



UNDER THE GABLES

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Those Shafter Women

A New Exhibit at the Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History
December 2, 2018 through March 31, 2019

JACK MASON MUSEUM OF WEST MARIN HISTORY

Inverness Way at Park Avenue, Inverness Phone 415-669-1099 www.jackmasonmuseum.org

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE JACK MASON MUSEUM

Our new exhibit, entitled *Those Shafter Women*, is curated by Tom Branan, Gayanne Enquist and Meg Linden. It focuses on the wives and daughters of the original six children born to Mary Lovell Shafter and William Rufus Shafter. They are Wealthy Laretta Shafter Ransom, Oscar Lovell Shafter, Hugh Morris Shafter, James McMillan Shafter, William Newton Shafter and Mary Lovell Shafter Edminster. Wealthy Laretta and Hugh Morris both settled in Galesburg, Michigan so we have less information about them. The remaining four families eventually came to California and all of them were involved in Point Reyes area history to a greater or lesser extent. There is also a small exhibit on The Shafter's in the Civil War which fills in some information about the two families that went to Michigan. .

There will be an open house for this exhibit on Sunday December 2, from 1 – 4 p.m. Please come and see what we have found about these women.

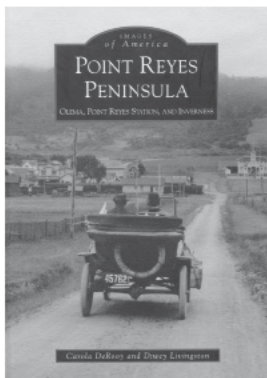
RESEARCH IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

An appointment is needed to do research at the museum.
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THE MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR
ARCHIVAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, OUTREACH, AND COMPUTER RELATED
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"POINT REYES PENINSULA"

Copies signed by the authors, Carola DeRooy and Dewey Livingston are available at Museum Open Houses and from the Archives for only \$20.00. The proceeds benefit the Museum.

ON THE COVER:

Emma Shafter at age 17, two years before her fateful marriage to Charles Webb Howard.

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Under the Gables
is written and edited by
Meg Linden and Tom Branan
and designed
by Dewey Livingston

Inquiries:
415-669-1099
info@jackmasonmuseum.org
www.jackmasonmuseum.org

Those Shafter Women

by Meg Linden

A LOT HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the Shafter men, Oscar Lovell, James McMillan, William Newton, and their male children such as Payne Jewett and Dr. James Chester. However, the women of the family have been neglected. This story covers the mothers, daughters and sons' wives. Most of them were homemakers, but some of them were also wives of politicians with all that implies. A few of them never married and two of them combined marriage, family and an illustrious professional career.

We start with **Mary Louisa Lovell**, who was born on October 24, 1794, in Putney, Vermont. She married William Rufus Shafter on December 6, 1809, in Grafton, Vermont when she was only 15 years old. They had six children in 11 years: two daughters and four sons. Her eldest daughter, **Wealthy Laretta Shafter**, born a year after the marriage, married Roswell Ransom, a neighbor who had moved to Galesburg, Michigan. Her adventures in Michigan and her children (5 daughters and 2 sons) do not figure in our West Marin story. (See the exhibit for some information on the children.) Mary's first son Oscar Lovell Shafter was born October 19, 1812. In his biography, lovingly compiled under the direction of his daughter Emma, he credits his mother with being a woman of "superior mind and character," and also with persuading his father to allow Oscar to pursue higher education. His wife will start out our story. Other boys were born, including Hugh

Morris, James McMillan and William Newton, whose wives and daughters will also figure in our story, and a second daughter, **Mary Lovell Shafter**, was born in 1822. Back to Oscar: his biography says he was distraught when his mother died of consumption on March 22, 1828, at 33, when he was only 14. Even as a man he was still emotional when he talked about her. The name "Mary" appears many times in the family tree. After Mary's death, William Rufus married Fanny Lovell, Mary's sister. After a few years she died also. Then on December 30, 1836 William married Eliza Spalding Jewett, who outlived him. Eliza had a brother named Payne which also was her mother's surname and this is probably the origin of Payne

Jewett Shafter's name. The second two wives did not have any children.

SARAH RIDDELL, OSCAR'S WIFE AND FAMILY

Next we come to Oscar's (the eldest son) wife, **Sarah Riddell** (occasionally written as Riddle), whom he married on September 20, 1841. She was born August 7, 1823 in Colerain, Massachusetts. She bore Oscar 11 children, 10 daughters and one son, Hugh, who died in 1855, when he was about 5 years old. This was during the time Oscar was in San Francisco establishing his law career and she and her children were still living in Vermont. Their oldest daughter **Emma Lovell** figures large in the story of West Marin and will be covered in a



Sarah Riddell Shafter.



Left: Mary Lauretta, Hugh Neal and Emma Shafter taken in 1854 or early 1855. Hugh died in early April 1855. Above: Sarah Maud Shafter Goodrich, painted in oils while expecting Elizabeth; some of her descendants, the Whitneys, reside in the Inverness area.

separate article. Another daughter was **Mary Lauretta**, born in August 1846. There were also three girls named **Alice Maud** who died before reaching 5 years old. Then, ten years later, after Oscar and Sarah were reunited in San Francisco, five more daughters were born: **Sarah Maud, Bertha Stewart, Eva Riddell**, and **Frances** or "Fanny," Another unnamed daughter died at birth. The stories of the other girls will be told below. When Sarah first came to San Francisco they shared a house with Trenor Park, her husband's law partner, and then they lived in various rented places. Finally in 1862, Oscar acquired land in Oakland and built a home for them. Oscar named the street in Oakland where he chose to develop and build his house, "Alice Street" after the several Alices who had died. The house was to be ready to move in on November 1, 1862. It was a large two-story house designed for both family and entertaining.

Sarah was a political wife both in Vermont, where Oscar ran several times for state offices, and for the U.S. Senate on the Liberty ticket, and later on the Free Soil ticket. Also, their home in Vermont was a stop on the Underground Railroad and he, and perhaps she also, were involved in the

abolitionist movement. In California Oscar served on the Oakland City Council and was active in California politics. He was elected as an Associate Justice to the California Supreme Court in 1864, which meant she was involved in California politics as well. When he became ill and had to resign from the Court three years later, Sarah was the chief caregiver. Her California born daughters were then 12 or younger and the eldest daughter Emma said she felt more like a mother to them than a sister. In 1870, Sarah took Sarah Maud, Bertha, Eva and Fanny to friends in Massachusetts where the girls went to school. Sarah took Oscar back east to Clifton Springs, a spa town in New York, in hopes that the location would help his health. He got worse and they, along with his doctor, started to travel abroad. They went to Paris, Germany, England, Scotland and eventually Italy. Oscar died on January 22, 1873 in Florence, Italy.

Sarah still had four young daughters to bring up. She and her daughters spent a few years in Dresden around 1874 along with the Fowlers and other family members, including Emma Shafter Howard and her family. (See below). In 1892, Charles Webb Howard created O. L. Shafter In-

corporated with himself as President and with Oscar's widow Sarah and four of their daughters as directors, **Mary Laretta Shafter Orr**, **Sarah Maud Shafter Goodrich**, **Bertha**, and **Eva**. His own wife **Emma Shafter Howard** was completely cut out of the company. He also persuaded Sarah to change her will in his favor (See Emma's story). Sarah died on September 22, 1900. In her final years she was living with her daughter **Bertha** on Broadway in Oakland. She was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland where her husband Oscar and daughter Fanny already had tombs.

Mary Laretta, Sarah and Oscar's second surviving daughter, moved with her mother and older sister to San Francisco in late 1855, when she was 9 years old. Since her father was well off, she had an easy life, first in San Francisco, and starting in late 1862, in Oakland where her father built a large home. She married John Kennedy Orr, of Irish extraction, on February 8, 1870, in Alameda and they were prominent in local society. Their home was in Berkeley. They had five children, **Frances "Fanny"** was born on November 29, 1870. Frances married Richard H. Holme, Jr. on December 30, 1893, also in Alameda, and they lived most of their lives in Denver. She returned to visit her mother and also to serve as matron of honor for her younger sister, Edna. There is no evidence that this couple had children. Frances died April 7, 1940 in San Francisco. **Mary Inde** was born in 1874, a son John Joseph was born in 1875, and **Sarah Margaret** was born in 1877. All three died of diphtheria during 1882. A fourth daughter, **Edna Shafter**, was born November 23, 1884. She and her sister Fanny featured in many stories of Oakland and Berkeley society parties -- both before and after their weddings. She was a maid of honor for her sister when she wed. Edna married Frederick George Christ in 1911 in a large society wedding. Shortly after Edna's wedding, in June 1912, her father died. Her mother died in 1921. The Christs were living in Lima, Peru in 1935 and he died there on November 10, 1942. Their one daughter **Mary Edna Christ** was born February 15, 1914 and married an Englishman, Richard Jeffrey Lockett in Lima, Peru on March 30, 1939. She died in Cheshire, England in 1998. Edna died January 22, 1977. Mary Laretta Orr was involved in Charles Webb Howard's company which excluded

his wife Emma. Mrs. Orr died in 1921.

The lives of the four daughters born after Sarah came to California run parallel for their girlhood and will be considered together, before branching out into individual histories. **Sarah Maud** was born November 15, 1856, **Bertha Stewart** on February 16, 1858 and **Eva Riddell** on March 10, 1861 all in San Francisco. They moved in late 1862 to the Oakland house where **Frances "Fanny"** was born in 1863. The girls were educated at home, but not with the rigorous attention that Emma, and to some extent Mary Laretta, received from their father. As their father's illness progressed their mother took them to Massachusetts to live with friends of hers there, a Mr. and Mrs. Fowler. The 1870 Census shows them all "At School" in Westfield, MA. Eventually they traveled with their mother and eldest sister Emma to Europe and stayed for a few years in Dresden. The Fowlers came along to help run the household and Mrs. Fowler became like a mother to the girls. Fanny died there on March 10, 1875, age 12. Her body was returned to Oakland to lie beside her father. The family returned to Oakland soon after that. All the girls were included in Charles Webb Howard's scheme to exclude his estranged wife Emma from any property inheritance, starting in 1892.

Sarah Maud married Edward Elizur Goodrich, 11 years her senior, on April 23, 1878 in Boston, MA. He was from a prominent family in New Haven, CT. The Goodriches were related to Noah Webster. He became a lawyer, but because of poor eyesight he did not practice law for long. The couple travelled extensively abroad and had five children together. The first daughter, **Florence** was born May 22, 1879 and died June 15, 1881. Their second, **Bertha Shafter** born July 12, 1880, married in 1906 and died in 1909 shortly after the birth of her child. A son, Chauncey Shafter was born in Italy on Sep-tember 19, 1881. A third daughter, **Elizabeth Ely** was born October 14, 1885 in Florence, Italy and a fourth daughter, **Frances Juliana Webster** born on May 18, 1887 in Lausanne, Switzerland. Elizabeth proved to be remarkable as did one of Frances's daughters. The family returned to California in 1891. Edward had bought an olive farm in the Santa Clara valley in 1882 and he and his wife retired there with their unmarried children. He died on April 22, 1920. She lived on

in Santa Clara, dying there on May 29, 1926. She was buried in the family plot at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland.

Elizabeth Ely Goodrich graduated from Vassar (about 1905) and attended both Johns Hopkins and Stanford Medical Schools. She became a medical doctor. On May 14, 1914, she married James Lyman Whitney and they both had medical practices in San Francisco area. Both went to C.J. Jung in Switzerland for analysis in 1926. When they returned in 1927, they began to practice as Jungian analysts. Jim had a serious illness in midlife and gave up his practice. He died on March 12, 1935. She remarried in 1939 to Dr. John Strong Ray Tatlock, a professor of English at University of California Berkeley. Dr. Elizabeth was active in the formation of the C.J. Jung Institute of San Francisco and various predecessor organizations. During her professional career she also bore and raised three children: Peter Dwight (born May 7, 1915 and died in May 1991); James Goodrich (born October 8, 1916 and died May 16, 1966); and **Frances Webster**, (born May 28, 1925 and died September 27, 1991). A tribute to her in a book outlining the history of the S.F. Jung Institute said, "She was "a wonderful listener and a wonderful analyst." She helped to keep the Institute together when different schools of thought threatened to pull it apart. She had a home in the country where she entertained both family and colleagues. [This is the house on Chicken Ranch Beach, Inverness, later owned by her son Peter.] She practiced until 1958 when she suffered the first of a series of strokes which left her increasingly mentally and physically impaired. She died on November 10, 1966 in Contra Costa County and was buried in the family plot at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland.

Frances Juliana Webster, married Maurice

Leon (1880-1952) on September 1, 1910 and they had five children together, three sons and two daughters. Elizabeth, was born May 1, 1914 and when she was 40 she married Ranson T. Taylor; they eventually divorced. She died September 5, 1993 age 79 at Chapel Hill, NC where she was living. She was buried in Durham. Frances and Leon



The Whitney cabin at Chicken Ranch Beach, which is located on former Shafter land.

lived in various places in New York State. Frances outlived her husband by many years, dying in Ojai on March 18, 1978.

Their second daughter, **Frances (Francine) Webster**, was born on August 6, 1917 in Irvington-on-Hudson, New York. She studied in France at the age of 15 and graduated from Vassar. She became an anthropologist, doing work on Chaco Canyon, NM, languages of Mexico, and many other areas. She died at the age of 91 in an Albuquerque residential facility. Her obituary said in part "She was a pioneer, expanding the frontiers of what was possible for women of her generation, as well as a teacher, and a faithful wife and mother." From her first marriage in Mexico she had three sons and five daughters, one of whom pre-deceased her. She later married Miguel Felipe Quintana and lived with him in Mexico as well. She died in 2009 in Albuquerque New Mexico.

To finish up the life stories of Oscar and Sarah's

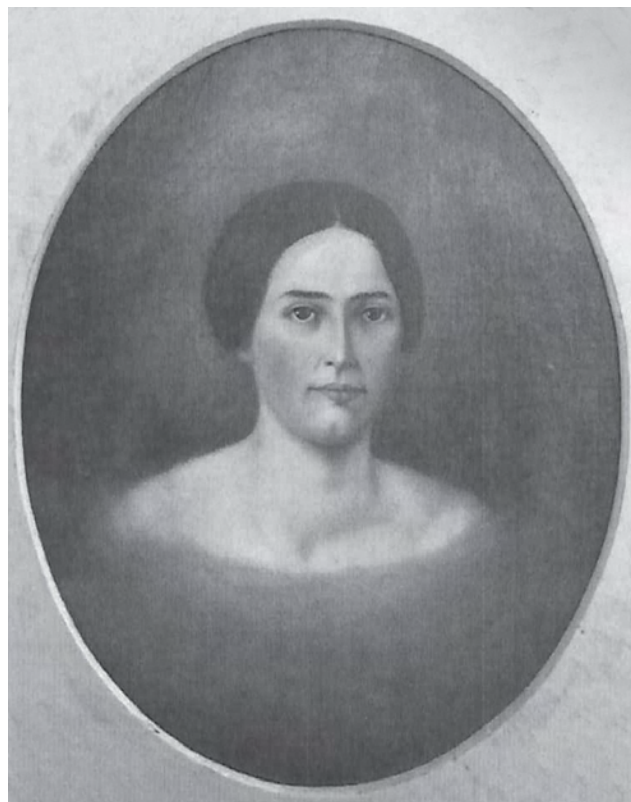
children, **Bertha Stewart** had a quiet life once she returned from Europe and was mentioned in society pages from time to time. In the 1900 Census she is shown living at 3701 Broadway, Oakland, with her mother, two servants and two boarders. Her mother died that same year. She travelled to Europe again several times. The 1930 Census shows her living in Pasadena, possibly because her sister Eva lived in the Los Angeles area. She lived on until September 18, 1949 and was buried in the family plot at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland. **Eva Riddell** eventually settled near Hartford CT and lived there for many years. She occasionally travelled to Europe, but not at the same time as her sister. She moved to Los Angeles toward the end of her life and died there on August 16, 1929.

ANN ELIZA SUMNER, HUGH MORRIS'S WIFE AND FAMILY

Mary Lovell and William Rufus Shafter's second son was Hugh Morris, born December 18, 1814. He married a local Vermont girl Ann Eliza Sumner and moved to Galesburg MI where his older sister, Wealthy Laurretta Shafter Ransom, already lived. They had one daughter **Ann Eliza**, born in 1837 and a number of sons. (See the exhibit for some information on this family.) They never came to California and we haven't done extensive research on this branch of the family.

JULIA GRANVILLE HUBBARD, JAMES McMILLAN'S WIFE AND FAMILY

James McMillan married **Julia Granville Hubbard** on October 28, 1845 in Montpelier VT. He was at that time serving as Secretary of State for Vermont. She was born September 11, 1824 in Montpelier, Vermont and was well educated. She attended Troy Female Seminary, founded by Emma Willard who thought that women should be as well educated as if they went to Yale. The book about Emma's school contains a profile of many of the graduates and Julia's indicates she graduated in 1838 and was interested in civil rights, women's rights, and the temperance movement. It says, "Indeed her life shone among her fellow women like a city set upon a hill." She was a political wife since her husband, in addition to the office mentioned above, served in the Wisconsin legislature. They had moved to Sheboygan, WI



Julia Granville Hubbard, James McMillan Shafter's wife.

about 1849. And he also served in the California legislature as well as being a judge in California. Their first son, Payne Jewett, was born on August 28, 1846 while they were still in Vermont. Their second son, James Oscar, was born on April 17, 1851 in Wisconsin. Another son, Chester Hubbard, was born on May 21, 1854. James moved to California in November 1855 and his family followed closely behind. Their only daughter, **Julia Ruth Shafter**, was born on January 2, 1859. Their third son died on May 3, 1863. At that time James was renamed Chester as his middle name instead of Oscar. Julia was determined her children would amount to something and took Payne and James back east to enroll Payne at Harvard and James at a preparatory school until he was ready to pursue his chosen career of medicine. However, she became ill and when her eldest son also became ill they all returned to San Francisco. She never fully recovered and died on Feb 11, 1871.

Her first son, Payne Jewett, married **Helen Severence Jackson** in 1876 and their honeymoon was to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, PA. Helen actually got acquainted with Payne's brother, James, first and they were very good



Far left, Helen Severance Jackson in 1876 when she married Payne Shafter. Left, her daughter Helen "Nellie" Shafter.

friends. But when it came to marrying she chose Payne. The year before Payne's father, James Mc-Millan Shafter gave him the elegant country estate "The Oaks" which he had built in Olema in 1869. Their first daughter, **Helen Julia**, also known as Nellie, was born in November 1877 and their second, **Mary Severance**, was born in February 1879. Payne and Helen raised their daughters there until it was time for Mary to go to high school. Nellie had been sent to Anna Head School in Berkeley when she was ready, but the whole family moved to Oakland when it was Mary's turn. The girls both went to Oakland High School. When high school was over the family wanted to move back to Olema, but the house had been leased so the family lived in Inverness until the lease ran out. Helen was very religious and did not want the girls to be influenced by the atmosphere her husband created at "The Oaks" (drinking, horse racing and other "vices"), so the women were frequently elsewhere. Helen died May 25, 1927 Alameda, age 75. After Payne died also, in 1934 the girls did not return to "The Oaks." A development syndicate sold the grounds to the Vedanta Society of San Francisco in 1946, but retained the house and about ten acres around it.

Nellie's biggest claim to fame was swimming across Tomales Bay from the east side to Inverness. When a young man tried it soon afterward he had

to be rescued about half way across. She married Lawrence Haines when she was about 40 years old and the couple lived in Berkeley. She died in 1967. As for Mary, she never married. She also was very athletic and a horsewoman. A newspaper article refers to her as captain of the freshman womens' basketball team at University of California, Berkeley. She eventually taught folk dancing and physical culture at the University. She taught dancing classes in Berkeley as well and wrote several books about dances of various cultures including one on American Indian dances. About 1962 Helen and Mary sold the remainder of the Olema property, a 10-bedroom house and about 10 acres, to Bill and Louise Watt, who then sold to the Vedanta Society. Both sisters died in 1967.

James had two marriages. While he was pursuing advanced medical studies in Germany, he married **Margarethe Lange**. When he arrived home the family did not take to her. Eventually James' father stepped in and arranged a divorce. Her brother, a sailor, decided that the family was persecuting his sister so he attempted to shoot Judge Shafter. He did not succeed and the divorce went through, effective 1888. The couple may have had a child, Leonie or Lottie, but the evidence, other than a letter from the child addressed to "Papa" hasn't turned up yet. Later James met **Frances Rock** who was a concert pianist and on 17 February 1908 he

married her. There is no evidence of any children or of a divorce, but they were living separately when he died.

Julia Ruth was born on January 2, 1859 in San Francisco. When her mother died in 1871 she was only 12 years old. Her father and older brothers were not sure what to do with her so she was sent to Mills Seminary preparatory school in Oakland. However, she was miserable there. Her much older cousin, Emma Shafter Howard came to visit and decided that she should take Julia along with her on a planned visit to Germany. James approved and Julia lived with her cousin in Dresden for several years. Her brother James, also in Germany, at one point decided, with father's permission, to enroll her as a student at a small girls' school there. This did not last long but Julia became quite fluent in German. When she returned home she took over the management of the Chestnut Street house and was acknowledged as an excellent housekeeper. In February 1889 she married Alexander Fisher "Jack" Hamilton, who was of German extraction and already a friend of her brother, Payne. Their only child **Bertha Shafter Hamilton** was born November 10, 1889. When Julia's father died in 1892 the court appointed her as the executrix of his will. Much has been written about her valiant efforts, sometimes with the help of her brother James and without help from her eldest brother, Payne, to clear the estate from claims. This process will not be reiterated here. Although apparently rich (the newspaper reports of his death listed his estate as over \$1,000,000), James had mortgaged all his property so extensively that by the time it was all paid off there was almost nothing left. One of her advisors in the process was Henry Brainerd of Petaluma. In the course of this research it turns out that he was a cousin by marriage. Julia's husband was not much help. He preferred to spend his time with his brother-in-law, Payne, drinking and gambling. She was living at Bayside Ranch (the house still stands about half way between Inverness and the Paradise Ranch Estates road) with her daughter. She established a school in second floor of her stables and Bertha and many other children attended there. It was damaged in the 1906 earthquake. About 1905 the *Oakland Tribune* paid her the following tribute, "She is proof that women in business are often as capable as the

ablest men of affairs." She also had to continue borrowing to keep the ranches afloat. On October 4, 1929 she borrowed another \$144,000. The bank foreclosed just after Black Friday. She and her daughter moved to San Francisco, where Julia died at the Sutter Hotel on June 24, 1936.

Bertha, without any siblings and frequently without a father (either because he was absent or because he died in 1923), was a lonely child and spent most of her time with her mother. She continued the fight to make ends meet and maintain the ranches. She also borrowed money shortly before her mother died. When the bank foreclosed, she was left with only control of the Inverness Waterworks. Her main advisor was Henry's son Herbert Brainerd of Petaluma. Again the saga of the waterworks is well covered in Jack Mason's works so will not be repeated here. Bertha eventually moved from San Francisco to Berkeley and died there on June 9, 1975.

WILLIAM NEWTON SHAFTER'S WIFE AND FAMILY

Elizabeth (Betsey) H. Lapham was born in July 1827 in Greenfield, New York and married William Newton Shafter in Sheboygan, WI on May 30, 1853. He had gone there following his brother, James McMillan, who had established a successful career there. They had three children: **Mary Jane** born in 1854, William Oscar born in 1858 and **Julia Lawrence**, born in 1860. By 1871 the family had moved to Point Reyes and William and Elizabeth and the two girls were settled at the Home Ranch (originally established by a cousin John Dean Shafter). Their son lived in San Rafael and was listed as a surveyor. After her husband died Elizabeth and her daughters moved to San Francisco. The 1910 census lists Julia as an accountant but no occupation for Elizabeth or Mary Jane. Around that time the girls bought a house in Pacific Grove. Elizabeth died there on April 14, 1910. Neither girl married. Julia died in San Francisco on January 2, 1923 and Mary died in Pacific Grove in 1926. The records for the son stop around 1900. There is no evidence that he married or had children.

MARY LOVELL AND FAMILY

Mary Lovell Shafter was born on June 23, 1822, and was the last child of **Mary Louisa Lovell** and

Continued on page 13

EMMA LOVELL SHAFTER HOWARD

by Meg Linden

EMMA LOVELL SHAFTER HOWARD was born on August 26, 1842, the first child of Oscar Lovell and **Sarah Riddell Shafter**, in Wilmington, VT. The stories written about her usually focus on her fixation with her father (sometimes she wrote her name as Emma Shafter-Howard rather than Mrs. Charles Howard) and her unhappy relationship with her husband. This story will focus on other aspects of her life and on her children. Her first sister **Mary Laurretta** was born when Emma was about 4 years old. Her father started corresponding with her on October 2, 1852 when he was in Newfane, VT. He says that "it is time that you commenced a systematic course of reading. I have bought a large library for the benefit of my children, and when I come I will select such books for you as I think it will be best for you to read." He also suggests that she keep this first letter he had written to her.

She lived through the death of three younger sisters, all named **Alice Maud**; as well as the death of her only brother, Hugh Neal, who lived only 5 years. She accompanied her mother **Sarah** and sister, **Mary Laurretta**, (all that was left of the family) on the voyage, via Panama, to San Francisco, arriving there in November of 1855 when she was only 13. The family lived in various rented places. By the time her father built a home for his family in Oakland she was already married.

On December 22, 1861 she married Charles Webb Howard, eleven years her senior and someone her father had business associations with. They lived together in rented housing until 1866 when they built a home in Oakland on property they had been given by her father. Her mother and

she were both pregnant at the same time – she with her first child and her mother with her next to last child, "Fanny." Emma's first child, Oscar Shafter Howard, was born February 3, 1863 when she and



Emma Shafter Howard as a Grand Dame.

Charles were still living in a little house in San Francisco. Oscar soon became known as just "Shafter." Her major "entertainment" during this time was the Ladies Samaritan Association at the Unitarian church. At this point she was not a success as a socialite and avoided parties as much as possible. On December 23, 1864 a second son was born, named Theron, for Charles' father and brother. He died of whooping cough in early 1867. In 1866 they moved to Oakland and lived in a small cabin on her father's property while they built a home of their own next door. Shortly before Theron's death a daughter, **Maud**, was born to them on

February 10, 1867. More on Maud later. In her diary Emma mentions that if she had the vote she would not be equal to deciding whom to vote for. She would vote as her husband told her to do. Later on her views on this changed. A third son, Karl Shafter, often called Fritz, was born December 13, 1868. Their fourth son, Frederick Paxson Howard, was born on October 8, 1871.

As her father became more and more infirm of body and mind, Emma was involved in the decisions for his welfare. After her father died, Emma ended up in Dresden, Germany for several years with her own family, her cousin Julia Ruth Shafter, and her mother and little sisters. She had hoped that Charles would stay abroad also, but his business interests took him back to California shortly after they arrived. They returned to California in

1875. A fifth son, Harold was born on January 23, 1878. He had mental problems which manifested throughout his life and he spent most of his adult life in mental institutions.

Emma spent a lot of time traveling with her family as well as a lot of time in their Oakland home at 1206 Alice Street. Relations with her husband were sometimes idyllic and other times fraught with tensions. Eventually they separated and in 1890 a final separation agreement was reached whereby Charles agreed to pay her \$750 per month for life and if he died first, the Bear Valley Ranch would be hers and vice versa. However, in 1892 Charles incorporated O.L. Shafter Company with himself as President and directors including Sarah Riddell Shafter, Emma's mother and four of her sisters, Mary Orr, Sarah Goodrich, Bertha and Eva Shafter. Emma was entirely cut out. She was not aware of this until Charles died.

As she became older she became much more social. In "Point Reyes West," Jack Mason says that her house (she retained the Oakland home) was a "luxury hostel for celebrities and well-to-do encountered on her travels. To be invited to one of her Sunday afternoon receptions was to have 'arrived' socially in Oakland." She also became active in several organizations. In 1899 she represented California at an international conference in London. This led to her founding the Women's Horticultural and Agricultural International Union, which later became known as Women's Farm and Garden Union of London. In 1900 she founded the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural Union of California (WAHU). This was a hybrid trade group and women's club with statewide reach. Emma was the first Vice President of the group. Members, including Emma, became active in the suffragist movement. She was a life member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, along with her son Karl and her daughter Maud. In 1903 she was elected vice president of the Alameda County Political Equality Society. In 1911 the California Suffragist Conference minutes mention that the Amendment League of Oakland was busy getting votes for the woman's suffrage amendment and that Mrs. Howard was active in the movement.

Back to her personal story. In 1905 she sold the house on Alice Street in Oakland and spent some

of her time in Inverness in a small cottage she and Karl had built in 1904. However, Inverness proved too lonely and she moved to an apartment in the Regillus, 1760 Pacific Street, San Francisco and lived most of the rest of her life there. She rented an office in the Mills Building where she worked on various activities including saving the Redwood Sempervirens from destruction and her involvement with the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural Union of California. When Charles died in 1908 she found out about being left out of the assets of the estate. He had left her the W (Bear Valley) Ranch but nothing else. She sued successfully for one-half of the assets. The court ruled that it was community property. However, this caused further estrangement from her children and in part from her younger sisters as well.

In 1915 she was named Honorary Vice President of the Women's Board for the Panama Pacific Exposition. She also undertook to have published a volume of her father's letters and excerpts from his diaries as well as biographical material. She hired Frances Loughead to complete this project. In "Point Reyes West" Jack Mason says that one of her last excursions was by ferry to Oakland, with her nurse, to visit the grave of an old family servant, Anna Robert, whom she describes frequently as "my oldest friend." She died on July 27, 1916 in San Francisco. Local obituaries stress her family history, but the one run in the Quarterly of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association called her, "A woman of unusual ability and strong character ... with the greatest interest in everything connected with the advancement of women and particularly in the club and educational work of the state ... to her 'Cooperation' was the watchword."

Her son Shafter went to Harvard and got a B.A. there in 1885. He married twice, although we have no detail about wedding dates or even the maiden names of first Mary and later Olive. He lived in New York and various other places. He was a composer of sorts, mostly popular songs and vaudeville pieces. Shafter did make much of himself as is clear from the last part of Maud's story. His mother, during her lifetime frequently bailed him out. He died in Santa Barbara California August 16, 1942.

Her daughter, **Maud Shafter Howard**, was sent



*Emma Shafter
Howard's house on
the Inverness Mesa,
seen shortly after it
was damaged by the
1906 earthquake. It
was later destroyed
by fire and rebuilt in a
different style.*

to boarding school when she was about 13. Her brothers, except for young Harold, were also sent to such schools. However, Maud was miserable. She was overweight and gauche and did not fit in with the society girls at the school. When she came home she did learn social skills and was active in local society. She also spent lots of her time traveling, especially in Europe. She built a house in Inverness on the same lot her mother had a house, which burned down. Maud's house also burned down. She also participated in suffragist activities, although whether this was on her own initiative or at the urging of her mother, is not clear. After her mother died, Maud sued her brothers. As Dewey Livingston describes it in "Ranching on the Point Reyes Peninsula," she was vexed that her brother, Fred Paxson Howard, presumed to "live on, use and have income from that particularly choice ranch," especially when – as she claimed – he refused to account for the income it produced. Maud, who had been living in Europe on a family allowance, "wanted out" of the family combine and offered her share of Point Reyes to her brothers for \$100,000. Two of them lived in the east: Harold was in a mental institution, and Oscar Shafter Howard, a composer of sorts, lived at the Lamb's Club in New York City. Neither objected, but Fred, who was president of the family corporation, did. Maud hired a young

San Francisco lawyer, Jerome B. White, and sued her brothers to force a partition of the Point Reyes holdings. Maud won the lawsuit, and the family members sold their interest in the land individually to millionaire San Francisco brewer John G. Rapp for a total of about \$400,000. Rapp quickly sold off the ranches on the Point, but kept W Ranch and after Fred Howard left, set to work making the Bear Valley Ranch into a modern 20th century dairy farm. In 1940 her brother Shafter, age 77, requested \$500 monthly from the \$500,000 estate of his sister Maud Shafter Howard. Maud had been declared incompetent in January 1939 and a San Francisco bank was guardian of her estate. Shafter said that he was without means of support and that his sister would have provided for him if she had been of sound mind. The reporting of the suit referred to her as a wealthy Burlingame, CA, socialite. The outcome of this suit is unknown. By 1952 Maud was in a nursing home to which the court had committed her. She died there on October 10, 1952. Her niece, Alice Shafter Gilchrist, Fred's oldest daughter stepped forward to administer her substantial estate.

Her third son Karl Shafter, also known as Fritz, never married. He stayed fairly close to his mother and among other things he built a cabin in Inverness with her, planting a little orchard around it. He also ran some mines near Nevada City and

he died there on July 5, 1907 at age 28. The funeral services were held at his mother's apartment in San Francisco.

Her fourth son, Frederick Paxson Howard had the most normal life. He worked for his father at the Spring Valley Water Company for many years. He married **Adeline Mills Taylor** on February 8, 1893 and they had five children. Edward Paxson Howard was born Feb 14, 1894 and died in 1942; **Adeline Easton Howard** was born in 1897. She married Guy Gilbert Gilchrist on 26 April, 1919 and died in 1963; **Louise de Fremory Howard** was born in 1901 and married Mr. Bucquet. She died in 1955. Next came Henry Huntley Howard, born in 1903 and died in 1997. He provided Jack Mason with extensive family history and also a transcript of Emma Howard's diary. Their final child was Theron, born 1906 and died 1964. Fred, as he was known, was the most loyal to his father and for many years would not even let his mother see her grandchildren. He is the only one who had children. In 1899 or 1900 Fred moved to the

Bear Valley Ranch and spent his days there as a "gentleman farmer," near where his cousin, Payne Shafter maintained the same life style. See Maud's entry for the final outcome of this situation. He died April 5, 1942 in Marin County.

Her fifth son, Harold had mental problems as mentioned above. He lived in many places including New York and Newport, RI. The 1913 Harvard Alumni Directory lists him but does not specify the year or whether he got a degree. He died in a mental institution in Wellesley, MA on June 13, 1959.

Although Emma Shafter Howard did not live the life traditional for her times of contented wife, homemaker and mother, she did have a long and interesting life and made contributions to the "emancipation" of women. She certainly was remembered by her grandchildren, one of whom, Henry Huntley Howard, paid to have her diary transcribed. The diary was very helpful in preparing this story, which also used many other sources.

Those Shafter Women

Continued from page 9

William Rufus Shafter. She was almost 8 years old when her mother died. Her father remarried her aunt Fanny so the transition was perhaps not as difficult as it might have been if her stepmother had been a stranger. She married Dr. Philip Henry Edminster on February 26, 1845 in Cornish, NH. They soon moved to Newfane, VT where their children were born. William Shafter was born July 3, 1846, then **Jessie May** on August 10, 1849. A son James Henry was born on December 22, 1852 and died before the end of the year. Another son, James Lovell, was born June 9, 1852. Her husband died July 28, 1856. In 1865, according to Emma Shafter Howard's diary, "Aunt Mary Edminster and her children Jessie and Jimmy" came back from the east coast with her. Eventually Mary moved to Analy in Sonoma County California. She lived there with her younger son James Lovell. She died there on April 9, 1892 and was buried at Cypress Hill Cemetery in Petaluma.

Her daughter **Jessie May Edminster** became a music teacher. She married Henry Warren Paine

Brainerd on August 10, 1873 in Petaluma. He had been born in Cornish, NH. He moved to Petaluma after the Civil War in which he had a part. Henry served as an advisor to his cousin Julia Shafter Hamilton in all her financial transactions. They had two children. **Maud Shafter** was born February 1, 1875. Maud also became a music teacher. She married Tullius A. Strobbridge on January 19, 1907 and died February 20, 1966 at age of 91. There is no evidence of children from this marriage. Jessie and Henry's son, Herbert Kittredge Brainerd, was born August 18, 1884. He was the principal advisor to Julia's daughter Bertha Shafter Howard. In July 1912 he married Myrtle Nell Healy. They had two sons. He died on October 21, 1965 in Mill Valley.

Our research has taken us from Mary Lovell Shafter through both of her daughters and all four of her sons' wives. It also covered her grandchildren and in some cases her great-grandchildren. This is not the final story. More remains to be learned about the various branches of this family, especially the grandsons' wives and daughters. Perhaps a project for another day to bring each family line down to the present.

Camping under the stars at Inverness

An excerpt from Dewey Livingston's upcoming book about Point Reyes and Tomales Bay

TO GET INVERNESS OFF THE GROUND, James McMillan Shafter hired Cyrus H. Street, a relatively inexperienced real estate agent with offices on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. Street published Bush's survey map with the headline, "INVERNESS—THE NEW SUMMER AND WINTER RESORT." He didn't stop there: "The Brighton of the Pacific Coast—Yet Possessing All the Picturesque Beauties of the Highlands of Scotland." The accompanying brochure offered a special sort of respite: "A Select and Quiet Home For the Summer. No Rough Picnics or Noisy Crowds Allowed...NO LIQUORS Sold on the Grounds."



An early tent camp at Inverness.

Bay Area newspapers covered the new endeavor. "It is heralded as a summer resort," reported the *Marin Journal*, "but it is equally attractive and advantageous as a home for the year round." Shafter offered "remarkable inducements to educational institutions to locate there," in one case reportedly offering a hundred acres and a \$25,000 endowment to a Presbyterian Theological College to locate in Inverness. (Both Shafter and agent Street were Presbyterians.)

Mr. Street came up short, failing to sell enough of the lots even at auction, and was fired by Shafter. His tactic had been to invite large groups, such as church members, for a picnic lunch and tour, perhaps an overnight campout. This led to an early tradition of buyers setting up a sometimes-elaborate camp on their lot and to build later, and some families rented their vacant lot for camping. The church groups did supply able buyers, with—according to local legend—the Presbyterians settling in First Valley and the Catholics in Second Valley. (Another tale has it that the treasurer of one of the church groups "absconded" with the subscribers' money, but Shafter "let them have the lots anyway.")

One of Street's excursions in the early summer of 1889 was recorded in the *Sausalito News*, which

referred to the new development as "the Presbyterian colony on Tomales Bay." On a Saturday, 135 people filled five NPCRR coaches (fare \$1.50 from San Francisco) and arrived in a nascent Inverness on a variety of conveyances—some being farm wagons lined with hay—pulled by "seven large and several small teams." They were fed and then, back in the carriages and wagons, shown the hotel site and taken to the "Camp Inverness" in Second Valley. Here they found at least twenty tents abuzz with activity. "The camp practices total abstinence and high or low liquor license does not disturb the serenity of the minds of its members. They all manage to enjoy themselves and have a good time."

The dry state of Inverness did not go well with all. "Said a Scotch gentleman on the ground: 'It weel be hard ta da without a wee drap o' Hieland whisky in Inverness.'" Of the liquor ban, the writer explained the naming of the new town and opined, "What would the good old Scotch folk in the old country say if they heard this?"

At the camp the residents had named their spots as was popular at the time. "Dolce Far Niente" claimed a banner above five "very pretty" tents whose residents were "most comfortable and pleasantly fixed for several weeks to come."

A toothless cow skull greeted visitors to the Carington's Pioneer Camp with its "bevy of young ladies," while the cohort of ten at Camp Pinafore down by the beach enjoyed three hot meals a day "and all the delicacies of the season are liberally supplied and liberally consumed." That camp, whose password was "Why?," had a resident cat and horse. One camp had a "culinary department" overseen by Mr. Wong Sing. Most of the "Merry Campers" hailed from San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

Of the many participants named in these 1889 articles, some stayed on and built cabins or houses. Thomson, Bigelow, Jackson, Bellman and Dempster are among the families swayed by Street's ballyhoo and stayed for generations. Dozens of other families, seeking "Inverness, the Restful...where Nature's harp is attuned in the sweetest accord, where life is refreshed with the balsamic odor and rustle of the pines, the soft sea air" (typical enticements in a brochure) found a lasting and loved place for rest, camaraderie and recreation.

The following year a small number of houses were built but the camps flourished with hundreds of summer tent residents. "A restaurant is now conducted there in first-class style by Mr. Street, Jr.," reported the Sausalito News, "[and] a clam chowder stand is also a novel feature of the resort..." In 1891 the proprietor of the Nicasio Hotel leased "the famous Inverness camping grounds," according the Daily Alta, "and will spare no pains and means to make this one of the loveliest pleasure resorts on the Coast." The camps also spread into First Valley, where a huge buckeye shaded gatherings in a large meadow, site of today's firehouse. Vina Jackson wrote to Jack Mason that church services were held under the vast tree: "We youngsters enjoyed church because we could climb up in the trees and 'sit in the gallery.'"

During the 1891 season, a noted Second Valley gathering spot was "Happy Camp," operated by the Barton and Montague families. As the San Francisco Call reported that July,

All the usual camp amusements are being indulged in, rowing, sailing, bathing, fishing, driving, berrying, and last, but not least, "dancing in the barn," where, in honor of the glorious Fourth, a grand ball and entertainment was given, to which the neighboring campers were invited.

The floor was under the direction of Mr. R. D. Barton, who, with Miss Eliza Montague, led the grand march, and a most enjoyable time was had.

The Bartons built a unique two-story house on their Aberdeen Way lot, while the Montagues bought numerous neighboring parcels and built at least three houses in Second Valley, one of which remains in family ownership after five generations.

James McMillan Shafter died four months after this renewed incitement for Inverness real estate, and shortly after two people snapped up larger tracts, including the former hotel and park grounds and acreage in the southwestern part of First Valley. These transactions to Kate Johnson and Alex Baily let some pressure off of the heirs. Payne remained for a short time before selling out to his sister. Shafter's daughter Julia Shafter Hamilton took over the real estate end and found her life's work, whether she wanted it or not.

Dewey's Book Update!

THE MUSEUM'S HISTORIAN DEWEY LIVINGSTON has been studying and writing about the history of the Point Reyes area for more than three decades. For the past two years he has been writing a definitive book to be published by the Jack Mason Museum.

The update is, please be patient! The task is taking more time than anticipated--just ask any writer about that--and so the book is behind schedule. Now in two volumes, the first now due in Spring 2019, covers the history of our area up to around 1915, including the Miwok and Mexican periods, American pioneers and creation of farms and ranches, development of the towns, the coming of the railroad. The second volume covers the time since, using many voices that tell firsthand of their experiences and stories about family, work, play and what life was like in our beloved area generations ago.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to this project, donations of any size can be mailed to the museum at P.O. Box 94, Inverness, CA 94937. Please write your check to "Jack Mason Museum" with "Book fund" in the memo line. Thank you!

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P. O. Box 94
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Also see the Inverness Foundation's website, and be sure to join if you are not a member! The IF is the Jack Mason Museum's parent organization.
www.invernessassociation.org

The Museum has a new website:
www.jackmasonmuseum.org.
Check it out!



Those Shafter Women

A New Exhibit open December 2, 2018
through March 31, 2019
during Inverness Library hours

Join us for an open house reception
on Sunday, December 2 from 1-4 pm.