

# **The Saga of George Henry Stephens and the Early Days of the American Hotel**

John Knox

*The American Block, now known as the Auburn Alehouse, is one of Old Town Auburn's most iconic buildings. For many years it was the Shanghai Restaurant & Bar and prior to that the Placer Hardware Store. In its early years, it was the American Hotel. Little has been written about the hotel's early years or the 49er (but not a miner) that had it built in the winter of 1855-56. His name was George Henry Stephens and this is an outline of his life in Auburn and the early days of the American Hotel.*

*Shortly after beginning this investigation it became apparent that one of Stephens' most notable characteristics was his remarkable talent for incurring debt. At his Insolvency Hearing in 1856 it was revealed that his total debts were \$28,763. By the most modest measure of worth, the relative value in today's dollars would be \$829,000. By other measures, it would be in the millions.*

*Therefore, it came as no small surprise to learn that George Henry Stephens, the owner/builder of the American Hotel, ended this life much as he had lived it - indebted to his friends. His pattern of indebtedness is unparalleled in the early history of Auburn. With over fifty court cases filed against him for nonpayment of debts, deeds, mortgages or bills it was remarkable that people continued to both lend him money or do business with him, but they did.*

*Less than a week after the opening ball for the American Hotel the local courts were swamped with an avalanche of complaints and filings for mechanic's liens against Stephens. (A mechanic's lien is a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property. - Wikipedia) Facing accumulated debts of \$28,763, Stephens filed for insolvency and the American Hotel was sold at public auction on October 23, 1856. This was the first of three times that Stephens lost the American Hotel to public auction. He was able to regain ownership after the first two losses (along with new debts), but not the third time on Oct 25, 1875. More details regarding these transactions, and other events in his life, follow.*

*Much of the available information about Stephens comes from an abundance of Placer County court and deed documents. Census records inform us that he was born in Connecticut about 1820. Although a birth record has not been found, we do know that his aunt, Anna (Tibbals) Karnes was born in Durham, Middlesex County, Connecticut. Stephens provided testimony that he traveled to California with a woman named Susan Smith and that they arrived at San Francisco on the 17th of October 1849. They had previously been resident in Louisiana. For the next six years Susan, Virginia born and seventeen years his senior, faithfully "superintended" Stephens' several businesses in San Francisco, Sacramento and Auburn. For all her work she received no wages and*

*yet on the 20th of February in 1856 she sold to Stephens the lot of ground on which the American Hotel was being built for \$1. This was a property she had purchased in 1852 for \$2200. One has to wonder at their relationship. She may have been first among many friends and acquaintances that Stephens took advantage of in Auburn.*

*A substantial remnant of Stephens' 1855 vision of the "most handsome building in the place" remains, a monument to his dream and to the skilled craftsmen of the day. At least a portion of the American Hotel has withstood the ravages of flood and multiple fires over the last 160 years. For the portions lost, the surviving newspaper and court records provide a complete inventory and description of the original hotel. In addition, a list of many known individuals involved in the construction of the American Hotel has been included in the end notes. It is seldom that this type of information is available - actual builders usually remain anonymous.*

*This chronology begins with an obituary for George H. Stephens. Exactly thirty years had passed since his first arrival in Auburn and what a difference that thirty years had made. Over time, the once enthusiastic and energetic "wheeler-dealer" who'd been quick to take advantage of real estate and business opportunities in early Auburn had faded to a mere shadow of his former self. His wealth depleted once again, Stephens had lost the tenacity and resiliency that had once marked his response to adversity, whether it be fire, flood or debt and he quietly faded away in a upstairs room of the monument he had constructed for himself.*

1 July 1882 Placer Herald

Death 24 June 1882

### **Death of George H. Stephens**

George H. Stephens was found dead in his room at the American Hotel last Tuesday morning. He was lying on the bed in a natural and composed position. He had taken his boots off, but otherwise was fully dressed. On a table near the bed was a small box labeled "morphine," which plainly told the cause of death. The Coroner's jury, after inquiring into the case, concluded that death was caused from an over-dose of morphine, but did not indicate whether they believed it was administered with suicidal intent or not. On this there is a difference of opinion. He left no note or word of farewell, so far as has been found. Mr. Stephens was a pioneer and was one of the first settlers of the town Auburn. In early days he was well to do, and was characterized as an energetic and public-spirited man. He built the American Hotel in this town in 1855, and he built and equipped the original Empire Livery Stable. Adversity, however, long ago overtook him, and

for years he has been, as miners say, on the "bed rock." Reduced to poverty, he left this town some four or five years ago and has traveled around visiting different parts of the State and several of the Territories in hopes of regaining at least a portion of his scattered fortune. He returned, however, about five weeks ago as poor as when he left. He went about in a melancholy mood, and it would not be a matter of perfect surprise if he should have come to the conclusion that life for him was not worth living for. He was a native of Connecticut and at the time of his death about 62 years of age. A subscription was taken among his friends in town, and enough was raised to give him a decent burial. He was interred in Odd Fellows' Cemetery on Wednesday at 10 o'clock A. M.

*George Stephens' quiet departure from life stands in marked contrast to his arrival and first few years in California where he, and Susan Smith, pursued business opportunities with apparent boundless energy. The following is a portion of the testimony included in the files for District Court Case 467, George Stephens vs His Creditors, it provides a brief history of Stephens's early days in California. It is dated Sept 1st 1856. The Plaintiff (Pltf) being referred to was Susan Smith.*

Alfred Mason sworn - has known Plaintiff since 49. She was then in a coffee stand in a House kept by Stephens, this was in the fall of 49, as late as November, before the rainy season set in. They came (Deft & Pltf) to Sac City in the spring of 1850, this was just after the high water, they were keeping the "National House", they kept boarders remained there from 3 to 5 months keeping that house, say til May or June, they then went up on the Auburn Road between the Arkade and Oak Grove House. It was a public house. They then went from there to San Francisco - at San Francisco he kept the "California Exchange" this was in 1851, - they were not there long - came back to Sacramento, - moved around some and came to Auburn - saw him in Auburn in 1852 - they kept a Bar & had a few boarders, - they have been in Auburn ever since, kept a public saloon, up to 4th June it was the "Diane Bowling Saloon", in 1850, a woman's help was worth in Cal 300\$ per month, - in 1849 wages were about the same. In 1851 wages were about \$200 per month. In 1852 was worth about the same, in 1853 & 1854 they were worth 100\$ per month - the first five or six months of 1855, wages for women half been about \$75 per month, - Pltf was industrious and devoted to the interest of Mr. Stephens.

Pltf worked for Deft from 3 to 5 months in 1850, - in spring of 52 Pltf had charge of the house in Auburn, always seen her in that situation up to the fire in June 1855,

[( Questions by Myres attn for Medley & Co) Pltf objects to his appearing in the examination - objections overruled - ruling excepted to.]

S. C. Huntress - sworn, has known Pltf since 10th Decd' 1849. She was then in San Francisco. She was then keeping a coffee stand in Gore & Stephens house, it was a public house. He kept the house up to 1st Feby 1850, they were together - saw her next 22 March /55 She was then with Deft. He was then keeping the Diana Saloon. She was then working for him & staid there until the 4th June 1855. She has been living with him since then, keeping a private house until the opening of the American Hotel by Stephens. She is industrious and attentive to business has been so since have known her - her services are of as great value as any other woman.

Geo H Stephens sworn - voir dire - has no interest in the result of this suit. \_\_\_\_ came to Cal with Pltf in Oct 49 - arrived 17 Oct 49. I then in a few days commenced a house on 6th of Nov 1849 Pltf first engaged in my employ. She attended for me a coffee stand and superintended a public house and ----- She continued in my employ then 5 or 6 months - thinks 5 months \_\_\_\_ She has been in my employ ever since 6th Nov 1849 except about 2 months, those 2 months were in 1852. \_\_\_\_ Her labor services in 49 at least \$300 per month, in 1850 superintend a public house in Sac City labor was worth as much as in 49. In 1851 she was superintending public house on the Auburn Road. Her service were then 200 per month - In 1852 superintended public house in Auburn, her labor was worth about as much as in 1851. 1852 to present time her services have been worth 100\$ per month. \_\_\_\_ Her services were worth the amounts specified besides her board and all the clothing she got from me. \_\_\_\_ never made any contract for wages. Had she called on me for the amount of wages as I have specified, I should have felt bound to pay the money or give note, never regarding her as a partner. She owes me but a trifle \_\_\_\_ 1,000\$ would be a liberal allowance for clothing since she has been with me. X (by Myres) She worked for me because I requested her.

Susan Smith sworn for Deft Henson. Is Pltf in this suit. \_\_\_\_ commenced work in Nov 49 has been at work for him all that time except 2 or 3 months, \_\_\_\_ there were three partners in the house in 49. They each paid me 100\$ per month. Stephens did not pay his share, in 1850 the wage I think was worth 200\$ per month. In 1851, they were worth 150\$ per month, in 1852 my wages were worth 100 per month, in 53 was worth 150\$ per month, in 54 they were worth 100\$ per month, in 1855 the same. Worked for him all this time, the years I have mentioned. X I never received any of the money in San Francisco. Stephens charged them 300\$ per month for my services. \_\_\_\_ I looked to Stephens for my pay. I did not employ with the other partners.

### **Deeds, Court Cases, Liens & Misc.**

*Prior the lawsuit mentioned above, the following is an account of George's first business efforts and first real estate purchases after he and Susan came to Auburn.*

21 May 1852

Deed Bk A, Pg 101



William Corbusier to Susan Smith for \$2200 two certain houses and lots on the south side of Broadway and adjoining the house and lot of Mr. Bowen. Lot is 28 ft. wide and 150 ft. deep - house thereon known as the Union Restaurant. Other lot is between the Union Restaurant and Dr. Weeks.

***These two lots became the site of the American Hotel.***

2 Jun 1852				County Liquor License
Susan Smith	3 Months	\$12.50	Union Restaurant	
Last license for Susan Smith was 7 Dec 1852.				

3 Feb 1853				County Bowling License
George Stephens	1 Month	\$15	3 Alleys	Auburn

30 May 1853				County Liquor License
George Stephens	3 Months	\$15		Auburn

1 Sep 1853				Deed Bk A, Pg 322
Abner Graves to Geo. H. Stephens and John O. Hendrick for \$830 a "Ranch" of 160 acres on Rock Creek about 3 miles north of Auburn. Witness S. Woodin.				

22 Sep 1853				Deed Bk A, Pg 333
B.F. Myres to George Stephens for \$50 my interest in an undivided half in a lot owned by Myres & Jonathan Roberts used for corralling hogs.				

27 Mar 1854				Deed Bk A. Pg 486
Samuel Chase Crawford to G. H. Stephens for \$225 a house and lot fronting Sacramento Street. 20 feet in front.				

26 Apr 1854				Deed Bk A, Pg 492
Issac and Eliza Credit to George Stephens for \$750 the log blacksmith shop lying between the Eagle Bakery and the Empire Hotel. Forty-four feet along Washington Street, then southerly 70 feet.				

26 June 1854				Deed Bk A, Pg 508
Charles Morrison to George Stephens for \$1083 a parcel on Washington Street being lot lying between the Barber Shop and the Empire Hotel and having the Coffee Saloon and Bee Hive Bakery erected thereon. Also 360 acres at Rock Creek Spring Valley known as Morrison's Ranch or Happy Valley near Rocklin.				

12 Sept 1854				Deed Bk A, Pg 541
Paul Cox to George H. Stephens for \$500 the property in Auburn known as the "Old Bowling Saloon" comprising house and lot lying between Mertern's Store and "Mechanics Hall" on Washington Street.				

1 Nov 1854				Deed Bk B, Pg 12
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John O. Hendrick to George H. Stephens for \$1400 the following real estate near claim of Hammond and claim of O'Fling, Also - 1 undivided 1/2 of land lying on Rock Creek about 3 miles north of Auburn and right and title to 27 cows, 13 calves, 4 mules, 2 horses, 3 wagons, 34 hogs and pigs, 112 chickens, 5 ducks and 11 turkeys.

9 Dec 1854

Placer Herald 23 Dec 1854

### **EMPIRE LIVERY AND SALE STABLE**

The subscriber would respectfully announce to his friends and the public generally that he has opened the above named in the town of Auburn, County of Placer, near the Empire Hotel, where will be pleased to accommodate all persons who may favor him with a call. He has a large number of gentle saddle horses to hire at all times; also buggies with or without horses. Horses taken at Livery on moderate terms. Also horses bought and sold on commission at moderate charges.

Any one entrusting business to the care of the undersigned may rely upon every care and attention being paid, by G. H. STEPHENS

15 Jan 1855

Deed Bk B, Pg 67

A.O. McConnelly to James Bowen (who the same day transferred same to Geo. Stephens) for \$500 a lot of land, 160 acres at Salt Springs, located in 1852 by Wm. Foreman (see Land Claims Bk B, Pg 24).

8 Feb 1855

Deed Bk B, Pg 88

George Stephens to S. E. Roussin for \$1400 lot of land on Washington St. lying between the Barber Shop & Coffee Saloon erected thereon. Also lot of land at head of Rock Creek Spring Valley and known as the Happy Valley or Morrison Ranch containing about 360 acres.

15 Feb 1855

Mortgage Bk B, Pg 70

David Olds to George Stephens for \$300 a parcel about 14 miles from Auburn in Salt Springs Valley as security. Satisfaction signature.

23 Feb 1855

District Ct #262

George Stephens vs. Adams & Co.  
Debt of \$900 owed to Stephens.  
Court Costs \$207.

21 Feb 1855

Attachments Pg.48

Court ordered attachment of Adams and Co. properties

7 Mar 1855

County Stable License  
Auburn

George Stephens                      3 Months                      \$7.50

13 Mar 1855

District Ct # 285

George H. Luce vs. Geo. H. Stephens  
A claim against Stephens for \$250 for wages and work done.

3 Apr 1855

Deed Bk B, Pg 433

G.B. Rogers & C. D. Wolf to George Stephens for \$400 a lot of land in Salt Spring Valley being in Sections 12 & 13, Twp 11, N. Range, 6 East. Near Rocklin.

**9 June 1855**

**Placer Herald**

**AUBURN IN ASHES**

**Loss over \$200,000**

**EIGHTY HOUSES CONSUMED !!!**

“On Monday last about two o’clock P. M. a fire broke out in one of the China-houses on the side of the hill below the Methodist Church, which spread with fearful rapidity. The fire soon crossed the street to Dr. Kinzies Drug Store, thence to the Diana Bowling Saloon, Keehner’s Bakery, Geo. H. Stephens’ Livery Stable; the Empire and Orleans hotels soon followed in quick succession... The fire seemed fairly to lick up the buildings as it went,” In the list of losses: George H. Stephens ..... \$10,000. *(This appears to include a house on Sacramento Street, Coffee Saloon, Empire Livery Stable, Bowling Saloon and Hog lot.)*

4 Sept 1855

**Mortgage** Bk B, Pg 198

Mrs. Rachael S. Hite to George H. Stephens for \$203 a house near the junction of Little Baltimore Ravine and road leading from the Travellers Rest (12 3/4 acres). Satisfied in full 21 Jan 1856.

22 Sept 1855

**Placer Herald**

“Those Two. - Messrs Newman & Co., and Wm. H. Parkinson, have about completed their handsome brick buildings on Commercial St. - Owing to the care of the builder, Mr. James Thompson, these bricks present the most handsome appearance of any in town, and are quite an ornament to the business thoroughfare upon which they are located. The brick was manufactured at the yard of Mr. George Stephens.”

22 Sept 1855

**Placer Herald**

“Mr. Stephens is also about to build a large brick edifice, on the site of the Old Diana Bowling Saloon, which is to be 40 feet fronting and 112 feet deep. The first story is intended for a billiard saloon, and the upper story for a theater. It is the intention of the builder to make it the most handsome building in the place.” **(The future American Hotel.)**

*Even though George suffered huge property losses in the “big fire,” his use of promissory notes and mortgages enabled him to acquire the financial resources to pursue his plans for the town. His brickyard was instrumental in the rebuilding of the town and he continued buying property. On the anniversary of the fire, the Herald noted (May 31, 1856) that Auburn had long been celebrated for its hotels—and that “they are better now than ever and that the ‘American’ is the most luxurious furnished house in*

*the mountains.” In addition to the “The American” fourteen brick and stone houses were built (and an additional 130 frame buildings) after the fire.*

15 Oct 1855 District Ct #377  
Geo Stephens vs H. M. House  
Stephens prays judgement against House for \$1052.75  
Judgement of court that Plaintiff recover from Defendant the sum of \$450 and costs of \$53.55.

15 Oct 1855 Attachments Pg. 80  
Attachment by Sheriff of H. M. House property to satisfy G. H. Stephens demand for the sum of \$1052.75.

15 Nov 1855 Mortgage Bk B, Pg 234  
George H. Stephens to Adolph Craner a two story brick building for \$2000 with interest of 2 1/2 % per month. Due six months from date. Satisfaction 20 Feb 1856.

31 Dec 1855 Mortgage Bk B, Pg 257  
George H. Stephens to Adolph Craner a promissory note for \$1000 a two story brick building. Rate of interest 2 1/2 % monthly and payable in six months. Satisfied 20 Feb 1856.

14 Jan 1856 Deed Bk B, Pg 427  
Alfred Rollins to George H. Stephens for \$1400 west side of Sacramento St. - known as the Weaver property.

19 Jan 1856 Deed Bk B, Pg 407  
John Mooney to George H. Stephens for \$15 lot being 7 ft. 2 ins. by 18 ft.

16 Feb 1856 Mortgage Bk B, Pg 304  
George H. Stephens to Frank Baker for \$1688.58 grants title to properties between Eagle Bakery and Empire Hotel, frame house on Sacramento Street known as the Weaver property, Salt Spring Ranch (160 acres) and Milk Ranch property all to secure payment of three promissory notes. Interest rate of 2 % monthly.

16 Feb 1856 Mortgage Bk B, Pg 306  
George H. Stephens to George O. Whitney and Co. for \$1668 grants title to properties between Eagle Bakery and Empire Hotel, frame house on Sacramento Street known as the Weaver property, Salt Spring Ranch (160 acres) and Milk Ranch property all to secure payment of three promissory notes. Interest rate of 2 % monthly.

19 Feb 1856 Mortgage Bk B, Pg 350  
George H. Stephens to Fielding Williams for \$8000 for a certain lot together with brick building payable 1 June 1856 with interest of 2 1/2 % per month.

20 Feb 1856 Deed Bk B, Pg 394

Susan Smith to George H. Stephens for sum of \$1 lot of ground formerly known as the Diana Saloon.

20 Feb 1856

Mortgage Bk B, Pg 296

George H. Stephens to Adolph Craner for \$5000 a two story brick building with interest of 2 1/2 % per month. American Hotel lot.

1 Mar 1856

Placer Herald

“Stephens’ new fire-proof brick hotel, the American, is a credit to our town, and perhaps the most magnificent establishment in the mountains. The brick portion is 112 feet in depth by 38 in width. The first floor contains the bar and dining rooms, the second floor two beautiful parlors and sixteen rooms. The third story is devoted entirely to bed rooms. In the rear of the brick is a frame addition, to be used as a kitchen and wood house below and sleeping apartments above. We understand it is to be opened for the reception of guests in a day or two, by a competent landlord, and that the Cal. Stage Company will stop there. There is to be a grand ball given at the American on the 7th, and we can promise the pleasure-loving public that no pains will be spared to make the entertainment worthy of the magnificent hotel.”

*At the time there were only seven hotels in town, the two previous largest, the Empire and National had been destroyed in the fire. The Traveller’s Rest (now Bernhard Museum) and it’s neighbor, the Crescent City, were far enough removed to escape without damage. The following complete the 1856 list of hotels that survived the fire: the Mansion House, Hotel de l’ Union, the Orleans Hotel and the Gem. In quality “The American” was without local comparison.*

*The hotel was barely finished when the creditors started demanding payment. This pattern of incurring debt based on the good will of his neighbors and business associates was a hallmark of George’s business dealings in town. There was little work done on the hotel that was fully paid for at the time of construction. Beginning below is the lengthy listing of court cases, mechanics liens and attachments brought against Stephens.*

10 Mar 1856

Mortgage Bk B, Pg 351

George H. Stephens to Henry L. Drew Land known as the Empire Livery Stable, house and lot, lot near Court House for \$1100. Due 4 months from date.

13 Mar 1856

District Ct #438

George F. Geise & Thomas Wilson vs Geo. Stephens

Owed \$926 and 2% monthly interest in a promissory note. Sheriff attached much hotel property.

13 Mar 1856

District Ct #439

David Dresser vs. Geo. Stephens & John O. Hendricks

Owed \$468, From a note dated 3 July 1854 for \$366.66 due to R. A. Harmon payable 18 months after date.

13 March 1856 District Ct #440  
A. S. Grant vs Geo. Stephens  
One paper in file.  
14 March 1856 Attachment Bk A-1, Pg. 104  
Attachment by Sheriff. Grant's demand was for \$2000.  
Attached was the Salt Spring Ranch described in Deed Bk B, pg. 67.

13 Mar 1856 District Ct #441  
D. W. Hildrith vs Geo. Stephens  
Promissory Notes for \$444.56. Blacksmith labor of \$32.50.  
14 Mar 1856 Attachment Pg. 112  
Attachment by Sheriff.  
Attached was:  
Interest in Milk Ranch.

13 Mar 1856 District Ct #442  
Daniel O'Connors vs Geo. Stephens  
Prays judgement for \$579.00 back wages. Began work as hostler on 1 Oct 1854 and  
worked for Stephens until 1 March of 1856 at rate of \$75 a month.  
14 March 1856 Attachment Pg. 108  
Attachment by Sheriff.  
Attached was:  
Title to milk ranch about 1 1/2 miles from Auburn.

13 Mar 1856 District Ct #443  
Wm. Cutts vs Geo. Stephens  
Owes \$1072. Cutts performed work and labor in stable & driving teams from before the  
last of Sept in 1854 until the 13 March of 1856 AT \$75 per month.  
14 Mar 1856 Attachment Pg. 106  
Attachment by Sheriff.  
Attached were:  
Small house on west side of Court Street  
Lot adjoining and south of Holmes Concert Hall  
Stephens' Livery Stable  
Stephens Billiard Saloon

13 Mar 1856 District Ct #444  
Henson Hazell vs Geo. Stephens  
From a promissory note of 26 Feb 1856 owes \$400 & interest of 3% per month.  
14 Mar 1856 Attachment Pg. 110  
Attachment by Sheriff.  
Attached was:  
Interest in Milk Ranch.

13 Mar 1856 Newman & Co. vs Geo. Stephens Mercantile business is owed \$388 from between the dates of 25 Sept 1855 until 13 March 1856. Property of Stephens attached.	District Ct #445
14 Mar 1856 Attached was: Interest in Milk Ranch.	Attachment Pg. 116
13 Mar 1856 W. G. Graham & Co. vs Geo. Stephens Owed \$2000 & interest on promissory note dated 3 Jan 1856.	District Ct #446
13 Mar 1856 Samuel Whitmarsh vs Geo. Stephens Debt of \$427.50 incurred between 1 Jan 1856 and 13 March 1856 for money loaned and foods sold. 3924 lbs. of barley - \$274.68, 9 bales hay (3057 lbs) at 5 cents = \$152.85, and \$150 cash.	District Ct #447
13 Mar 1856 Susan Smith vs. Geo. Stephens Demand for sum of \$8100 for work & labor 6 Nov 1849 Superintendent of public house to 1 July 1855. 6 Nov to 31 Dec @ \$300 a month 1850 - 12 months @ \$200 a month 1851 - 12 months @ \$150 a month 1852 - 10 months @ \$100 a month 1853, 1854 to 1 July 1855 (30 months) @ \$100 a month	District Ct #448
14 March 1856 Attachment by Sheriff. Attached was: Interest in Milk Ranch.	Attachment Pg. 114
13 Mar 1856 Geo. Luce vs Geo. Stephens Empty file.	District Ct #449
13 Mar 1856 James Hudson vs Geo. Stephens Promissory note dated 22 Feb 1856 for \$350.	District Ct #450
13 Mar 1856 Benj. Brown vs Geo. Stephens Promissory note dated 1 Feb 1856 for \$2000. Note to Brown 8 Feb 1856 for \$904. payable on demand. Note for \$401.41 to Charles Morrison prior to 13 Mar 1856. Also \$600 in cash loaned.	District Ct #451

13 Mar 1856 Geo. Keehner vs Geo. Stephens A promissory note for \$625.70 dated 26 Dec 1855.	District Ct #452
14 Mar 1856 James Burtis v. Geo. Stephens Owed \$756 for meat.	District Ct #452
14 Mar 1856 Geo. Betts vs. Geo. Stephens \$1050 \$650 owed for cattle \$247.25 for cash loaned \$960 for work and labor performed by Betts. Has been paid \$1150.	District Ct #456
14 Mar 1856 Geisse & Wilson vs Geo. Stephens \$607 - case dismissed.	District Ct #457
15 Mar 1856 Geo. Whitney vs Geo. Stephens Owed \$292 for goods and merchandize (see Bk B, pages 304 & 5 of Mortgages-dated 21 Feb 1856 \$1856 owed from 3 promissory notes	District Ct #458
15 Mar 1856 M. Miller & Co. vs Geo. Stephens \$607 for goods, groceries, merchandize and furniture 1 Mar 1856	District Ct #459
12 Mar 1856 John W. Avery for materials, windows & sash owed \$234.25.	Mechanics Lied, Bk A, Pg 252
13 Mar 1856 O. W. May & Co. for materials owed \$642.53.	Mechanics Lien, Bk A, Pg 254
15 Mar 1856 Magnolia Mill (Smith and Evans) for lath and fencing owed \$299.32.	Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 3
14 Mar 1856 Harvey Wickes for alcohol, red lead, white lead, varnish, turpentine owed \$108.39.	Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 5
10 Mar 1856	Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 7



John T. Reed for 133 days work and labor between Oct 1855 and March 1856. Owed \$630.

13 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 8  
Frederick E. Shepard for 75 1/2 days work and labor done from 7 Nov 1855 to 25 Feb 1856 at \$5 a day. Also 32 windows, sash, etc. Owed \$187.50.

14 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 9  
Wooden and Steele for work and labor done on a reservoir and water works conducting water to the American Hotel. Work commenced 5 Feb 1856 and lasted to 20 Feb 1856. Owed \$205.

14 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 10  
William Phinney for 101 1/2 days work at \$5 a day. Balance due \$304.

6 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 11  
Reuben C. Brock for work done on the American Hotel. 113 days at \$6 a day, Owed \$367.43.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 13  
B. Blanchard, J. Hallock & M. Carpenter for materials sold to Geo. Stephens, i. e. lead pipe, white lead, etc. Balance due of %113.36.

15 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 14  
John Rivett, J. Jordan, E. Carroll for rolls of paper, velvet border, cloth, etc. Balance due \$147.30.

*Although he was involved in numerous law suits, George managed to open his opulent new hotel to much fanfare.*

15 Mar 1856 Placer Herald  
“**THE AMERICAN** - This fine hotel located in Auburn, a notice of which was given in this paper two numbers back, was opened on the 7th with a brilliant ball, at which there were over one hundred gentlemen and about seventy ladies. The large dining room of the establishment was used for dancing, and as the rich notes of the fine cotillion band in attendance, swelled through the spacious room, in mellifluous notes, the merry dancers became intoxicated with pleasure. All night long the twinkling feet kept tune with the violin and horn. Every luxury that could be obtained was served up at the supper table. The furnishing of this house surpasses anything we have seen in the mines, and in fact is equalled by very few hotels in our large cities. Excellent beds all over the house, all the rooms are carpeted and furnished with other fixtures to correspond. In the parlor are the most luxurious chairs, stools, lounges, sofas, etc., etc., besides a pianoforte with music at hand. In the bar room there is a large safe, big enough to hold all the money in several such towns as Auburn.

Mr. Stephens has spared neither pains or expense in the erection and furnishing of the American, and we hope the public will see him properly recompensed for his enterprise.”

*There is no known accounting of Stephens's expenses, but the lawsuits and mechanics liens continued unabated. Many people were carrying large portions of the hotel's cost. Some workmen had not been paid for months.*

20 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 15  
Fred Robinson for work and labor as a painter on the American Hotel commencing Cot 1855 and up to 7 Mar 1856. Balance due of \$60.

21 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 16  
R. Stephens for work on the American Hotel for 46 3/4 days at \$5 a day. Owed \$100.

19 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 17  
James McLean for two months works commencing 8 Jan 1856. Continue to 8 March at \$75 a month. Also white lead and turpentine. Owed \$92.

15 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 19  
John Burlingham for painting signs and door no. plates. Owen \$49.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 20  
James McQuinn 1 month and 13 1/2 days work and labor commencing in Oct 1855 and ending 7 Mar 1856. Balance due \$52.15.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 21  
John Fletcher for plastering the American Hotel. Balance due of \$68.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 22  
B. Hoffman for 3 months and 6 days work as a carpenter at \$100 a month. Balance due of \$235.98.

20 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 23  
Eberle, Gove & Co. (Union Store) for materials. Due \$110.20.

25 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 25  
C. W. Pegg for Flooring. Balance due of \$183.27.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien Bk B, Pg 26  
Josiah Freidline for 89 days work at \$4 a day from 24 Nov 1855 to 6 Mar 1856. Due \$300.

17 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 27  
J. M. Barlow for labor. Balance due of \$56.75.

22 Mar 1856 District Ct #557  
Stephens filed Petition in Insolvency. William Henson was appointed his assignee 25 July 1856.

26 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 28  
Huland Mills and work and labor. Owed \$127.00

14 Mar 1856 Mechanics Lien, Bk B, Pg 29  
Jacob Gibson and brothers for masonry work, sand and gravel. Balance due of \$67.25.

4 April 1856 **Mortgage** Bk B, Pg 37  
A.P. Craner to Pincus Berwin for \$4000 the transfer of a mortgage (Stephens was the mortgagor) for \$5000 with interest from 15 Feb 1856 now due. Mortgage is listed in Bk B, Pg 296.

*Pincus Berwin was a hat merchant who was living with Craner in San Francisco in 1860.*

*Evidently the hotel was closed for some period of time following the grand ball opening while George was dealing with his legal affairs. It did not remain closed for very long. The law suits continued.*

19 Apr 1856 Placer Herald

### **AMERICAN HOTEL**

Auburn, Placer County, Cal.

The undersigned has re-opened this Hotel, which is the largest and most elegantly furnished in the mountains. The building is fire proof, and its accommodations are not surpassed in the State. Everything about the hotel is new. The office of the

### **CALIFORNIA STAGE COMPANY**

is at the Hotel, making it the convenient for the traveling public

**JOHN ECHOLS**

18 Jun 1856 District Ct #518  
Frank Hastings and Henry W. Earle vs W. T. Henson, assignee of Geo. H. Stephens, an insolvent debtor. Claim for materials and labor for the tin roof and the conductors or water spouts, on the American Hotel. Contract was with Brook for a total of \$950. Hastings and Earle supplied Brook with the materials for which Stephens paid \$500 on 22 Dec 1855. B. C. Allen purchased the outstanding note. Balance due of \$548.60. Hastings and Earle claim a lien on the American Hotel.

Promissory note to Fielding Williams (19 Feb 1856) for \$8000 with interest of 2 1/2 % per month. Stephens delivered mortgage (Book of Mortgages, pg 350) dated 8 Mar 1856 - Williams secured a lien upon the property.

Mortgage to cover \$5000 from Adolph Craner. Mortgage Bk B, pg 296.

W. T. Henson was appointed assignee.

Stephens discharged from all debts.

*His creditors, having finally caught up with George, were awarded by the court seemingly all of his property, the hotel, several lots in town and his two nearby ranches.*

26 July 1856

District Ct. #467

State of California

Placer County        Know all men by these presents, that George H. Stephens, of the County & State, aforesaid, in consideration of Five Dollars to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged - have granted bargained, released and assigned, transferred and set over to W. T. Henson - who, by the order of the Hon, the District Court, of the 11th Judicial District, for the county & State aforesaid, and by the consent of my creditors, is my assignee, all of my property real, personal or mixed, of what ever kind of which I am seized and possessed, also all, and every description of Equities, and choses in action, of whatever kind, appertaining or belonging to me, to have and to hold in trust for the use and benefit of all my creditors, to be by him disposed of and applied according to the provisions, and directions of "An Act - Entitled An Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, And Protection of Creditors {passed May 4th 1852} - In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my hand & Seal July 26 1856 G H Stephens

List of Property mentioned in the inventory of Geo H. Stephens Surrendered to me as per order of court.

American Hotel, Lot & out Buildings	Chickens & other Fowls
Furniture in Same	Furniture in Milk Ranch House
75 Head of Cattle	1 Road Wagon & 4 Harness
28 " " Horses	3 Interests in Mining Claims
23 Hogs	1 Harrow
2 Buggies & 1 Milk Wagon	1 Plough - 2 Wheelbarrows
Livery Stable & Lot	1 Promissory Note against D. B. Hughes
Saddles & Harness in Stable	
Billiard Saloon & Lot	
Lot opposite Holmes Store	
Lot opposite Court House	
Salt Spring Ranch & Improvement	
Milk Ranch                      &                      Do	

*The next two pages present a more complete inventory of the properties attached by the District Court from Stephens and ordered sold at public auction. The list of hotel furnishings provide the substance for the glowing reviews of the American Hotel's grand opening. Here are the details that support the Herald's account that "The*

*furnishing of this house surpasses anything we have seen in the mines, and in fact is equalled by very few hotels in our large cities."*

#### REFEREES NOTICE

George H. Stephens vs. His Creditors

District Court, 11th District, Placer County, California

#### PROCEEDINGS IN INSOLVENCY.

Notice is hereby given to the Creditors of said Insolvent ...

*Minutes of Proceedings before James Anderson, the court appointed Referee are quite extensive. The testimony generally includes a name, the occupation and amount owed.*

*Some examples:*

John D Burlingam for painting owed \$49.

Fielding Williams - Mortgage and Promissory Note for \$8000.

J. Friedline 89 days carpenter @ \$4 owed \$300.

R. E. Brock 113 days work @ \$6 owed \$357.43.

Etc.

Total Owed was: \$28,763

28 Aug 1856

District Ct #560

H. T. Holmes vs Geo. H. Stephens

Plaintiff says that Stephens is indebted to him for \$1503.08. Willy Drake, brick layer, 70 days labor @ \$9 a day. Also Fred Robinson, painter, for \$60.

29 Aug 1856

District Ct #561

J. W. Avery vs Wm. Henson, assignee for George Stephens. Debt of \$234.25 for windows and doors. Filed Mechanics Lien.

29 Aug 1856

District Ct #563

Henry Smith & James Evans vs. Geo. Stephens

Debt of \$299.32 for lumber and materials. Magnolia Mill - mostly lathing.

29 Aug 1856

District Ct #564

John T. Reed vs George Stephens

\$6 a day as mechanic - a balance due of \$630.

29 Aug 1856

District Ct #565

Wm. Phinney vs Geo. Stephens

Balance due of \$304. Rate of \$5 a day for 101 1/2 days.

3 Sept 1856

District Ct #567

J. B. Higgins vs Geo. Stephens

Judgement against George H Stephens for \$325 and Billiard Saloon formerly known as the Weaver property.

23 Oct 1856

District Ct #437

A. & J. Davidson vs Geo. Stephens

Owed \$1021.03. The Sheriff attached Stephens of 14 horses, 2 mules, 1-4 horse wagon, fixtures, 2 sets double harness, 2 sets double team harness, 1 set single harness, 5 saddles & bridles, 2 macehans. Includes inventory of goods sold by Davidson.

23 Oct 1856

Mortgage Bk C. Pg 290

Wm. L. Henson, assignee of Geo. H. Stephens insolvent, sold American Hotel for \$500 to Fielding Williams and A. Craner. See: 20 Feb 1856.

10 Nov 1856

District Ct #587 1/2

Wooden & Steel vs Geo. Stephens

Balance due is \$205 for certain reservoir and piping from Purdy's spring.

15 Nov 1856

District Ct #556

Joseph Friedline vs W. T. Henson, assignee of George Stephens. Friedline worked on the American Hotel from 24 Nov 1855 to 6 March 1856 at \$4 a day and was owed \$300. He filed a Mechanics Lien.

Nov 1856

District Ct #557

Burt Baldwin vs Geo Stephens

Stephens purchased from Baldwin lumber and materials used in construction of the American Hotel between 14 Oct 1855 and 7 Jan 1856. Amount due is \$1171.83. Filed a Mechanics Lien: Bk A, Pg 238.

Included in this File:

Wm. T. Henson, Sheriff, assignee of Stephens sells to Fielding Williams & A. Craner at public auction on 23 Oct 1856 for \$500 a 3 story brick building (37 feet by 112 feet and attached kitchen 20 feet by 37 feet.)

Mechanics lien for C. W. Pegg for 3,824 feet of flooring for \$183.27. (Mechanics Lien Book B, Pg 25)

Claim of Benjamin Hoffman for balance due of \$235.98 for work done on Hotel from 9 Dec 1855 to 1 Mar 1856 @ rate of \$100 per month.

Claim of J. B. Blanchard & Co - Mechanics Lien Bk B, Pg 13.

Order of Sale 1 June 1857.

19 Jan 1857

County Ct #562 1/2

May & Co. vs. Geo. H. Stephens

For lumber from the Clipper Mill (\$426.81) and the People's Mill (\$685.52). May be filed for lien to date.

18 Feb 1857

Mortgage Bk 3, Pg 287

A ranch containing 160 acres at Salt Spring Valley, the American Hotel, Empire Livery Stable, American Billiard Saloon with an assessed value of \$69,000, State and County taxes levied thereon of \$1,552.50 - reduced by County Supervisors 7 Feb 1857 to \$911.25 with costs added was \$1016.10. Sheriff sized the property 26 Dec 1856 and sold to A. Craner for this amount and issued a Certificate of Sale on 18 Feb 1857. Sold subject to redemption. Sold to A. Craner only the American Hotel.

*In spite of his losses, and ongoing lawsuits, George managed to regain ownership of the hotel. In the course of fifteen years A. P. Craner would come to his financial rescue many times. As a merchant himself, Craner had to have been aware of the risks involved in doing business with George. Perhaps the American Hotel was collateral enough to ease his concerns.*

*Adolph P. Craner, a Prussian by birth, arrived in California in 1848 and, with the exception of a few years spent in Auburn around 1860, lived most of his life in San Francisco. He became a naturalized citizen there in 1856 and married a few years later. From various newspaper accounts he appears to have been a very successful business man. He died in San Francisco in 1900, aged 75.*

*The following are a few of the highlights of the Stephens/Craner relationship:*

*15 Nov 1855 Craner to Stephens \$2000 Mortgage  
31 Dec 1855 Craner to Stephens \$1000 Mortgage  
19 Feb 1856 Williams to Stephens \$8000 Mortgage  
20 Feb 1856 Craner to Stephens \$5000 Mortgage  
18 Jun 1856 Stephens declared insolvent. Property seized.  
23 Oct 1856 Craner and Williams buy American Hotel at public auction.  
6 Jun 1857 Williams sells American Hotel to Stephens.  
6 Jan 1858 Craner to Stephens \$10000 Mortgage  
2 Nov 1858 Court orders American Hotel sold for debt to Craner.  
29 Nov 1858 Craner buys seized American Hotel at public auction.  
2 Jun 1859 Craner sells American Hotel to Stephens.  
2 Jun 1870 Craner sells American Hotel to Stephens and Morris.*

20 Mar 1857

Deed Bk C, Pg 137

Wm Henson, Sheriff for Geo H. Stephens at public auction to H. L. Drew for \$1 on 22 Oct. 1856. Lot on Court Street - 75 feet on front X 114 feet deep. Includes stone house and fencing.

20 Mar 1857

Deed Bk C, Pg 139

Wm. Henson, Assignee (Sheriff) for Geo. H. Stephens at public auction to H. L. Drew for \$1 on 22 Oct. 1856. A vacant lot of ground fronting 25 feet on Washington Street.

19 Mar 1857

Deed Bk C, Pg 236

Wm. Henson, Assignee (Sheriff) for Geo. H. Stephens at public auction to H. L. Drew for \$1 on 22 Oct 1856. A certain livery stable 40 front and 100 feet deep on Washington Street. (Empire Livery Stable).

12 May 1857

District Ct #692

W. F. & A. S. Brittain vs Geo. Stephens

Indebted to the plaintiffs in the amount of \$704.99 for delivery of beef, pork and mutton and other supplies.

6 Jun 1857

Deed Bk C, Pg 337

Fielding Williams to Geo. Stephens the American Hotel for \$8000. Title conferred by virtue of assignees sale in Nov 1856 to me and Adolph Craner by Wm. L. Henson as under a certain mortgage executed to me by the said Stephens upon said property to secure the payment of a promissory note bearing date 19 Feb 1856 for the sum of \$8,000 which is hereby cancelled.

20 June 1857

District Ct #714

Geo Stephens vs. Adolph Craner

Geo Stephens prays judgement of \$5000 damages sustained by him, by reason of the violation of an agreement with him in the taking away of certain property in the American Hotel. Action was dismissed by Plaintiff and at his costs (29 July 1857).

27 Jun 1857

Deed Bk C, Pg 256

Wm. Henson, Assignee for George Stephens, at public auction to George O. Whitney by certain order of sale issued out of District Court against the estate of George H. Stephens toward satisfaction of judgement amounting to \$3,922.50 with interest and costs. Henson sold to the highest bidder, George O. Whitney, for \$1450 (6 Dec 1856) all the right, title and interest of George H. Stephens to:

(1) a certain piece of property lying between the Eagle Bakery and the Empire Hotel, (2) a frame house on the west side of Sacramento Street - fronting on the street - being between the house & lot occupied by Richard Sanders and William Corbusier on the north side and the house and lot owned by Alfred Robbins on the south side. Same property as sold by A. Robbins to Stephens 14 Jan 1856. (3) Salt Spring Ranch.

11 July 1857

Placer Herald

**AMERICAN HOTEL**  
**(LARGE, THREE-STORY, FIRE-PROOF BRICK BUILDING.)**  
**AUBURN, CAL.**  
**GEO. H. STEPHENS, PROPRIETOR.**

This splendid brick Hotel has lately undergone extensive improvements-having been refurbished throughout, and now offers accommodations and comforts to travelers unsurpassed by any hotel in the State. The California Stage Company's STAGE OFFICE, is at the American. Guests will find the rooms of the house large and airy, and the beds neat and clean at all times; and every



attention, as formerly, will be paid to the comfort and convenience of those stopping at the house.

13 July 1857

Real Mortgages A-1, Pg 91

George H. Stephens to George Whitney for \$1, the property of the American Hotel, sum of \$677.50 due within six months for six promissory notes. Examples of items purchased from Whitney and listed in the mortgage:

12 Large wood Seat arm chairs & 12 cushions

108 Wood Seat dining & Bedroom chairs

4 Cottage bedsteads 4 1/2 feet wide

14 Cottage bedsteads 4 feet wide

10 " " 3 1/2 feet wide

28 Pile Mattresses

28 Under Ticks

28 Pile Bolsters

56 Corn size pile pillows

30 Small size Looking Glasses

16 July 1857

County Ct #198

J. L. Stone vs Stephens & Hiller

Jacob L. Stone for 22 cords of wood at \$3.25 equals \$71.50. Balance due \$15. 75 and court costs of \$23.00. Judgement in favor of Plaintiff.

28 Aug 1857

Mortgage Bk C, Pg 290

George Stephens vs His Creditors (A Craner & F. Williams). Sold at public auction 23 Oct 1856 for \$500. The American Hotel.

3 Oct 1857

District Ct # 764

Craner & Williams vs G. H. Stephens

Stephens claims to be rightful owner by sale executed 6 June 1857. Resolution of case in question.

6 Jan 1858

Mortgage Bk C, Pg 422

Geo. H. Stephens to A. P. Craner for \$10,000 the American Hotel including water works. Mortgage to secure promissory note with rate of interest 1 1/2 % per month.

6 Jan 1858

Mortgage Bk C, Pg 526

George H. Stephens to J. J. Zentmyer for \$2500 two parcels - one on Washington Street and one on Sacramento Street (the Weaver property). Interest of 3 % monthly.

11 Mar 1858

District Ct #838

Geo. Thatcher & Co. vs Geo Stephens

Claim for \$308.15 for goods, wares, merchandize, wines, brandies & liquors. Write of attachment on 11 Mar 1858. Thatcher request dismissed 12 March 1858.

18 Mar 1858

Deed Bk D, Pg 188

Geo. H. Stephens to Samuel C. Astin for \$700 does convey house and lot on the Main St. in Gold Hill with Bar, Bar fixtures, and furniture, liquors, billiard table, one rondo table, etc.

10 April 1858

District Ct #860

John Hiller vs Geo Stephens

Plaintiff says defendant is indebted to him in the sum of \$286.57 for work, labor and service of the the Plaintiff and his wife A. Hiller. Court finds for the Plaintiff.

12 April 1858

District Ct #861

E. M. Hall vs Williams and Stephens

E. M. Hall has sworn that George H. Stephens & Fielding Williams are indebted to him for the sum of \$1035.81. Property was attached on 14 April 1858. Debt was due from a promissory note executed by Stephens to A. S. Grant. Court finds for the Plaintiff 15 July 1858. Public Auction of hotel property 1 & 2 March 1859.

18 June 1858

Placer Herald

**"AMERICAN HOTEL."**- This splendid fire-proof brick Hotel in Auburn, has passed into the hands of Mr. Gazley, long and favorably known to the traveling public as a landlord of experience, and one of the best caterers for his table in the county. Under his management the "American" will become noted for the excellence of its table, neatness of the rooms, and the attention paid to guests."

*Gazley remained proprietor until 9 March 1861.*

26 Jun 1858

District Ct #907

A. S. Grant vs Geo. H. Stephens

Said Defendant on Dec 20 1855 made a promissory note to Plaintiff for \$1865.54. Make part of complaint - Gold Hill 19 Feb 1856 \$800 Stephens promised to pay \$800 with interest. Total debt of \$3704.49. Attachment listed 28 June 1858.

21 Jun 1858

District Ct #902

C. Land and James Schoomaker vs Geo. H. Stephens

Indebted to Plaintiffs the sum of \$376.42 contained in a promissory note.

6 Aug 1858

District Ct #940

A. P. Craner vs Geo. H. Stephens

On 6 Jan 1858 was indebted to Plaintiff in the sum of \$10,000 described in a promissory note including interest of 1 1/2 % per month until paid. Payments be made in the following manner.

\$2000 on or before 6 Jan 1860.

\$1000 on or before 6 Jan 1861.

\$1000 on or before 6 Jan 1862.

etc.

Further, that Stephens mortgaged the American Hotel to Craner on 6 Jan 1858 with interest of 1 1/2 % per month - due monthly. Sheriff's sale to be held 29 Nov 1858.

*Once more, George's debts caught up with him and he losses control of the hotel again.*

6 Nov 1858

Placer Herald

**SHERIFF'S SALE.** - By virtue of an order of sale to me directed and delivered, on the 5th day of November, A. D. 1858, issued out of the Honorable District Court of the 11th Judicial District for the County of Placer and State of California, on a judgement rendered in said Court, on the 2d day of November, A. D. 1858, in favor of A. P. Craner, and against George H. Stephens for the sum of Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Five (\$10,875) from the 2d day of November, A. D. 1858 at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent per month, and for costs of suit taxed at Forty-two dollars and five cents, and by virtue of said order of sale, I will expose to public sale to the highest bidder for cash, at the Court House door, in Auburn.

On Monday, the 29 day of November at the hour of 10 o'clock, A. M. all the property described in said order of sale, to-wit; "The American Hotel, and lot of land on which the same is situated ... All of which named and described property I shall sell as aforesaid, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy the above judgement, together with the costs due and to become due thereon.

CHARLES KING, Sheriff.

By GEORGE JOHNSON, Deputy.

29 Jan 1859

Placer Herald

**ANNIVERSARY BALL!  
AT THE AMERICAN HOTEL**

On Tuesday Evening, February 22nd, '59.

Proprietor respectfully gives notice that he will give at the American Hotel in Auburn, on the 22nd of February next,

**A Grand Anniversary Ball,**

In honor of the Birth Day of the Father of our country. Every exertion will be made to make this occasion a happy and pleasant union.

Music by the Auburn Cotillion Band.

**M. Sherman**

On the evening of the Ball, carriages will be sent for those in Auburn and vicinity who desire to attend. Please send the names to the "American" on or before the 22nd, so that you may be called for.

21 Mar 1859

District Ct #1015

George Whitney vs George H. Stephens & J. J. Zentmeyer

That on 16 Feb 1856 made a mortgage to secure the payment of their promissory note for \$556. Jury finds for the Plaintiff.

29 May 1859

Deed Bk E, Pg 331

Geo. H. Stephens by Sheriff to A. P. Craner in court ordered sale at public auction toward satisfaction of the sum of \$10,875. The sale on 29 Nov 1858. Sold for the sum of \$6000 the American Hotel and lot of land.

2 Jun 1859

Personal Mortgage Bk B, Pg 373

George H. Stephens to Adolphus P. Craner for \$2000 the furniture and fixtures now used in the American Hotel. 1 1/4 % interest monthly. Discharged 5 June 1863.

2 Jun 1859

Deed Bk E, Pg 336

A.P. Craner to George H. Stephens for \$10,600 with conditions on payments and purchase of insurance for the American Hotel with stipulations about making timely payments.

*Once again, George manages to convince the Prussian merchant, Adolph P. Craner, to return ownership of the hotel to himself.*

2 Jun 1859

Deed Bk E, Pg 364

George H. Stephens to G. W. Gazley in consideration of the rents, covenants and agreements all that certain property known as the American Hotel with water works and personal property & fixtures for two years and 2 months. Monthly payments of \$300. Agreement declared null and void 28 May 1860.

17 Aug 1859

Deed Bk E, Pg 440

George O. Whitney to Bridget Glenon in consideration of the sum of \$400 the building and lot on the west side of Sacramento Street between the former house of Sanders & Corbusier on the north and the house & lot formerly occupied by Alfred Robbins on the south, being the property formerly known as the Globe Hotel and lately occupied by G. H. Stephens.

15 Oct 1859

Placer Herald

### **GREAT CONFLAGRATION IN AUBURN Fifty-Eight Buildings Destroyed**

“The citizens of this place were startled by the dreaded cry of fire on Sunday morning last, about twenty minutes after seven o’clock, which, unfortunately, was the warning note of sad disaster. Many had not arisen from their beds at the time, but the alarm soon brought out the whole population, who went to work with almost superhuman energy to combat the fierce element, and to remove valuables to secure places. ...

For some time there was great danger that the fire would pass the American Hotel ... as the kitchen of the “American” was soon on fire, but at this point a determined stand was taken by quite a number of persons, who

stationed themselves upon the “American” ... and happily conquered the fire ...”

The buildings destroyed were all frame ... The brick buildings, several of which were severely tried, and particularly the American Hotel, stood the brunt nobly, ... The roof of the “American” was much injured - six or seven holes being burned through - and many of the iron shutters badly sprung. Had it not been for Mr. Stephens, the owner of the house, assisted by a number of others, who remained upon the roof, and inside, during the whole time the flames were beating upon the walls, the “American” would have been lost. As it is, it is damaged some \$5000, which amount we have information has been allowed by the Insurance agency.”

14 Jan 1860

Personal Mortgage Bk C, Pg 137

Geo W. Gazley, Hotel Keeper, to George H. Stephens \$1500 furnishings & fixtures of the American Hotel to secure a promissory note with interest of 10 % per annum.

1860 Census, Auburn California - American Hotel

George H. Stephens Age 38 Saloon Keeper

Geo. Gazley, Hotel Keeper

And 42 others, including a lawyer, dentist, tax collector, miner, merchant, stage owner, stable keeper, cook and teamster.

*George's management style was to relegate responsibilities. Susan Smith "superintended" his various enterprises from 1849 to 1855. John Echols took over the American Hotel in 1856, months before it was surrendered to the court. And now we see that George Gazley has taken over in 1858. Further changes were to follow. We have used the Assessor Rolls to enumerate the owners of record between the hotel's opening in 1856 and Stephens removal by the sheriff in 1876. It is likely that Stephens was Morris's silent partner between 1864 and 1870. There are several clues that this was the case. Notice the drop in assessed value between 1864 and 1870 and then its jump back to pre-Morris values in 1872. It's as if there should have been another tax payer during the Morris years. Second, the Morris will leaves only his 1/2 interest to Stephens and finally, several mortgages in 1870 include the names of both Morris and Stephens.*

**COUNTY ASSESSOR ROLLS**  
**Tax payers for the lots and/or American Hotel**  
**Real Estate + Personal Property**

1852	Wm. Corbusier	House & Union Restaurant	\$2,000
1853	Susan Smith	House & Union Restaurant	\$3,500
1854	Susan Smith	House & Diana Bowling Alley	\$3,500
1855	Susan Smith	House and Diana Bowling Alley	\$4,500

1856	George Stephens	American Hotel Stable, Billiard Saloon & Other Properties	\$69,000
1857	Williams & Craner	American Hotel	\$10,000
1858	George Stephens	American Hotel & Other Properties	\$11,000
1859	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$6,800
1860	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$6,000
1861	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$6,000 + \$2,000
1862	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$5,000 + \$1,000
1863	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$6,000 + \$2,000
1864	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$5,000 + \$1,000
1865	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$4,000 + \$1,000
1866	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$4,000 + \$1,000
1867	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$3,000 + \$700
1868	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$3,000 + \$700
1869	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$3,000 + \$600
1870	S. G. Morris	American Hotel	\$4,000 + \$600
1871	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$4,000 + \$1,000
1872	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$7,000 + \$1,500
1873	George Stephens	American Hotel	\$7,000 + \$1,950
1874	Ann Karnes	American Hotel	\$7,000 + \$1,250
1875	Estate of Ann Karnes	American Hotel	\$6,600 + \$650
1876	Estate of Ann Karnes	American Hotel	\$7,000
	Unpaid taxes paid by Geo. Aldrich		
1877	Geo. Aldrich	American Hotel	\$5,000 + \$1,000

2 Jul 1860 District Ct #1250  
 Bridget Glenon vs G. H. Stephens, Thom Sherman & P. Mundy.  
 Plaintiff complains that on 17 Aug 1859 she became owner of lot on west side of  
 Sacramento Street - damages of \$500.

16 Mar 1861 Placer Herald  
 Howard and Leighton, Hotel Keepers for American Hotel.  
 Until 11 May 1861.

11 May 1861 Placer Herald  
 "AMERICAN HOTEL. - This excellent public house has recently passed into the  
 hands of Messrs. Guiou & Leighton, who are well calculated for hotel keeping,  
 being well known to the traveling public and accommodating to all who give  
 them a call. We predict for the new firm, an excellent business."  
*This partnership lasted until 8 June 1861.*

22 Jun 1861 Placer Herald  
 Daniel Guiou, Hotel Keeper for American Hotel.  
 Until 1 Mar 1862.

15 March 1862

Placer Herald

"THE AMERICAN HOTEL.- This House has passed into the hands of Messrs Stephens & Edgington, who will make popular landlords. They have procured new bedding, &c., and intend to refit the house up in a superior style for the accommodation of the public."

*The last ad for this partnership was on 2 Aug 1862.*

9 Aug 1862

Placer Herald

"AMERICAN HOTEL.- This popular Hotel has again passed into the hands of George H. Stephens, who intends to make it one of the best in the county. George 'knows how to keep Hotel.' and that is more than can be said of every man. The public will find him agreeable and accommodating."

*Somehow, in spite of all his past defaults, the townspeople still seemed to hold George in high regard. This notwithstanding his pattern of incurring debts with regularity in his business dealings. Delinquent payments on these debts made him a frequent visitor to the courts.*

7 Sep 1863

District Ct #1889

George Willment vs. G. H. Stephens

Plaintiff complains that between 1 Aug 1863 & 5 Sep 1862 he sold defendant goods worth \$4100.29. Defendant paid \$3092.32 - the sum of \$1007.97 remains due. May have been dismissed.

31 Oct 1863

Placer Herald

### **FIRE - - - GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

"It is with great regret we have to announce that Auburn, the third time, has been visited by a destructive conflagration. At 8 O'clock on Wednesday evening a quick cry of fire hurried our citizens into the streets where they were astounded with the sight of the upper story of the Empire Hotel completely in flames... further progress southward was arrested by the strong brick walls of the "American" ... The fire lasted less than one hour, and in that time destroyed about \$60,000 worth of property." Among the losses was - Geo H. Stephens \$2500.

28 Dec 1863

District Ct #1942

Geo, H. Stephens vs W. A. Johnson

Complains that on Dec 1 1862 an unpaid debt of \$327.35. Attachment ordered.

1 Mar 1864

District Ct #1888

George Willment vs G. H. Stephens & A. M. Edington

A claim of \$405.68. That on 8 Mar 1862 and 31 July 1862 sold goods and merchandize for the sum of \$2380.68. They paid \$1976. Plaintiff asks for judgement and costs. Total requested \$1007.97. Court ordered defendants to pay \$434.31, costs and interest of 10 % per annum. Writ of attachment was issued.

Mar 1864

District Ct #1968

Geo. Wilment vs George H. Stephens

Plaintiff seeks to recover \$1427.98 and costs for merchandize from 1 Aug 1862 to 1 Mar 1864. Writ of attachment issued 1 Mar 1864.

2 Mar 1864

District Ct #1969

E. K. Aldrich vs Geo. H. Stephens

Seeking to recover \$1113 from promissory note dated 10 Aug 1863 at 2 1/2 % interest per month. Writ of attachment issued 8 Mar 1864

9 April 1864

Placer Herald

**"AMERICAN HOTEL.**-Samuel G. Morris has become proprietor of this well known public house, and will hereafter conduct it. Mr. Morris has had considerable experience in hotel keeping, and will make a popular landlord." *(He remained proprietor until shortly before his death in April of 1871.)*

### **AMERICAN HOTEL**

Auburn, Placer County, Cal.

**SAMUEL G. MORRIS, Proprietor.**

**GENERAL STAGE OFFICE.**

HAVING TAKEN THE AMERICAN Hotel, and refitted it in a superior style, and otherwise improved it, the proprietor feels confident that his experience will enable him to render entire satisfaction to all who may become his guests.

The "American" is eligibly situated on the Plaza, and has the advantage of being a fire proof building; and the Parlors and Bed-Rooms are pleasant and well furnished, and will always be found neat and clean.

### **THE TABLE**

will be supplied with the best that can be procured for the comfort of those who may become his patrons, and

### **THE BAR**

will always be furnished with superior liquors and cigars.

The office of the California Stage Company is kept at the Hotel, where passengers can take the stage daily for Sacramento, Nevada, Dutch Flat, Iowa Hill, Yankee Jim's, Forest Hill, Placerville, Marysville, and Washoe.

15 Oct 1864

Placer

Herald

### **ANOTHER GREAT FIRE IN AUBURN 35 HOUSES DESTROYED**

"At 8 o'clock, yesterday morning, the cry of fire and the rapid ringing of the Court House bell, told our citizens that the dreaded element was again at the work of destruction... the flames enveloped building after building, until they reached the brick walls of the American, that once more proved an effectual barrier. The tongues of fire twisted and lapped about the devoured house, but its staunch walls of brick and iron stayed the destroyer in that direction," In



the list of losses: Geo. H. Stephens, damage to American Hotel, furniture, and to outbuildings .... \$3,000.

1868 Great Register - Truckee, California  
George Henry Stephens Age 46 Merchant

16 April 1868 Deed Bk P, Pg 34  
G. W. Sickles to George Stephens for \$10 rights to a mining claim on North Ravine.

Mar 1869 District Ct #2556  
C. S. Astin vs Geo. H. Stephens  
Based on a promissory note from 16 May 1864 which stated that 12 months after said date defendant promised to pay S. C. Astin \$500 for value received. Affidavit for attachment 4 Mar 1869. Case dismissed.

19 Mar 1869 Deed Bk Q, Pg 94  
J. M. Gillard to Geo. H. Stephens  
Relates to an interest in a mining claim.

12 May 18 1870 Deed Bk R, Pg 560  
D. W. Spear to Samuel Morris. Spear acting as trustee for the City of Auburn land patent grants ownership rights to the proven owner of lots 9 and 16 in Block 4.

1870 Census Auburn, California  
George H. Stephens Born 1822 Conn. Miner No Estate Listed

2 June 1870 Deed Bk R, Pg 285  
Adolph Craner to George H. Stephens and S. G. Morris for \$1600 the American Hotel and lot of ground.

2 June 1870 Mortgage Bk I, Pg 447  
S. G. Morris and G. H. Stephens to C. L. Simons for \$2000 the American Hotel to secure a promissory note with interest of 1 1/2 % monthly. "said property being the same day conveyed to the said parties of the 1st part by A. P. Craner. Satisfaction 14 Aug 1872.

18 Feb 1871 Deed Bk S, Pg 420  
Michael Greany to Geo. H. Stephens and Samuel G. Morris for \$100 that certain claim known as the Stephens and Morris claim in Ophir.

11 Apr 1871 Probate of Samuel G. Morris  
I give and bequest all my estate both real and personal ... to George W. Stephens of Auburn. Will dated 2 April 1871. Estate includes:  
1/2 interest in American Hotel  
1/2 interest in lot in "China Town"  
1/2 interest in Ophir Mining Claim.

1/2 interest in American Hotel furniture  
Provisions and liquors  
All of Solvent Debts  
Total of: \$9,250

11 Apr 1871

Mortgage Bk I, Pg 661

George H. Stephens to Geo. D. Aldrich for \$2072.86 a promissory note due in two years and secured by Lot 9 in Block 4 (American Hotel). Interest of 1 % monthly. Satisfied 14 Aug 1872.

*With Samuel Morris on his death bed, George was up to his old ways again, buying and selling properties and incurring more debt. It may be on this date that George's final financial downward spiral began, a spiral from which he was unable to extricate himself.*

15 Apr 1871

Placer Herald

**"DIED.** - At the American Hotel, Auburn, April 9th, 1871, **SAMUEL G. MORRIS**, in the 57th year of his age.

Deceased was born in the city of Columbia, South Carolina, in 1814. When a young man he became an employe on a steamboat, and continued in various capacities, as chef Steward, part owner, etc., in that line of business, chiefly on the Mississippi and its tributaries, until the Spring of 1852, when he crossed the plains to California, and came to Ophir, in this county in the winter of 1852. After the great fire at Ophir in July, 1853, he built and opened the Mount Pleasant House, between here and Ophir. Afterwards, in 1855, he settled at Rattlesnake Bar, and remained there in business, keeping hotel, principally, until 1861 or '62, when he came to Auburn, and in April, 1864, become proprietor of the American Hotel, in which position he remained to the time of his death. S. G. Morris was a man of sterling integrity, energetic, persevering and honest in all his business relations, a high-toned, honorable, social gentleman, and one universally loved, respected and esteemed by all his acquaintances, and their name was legion. He had been unwell for weeks, when typhoid fever set in and proved fatal.

**LARGE FUNERAL.**-The funeral of S. G. Morris which took place from the American on last Monday, was one of the largest and most solemn ever witnessed in Auburn and showed clearly the profound respect with which the deceased was ever regarded by all classes of our citizens. The remains were buried in Odd Fellow's Cemetery, of which order deceased was an honored member. The Odd Fellows of Auburn with numbers from neighboring lodges, turned out in regalia, in a body and followed the remains to their last resting place. Funeral services were held in the parlors of the Hall, by Rev. J. H. Peters, after which the solemn procession formed, headed by the Auburn Brass Band, followed by the pall bearers bearing the silver mounted coffin profusely and handsomely decorated with wreaths of flowers; these by the Odd Fellows in full regalia, and these by ladies, then gentlemen and friends generally, all

making a long, solemn and imposing procession. The band played solemn funeral dirges as the march continued to the cemetery, and during the services of interment and on the return of the brotherhood to their hall. Deceased, we think, had no enemy in the world, but the universal good will of all who knew him. Elsewhere, in its appropriate place, we have briefly noted an obituary.

22 Apr 1871 District Ct #2710

Geo. H. Stephens vs Ophir C. S. & G. M. Co.

Relating to American Co. claim or the the Stephens and Morris claim - about one mile from the town of Ophir and near North Ravine. Wants court decree that he is the owner of the mining ground. George Stephens received judgement from the court.

28 Apr 1871 District Ct #2712

H. Webster & Co. vs Geo. Stephens

Supplied whiskies and wines from 25 Aug to 1 Nov 1867 for the full sum of \$423.50 and \$200 paid. Leaving \$223.50. Now due \$465.25. Writ of Attachment issued. Stephens paid \$533.23.

26 Jun 1871 Deed Bk S, Pg 627

C. Watkins to Geo H. Stephens for \$25 a parcel of land in Auburn - lot 20 in Block 4 between Powell's Stable and the American Hotel.

1 Aug 1871 Deed Bk T, Pg 117

Geo. H. Stephens to William Hamilton for \$1000 does sell 1/2 share of a mining claim near North Ravine known as the claim of the American Company - 800 feet of the Green ledge.

29 Sept 1871 Mortgage Bk D, Pg 498

Geo. H. Stephens to W. H. Hasselgren and John H. Wilson for \$951 (four promissory notes dated 29 Sept 1871) a list of furniture from the American Hotel. The written mortgage was cancelled by payment Dec 18, 1872.

29 Sept 1871 Mortgage Bk I, Pg 780

George H. Stephens to Wm. Hamilton for \$1000 does sell an undivided 1/2 right in a mining claim near North Ravine. Satisfied 6 Mar 1872.

23 Oct 1871 Deed Bk T, Pg 179

Hang Koy to Geo. Stephens & Geo Keehner

Same as Probate Record for Anna Karnes. Sold to A. Holer in 1878. (See DD, Pg 446)

22 Dec 1871 Deed Bk T, Pg 374

Louis Lavallo to Geo. H. Stephens for \$1, 1/4 undivided interest in those mining claims near North Ravine being 800 feet on a certain vein called the "Green" ledge. Same as Bk D, Pg 310 of Mining Claims.

27 Mar 1872 Placer Herald 30 Mar 1872

George H. Stephens married Jane E. Bayley in Grass Valley, the daughter of A. J. and Elizabeth Bayley of Pilot Hill.

*Little is known about George's private life, but the Bayley family of Pilot Hill were very wealthy. There were no notices of the marriage other than a one line announcement in the Placer Herald. It is surprising since both would have been notable figures in their communities. After the marriage they lived in Lotus. When A. J. Bayley died they moved into his house for a time (R. Lee). By 1880 Jane had a different husband.*

14 Aug 1872

Mortgage Bk J, Pg 184

George H. Stephens to Geo. D. Aldrich for \$6,848.40 with a rate of interest of 1 1/4 % per month. Secured by a promissory note and American Hotel.

*George takes out a new mortgage in order to pay off earlier ones. It appears that when George realized that he would have difficulty with this new debt he sought to shelter the American Hotel from attachment by placing it in his aunt's name in April, 1873. This maneuver failed. After several more years of litigation the American Hotel was lost to George for the final time.*

23 Nov 1872

Placer Herald

**CHANGED LANDLORDS.** - The American Hotel has passed into the hands of T. & W. K. Mitchell, as lessees, who are now prepared to accommodate all permanent and transient guests that may favor them with their patronage. We think the brothers can keep a hotel, but if any have doubts on this point, let them test the matter by actual experience as guests. See the card of the new firm in the Herald of to-day.

New Advertisements.

**AMERICAN HOTEL  
AUBURN, CAL.,  
T. & W. K. MITCHELL**

Proprietors.

**THE AMERICAN IS ELIGIBLY** situated on the Plaza, and has the advantage of being a fire-proof building, and the Parlors and Bed Rooms are pleasant and well furnished, and will always be found neat and clean.

General Stage Office

8 Apr 1873

Deed Bk V, Pg 141

Geo. H. Stephens to Ann Karnes for \$1 the American Hotel and all personal property attached. Also, undivided 1/2 interest in 86 acres (Poland Ranch).

*Ann Karnes, Olive Goodwyn -George's Aunts*

*Ann (Tibbals) Karnes was born 2 May 1806 in Durham Twp, Middlesex Co., CT. She married 26 Oct 1841 William F. Karnes in Adams Co., Illinois.*

*Ann died 22 Oct 1873 in Chicago, Illinois.  
Her husband, William F. Karnes (1806 - 21 Aug 1849) died in Quincy, Adams Co., Ill.  
Ann was his second wife and together they had a son, George. Ann had a sister, Olive.*

*Olive (Tibbals) Goodwyn was born 30 Nov 1804 in Durham Twp, Middlesex Co., Connecticut. She married 12 Apr 1832 Thomas W. Goodwyn in Essex Co., New Jersey. He spent five years in California, from 1850 to about 1855. He returned to the family in Quincy, Adams Co., Illinois in 1855 where he remained the next ten years before returning to California. Thomas W. Goodwyn ( 26 May 1803 - 3 Oct 1888) appears to have left his family in Grass Valley and moved to Healdsburg, California where he died years later. Olive was resident in Grass Valley until her death 9 Aug 1884. The only indication that there was any contact between George Stephens and these relatives is that Olive's son Thomas Goodwyn was listed as living in Auburn (for just the one year) in the Great Registry of 1868.*

Dwyer & Gubbay vs Geo. Stephens District Ct #2716  
Action brought to recover \$339.19 for goods, wares sold between 29 Mar and 6 June 1871. Stephens paid Sheriff Dunman \$357.09 in full.

2 Sep 1873 District Ct #2888  
Walgren Et. Al. vs Gordon Et. Al.  
Contested mining claim. Stephens was one of many defendants. Not resolved.

Sep 1873 District Ct # 2889  
George D. Aldrich vs. Geo. H. Stephens  
Aldrich avers that on 1 May 1872 a promissory note for \$800 with 1 1/4 % interest made by G. H. Stephens. Now owing principal and interest from 1 Oct 1872. Court orders that Stephens pay Aldrich \$968.83 with costs. Writ of Attachment issued 15 Sep 1873. Advertisement for sale to be held 21 Mar 1874. Inventory follows.

15 Sep 1873 District Ct #2890  
George D. Aldrich vs Geo. H. Stephens & Ann Karnes  
Plaintiff believed Ann Karnes (who died 22 Oct 1873) reconveyed her interest in said mortgage to Stephens. Karnes claimed an interest in mortgage by reason of deed from 8 April 1873 (Book V, Pgs 141 & 142). No deed reconveying property from Karnes to Stephens.

Original complaint - Plaintiff loaned Stephens \$6848.40 at 1 1/4 % per month on 14 Aug 1872. Promissory note has details. Sheriff ejected Stephens from the American Hotel on 22 May 1876 by Writ of Assistance.

Copy of deed for the American Hotel by James McCormick, Sheriff, to George D. Aldrich, dated 29 April 1876 (Bk Z, Pg 363) Purchased at public auction on 25 Oct 1875 for the sum of \$7500. Deed filed after six months wait. This deed: Deed Bk Z, pages 398,399 and 400, dated 13 May 1876.

22 Sept 1873 District Ct #2889  
Geo D Aldrich vs. Geo H. Stephens

## Writ of Attachment

### Inventory of Personal Property (American Hotel)

*The following is an excellent view into the grandeur of the hotel, with its gilt mirrors and marble topped tables. It provides an intriguing look at the hotel, room by room.*

#### Bar Room

15 Bar Room Chairs  
2 Bar Room Tables  
4 Pictures  
3 Bar Servers  
2 Plated Servers  
1 Glass Case Birds  
1 Large Gilt Mirror  
1 Bar Sign  
2 Bar Decanters  
2 Syrup Bottles  
6 Bitters Bottles  
1 Plated Cobler Cup  
1 Plated Bar Seive  
1 Glass Spoon Bowl  
1 Ice Safe  
28 Small & Large Bar Tumblers  
1 Bar Stove and Pipe  
3 Maps  
1 Carpet Cover & Bar Shelf  
1 Key Rack  
1 Room Register  
1 Safe  
1 Clock  
1 Dice Box  
1 Glass Drainer  
6 Bar Pumps  
2 Set Lamp Hangings  
18 Spittons

#### Wash Room

1 Set Rubber Hose and Nozzle  
1 Mirror  
1 Table  
1 Hall Lamp & Hangings

#### Hall Second Floor

Floor Oil Cloth on Hall  
Floor Matting on Hall  
3 Hall Lamps  
2 Floor Mats  
1 Table  
16 Candle Sticks

#### Parlor

1 Carpet  
1 Stove & Pipe  
2 Sofas  
1 Lounge  
2 Ottomans  
1 Stand  
1 Marble Top Table  
1 Large Gilt Mirror  
1 Can Seat Rocking Chair  
5 Cain Seat Chairs  
1 Chandelier

#### Parlor Bed Room

1 Carpet  
1 Oak Bedstead  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Marble Top Bureau  
1 Marble Top Table  
1 Marble Top Commode  
1 Marble Top Wash Stand  
1 Grained Wardrobe  
1 Lounge  
2 Cain Chairs  
1 Gilt Mirror  
2 Pr Demask Curtains

1 China Chamber Set  
1 Stove & Pipe  
1 Small Floor Rug

1 Wash Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Hair Seat Chair  
1 Hard Seat Chair

#### Room 1

2 Hat Racks  
1 Old Bureau  
1 Mirror Cracked  
1 Hair Rocking Chair old  
1 Carpet

#### Room 2

1 Carpet  
1 3/4 Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Wash Stand  
1 Hat Rack  
1 Bureau  
1 Stand Wash Bowl Pitcher & Chamber  
2 Cain Seat Chairs  
2 Feather Pillows

#### Room 3

1 Carpet  
1 Double Mahogany Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Bureau  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Mirror  
1 Table  
1 Hair Seat Chair  
1 Hat Rack  
2 Feather Pillows

#### Room 4

1 Carpet  
1 Double Mahogany Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Bureau Wash Stand  
1 Table

#### Room 5

1 Carpet  
1 Dark Mahogany Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Maple Bureau  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Hard Seat Chair  
1 Hat Rack  
2 Feather Pillows

#### Room 6

1 Carpet  
1 Double Bedstead  
1 Spring Bed  
2 Mattresses  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Table  
1 Hat Rack  
1 Mirror  
2 Hard Seat Chairs

#### Room 7

1 Carpet  
1 Double Mahogany Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Bureau  
1 Wash Stand, Bow, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Cane Seat Chairs  
1 Hat Rack

#### Room 8

1 Wall Mirror  
1 Hat Rack

1 Carpet  
1 3/4 Bedstead      old style

Room 8 (cont.)

1 Single Bedstead      old style  
2 Spring Beds  
1 Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Mirror  
1 Hat Rack  
1 Hard Seat Chair

Room 9

1 Carpet  
1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Bureau  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Parlor Table  
1 Table  
1 Hat Rack  
1 Cane Seat Chair  
1 Hard Seat Chair

Room 10

1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Walnut Bureau  
1 Walnut Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Hat Rack  
2 Cane Seat Chairs  
2 Pillows Feather  
1 Carpet

Room 11

1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress

Room 12

1 Carpet  
1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Walnut Wash Stand, Bowl,  
Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Bureau  
1 Table  
1 Hat Rack  
2 Cane Seat Chairs

Room 13

1 Carpet  
1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
1 Bureau  
1 Table  
1 Mirror  
2 Cane Seat Chairs  
1 Hat Rack

Room 14

1 Carpet  
1 Double Walnut Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Bureau  
1 Table  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
1 Hat Rack  
2 Cane Seat Chairs

Room 15



2 Feather Pillows  
1 Bureau  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Table  
2 Cane Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet  
Room 15 (cont.)

1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1  
2 Cane Seat chairs  
1 Hard Seat Chair

#### Room 16

1 Carpet  
1 Double Bedstead old style  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Bureau  
1 Mirror  
1 Hard Seat Chair

#### Room 17

1 Carpet  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Double Bedstead old style  
1 Mattress  
1 Table  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
1 Cane Seat Chair

#### Hall 3rd Floor

1 Stain carpet  
Oil Cloth & matting  
1 Pine Table  
1 Marble Top Wash Stand  
1 Lamp  
13 Candle Sticks  
3 Hard Seat Chairs

#### Room 18

1 Carpet  
1 Double Bedstead  
1 Spring Mattress  
2 Pillows  
1 Bureau  
Room 18

1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher  
& Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Hard Seat Chair  
1 Carpet

#### Room 19

1 Double Bedstead  
2 Spring Beds  
3 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
4 Mattresses  
1 Table  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Hard Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet  
1 3/4 Bedstead

#### Room 20

1 Double Bedstead old style  
1 3/4 Bedstead old style  
2 Feather Pillows  
2 Spring Beds  
2 Mattresses  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
1 Hard Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet  
1 Small Mirror

#### Room 21

1 Carpet 2 Hard Seat Chairs  
2 3/4 Bedsteads old style

2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
2 Spring Beds  
1 Mattress

#### Room 22

2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Hard Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet

#### Room 23

1 Carpet  
2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
2 Spring Mattresses  
1 Table  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
3 Hard Seat Chairs

#### Room 24

1 Carpet  
2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
3 Wood Seat Chairs

#### Room 25

1 Double Bedstead      old style  
1 3/4 Bedstead      old style  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress

1 Spring Mattress  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher  
& Chamber

#### Room 26

1 Carpet  
2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
2 Spring Beds  
2 Mattresses  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
2 Chairs

#### Room 27

1 Double Bedstead      old style  
1 3/4 Bedstead      old style  
1 Spring Mattress  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
1 Table  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Wood Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet

#### Room 28

1 Carpet  
2 3/4 Bedsteads      old style  
2 Spring Beds  
2 Mattresses  
2 Feather Pillows  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher &  
Chamber  
2 Wood Seat Chairs

#### Room 29

2 Feather Pillows  
1 Table  
1 Small Mirror  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
2 Wood Seat Chairs  
1 Carpet

#### Room 29 (cont.)

1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
3 Wood Seat Chairs

#### Room 30

1 Carpet  
1 Double Bedstead            old style  
1 3/4 Bedstead                old style  
2 Spring Beds  
2 Mattresses  
1 Feather Pillow  
1 Wash Stand, Bowl, Pitcher, & Chamber  
1 Small Mirror  
2 Wood Seat Chairs

#### Dining Room

66 Cane Seat Dining Chairs  
2 Cane Seat Dining Chairs child's  
15 Wood Seat Dining Chairs  
9 Dining Tables  
6 Lamps  
4 Lamp Hangings  
3 Window Curtains  
14 Table Casters  
10 Sugar Bowls  
8 Water Pitchers  
2 Small Tea trays  
8 Creamers  
2 Syrup Mugs  
18 Satlers  
7 Large Platters  
3 Doz. Plated Table Spoons  
3 Doz. Plated Tea Spoons  
6 Doz. Knives & Forks

1 Carpet  
1 Double Bedstead    old style  
1 Spring Bed  
1 Mattress  
2 Feather Pillows  
2 Tables

#### Kitchen

1 Cooking Stove, Pipe & Furniture  
4 Water Buckets  
1 Large Coffee Mill

#### Table & Bed Linen

6 Short Table Cloths  
6 Long Table Cloths  
56 Towels  
47 Double Bed Sheets  
46 3/4 Bed Sheets  
63 Pillow Slips  
52 Blankets  
22 Bed Spreads  
16 Bed Comforters

4 Doz. Soup Plates  
4 Doz. Dining Plates  
2 Doz. Pie Plates  
4 Doz. Cups & Saucers  
8 Doz. Side Dishes

8 June 1874

Probate File #361

Probate of Ann Karnes

Geo. H. Stephens appointed administrator of the estate of Ann Karnes. There remains unsold the following described real property. 66 acres in Section 16 of Twp 12 and 20 acres also in Section 16 of Twp 12. Both these properties were considered unproductive. Stephens applies to the court on July 2, 1878 to sell these properties. They were sold to Andrew Holer on August 8, 1878. Her inventory from an earlier date included the American Hotel with a value listed at \$11,500.

16 Sep 1875

Deed Bk Y, Pg 537

W. L. Munson, Tax Collector, to George Aldrich. Real Estate sold for Non Payment of Taxes. The American Hotel.

25 Sept 1875

Placer Herald

### **SHERIFF'S SALE**

MONDAY, October 25th, A. D. 1875

At the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. of that day, in front of the American Hotel, in the town of Auburn, Placer county, California, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for gold coin, the following described property, to wit: All and singular the interest of George H. Stephens and Ann Karnes in and to that certain property known as the American Hotel property; said property situate in the town of Auburn as Lot No. Nine (9) in Block No. Four (4); also the building situate thereon; together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances, thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining. The above described property I will sell as aforesaid to satisfy said judgement, interest, costs, accruing cost and expenses of sale.

JAMES McCORMICK, Sheriff Placer County

21 Mar 1876

Deed Bk Z, Pg 257

Geo. H. Stephens to C. C. Crosby for \$100 being Lot 20 in Block 4 being situated between Powell's Stable and the American Hotel.

19 May 1876

Deed Bk Z, Pg 426

George H. Stephens to Alex Seifert and M. Dodsworth, a certain spring of water and the building enclosing the same. Situated on Brewery Lane between the Auburn Brewery and stable together with pipes and rights of way running to the southern line of lot no. 9 in block 4.

8 Jul 1876

Deed Bk BB, Pg 634

George Stephens, Administrator of the estate of Ann Karnes, to Geo. D. Aldrich the American Hotel for \$7500 - sold by Sheriff to satisfy a judgement from 11 Sept. 1875.

24 Apr 1877

Deed Bk BB, Pg 626

W. L. Munson, Ex-Tax Collector, to Geo. D. Aldrich property was assessed for fiscal year ending 30 June 1876 at \$7000 - estate of Ann Karnes. Sold at public auction for the non-payment of taxes for fiscal year 1875 - 76. Taxes paid \$98.55.

8 Aug 1878

Deed Bk DD, Pg 446

George H. Stephens, Adm. of Ann Karnes

To Andrew Holer for \$600 an equal undivided 1/2 of the W. 3/4 of S1/2 of the NW 1/4 & the W 3/4 of the N 2/40 of the SW 1/4 of Section No. 16, Twp 12, N Range 8 containing 66 acres & 20 acres. La Fayette Ledge

14 March 1878

Deed Bk II, Pg 16

Geo Stephens to Edward Walsh

For \$100 1/10 share of Conrad Quartz claim and mill site.

*In the years following George's loss of the American Hotel he sold off his and his aunt's remaining properties and left Auburn. He made an appearance in Arizona but returned to Auburn in 1882.*

1880 Census: Harshaw Pat Mountains, Pima Co., Arizona

[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

George H. Stephens, age 61, born Connecticut, keeps a meat market

3 Jun 1882

Placer Herald

"Geo. H. Stephens, an old Auburnite, a prominent resident here as early as '49, but who has been trying his luck in Arizona and other parts for the last few years is again back in Auburn.

*This chronology began with one obituary and ends with another. A seeming failure for all his grand plans and despite some success, George returned to Auburn and the hotel he built and struggled so long to manage. His death in the American Hotel was a sad ending to an intriguing life. The local cemetery records no headstone for George, nor even his burial. Therefore it seems fitting that George's life is memorialized by his greatest accomplishment - the American Hotel building.*

1 July 1882

The Placer Argus

"George Stephens, and old-time resident of Auburn, was found dead in his bed at the American Hotel Tuesday morning last. Deceased had not resided in Auburn for three or four years past, but he returned here some three weeks ago from San Francisco and Grass Valley. He had evidently become discouraged with his situation and prospects in life, having, as he told friends here, tried every possible way to secure employment, but in vain; and he added despondently that he supposed he had outlived his usefulness. A few days after arriving here he indulged in one or two prolonged sprees, and had to be taken

in charge by the Sheriff. His death resulted from the overdose of morphine, taken very probably with suicidal intent. He was a native of Connecticut, aged 63 years, but he had lived many years in New Orleans before coming to California.

**A LIST OF THOSE KNOWN ( FROM COURT CASES AND MECHANICS LIENS) TO  
HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
THE AMERICAN HOTEL IN AUBURN IN 1855 - 1856**

*This list provides an invaluable look at the vendors, suppliers, craftsman and laborers that worked on the American Hotel. There is no known local comparison that lists this amount of detail for any early Auburn building.*

Daniel O'Connor - Hostler	Peter McDermit
Wm. Cutts - Drove teams, worked in stable	Burt - Lumber
Geo. Betts - Sale of livestock, work and labor	A. Davidson
Geo. Whitney - Provided furniture and furnishings	
M. Miller - Goods and merchandise	
Magnolia Mill (Smith & Evans) - Lath and fencing	
Harvey Wickes - Painting supplies	
John T. Reed - Mechanic	
Frederick E. Shepard - Labor and supplied 32 windows	
Wooden & Steele - Constructed hotel water works	
William Phinney - Labor	
Reuben C. Brock - Work	
B. Blancher, J. Hallack & M. Carpenter - Pipes and painting supplies	
John Rivett, J. Jordan & E. Carroll - Rolls of paper velvet border, etc.	
Fred Robinson - Painter	
R. Stephens - Work	
James McLean - Work and painting supplies	
Gorman - Worked with McLean	
John Burlingham - Sign painter	
James McQuinn - Work and labor	
John Fletcher - Plasterer	
Benjamin Hoffman - Carpenter	
Elberle & Gove & Co. (Union Store) - Materials	
C. W. Pegg - Flooring	
Josiah Freidline - Carpenter	
J. M. Barlow - Labor	
Huland Mills - Work	
Jacob Gibson & Bros. - Masons	
Willy Drake - Brick layer	
Frank Hastings & Henry W. Earle - Tin roof materials	
Brook - Constructed tin roof	
J. W. Avery - Windows and doors	
Burt Baldwin - Lumber & materials	

May & Co. - Lumber from Clipper Mill & People's Mill  
James McGevin - Hod carrier  
Samuel Huntress - Hostler  
R. J. Fisher - Lumber

**Building Owners To 1939**  
**The American Hotel Property, Lot 9 in Block 4, Auburn, California**  
With water rights and water works and some exceptions.

14 June 1881 Deed Bk II, Page 562  
George D. Aldrich to Frank Gubbay and John Green the American Hotel property and the water rights and water works besides all the furniture and fixtures.

1 Oct 1881 Deed Bk JJ, Page 182  
John Green to Frank Gubbay for the sum of \$3251.66 the one half part undivided of Lot 9 in Block 4 the American Hotel property.

11 Oct 1882 Deed Bk KK, Page 775  
Frank Gubbay to Frank Tull & J. R. Willis for the sum of \$11,000 does sell the property known as the "American Hill" described as lot number 9 in block 4 with water rights and water works (excepting the right to have water for drinking purposes in the next door Store Building) together with the Hotel & Bar Furniture and Fixtures, and all the groceries, provisions, supplies & wood now on hand and one cow.

25 Nov 1882 Placer Herald, Page 5  
Frank Tull has purchased the half interest in the American Hotel owned by J. R. Willis, and is now sole proprietor. The price paid was \$6000, or \$500 more than half of the purchase money paid by them when they bought Gubbay out about a month ago.

1 June 1886 Deed Bk SS, Page 612  
Frank Tull to George W. McCreedy for \$12,500 all the property known as the American Hotel with all the water rights and water works together with all the Hotel & Bar Furniture, the milch cow used at the Hotel, and the hogs.

23 May 1895 Deed Bk 66, Page 136  
George McCreedy & Mrs. L. F. Niles (stepdaughter) to George C. West for five dollars all the property known as the American Hotel property with water rights and water works, with all the Hotel & Bar Furniture, fixtures and Billiard Table.

13 Nov 1902 Deed Bk 80, Page 84  
George C. West and Mary F. West to D. A. Russell for the sum of \$7,500 do sell the American Hotel in Lot Number 9 in Block Number 4 excepting a strip of land 75 feet in length by 30 feet in width upon which now stands a barn built by Gubbay, and now owned by Morgan, and a narrow strip now covered by a store built by Gubbay, now owned by Morgan. Together with water rights and water works. Also the following described personal property; "The kitchen furniture and utensils, range, cooking utensils, ... the contents of the Dining Room, the same being (9) tables, and chairs, reserving and excepting from the contents of the Dining Room six (6) chairs, the same being used around the center table in the Dining Room; also all the Dining Room fittings, and furnishings and dishes of every kind used in the said Dining Room; also the contents of the Bar Room; reserving therefrom a small ice chest and including the cash register and all fittings and furnishings of the Bar Room, saving and excepting the stock of liquors now on hand; also the furniture, the same including the carpets, bureaus, beds and bedding, wash-

stands and chairs now being in Rooms Three (3) to Thirty-three (33) inclusive, and also the Room known as the "Parlor Bed Room", the same being intended to include all of the articles used in and being in the said rooms, saving and specially reserving therefrom the contents, fittings and furniture in Rooms One (1) Two (2) and Fifteen (15); also the carpets, furniture, fittings and mirrors, including piano, in what is known as the "Parlor", saving and excepting therefrom a small marble top table, a small mirror, three rugs, and the family portraits and pictures; also the Gas Plant and fixtures, connected therewith, and used for lighting the hotel; also all personal property, other than the personal effects of the parties of the first part, used in and about the said hotel; excepting and reserving one (1) oak extension table, the same not being used in the said hotel; also the Bus used in connection with the hotel business, and the horses and harness, and all the personal property used for or in connection with the horses and Bus, the said Bus now being in the barn on the hotel premises.

29 July 1905

Placer Herald, Page 5

Auburn Visited By Fire. The Largest in Many Years.

The fire originated somewhere in the rear of the City Hall building. ... North of the City Hall everything was burned up to and including the American Hotel, including the old Empire Hotel, Crosby's livery stable and the saloon building belonging to Mrs. George Keehner.

Once the flames got inside the American Hotel they were "bottled up," and if the walls stood, the rest of the town was safe. This they did, and firemen contented themselves with keeping the Morgan building on the north side soaked with water, as also they did the hotel front porch.

31 July 1905

Deed Bk 90, Page 354

D. A. Russell and Lizzie Russell to L. L. Chamberlain the American Hotel property for \$1000.

1 August 1905

Deed Bk 90, Page 372

L. L. Chamberlain to F. S. Roumage an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property for \$475.

From 1906 until 1916, this building housed the Placer Hardware Co.

Ledger is located at the Placer County Archives.

2 Dec 1916

Placer Herald

Going Out of Business

The Placer Hardware Co. of Auburn is going out of business. The sale will end on December 25th.

12 May 1917 to 15 Dec 1917 and through September in 1918.

Placer Herald

Advertisement - For Rent Store Building Recently Occupied by Placer Hardware Co., Auburn  
Inquire of T. L. Chamberlain, Auburn

5 April 1919

Placer Herald

New Billiard Hall

A new billiard hall and tobacco stand will occupy the right hand half of the old Placer Hardware building on May 1st. Joe Yue will be in charge and his brother, Charlie Yue, will move the Shanghai restaurant from the small building immediately adjoining the American Block building on the left (where it had been located for the previous 10 years) into the left hand half of the building.

27 Sep 1919

Placer Herald

Sells Interest

Lin Doo and Lim Lee have sold their interest in the Shanghai restaurant to Jung Quong Ling. Charlie Yue still retains his interest and the management.



16 Nov 1923 Deed Bk 211, Page 115  
Elizabeth Mary Roumage to Fred Rupley an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

1 Dec 1923 (Ads ran to 27 June 1925) Placer Herald  
Manuel Neves to rent Liberty Pool Hall next to Shanghai restaurant.

23 Jan 1925 Deed Bk 201, Page 421  
Fred and Violet Rupley to Wilbert Yue an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

9 Sept 1933 Placer Herald  
Prohibition was lifted and advertisements began to appear for the Liberty Pool Hall - Beer on Draft.

28 July 1934 Placer Herald  
Gus Carteris, Proprietor of the Liberty Pool Hall, runs a first class, orderly place, and says business is good.

13 Mar 1937 Placer Herald  
Gus Carteris, Proprietor of the Liberty Pool Hall was operated on (and later died on 25 March).

21 Sep 1940 Placer Herald  
The name "Liberty Pool Hall" appears in a news story. However, beginning in 7 Jan 1939, the name appearing in the Placer Herald was the "Shanghai Annex."

### **Records for the other undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.**

21 May 1906 Deed Bk 137, Page 393  
L. L. Chamberlain to Charles Keena an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

18 June 1913 Deed Bk 140, Page 325  
Charles Keena to S. G. Chamberlain an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

22 Nov 1927 Deed Bk 278, Page 452  
S. G. Chamberlain, et al to Chamberlain Estate Co. an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

15 Aug 1939 Deed Bk 369, Page 71  
Chamberlain Estate Co. to Wilbert Yue an undivided 1/2 interest in the American Hotel property.

Page No. 1

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in City of Auburn N.H. in the County of Placer State 565  
 of California enumerated by me, on the second day of June 1860. M. P. H. Lane Asst Marshal  
 Post Office Auburn

Dwelling-house— number in order of valuation.	Families numbered in order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		Charles Steinfelt	28	m		Saloon Keeper		500	Bavaria			
2		Dick Johnson	30	m		Miner			N.Y.			
3		Mitney Goodsmith	30	m		Butcher		500	Ohio			
4		Dennis M. Curtis	22	m		Miner			Ireland			
5		A. P. Higgins	28	m		Lawyer			Mich			
6		Thomas Foster	33	m		Tax Collector	1500		Ind.			
7		James Constrict	37	m		Tax Collector			Tenn			
8		James Gault	39	m		Watchman		500	Mo.			
9		P. Carl	32	m		Cabinet maker	1500		Maine			
10		W. W. Subick	28	m		Merchant	3000		Russia			
11		Thomas Curley	25	m		Brick Mason	300		Ireland			
12		R. C. Poland	49	m		Lawyer			Ohio			
13		John O'Neil	32	m		Saloon Keeper		500	N.Y.			
14		John Connor	31	m		Labourer			"			
15		Chas. Clalley	25	m		Miner			"			
16		John Coloney	28	m		Labourer			Ireland			
17		George Jerry	33	m		"			"			
18		George H. Stephens	38	m		Saloon Keeper	1000		Mass			
19		John Gorman	32	m		Carpenter			Tenn			
20		Philip Ottner	40	m		Merchant	2000		Ohio			
21		Susan "	25	f					Ill.			
22		Joseph Langedon	25	m		Clerk		200	N.Y.			
23		J. N. Mapers	37	m		Dentist		500	"			
24		L. B. Boligan	32	m		Miner			Maine			
25		M. Bingham	30	m		"			Ind			
26		H. Mages	34	m		Musican			N.Y.			
27		James Fittie	38	m		Miner			N.Y.			
28		Ch. Sing	24	m		Servant			China			
29		Harmon Kuech	28	m		Bedder			Russia			
30	52	Fredrich Johnson	32	m		Baker		100	Germany			
31		Antoine Addison	32	m		"	600		"			
32		Eliza "	22	f					"			
33		Eliza "	4	f					"			
34		Mamett "	1/2	f					Cal.			
35	53	J. L. Jackson	32	m		Hotel Keeper			Me.			
36		Elizabeth J. "	29	f					"			
37		Thomas Baker	30	m		Hotel Keeper			England			
38		Elizabeth J. Pattern	37	f					Rhode Island			
39		Fredrick S. "	12	m					N.Y.			
40		Robert B. "	10	m					"			
110		No. white males, <u>34</u> No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____ No. white females, <u>6</u> No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____ No. paupers, _____ No. convicts, _____										

From 34 to 39 on page 64 from 40 inclusive on page 7 to 29 are boarders at the American Hotel in Auburn whose occupations, ages, property or birth places could not be ascertained



SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in City of Auburn in the County of Placer State of California enumerated by me, on the second day of June 1860. M. J. H. Love Ass't Marshal  
Post Office Auburn

1	2	3	Description.			7	Value of Estate Owned.		10	11	12	13	14
			Age	Sex	Value, Color, and Marital Status		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1		Joseph Walhup	37	m		Ex Lt. Governor	3000	11000	Ohio	x			1
2		William Bowle	35	m		Stable Keeper			Maine	x			2
3		Jacob Feldberg	32	m		Merchant	3000	4000	Germany	x			3
4		Wm. K. Parkinson	24	m		"	3000	1500	N.Y.	x			4
5		Charles Root	38	m		"			N.Y.	x			5
6		John Webb	24	m		Labourer			"	x			6
7		Michael Shea	41	m		"			Ireland	x			7
8		Lawrence O. Riley	31	m		Merchant		500	Ireland	x			8
9		Michael "	28	m		Clerk			"	x			9
10		Charles Philbrick	22	m		Merchant		500	Iowa	x			10
11		Mathew Sherman	29	m		"		500	Mass.	x			11
12		Jas. Mc Burney	30	m		Coroner		500	Ireland	x			12
13		Leah Higgins	33	m		Merchant		500	"	x			13
14		W. B. Lancaster	22	m		"			N.Y.	x			14
15		A. L. Burlingame	30	m		Painter, Artist &			"	x			15
16		Meadow Hotchkiss	30	m		Clerk			"	x			16
17		A. A. Smith	35	m		"			"	x			17
18		Jas. Jenkins	32	m		Painter			"	x			18
19		Jas. Hastings	40	m		Butcher			"	x			19
20		Patrick Monday	35	m		Butcher			Ireland	x			20
21		Jos. Palmer	30	m		Wagon Maker			N.Y.	x			21
22		Samuel	27	m		Clerk			Germany	x			22
23		Edward Gilley	34	m		Fin Smith			N.Y.	x			23
24		Wm. Waterman	29	m		Labourer			Ireland	x			24
25		Thomas Evans	28	m		"			"	x			25
26		John Mc. Blane	32	m		Steward			Scotland	x			26
27		Andrew A. Van Eaton	31	m		Servant			Ireland	x			27
28		John Connor	21	m		"			Ireland	x			28
29		Bridget Glendon	30	f		"			"	x			29
30		R. Gurney	22	m		Cook			"	x			30
31	54 84	Jacob Gibson	34	m		Hotel Keeper	5000	2000	"	x			31
32		Eliza "	62	f		"			"	x			32
33		Jane Elliott	13	f		"			England	x			33
34		Mrs. Elliott	12	m		"			"	x			34
35		Mary E. "	10	f		"			"	x			35
36		Hugh Gibson	40	m		Stone Mason		500	Ireland	x			36
37		Robert "	34	m		"			"	x			37
38		Michael "	28	m		"	1500		"	x			38
39		William "	27	m		Palton Keeper	1500	500	"	x			39
40		Chas. Haskell	31	m		Labourer			Ireland	x			40
10		No. white males, 36		No. colored males, —		No. foreign born, —		No. blind, —		No. idiotic, —		No. paupers, —	
		No. white females, 4		No. colored females, —		No. deaf and dumb, —		No. insane, —		No. convicts, —			



