

1856-01 Lone Star Mill

Summary (from Mrs. Lou M. Locke's account in 1920): In the early 1850s, B.F. Langford built a sawmill at the Benedict ferry, north of Victor. In 1854 Hodge and [David S.] Terry removed the sawmill to the present site of the Lone Star mill [Stillman L. Magee Park], building a mill and store, which burned July 1856, and was rebuilt of stone at the present site north of and close to the Clements bridge. The first load of wheat was ground at the new mill in March 1857.

(from historical marker) A sawmill built in 1852 on the Mokelumne River was removed to Hodge and (David S.) Terry's ranch in 1854 and a flour mill attached the following year. The mill burned in 1856 and was rebuilt on its present site as the Lone Star Mill.

No contemporaneous record is found of the sawmill. The relationship between the Lone Star Flouring Mill and the Lone Star Quartz Mill upriver is unclear; at the time they both are associated with the "Texas Company" so news of both are included in this document. It seems unlikely that this "Texas Company" was a root of today's Chevron Corporation, formerly known as Texaco, [which did begin in California](#).

The Hodge who co-founded the mill was either [Elijah Hodge](#) or [Henry Hodge](#) or as described in an 1866 advertisement, John Hodges.

David S. Terry, a violent, ambitious man, is extensively documented in California history.

Today, the Lone Star Mill site is [Stillman Magee Regional Park](#), which has a picnic area with a sandy kayak launch on the Mokelumne River and overnight camping (no hookups).

Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lone_Star_Mill_\(San_Joaquin_County,_California\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lone_Star_Mill_(San_Joaquin_County,_California))

National Park Service: The Broderick-Terry Duel

On September 13, 1859, Terry shot and mortally wounded United States Senator David Broderick in a duel

<https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/historyculture/broderick-terry-duel.htm>

- David Colbreth Broderick was born in 1820, the son of an Irish stone cutter. In 1846, after an unsuccessful attempt for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, he moved to California's Gold Country to seek his fortune. After achieving business successes in minting and real estate, he became a member of the California State Senate from 1850 -1851. In 1857, he was elected a Democrat to the United State Senate at a time when the Democratic Party of California was sharply split in two, between the pro-slavery group and the "Free-Soil" advocates. Broderick was staunchly opposed to the expansion of slavery and worked closely his political friends, including Leonidas Haskell, to support the anti-slavery movement.
- David S. Terry was a Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court and an advocate of extending slavery into California. Having previously stabbed a political member in 1856, Terry was man known for his hot temper and tendency toward violence. Although Terry and Broderick had been friends, when Terry lost his re-election because of his views on pro-slavery, he blamed David Broderick for his loss. At a party convention in Sacramento in 1859, Terry gave a searing speech, attacking Broderick and his antislavery stance. Broderick responded to Terry with an equally unflattering statement and as tempers flared, Terry challenged Broderick to a duel.

<https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/historyculture/broderick-terry-duel.htm>

Museum of the City of San Francisco:

June 21st, 1856 David S. Terry, Judge of the Supreme Court, stabs Sterling A. Hopkins of the Vigilance Committee Police in the neck

<https://sfmuseum.org/hist10/shopkins.html>

The duel resulted in post-mortem martyrdom for Broderick and aroused such a hatred for Terry in San Francisco that he was forced to retire to Stockton.

<https://sfmuseum.org/hist6/broderick.html>

Wikipedia:

The scandalous end of David C. Terry

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Althea_Hill

In the news:

Amador Ledger Sat, Dec 15, 1855 ·Page 2

After frightening a group of Native Americans by running their horses toward them, writer describes the Texas Quartz Company, who were building a mill they intended to be operational by Spring 1856. Other men were building a road and bridge. After climbing rocks for about an hour, the writer and companions reached the Lone Star Quartz Mill. Mr. Wade, from North Carolina and one of the proprietors, gave them a tour.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/912642189/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

San Andreas Independent Sat, Jan 17, 1857 ·Page 4

The Lone Star [Quartz] Mill, aka the Texas Mill, is described as being a Calaveras County mill on the Mokelumne River. The mill is nearly ready for working the rich gold-bearing veins with one of the best water privileges in the State.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/905450819/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

The Daily California Express Wed, Jan 09, 1861 ·Page 3

Strangely, a miller working in the Lone Star [Flouring] mill on the Mokelumne River was caught on the shoulder by a small upright iron shaft, and in an instant his clothes were torn from his body even to the tearing of soles of his boots. He was not in the least injured.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/697126870/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

Weekly Calaveras Chronicle Sat, Mar 10, 1866 ·Page 3

For sale – the well known Lone Star Flouring Mill, situated in San Joaquin County at the Hodges & Terry Ranch, Mokelumne River. This mill has two runs of French Burr Stone, with an extra Corn Meal Bolt; is 26 by 43 feet, 2 stories high, with store house 42 by 64 feet, and engine house an office 26 by 39 feet, 1 story high, all substantially built by

stone, with walls 2 feet thick. Built in 1857 by John Hodges and last year thoroughly overhauled by one of the beset millwrights in California at an expense of over \$2500. [This ad continues running until March 1867.]

Feather River Bulletin Sat, Oct 13, 1866 ·Page 3

Dissolution of partnership between H.C. Bidwell and Mayer S. Aschheim regarding the Lone Star Quartz Mill.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/154774108/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

The San Francisco Examiner Mon, Jan 20, 1868 ·Page 2

Good land ruined -- A considerable area near Lockeford has been covered with fine white sand, varying in depth from 2 to 15 feet. The levees built to protect the land have washed away. [Later the sand was explained to be a consequence of the upriver stone crushing.]

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/460962659/?match=1&terms=lockeford>

Feather River Bulletin Sat, Feb 04, 1871 ·Page 3

The Lone Star [Quartz] mill, which had not been operating from a lack of water and other causes, has started up again.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/149977125/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

Feather River Bulletin Sat, May 22, 1875 ·Page 3

The Lone Star [Quartz] mill will have steam power attached.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/162360146/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

The Valley Review Wed, Nov 29, 1882 ·Page 5

A new stage route lies along the north bank of the Mokelumne to Mackville, crossing at the Lone Star Mill bridge and through Clements and Lockeford to Stockton.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1140753411/?match=1&terms=%22lone%20star%20mill%22>

The Record Sat, May 15, 1920 ·Page 50

Mrs. Lou M. Locke recounts early Lockeford history: In the early 1850s, B.F. Langford built a sawmill at the Benedict ferry, now the Wood's place, north of Victor. In '54 Hodge and Terry removed it to the present site of the Lone Star mill, building a mill and store, which burned July 1856, and rebuilt of stone at the present site north of and close to the Clements bridge. The first load of wheat was ground at the new mill in March 1857.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609935734/?match=1&terms=%22locke%20house%22>

Stillman Magee: A Clements pioneer

Lodi News-Sentinel Aug 18, 2012

https://www.lodinews.com/features/vintage_lodi/article_83e28b6c-baee-50c4-92bb-c5f777c82703.html

Tinkham:

- Mr. Hansel worked in the sawmills in Nevada until 1866, when he came to San Joaquin County, returning to Nevada each summer for the following three years to work in the sawmills, and coming back for the winter to Clements. In 1896, he settled down for good here, and he has ever since resided in the northeastern part of the county. At Lockeford, on December 15, 1869, he was married to Miss Martha Ellen McDowell, who was born on June 20, 1850, near Van Euren, Ill., the daughter of Jesse F. McDowell, who had married Elizabeth J. **Hodge**. Mr. McDowell was born in Columbia, Adair County, Ky., on November 18, 1819, his parents being Jacob and Agnes McDowell, both natives of Virginia. In 1840, he migrated to Hillsboro, in Montgomery County, Ill., where he plied his trade as a carpenter for a few years; and then he farmed at Van Buren, Ill., until 1852. In that year, he crossed the untracked plains and settled in San Joaquin County, and for a while continued to work at his trade.

- In 1870, Mr. Hansel helped Mr. McDowell to build a fine two-story stone house on the ranch at Mackville Corner; and since it then cost about \$5,000, it was rightly regarded as one of the best residences in that section of the country.
- Clements, the most northeasterly town in the county, was founded by Thomas Clements, the biggest hearted and most generous man in that section of the country. The present site of Clements and adjoining bottom lands were purchased by him in 1871 from David S. Terry, and in 1872 Clements located on his ranch. Terry obtained this particular piece of property in 1850, the bottom lands along the river being some of the richest soil in the county. Terry came to this ranch after his release from "Fort Gunnybags" by the San Francisco Vigilance Committee for the stabbing of Hopkins, and he there practiced pistol shooting just previous to his duel with Senator David C. Broderick. At this time the traveled road ran along the river bottom to the ferry, and in 1854 Terry and a man named Hodge established a flour mill on the flat and called it the Lone Star Mill, Terry naming it after Texas, the Lone Star State, his birth place. The mill is said to have continued in operation until 1885 under the management of S. L. Magee. The only house in that section for many years was the Poland House built by George Poland on the well traveled road to Mokelumne Hill.
- David S. Terry, whose name will appear many times in this work during the first thirty years, was a young, hot-headed, blustering southerner from Texas. He was a firm friend, and a good hater of an enemy. His first duel was of the Damon and Pythian order, being willing to sacrifice his life on the altar of friendship. In the spring of 1850, Dr. W. D. Aylett, E. L. B. Brooks, Dr. Richard P. Ashe, Samuel A. Booker, William D. Fair and George G. Belt were all close friends in Stockton, together with a Dr. Roberts of Mexico, who professed to be a physician and surgeon. George G. Belt, who at the time was the proprietor of the Hotel del Mexico, learned by some means that Dr. Roberts was masquerading under a false name and was in fact a noted bandit and horse thief. Belt, believing- he was doing his friend Terry a kind act, told him of the character of the so-called Dr. Roberts alias Yeomans. Terry immediately denied the charge. This was equivalent to telling Judge Belt that he was a liar, a traducer of Terry's friend, and immediately Belt challenged Terry to a duel. The time, the place and the weapons were named, the duel to take place at daylight in the southwestern part of the town. Unfortunately the only definite account of this affair, so important in the history of the state because of the future prominence of Terry, is from the writings of James A. Woods, the pastor and founder of the First Presbyterian Church. He had just arrived in town the day previous with his family and was residing at the Dickenson House on Center Street. As early as "four o'clock in the

morning the people of the Dickenson house, where we were lodging, were excitedly moving about getting ready to attend the "Field of Honor." Through the cloth partition he could hear them talking about the anticipated duel, and he came to the quick conclusion that there was a great necessity for a Presbyterian Church organization. The large crowd gathered on the spot expected to see blood shed for both were brave men, and good marksmen. The bystanders however were disappointed as the seconds of Terry succeeded in showing him that Roberts was an impostor, and that he has been too hasty in calling Belt a liar. The duel was called off, and the two men shaking hands, resumed their former friendship. Terry became a Supreme Judge of the state, was imprisoned by the Vigilantes of San Francisco, for stabbing Hopkins. The slayer of Broderick, then the leader of the Democratic party, Terry was shot and killed in 1889 in the Lathrop Hotel by Naglee, the bodyguard of the United States Supreme Court Justice, Stephen J. Field.

- [Terry ran unsuccessfully to become the first mayor of Stockton] Stockton's first mayor was the most notable officer ever elected to that position, because of his characteristics and general attainments. He was the exact antithesis to his opponent, David S. Terry. Born in New York of Knickerbocker stock in 1819, he was well educated and graduated as an architect. He came to California in 1849 and locating in Stockton, engaged in business with Captain Sparrow. Terry was born in Kentucky in 1827 of fighting stock, his mother being a sister of the notorious Shelby and Jackson Smith. Orphaned at thirteen years of age, Terry went to Mississippi to reside with an uncle, then governor of that state. He was captain of the Texas Rangers in the fight of that state for her independence, and in command of a company of immigrants that came to California in 1849. Purdy was well educated, not only along architectural lines, but in science, music, painting, sculpture and other avenues of art. Terry had no education except in the law and took no interest in things of beauty. Purdy was handsome in feature, with full side whiskers (the fashion of that day), physically well-formed, neat and fashionable in dress, a good dancer, and an Adonis with the female sex. Terry was slouchy in dress, always wore the broadbrimmed Southern style of hat, physically a giant in build, heavy and clumsy in action, always avoided the female sex, although married. Following his wife's death, however, he met and married the notorious Sarah Althea Hill, who later was the cause of his death. Purdy was a leader in society, a patron of fine arts, the opera and the drama, a high liver and a jolly fellow among men. Terry kept aloof from society and had but few friends. His duel with Broderick may have been the cause of his lack of sociability, for men as a rule shunned him after that event. He was pointed out to

strangers as the man who killed Senator Broderick. Purdy was polished and gentlemanly in manner, soft in speech and slow and deliberate in his actions. Terry was abrupt and boorish and oftentimes insulting in speech. Purdy loved children and they admired him. Terry apparently never noticed children, and they avoided him, although he was the father of seven children.

- A two-story brick school was erected in 1877 [in Clements] on the upland about a quarter mile from the town. It was built by the cooperation of citizens. S. L. Magee deeded the land, Thomas Clements gave the brick from his brick yard, and other public-spirited men subscribed the money to purchase other building material and hauled it free of cost from Stockton.

Lodi Historical Society newsletter:

- [Volume 13. Number 3 Early Clements](#)

San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum newsletter:

- Bulletin No. 5, Volume No. 1 June 21, 1965 Pioneer Influence in Clements We are told that Judge Terry bought machinery and other equipment from B. F. Langford who had a sawmill on the banks of the Mokelumne near Lockeford. Langford had planned to use the river to transport logs and lumber, but the idea didn't work out. When the venture failed he was glad to sell to Terry and to personally supervise the construction of a flour mill. Langford added to machinery on hand by building equipment at a machine shop in Stockton to complete the new industry for Terry.
<http://sanjoaquinhistory.org.c25.sitepreviewer.com/documents/HistorianOS1-5.pdf>
- Vol. 4 No. 3 1970 Judge David S. Terry
<http://sanjoaquinhistory.org.c25.sitepreviewer.com/documents/HistorianOS6-3.pdf>
- 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:

- David S. Terry <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6823201/david-smith-terry>
- Descendents of Elijah Hodge
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/222936920/elijah-hodge>
- Stillman Look Magee
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45155895/stillman-look-magee>

Historical Marker for the Lone Star Mill:

<https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/Detail/155>

Historical Marker for the Mackville Road Bridge at Lone Star site:

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=151208>

Comment on Facebook:

“I believe that the old flour mill was located at the north west side of town and was demolished 10 or so years ago for a ranch housing development. The old brick-in-ground water storage was filled in and now a house is on top of it, across the highway from Mackville.”

<https://www.facebook.com/californialandmarkfoundation/posts/california-historical-landmark-0155-lone-star-mill-a-sawmill-built-in-1852-on-th/627223661253254/>