a photograph of McQueen's Mammoth cabin on display, with the caption that it was built in 1921.

<sup>63</sup> California, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959, from Ancestry.com.

<sup>64</sup> 1940 census. At that time Lee lived at 7030A Mountain View Avenue in Mammoth Lakes.

<sup>65</sup> Reed 1982:50.

Charlie's sons and families were included in and helped with the hotel and pack business he started in 1918, Mammoth Camp. Charlie, the youngest son, and his wife Altha (Branson) of Big Pine later ran the Agnew Meadow Pack Camp. In the early 20s many changes began to appear – new cabin people up the creek, more campers and fishermen, and gradually a new business here and there.... Lloyd Summers was the first postmaster and his wife Sybil then took the office at Old Mammoth until 1937, when it was moved to the new highway. In the winter of 1927 a disastrous fire wiped out most of Mammoth Camp. However, the Summers name remains an important part of Old Mammoth tradition.<sup>66</sup>

Although none of the census data or voter registers lists a Summers working as an attorney,<sup>67</sup> it seems likely that any or all of the Summers family members helped the founders of Valentine Camp in some capacity, as neighbors, nearby business owners, guides, and packers. Charlie might have facilitated the purchase by vouching for William Valentine and his friends; a story related by Reed indicates he had a reputation for plain-speaking:

Olive Barker was visiting with Charlie on the porch one bright spring day when a big car drove up. "It was the kind with big leather seats and lots of shiny metal trim," Olive remembered. A chauffeur came to Charlie and asked about rooms. He replied yes, he had rooms (the 30 rooms were in a separate two-story building beside the hotel). When asked to send someone out for the luggage, Charlie's explosive answer was typical. "Hell no! Everyone waits on themselves in this country!" Olive explained, "He never really wanted to run a hotel, he was a cattleman."<sup>68</sup>

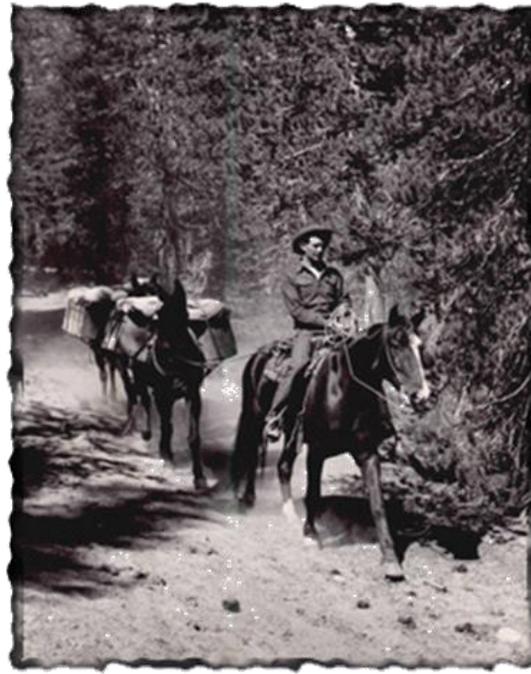
Reed does not provide a date for this incident, but it must have happened when the Summers's Mammoth Camp hotel was in operation, before it burned in 1927. Neither does Reed relate what happened next with the passengers in the big car, but if they were friends of Valentine Camp's founders (or even founders themselves before the camp was established) they likely managed their luggage well enough.

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<sup>66</sup> Ibid:50-51.

<sup>67</sup> In a 1997 interview on file at the Southern Mono Historical Society (Robens 1997), Dave Griffith mentions a "Judge Summers," whose father may have been Lloyd. Lloyd had two sons besides Lee, Verne (also spelled Vern) (born in 1914) and Richard (born in 1931), but both would have been born too late to facilitate a 1918 real estate transaction.

<sup>68</sup> Reed:50.



*Above left, Charlie Summers (with Lee and Vern Summers); Right, Lee Summers. Undated photos from the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit's website, accessed February 2015 (no longer online).*

## **The Founders**

In her history of Valentine Camp, Carol Valentine lists eight founders: William Lucas Valentine, Carol's father-in-law, who founded the Fullerton Oil Company; Henry O'Melveny, a lawyer and the founder of O'Melveny and Meyers; William Kerckhoff, the head of Kerckhoff Lumber and the Southern California Gas Company; Michael Connell, in the oil business; Joseph Sartori, the founder of Security Bank; George Wallace, the adopted son of Joseph Sartori; Ira Copley, founder of San Diego's *Union Tribune*; and Mr. Millican, a tax lawyer.<sup>69</sup> Archie Crosby lists six original founders, but his list differs from Mrs. Valentine's in that it includes a Mr. Joe Cook as an original founder, and indicates that Sartori was "voted in" only after Cook and Kerckhoff had died. Crosby noted that Wallace, whom he identifies as Sartori's son-in-law, became a member after Sartori's death.

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<sup>69</sup> Valentine n.d.:6.

### **William Lucas Valentine (1870-ca. 1944)**

Mrs. Valentine's brief characterizations of the founders are impressive, but could be considered very understated. For example, her father-in-law was in the 1913 *Who's Who on the Pacific Coast*, and received extensive treatment in the 1913 edition of the Press Reference Library, Western Edition *Notables of the West*:

VALENTINE, WILLIAM LUCAS, Oil, Los Angeles, California, was born March 8, 1870, in Mendocino County, California, the son of William Valentine and Susan (Lucas) Valentine. He married Louie Chandler Robinson, May 27, 1896, at St Paul's Church in Los Angeles and has four children. (Louie was the daughter of Joseph Winchester Robinson, who founded Robinson's Dept. Store.) Mr. Valentine is a graduate of the Lincoln Grammar School of San Francisco, 1885. He attended the Commercial High School of San Francisco for an additional year.

He went to work for Carrick, Williams & Wright Company of San Francisco in the lumber and box business. He resigned to take a place with the Easton Eldridge Company, one of the largest real estate firms of San Francisco. He worked in the various departments of the firm until 1893, when he was put in charge of a branch office at Los Angeles, under the direction of Major George Easton. He resigned in 1900 to organize the Fullerton Oil Company, a corporation capitalized for \$600,000. The new company began with the ownership of fifty acres of proven oil land. With a single assessment, oil in quantity was found. From the profits an additional 380 acres were bought. The reports of the concern in 1911 state that \$651,000 in dividends had been paid and that there was no debt. Mr. Valentine is the largest stockholder and is secretary and general manager of its affairs.

He was chosen a director in the Merchants' National Bank of Los Angeles in 1910, and is now well started in big business.

He is a director of the California Club, director of the Automobile Club of Southern California, member of the Cerritos Gun Club, Bolsa Chica Gun Club, South Bay Shooting Club and San Gabriel Valley Country Club. He is a junior member of the Society of California Pioneers.<sup>70</sup>

An article by Nick Curry in a recent issue of the San Marino Historic Society's newsletter states that Valentine could be considered the father of San Marino.<sup>71</sup> Curry notes that William L. Valentine was one of five founding City Councilmen of San Marino and served as the second mayor. He was on the Board of Directors for the Automobile Club of Southern California starting

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<sup>70</sup> Vol. I, Page 626, International News Service, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta. 1913, on Ancestry.com.

<sup>71</sup> Curry 2014:3. The full article is included in Appendix B.

in 1910 and served as President from 1921 to 1926 and continued on the Board until his death in 1942.<sup>72</sup>

Clearly a man of many interests and talents, Valentine's experience with cars and motoring would have served him well in his trips to Valentine Camp when road travel was an adventure. Likewise, his interest in guns suggests an outdoors focus that might have come into play at Valentine Camp.

*Below, passport application photograph, William and Louie Valentine, July 3, 1924.*<sup>73</sup>



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<sup>72</sup> Note, Carol Valentine dates his death to 1944 (Valentine n.d.:13), but his gravestone confirms that he died in 1942, on May 9 ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)).

<sup>73</sup> Photograph: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=83017412&PIpi=53918005>; Ancestry.com has the same photograph, crediting the U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007.

### **William G. Kerckhoff (1856-1929)**

The first member of the founders' group to be officially recorded as owner of Valentine Camp was William G. Kerckhoff<sup>74</sup> of Los Angeles. It was Kerckhoff who requested the recording of the grant deed for the parcel from Thomas and Edna Williams to himself. Like Valentine, Kerckhoff is listed in the 1913 *Who's Who on the Pacific Coast*. Another of Valentine's founders, Henry O'Melveny, wrote a biography of Kerckhoff,<sup>75</sup> printed in a very limited edition.

The West Adams Heritage Association describes Kerckhoff as "a German-American lumber and electric power millionaire and land developer who bequeathed buildings in his name to USC, UCLA, and Cal Tech, and endowed a heart research institute in Germany."<sup>76</sup> The Heritage Association provides an impressive resume of his business and philanthropic work, included here in Appendix B. Like Valentine, Kerckhoff exemplified the eminently high social and economic standing of Valentine Camp's founders.

A letter he wrote in 1899 as president of the Forest and Water Association of Los Angeles County to the Secretary of the Interior (copy included in Appendix B) indicates that his interest in the outdoors was not purely recreational. In the letter Kerckhoff outlines problems with forest fires and overgrazing, and urges more active management to promote conservation. Kerckhoff also served two terms as State Commissioner of the Yosemite Valley.<sup>77</sup>



*Photograph of Kerckhoff from the  
West Adams Heritage Organization,  
<http://www.westadamsheritage.org/read/462>*

**William G. Kerckhoff**

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<sup>74</sup> Consistently spelled Kerchoff by both Carol Valentine and Archie Crosby in Valentine (n.d.).

<sup>75</sup> More information about the book was found on the AbeBooks website, accessed October 17, 2015: <http://www.abebooks.com/William-G-Kerckhoff-Memorial-O%C3%95Melveny-Henry/12304774614/bd> .

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.westadamsheritage.org/read/462>.

<sup>77</sup> California Genealogy & History Archives <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagha/index.htm>, Greater Los Angeles & Southern California Portraits & Personal Memoranda, Lewis Publishing Company, 1910, p.162.

The chain of title and county records indicate that William and his wife Louise Kerckhoff deeded the Valentine Camp property over to Security Trust and Savings Bank on March 19, 1923. Security Trust & Savings Bank, which served as trustee for the property, links Valentine Camp to another of the founders of Valentine Camp, Joseph Sartori.

### **Joseph Francis Sartori (1858-1946)**

Another of Valentine Camp's high-powered founders, Joseph Sartori founded the Security Trust & Savings Bank in 1888. That bank, through expansion and mergers, became the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles. A 2006 article in the *Los Angeles Times*<sup>78</sup> notes that Security-First underwent several name changes, including Security Pacific National Bank, which it was called in the chain of title in 1972 when Valentine Camp was deeded over to the University of California. Security Pacific's name died out when the bank merged with Bank of America in 1992.

As with the other founders of Valentine Camp, there are many references to Sartori on the internet and in Ancestry.com. The fact that a succinct account of his career is provided by the Golf Historical Society attests to Sartori's interest in that sport and corroborates other stories that indicate he was athletic:

For more than half a century, Joseph Francis Sartori played a major role in the development of Southern California with his pioneering vision for a sound financial footing in all aspects of the community. One of the original founders of the Southern California Golf Association and The Los Angeles Country Club, Sartori was instrumental in building Southern California foundations in real estate, oil and gas, water, transportation, municipal bonds, banking legislation, golf, and philanthropy.<sup>79</sup>



The Golf Historical Society also credits Sartori with being "fully behind the Owens Valley Aqueduct, and the development of the San Fernando Valley, which he part-

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<sup>78</sup>"Security Pacific Gets Its Start on Main St." *Los Angeles Times*, February 11, 2006

<sup>79</sup> <http://golfhistoricalsociety.org/lacc/sartori.html>. Photograph of Sartori is from that website, used with permission of John Jones of the Golf Historical Society.

owned.” These aspects of Sartori’s business would not have endeared him to many residents of Owens Valley and Long Valley in the early twentieth century, giving credence to Archie Crosby’s account of the founders needing an intermediary to purchase Valentine Camp.

Sartori is linked with Valentine Camp by Mrs. Valentine’s history, and with the official chain of title by his association with Security Trust and Savings Bank. However, these links point out a very big gap in this historical review: for whom, or for what organization or club, was Security Trust serving as trustee? What were the terms of the trust? There likely was a written document spelling out the original members and how their shares were divided, how taxes would be paid, how the camp would be developed and managed. Such a document might even include a different name for the parcel, since it was only after most of the other founders had died or resigned that William Valentine gained a majority share.<sup>80</sup> However, William Valentine was executive vice-president of Security First National Bank,<sup>81</sup> the trustee for the property, which suggests that Valentine had at least an indirect or proxy link with the chain of title.

### **George Wallace**

Mrs. Valentine describes George Wallace as “the adopted son of Joseph Sartori [who] took over as president of Security Bank when Joseph retired.”<sup>82</sup> There are many, many George Wallaces in the U.S. census, but no George Wallace with father Joseph Sartori was found. In addition, no George Wallace was listed in Joseph Sartori’s household in the 1920, 1930, or 1940 censuses. Mrs. Valentine may have been using the term “adopted” in a figurative sense: Archie Crosby’s letter noted that George Wallace was Sartori’s son-in-law, rather than adopted son.<sup>83</sup>

### **Ira Clifton Copley (1864-1947)**

Ira Copley appears in the chain of title and in Mono County records, Book 5, Page 160, when for the consideration of \$10, Louise Kerckhoff, a widow, signed over to I.C. Copley a Grant Deed for the 1/6<sup>th</sup> interest in the Valentine Camp parcel that was formerly owned by William G. Kerckhoff. The transaction was witnessed Feb 6, 1931, in Los Angeles County, and was recorded at the request of H. W. O’Melveny, Feb 20, 1931. The county records appear to be contradictory, since William and his wife Louise Kerckhoff deeded the property over to Security Trust and Savings Bank on March 19, 1923, without a mention of retention of 1/6<sup>th</sup> interest. But it does (at least arithmetically) corroborate the idea that there were originally six founders of Valentine Camp.

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<sup>80</sup> Valentine n.d.:13.

<sup>81</sup> Curry 2014:3.

<sup>82</sup> Valentine n.d.: 4.

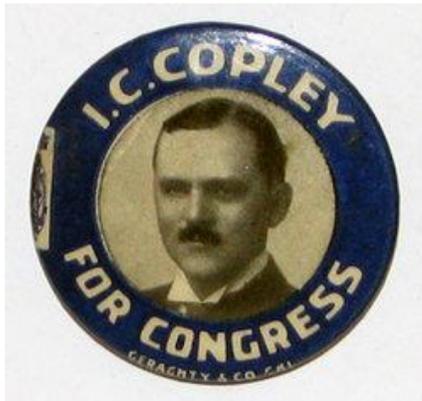
<sup>83</sup> Ibid:3.

Ira Copley founded San Diego's *Union Tribune*, one of the largest privately owned newspapers in California. But in most information encountered, Copley's time in California was but a small part of his story. He was born in Illinois and served in the U.S. House of Representatives for the state of Illinois from 1911 to 1923. The following is Ira's biography as recorded in the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress:

COPLEY, Ira Clifton, (nephew of Richard Henry Whiting), a Representative from Illinois; born near Galesburg, Knox County, Ill., October 25, 1864; moved with his parents Ira Birdsall Copley and Madeline Whiting to Aurora, Ill., in 1867; attended the public schools and Jennings Seminary at Aurora; was graduated from Yale University in 1887 and from the Union College of Law at Chicago in 1889; became connected with the gas and electric business in Aurora, Ill., in 1889; owner and publisher of the Beacon-News at Aurora in 1905, the Courier-News at Elgin in 1908, and the Herald-News at Joliet in 1913; elected as a Republican to the Sixty-second and Sixty-third Congresses; reelected as a Progressive to the Sixty-fourth Congress and as a Republican to the Sixty-fifth through Sixty-seventh Congresses (March 4, 1911-March 3, 1923); was not a candidate for renomination in 1922; continued the development and publishing of daily newspapers, acquiring the Illinois State Journal at Springfield, the Union and the Tribune at San Diego, Calif., and eleven other dailies in southern California; died in Aurora, Ill., November 1, 1947; interment in Spring Lake Cemetery.

Other online sources mention his philanthropy and his stint in the Illinois National Guard, from 1880 to 1899, where he rose from the rank of private to Lieutenant Colonel.

*Right, undated photograph of Ira C. Copley from the Library of Congress.<sup>84</sup>*



*Left, Copley campaign button (from eBay, since sold)*

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hec/item/hec2009003637/>

### **H. W. O'Melveny (1859-1941)**

As mentioned above, Henry W. O'Melveny appears in the Mono County documents as having requested the recording of Louise Kerckhoff's deed of 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the property to Ira Copley in 1931. The 1910 census lists O'Melveny in a large household in Los Angeles, with wife Marie, three sons, one daughter (only 2 years old and with a different last name, she may have been adopted), and seven servants. In the 1930 census, the household includes Henry and his wife plus two lodgers and only four servants. Had they fallen on hard times? Not by most standards, since his house was noted as worth \$450,000. The house, which was moved from Wilshire Boulevard to South Plymouth Boulevard in the late 1920s, is a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. The firm mentioned by Mrs. Valentine, O'Melveny and Myers, still exists; according to Wikipedia, it is the 29<sup>th</sup> largest law firm in the world, and employs over 800 people worldwide. Their website<sup>85</sup> extolls their founder:

On January 2, 1885, 26-year-old Henry O'Melveny and 32-year-old Jackson Graves formed the Firm of Graves & O'Melveny "for the purpose of practicing Law at the City of Los Angeles." What is now the oldest law firm in Los Angeles, the Firm would undergo a total of nine name changes—always including the name O'Melveny—before becoming O'Melveny & Myers in 1939.

O'Melveny, an intellectually gifted graduate of University of California at Berkeley, prepared for the California bar exam after college by reading Blackstone and Kent's Commentaries and briefly clerking in a law office. He passed the oral examination administered by the state Supreme Court on the first try. O'Melveny was an unpretentious man and a nature lover, noted for his civic leadership. As the leading lawyer of his day in Los Angeles, O'Melveny was a director of the city's Public Library and helped found California Institute of Technology, as well as University of California at Los Angeles. ....

In its early years, the Firm played a key role in major land litigation and probate proceedings involving the transfer of Spanish ranchos, as well as the development of hydroelectric power that was crucial to the growth of Los Angeles.



H. W. O'MELVENY  
of Los Angeles, Cal.

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<sup>85</sup> <http://www.omm.com/aboutus/history/>, accessed October 17, 2015.

References to O'Melveny on the internet are too numerous to summarize here, but two short biographies are included in Appendix B. The BLM GLO Records indicate that a Henry W. Omelveny filed three patents for land in Los Angeles and Del Norte Counties; at least one of these, in the San Bernadino Mountains, and possibly all three can be attributed to the Valentine Camp founder. According to one article, the law and nature were O'Melveny's two great passions:

From 1927 to 1932, O'Melveny served on the State Park Commission and was one of the men most responsible for creating California's present state park system. One modern tribute to his work is O'Melveny Park, a 714-acre wilderness area overlooking Granada Hills that was turned over to the city in 1973.<sup>86</sup>

Like Joseph Sartori and William Valentine, O'Melveny was also associated with the bank that served as trustee for Valentine Camp: O'Melveny served on the board of directors of Security Trust and Savings Bank.<sup>87</sup> The photograph of O'Melveny above is from a genealogy of the Albert A. Moore family, available online.<sup>88</sup>

### **Michael Connell (ca. 1860-1935)**

Although Michael Connell is an extremely common name, the clues in Mrs. Valentine's history made it easy to pin him down: an Irishman, from Boston, "handsome with white hair and moustache, who always wore a white carnation in his buttonhole."<sup>89</sup> The Michael J. Connell Foundation website features a photograph of their founding philanthropist that fits Mrs. Valentine's description well enough, and notes:

Michael J. Connell was born in Ireland in the middle of the 19th century. He moved to the United States in his early 20's. He formed a mining supply business in Montana in the 1880s. He sold that business and moved to California near the turn of the century. He settled in Los Angeles and was involved in oil and gas development, real estate and banking until his death in 1936.

The Michael J. Connell Foundation was formed in 1931. For many years we have supported cultural, educational, environmental and medical endeavors, primarily in the Los Angeles area.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Overend 1987

<sup>87</sup> Boswell 1928:22-23, transcribed by Jeanne Sturgis Taylor (see Appendix C).

<sup>88</sup> Moore 1915:29.

<sup>89</sup> Valentine n.d.:4.

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.mjcf.org/>.

Michael Connell is listed in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census as a capitalist living in Los Angeles. The 1905-1939 California Death Index records his death as August 21, 1935.



*Michael Connell's photograph, from the MJC Foundation website, <http://www.mjcf.org/>*

**Mr. Millican /Milliken (1893-1981)**

Mr. Millican, whom Mrs. Valentine remembered as a tax lawyer, proved elusive. A DeWitt Clinton Millican listed in the 1920 census was living in San Diego and worked as a carpenter. A Samuel E. Millican, of Rosemead, Los Angeles County, was born in 1881 and died on Nov. 28, 1949,<sup>91</sup> but he was not found in a search of the U.S. census. An Albert A. Millikan is listed in the 1920 census as born in 1872 and then living in Long Beach, but his occupation, in less than perfect penmanship, appears to be “none.” An Edward L. Millican living in Huntington Park in 1920, born in 1872, is listed as a minister. A William Milligan in Los Angeles in the 1920 census is a “motorman.”

However, a “John B. Milliken” is listed on the cover of a lawsuit filed by the Belridge Oil Company against the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. The date stamped on the cover of the brief is smudged, but could be April 20, 1939. Milliken is one of three attorneys listed for the petitioner, Belridge Oil. This is likely the same “Bellridge Oil” that Mrs. Valentine remembers as founded by Michael Connell (Valentine n.d.:4).

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<sup>91</sup><http://www.findagrave.com/> Birth: 1881; Death: Nov. 28, 1949; Find A Grave Memorial# 26185682.

The census closest in time to the presumed date of the lawsuit is the one taken in 1940. In that census, John B. Milliken is listed as 46 years old, born in Texas, living in Los Angeles, and working as an attorney for a law firm.<sup>92</sup> Born December 10, 1893, this Milliken appears in the 1900 and 1910 censuses as still a boy, in Texas. When he registered for the World War I draft, he was a teacher in Dallas. In the 1930 census, he was listed as a lawyer residing in Washington, D.C., with his wife Juliette Dandridge King Milliken and two young children. But, by 1935 he was living in Los Angeles, and the 1950 San Marino, California, city directory lists a John Barnes Milliken, attorney, residing there with Juliette D. Milliken. Milliken died in Pasadena in 1981, at the age of 87.

This Milliken lived too far away in the 1910s and 1920s to be one of the original Valentine Camp founders. However, his association with the Belridge Oil Company suggests he knew Michael Connell, who *was* one of the Valentine Camp founders. It may not be too much of a stretch to conclude that he was the Mr. Millikan that Mrs. Valentine remembered. Like the founders, John Barnes Milliken is found in *Who's Who in America*, albeit later editions (1974-1985). Milliken became a judge before he retired.

*Below left, John Barnes Milliken, ca. 1920 (Milliken would have been about 27 years old). Below right, Judge John Barnes Milliken, ca. 1971 (Milliken would have been about 78) Both photographs from Ancestry.com.*



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<sup>92</sup> Census Year: 1940; Census Place: Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California; Roll: T627\_401; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 60-295.

### **Joe Cook (ca. 1855 to at least 1930)**

Archie Crosby listed a Joe Cook among the six men who founded Valentine Camp. Although Mrs. Valentine does not name Joe Cook as a founder, her history includes two photographs of a Joe Cook at Valentine Camp. In one photograph, he is sitting on the ground by the creek at Valentine Camp with Joseph Sartori, Henry O'Melveny, William Valentine, William Kerckhoff, and an unidentified man; in the other photo he is sitting in a camp chair with Valentine, O'Melveny, and Sartori.<sup>93</sup> Crosby said that Cook and Kerckhoff shared one cabin, and that after Cook and Kerckhoff died, "Mr. Sartori was voted in, and after he died, his son-in-law, George Wallace, had his interest."<sup>94</sup>

Although Joe Cook is a very common name, one in particular listed in the 1920 census seems a likely candidate. Joseph E. Cook was 65 in 1920, so he would be about the same age as the other founders. This Cook had two servants in their household, so the census suggests he belonged to the upper class. His occupation is listed as manufacturing agent, in the field of "groceries etc." which in itself does not suggest he was particularly wealthy. However, the census record leads to the voter registration record of 1892, which indicates Joseph's middle name was Edward. Joseph Edward Cook appears in *Who's Who on the Pacific Coast*, 1913, with a list of accomplishments that would put him in the company with the other Valentine Camp founders. He was in fact owner of J.E. Cook Mercantile Company,

...which is the proprietor of: Merchant's Warehouse, U.S. Customs Bonded Warehouse No. 1, U.S. Bonded Warehouse No. 8, U.S. Gen. Bonded Warehouse No. 3. Sou. Cal. Agent for: Quaker Oats Co., Church & Dwight Co., D. Ghirardelli Col, Proctor & Gamble Co., C. B. Knox Co., Fels & Co., Doulas & Co., Hawaiian Pineapple Produce Col, Western Chemical Co., Phoenix Packing Co. Dir., Country Club Land Assn. & Realty Co. *Clubs*: California, L.A. Country. *Residence*: 2715 Severance, Los Angeles, Cal.<sup>95</sup>

Although the date of his death was not found, Joseph Edward Cook is listed as in the same house in the 1930 census, so he lived at least to the age of 75. His wife, Virginia Day, appears in the 1904 edition of the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Valentine n.d.:5 and 10.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid. page 3.

<sup>95</sup> Harper 1913: 125.

<sup>96</sup> The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Volume 23: 213.

## Valentine Camp Cabins

Most of the available information about the construction of the cabins and related infrastructure at Valentine Camp comes from Mrs. Valentine's history, which includes the letter from Archie Crosby. Mrs. Valentine had written to Mr. Crosby with a few specific questions that were generated by her discussion with representatives of the University of California after she had decided to donate the property to UC's Natural Land and Water Reserve System (now the Natural Reserve System). In particular, she asked if Mr. Crosby knew the name of the man who built the cabins, when the first cabin was built, and how long the drive up to Mammoth took.<sup>97</sup> Mr. Crosby's May 18, 1972, reply is reprinted in full in her history.<sup>98</sup>

Mr. Crosby's letter was impressively detailed, considering that some of the events he described had taken place over 50 years previously. Mr. Crosby had been the Valentine family's chauffeur for 24 years beginning in 1918, and had retired in Mammoth.<sup>99</sup> In his letter Mr. Crosby noted that the founders "used to camp down on the meadow at the stream below the camp until the six men were able to buy the 160 acres and start the Valentine Camp." Mr. Crosby also recalled that the first cabin on the property was bought by Mr. Valentine, who had it moved to Valentine Camp. Later he had two wings added:

The kitchen, dining room and big fireplace were built in 1921 and were all open – no windows. There was a big woodstove and gasoline lanterns for light. Later came a butane gas stove and the Koehler plant for lights.<sup>100</sup>

If Mr. Valentine was the first to erect a cabin on the parcel, the land may have become known as Valentine Camp as early as 1921. However, the historic record is more ambiguous. In 1922, William Kerckhoff paid taxes to Mono County on the 160 acres (assessed at \$1,600) and a "fence etc." valued at \$100, which indicates that the assessor knew of no substantial structure on the property at that time. The 1923 tax assessment for the parcel lists a building valued at \$3,000, in addition to the 160 acres and fence, suggesting construction (or moving) of the cabin did not occur until 1923. Interestingly, it was Kerckhoff, not Valentine, who paid the taxes on the property in 1922 and 1923. Beginning in 1924, taxes were paid by the Security Trust and Savings Bank, as trustee, in its various reconfigurations.

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<sup>97</sup> Undated letter from Mrs. Edward R. Valentine of Santa Barbara, CA, to Mr. Crosby, a copy of which is in the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve files.

<sup>98</sup> Valentine n.d.:3.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid:2.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid:3.

The Mono County tax assessor also recorded the assessed value of the property; see Table 1. The land itself increased in value only slightly and probably as a result of ancillary improvements within the parcel or in the town of Mammoth, rather than inflation: the 160 acres were valued at \$1,600 in 1922 and 1923, \$1,920 in 1924, and \$2,400 from 1925 through 1930. The buildings at Valentine Camp were valued at \$3,000 in 1923, \$3,500 in 1924, \$5,000 in 1925, \$7,500 in 1926 and 1927, \$7,600 in 1928, and \$18,000 in 1930. If the tax assessor was keeping track of improvements, the main building episodes on the parcel occurred in 1923, 1925, 1926, and 1930, with smaller improvements in 1924 and 1928.

<b>Table 1. Assessed Value of Valentine Camp, 1921-1950</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Taxes paid by</b>	<b>Valuation in Assessor's Books</b>		
		<b>160 acres</b>	<b>Fence etc.</b>	<b>Buildings</b>
1921	Thomas Williams	\$1,600	\$100	N/A
1922	William Kerckhoff	\$1,600	\$100	N/A
1923	William Kerckhoff	\$1,600	\$100	\$3,000
1924	Security Trust and Savings Bank, Trustee	\$1,920	\$100	\$3,500
1925	Security Trust and Savings Bank, Trustee	\$2,400	\$100	\$5,000
1926	Security Trust and Savings Bank, Trustee	\$2,400	\$100	\$7,500
1927	Security Trust and Savings Bank, Trustee	\$2,400	\$100	\$7,500
1928	Security Trust and Savings Bank, Trustee	\$2,400	N/A <sup>101</sup>	\$7,600
1929	<del>Security Trust and Savings Bank</del> (typed entry crossed out in the original) with "First National" written above and "of L.A." below	\$2,400	N/A	\$7,600
1930	Security Trust and Savings Bank	\$2,400	N/A	\$18,000
1931	Security Trust and Savings Bank	\$4,800	N/A	\$18,000

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<sup>101</sup> After 1928 the fence was no longer counted as a separate improvement, and its \$100 value was included in the "buildings" category.

1932	Security Trust and Savings Bank (typed) with "First National Bank of LA" written above and "Trust S-5560" next to the address, in pencil	\$4,800	N/A	\$20,000
1935	Security First National Bank of Los Angeles	\$4,800	N/A	\$20,000
1940	Security First National Bank of Los Angeles (Trust number S-5560)	\$4,680	N/A, but "personal property" at the parcel assessed at \$500	\$25,000
1945	Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, Trust # S-5560. Note, the property is listed as 156 acres, rather than 160.	\$4,680	N/A, but personal property = \$1,500	\$24,000
1950	Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, Trust # S-5560	\$5,850	N/A, personal property = \$1,500	\$25,000

In 1953 the County changed their system for designating parcels, probably because increased population and development in Mammoth made the old system unwieldy. Valentine Camp was part of area 59-00, Parcel 22-020-01. In 1960, "22-020-01" was typed next to the Security First entry, then crossed out and a different name added, and Security First's parcel number was corrected to be 22-020-13.<sup>102</sup> In 1960, the acreage and Township, Range, and Section are no longer listed. The method for determining assessed values may have changed around that time, too, since the improvements are assessed at only \$7,230. However, the land is listed at a

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<sup>102</sup> On the Mono County tax assessor's forms for 1966 through 1977, the parcel number is typed in as "22-020-14"; the "14" is circled in red pencil (one on page) and crossed out (on another page) and the number "17" written next to it, indicating two additional parcel numbers for the property. Now, the main parcel is identified as 022-020-021-000; other parcels have been added: 032-140-005-000, 032-140-017-000, and 022-520-005-000 (Dan Dawson, personal communication 2015). Note, "Valentine Camp" is typed on the 1969-1970 form, indicating that name was in use by then, in conjunction with the Security Pacific National Bank Trust S-5560.

comparable \$5,600 and the personal property still at \$1,500, so it is possible that the cabins themselves were considered to have declined in value at that time.

One surprising finding in the tax records was that one of Valentine Camp's founders, Henry O'Melveny, owned other land in the Mammoth area. From 1926 to 1930, O'Melveny paid taxes on Lots 2 and 3 of Block 12, Tract 1, in Mammoth Camp. A note in the assessor's book says that the two lots were "sold to State Jun 29 1931," but in 1935 O'Melveny apparently owned two other lots in Mammoth.<sup>103</sup> Mammoth Camp Tract 1 was reportedly the oldest subdivision in Mammoth, approved by Mono County in 1923. It was subdivided by Lloyd Summers, from part of the original Summers homestead.<sup>104</sup>

## **Roughing It**

In his letter to Mrs. Valentine, Mr. Crosby stated that drinking water was originally obtained from a small spring on the property near the cabins, but when this source proved inadequate, another spring "across Mammoth Creek up on the hill was developed and a small reservoir built and a pipe line with fire hydrants laid in the camp. In the 30's there was an earthquake and it made the water too brackish to drink." According to Mr. Crosby, "While they had mules there for logs, they dug a diversion ditch from Mammoth creek, dug the lake, and made a ditch back to the creek. There used to be lots of fish in there."<sup>105</sup> Mr. Crosby continued: "the men used to entertain their friends and business associates up there, and had ... waiters up from the California Club quite often. They had a cook who was a little Swiss man (J.J. Valens)...." As Mr. Crosby described it, the trip from southern California to Mammoth was "a very hard trip," with the men usually taking the train to Lone Pine, arriving at 9 in the morning. From Lone Pine the men traveled by car: "it took all day to get to Mammoth from there, with a stop in Bishop for supplies."<sup>106</sup>

One of Valentine Camp's caretakers, Woodrow Sampson, provided further testimony that the property was used to entertain business associates, going so far as to tell J. Roger Samuelsen, then Director of UC's Natural Land and Water Reserve System, that the original founders used to

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<sup>103</sup> The 1935 assessor's book notes these as Mammoth Camp Tract 1, Block 18, Lots 2 and 3..

<sup>104</sup> Unknown author, Southern Mono Historical Society, accession number 2015.22.2, Research Paper, "Bluff's History and Background, 1923 – 1981."

<sup>105</sup> Valentine n.d., p. 3.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

use the camp as a “small Bohemian Grove.”<sup>107</sup> In a subsequent memo, Samuelsen added that “no women were allowed.”<sup>108</sup>

However, the men-only rule must have been short-lived. As quoted above, Adele Reed reported that Florence Nicoll served as Valentine Camp’s cook “for a good many years.”<sup>109</sup> The University of California’s press release announcing the donation of Valentine Camp to the Natural Land and Water Reserves System (now UC’s Natural Reserve System) noted “Valentine Camp eventually featured comfortable log cabins, and families vacationed in what had been an all-male preserve.”<sup>110</sup> Mrs. Valentine had heard that

Bill Valentine (Ed’s brother) and Mary Stringfellow (Bill’s wife) and their children came to the camp during World War II, when transportation difficulties made other vacation spots hard to get to, and I know that various Connell relatives used the Connell cabin. The O’Melveny families came often, both the first and second generations.<sup>111</sup>

Mrs. Valentine gathered additional information from Joseph Koepfli, a long-time friend of her husband’s. Mr. Koepfli remembered the Valentine cabin as being at the camp when he visited in 1918, and the “remaining cabins, including four other main family cabins, a cookhouse, and two small caretaker’s cabins near the entrance to the property, were built shortly after the Valentine cabin.”<sup>112</sup> As discussed above, the Mono County tax assessor records suggest there were no buildings on the property until 1923, and elsewhere Valentine noted that the Copley Cabin was not finished until 1928.<sup>113</sup>

According to Valentine, Michael Connell’s cabin is now the University Cabin; Mr. Sartori’s cabin was moved to “new” Mammoth and at the time of her account, was in use as the Mammoth Cable TV office. Sartori’s cabin had been close to Connell’s, and its footprint became a parking area for the Connell cabin. The O’Melveny Cabin, which had a large central room and four smaller rooms, was dismantled and the logs used for a new house on Tom Beveridge’s property. The original O’Melveny Cabin location became a parking area for the Copley Cabin. The

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<sup>107</sup> Memorandum to file written by J. Roger Samuelsen, then Director of UC’s Natural Land and Water Reserve System, October 11, 1971. Copy on file at VERS.

<sup>108</sup> Memo JRS:bt 5/3/72, in VERS files.

<sup>109</sup> Reed 1971:46.

<sup>110</sup> NEWS, University of California Office of the President, November 12, 1972, page 2.

<sup>111</sup> Valentine n.d.:10.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid:6.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid:7.

Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve website map depicts six remaining log cabins: the University Cabin (originally Connell's); the Valentine Cabin (originally Copley's); the "Old Valentine Cabin," the cabin that William Valentine moved to the camp sometime between 1918 and 1923; the Cookhouse; and the Caretaker's quarters, which comprises the two original caretaker cabins.<sup>114</sup>

## The Cabin Builders

In his letter to Mrs. Valentine, Archie Crosby describes the initial construction of Valentine Camp:

The logs for all the cabins were bought from the Forest Service from the other side of Mammoth and brought into camp with mules. Mr. Ed Chamberlain and his brother-in-law John Tibbets, both from Bishop, were the builders and they had about 20 or 25 expert log men to do the work who camped on the place while working. The meat house was built at once, and that and the cold stream water were the only ways to keep things cold but they worked fine.<sup>115</sup>

When Mr. Crosby referred to "the other side of Mammoth" in his 1972 letter it is presumed he meant on the other side of what is now Old Mammoth, east of Valentine Camp, rather than Mammoth City, which lay to the west. Dan Dawson, the current director of Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, had been told the logs came from the Mono Mills area, which is about 17 miles north of Valentine Camp.<sup>116</sup> However, a closer source of logs would have been available from the Hess Lumber Company, which operated during the 1920s. The Hess sawmill was located near Shady Rest Campground, north of the current town, and logged the forest between Mammoth and June Lake.<sup>117</sup> According to Marye Roeser, the logs for cabins at both Camp High Sierra and Valentine Camp came from a sawmill run by Sherwin along Mammoth Creek, which at one time was near the mill wheel where the Snowcreek office is now.<sup>118</sup> If the logs did come from the Mono Mills area, they may have been procured already dried and seasoned: the lumber mill and town of Mono Mills were abandoned before 1920, and it is conceivable that a stockpile of logs awaiting milling were abandoned, too, and later used whole. Of course, with

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<sup>114</sup> <http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/sites/vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/files/vesr/valcampsitemap.pdf>.

<sup>115</sup> Valentine n.d.:3.

<sup>116</sup> Personal communication 2015.

<sup>117</sup> Reed 1982:58-62.

<sup>118</sup> Marye Roeser, in the interview of her and Dave Griffith conducted by Kathryn Robens 1997, page 36, on file at Southern Mono Historical Society

Mammoth surrounded by forest, other sources for logs are possible: in 1918, trees near Twin Lakes supplied logs for Charlie Summers's new hotel.<sup>119</sup>

Although John Tibbets and Ed Chamberlain were from Bishop, each had a log cabin at Mammoth.<sup>120</sup> Census data provide a little more information about the two men.

### **John Tibbets**

The 1920 census puts one John Tibbets in Long Valley, in a large boardinghouse with more than 50 other people, occupation "miner". But another John Tibbets was living in Bishop with Ed and Mary Chamberlain in 1920. This John Tibbets, the likely cabin builder, was born May 21, 1880, and died March 12, 1955.<sup>121</sup>

### **Ed Chamberlain**

Although there are many Ed Chamberlains in the 1920 census, the most likely cabin builder is obviously the one with whom John Tibbets was living. This Ed Chamberlain was born August 31, 1877, and died November 10, 1949.<sup>122</sup> The 1920 census lists Ed M. Chamberlain, 43 years old, living in Bishop with his wife, Mary, and boarder, John Tibbets. Both John's and Ed's occupation is carpenter; house construction.

### **Neighbors**

Reed's 1982 history provides many anecdotes about the residents of Old Mammoth, but there are earlier landowners in the area that she does not include in her book. About the same time Thomas Williams patented the area that would become Valentine Camp, adjoining and nearby parcels were patented, using the Land Act of 1820, the Homestead Act of 1862, the Timber Culture Act of 1873, and the Desert Land Act of 1877. Names on the patents include James W. Rice, Howard Holmes, John A. Maxwell, Mary O'Hara, and James H. Holden.

James W. Rice may have filed the first patent in the near vicinity; in February 1881 he obtained 40 acres in Section 3, east of Valentine Camp, under the 1820 Land Act.<sup>123</sup> However, no further information to pin down the identity of this particular James Rice was encountered. The 1870

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<sup>119</sup> Reed 1971:17.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid:24, citing an early resident of Mammoth Camp, Olive Barker, who with her husband had a cabin built by John Tibbets and Ed Chamberlain around 1917.

<sup>121</sup> [http://www.interment.net/data/us/ca/inyo/westline/westline\\_sz.htm](http://www.interment.net/data/us/ca/inyo/westline/westline_sz.htm).

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com>.

<sup>123</sup> BLM Accession number CACAAA 129814 (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> )

U.S. Census lists a James Rice born in Utah about 1852 and working as a mail carrier in West Point (now Logandale), Nevada. A James Rice born in Norway is listed in the Kern County Voter Register of 1898 as a laborer. The only James Rice found documented as living in Mono or Inyo County shows up in the 1910 U.S. Census as living in Inyo County, born in Indiana ca. 1851. This Rice is working as a laborer at a construction camp, probably for the Los Angeles aqueduct. All three of these men would have been a logical age (late 20s or early 30s) to have patented the Mammoth land in 1881, but not enough information was found to confirm whether the patent holder was any of these or someone else entirely.

Two of people who patented land near what became Valentine Camp appear to have been men from Napa, California. A Howard S. Holmes patented 120 acres just east of Valentine Camp in June of 1881,<sup>124</sup> and it seems likely this was the same Howard S. Holmes who was about 25 years old and living in Bodie, California, at the time. Census and voter records indicate that Holmes worked as a bookkeeper and bank teller. By 1900 he had moved to Alameda, California, and was married and had two sons.<sup>125</sup> BLM records indicate that in 1890 a John A. Maxwell patented 160 acres in Sections 3 and 10, adjacent to Holmes's parcel and less than a mile east and southeast of Valentine Camp. A John A. Maxwell listed in Inyo County's 1882 Voter Register could well be the same: he was listed as a miner living on Bishop Creek, born in England about 1853. Maxwell became a naturalized citizen in San Francisco.<sup>126</sup> It is possible that Holmes and Maxwell knew each other, since both spent at least parts of their lives in Napa, California.<sup>127</sup> Thomas Williams had acquired Maxwell's parcels by the time Williams died.<sup>128</sup>

Bureau of Land Management records indicate that Mary E. O'Hara had patented about 481 acres in Section 34, Township 3 South Range 27 East, and Sections 2 and 3 of Township 4 South Range 27 East, which would have been northeast and east of Valentine Camp. O'Hara filed her first two entries, totaling 160 acres, in February 1891 under the Land Act of 1820, which means she paid cash for the parcel. Her next four entries, totaling 161.07 acres, were filed in November of the same year under the Desert Land Act, and her last three entries, totaling 160 acres, were filed in 1894 under the Homestead Act.<sup>129</sup> In spite of her impressive land ownership, further

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<sup>124</sup> BLM accession number CACAAA 129821.

<sup>125</sup> 1880 and 1900 census data and 1878 and 1882 Voter registers.

<sup>126</sup> Great Register of Inyo County, California, 1882.

<sup>127</sup> 1870 census data place 14-year-old Holmes in Napa, and the 1880 census lists the ca. 48-year-old Maxwell in Napa.

<sup>128</sup> Mono County Recorder's Book T pages 67-73, "Decree Settling Final Account and Distribution of Estate" of Thomas Williams, originally dated March 4, 1911.

<sup>129</sup> BLM accession numbers CACAAA 129449, CACAAA 129835, and CACAAA 129837.

details about Mary E. O'Hara are elusive. A 15-year-old Mary Ohara is listed in the 1870 census as living in Columbia, Tuolumne County, with her parents and 6 younger sisters. This Mary Ohara was born in California in 1855, so would have been in her late 30s when the land was patented, which would be a good age for such a transaction. But, this Mary Ohara does not show up in later census data (1900, 1910, 1920); the closest match is in the 1920 census, which lists a Mary O'Hara who was a librarian living in San Diego with her partner, Joana Pinckney. But this Mary was born in 1855 in Ohio, not California. The Mammoth homesteading Mary may have been one of the three women with the name Mary E O'Hara listed in the California Death Index as dying before the 1920 census, in fact,<sup>130</sup> but no further clues were found.

James H. Holden patented 40 acres in Section 3, a half-mile east of Valentine Camp, in March 1897,<sup>131</sup> only a few months before Thomas Williams filed his extensive patent for the land that included Valentine Camp. Although his parcel is the smallest among the neighbors, census data suggest that Holden lived in Mono County and may have used his 40 acres for his livelihood at one time. James Holden had been born in Illinois about 1844; in 1892 he was living in Bridgeport and working as a laborer.<sup>132</sup> By 1896 he had moved to Round Valley north of Bishop, where he worked as a blacksmith.<sup>133</sup> But in the 1900 census, James Holden is listed in Benton, Mono County, with the occupation "wood," and with months not employed listed as three, which suggests he was logging his parcel at that time, weather permitting.<sup>134</sup>

Valentine Camp's neighbors in the 1920 and 1930s included Clark Keeley, who worked as an engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Jack Bernard.<sup>135</sup> Charles Clarke Keeley is listed in the 1940 census as a civil engineer, age 37, living in Los Angeles with his wife Beatrice, three children, a cook, a maid, and a governess. In the 1930 census, which also listed him as an engineer in Los Angeles, his name is indexed as Charles C. Kelly, but the

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<sup>130</sup> California Death Index, 1905-1939.

<sup>131</sup> BLM accession number CACAAA 129840.

<sup>132</sup> 1892 voter registry

<sup>133</sup> 1896 voter registry. We can presume this is the same James Holden as the one living in Bridgeport four years earlier, since both registry listings indicate that he was born in Illinois and had a scar over his right eye.

<sup>134</sup> I haven't come across a map of the census-designated places in 1900, but "Benton" seems to have been used for a large region, including all of Long Valley. The same census page indicates that Holden's neighbors were the Sherwins and the McGees, whose occupations were listed as farmers and ranchers.

<sup>135</sup> Dan Dawson, personal communication 2015.

handwriting on the census form looks more like “Keely.” Clark Keeley remembered Paiutes coming to the reserve property in the summer.<sup>136</sup>

The building depicted on the 1953 USGS map north of Valentine Camp was a cabin built by Hans Georg (sometimes spelled “George”) as his home and ski lodge. Georg built a rope tow that extended downhill into the Valentine Camp property.<sup>137</sup> According to a small entry on the Mono County Library website, Hans Georg came from Switzerland, operated his own lift and ski school on lower Mammoth Mountain slopes, and published two books on skiing.<sup>138</sup> Before their website was updated, Holiday Haus Motel of Mammoth Lakes provided this information about Georg:

Master skier Hans Georg immigrated to California from Switzerland in 1937, and became an athletic legend in 1939 when he became the first man to ever ski Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the continental U.S. After serving the Allied Forces during World War Two, he obtained a Forest Service permit and built a cabin whose remains can still be seen today near the Chair 15 Tunnel. Later he founded the Hans George Ski School where clientele returned year after year to learn his reverse shoulder method, also detailed in his book, “Skiing Simplified”. After being away from the Sierras for many years due to ill-health, he returned to his original cabin in the early 60s. Hans Georg passed away at the age of 54 in November of 1964.<sup>139</sup>

The Far West Ski Association provides additional information, explaining their “Hans Georg Award” as the Association’s highest award, given for distinguished accomplishment and long-term contribution to skiing:

Hans Georg came from the St. Moritz Ski School in Switzerland to the US in 1936 to become a pioneer ski tracker, rope tow operator and ski instructor. Hans eventually made his way to Soda Springs to teach skiing. In 1939, Hans became the head of the Eastern Sierra Ski Club School at the “Ski Ranch” near the McGee Creek Lodge.

In 1940, Lloyd Nicoll built a tow at Observation Point, on the east side of Mammoth along the road to Twin Lakes. The next year, he sold it to Nyle Smith who then sold it to

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<sup>136</sup> “Valentine Reserve Tour,” Leslie Dawson, July 8, 1997, on file at Southern Mono County Museum.

<sup>137</sup> Dan Dawson, personal communication 2015.

<sup>138</sup> <http://www.monocolibraries.org/files/QuiltBlocks2.pdf>. One of Georg’s books, *Skiing Simplified*, was published in 1938 by H.S. Crocker Co., Inc. Although it is not listed in Mono or Inyo County Libraries online catalogues, it is currently offered by a private seller on Amazon.com for \$94.

<sup>139</sup> <http://holidayhaus.net/rooms/studios/>, accessed February 2015. This paragraph is no longer on the website.

Hans in 1946 after Hans returned from serving in the 10th Mountain Division during WWII as a ski instructor and leader in the Italian campaign.

In 1945, Dave McCoy installed two 600' tows at McGee Creek that Hans used for his ski school. By 1946, Hans and Dave were the only tow operators in the Mammoth area. In 1948, Hans installed three tows in Mammoth— in the vicinity of where Chair 15 is today. Although the tows remained until 1957, when the lifts began to experience mechanical problems, Hans abandoned them and taught skiing at Dave's lifts.

Hans taught thousands to ski, using the best of the Reverse Shoulder, Arlberg and French techniques. In 1940 and 1946, Hans attempted to develop a summer ski school at the 12,500-foot level eastern side of Mt. Whitney. Often, Hans was called to Hollywood to direct ski sequences. He wrote many books on skiing, including "Modern Ski Systems," "Reverse Shoulder Technique," and "Simplified Skiing."<sup>140</sup>

Hans George was not found in the census, but U.S. Army records do show a Hans George who enlisted in 1943. Although the enlistment records indicate he was born in Danzig (Poland) or Germany rather than Switzerland, he was the right age (born in 1911), lived in Los Angeles, and his occupation was listed as "athlete, sports instructor, or sports official."<sup>141</sup> The remains of his cabin were recorded as an archaeological site by Lynn Furnis.<sup>142</sup>

## **Mammoth Lakes When Valentine Camp Was Founded**

Probably the best account of Mammoth Lakes in the 1910s and 1920s can be found in Reed's 1982 history of the town. From 1918 to 1927, "downtown" Mammoth Camp consisted of Summers's two-story hotel and boarding house, a stable, corrals, Wildasinn's cabin and hotel, and a few other small cabins. The first Mammoth garage was built in 1923. In 1927, a fire destroyed most of Summers's Mammoth Camp resort. By the 1930s the town, known simply as "Mammoth," consisted of a service station, trading post, grocery, café, the Wildasinn cabin, and five or so other small cabins. To the east, where today Old Mammoth Road crosses Mammoth Creek, were a Forest Service ranger station, a bakery, and a garage.<sup>143</sup> To the west was Valentine Camp, with its few cabins.

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<sup>140</sup> <http://fwsa.org/Awards/awards-service/service-HansGeorg.html>, accessed October 11, 2015.

<sup>141</sup> U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records 1938-1946, on Ancestry.com.

<sup>142</sup> Furnis 2000.

<sup>143</sup> Reed 1982.

During this time period Mammoth was mainly a summer resort. Taken in January, the 1920 census lists no person in Mammoth; even long-time Mammoth residents like Charles Wildasinn and Lloyd Summers and his family were listed as living in Bishop. Only 30 miles away, Bishop is 3,000 feet lower in elevation, and experiences much milder winters than Mammoth Lakes. Even the “new” post office constructed on the new highway after 1937 was initially open only from May 1 to November 1.<sup>144</sup> It is certainly possible that at the time of the 1920 census, all Mammoth residents were spending the winter elsewhere. Reed recalls: “For a time the mail was brought up from a box near Highway 395 by Rhys May and his sled dog; then in a hit-or-miss fashion by anyone coming in. A petition to Congress, signed by all the business people in 1941, brought delivery of mail all the way to the Tavern in winter, six days a week instead of three.”<sup>145</sup>

The 1930 census, taken in April, lists many persons in “Benton Township;” some of these may have been in Mammoth. However, the 1930 census did find long-time Mammoth residents Lloyd and Sybil Summers in Bishop. The 1940 census (taken in May) lists 397 people in “Mammoth Judicial Township.” Although this high count sounds like it could be a population boom associated with the summer season, many are listed as construction workers. It is probable that they were employed by the City of Los Angeles in the construction of the Long Valley Dam that created Crowley Lake.

## **Boundaries**

We know from Mrs. Valentine’s history that by the time her father-in-law, William Valentine, died in 1944, he had taken over ownership of three-fifths of the property; the other original owners had either died or resigned by this time. The other two-fifths were held by Stuart and John O’Melveny, Henry W.’s grandsons.<sup>146</sup> William’s son Ed Valentine inherited his father’s share. Mrs. Valentine’s history provides an explanation for why the boundaries were adjusted from the original aliquot parts description, and why the property had to be resurveyed:

Old Mammoth Road, which divided the camp, had been paved beyond the camp property line, making it easily accessible for people wanting to picnic. The camp property along Lake Mary Road extended in a triangular piece beyond the road. Because Ed could not protect the divided property — campers and fires came with the paved road — he designed a subdivision off Old Mammoth Road, which Stan Hudeck developed. The triangular northern extension was sold to Mr. Joe Madden, a real estate

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<sup>144</sup> *ibid*:134-136.

<sup>145</sup> *ibid*:134.

<sup>146</sup> Valentine n.d.:3.

speculator.<sup>147</sup> Ed also had the camp property lines resurveyed as the survey made when the original owners bought the land proved to be casual, to say the least. The southern line went through Mr. Bernard's living room and Mr. Christenson at the Hudeck tract had a bit of Valentine Camp in his house, too. Ed deeded to each the line he thought was the correct one. Some of this problem was caused by the fact that the fences followed the line of least resistance, instead of even the inaccurate original line.<sup>148</sup>

Around 1966 Stuart O'Melveny exchanged his share in the whole for five acres along Old Mammoth Road. After Ed Valentine's death in 1968, the property was surveyed again for the estate, and Mrs. Valentine purchased the remaining fifth of the property from the descendants of Henry O'Melveny.<sup>149</sup>

## **Transition to University Ownership**

The Valentines' consolidation of ownership had a specific purpose: to provide for the future protection and use of Valentine Camp. Edward Valentine's will provided the core of Valentine Camp, with the cabins, to his wife Carol, and the rest to the Valentine Foundation,<sup>150</sup> to give his wife time to find a suitable use for the camp.<sup>151</sup> Mrs. Valentine explained: "I did not feel justified in holding it for my own use for a few weeks during the summer, but neither did I want to sell it for development – it was far too beautiful, and valuable in a scientific way as well."<sup>152</sup> In her history, Mrs. Valentine describes exploring several options for the property, and deciding that donating "Valentine Camp to the UC Natural Reserve System was the best possible way to preserve the land and use it beneficially."<sup>153</sup> She relates the process in detail as follows:

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<sup>147</sup> Lake Mary Road was constructed along its new alignment ca. 1937, and the tax assessment for 1945 indicates the trust parcel was only 156 acres, suggesting a time frame for when Ed Valentine sold the northern triangle to Joe Madden.

<sup>148</sup> Valentine n.d.:12-13.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid. These transactions do not appear in the chain of title, but may be recorded in the trust documents. When the University of California acquired Valentine Camp in 1972, the parcel comprised 136 acres, reflecting the boundary adjustments that Mrs. Valentine describes (see map on page 3 of this report).

<sup>150</sup> J. Roger Samuelsen, Director, Natural Reserve System, memorandum to the file, October 11, 1971.

<sup>151</sup> Valentine n.d.:13.

<sup>152</sup> Handwritten letter from Carol Valentine to Roger (J. Roger Samuelsen), undated.

<sup>153</sup> Valentine n.d.:15.

... I had a fortunate conversation with Elizabeth de Forest, a well-known horticulturalist, who had hiked and camped extensively in the Eastern Sierra and knew the land well. She suggested getting in touch with Vernon Cheadle, chancellor of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). UC had recently started a program called the Natural Land and Water Reserves System (NLWRS), which had been given several properties around the state to use as outdoor study laboratories, not only for UC faculty and students, but for any student or researcher who had a valid reason for studying at a particular reserve. This seemed to be the right use for Valentine Camp. Vernon Cheadle liked the idea, and so did I. In July 1971, he sent his deputy, Jim Cherry, and a UCSB professor of botany, Dr. Bob Haller, to see the place.

Both Jim and Bob gave Vernon the green light. Vernon and his wife, Mary, came to visit shortly after that. Vernon immediately liked what he saw and agreed that the project should be recommended to the UC Regents for inclusion in the NLWRS's program (later shortened to Natural Reserve System [NRS]).

I suggested to the other members of the board of the Valentine Foundation that if the project with UC went through we should dissolve the foundation and give the assets as an endowment for the Valentine Reserve. The board consisted of good friends of Ed's, including Freeman Gates and Richard Grant, as well as Ed's nephew, Henry Buckingham, and Ed's niece, Sally Valentine-Lyon. They all agreed that this would be a good use of the property and the assets, and they said to go to ahead with the proposal.<sup>154</sup>

On March 17, 1972, the Regents of the University of California authorized the acceptance of Valentine Camp for inclusion in the Natural Land and Water Reserves System, making it the 16<sup>th</sup> reserve to join the NLWRS.<sup>155</sup> The NLWRS had been founded in 1965 with seven sites already in UC's possession. Like Valentine Camp, most of these sites had been donated by conservation-minded landowners.<sup>156</sup>

It is easy to understand why Mrs. Valentine was certain she had found the right steward for Valentine Camp. The NLWRS, now the Natural Reserve System, was founded to identify and acquire a collection of sites that would represent the natural diversity of California and to preserve them forever for long-term studies.<sup>157</sup> The system not only serves the University of

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<sup>154</sup> Valentine n.d.:13-15.

<sup>155</sup> Kathleen Wong, Principal Publications Coordinator, Natural Reserve System, University of California, email to the author dated May 6, 2015.

<sup>156</sup> Correspondence held at the NRS Systemwide Office, Kathleen Wong, personal communication.

<sup>157</sup> University of California National Reserve System, "History of the NRS."

California's mission of scientific research and teaching, but also provides environmental information and education to local communities throughout the state.<sup>158</sup> Currently the system includes 39 sites and more than 756,000 acres, making it the largest university-administered reserve system in the world.<sup>159</sup>

In addition to the land, the Valentine Foundation funded an endowment of \$500,000 to maintain the property in its natural state and to support reserve teaching and research operations. The *Inyo Register* republished the UC press release describing the new reserve on January 11, 1973, with an introduction providing background about the Natural Land and Water Reserves System. Oddly, the *Inyo Register's* introduction places the land "several miles south of Mammoth near Sherwin Creek," rather than in its actual location; the author may have confused Valentine Camp with Valentine Lake, which is near the headwaters of Sherwin Creek.

Today, Valentine Camp comprises 156 acres<sup>160</sup> and is administered by UC Santa Barbara as one of two sites in Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (VESR). The six log cabins that remain from the original Valentine Camp have been renovated, and three are available for researchers. A new log structure serves as a teaching facility for VESR's K-12 education programs.

## Conclusion

In many ways Valentine Camp is a fine sample of the history of Mammoth Lakes. Its archaeological sites are physical manifestations of both Native American and mining-related use; its cabins reflect the transition to outdoor recreation as the dominant economic force in the area; its donation to the University of California illustrates the growing awareness of the need to preserve parts of the landscape, in the face of ever-increasing development. Yet the wealth of its founders and its current use for scientific research and education set it apart. Under the University of California Natural Reserve System stewardship, Valentine Camp is a protected historical area, as well as a protected natural area.

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<sup>158</sup> Margaret Herring, 2000, "Studying Nature in Nature," page 70.

<sup>159</sup> "Living Laboratories and Classrooms," Natural Reserve System, University of California, at <http://nrs.ucop.edu/>, accessed May 7, 2015.

<sup>160</sup> Although the parcel donated to the University of California comprised only 136 acres, 20 acres have been added back through acquisitions from Juniper Ridge Partners to the north (approx. 14 acres), Intrawest Mammoth to the northeast (approx. 3 acres) and the Ann Wilson Trust (O'Melveny family) to the south (approx. 3 acres). The Reserve now consists of the four parcels, with tax assessor identification numbers 022-020-021-000 (the main parcel), 032-140-005-000, 032-140-017-000, and 022-520-005-000. (Dan Dawson, personal communication October 2015).

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- n.d. General Land Office Records. <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> This is a truly wonderful and free searchable online database, with many of the original GLO plats and patents available. Although searches of the GLO database can be pretty straightforward, a couple of things should be kept in mind. The database includes land patents, surveys, survey notes, and something called the Control Document Index (CDI). The CDI is explained thusly:

A set of BLM document records consisting of microfilmed copies of documents which convey title to and from the United States (i.e. land patents), and documents which affect or have affected the control, limitation, or restriction of the availability of right or title to, or use of, public land and resources (i.e. public laws, proclamations, and withdrawals). The CDI cards were first created in a Bureauwide microfilming effort in the 1950's under what was called the Records Improvement Project.

Because the BLM has been working on the CDI for a long time, it includes records that are not linked to other parts of their database. Case in point: in a search under "patents," Certificate 588, the certificate for Thomas Williams's patent of Valentine Camp, is listed as "not available, submitted to be digitized." But it *is* available if one searches the CDI. The CDI also includes other documents (such as the presidential proclamation that reserved much of the land west and south of Valentine Camp as part of the Sierra Forest Reserve) that are not in the other part of the database.

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California Digital Newspaper Collection

n.d. Found at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/>, this website is "A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present. This collection contains 76,996 issues comprising 659,335 pages and 7,463,349 articles. The California Digital Newspaper Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Riverside. The CDNC is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian." Although the Owens Valley's local papers, the *Inyo Register* and the *Inyo Independent*, are not yet included, a quick search indicates there are over 600 references to Inyo County and 16,000 references to Mono County.

A search for "Valentine Camp" yielded two results, both concerning snow at the summer home of "Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Valentine" located in the coast ranges east of Noyo, Mendocino County (*Red Bluff News*, Number 44, 12 October 1900). William Lucas Valentine was born in Noyo and went to school in San Francisco, so it was tempting to wonder if the newspaper accidentally transposed his initials and this article actually referenced an earlier Valentine Camp founded by William Lucas Valentine. But our W.L. Valentine had moved to Los Angeles ca. 1893, and a search of the 1900 census reveals that there was a Layton W. Valentine living in Red Bluff, CA, at the time.

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- 2001 An Archaeological Reconnaissance Report for the Lake Mary Road Bike Route, Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California. Survey conducted for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

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- 1983 Late Holocene Hunter-Gatherers and Volcanism in the Long Valley-Mono Basin Region: Prehistoric Culture Change in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside.
- 1984 Obsidian, Paleoecology, and Volcanism in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Paper presented at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Boise, Idaho.

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Merriam, C. Hart

1898 Papers relating to work with California Indians.  
[http://www.archive.org/stream/bancroft\\_chartmerriam\\_1556\\_13rs#page/n55/mode/2up](http://www.archive.org/stream/bancroft_chartmerriam_1556_13rs#page/n55/mode/2up). Found on <https://openlibrary.org/languages/eng>, where it is described as: Field notes, vocabulary schedules, manuscripts, typescripts, notebooks, clippings, and printed matter relating to Merriam's work with California and other Indian tribes (1898-1938). Primary material includes lists of tribes, bands and villages of California Indian tribes; ethnogeographic and ethnographic information; and lists of Indian words and their meanings. Secondary material includes Merriam's research files containing clippings and other printed matter on Indian tribes and Indian welfare in California and the West. Also included are manuscripts and typescripts of Merriam's published work on California Indians and typescripts of Robert Heizer's compilations of Merriam's work, published posthumously.

Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission

2009 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Recommendation, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California. This online document, accessed February 22,

2015 at <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/>, has a map of the town's extensive incorporated boundaries and defined "urban limit" on page 9.

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1915 Geneology and Recollections. Privately printed by the Blair-Murdock Company, San Francisco, CA. Henry O'Melveny is included. Available online through the Open Library, at <https://archive.org/stream/genealogyandrec00moorgoog#page/n7/mode/2up>.

Nernir, Philip E.

2002 Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California. Report on file at the Valentine Reserve office, Mammoth Lakes. This report describes an intensive survey of approximately 51 acres within Valentine Camp. Five sites were discovered and recorded: four are lithic scatters, composed almost exclusively of obsidian flakes, and one consists of two stacks of large timbers that may be related to the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century mine operations. Report includes results of the archaeological records check, site records, and maps.

O'Melveny, Henry

1935 *William G. Kerckhoff: A Memorial*. Privately Printed by Adcraft Press, Los Angeles. This book was not examined, but when this report was written it was available for \$85 from Clark Rare Books of Pullman Washington (<http://www.abebooks.com/William-G-Kerckhoff-Memorial-O%C3%95Melveny-Henry/12304774614/bd>). The website provides a description of the book:

Kerckhoff (1856-1935 [sic]) was an important business and philanthropic figure in Los Angeles, playing a key role in supplying lumber during the boom of the 1880s, and developing hydroelectric power and gas companies throughout California. He served as a commissioner for Yosemite, appointed by the governor of California and was an outdoor enthusiast. A signed presentation copy from Louise G. Kerkhoff. A scarce item on an important figure in California history. The author was founder of one of Los Angeles's most important legal firms. Pp. [iv], 75. Frontispiece portrait. Hard cover, calf with black label on spine, in original slipcase. Bookseller Inventory # 21674.

Overend, William

1987 "Two-Room Office to Lofty Perch : The 100-Year Odyssey of L.A.'s Oldest Law Firm," *Los Angeles Times*, September 28, 1987.

Piluso, Sandy

1975 The Valentine Reserve: a Look at Yesteryear. *Mammoth Sierra*, August-September 1975, pages 6-7.

Reed, Adele

1971 *Mammoth Lakes Memories*. Chalfant Press, Bishop, CA. Although Reed's 1982 book covers much of the same ground and is easier to use because of its index, this small volume includes quite a few different photographs and additional stories.

1982 *Old Mammoth*. Genny Smith Books, Palo Alto, California, edited by Genny Smith. The classic collection of photographs and anecdotes about people and places of Old Mammoth; the editor clarified some of the confusing place names, and provided a comprehensive index. The book includes several brief mentions directly or indirectly related to Valentine Camp:

Page 45: (from a letter by Tom Rigg): "In the summer of 1914 I was working for Tom Williams at Windy Flat where he had cattle..."

Page 66: "Tom Williams sold a large acreage in the Mineral Park area to a group of wealthy Los Angeles businessmen in 1915. Early in the '20s they fenced it and with the help of Ed Chamberlain and John Tibbits, the carpenter team from Bishop, built a number of handsome log cabins, including a cook cabin and dining room. Florence Nicoll presided over the dining room and one of the largest of cook stoves for a good many years, while husband Lloyd Nicoll was in charge of maintenance work."

Page 67: "The Boogie man of Valentine Camp was no myth nor figure of imagination. Pete Christanni, known as 'Big Pete' or 'Pete the Greek' was a large, burly man with big features. All children gave him a wide part. He was the caretaker of Valentine Camp, which included a sizeable length of Mammoth Creek. Poachers along the creek were bounced by Pete in short order. Children were warned by parents not to stray beyond the fence or 'the Boogie Man would get them!' The story of the 'bad man' at Valentine persisted long after he'd left the country."

Page 90: Tom Williams sold Windy Flat to Alvie Bodle.

Page 105: Big Pete, who worked at Valentine Camp in the 1930s, spent time at the Lutz Grocery in old Mammoth.

Skinner, Elizabeth J., Jill A. Onken, Jeffery F. Burton, and Susan K. Goldberg  
1990 Environmental Setting. In *Archaeological Excavations at Sites CA-MNO-574, -577, -578, and -833: Stoneworking in Mono County, California*, by Susan K. Goldberg, Elizabeth Skinner, and Jeffery F. Burton, pp. 7-24 . California Department of Transportation, Environmental Studies Branch, Sacramento.

Southern Mono County Historical Society

-- See Appendix B, attached, for a list of the Society's catalogued holdings that include Valentine Camp.

Sterud, Gene L.

1965 Preliminary Report of Archaeological Investigations at the Mammoth Junction Site: A Second Season (1964). MS, California Department of Transportation, Environmental Studies Branch, Sacramento.

Steward, Julian H.

1930 Irrigation without Agriculture. *Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters* 12:149-156.

1933 Ethnography of the Owens Valley Paiute. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 34(5):355-440. Berkeley.

1934 Two Paiute Autobiographies. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 33:428-438. Berkeley.

1938 Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups. *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 120. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Stewart, Omer C.

1939 The Northern Paiute Bands. *University of California Anthropological Records* 2(3). Berkeley.

1941 Culture Element Distributions XIV: Northern Paiute. *University of California Anthropological Records* 4(3):361-446. Berkeley.

University of California Natural Reserve System

n.d. History of the NRS. Accessed November 7, 2015, at  
<http://www.ucnrs.org/about/history-of-the-nrs.html>.

Valentine, Carol

n.d. A Brief History of Valentine Camp. Available online at the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve website,  
<http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/sites/vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/files/vesr/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20Valentine%20Camp%20updated%2010-20-15.pdf>



Wood, Spencer H.

1984 Obsidian Hydration-Rind Dating of the Mono Craters. In *Holocene Paleoclimatology and Tephrochronology East and West of the Central Sierran Crest*, by Scott Stine, Spencer Wood, Kerry Sieh, and C. Dan Miller, pp. 82–87. Genny Smith Books, Palo Alto, California.

Wright, J. W. A.

1879 The Owens River War and the Cement Hunters. In *San Francisco Daily Evening Post*, November 8 and 22.

## Appendix A. Chain of Title

Valentine Camp Chain of Title							
	From	To	Date	Record location (vol/page)	Type of conveyance and cost	Notes	Property description
1	U.S. - GLO	Thomas Williams of Inyo County	Recorded at request of Thomas Williams Jan 11, 1921	Recorded Vol 4A Page 195  Book T, pages 65-66	Patent, via Act of Congress of April 24, 1820	Certificate of Register Certificate No. 588 at the Land Office in Independence, CA.	T4S R27E, Section 4, MDBM, S ½ of NE ¼, N ½ of SE ¼
2	Thomas Williams and wife (Edna) of Inyo County	William G. Kerckhoff of Los Angeles	Thomas's signature 8 February 1921 Edna's 15 February 1921	Book T, pages 90-91	Grant Deed: \$10		same
3	Wm G Kerckhoff and wife (Louise E) of Los Angeles	Security Trust and Savings Bank Trustee	19 March 1923	T-403-404	Grant Deed \$10	Witnessed 20 March 1923 Los Angeles County  Recorded at request of Inyo County April 4 1923	"property in the County of Inyo" but same description, 160 acres

**Valentine Camp Chain of Title**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record location (vol/page)</b>	<b>Type of conveyance and cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Property description</b>
4	Louise Kerckhoff, a widow, "an undivided 1/6th interest, formerly owned by William G. Kerckhoff,"	to I.C. Copley	Witnessed Feb 6, 1931, County of LA  Recorded at request of H.W. O'Melveny, Feb 20, 1931	Book 10 Page 357  (Los Angeles)  Book 5 Page 160	Grant Deed \$10		Same, but back in "Mono County"
5	Ira C. Copley, et ux	Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles	September 25, 1935.  Witnessed September 25, 1935 w/ LA notary;  Filed for record at request of Francis R. Baker Oct 15 1935	Book 10 Page 357  (Mono County? Notary is for LA County)  Document says the Copleys acknowledge having signed previous document	Quitclaim Deed \$10	"Ira C. and Chloe Copley of Los Angeles, CA, do hereby remise, release and forever quitclaim to Security-First National Bank of LA, as Trustee under Trust S-5560."	Same

**Valentine Camp Chain of Title**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record location (vol/page)</b>	<b>Type of conveyance and cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Property description</b>
6	Wm G Kerckhoff, et ux (Louise E) of LA	Security Thrift and Savings Bank	Signed 19 March 1923, witnessed 20 March 1923 in Los Angeles; Recorded at request of Inyo County Abstract Company Oct 30 1935	Book 10 page 374	Grant Deed \$10		Same description but "Inyo County"
7	Security Pacific National Bank, trustee (acquired property in the name of Security First National Bank of LA)	Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, CA	September 11, 1972	148 page 555-556	Corporation Grant Deed of Gift  "to have and to hold in accordance to the terms and conditions of that Letter of Gift of 8-2-72 from The Valentine Foundation to said regents..."		Metes and bounds description, very long
8	Security Pacific National Bank, Trustee	Carol L. Valentine	Sept 11, 1972	148-558	Corporation Grant Deed		same as above

**Valentine Camp Chain of Title**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record location (vol/page)</b>	<b>Type of conveyance and cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Property description</b>
9	Carol L. Valentine	Regents of the UC		153-182  (next page with dates and signatures is missing from copy)	Grant deed, "an undivided one-half of an undivided one-quarter interest in that real property ...		

## Appendix B. Valentine Camp References at Southern Mono Historical Society<sup>161</sup>

Valentine Camp References in Southern Mono Historical Society archives (Hayden Cabin)				
Accession #	Title	Date	Author	Summary
2015.22	Bluff	1982	Unknown	History and timeline of the Bluff subdivision; mentions Gordon Holmes surveying Valentine property
2015.22.2	Bluff's History and Background	1981 (predates the Museum)	Recorder unknown, possibly Bob Schotz	Table format, in chronological order. Mostly about Bluff, but also mentions that in 1962 Ed Valentine hired Gordon Holmes to survey the land. Holmes re-located GLO monuments and found errors. First entry in the Bluff table is dated 1923, and concerns the Tract 1 subdivision (where O'Melveny owned 2 parcels).
2015.25.3	Property History	1997	Leslie Dawson	Notes for the Valentine Reserve Tour

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<sup>161</sup> Resources found at the Southern Mono Historical Society archives at Hayden Cabin, Mammoth Lakes, thanks to Mark Davis and Diana Chesterman. Note that this table lists only the materials catalogued as of August 24, 2015, when Mr. Davis conducted the search. Valentine Camp may appear in other documents or photographs as the cataloguing process proceeds.

<b>Valentine Camp References in Southern Mono Historical Society archives (Hayden Cabin)</b>				
<b>Accession #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Summary</b>
2010.16.1	Oral History of E.A. Fuller	1995	Interviewed by Christina Farnetti 7/25/95 and 7/30/95	Fuller describes his experiences in Mammoth Lakes between 1928 and 1980, with two brief mentions of Valentine Camp: (1) "Up in Valentine Camp there wasn't much going on with the people who came there. They just came for vacation and they had a caretaker named Big Pete. He was supposed to keep the place private, but we fished up through there a lot and tried to stay out of his way. He was a big strong guy..." (2) "There used to be a stream coming down right to the left of Old Mammoth Road, right opposite the Valentine and Bernard property. There was a stream over there and they wiped it out and built houses..."

Valentine Camp References in Southern Mono Historical Society archives (Hayden Cabin)				
Accession #	Title	Date	Author	Summary
2010.17	Oral History of Dave Griffith & Marye Roeser	9/10/1997	Interviewed by Kathryn Robens	Regarding Mammoth Lakes from 1918-1970. Dave Griffith was manager of Camp High Sierra at the time of the interview and Marye Roeser had worked there in the 1940s. Robens asked about Valentine Camp; Marye replied that it was established in 1920, earlier than Camp High Sierra, and Dave replied that the log buildings at Valentine Camp looked just like those at Camp High Sierra. Marye added that both used local sawmills: "They milled the logs right here. Sherwin had several sawmills along Mammoth Creek, along Indian Caves. There was one right where Snowcreek is now. Near the office, They moved their sawmills, but they were on the creek. Where the old mill wheel is, they had a sawmill up there. They cut whatever they needed. The sawmills were somewhat primitive. They did a lot of leaving the round edge for trim. They took the lumber from the inside of the log then the outside was bark they would use for trim on the cabins." (page 26)

<b>Valentine Camp References in Southern Mono Historical Society archives (Hayden Cabin)</b>				
<b>Accession #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Summary</b>
2010.26.1	Art Hess	Oct. 1990	Interviewer unknown; between 1985 and 1997, the Museum's oral histories were collected by a committee.	Oral history with Art Hess; Hess was shown a photo of Cook, Sartori, OMelveny, and Valentine; Hess recognized the men and remarked "that was the Millionaire Cabin..." (interviewer clarified that he was referring to Valentine Reserve).
2010.76	A [Brief] History of Valentine Camp	n.d. (1979 or later, based on content)	Carol Valentine	Carol Valentine's brief history of Valentine Camp from its founding to its donation to the University of California, as published on the VESR website, at <a href="http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/sites/vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/files/vesr/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20Valentine%20Camp%20updated%2010-20-15.pdf">http://vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/sites/vesr.nrs.ucsb.edu/files/vesr/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20Valentine%20Camp%20updated%2010-20-15.pdf</a> .
2008.2	B&W Photo of camp cabin at Valentine Camp	Likely pre-1990	Louise Kelsey	Man and dog in front of log cabin.
2008.2	Photo	Unknown	Bonnie Zwart collection	B&W Photo of William Valentine and group of men standing near pond at Valentine Camp.
2008.2	B&W Photo	Unknown	Bonnie Zwart collection	Photo of plaque with pond in background.
2008.2	B&W Photo	Unknown	Bonnie Zwart collection	Men in chairs, same as photo in Valentine n.d. page 10.
2008.2	B&W photo	Unknown	Bonnie Zwart collection	Men sitting on ground by creek, same as in Valentine n.d. page 4.

<b>Valentine Camp References in Southern Mono Historical Society archives (Hayden Cabin)</b>				
<b>Accession #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Summary</b>
2008.2	Pen and ink drawing of "the Cookhouse: at Valentine Reserve"	Unknown	Bill Kelsey, artist; Bonnie Zwart collection	Mark Davis indicated that the garage in the drawing has been removed

## Appendix C. Additional Biographical Information

### William L. Valentine

#### One of San Marino's Founders: William L. Valentine (1870 - 1942)

by Nick Curry<sup>162</sup>

William Lucas Valentine could be called the "father of San Marino." He was a co-founder of the city which was officially incorporated April 25, 1913. Valentine died May 9, 1942 at age 72, at his home at 421 Wilson Avenue, San Marino after a two year illness. Mr. Valentine was one of the five men who guided the incorporation of the city and was a member of the city council for more than twenty-five years. He retired from office on June 8, 1938. He served as the second mayor of San Marino in a "caretaker" capacity while the first mayor, George S. Patton, Sr. toured Europe from April, 1922 to October, 1922. The development of San Marino was one of Valentine's chief passions in life. No father ever guided the faltering footsteps of a growing son more carefully than he guided the development of San Marino. During his tenure on city council he was never opposed for re-election. He served without pay and directed the activities of the street, fire and police departments with great scrutiny. Each week he toured the streets of "his" city making notes of places which might-be improved. Due to his efforts San Marino remained a strictly residential community. The original charter contained a guarantee that the city be kept a residential community. Valentine always guarded that guarantee. Not only did he contribute freely in time and energy to city government but he was always one of the first to contribute to any civic cause. Valentine was a staunch friend and financial supporter of all civic organizations. The community expressed its appreciation in 1940, when the primary department of Huntington School was renamed the "William L. Valentine" School, and a separate William L. Valentine Parent-Teacher organization was formed. At the same time he was ably serving San Marino city government, Valentine was president and director of the Southern California Automobile Club. He was secretary for ten years and president for thirty-two years of the Fullerton Oil Company (a producing and refining operation); executive vice-president of Security First National Bank and a director as well as president of the J.W. Robinson Company, an up-scale department store chain. Mr. Valentine was born in Noyo, Mendocino County, California on March 8, 1870, to William Valentine and Susan Lucas Valentine. His father was a California "forty-niner" and later a civil engineer and mechanical engineer. In May, 1896, the younger William Valentine married Louie Chandler Robinson whose father was Joseph W. Robinson, founder of the J.W. Robinson department store chain. After being associated with the Easton & Eldridge real estate company

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<sup>162</sup> From: Nick Curry, "One of San Marino's Founders: William L. Valentine (1870 - 1942)," page 3 of The Grapevine, San Marino Historical Society, Winter 2014. Online at <http://sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org/grapevine/feb14.pdf>.

in San Francisco, Mr. Valentine relocated to Los Angeles in 1893, to manage a branch office. In 1900 he resigned his position with the company and organized the Fullerton Oil Company. He was at one time a director of the Zoological Society of Southern California; the Los Angeles Athletic Club; the California Club; the Los Angeles Country Club; the San Gabriel Country Club; the Bolsa Chica and San Ysidro Gun Clubs; the Arrowhead Mountain Club; and was a member of the Society of California Pioneers. When he died, a front page obituary in the San Marino Tribune described him as "an unique character, strong, virile, commanding...a gruff exterior, merry twinkle of the eye, a tenderness of heart, fixedness of purpose and a devotion to ideals. No community ever owed a greater debt to a single individual than San Marino owes to William L. Valentine. From the first day of the city's life, and prior thereto, he was constantly on the job planning the city's future. That he was a businessman of superior mold, no one who knew him had a doubt, but that he was always ready to make San Marino's business first, no one (who) really knew him could possibly doubt. The door to his office was always open to anybody who had a matter of importance relating to the city's welfare to discuss. Hence, it is that we say, and with confidence, that no city ever had a more valuable counselor and guide than William L. Valentine." Valentine was survived by his wife and five children: two daughters, Mrs. Otis Buckingham and Mrs. William L. (Julia) Stewart, Jr. and three sons, William, Edward and Henry Valentine. The family's large home on Wilson Avenue was subsequently torn down and the property was sub-divided into a single family residential neighborhood. The Valentine family burial plot is located in the San Gabriel Cemetery adjacent to the Church Of Our Savior. The W.L. Valentine Elementary School, today, includes Kindergarten through the fifth grade. It can be concluded that Valentine clearly demonstrated a strong American way of life results from building a strong family and a strong community.

## William Kerckhoff

### West Adams Heritage Association Biography: William G. Kerckhoff<sup>163</sup>

By Leslie Evans

German-American lumber and electric power millionaire and land developer who bequeathed buildings in his name to USC, UCLA, and Cal Tech, and endowed a cutting-edge heart research institute in Germany.

1856-1929. Kerckhoff came to Los Angeles from Indiana with his young wife Louise Eshman Kerckhoff in 1878 or 1879. He began his California career with the Jackson Lumber Company, serving the whole of the Los Angeles basin. To transport lumber, Kerckhoff in 1887 built the first ocean-going vessel in the United States to use oil for fuel.

In the 1890s he formed the San Gabriel Power Company, initiating the use of hydroelectric power in Los Angeles. By the turn of the century, with his partner A.C. Balch, Kerckhoff owned almost half the stock of Henry Huntington's Pacific Light & Power company, which had been formed to generate electricity for the Pacific Electric Railway and Huntington's Los Angeles Red Car line. Kerckhoff served as president of PL&P. In 1902, Kerckhoff and Balch were approached by the bankrupt San Joaquin Electric Company and agreed to purchase its assets. This put them in contact with its principal engineer, John Eastwood, who had a visionary plan to tap potential hydroelectric power in the San Joaquin River in the western Sierras. Eastwood for years had surveyed the Big Creek area of the Sierra Nevadas between Yosemite and Sequoia Parks, looking for the ideal places for a hydroelectric system. Eastwood took his drawings involving a vast system of reservoirs and tunnels to Kerckhoff, who agreed to back the effort. On Kerckhoff's recommendation Huntington agreed to the project and it was financed in the amount of \$12 million by Pacific Light & Power.

In 1910, work was begun on the Big Creek project, encompassing the entire watershed of the upper San Joaquin River. At the time it was the largest construction project in the world, rivaled only by the construction of the Panama Canal. The system was cut into steep mountain terrain through solid granite, with picks and shovels, horses, oxen, and a small railroad. The dam and reservoir system created a series of artificial lakes including Shaver Lake, Huntington Lake, and Florence Lake. This last was so high in the mountains that there was snow on the ground six months of the year and Alaskan sled dogs were used to deliver supplies during the two years of its construction. Pacific Light & Power also built a number of railroads, including the San Joaquin

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<sup>163</sup> West Adams Heritage Association, 2263 S. Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018, compiled by Leslie Evans. Accessed February 18, 2015 at <http://www.westadamsheritage.org/read/462>.

& Eastern Railway. The Southern California Edison Company absorbed Pacific Light & Power in 1917.

William G. Kerckhoff also invested in natural gas, buying his own gas company and building a 120 mile pipeline from the San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles. He and his partners formed the Southern California Gas Corporation in 1910.

If this was not enough, Kerckhoff was also a big-time land developer. He was a founder of Beverly Hills in partnership with Burton Green, Max Whittier, and Charles A. Canfield. In San Diego County and the San Joaquin Valley, three land companies collectively owned 50,000 acres. He was president of the South Coast Land Company and masterminded the initial phases of the city of Del Mar just north of San Diego. Eryka Dennis, in the April 2-8, 2004, Del Mar Times, writes, "As the South Coast Land Company acquired the land of Del Mar, the company's president, William Kerckhoff, imagined a village of cottages, 'ultimate bungalows,' and homes with an English influence to resemble Stratford-on-Avon. His vision resulted in the commission of Green and Green Brother's architect, John C. Austin, who along with the Greens of Pasadena, had become nationally celebrated for New England style California Craftsman bungalows."

The Kerckhoffs lived in a grand mansion at 734 West Adams Blvd. After his death the home was donated to USC, where it was named Kerckhoff Hall. Today it serves as the offices of the Annenberg Center for Communication. The 1908 two-and-a-half story English Tudor Revival house is described on the Annenberg Center website:

"The exterior of the 18,000 square foot home features a sandstone block lower level and half-timbered upper stories. Multi-light windows with diamond shaped leaded glass, several balconies and patios, along with three tall cut stone chimneys further accentuate the structure's exterior richness. Inside, the building contains elaborate plasterwork on the ceilings and walls in the central rooms of the first floor, in addition to inlaid oak paneling and an ornate, sweeping stairway leading to the second floor."

This gift typifies the philanthropy for which, of all his various activities, William G. Kerckhoff is best remembered. Shortly before his death Kerckhoff was asked to fund a new building at UCLA. On his deathbed, he told his wife Louise to "build the building Dr. Moore wants." Louise Kerckhoff spent \$815,000 to build and furnish the original student union, completed in 1931 and named Kerckhoff Hall. A formal portrait of William Kerckhoff hangs on a wall on the fourth floor. On the window side of the room, stained glass images of a redwood tree and a dam are a reference to Kerckhoff's life.

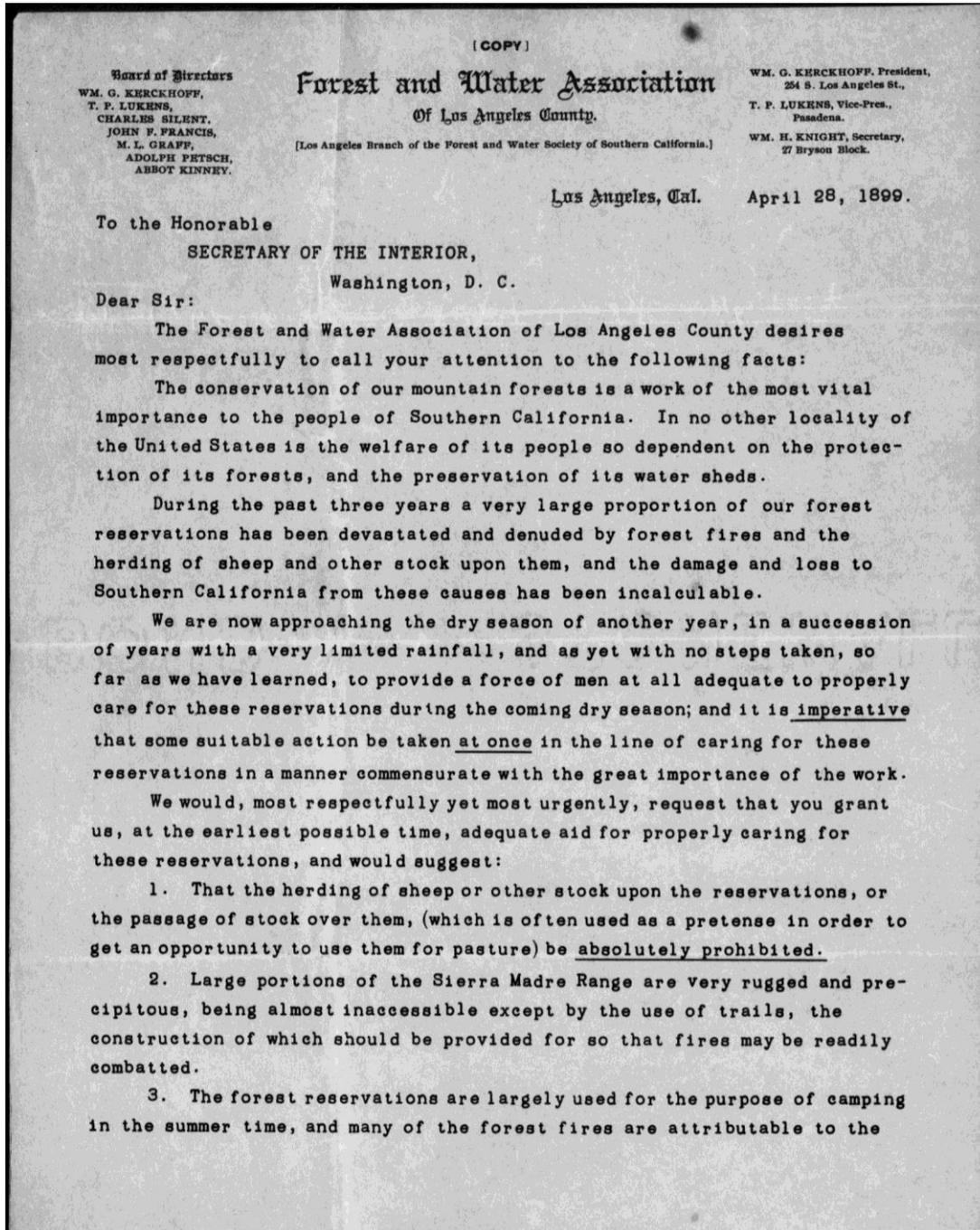
William Kerckhoff was equally generous in his bequests to the California Institute of Technology. He funded two different laboratory buildings for Cal Tech, both still in operation today under his name: The William G. Kerckhoff Laboratories of Biological Sciences at the Cal Tech main Pasadena campus, and the William G. Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory operated by Cal Tech in Corona del Mar.

Kerckhoff's most generous gift was not to an American institution but in the construction of the William G. Kerckhoff Herzforschungsinstitut, a clinical and experimental cardiology center in Bad Neuheim, Germany, a health resort known for its hot mineral water springs. William Kerckhoff had a bad heart, and for years had been a patient of Germany's foremost cardiologist, Franz Groedel, a pioneer of cardiac radiology, electrocardiography, and scientific hydrotherapy, whose practice was in Bad Neuheim. Kerckhoff died in Bad Neuheim, bequeathing \$4 million to Groedel to found a heart research institute and affiliated clinic in Kerckhoff's name.

Groedel founded the William G. Kerckhoff Herzforschungsinstitut (Kerckhoff Heart Research Institute). The institute included clinical and research units as well as departments of experimental pathology, statistics, and education. The result was a cardiovascular research institute unmatched by anything in Europe or the United States. Groedel never enjoyed the fruits of this work. His mother was Jewish and the Nazis labeled him a "non-Aryan" despite his conversion to Christianity. He fled to the United States in 1933, where he became the founder of the American College of Cardiology. The Kerckhoff Institute became part of the Max-Planck-Society in 1951, retaining its distinct name and identity at Bad Neuheim. Today both the Max-Planck-Institute for Heart and Lung Research and the Max-Planck-Institute for Physiological and Clinical Research in Bad Neuheim trace their origins to the William Kerckhoff Heart Research Institute.

--compiled by Leslie Evans

Letter from Kerckhoff to Secretary of Interior, April 28, 1899<sup>164</sup>



<sup>164</sup> Letter from W[illia]m G. Kerckhoff to W[illia]m H. Knight, 1899 Apr 28. University of the Pacific Library Holt-Atherton Special Collections. Accessed October 16, 2015, <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt0m3nd67g/?order=2>

careless use of camp fires. We recommend a system of permits to be granted at the entrances to these reserves, under such regulations as will not make it a hardship upon the people desiring to camp, but which at the same time will keep out irresponsible parties and check the careless use of fire.

4. In addition to the force required in other forest reservations of Southern California, we estimate that the San Gabriel Reservation, which is mainly within this County, will require at least two companies of soldiers.

5. When civilians are selected for patrolmen, we suggest that they be taken from the mountaineers who are familiar with these localities.

6. We also urge the importance of replanting the denuded portions of our mountains as rapidly as possible to such varieties of trees as are known to be best adapted to the conditions and requirements. If permitted to remain bare for any length of time, the rain will gully the steep slopes and wash away the little remaining soil, carrying debris to cover the rich valley lands, and there will be no water for irrigation.

A Forestry School has been organized under the auspices of the University of Southern California for the purpose of furnishing educated foresters to the Government. Associations, general and local, for the protection of our forest reservations, are being organized all over Southern California. These embrace our most prominent citizens who are giving it much careful thought and attention, and who are desirous of aiding and upholding the Government in every way possible. We believe that these organizations, if permitted, could furnish the Department with many valuable suggestions. In this connection we tender to the Government the aid and assistance of our Association.

Very respectfully,

WM. H. KNIGHT,  
Secretary.

WM. G. KERCKHOFF,  
President.

06/1905

## Joseph Francis Sartori

### Los Angeles County Biographies: California of the South

by John Steven McGroarty<sup>165</sup>

Joseph Francis Sartori, president of the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles, was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, December 25, 1858, son of Joseph and Theresa (Wangler) Sartori. His father was a native of Dorlinbach, Baden, Germany, where the family had resided for a number of generations, though it was probably of Italian origin. The mother was also a native of Dorlinbach, and her marriage to Mr. Sartori occurred in the United States of America, whither the latter had come several years previously. They established their home and lived for many years at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where they prospered in material matters and took an active part in affairs affecting the welfare of their city. The mother was greatly interested in the sick and suffering, to whom she ministered and gave material assistance, and she and her husband commanded the highest measure of respect throughout their community. One of the leading public institutions of Cedar Falls today is a fine free hospital, which Joseph F. Sartori erected as a memorial to his parents and to which he later added the gift of a nurses' home.

Joseph F. Sartori received his early education in the public schools of Cedar Falls, after which he attended Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa. His course in that institution was interrupted by a year spent at the University of Freiburg in Baden, Germany, after which he completed his work at Cornell, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1879. He then entered the law school of the University of Michigan, which conferred upon him the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1881. He began the practice of law at Le Mars, Iowa, remaining five years, practicing in the office of Leslie M. Shaw, who was later secretary of the treasury of the United States, and he was also associated during a part of this period with former Congressman I. S. Struble. In 1886 he made a trip to the Pacific coast, with which he was favorably impressed, though not until the following year did he decide to locate here, his decision being hastened by the reports of the great development of southern California. In March, 1887, he settled in Monrovia, which had been founded in the previous year, and on the 20th of the following June he and several associates organized the First National Bank of Monrovia with a capitalization of fifty thousand dollars. Of this institution Mr. Sartori was made cashier, in which capacity he served until 1889. He was then elected vice president, serving as such until April 26, 1924, when this bank and the Monrovia Savings Bank became branches of the Security Trust & Savings Bank of Los Angeles.

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<sup>165</sup> From: California of the South Vol. IV, by John Steven McGroarty, Pages 803-806, Clarke Publ., Chicago, Los Angeles, Indianapolis. 1933. Los Angeles County Biographies, transcribed by V. Gerald Iaquina. Online at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~npmelton/lasarto.htm>, accessed October 16, 2015.

In 1889 Mr. Sartori removed to Los Angeles and became one of the organizers of the Security Savings Bank & Trust Company, which had a paid-in capital of twenty-nine thousand dollars. It required unlimited faith in the future business prosperity of Los Angeles to enter upon this undertaking, for the great land boom had just collapsed and financial and commercial conditions were far from reassuring. However, in this Mr. Sartori gave evidence of the business vision which has characterized his entire banking career and subsequent events abundantly vindicated his judgment. He served as cashier, teller and bookkeeper of the new bank, and six years after its organization became its president, which position he has retained to the present time. The title of the bank was later changed to that of Security Trust & Savings Bank, and on March 30, 1929, this bank and the Los Angeles First National Trust and Savings Bank were consolidated under the name of the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles, with capital assets of fifty million dollars. Of the reorganized institution Mr. Sartori was elected president and chairman of the executive committee.

In banking circles, aside from his own institution, Mr. Sartori has long been prominent and active. He was for many years a member and for two terms was chairman of the legislative committee of the California Bankers Association and to him is given a large part of the credit for the drafting of the California Bank Act, which passed in 1909 and subsequently amended as occasion has required, has given this state one of the soundest banking systems in the country. In 1913-14 he served as president of the savings bank division of the American Bankers Association, and for many years he was a member of the currency commission of that organization. During the World War he was a member of the capital issues committee for the twelfth Federal Reserve district and for several years was a director of the Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of the twelfth district. At the present time Mr. Sartori is a director of the Automobile Club of Southern California. During the years 1915 and 1916 and again from 1925 to 1928 he was president of the Los Angeles Clearing House Association. He was closely identified with the organization and successful outcome of a number of important building projects, including the Biltmore Hotel, the Los Angeles Subway Terminal Building and the Los Angeles Country Club, of which he has been president for over twenty years.

In June, 1886, at Le Mars, Iowa, Mr. Sartori was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Rishel, a daughter of Peter S. and Jeanette L. (Thomas) Rishel. In the social, civic and club life of Los Angeles, Mrs. Sartori has long been prominent. She is of gracious and tactful manner, possessing the essential attributes of leadership, and has been a forceful factor in many movements of importance in the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and county. She has served as president of the Friday Morning Club and is a member of the board of regents of the University of California.

We quote from Spalding's History of Los Angeles County, published in 1931: "Mr. Sartori probably would have attained great success in the law had he been permitted to devote his life to that profession, for he possesses a logical and analytical mind and great determination in the pursuit of any subject to which he gives his attention; but the call seemed to be in another

direction, as he could hardly have served his fellowmen more effectively than he has during the past forty years in the role of a banker. He has honored his city by his life and labors and in turn has realized not only material wealth but also that which is of greater value—the universal respect and confidence of his fellowmen. The annals of the banking institutions of Los Angeles County contain no personal record more interesting or of more vital relation to the financial history of Los Angeles than that of Joseph F. Sartori, president of the Security-First National Bank. For more than thirty-five years Mr. Sartori has been at the head of this great bank or its predecessors and through his judgment and thorough comprehension of intricate financial problems he has been able to guide these institutions along lines which have been immeasurably beneficial to the community which they have served. The Security-First National is numbered among the first ten banks of the United States and it is a distinctive honor to stand at the head of such an institution.”

### **Security Pacific: A History**

A timeline prepared by Tom Furlong of the *Los Angeles Times* when Sartori’s bank later was merged with Bank of America clarifies the various manifestations and names of the bank:

Security Pacific: A History<sup>166</sup>

Tom Furlong, April 22, 1992, *Los Angeles Times*

1889: Investor Joseph Sartori opens Security Savings Bank & Trust Co. in Los Angeles.

1904: Absorbs Security Main St. Savings Bank--the first of six acquisitions before World War I.

1927: Makes first installment mortgage loans.

1929: Enters banking big leagues by merging with its main competitor, First National Bank. Security-First National has 157 branch offices, \$600 million in assets and 3,500 employees.

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1956: Acquires Farmers & Merchants Bank of Los Angeles, which opened in 1871.

1968: Security-First merges with San Francisco-based Pacific National Bank, forming Security Pacific National Bank.

1971: A holding company--known as Security Pacific Corp.--is formed.

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<sup>166</sup> [http://articles.latimes.com/1992-04-22/business/fi-632\\_1\\_security-pacific-national-bank](http://articles.latimes.com/1992-04-22/business/fi-632_1_security-pacific-national-bank) accessed October 16, 2015.

1974: Builds a 54-story headquarters on Bunker Hill, then the tallest building in L.A.

1978: Richard J. Flamson III takes over company's helm and launches it on large-scale expansion.

1984: Moves into international arena by buying into a stock brokerage firm in England.

1985: Begins major regional expansion by acquiring a large bank in Arizona.

1987: Sets aside more than \$900 million for bad loans to developing countries.

1988: Earns a record \$638 million.

1989: Becomes the fifth-largest bank holding firm in U.S.

1990: Severe loan problems appear; scales back its global ambitions and dismantles its merchant banking operation.

1991: Announces merger with Bank of America on Aug. 12; real estate and other losses mount.

1992: Security Pacific posts losses of \$775 million for '91 and \$496 million in the first three months of this year. Merger completed today and Security name passes into history at age 103.

Source: Security Pacific, Los Angeles Times, news reports

## Henry W. O'Melveny

### Los Angeles County Biographies

From: Transcribed by: Jeanne Sturgis Taylor.

Source: "American Blue Book California Lawyers" by H. James Boswell, Pages 22-23, Produced by H. James Boswell, 1928.<sup>167</sup>

HENRY W. O'MELVENY.

On every profession there are those who, by right of natural ability, thorough training and persistent effort, intelligently directed, are natural leaders. In the profession of law in California, men of this type are found, among whom must be named Henry W. O'Melveny, senior member of the Los Angeles firm of O'Melveny, Tuller & Myers, a man of profound legal knowledge.

Mr. O'Melveny is a native of Illinois, where he was born in 1859. When quite young he came to California, and it was in Los Angeles public schools that he received his elementary training, following which he entered the University of California. For two years he served as a Deputy District Attorney, and in 1885 became a member of the firm of Graves & O'Melveny.

From 1906 to 1908 he was senior member of the firm of O'Melveny & Stevens, and from 1908 to 1918 he was senior member of the firm of O'Melveny, Stevens & Millikin. This firm became O'Melveny, Millikin & Tuller in 1918, and so continued until 1921, when it assumed the style of O'Melveny, Millikin, Tuller & Mcneil. Mr. Macneil having joined the faculty of the Harvard Law School in 1926, the firm name reverted to O'Melveny, Millikin & Tuller. In the early part of 1928 the firm name became O'Melveny, Tuller & Myers.

Mr. O'Melveny has always taken an active interest in the civic affairs of his city, and in 1903 and 1904 served as President of the Los Angeles Civil Service Commission. From 1908 to 1910 he was a member of the Los Angeles Public Library Board, and for many years was a Park Commissioner.

Mr. O'Melveny is also President of the Dominguez Water Company, as well as the Dominguez Estate Company. He is Vice President of the Los Angeles Trust & Savings Bank and a Director of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Security Trust & Savings Bank, and other industries.

His firm represents as Counsel many large interests, among which are the Title Insurance & Trust Company, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of California, National Biscuit Company, Ambassador Hotel Company, Shell Company of California, Goodyear Textile Mills Company, Morris Plan Company, Southern California Gas Company, Riverside Portland Cement Company, and many others.

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<sup>167</sup> Available online at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nmpmelton/lamelv.htm>, accessed October 16, 2015.

The profession of the law, in itself of ancient dignity and learning, has always been distinguished by the character of its personnel. Its traditions stress high personal and professional standards and the devotion to the interests of clients, as well as to public service. Throughout his long career as a lawyer, Henry W. O'Melveny has, as his record proves, been faithful to these traditions, upon which rest the prestige of the bar.

Mr. O'Melveny in 1887 married Marie Antoinette Schilling, and they have three children, Stuart, Donald, and John.

### ***Los Angeles Times, 1995: A Man Who Found Peace in the Hills***

October 02, 1995 | CECILIA RASMUSSEN<sup>168</sup>

As historian Kevin Starr has argued, California's most distinctive contribution to the American spirit may be the insistence that the work ethic and the good life are not mutually incompatible.

And among Los Angeles' pioneers, there were few who managed to blend commerce and the life of the mind quite as harmoniously as Henry O'Melveny, the man who lent his considerable talents in equal measure to his law firm, fishing and his flower garden.

Today, the law firm that still bears his name--O'Melveny & Myers--is not only one of the nation's largest, but also one of its most distinguished. Its illustrious alumni include former managing partner Warren Christopher, now Secretary of State. But a century ago, Henry O'Melveny was known not only as an accomplished attorney and shrewd businessman, but also as a leading apostle of a movement that urged Angelenos to take to the nearby hills to cultivate their minds and spirits.

O'Melveny established a mountain refuge he called "The Crag," a pristine piece of San Gabriel Canyon that one day would be submerged under the waters behind Morris Dam. There he and his cohorts met regularly from 1895 to the early 1930s--the decades known as the "Great Hiking Era"--cogitating on the eternal verities and the vagaries of cards and game fish.

....

A native of Illinois, O'Melveny came to Los Angeles at age 10. His father, Harvey K.S. O'Melveny, was one of the city's first judges. O'Melveny graduated in Los Angeles High School's first senior class, went on to UC Berkeley and read law on his own, all by age 19. Too young to be admitted to the California bar, he set sail for Hawaii, where he spent two years as a tutor before returning in 1881 and passing his oral exams to become an attorney.

In 1885, there were 80 lawyers in Los Angeles and O'Melveny became the junior partner in a two-lawyer firm founded by Jackson Graves. They worked out of two rooms in a building on a

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<sup>168</sup> [http://articles.latimes.com/1995-10-02/local/me-52527\\_1\\_los-angeles-pioneers](http://articles.latimes.com/1995-10-02/local/me-52527_1_los-angeles-pioneers)

section of Main Street that was the center of the town's legal world, but now is buried under the Santa Ana and San Bernardino freeways.

With his legal footing secure, he built a growing banking and corporate practice, representing the forerunners of Union Bank, Bank of America and Southern California Gas Co.

O'Melveny went into practice by himself in 1904, slowly adding lawyers over the next several decades, including Louis W. Myers, a former California chief justice, who would join in 1927.

Apart from the law, O'Melveny's greatest passion was nature. He fell under the spell of the San Gabriel Mountains as he hiked their ridges and fished their streams. For the fishermen whose hopes rose annually in the heady days of spring, O'Melveny organized the Creel Club.

Every spring, it was customary for Creel Club members to file a fictitious divorce case, such as "Minnie Fish vs. Ezra Fish" or "Trout vs. Cardwell." (Billy Cardwell happened to be a club member and a court reporter.) All the attorneys would appear in court to let the judge know that the trial should take about a week. The judge would look at his busy calendar and ask counsel to agree on a trial date. Fish vs. Fish would then be marked on the calendar and of course, the courtroom would be dark that week.

In 1897, O'Melveny bought 350 acres, abundantly forested with alders, sycamores and oaks and bisected by tumbling waters, as an escape from his hectic city life. He built the retreat he called the Crag on the west bank of the San Gabriel River, seven miles north of the railroad tracks in Azusa.

He planted 325 daffodils, 200 tulips, fields of barley and orchards of apple, plum, apricot and persimmon. It was there he spent his next 36 birthdays.

Clients, friends and law partners stayed in a dormitory-style room and ate dinners cooked outdoors on evenings that usually were capped with a poker game. It was a fisherman's paradise, where anglers pulled hundreds of trout out of the river.

Occasionally, the law firm's entire staff gathered at the informal mountain retreat, where their host took them on hikes or handed them shovels to cut trails. He was so fond of the outdoors and exercise that he once walked from Lincoln Heights to his Azusa hideaway, about 25 miles.

O'Melveny also played host to members of the secretive Sunset Club, an inner circle drawn from the California Club--then as now Los Angeles' most exclusive social organization.

According to one of its founders, the group's "aim and object was to bring together 30 or 40 active, intelligent men who are interested in other things besides money-getting, and who read something more than the daily newspaper, to discuss subjects of general human interest."

O'Melveny continued to entertain at the Crag until 1933, when he was obliged to relinquish the property for the building of Morris Dam.

As one of his inscriptions in the Crag guest book shows, O'Melveny's affection for the site never flagged: "I marvel more and more over the wonderful fascination of this place. As I write, the view from the front door is full of the browns, the grays, the coppery reds and all the shades of green even in this midsummer. . . . It's good to have, it's good to work for, it's best to divide with our friends."

Henry O'Melveny was 81 when he died in 1941 after practicing law in Los Angeles for almost 60 years. "I know of no man who has lived a more perfectly balanced life," one columnist wrote at the time. "His flowers are as widely known as his lawsuits."