

1850-01 Mokelumne City

Summary (from historic landmark): NO. 162 SITE OF MOKELUMNE CITY -

Established in 1850, its prospects were bright. The second largest town in the county, it had deep water communication with San Francisco all year round, an advantage not possessed by any other town in the county except Stockton. The floods of 1862 destroyed the town.

<https://www.californiahistoricallandmarks.com/landmarks/chl-162>

Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mokelumne_City,_California

In the news:

The Sacramento Bee Fri, Aug 26, 1859 ·Page 2

It appears there is quite a commerce carried on between Mokelumne City and San Francisco. Mokelumne is situated at Benson's Ferry, has been surveyed, and many of the lots sold. Within a week, as we learn from the Alta, five vessels... left the Bay with hardware, etc., for Mokelumne, returning freighted with lumber and country produce.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624038420/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Sacramento Bee Mon, Jun 18, 1860 ·Page 2

US Mail Line – The summer schedule. Smith & Wilson's line will leave Sacramento City daily (Sundays excepted), via Lake House, Buckner's Ranch, ... Wood's Bridge, and Mokelumne City, at SIX o'clock, A.M., connecting at Stockton, with Stages for the above named places.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624037137/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Daily California Express Thu, Jan 31, 1861 ·Page 2

Green C. Palmer, who killed John A. Benson [of Benson's Ferry], and who was tried two or three times and finally acquitted, committed suicide by taking strychnine, on the morning of 26th inst. ["instant" means of the same month], near Mokelumne City. Vengeance has at last overtaken the slayer.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/697127034/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Daily California Express Mon, Feb 25, 1861 ·Page 2

Canal near Woodbridge. Possible construction of a canal 23 miles long to connect Woodbridge with the San Joaquin River. There is a fine road from Mokelumne City and Woodbridge to a portion of the mines, at all seasons. It is thought that the construction of a canal will be cheaper than removing the obstructions in the Mokelumne.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/697127212/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Daily Appeal Sat, Mar 02, 1861 ·Page 2

Mokelumne City is 8 months old and boasts of 28 houses.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/834181295/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Petaluma Argus Tue, Mar 19, 1861 ·Page 2

In Mokelumne City the putrid sore throat is prevailing to an alarming extent.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/218114718/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Santa Cruz semi-weekly sentinel Thu, Mar 21, 1861 ·Page 3

Several children have died of the putrid sore throat in Mokelumne City.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1100871992/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Nevada Journal Fri, Mar 22, 1861 ·Page 2

Possible improving the navigation to Mokelumne City, which is described as having woodlands whose value would stagger the belief.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/848825103/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Daily Miner-Transcript Wed, Mar 27, 1861 ·Page 2

Citizens of Mokelumne Hill are clearing the Mokelumne River of snags to make the river navigable by steamboats as large as those that now run to Stockton.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1096024340/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Daily California Express Mon, Apr 08, 1861 ·Page 2

Freshet at Mokelumne City. The whole country around Mokelumne City was inundated by the recent storm, to the depth of 3 – 5 feet. The first floors of many of the buildings were flooded, with inmates resorting to the second story. Everything on the landing was carried away, so sudden was the rise.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/697127396/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Daily California Express Mon, Apr 08, 1861 ·Page 3

Desperado named Nick Long shot a man at Michigan Bar in Amador County, dared the crowd to lay a hand on him, then robbed four Chinese men, and is believed to be on the road to Mokelumne City.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/697127397/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Daily Appeal Sat, Apr 13, 1861 ·Page 3

Mokelumne City is “looking up,” with frequent arrivals of vessels from San Francisco, and is assuming a prominent position as an *entrepot* at the head of the navigation of the Mokelumne River. MC is bound to vie with her more aristocratic sister of Stockton.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/834182043/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Sacramento Bee Thu, Apr 25, 1861 ·Page 3

Mrs. Green C. Palmer marries A. Veach at Mokelumne City [Mrs. Palmer was allegedly the reason Green Palmer shot D. Staples, then took his own life].

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624041661/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

The Sacramento Bee Wed, May 15, 1861 ·Page 4

A very discreditable quarrel between two clergymen of the Methodist Church North and Methodist Church South over the Sunday School library leads to both ministers being fired.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624041863/?match=1&terms=%22mokelumne%20city%22>

Facebook:

Attempt to raise money to replace historic plaque marking Mokelumne City

<https://www.facebook.com/californialandmarkfoundation/videos/replace-stolen-state-historical-plaque-162-site-of-mokelumne-city/1132783617378637/>

Historical Marker Database:

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=244935>

Ghost Towns:

<https://www.ghosttowns.com/states/ca/mokelumnecity.html>

Tinkham:

- Liberty township was created at the request of many residents in that section in June, 1861.' As the territory then was all allotted the new township was carved out of the northern portion of Elliott. The only town is Acampo. There was a town founded and prospered for a season called Liberty, but the establishing of a railroad station at Mokelumne City ruined the after prospects of Liberty.
- [Stockton's first passenger train from Sacramento] It was a great event, as it linked Stockton with the East in bands of steel. The excursion train was to have arrived at Stockton at 12 o'clock, but it was delayed at Mokelumne City nearly one hour and a half, hundreds of excursionists jumping off at the little village believing it was Stockton. This was not very complimentary to this city, but it indicated how ignorant the general public were of the size of California's towns before the coming of the railroad... Two days later Stockton's first railroad excursion took place, the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school going on a picnic to Mokelumne City.
- San Joaquin County . has had several of the villages, some are forgotten, some are but skeletons of their former self, and some linger along hoping for a revival of the days of "49". Clements, Lockeford, Waterloo, Liberty, Elliott, Mokelumne City, New Hope, Collegeville, French Camp, Linden, Woodbridge, Banta, Atlanta are all towns of the past, post road towns built up and maintained by the staging and teaming of the early days and the farming community. Now staging and teaming is dead and the farmers no longer require community centers, for they ride to town on the steam or traction cars, or sail over the roads in their automobiles.
- In 1857, according to Thompson's history of San Joaquin, Stephen H. Davis of Stockton, sailed a sloop called the Mary Bowers up the Mokelumne River to its junction with the Consumnes River, at Mokelumne City. He there established a lumber yard and building three sloops they sailed up and down the river from San Francisco to Mokelumne City. George P. Taisen purchased one of the sloops in 1860 and he continued running the vessel, but the other schooners were taken off.
- Probably not one pioneer out of one hundred ever heard of Mokelumne City, and but few persons today could tell its location and yet when it was founded, near the junction of the Consumnes and Mokelumne Rivers, its prospects were bright as the second largest town in the county, for it had deep water communication with San Francisco all the year round, an advantage not possessed by any other town in the county except Stockton. Parties began moving there in 1850. In

August of that year the town was surveyed and many lots sold to individual parties for homes and business purposes. During one week five schooners arrived, loaded with groceries, hardware and lumber. "Schooners were constantly arriving with goods," said a writer in the spring of 1860, "and the town is increasing in size wonderfully, and several brick and wooden buildings have been constructed." In August, 1861, the town, included twenty-three houses and a hotel, erected by George Keith at a cost of \$5,000, with lots selling in price from \$600 to \$1,000 each. It was a town of just ten years of history, for all the inhabitants then moved to Lodi.

- 1869, J. R. Allison built a stable and he and W. Jacobs established a stage line from Mokelumne City [through Lodi] to Mokelumne Hill, the line making connections with the railroad.

Lodi Historical Society newsletters:

- [How Lodi Derived Its Name](#) – Spring 1990. This issue with many photos describes the Pioneers' thinking about changing the town name from Mokelumne to Lodi in 1874. The second article outlines the Big Fire of 1887, which started at a planing mill at the northeast corner of Pine and School Streets.

San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum newsletter:

- Summer 2016 The Native Peoples of San Joaquin County: Indian Pioneers, Immigrants, Innovators, Freedom Fighters, and Survivors
<http://sanjoaquinhistory.org.c25.sitepreviewer.com/documents/HistorianSummer2016.pdf>

Find A Grave:

John A Benson <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31584616/john-a-benson>

Edna Kimsey Benson Pemberton

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31584594/edna-benson_pemberton

Edward P Gayetty, son-in-law of John and Edna, accused of domestic violence

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/240117782/edward-p-gayetty>

California Historical Landmarks:

<https://www.californiahistoricallandmarks.com/landmarks/chl-162>

Buy a Mokelumne City t shirt:

https://www.hometownapparel.com/towns/california/mokelumne-city/mokelumne-city-california-classic-established-mens-cotton-tshirt/navy/838464/A1?path=29821_31204_127204&ink=WT&srsId=AfmBOopwvHXfS3JczCU_JqCNNXTyWJt_Pmu7oLg-BBD90DluE3SF8NEI