

County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark Walsh Sawmill / City Brewery
AP# 008-410-007

Location 309 Mill Street, Grass Valley


Name of applicant City of Grass Valley

Address 125 East Main Street

Home or work phone 530-274-4711 cell phone _____

Name and address of owner upon whose property proposed landmark
is located, if owner is not applicant City of Grass Valley

I consent to this application and authorize the placing of a plaque or marker
on site.


Owner's signature

2/19/2025

Date

Amy Wolfson, City Planner
City of Grass Valley

Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

Wash Sawmill - In 1849 James Walsh of New York, with partners, Wheeler and Holt built the first sawmill in grass valley, next to Wolf Creek on Mill Street. They provided lumber to all the mining operations. This was the first business enterprises in the new town of Grass Valley. The site would later become the City Brewery.

City Brewery - Thomas Hodge, born in England, came to Grass Valley in 1854 with the intent on entering the mining industry. Instead, Thomas and his father Samuel purchased the City Brewery which was originally located on Church and Mine Streets. A fire destroyed the original location, the Hodges purchased the site of the sawmill and opened up their brewery providing regular deliveries to mining camps in the area.

See attached for expanded history.

Historically significant aspects or properties of proposed landmark

Today 309 Mill Street is a paved parking lot, in placing the parking there was regard for what it was and what it meant to the town. A concrete pad was placed as a base for landmark identification.

The fact the home of Thomas Hodge exists today, immediately next to this site is a treasured piece of our history on to itself.

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

The City of Grass Valley will maintain the landmark.

Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark.

Books and articles:

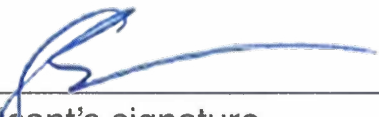
Lives of Nevada County Pioneers by David Comstock, page 27.
1985 Pictorial History of Nevada County by David Comstock, page 149
Beans History and Directory, page 187

Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)

History of Nevada County - Thompson and West, page 220
Sketch of City Brewery - Thompson and West, page 100
Map of 309 Mill Street - Sanborn Maps

Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)

Obituaries - Newspapers.com


Applicant's signature

2/19/2025
Date

=====

This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Attention: Chairman
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

Attachments and related documents may be submitted in electronic format.

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other non historical reasons.

An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of Proposed landmark: Wash Sawmill/ City Brewery

Location:

309 Mill Street, Grass Valley APN 008-410-007

Site identified on Sanborn Maps 1898 and 1891, on the edge of old Grass Valley where Wolf Creek flows toward Boston Ravine.

Name of applicant: City of Grass Valley Historic Commission

Address: 125 East Main St. Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: (530) 274-4712

Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark is located, if owner is not the applicant. Not applicable

I authorize the placing of the plaque or marker on the site: The City Council authorized the placement of the plaque at its October 22, 2024 meeting.

Landowners signature:

Brief history:

Walsh Sawmill

James Walsh of New York, arrived in California in 1849. James Walsh and partners, Wheeler and Holt constructed the first sawmill next to Wolf Creek on Mill Street. They provided lumber for mining operations. This was the first business enterprise in the new town of Grass Valley and would later become the site for the City Brewery. Mill Street intersected by Walsh Street is so named after the enterprise and early pioneer. James Walsh was elected Justice of the Peace 1850 for the town of Grass Valley. He was the first state senator from Nevada County in 1851. In 1855 he was elected to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and served as Chairman. James Walsh also managed Gold Hill quartz mine in Grass Valley from 1851 to 1859. He moved to San Francisco and died in 1894

City Brewery

Thomas Hodge born in England in 1838, he came to Grass Valley with his father Samuel Hodge in 1854 to enter the mining business. They purchased the City Brewer business, originally located on Church and Mine Streets and moved it to the Mill Street location after a fire destroyed the original brewery. Thomas took charge of the business from his father; he partnered with Henry Scadden and the enterprise name became Thomas Hodge & Co. in 1871. The business prospered; four to six wagons would make regular trips to mining camps within a 30-mile radius for many years.

Thomas took a deep interest in all that pertained to City Government, he was a well-respected resident of Grass Valley for 55 years. He lived and died in the Cornish-style stone house located at 303 Mill Street, which is still standing today.

Description of proposed landmark:

A rendition of the proposed landmark is attached, it would measure 14" x 16" fabricated of brass, proposed plaque design and text attached. A cement base is in place at the site location facing Mill Street. The City of Grass Valley would handle the installation and maintenance of the plaque.

Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark:

309 Mill Street is a paved parking lot today, and in making it there was regard for what it was and what it meant to the town, which is why a concrete base was provided.

The fact the home of Thomas Hodge exists today immediately next to this site is a treasured piece of our history on to itself.

How will the landmark be protected and maintained? The City of Grass Valley will maintain the landmark.

Bibliography; cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark:

Historical records: (Copies attached.)

- Lives of Nevada County Pioneers by David Comstock, page 27
- History of Nevada County – Thompson and West, page 220
- Map of 309 Mill Street City Brewery – Sanborn Maps
- Sketch of City Brewery – Thompson and West, Page 100
- Beans History and Directory, page 187
- 1985 Pictorial History of Nevada County – by David Comstock, page 149
- Obituaries – Newspapers.com

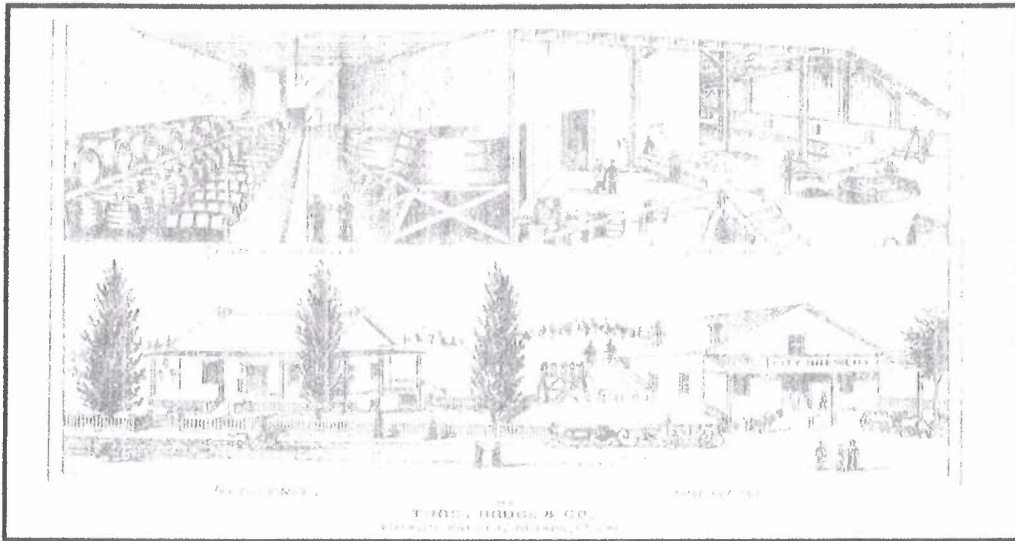
Why is the proposed landmark of sufficient historical importance to deserve landmark designation:

Two significant enterprises existed on this site, both integral to mining and the contributing to the establishment of the town of Grass Valley. Walsh and Hodge were men who were important pioneers and contributors to the city and county government.

Respectfully submitted by the Grass Valley Historical Commission to the City Council of Grass Valley for the purposed of approval and submission to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission.

February 11, 2025

WALSH SAWMILL/CITY BREWERY



At this site, where Wolf Creek flows toward Boston Ravine, James Walsh established a sawmill to provide lumber for a mining camp as it evolved into the small city of Grass Valley. Built in July of 1850, it was Grass Valley's first business enterprise. Mill and Walsh Streets got their names from this business and this early pioneer. Judge Walsh was elected Justice of the Peace for Grass Valley. He served as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and State Senator.

In later years, Thomas Hodge built the City Brewery on this site which continued to operate under various owners from 1873 to 1909. Hodge was a resident of Grass Valley for 55 years and passed away at his stone Cornish-style cottage located next door, which still exists today. The City Brewery was a thriving business during the Gold Rush, making regular deliveries by wagon to every mining camp within a 30 mile radius.

City of Grass Valley Logo

Nevada Co

Landmark

Proposed
Plaque and
Text

PIONEER GOES TO MEET MAKER

Thomas Hodge Lies Dead at
His Old Home on
Mill Street.

He Had Resided in This City
for the Past Fifty-
five Years.

Pioneer Thomas Hodge lies dead at his home on Mill street, in the cottage which had been his home for forty-three years. He passed away at 9:50 o'clock Sunday evening, after a long and hopeless illness. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Congregational church under the auspices of Wiener Tribe of Red Men. Interment will be made in the Red Men's cemetery.

Decedent was a native of Golsithney, England, aged sixty-nine years and eighteen days. He came to Grass Valley at the age of fourteen and engaged with others in mining on Deer creek. After a few years of that life he accumulated considerable money, returned to his native land and induced his father and several other relatives to accompany him back to the new Eldorado. He continued to mine in this section for a few years, but deserted that life to engage in the brewery business. In this he prospered well, fully, conducting what is now known as the City brewery. From for six large wagons made regular trips every mining camp within a radius of thirty miles or more. Later unfortunate speculations proved disastrous. Something like twelve years ago he disposed of his brewery business, retired to a quiet life, though his he had taken a deep interest in that pertained to city government. He was a man who easily made friends and to his credit be it said he retained them all to the last. Manifestations of sorrow were heard on all sides. It became known that "Tom" had breathed his last.

By his death a widow and six children are left. They are Mrs. Martin, Mrs. T. J. Keleher, Richard Hodge, Mrs. Sarah Ahearn, Sarah Hodge, Mrs. Hitchcock, Alex, John and Miss Lizzie Hodge.

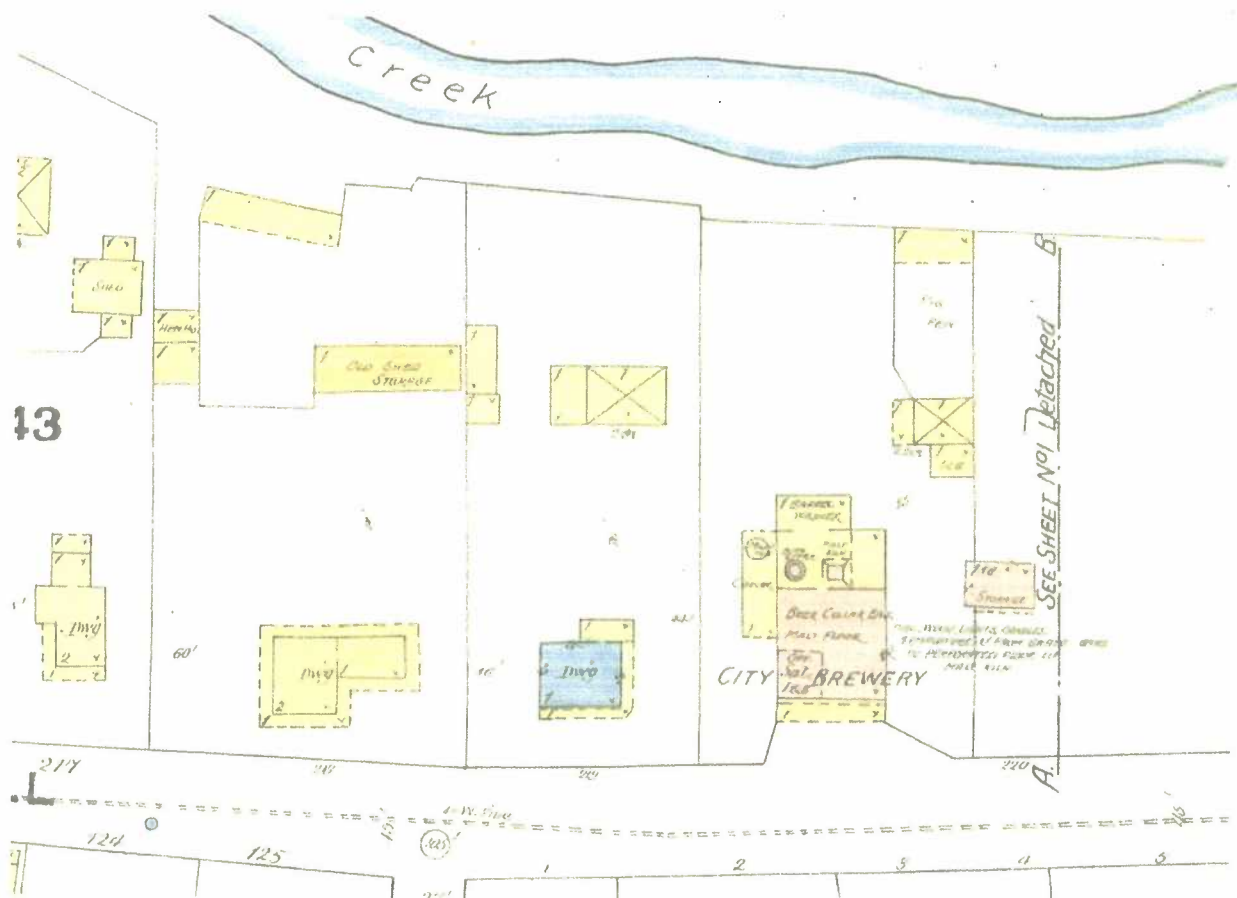
Obituary

Copies of
Supporting
Materials

THOMAS HODGE 1907

Clipped By:
seniorphotomoment
Jun 16, 2023

309 Mill St. Sanborn maps



now occupies; he has been constantly engaged in mining since coming to this place. In 1857 he married Miss Mary Archibald, a native of Scotland, and has one son and four daughters; he has been School Director. A view of his place will be found on another page.

HERZINGER, HENRY L., was born in Madison county, Missouri, September 18, 1853, and came to California with his parents in March, 1854. On this coast he learned the printer's trade, and has been engaged in that business in a number of places; he is a member of the firm of Gray, Davis & Co., proprietors of the *Tri-Weekly Herald*, of Nevada City; his success is due to his energy and attention to his business.

HICKMAN, J. C., lives at Relief Hill; he was born in Tennessee, in 1836. In 1855 he moved to Nevada county, California, and engaged in mining at Grass Valley for about two years; thence to San Juan, where he spent one summer; and thence to Relief Hill; has visited Tennessee twice, once in 1869-70, and once in 1876-7. In 1877 he married Miss Ellen Beck, a native of California. They have one child, a girl. Post office North Bloomfield.

HIERONIMUS, SIMON, lives at North Bloomfield; he was born in Boersch, France, now a part of Germany, in 1849; he learned the trade of cooper and brewer, and from 1864 to 1872 traveled through France, working at his trade; he then went to Chicago, Illinois, and in 1873 to San Francisco; he worked at his trade there until 1876, and then worked at brewing in Nevada City till 1878, when he came to North Bloomfield, and has since been proprietor of the Bloomfield Brewery. In 1876 he married Miss Freida Model, born in Baden, Germany, in 1849; he has one son and one daughter.

HIGGINS, M. J., resides ten miles from Auburn and thirteen from Grass Valley, his post office; he was born in Ireland, in 1833, and went to Canada with his parents in 1843, and in 1844 to New York. In 1852 he came to this State and mined at Placerville six months, at Georgetown until 1853, then to Big Bar, American river, until 1858, mining and trading; he then went to Todd's Valley, Placer county, and in 1860 came to this county, where he has been farming and stock raising for the past ten years; he has occupied his present farm of 160 acres eight years. In 1861 he married Miss Mary Driscoll, a native of Ireland, and has two sons and four daughters.

HILL, C. R., lives in Grass Valley; he was born in New York, in 1828, and in 1850 went to Buffalo; he arrived in Grass Valley in 1852, and mined and teamed for one year; he then rented the land he now occupies and purchased it in 1858, built a house and moved into it. At the time he first took it there was but one acre adapted to cultivation, as it had all been washed out by the miners. By the end of 1858 he had filled in and leveled four acres, on which he planted fruit trees. The balance of a tract of twelve acres he also prepared in this way; he planted the first berry vines in the vicinity and was the first to ship fruit from the county; he has 56 acres of land and 1,200 fruit trees. In 1856 he married Miss Caroline E. J. Dobbins, a native of Maryland. They have had

till 1854, and then in El Dorado county again; he then returned home and came back to this State in 1858, settling in Grass Valley, where he has since been engaged in mining; he is Secretary of the Idaho, Rocky Bar and Gold Hill Quartz Mines, of the North Fork Gravel Co., Madison Lodge, No. 23, F. and A. M., and Grass Valley Chapter, No. 18, R. A. M. In 1854, he married Miss Harriett Ellison, a native of New York, and has two daughters. A view of his place is given elsewhere.

HILL, JOHN, lives in North San Juan; he was born in New York in 1819, and went to Michigan in 1837, where he farmed until 1841, and then went to South Bend, and in the same year to Galena, Illinois, and engaged in lead mining there and at Benton and Shellsburg, Wisconsin until 1852. At the last place, keeping a livery stable. In 1852, he crossed the plains and arrived at Nevada City, September 9, 1852; he went into partnership with H. H. Hunt in the hotel and general merchandise business at Hunt's Ranch; he owns 100 acres of land. In 1848, he married Miss Emily W. Cottle, a native of Vermont, and she was the first white woman in North San Juan; he has one son. A view of his residence is given on another page.

HILL, W. J., lives at Little York, where he owns town property and toll road to Dutch Flat; he was born in Ireland in 1835, and went to Illinois in 1854, and came to Little York in 1855; he was agent of the Little York Water Co. until 1867, and then bought an interest in the Dutch Flat and Little York Toll road. In 1874, he commenced merchandising in Little York; he has been interested in mining most of the time; he was Post master from 1873 to 1876, and his wife has held the position ever since. In 1857, he married Miss Mary Ragan, a native of Ireland, and has one son and one daughter.

HIPPERT, JOHN, lives one and a half miles from Eureka South, and owns thirty acres of mining land; he was born in Pennsylvania in 1836, and remained there until 1856, when he removed to Butte county, California, and engaged in mining; thence to Nevada county, where he has since lived. In 1869, he married Miss Lizzie J. Watson, a native of Jersey City, New Jersey. They have three boys and two girls, all living. Mr. Hippert has held the office of Justice of the Peace in Nevada county. Post office, Graniteville.

HODGE, THOMAS, of the firm of Thomas Hodge & Co., proprietors of the City Brewery, Grass Valley, was born in England in 1838, and in 1848 went with his parents to Connecticut and from there to Pennsylvania. In 1854, he came to Grass Valley with his father, Samuel Hodge, and was interested in mining until 1859. Samuel Hodge purchased the City Brewery, and in 1863, Thomas Hodge took charge of it. They are brewing ale, porter and beer, and are the only establishment making XXX ale and porter. The brewery originally stood on the corner of Church and Main streets, and in 1861 was moved to its present location on Mill street. In 1864, Mr. Hodge married Miss Delia Connolly, a native of Maine, and has four sons and four daughters. A view of the City Brewery is given elsewhere.

San Juan and has since been in the stage business; he is one of the firm of Green & Co., who operate the stage lines from North San Juan to Nevada City, North Bloomfield and Forest City. He is also engaged in the livery business, and has a ranch of 380 acres, and is breeding fine blooded horses. In 1871, he married Miss Hattie Clay, a native of Illinois.

HOLBROOK, J. S., lumber and carpenter business, Nevada City; he was born in Canada in 1826, remained until 1844, then engaged in the map business, remained until 1852, then to California. Married in 1850 Mary A. Scribner, a native of Burlington, Vermont, they have one girl living. Mr. Holbrook has held the office of Justice of the Peace two terms. Was appointed Post master at Nevada City, April 3, 1878. Lot and improvements are worth about \$2,050.

HOLBROOKE, D. P., is proprietor of the Holbrooke House, on Main street, Grass Valley; he was born in Massachusetts in 1823, and came to California in 1849. He went to and fro between San Francisco and Sacramento until 1852, and then mined in Oregon six months; he then went back to Massachusetts but returned to this State in a few months and settled in Grass Valley in 1856. Was one of the locators of Mammoth Bar Mine, on American river, and is still an owner. He has been interested in Grass Valley mining and business, and in January, 1879, purchased the Holbrooke House. In 1867, he married Miss Ellen Thurston, a native of New Hampshire. He built a bridge across Bear river in 1852. A view of the Holbrooke house is given elsewhere.

HOLZENBAKER, MRS. T., lives five miles from Nevada City, her post office, and four miles from You Bet. She was born in Baden Baden in 1818, and went to New Orleans in 1848 and in 1852 to San Francisco, and soon after to Nevada City. For the past nine years has lived on her ranch of 160 acres. She was first married to John Leahr, and in 1867 to Charles Holzenbaker, a native of Germany, who died in 1873. She has one son and one daughter.

HOSKINS, RICHARD, lives on Deer creek, one and one-half miles from Nevada City, his post office. He was born in England in 1825 and went to Wisconsin in 1848. He engaged in farming and mining until 1852 and then crossed the plains and settled in Nevada county, being five months and two weeks on the journey. Since coming here he has been engaged in mining. In 1850 he married Miss M. J. Williams, a native of England, and has had two sons and six daughters, of whom one son and one daughter are now living.

HORTON, L., lives five miles southwest from Rough and Ready, his post office; he was born in New York in 1827, and moved to Ohio with his parents in 1837; he taught school until 1852, and then crossed the plains to Nevada City, California; he has been on the ranch he now owns since 1853, farming and stock raising, and has mined some; he is at present Master of the Indian Springs Grange; he owns 240 acres of land, valued at \$3,500. In 1860, he married Miss E. McCowen, a native of Ohio, and has five sons and one daughter. A view of his place is given on another page.

wise, and his client was convicted and sentenced to die.
 June 23, 1852—Chairman of Main St. Democratic precinct; chosen to attend county convention on July 3.
 July 16, 1852—Barrett was hanged at Nevada City with Hodge in attendance; it was the first legal hanging in county, and the only hanging of a thief.
 Oct 1852—Dr. Alban moved his City Drug Store into the Hodge building on Main St.
 Oct 9, 1852—Member of committee to write new laws for Nevada quartz mining district.
 Nov 13, 1852—Attended miners convention at Nevada City, which was adjourned to Dec. 19 and continued to Dec. 20.
 Jan 26, 1853—Hodge's younger brother, Horatio N., of Pulaski, Jackson Co., MI, died at Panama of yellow fever while on his way to Calif. and left a widow and children in Michigan.
 July 1853—Pres. of Democratic county convention.
 Aug 1, 1853—Left Calif. to attend World Fair as Gov. John Bigler's commissioned delegate.
 ca Oct 1853—Married Ellen A. Cruttenden of Concord, Jackson Co., Michigan, daughter of Joel Cruttenden.
 1877—Wrote and published *Arizona As It Is: or The Coming Country*, which was reprinted in 1962 as *Arizona As It Was*, 1877.

SAMUEL HODGE (-)

—Born in England.
 —Married Mary ____ (b. ca 1818 in England).
 1838—Son Thomas born in England.
 —Son Frank born in England.
 1848—Brought family to Connecticut.
 —Moved to Pennsylvania.
 1854—Came to Grass Valley, Nevada County, Calif., and mined with son Thomas.
 1859—Bought the City Brewery, corner of Main and Church streets.
 Summer 1859—First Cornish games were held on a lot in rear of Hodges brewery.
 June 11, 1862—City Brewery burned and he lost \$8,000.
 1862—Moved brewery to Mill St. after city bought his lot and built a brick city hall and engine house facing Main St., near the corner of Church.
 Nov 16, 1863—Richard Hodge (relative?) was killed by Capt. Frank Walker in a saloon brawl.
 1863—Son Thomas took charge of the brewery.
 April 4, 1863—He and B. F. Woodworth came up with \$1,000 bail after Hodge's son Frank was arrested for assaulting a Chinese man.
 Sept 12, 1864—Young boy (5-1/2) was killed either by falling from Frank Hodge's wagon, or by being struck in the head by Frank's whip handle.
 March 21, 1868—Wife Mary died at Grass Valley. Funeral at Grass Valley Methodist Church. Left 5 children.

THOMAS HODGE (1838-)

1838—Born in England, son of Samuel Hodge.
 1848—Came to Connecticut with parents.
 —Moved to Pennsylvania.
 1854—Came with father to Grass Valley, Nevada County, Calif. and was interested in mining.
 1859—Father bought the City Brewery at corner of Church and Main streets in Grass Valley.
 1861—Moved brewery to Mill Street.
 1863—Took charge of his father's brewery.
 1864—Married Delia Connolly (b. in Maine).

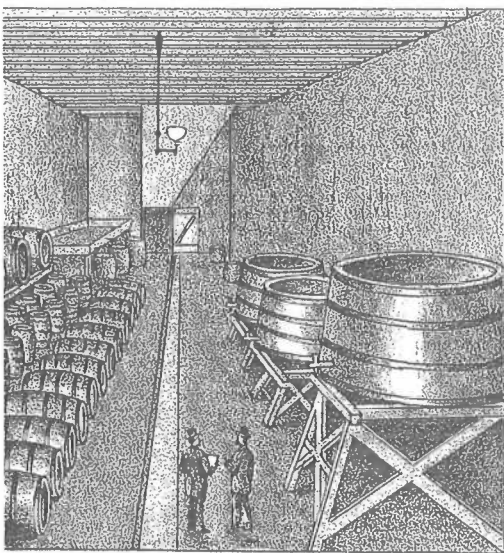
1865—Prop. of City Brewery on Mill Street.
 1871—Partner of Henry Scadden. Resided at 83 Mill St.
 1880—Lived with wife, 4 sons and 4 daughters at Grass Valley. He and Henry Scadden owned the City Brewery on Mill Street under the name of Thomas Hodge & Co.
 (View of his place facing p. 100 of 1880 TW History)

THOMAS J. HODGES (aka TOM BELL) (c1823/6-1856)

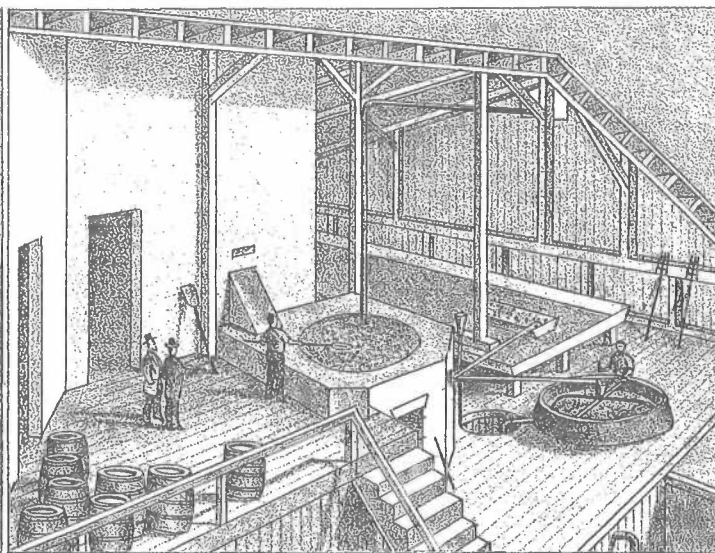
ca 1823/26—Born in Rome, Tennessee
 —Graduated from medical school.
 1846—Was a noncommissioned officer in Mexican War.
 1850—Came to Calif. and mined.
 —Took up gambling and then became a highway robber known as Tom Bell.
 1855—Arrested and sentenced to 5 years at prison on Angel Island.
 May 1855—Escaped with Bill Gristy (aka White), Ned Convery (aka Conners) and Jim Smith.
 June 17, 1856—Robbed a teamster near Dry Creek of \$45.75.
 July 21, 1856—He and partners robbed Grizzly Store, between Nevada City and Woolsey's Flat, Nevada County.
 Aug 18, 1856—Members of his gang crossed David Wood's bridge near mouth of South Yuba River without paying toll; Wood followed them to French Corral before losing them.
 Oct 6, 1856—Had been executed near Merced River.

JAMES HOEL (1790-1864)

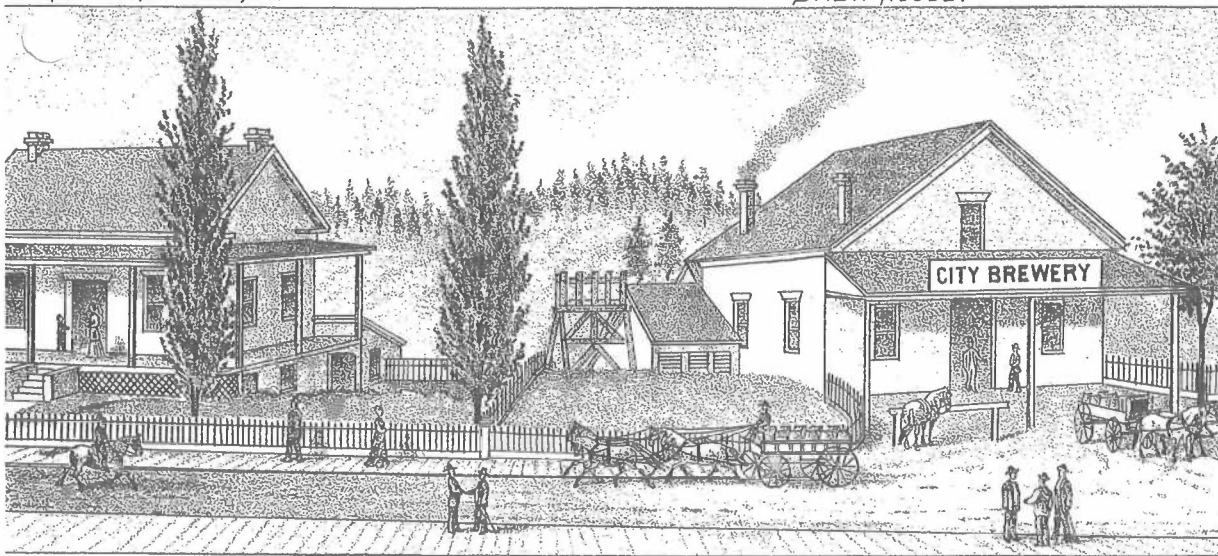
Aug 1790—Born.
 June 1850—Came to Calif. from Mississippi with a slave known as Anderson.
 ca July 1850—Went to Nevada City, where Anderson escaped his custody.
 Fall 1851—Owner of a grizzly bear that won more than one bear and bull fight in the arena at Nevada City, Nevada County.
 Oct 12, 1853—Dissolved partnership with R. H. Porter in the White Hall Stables on Broad Street in Nevada City.
 Oct 27, 1853—Sole prop. of White Hall Stables. Advertised room for 100 horses, corral and wagon yard, plenty of hay and barley, and a grizzly bear on view.
 Nov 10, 1853—Endorsed character of R. H. Porter.
 July 4, 1854—His bear fought bulls at Hughes' Union race course on ridge between Grass Valley and Nevada City.
 July 28, 1854—Hughes took Hoel's bear to Iowa Hill for fights and it escaped.
 Aug 15, 1854—Offered his White Hall Stables for sale, along with other possessions.
 Sept 7, 1854—Advertised for information about slave named Anderson, offered \$100 for information. Advertisement had a description of Anderson.
 ca Feb 10, 1855—Thieves bored a hole through wall of his room and stole \$150 and a gold watch.
 Feb 20, 1855—Broad St. fire destroyed his stable; he lost \$5,300.
 Dec 7, 1855—Had a wagon- and hay-yard opposite Parsons & Cleveland's livery stable on Broad St.
 Jan 1, 1856—His Whitehall Stables were listed at two locations: 87 and 91 Broad sts. (#89 separated the two parcels). The Whitehall Livery Stables, run by Parsons and Cleveland, was at 112 Broad (other side of street).
 July 19, 1856—Lost \$4,000 when burned out by city fire.
 Aug 8, 1856—Reopened business at 87 Broad St.
 Nov 22, 1857—Thief stole a horse from his stable.



FERMENTING CELLAR.



BREW HOUSE.



RESIDENCE,

BREWERY,

OF
THOS. HODGE & CO.
GRASS VALLEY, NEVADA, CO. CAL.

JAMES WALSH.

Death of a Former Old-Time Resident.

The funeral ceremonies over the body of Judge Walsh were held Saturday morning at the undertaking establishment of Halsead & Co., San Francisco. Judge Walsh was a pioneer. As far back as 1851 he was the manager of the Gold Hill quartz mine at Grass Valley, where he lived for many years. He was a prominent operator and expert in mines for fully forty years. He was intimately connected with the history of the Comstock lode. He came from an old and highly respected New York family, and was a man of fine appearance, of liberal education and of courtly manners. He had visited Europe and traveled extensively. In 1855 he commanded much strength in the Democratic convention as a candidate for Governor. A year or more ago his wife died at 1602 Howard street. In the same room he was confined for a number of months, attended only by an old miner, who ministered to his wants as best he could. He was over eighty years of age at the time of his death.

Judge James Walsh was the first Senator elected from Nevada county. He resigned his office and went to Europe where he formed the company that worked the Gold Hill mine, of which he was superintendent. When the Washoe excitement broke out in 1859, Judge Walsh, in company with Joe Woodworth and others went over there and made money easily. Walsh was one of the first men in the Ophir mine, Virginia City, Nevada, and it is reported that he made about \$100,000 out of that property. From Nevada State Judge Walsh came back to California and was an active spirit in developing the mines of the Calico district, San Bernardino county. For the past few years none of the old timers here have heard nothing of the courteous old gentleman until they read of his death. Several of them who knew him when he was here in Grass Valley, says the Telegraph, speak of him in endearing terms and were they in San Francisco they would drop a flower on the grave of the old man who formed a part of the history of this county.

Obituary
of
James Walsh

AUSTIN WALRATH (-1902) (REP)

- Born, probably in New York state. Son of Abraham Walrath and Catherine Casler. Brother of John H., Richard and Elizabeth Walrath.
- 1831—Father died (age 39.)
- Came to Calif.
- Dec 1870—Came to Nevada City, Nevada County. He and brother Richard purchased the Providence Mine, in partnership with John V. Hunter and W. H. Smith.
- 1883—Elected to state assembly (REP).
- 1885—Reelected to state assembly (REP).
- 1887—Elected to state senate (REP).
- March 29, 1902—Died at San Francisco.

RICHARD C. WALRATH (1828-) (REP)

- Nov 30, 1828—Born in Chittenango, Madison County, New York. Son of Abraham Walrath and Catherine Casler. Brother of Austin, Elizabeth and John H. Walrath.
- 1831—Father died (age 39.)
- Graduated from Yates Polytechnic Institute.
- 1842—Began clerking in a country store.
- 1849—Became a partner in the firm.
- June 14, 1854—Married Catherine Ehle (b. Chittenango, New York) at Chittenango.
- Son Austin H. born.
- Daughter Grace L. born.
- 1856—Colonel in New York National Guard.
- 1859—Entered the boat building business with brother John H., at Chittenango, on the Erie Canal.
- 1864—Closed dry dock business.
- 1868—Came to San Francisco, Calif. with wife and children. Was partner of John V. Hunter and Z. Amos in the business of importing hard wood, lumber, timber, and wagon and carriage materials.
- Dec 26, 1870—Wife died in San Francisco.
- Dec 1870—Came to Nevada City, Nevada County. He and brother Austin purchased the Providence Mine, in partnership with John V. Hunter and W. H. Smith.
- 1873—Mother died.
- Married Margaret ____.
- 1873—Charter member of Evangeline Chapter 9, Eastern Star.
- 1877—Second wife was initiated into Evangeline Chapter 9.
- 1880—Lived at Nevada City with wife, son and daughter. Partner in Thomas mine at Nevada City.
- Owned the Reward and Gracie mines.
- March 29, 1902—Brother Austin died at San Francisco.
- 1902—Sold the Providence mine.

(View of Thomas mine facing p. 44 of 1880 TW History)

JAMES WALSH (-1894) (DEM)

- Sept 12, 1849—Arrived in Calif.
- ✓ Nov 1849—Began building a water-powered mill with the Holt brothers and Zenas Wheeler on Wolf Creek, south of Grass Valley.
- April or May 1850—Elected justice of the peace for Grass Valley township.
- ✓ July 1850—He, Wheeler, and G. P. Clark built a sawmill next to Wolf Creek on Mill Street, Grass Valley.
- April 19, 1851—Was fitting up a stamp mill at Grass Valley.
- Sept 3, 1851—Elected to state senate from Nevada County (DEM).
- Oct 23, 1851—His quartz mill had ten stamps.

- ✓ 1852—Dr. W. S. McMurtry bought an interest in the sawmill from Wheeler Bros., Pain and A. P. Willey.
- Jan 8, 1852—Elected delegate to Democratic state conv.
- Jan 31, 1852—Nevada *Journal* editor discussed Walsh's views about mineral lands.
- Feb 4, 1852—Said he would introduce a bill to authorize California's governor to sell warrants for 500,000 acres of land ceded by U.S. to state for common school purposes.
- May 1852—Drew short term for state senate.
- June 22-23, 1852—Sued by James Pierson, Godfrey Sudwig, Isaac Coy and Samuel Latta.
- Feb 12, 1853—Member of the Plank Road Committee.
- June 4, 1853—Chosen delegate to Democratic state conv.
- Sept 30, 1853—Chosen delegate from Nevada County to the Pacific Railroad Convention.
- Oct 3, 1853—Attended the Pacific Railroad convention at San Francisco.
- Dec 30, 1853—Agent of the Gold Hill Quartz Mining Co. and the Nevada County Mining Co.
- Sept 5, 1855—Elected to the Nevada County board of supervisors.
- Oct 1, 1855—Elected chairman of the board of supervisors.
- April 10, 1856—Dr. John Lark won a \$716.91 judgement against Walsh, W. S. McMurtry, and J. B. Montgomery; sheriff was to sell McMurtry's mill on Boston Ravine, and the Camp Spring Ranch on the Grass Valley to Nevada City road.
- Spring 1856—Resigned office of Major General of California Militia 4th Division; was replaced by Volney H. Howard of San Francisco.
- Dec 11, 1856—Said he would request pardon for John Walsh, convicted of assault to commit murder on John Downing.
- March 6, 1857—Governor Johnson pardoned John Walsh.
- Aug 1857—Nominated for state senator; denied charge that he favored selling mineral lands (DEM).
- Sept 1, 1857—Defeated for state senator (DEM).
- Feb 9, 1858—Lectured to benefit Grass Valley Young Men's Literary Assn.
- Sept 1858—Assessed worth of Wheeler and Walsh was \$5,000.
- July 29, 1859—Left Grass Valley with Joseph Woodworth, John P. Stone and B. Augustus Harrison to investigate the silver discovery at Gold Hill.
- Aug 1859—After first leasing the Ophir Mine from Henry T. P. Comstock, Walsh sent a sack of ore to San Francisco, where the assay confirmed earlier high values assigned at Nevada City and Grass Valley.
- Aug 12, 1859—For \$10 down and a promise of \$10,990 more in the future, Walsh purchased Comstock's entire interest in the Ophir Mine and all other properties owned by him, including those at Six-Mile Canyon, and the half-interest in the water source at the new workings. Comstock's partner, Emanuel Penrod, sold his interest to Walsh for \$5,500.
- Dec 20, 1859—J. J. Musser, delegate to Congress from proposed Nevada Territory, left for Washington DC with a block of silver ore 2 feet 6 inches by 10 inches by 6 or 8 inches thick, weighing 163 pounds and valued at \$600. It was from the Ophir lead and had been donated by Walsh, Morrison & Co. for inclusion in the Washington monument.
- Dec 1868—Was putting up a mill at Shermantown, Nevada, in White Pine district.
- April 1894—Died at San Francisco.

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Deer Creek also poured in, and in a couple of days they killed and run off all the Indians. Mr. G. Holt was removed to Stocking's store, on Deer Creek, and recovered in ten days.

In our early times, Judge Lynch presided, and if his rulings were not always dignified or legally correct, his promptness was certainly never brought into question. The miner knew no such thing as the "law's delay." The punishment was generally in ratio to the crime committed. In November, 1850, a man named Napoleon Collins, who had stolen a mule, was taken up, tried by His Honor Judge Lynch, was found guilty of the crime, and was sentenced to receive thirty-six lashes, which he did, and he soon afterward left.

Following the discovery of quartz in Grass Valley, a demand came for quartz mills. The first erected, an experimental affair, was in 1850, by Dr. Wittenbach, for J. Wright. It stood in the rear of the present Lady Franklin mill. The second, known as the Abby mill, was built by the Boston company in the spring of 1851, of which Abbey was superintendent, and the late Louis R. Sowers was machinist. It occupied the site on which the Sebastopol mill now stands. The third mill, in Boston Ravine, was built by Wright & Hansard, the same spring, the late James Harper being machinist.

The first saw mill in Grass Valley was constructed by Judge Walsh, in July, 1850, of which G. P. Clark was engineer, and Zenas Wheeler, wheelwright. It was built in Mill street, on the ground now occupied by the City Brewery.

The first quartz mining, like the same branch of business in later days, resulted not altogether in Midas-like realities. Ledges were touched, aye, roughly handled, but they turned not into gold. Fortunes came speedily to the favored few, but tardily, and in too many instances not at all, to the unlucky many. Prices of crushing were disastrously high; the processes for saving gold were imperfect, and men were financially wrecked in working quartz which would now prove a fortune to its owners.

In the fall of 1850 the first hotel was erected by Thomas Beatty, on the south side of Main street, the present location of the Senate Saloon, and was named the Beatty House.

The town was early supplied with ditches, the first, the Centerville, being dug in the fall of 1850, by Ormsby and others, who obtained their water supply from Wolf Creek. The next, known as Murphy, O'Connor & Co's Ditch, was built in the fall of 1851, the principal projectors of this work being Judge Isaac Murphy, late Governor of Arkansas, and Judge M. P. O'Connor, still of Grass Valley. Day, Fouse & Co. brought in a ditch from Wolf Creek the same year; and the Empire Ditch, built by L. L. Whiting, J. P. Stone and others, and the Union Ditch, the latter being supplied from Little Deer Creek, were constructed in 1852.

Boston Ravine was the pioneer settlement of the valley, having a vigorous existence before even the cloth shanty of the danger-braving gold-seeker had been pitched in Grass Valley.

In the early part of 1851 Grass Valley contained but two or three cabins, but its growth during this and the subsequent year was almost marvelous.

In 1851 the first school was opened by Miss Rosanna Farrington, (now Mrs. J. P. Stone, of this place,) in a little building which stood on the lot now owned and occupied by S. D. Bosworth, on Mill street.

A Postoffice was established in this place in the year 1851, under the administration of Millard Fillmore, and Dr. C. D. Cleveland was appointed Postmaster.

The first homicide, but, unfortunately, not the last, was committed in Grass Valley

Early in November, 1849, Samuel and George Holt, James Walsh and Zenas Wheeler selected a place about four miles below Grass Valley, and commenced the erection of two saw mills. In March, 1850, as detailed elsewhere, Samuel Holt was killed by Indians and the mill burned. James Walsh and Zenas Wheeler, with G. P. Clark, built a saw mill in Grass Valley near the site of Taylor's Foundry, in June, 1850. This was the first business enterprise in the new town.

During the summer that part of the valley east of Auburn street was fenced in with brush by some parties, who sold it during the summer to A. P. Willey and a man named McClinck. These gentlemen flattered themselves that they had a "good thing," as hay was eighty dollars per ton, and they could cut two heavy crops a year. Before they had fairly begun to improve the place, some miners wandered into the enclosure, sank a shaft through the rich, black soil, and came to a gravel deposit which proved to be very rich with gold. In less than twenty-four hours the whole ranch was staked off in claims fifty feet square, leaving not even a fifty foot claim for the ravaged proprietors.

In August or September, 1850, a man named Morey opened the first store in Grass Valley proper. His stock was kept in a tent upon the lot now occupied by Johnson's furniture store, on Main street. He soon sold to Leighton, Kent and Thomas H. Day, who had been engaged in cutting logs for Walsh & Wheeler, and took part of their stock.

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