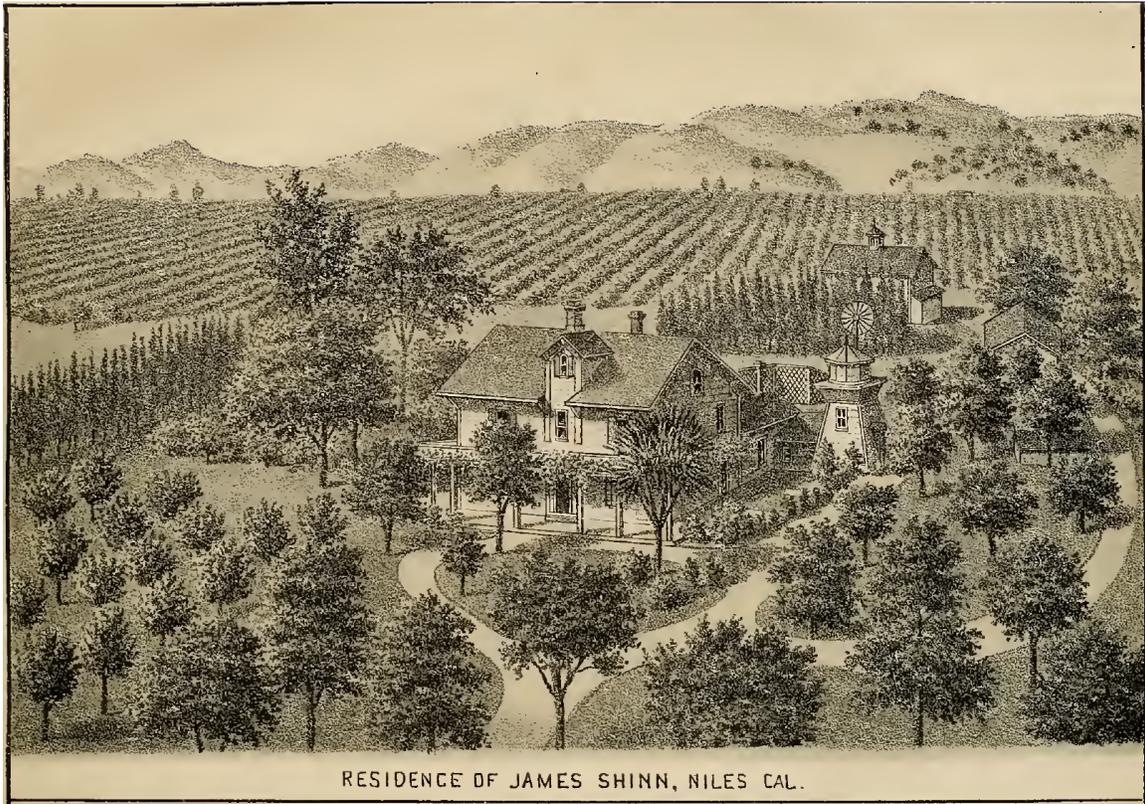


# THE STORY OF THE SHINN RANCH

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The story of the Shinn Ranch presents an interesting mixture of ordinary and extraordinary history. In many ways it was a typical early farm in Alameda County and yet this ranch made original contributions to the development of horticulture in the region and it also “produced” family members whose achievements were significant. The ranch was continuously farmed for 110 years by three generations of a family who had a keen interest in their own history and the history of their community. As a result, this history is well documented and the family decided to donate the houses and four and a half acres of land to the City of Fremont so that some of the common and uncommon history of this place would be preserved for future generations.

### THE JOURNEY WEST

James and Lucy Clark Shinn came to Niles in 1856 to manage the 150-acre ranch that Lucy’s oldest brother Dr. Joseph Clark had purchased. Their arrival in Niles was the culmination of a westward journey that had begun before the Gold Rush in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when their families along with thousands of other Easterners moved into new Western territories, such as Ohio and Illinois, and ultimately came to California. Neither Shinn nor the Clarks tried their hands at gold mining, but they pursued business and farming interests in California as they had in the earlier places where they had lived and in a sense struck gold in the rich California farmlands.

James Shinn’s ancestors were Quakers who came from England in 1677 and established a settlement that became Burlington, New Jersey. In 1803 James’ Grandfather and Father moved to Westland, Pennsylvania and in 1804 they crossed the Allegheny Mountains with a group of Quakers and settled in Columbiana County, Ohio. They started a town that they named “Salem” after Salem, New Jersey, built a flour and grist mill and were active in the Friends’ Meeting established there. James Shinn (1807-1896) was born at Salem, educated in primitive schools in a Quaker environment and married Mary Sebrell at Lexington, Ohio in 1828. In 1840 they moved to Platteville, Wisconsin to prospect for zinc and lead and Mary died there in 1845, leaving three children. At the end of the following year, 1846, James married Lucy Clark (1826-1916), whose family had come to Platteville in 1842 from Connecticut, via Illinois and Iowa.

The Clarks were from Farmington, Connecticut, believed to descend from John Clark, one of the original settlers of Cambridge, Mass. in 1632. Abraham Clark was born in Farmington in 1780 and in 1809 married Milicent Washburn, who was descended from two passengers on the Mayflower: Francis Cooke (Hester Mahieu) and James Chilton. In 1830 they moved to New Haven where their oldest son, Joseph (1813-1878) was attending Yale. But in the fall of 1831 Abraham left with a group of families who were relocating to western Illinois. Joseph eventually graduated from Yale Medical School in 1837; went into medical practice in Illinois, Iowa and then moved to Platteville which was across the Mississippi River not far from Dubuque, Iowa, in about 1842 with his brother Dennis, who went into business there, his parents and his four sisters, Mary, Jane,

Anne and Lucy, effectively acting as head of the family. In 1850 Dr. Clark left Platteville and went by wagon train to California; he went into business in Georgetown and then brought out his wife, Jane Wells Fessenden, in 1852 and lived in San Francisco; his mother and sister Jane came around 1854, the other sister, Mary, having died in 1845, and Anne having married Rev. John Holbrook and moved to Chicago. His brother Dennis married Mary Caroline (Carrie) Hubbs in Portland, Maine and came to California in 1852 but only stayed two years before returning to live in Portland. Abraham chose not to go to California, and instead spent his last days in Chicago with Anne, where he died in 1855. His wife, Milicent Washburn Clark, died in San Francisco in 1863.

James and Lucy Shinn left Platteville about the same time as Dr. Clark and initially moved to Tennessee in 1851 and then to Texas in 1852 before coming to Niles in 1856, joining Lucy's family in California to manage the ranch that Dr. Clark had recently purchased from William Sim. The fact that Texas was becoming a pro-slavery state did not sit well with James Shinn's Quaker principles and so he may still have been looking for a suitable place to farm and raise his family. There weren't any other Shinn relatives who were headed to California, but the stimulus for the move came in the opportunity provided by his brother-in-law Dr. Clark who had bought the Sim land and wanted to assist his sister and her family to join him in California.

James and Lucy arrived in Niles with two small children who were born in Round Rock, Texas: four year old Charles Howard (1852) and baby Anne Holbrook who was born on May 16, 1856. On August 16, 1856, Joseph Clark received a deed for the land from Sim and also executed an agreement for eventual ownership by James and Lucy Shinn, so they must have traveled soon after Annie's birth. According to most accounts, they came by ship and across Panama, but some thought they came overland because of a claim that James Shinn's name is recorded at the El Morro National Monument "Inscription Rock" in New Mexico. Either way, it would have been a difficult journey! Milicent was born at Niles in 1858, followed by Joseph in 1861; the last child, Lucy Ellen, was born in 1863 but she died at age 10.

Lucy's sister Jane married Edmund Sanford in San Francisco in 1858 and they had a son, Edmund, born in 1859 and a daughter, Martha in 1861. At some point the Sanfords settled in Oakland where Edmund operated a pharmacy at 10<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. They lived at 13<sup>th</sup> and Clay Streets and they were close friends with their Niles cousins and over the years the Shinn children stayed with them for extended periods when they attended schools in Oakland or Berkeley.

Milicent later wrote about her Grandfather Clark that he was known as "the most perfect Puritan in San Francisco." He did not resume his medical practice in California, but was active in various business ventures and the First Congregational Church. In 1862-63 he served one term in the State Legislature. "From the time when he learned his catechism beside his mother's spinning wheel in a Farmington farmhouse, and guided his blind grandfather every Sunday to his seat in the Farmington church, through all his school and college life, his medical practice in the wild West, and his long business life in San Francisco, he was a boy and man of peculiarly blameless life and character." Dr.

Clark died in San Francisco in December 1878. He had two children who survived to adulthood: Lucy, who married Henry Tichenor; and Joseph who had a daughter named Luella Clark.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE RANCH AND NURSERY

The Shinn Ranch was a small part of the huge acreage of Mission San Jose, founded in 1797. After Mexican independence from Spain in 1821 there was pressure to disband the missions and the land was subdivided into various land grants, one of the latest of which was 30,000 acres granted to Andreas Pico by Governor Pio Pico in 1846. In 1849 early Mormon settlers Beard and Horner purchased some of this land from Pico and in 1852 William and Eliza Sim bought land along the Alameda Creek from them. Sim had built a cottage on the property from lumber salvaged from a schooner that had been abandoned in the Bay during the Gold Rush. James and Lucy and their five children lived in this small house for 20 years until the "Big House" was built in 1876. [Description of the boundaries of the ranch property]

The Mission Lands covered most of the East Bay and there were extensive orchards, vineyards and vegetable gardens and thousands of cattle, horses and sheep. But disease and war decimated the Indian population and the European population remained small. The Mexican American War (1846-48) and the Gold Rush drew huge numbers to California; by 1852, in less than a decade, the European population had exploded from 15,000 to 200,000 and California became a state in 1850. When gold mining began vegetables and fruits were sold at exorbitant prices. According to The History of Washington Township "The first record of fruit-raising in Niles was in 1856 when William Sim had a few peach trees in bearing.... There was great demand for the fruit and it sold for a dollar a peach. Mr. Sim, fearing he might be robbed, set his man to watch the tree at night, but in the morning the man and the peaches were gone!"

James Shinn continued the fruit propagation experiments that had been started by Captain Sim and planted the first and largest orchard in Alameda County. Over time, with successful harvests, he added more land to his ranch. In 1870, in partnership with Dr. Clark, Shinn established one of the earliest nurseries in the area. In a letter on New Year's Day 1874 he wrote:

"I am extremely busy. This is the season for selling trees. We are digging up thousands, and sending to various places. We filled two railroad cars very lately, entirely with trees, about 6,000 in each car, to go to different towns and then be distributed. We sell trees mostly 2 years old, and as we planted out first 2 years ago, we are now selling our first. But we have a great many of 1 year old, which will wait one year more. And shell set out this winter 60 or 80 thousand young ones."

They were the first in the county to import trees and plants from abroad, especially Japan, among them special varieties of peach and mandarin orange; some of the original specimen trees are still growing on the land. Instead of an illustrated

catalogue, the nurseries in Japan sent water color paintings of their plants to show what they looked like and many of these survived and were distributed to the cousins when the house was closed around 1970. A rice paper scroll has also survived, which served as the bill of lading for a shipment of trees and plants from Japan around 1880.

At this time there was a large barn, a packing shed and a blacksmith shop. The packing shed was a drive-through building used to unload wagons hauling fruit and vegetables from the orchards and fields. The produce was then packed in crates and shipped to market. When they were operating both the nursery and the fruit ranch, they had a large work force of Chinese laborers. The foreman lived in a room above the packing shed. The workers had their own cabins on the ranch.

In 1888 the Shinns closed the nursery. James Shinn was at that time over 80 years old; his son Joseph had taken over the management of the ranch and most of the land had been developed as fruit and almond orchards. Turnbull and Beebe of San Francisco bought the entire nursery stock and opened a packing yard near the depot, making this their distribution station.

In 1904, the ranch was described as follows: "Two hundred and sixty-five acres comprise this ranch of which one hundred and fifty acres are under fruit, cherries, apricots, with prunes and almonds predominating, while a small peach orchard, and a grove of oranges, lemons, and apples, combine to make as representative and satisfactory an aggregation of fruits grown in the state as can be found anywhere in Alameda county." By this time a valuable sand and gravel pit had also been developed in the creek bed and a spur of the Southern Pacific had been extended onto the grounds for shipping purposes.

Joseph Shinn (1861-1947) stayed actively involved in running these operations until the end of his long life. In 1905 he married Florence Mayhew (1880-1971), whose father, Harrison Mayhew (1835-1908?), was descended from Governor Thomas Mayhew, an original settler of Martha's Vineyard in 1641. Harrison was born in Martha's Vineyard and came to California in 1854, working with his brother in a grain business at Mayhew's Landing in Washington Township. In the late 1860s he settled at the southwest corner of E. 12<sup>th</sup> St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, in the area of Oakland known as Brooklyn. Brooklyn was incorporated as a separate town in May 1870, and Mayhew was chosen as the first President of the Board of Trustees of the new town. Soon thereafter, in 1872, the residents voted to be annexed into the City of Oakland; so Mayhew was no longer an elected official, but he maintained his residence there until 1882 when he bought a 218 acre ranch near Niles, known as Sulphur Springs Farm. The ranch served primarily for raising cattle and horses, and also had orange, almond and walnut groves. His daughter Florence was born in Oakland in 1880 but grew up on her father's ranch and lived in Niles for the rest of her life.

[more on the ranch in 20<sup>th</sup> century]  
THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

The Shinn family always placed a great emphasis on the importance of education. Both James Shinn and Lucy Clark grew up in somewhat frontier conditions: James in the new Quaker community of Salem, Ohio, and Lucy in western Illinois and Iowa, although her oldest brother, Joseph, had benefited from the more established schools of Connecticut, including Yale. We have one letter that Lucy Clark Shinn wrote remembering one year she had spent at a private girl's school when she was 16, indicating her regret that she had not had more education:

“I was at Monticello during the years 1841 and 42. Then went home intending to return and graduate but was unable to do so.... Monticello was planned to be a second Mt. Holyoke and was run on these lines for a time. Each girl had the care of her own room and did her own washing and ironing. The care of the school room, recitation rooms, halls and stairs was shared by all. In this way the school was within reach of many who could not otherwise have attended.

I had the pleasure of saving the building from burning once, having discovered smoke in the chapel and given notice in time....

It was a great privilege to be a pupil at Monticello and I have always been thankful for it, only regretting that I could not finish the course. My name on catalogues was Lucy E. Clark.”

Toward the end of her life, around 1910, she wrote:

“I have been requested to write something on the question of the day – female suffrage. My first thought was that I was too nearly done with the affairs of this world to have it a matter of concern to me. But after all when one has children and grandchildren they can but feel a deep interest in this question. In my view the vote of the women will have a great influence upon schools. I have known times right here when the polls were kept open all day for an election of school trustees and not more than two or three votes [were?] polled. I heard the remark made once that an auction sale of pigs would bring out more people than a school election. Can you imagine the mothers forgetting such an election? Or voting for a bad man when there?”

In 1861 Lucy wrote to her brother, Dennis, in Portland, Maine, describing her children:

“Charlie 9 years old has never been to school but is a pretty good scholar.... Annie, 5 years old this spring, reads very well and learns 4 verses in the testament and a little hymn every week to say at Sabbath School. Milly, 3 this spring, has not much to boast of in the way of literary acquirements. She has learnt a number of verses and texts from hearing the others read and repeat them and bids fair to have a good memory and I have made up my mind that a retentive memory is after all the thing that makes the difference between those children who learn and those who do not. I hear Annie's and Charlie's lessons each day and shall before long have quite a school, don't you think?”

. In 1874 Annie Shinn is listed in the business/resident directory as teaching at the Alice Street School, and living at the Sanfords'; the following year she is listed as teaching at Lafayette School. At some point she also studied art at the Mechanic's Art Institute in San Francisco – and young Joseph Shinn at that time was going to school in San Francisco, both of them probably living with their Uncle Dr. Clark.

In 1876 both Annie and Milicent were students at the University of California which had moved to Berkeley in 1873; Anne was set to graduate from the university in 1878, but she became ill and died in January, 1878. Her classmates put a notice in the Oakland Evening Tribune: “In her death we suffer the loss of an enthusiastic and gifted student, an unselfish classmate and friend, whose character in its beauty and grace might well lend inspiration to many lives.”

After completing high school Milicent also taught school for two years before entering the university. James wrote to her in 1875, empathizing with the difficulties of being a teacher:

“I have taught such schools as you now have until I was quite sick of them. Perhaps half a dozen little numskulls of both sexes trying, or rather not trying to learn the alphabet.... Do you find any difficulty in keeping order in school? I always found this difficult, whilst your Mama as a teacher, as you may suppose – was noted for her good government – mild, firm – steady.”

Joseph entered the university about 1878, but after only one year, as his aging Father's health was failing, he was compelled to return to Niles to manage the ranch. It was always a matter of regret to him that he had not been able to complete his college education. His wife, Florence, was able to pursue her studies, and graduated from U.C. in 1900 (?) and after their marriage in 1905, as their children came along the tradition of home schooling continued at the Shinn Ranch, this time largely under the tutelage of Milicent who took an active interest in her nieces and nephews. We have several surviving exercise books and other educational materials which Milicent developed and used at the ranch that were later borrowed and used in the 1920s by yet another generation of great-nieces and nephews.

#### CHARLES HOWARD SHINN 1852-1924

Charles Howard Shinn, the oldest of James and Lucy Shinn's children, worked over his lifetime in a variety of activities that reflected his interests in horticulture, forestry, California history, writing and publishing – at times pursuing all of these simultaneously! He learned about plants and trees growing up on the ranch and working with his Father in the nursery. During the 1870s he worked as a schoolteacher in various counties around the state, from San Luis Obispo to Shasta, and then worked for several years as a journalist for the San Francisco Call Bulletin and the Commercial Herald and was sent on writing assignments throughout the old mining country. He contributed articles to other publications as well; became editor of the California Horticulture

magazine in 1878; and published his first book in 1879: Pacific Coast Rural Handbook, “Containing a series of brief and practical essays and notes on the culture of trees, vegetables and flowers, adapted to the Pacific coast. Also, hints on home and farm improvements.”

In 1882 at the age of 30, Charles decided to resume his college education. He followed Daniel Coit Gilman, his former teacher from the College School in Oakland, the precursor of the University of California at Berkeley. Gilman was the first President of U.C. and subsequently he moved to Baltimore and became the first President of Johns Hopkins University in 1876. As an older student and experienced writer, Shinn was accepted at Johns Hopkins as a special student and permitted to do graduate studies although he was only a candidate for a bachelor’s degree which he received in 1884.

Shinn was part of a small group of students of history and political science at Hopkins whose mentor was Prof. Herbert Baxter Adams. Adams led a seminar where he asked the students to investigate the “Institutional or Economic History of their own section or locality.” Based on Shinn’s experience writing newspaper articles on California mining communities and teaching school “in the autumn of 1878...in a little mining camp of Trinity County” he decided to write a paper for the seminar on local government in the mining districts, which he later expanded into the book Mining Camps. A Study in American Frontier Government, published by Scribner’s in 1885 (and re-published by Alfred Knopf in 1948 and by Harper Torchbooks in 1965). While at Hopkins he also wrote on other California history topics, including “Cooperation on the Pacific Coast” about early communal colonies in the state.

In the Spring of 1884 Shinn went to New York seeking newspaper work. His classmate, Woodrow Wilson, wrote to his fiancée: “I never knew a man who seemed more plainly cut out for journalism than he, and I am quite sure that with half a chance he could make for himself a very solid reputation in editorial circles in a comparatively short time. Above all things else, Shinn is versatile, and it is just that quality that makes the brilliant journalist.” He did find work and impressed Wilson by being able to pay his expenses in New York solely from his earnings as a journalist.

At the end of 1884 Milicent asked Charles to return and help her run the Overland Monthly magazine. Charles wrote to Wilson on December 15: “Time is precious. I’m going to Cal. soon, to see how I can help my sister best.... As soon as I read the rest of my book-proof I shall start... Things happen in a marvelous way for me. I don’t know what the outcome of this journey will be – but I think it will do some good in many ways – and I shall gratify my dear mother.” The story of the Overland Monthly properly belongs to Milicent, but Charles did serve for several years as Business Manager of the magazine while he continued to write articles for various other publications and made his residence in Berkeley.

In July 1888 Charles Howard married Julia Tyler at the First Congregational Church on Clay Street in Oakland. (Footnote on weddings: George Maar was an early pastor there and his son Frederick later married Julia’s sister May W. Tyler at the first

wedding that was held at the old Congregational Church in Niles in 1891. The Maars were close friends of the Mayhew family and Rev. Fred Maar conducted the marriage ceremony when Joseph Shinn married Florence Mayhew in 1905.)

Julia T. Shinn (1868-1956) was born and raised in Nortonville, one of the coal mining towns near Mt. Diablo that no longer exist, but are memorialized in the Black Diamond Regional Park. Her maternal grandfather, George Worth (1809-1904), came to San Francisco from Nantucket in 1850, opened a store in Marysville and then returned to Nantucket in 1852 and brought out his wife and five children. He joined other Nantucket friends in Martinez where he became a county judge and established a ferry to Benicia. The Worths were descended from the earliest settlers of Nantucket, as well as Mayflower passenger John Howland and were related to Benjamin Franklin through his mother's Folger family. Julia's father, Asher Tyler (1832-1923) came from southern Michigan in 1852 to join his brothers in the gold rush instead of going to West Point as he had originally planned. He met the Worths in Martinez and married Sarah Worth (1841-1888) in 1862 when he was superintendent of a coal mine at Nortonville. By 1880 the coal mining was no longer economic, since better quality coal from the East was reaching California by train and so the Tylers moved to Oakland, living not far from the Sanfords on 11<sup>th</sup> St. Julia graduated from Oakland High School in 1884 and taught school in Oakland before her marriage.

The Overland Monthly was never a financial success and Charles Howard Shinn probably needed to find more remunerative employment once he was married. Another area of interest to him had always been the subject of forestry. Upon his death in 1924 another forester claimed that: "Sitting at the feet of his father in 1862, Charles, then a boy of 10, heard that forward looking men declare that, at least, one-third of our land should be in tree growth 'for the public welfare.' From that time on his interest in forestry was a definite thing and quickened with the years...[!!]" As early as 1878 we find that Charles Shinn spoke on forestry before the Chit-Chat Club of San Francisco. That same year he also wrote a number of editorials which appeared in leading California papers, advocating the 'perpetual preservation and State control of the forests of the Coast Range and the Sierras, so that forests might be systematically used according to sound principles of forestry.'"

In 1890 Eugene Hilgard, who had started the Agriculture Dept. at the University of California and who also founded the University Agricultural Experiment Station, hired Shinn to be inspector of the experiment stations – four farm and two forestry stations – a job he held until 1902 when he went to the Sierra Forest. He and Julia had moved to the house in Niles soon after their marriage (hence the "honeymoon suite") and their daughter Ruth was born there in 1890. Presumably he "commuted" up to Berkeley as well as traveled around to visit the experiment stations. This was well before forestry was actually first taught at Cal in 1914, but he gave lectures in forestry and was an early advocate for the university to establish a forestry department. During this time he also continued his freelance writing for magazines such as Sunset, Out West, and Land of Sunshine. He wrote The Story of the Mine (1896) about Nevada's Comstock Lode (later republished by the University of Nevada in 1980), Graphic Descriptions of Pacific Coast

Outlaws, a pamphlet about Alameda County Sheriff Harry Morse (early 1890s, reprinted by Westernlore Press in 1958) and even a promotional brochure by the developers of the Adams Point neighborhood in Oakland.

The December 1924 Sunset article on the occasion his death said: “Very early in life, while working in his father’s nursery, young Shinn acquired that love for trees which became the ruling passion of his life. Like millions of other youngsters, however, he chose a vocation that separated him from his life’s greatest interest. He became a teacher. But he did not stay a teacher. Finding no happiness in the work, he turned to journalism. For twenty years, he wrote news items, stories, poems, sketches and articles that were published in papers and periodicals throughout the country. Many of them dealt with forestry, then a new subject. But still Shinn was not wholly satisfied. Therefore, when the Bureau of Forestry was organized to look after the new forest reserves set aside in the Far West by Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt, Shinn gave up the literary position he had created for himself in 20 years and sought to connect himself with the new forestry bureau. He succeeded. He became head forest ranger for the Central California reserves, a kingdom of mountain forests in the Sierra Nevada. Now he was working with and among the great trees of the virgin woods at all times. He was completely happy.”

The Joseph Henry Jackson introduction to Mining Camps (1948) says “It was about this time that the word ‘conservation’ came into the public vocabulary. Gifford Pinchot was spreading the gospel everywhere, and in the middle 1890s Shinn was made a member of the National Forest Commission.” He says he and Julia became caught up in the crusade to save the forests, along with Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt.

From Sierra Centennial: “But in 1902, the state cut off funding for the stations and at age 50, the graying and balding Shinn found himself out of work. Casting around for employment, he managed to finagle a 3 month position, studying a proposed east side addition to the Tahoe Forest Reserve. As part of that assignment, Shinn obtained permission to take his wife along as an unpaid assistant. [Ruth may have remained at Niles] Once in place at Lake Tahoe the two found the work both interesting and rewarding ... Not long thereafter, he heard about a possible job opening on the sprawling Sierra Forest Reserve....” Julia later recalled “Frankly, Mr. Shinn pulled every possible string, and in time won an appointment as [the first] ‘Head Ranger’ of the Sierra Reserve, on a salary of \$900 a year with the privilege of furnishing his own horses and finding his own quarters.”

In 1902 Charles and Julia moved to North Fork, in the mountains near present day Oakhurst on the way to Yosemite. They bought a cabin in the forest that served as the first office for the Sierra National Forest, as well as their home. They named the place “Peace Cabin” (supposedly because it was so much quieter than Oakland!) and ended up living there for more than 20 years, creating a letterhead with a drawing of the house, and always including a sprig of the cedar that grew by the front door in their letters. Charles organized the office, hired staff and laid out new rules as to how the forestlands were to be managed, mediating conflicts with lumbermen, sheep herders and farmers who had

been used to having free rein over these lands. He was ably assisted by Julia who performed clerical duties for the office.

Pinchot was dismissed by Pres. Taft in early 1910 in what was seen as a reversal for the conservation movement and Charles Howard resigned /was pushed out as head of the forest within a year. But Julia continued to work as clerk to the Sierra Forest office until 1923, and they continued to live at Peace Cabin until 1924 when he fell sick. During these years he wrote book reviews for a Fresno newspaper, and occasionally published other articles. In late 1924 they moved to Ukiah to stay with their daughter Ruth and her attorney husband, Charles Kasch, and Shinn died there within a few weeks.

#### MILICENT WASHBURN SHINN (1858-1940)

Milicent was the first of James and Lucy Shinn's children to be born on the ranch in Niles (1858) and from an early age she followed her older brother (Charles Howard) and sister (Anne) in their various educational and literary pursuits. James and Lucy had both grown up with home schooling, subscription schools and irregular education and they had both also at times been teachers, so making their new home on the farm in Niles was a continuation of their own experiences as their parents had settled in undeveloped areas. They realized that they would be responsible for their children's early education; studying, home schooling and learning were constant themes in the household, where two generations of children ultimately were educated. Eventually as more schools developed in the region and the children got older, they left home and went to schools in Oakland or San Francisco, living with Aunt Jane Clark Sanford or Uncle Joseph Clark. All four of James and Lucy's surviving children attended the University of California in its early years. All the children started their schooling at home. Milicent in the introduction to Notes on the Development of a Child describes Charles' education as "considerable but unsystematic!" We have a poem by Milicent published in a local paper in 1870, which identifies her as a student at Lafayette Grammar School in Oakland. We know that the two Shinn girls lived at the Sanfords' house at 13<sup>th</sup> and Clay while they attended Oakland High School which was located close by in downtown Oakland. Annie was a member of the first graduating class of the High School in 1872 and Millie in 1874. She attended Oakland High School and became close friends with one of her teachers there, the poet Edward Rowland Sill, whom she first met in 1871 and eventually graduated from the University of California in 1880. Her thesis was titled "Ethical Possibilities of Man," in which she discussed the role of education in improving people's character and she gave a commencement speech where she also extolled the value of education for human happiness. She was the only one of her 43 classmates to list her future occupation in the "Blue and Gold" as "Student," indicating her interest in lifelong learning. This seems consistent with the Shinn family views on education.

In 1882, at Sill's urging, Milicent became the first editor of the revived (second series) Overland Monthly magazine whose first issue was published in January, 1883. She was only 24 when she accepted this challenge, and she devoted herself to the magazine, often without pay, until 1894, putting off dreams of graduate education. She served as editor and often also as chief fundraiser, both positions that were quite unusual for a woman at that time, especially one so young. Apparently she threw herself into this work with gusto and worked tirelessly to issue the chronically underfunded magazine where contributors at times had to be cajoled into submitting articles without compensation. She also found time to be a founding member and president of the San Francisco Bay branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, now the AAUW.

In October 1890 her niece Ruth was born in Niles to Charles Howard and Julia Shinn and in Milicent's words "Within a half hour I began taking notes relating to her development, and these notes were continued daily throughout the first three years of her life." That year she had also started taking courses again at U.C., and in 1893 her "Notes on the Development of a Child" were published by the university, attracting some national attention to Milicent for the fledgling field of child psychology. She wanted to pursue academic studies to enhance the work she had done but she practically had to create the course of study herself since the field was so new. Eastern universities expressed interest in her work, but she remained at Berkeley, and ultimately was the first woman to receive a PhD from the University of California in 1898. A shortened version of her work was published by Houghton Mifflin in 1900 as The Biography of a Baby and reprinted by ...

Milicent did not continue in academia or scientific research after this time; nor did she return to the public world of work. Her cousin Edmund Clark Sanford had also gone into psychology and was president of Clark College (later merged into Clark University) in Worcester, Mass. from 1902-1910. Milicent maintained correspondence with him about his areas of research and exchanged letters with many of her old friends and colleagues on a variety of topics. In about 1907, she made initial inquiries about possible funding for a small college in the Bay Area, but the project was abandoned for apparent lack of interest. She remained at the ranch for the rest of her life, caring for her elderly mother, and conducting home school for the nieces and nephews that were born to her brother Joseph and Florence, starting in 1908. This was remembered by them as a rigorous early education and their duty to live up to Aunt Milicent's expectations loomed large into their adult lives. Her great-nephew, Ruth Shinn's son James Kasch, was accepted to Stanford Medical School in 1938 and he remembered feeling after her death in 1940 that with his admission to Stanford at least he had lived up to her standards until the time of her death!