

# THE FRENCH OF MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE HISTORIC PARK

NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Un claim ou atelier de mineur. — Dessin de J. Peleccq d'après les *Reports of explorations*.

*Prepared for  
California State Parks  
Sierra District  
Tahoma, California*



March 2016



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STATE HISTORIC PARK**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

French-speaking immigrants played an important role in developing the hydraulic techniques that drove California's gold-mining industry for decades after the Gold Rush. The historic Malakoff Gold Mine, located in California's Sierra Nevada foothills, became the largest and most renowned hydraulic mining operation in the 19th-century world. It was discovered by a party of French miners in the mid-1850s who, after working it for years, sold the rights to French entrepreneurs who successfully attracted French investors from San Francisco to create the largest mine of its kind, called the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company. The venture was commonly known for years as the French Company. It shut down after a lawsuit brought by farmers, including some French immigrants, culminated in the 1884 Sawyer Decision that prohibited the discharge of tailings and inaugurated state government protection of the environment. The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the idle property in 1965 and created Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park (MDSHP). The park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 as the Malakoff Diggins – North Bloomfield Historic District. Currently the historical role and contributions of French immigrants are not adequately presented in the park or elsewhere.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation contracted with Sonoma State University's Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) to address this deficiency. ASC conducted archival research, building on research already completed and in progress for the park (Jaffke and Selverston 2014, The Sierra Fund 2014, ASC 2015). The findings of the archival work are the basis for this report, which provides information needed to create an interpretive component focusing on the role of French immigrants in the history of MDSHP. To that end, this document includes not only a narrative historical review based on the archival research, but also a list of French-speakers associated with the park who have been identified to date (Appendix A), a documentary time line (Appendix B), and an inventory of potential exhibit components such as photographs, drawings, maps, newspaper clippings, and archival records (Appendix C).

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## INTRODUCTION

Water was essential for gold mining from the first days of the Gold Rush, when miners used flowing water to separate dense gold from lighter rock and sediment excavated by hand. A small company of French immigrants quickly understood the importance of water and appropriated many of the lakes in the high Sierra Nevada mountain range. Several of the original party settled at what is now Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and began developing claims along Malakoff Ravine. The Malakoff Mine, named for the Russian defense that fell to the French in 1855 during the Crimean War, began as workings near a small camp. Hydraulic mining – the practice of collapsing mountainsides with a powerful jet of water – was invented in 1853 in California’s Sierra Nevada foothills by a team of miners, one of them French. By the late 1850s, many miners were experimenting with hydraulic methods, increasing the demand for water delivered by ditches, flumes, and pipes. A group of French miners operated as the Malakoff Flume Company until 1860, at which time there was a broadly felt “bust” in the gold fields. These and other French miners and investors regrouped, and in 1866 incorporated as the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company. The venture was largely funded by San Francisco’s leading French financier, F. L. A. Pioche, and the operation was carried out mainly by French miners.

Malakoff and the neighboring towns of North Bloomfield and Lake City persisted as dense communities where French culture dominated. As the *Nevada Daily Transcript* noted in 1866, “these claims are owned mostly by Frenchmen, and some forty are employed on the works. The hotel is filled with boarders and French appears to be the ruling language” (*Nevada Daily Transcript* 1866). Hydraulic mining drove the gold industry for 30 years until it was stopped by a US federal court. The practice released vast amounts of water-borne debris, causing flooding and substantial property damage. Valley farmers – including French immigrants – took legal action and the case was decided in favor of the farmers in 1884. An injunction was issued prohibiting the release of hydraulic mining debris into the public waterways, a decision widely considered the nation’s first environmental law. The new regulatory obstacle led to the slow demise of the industry, and the Malakoff Mine closed about a decade later.

This report expands on the long and complicated story of the French community at and associated with MDSHP and introduces the main characters. Not every French national or French-speaking Canadian who came to MDSHP to settle and mine could be included in this tale, and of those who are, only parts of their stories can be told. Enough is included, I hope, to impress upon the reader the scope and nature of French settlement in the park and the role of these and other French-speaking immigrants in developing the Malakoff Mine into the largest hydraulic mine in the late 19th-century world, and in other mines in the region.

This document provides information needed to add the crucial role of French immigrants to the interpretive program at MDSHP. To that end, it includes not only a narrative historical review based on archival research, but also a list of French-speakers associated with the park that have been identified to date (Appendix A), a

documentary time line emphasizing the roles of French-speakers (Appendix B), and an inventory of potential exhibit components such as photographs, drawings, maps, newspaper clippings, and archival records (Appendix C).

## METHODS

ASC conducted archival research for this report, building on research already completed and in progress for the park. Initial research focused on the small community of Malakoff, now an archaeological site at MDSHP (Jaffke and Selverston 2014). ASC conducted further archival research for The Sierra Fund (The Sierra Fund 2014) in order to develop an appropriate context for their environmental assessment and remediation project. Developing a park-wide Interpretation Master Plan entailed additional archival work (ASC 2015). Research continued for this study on the French community and its role in hydraulic mining, and is ongoing in support of inventory efforts presently in progress for the park. Many of the same repositories used in earlier phases of this research are being used to determine historical associations of resources identified in the inventory process.

Dr. Claudine Chalmers, a specialist on the French presence in California, contributed to the project, particularly with tracking down details on the French individuals involved in this study, locating French travel journals, and finding visuals associated with their stories. Sources used during these studies include state park archives, official local government documents and county offices, historical and university library collections, and online sources. Most are more specifically presented in the reports cited above. The main repositories visited were the Searls Historical Library and Foley Library in Nevada City, the Nevada County Recorder's Office, the California Department of Parks and Recreation archives at McClellan, the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and the library of the Society of California Pioneers.

Relevant information from all of the studies has been compiled as a lengthy documentary time line and associated bibliography. Appendix B provides those portions of the time line that are pertinent to the French and the development of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company. The bibliography of this report includes all of the archival sources consulted in the archival work, rather than only the references cited in the report, in order to aid future work on this topic. It includes many secondary sources regarding the French and their activities in California from the Gold Rush onward, as well as literature on the history of hydraulic mining. Full references for items in the documentary time line are provided in the report bibliography, or within the time line entry itself. For example, the numerous newspaper entries in the time line include the full date of the issue in which the article can be found.

# THE FRENCH OF MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE HISTORIC PARK

## BEGINNINGS

French nationals were as captivated as the rest of the world by the discovery of gold in California, and were among the first to reach the gold fields of the Sierra Nevada. News of the discovery reached France virtually simultaneously with the Revolution of 1848, the fall of the French monarchy, and the creation of a new Republic. These tumultuous events themselves succeeded years of harvest failure and economic collapse. Among the first to find gold were a handful of Frenchmen already in California, and their discoveries helped fuel the fever. France's newspapers legitimized the discovery of gold with firsthand accounts and commentary that excited the country beginning in November 1848 (Chinard 1943:291). France's consul in San Francisco estimated that from less than 100 or so prior to the discovery at Sutter's Mill, "there were said to be over 1500 Frenchmen on the banks of the Sacramento" by the summer of 1849, and some 30,000 had arrived by the close of 1851 (Nasatir 1956:311, 316). About a third of them headed to the northern mines by way of Marysville.

Numerous so-called California Societies emerged in France, feeding on the frenzy of gold fever. Most of these stock companies offered passage and membership in a fully outfitted mining company. In practice, they dumped their members at San Francisco without any of the promised support. One of the larger such enterprises, the *Californienne*, transported six convoys of workers to California without actually making any arrangements to feed, house, or supply them. Of 83 companies founded in 1849 and 1850, all of them went into bankruptcy or became "the victims of fraudulent manipulations" (Blumenthal 1956:251). The Lottery of Golden Ingots was the most successful, financing 17 French ships carrying about 3,300 passengers, or *lingotiers* as they were known, to San Francisco between November 1851 and May 1853 (Rohrbough 2013:160-161).

Guillaume Patrice Dillon, the French Consul to the Sandwich Islands, was quickly reappointed to San Francisco to assist with the influx of French gold seekers. He initially lived anchored in the harbor before settling into a house in the city. Dillon received inbound ships from France, maintained a register of arrivals, and "examined the papers of each French emigrant arriving in California" (Nasatir 1956:314). He was also influential in helping them get established and move onward to the mines, both personally, and "by organizing French merchants to form the Société Française de Bienfaisance Mutuelle (French Mutual Benevolent Society), which aided the needy in moving to various parts of the interior—to the Feather and the Yuba River diggins and to Marysville" (Nasatir 1956:315). Dillon personally escorted one party of *lingotiers* to Marysville himself, and even paid for lodging and food along the way (Rohrbough 2013:233).

Marysville became the debarkation point for the northern mines. It lay at the end of reliable navigation up the Sacramento River, at the confluence of its gold-laden tributaries, the Feather and Yuba rivers. Prior to the Gold Rush, Marysville was the headquarters of German national Theodor Cordua's Rancho Honcut, granted in

1844 by the Mexican Governor. Charles Covillaud, a Frenchman born in Cognac, was overseeing the ranch in the late 1840s and was one of the first to hear about the discovery of gold at Sutter's mill on the American River. He made his way to the discovery site to see for himself before striking it rich on the lower Yuba River. Covillaud became rich enough to buy Cordua's large holding, as well as all his cattle and horses. When it came time in 1850 to lay out a town at the site of the ranch, he named it Marysville for his wife, Mary Murphy, of the infamous Donner Party. Many French immigrants and French Canadians passed through Marysville on their way to the burgeoning mining camps along the Yuba River.

Antoine Chabot passed through what would soon become Marysville in the autumn of 1849. Born among the French-speaking population of Quebec, Canada, Chabot immigrated to the eastern seaboard of the United States as a young man. He was living in New Orleans in December 1848 when news of the gold discovery broke, and he immediately made arrangements with a few associates for passage to California via the Isthmus of Panama on the steamer *Galveston* (Burgess1992:15). He staked a claim in Buckeye Ravine, at Nevada City, known then as Dr. Caldwell's Upper Store and consisting of canvas tents and log cabins. Gold mining at this early stage focused on toiling with pans, picks and shovels along active streams where gold had been settling for millennia. Miners dumped soil and water directly into simple devices such as rockers and sluice boxes set up on the banks. Both devices allowed sediment-laden water to pass over raised strips that caught heavy particles of gold. Once all the streambeds had been worked over, prospectors chased older deposits that erosion had exposed upslope from running streams. These so-called hill diggings or dry diggings were more challenging, as miners had to carry the dirt down to the water to be processed – or the water had to come to the diggings.

Chabot and his partners, E. E. Matteson and Eli Miller, both of whom had evidently traveled with him to the gold fields, developed ditches and flumes to bring water for sluicing to their dry diggings during the spring of 1850 (Burgess 1992:30, May 1970:67). A method that quickly became popular used a Long Tom, a portable flume segment made of boards outfitted with a sluice box. Chabot built Long Toms for his own use and for sale to other miners crowding around Caldwell's store.

An Irishman came into town one day during the winter of 1851 and 1852 to resupply. Word about his strike got around town and a crowd of miners followed him back to his claim (Bean 1867:395). They traveled several miles up the mountain and crossed the South Yuba River to prospect the new strike. When it turned out to be less than they had hoped for, they named the place Humbug Canyon (sometimes spelled "Canon" or "Cañon"). Nevertheless, the new ground was settled over the years, and the community came to be known as Humbug City.

That spring of 1852, Chabot experimented with his operation at Caldwell's store by adding a pressure box at the end of his flume, from which a canvas hose brought pressurized water to his diggings (May 1970). By washing the soil into his sluice boxes with fast-moving water under pressure, he was able to process much more gravel, which he did throughout the season (Burgess 1992:31). After a year of this, his

associate Matteson added a nozzle made by Miller to increase the water pressure even more. This allowed them to wash down the hillsides from a safe distance, keeping the operator a safe distance back from collapsing banks (Burgess 1992:32). With this, Chabot and Matteson are credited for inventing hydraulic mining by the spring of 1853. The method quickly spread, reaching Humbug Canyon that same year according to some (Clark 1979:101).

## **WATER DEVELOPMENT**

A great deal of water is needed to mine gold-bearing gravels. Virtually every process suited to these deposits, from panning to hydraulic mining, uses running water to separate rock and sand from the heavier gold. Water is usually abundant in the Sierra Nevada over the winter and spring, but it becomes scarce in the summer and fall. Sometimes the season remains dry throughout the year. Gold mining inevitably slows down when conditions are seasonally dry or during extended droughts. As gold was found farther and farther from active streams, and miners pressed to extend their work later into the dry season, efforts increased to create systems to bring water to the mines.

A party of mostly Frenchmen set out to overcome this limitation on mining by claiming some 30 high Sierra lakes in 1853 and 1854 with the intention of conveying water down the mountain ridges to the diggins (Janicot 1991:12). The largest of the lakes was originally named French Lake, later to be renamed Eureka, and the second largest is Fauchery Lake, named for Benoit Fauchery (Faucherie), the company's leader. Fauchery arrived in California in June 1850 from Le Havre, France, on the French ship *Jacques Lafitte*. He was born in Brousse, in the center of France, and was a merchant in Paris prior to the Gold Rush (Comstock 2013:138). Another of the group, Pierre Aubert, had also been a merchant in Paris, while three others of his party came from more distant corners of France: Léopold Wattier from the north, Pierre Poirson from the northeast, and Louis Lay the south. Henri Pellatier may have been French or Swiss (records disagree), while Louis Leliot was definitely Belgian (Miscellaneous records 2:215). Lacking the finances to actually develop their venture, they turned to another company of Frenchmen who were already constructing a ditch downstream from their lakes. It ran from Canyon Creek to Eureka South, and then to Graniteville, a distance of 13 miles and about half the way to Humbug Canyon (Janicot 1991:12). Julius Poquillon, also from central France not far from where Fauchery was born, arrived in San Francisco in November 1850 and joined the effort as an engineer (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860). The enterprise became the largest system on the ridge between the middle and south forks of the Yuba River, and came to be known as the Eureka Lake Company.

A number of French speakers had settled in Humbug Canyon by the mid-1850s. Among the first arrivals in Humbug City were A. Jacobs, John De Bours, A. Lemaire, Julius Lafertee, and Pierre Aubert, the same French merchant who partnered with Fauchery to claim so many high mountain lakes. Two other members of that party, Wattier and Poirson, also came to live in Humbug City, although it is not known exactly when they did so. Given Aubert's early arrival, it was probably around the same time.

Similarly, Fauchery, Lay, and Poquillon all settled at the edge of the MDSHP only a few miles west of Humbug, along the main road connecting Nevada City with Eureka South. The valley between these two enclaves was named Virgin Valley, which also became the name of the local mining district, the Virgin Valley Mining District. Groups of gold miners came together throughout the Sierra Nevada to establish self-governing mining districts in order to formally record and track claims and the sale of claims. Miners named the districts, defined their own laws, and elected officials for each. The record books of the Virgin Valley Mining District have not been found, so we do not know exactly when it was created or who was involved. The name appears in county records by late 1855, and the first elected recorder was O. P. Jones (Deeds 28:420, Pre-emptions 1:223).

Madame August, a French woman, built the Hotel de France in Humbug City sometime in 1855. This early establishment was originally roofed in canvas; it probably served meals and possibly provided other services (Wells 1880). Madame August had partnered with Julian Dusome by 1857, and it appears that they improved the Hotel de France, sometimes called the Hotel de Paris, as it was later assessed as a dwelling on a lot in town with household furniture (Preemption Claims 1:158, Assessments 1863). The emerging French colony included French-speaking Canadians, of which Francis Blain and company were early examples. Both Blain and De Bours successfully pre-empted large parcels of land upstream from Humbug City for grazing and agricultural purposes, but they and everybody else were miners first and foremost (Pre-emptions 1:173, 340).

Smaller water systems were being put in place directly by local miners while the larger systems were moving forward. For example, in September 1854 Pierre Paqueth, Alexis Fortin, Francois Lamandriaux, and Dalfin Cuanette claimed 256 inches of water to be taken directly out of Humbug Creek for the purpose of mining. Their water claim specified their intention to construct a ditch to their deep gravel claims located a short distance above the upper end of Humbug City (Mining Claims 1:16). The Paqueth Company did indeed commence construction on their ditch about a month later, and diligently worked their claim for a couple of years, until the winter of 1856-1857. This presumably French group very likely used the water to experiment with early rudimentary hydraulic methods to wash their deep hill diggings.

Here it is worth noting that the placer gold of the Malakoff area, indeed on the entire ridgeline separating the South and Middle Yuba rivers, is not the typical gold dust and nuggets found in active streams that fueled the Gold Rush. Instead, this gold is in stream deposits that formed some 60 million years ago in the early Tertiary Period. These channel deposits were deeply buried, then uplifted, and are now layers and pockets running through the bulk of high ridges that were left behind as more recent river activity has cut deep canyons on either side. The wide and deep so-called ancestral Yuba riverbed gravel deposits intersect the surface in places and erode into active creeks, but are mostly buried under lava flows or have concreted into a hard conglomerate. Natural processes dictate that the highest concentrations of gold occur at the bottom of the ancient channel. These deposits are blue, often known as the blue lead, and in most places lie hundreds of feet down below layers of ancient

sedimentary beds. Far less gold occurs in the upper deposits, which tend to be light in color, and are sometimes called white or top diggings. Miners refer to these Tertiary deposits generically as hill diggings or deep gravel diggings, and to the layers of hard conglomerate as cement.

In order to break up the hard deposits and wash large amounts of gravel from the deep hill diggings, water was needed not only in large amounts, but also under pressure. For years this was accomplished in the same manner as Chabot used at the onset, by bringing in water at a higher elevation than the gravels and letting it build pressure, or head, within a closed canvas hose. The early hoses could not withstand too much pressure, however, or they would burst, so washing the gravel was a slow process. Loosened soil and gravel flowed into a running stream of sediment-laden water that drained into a series of sluice boxes that captured the gold. An immense volume of water was required.

After six years of construction, Captain Irwin's ditch was completed in 1857, and the consolidated Eureka Lake Company could deliver water to the entire Virgin Valley Mining District (Bean 1867:68). The ditch traversed the slopes of Humbug Canyon high above the mines and fed a large reservoir located on the west side of the park. In 1858, Lake City was laid out adjacent to the reservoir, "when it was made a local station of the ditch company" (Bean 1867:396).

Lake City, also known early on as Arnold's Ranch, became a French enclave that included several members of the original Eureka Lake group, including Fauchery, Poquillon, and Lay. Poquillon, a true entrepreneur, opened the Lake City Hotel and even sold memberships to the Lake City Yacht Club. The widely reported animosity against the French and Spanish that disturbed the southern mines evidently did not develop in Humbug Canyon, though a few headlines indicate that there were occasional disputes for other reasons. For example, on 6 November 1855, the man who built the very first cabin at what became Lake City, Israel Joiner, was shot dead by A. Jacobs acting in self-defense over a disputed mining claim in Humbug Canyon (*Nevada Journal*, 9 November 1855, Patterson 1989:43). Both men arrived in 1853.

In 1859, the year after Lake City was laid out, Fauchery and Poquillon completed the Magenta Flume upstream at Eureka South. The Magenta Flume connected Fauchery Lake, French Lake, and the other high Sierra lakes with the Irwin Ditch and other trunk ditches, increasing the water supply and finally realizing the original vision. The consolidated water company had grown and incorporated with none of the original claimants on the board, but these two Frenchmen continued to serve as engineers and Fauchery held stock (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860). To commemorate the completion of the system, the Eureka Lake Company put on a grand celebration with fireworks and a band. French and American flags were raised simultaneously, canons fired, and a large company of French workers shouted "Vive Magenta" to commemorate a recent military victory by France during the Prussian War (Kallenberger 1954). Hydraulic mining relied on the supply that this massive water conveyance system provided.

News of the creation of Lake City ricocheted around in daily papers the following spring of 1860. Both the *Nevada Democrat* and the *San Juan Press* carried stories

on the young little hamlet. A story in the *Nevada Democrat* reported that “the Eureka Lake Ditch Company have laid out a town site on a piece of land owned by them at Arnold’s ranch... The embryo town is christened by the ambitious title of Lake City.” It noted the deep, rich soil; small improvements such as “laying out a park and garden”; and the two hotels owned by Poquillon and Henry Arnold, a longtime resident who operated a public house for the accommodation of teamsters and travelers (Bean 1867:396). The article further observed that the area was “adapted to horticulture and grape growing,” and even suggested specifically to French citizens that if they were to “...stop there and go into the wine-growing business systematically, they can make themselves independent and eventually build up a pretty village” (*Nevada Democrat* 9 May 1860).

A few days earlier, the *Marysville Daily Appeal* had cited the *Hydraulic Press* as the source of a report, repeated in various periodicals, on the creation of Lake City by the Eureka Lake Ditch Company:

Several houses are already built on San Juan Street, and occupied as dwelling, shops, and hotels. One of the hotels is the well known house of Henry Arnold. Another was lately built by Mr. Poquillon, and the roof of it commands an entrancing view of the adjacent mountainous, pine clad country, with far vistas of Sacramento Valley, the three Buttes, and the purple Coast Range (*Marysville Daily Appeal* 30 April 1860).

Within a few weeks, on 25 May 1860, Poquillon sold his hotel, lot, and furnishings, together known as the Julius House or Lake City House, to Marius and Henrietta Bremond of Folsom City, Sacramento, for \$2,200 (Deeds 7:133). The Bremonds had arrived in California by 1850, according to the 1850 US population census, and they operated the Hotel de France in Sacramento until 1855 (Chevally 1980). Perhaps they heard of Lake City through the man who bought their hotel, Augustin Isoard, a mine investor from Grass Valley, or maybe, given that Henrietta’s maiden name was Wattier, they were familiar with Léopold Wattier, one of the original claimants to the high Sierra lakes (*Sacramento Daily Union*, 28 September 1855). In any case, they brought their experience to the Lake City House, which they operated for decades. When the census taker came through Lake City in July 1860, he found Bremond and his family residing next door to a crowded dwelling with Fauchery and Aubert, who were operating a sawmill; Poquillon, claiming to be a bookkeeper; several other Frenchmen; and a couple of Swiss immigrants.

The *San Juan Hydraulic Press* of 25 August 1860 reported on the strong French influence at Lake City:

There is a French restaurant at this point at which the countrymen of The Third Napoleon congregate during their idle hours, in large numbers, to exchange notes and converse in the vernacular tongue... There is a large community of these people scattered through the adjoining mines and those who have paid attention to the French character know that it is always original, fresh, sprightly and entertaining (Janicot 1991:15).

Presumably the crowd of French residents would discuss details of mining in the Virgin Valley Mining District and beyond, new technologies and methods, the progress or problems of various ventures, and rumors, among other things.

## WHY MALAKOFF

Virgin Valley comprises a series of tributaries of Humbug Creek that cut from north to south into the slope of the San Juan Ridge, exposing segments of the ancestral Yuba riverbed buried within. The road linking Lake City with Humbug City, which in 1856 was renamed North Bloomfield by virtue of its new post office and the townspeople's dissatisfaction with the lackluster name, crossed through Virgin Valley. The first prospectors exploring up the tributaries of Humbug Canyon would have found some gold that had eroded out of the white Tertiary deposits and was then concentrated again in the beds of more recent gullies and ravines. The main drainage is named Virgin Creek on most maps, a name probably given upon discovery. It is fed by three main tributary branches to the north that cut deeper into the ridge.

The middle branch came to be known as Malakoff Ravine by at least 5 December 1855. We know this by its depiction on a map recorded with the land pre-emption of Alfred Johns (Pre-emptions Book 1:223). Three months prior, on 8 September, the French army had stormed and secured the Malakoff Tower at Sevastopol, in the Black Sea, bringing to a victorious conclusion the 10-month-long Crimean War. It was a hard-fought and bloody siege against the Russian naval port, and the French commemorated it around the world. On 28 November, the *L'Echo Du Pacifique*, Etienne Derbec's French language newspaper in San Francisco, published extensive descriptions of the celebrations held in that city to honor the allies' victory. Events included a parade and the recreation of the Malakoff Tower at South Park.

A company of French miners must have been prospecting the ravine in Virgin Valley, about 1.5 miles west of Humbug City, during the fall of 1855 and, upon hearing the victorious news, decided to use the name Malakoff for the ravine, the hill, and their claim. An adjacent claim was given the name Mamelon, commemorating another decisive French victory during the Crimean War. The Mamelon Redoubt was a fortification that French forces had to secure before advancing to the Malakoff Tower. Léopold Wattier staked his claim on the east side of the Malakoff and Mamelon claims, between Malakoff Ravine and Humbug City, where he lived with his family and brother next door to long-time associate, Pierre Poirson. Both Léopold and Pierre were party to the first appropriation of lakes in the high Sierra, together with their partners Fauchery and Lay, who lived just up the road to the west at Lake City, and Aubert, who also resided in Humbug City.

Prospectors located eroding Tertiary gravels throughout the watershed by the mid-1850s, generally bisected by gullies on the northerly slopes of Humbug Canyon. Developing these deposits was challenging, however. Initial development stripped the overburden and top gravels down to the elevation of the nearest ravine, which would serve as the necessary drain or outlet for the water used in mining and washing the sediments (Kallenberger 1970:22). Some miners burrowed deeper into the landlocked

deposits in search of the rich blue gravel, but they had to lift the soil up to where there was proper drainage for washing. The practice was not very profitable, however, so miners began experimenting with tunnels to be able to drain away the water needed to work the deeper deposits.

The earliest known tunnel was that of Newton C. Miller on the American River in 1853, and the useful method spread rapidly. Gold miners on the San Juan Ridge heard firsthand accounts directly from Miller, who relocated to North San Juan where he involved himself with the Milton Mining and Water Company until his death in French Corral in 1894 (Miller v.d.). Miners would typically locate a portal far down the ravine and run their tunnel up into the claim from below. Using this artificial drainage, miners resumed washing away deep banks of Tertiary gravel directly into the tunnel, which they would line with a flume and sluice boxes.

Hydraulic methods did not change much during the 1850s following their first application in early 1853. With water systems supplying plenty of water and tunnels providing ample drainage, the only obstacle was the speed at which claims could be worked. Miners tried to increase the force of their hydraulics by building more head so they could blast away more mountainside sediment at a faster pace, but the canvas hoses with small, hand-held nozzles would burst under too much pressure. The power of these early hydraulics was also no match for some of the extremely hard cement layers, which required drilling and blasting to break apart. These challenges did not deter those miners from choosing to stay well after the Gold Rush to take their turn at unlocking the buried riches (Bean 1867:395).

There was quite a rush to the Virgin Valley Mining District at this time. In August 1855 it was reported that several mining companies were working into the hills of Humbug Canyon expecting to find a lead running along the ridge, and the reporter had “every reason to suppose that there is a lead there... [having] recently been shown a piece of gold taken from one of the cuts along the ravine that weighed 27 ½ ounces. The lucky finder was a Dutchman” (*Grass Valley Journal*, 3 August 1855). There was a venture called Dutch Diggings in the mining district, located in Dutch Ravine on the slopes just below what would become Lake City. By Christmas a rosy article appeared advising “all miners looking for diggings to come to Humbug City and risk a day or two, if no more... this locality affords an inducement to miners’ probability at this time unrivaled by any district in the state” (*Grass Valley Journal*, 21 December 1855).

Humbug City was becoming a boomtown, and it continued to attract more French settlers from the surrounding countryside. Two of them, Antone Mayoux and Marie Petitjean, built a new store in Humbug City in 1856, not far from Madame Auguste’s canvas-roofed Hotel de France (Wells 1880:59). Petitjean came to California in January 1850, having left the French port town of Le Havre in August 1849 on the *Cachelot* (Chalmers 2015, pers. comm.). One of the promoting societies – the *Société National pour l’Exploitation des Mines d’Or de la Californie* – chartered the vessel to carry 135 men and 15 women to San Francisco (Nasatir 1964:30, Rohrbough 2013:107). Petitjean may have been an associate worker for the society, but like everyone else on board, he was abandoned to his own devices: “Instead of the promised elaborate

and continuing support on arrival in California, they received only tents” (Nasatir 1964:107). Many of the fresh arrivals regrouped and made their way to the mines. A young correspondent for the well-respected Parisian *Journal des Débats*, Etienne Derbec, was also on the voyage, and the two men became lifelong associates. Both would operate mines at the park, and become interested in milling processes.

Petitjean and Mayoux made their way to the northern mines by way of Marysville, reaching Humbug City/North Bloomfield during its boom. These two entrepreneurs involved themselves in and supplied many of the ventures in the Virgin Valley Mining District. Petitjean attempted to pre-empt the entire community of Humbug City in September 1856, and Mayoux purchased a downtown lot with two houses on the southwest corner of Main and Mill streets, presumably using one as the partnership’s retail store and the other for his residence. The MDSHP now interprets the store as the McKillican and Mobley store, after the subsequent owners, but it was originally the Empire Store of Petitjean, Mayoux and Company (Nevada County tax assessments, 1865). The Hotel de France was nearby, evidently across the street. In fact, Petitjean later acquired the business. In 1860 Petitjean was listed in the census schedule as a 37-year-old saloon keeper, while Mayoux was recorded as a 36-year-old merchant running the store a couple of doors away.

Jean Baptiste LeDu also came to Humbug City in 1856, at about the same age as Petitjean and Mayoux. His mining company of seven Frenchmen claimed 700 feet along Humbug Creek, 100 feet each, by March 1857. The LeDu Diggings were downstream of town, and included a deep swath of Colorado Hill, the dividing ridge between Virgin and Humbug ravines. He raised his family down the road from Mayoux and Petitjean’s store and saloon, on top of Colorado Hill near a small Eureka Lake Company reservoir that was there by 1857 (Deeds 27:67). Though not one of the original claimants, Petitjean joined LeDu and Company in claiming water rights in Relief Canyon, east of town, and building a ditch to bring water to the LeDu Diggings. At the time they even envisioned delivering water all the way to Bridgeport for mining and agriculture. Their claim included “all ravines, lakes and tributaries, and all surface water that may fall from all tunnels, tail races, sluices, cuts, etc. etc., emptying into [Relief] canyon, and all surplus water of Humbug Canyon” (Mining Claims 1:111). Petitjean and Company also financially supported the LeDu Company to complete the ditch and work the claim in 1857, then used their share to secure large loans from an investor in Marysville in 1858, and finally purchased the ditch outright in 1859 (Chattel Mortgages 1:502; 2:79, Deeds 3:271; 4:525). Petitjean and Company was shrewd in acquiring the ditch, which supplied water to a number of mining companies, while LeDu and Company gambled on their diggings.

Léopold Wattier teamed up with the shopkeeper Antone Mayoux and a young man from Indiana, William Cook, to form the Malakoff Flume Company, consolidating a number of Humbug area claims and the water supply to work them. Together they held four fifths of the venture. J. B. Dambren, of whom little is known, held the final share, but lost it to Mayoux in a complicated mortgage deal. Records show that Wattier ran the venture, while Mayoux’s involvement was probably financial. It appears that Cook helped work the mine. Their combined mineral holdings appear to have included the

original Malakoff, Mamelon, and Wattier claims. When Mayoux acquired the Mamelon claims from Henry Ross on 6 February 1860, it contained “hose, sluices, pipes, and fixtures” (Deeds 11:192). The group also secured their own water supply. County tax assessments in 1862, which is the first year for which records still exist, show that Petitjean and Company had acquired a “small water ditch commencing at Logan Canyon in Bloomfield Township and conveying water to Malakoff claims at Humbug, also improvements on mining claim.”

**Table 1. Total Debts on Schedule B of Wattier vs. his creditors**

<b>Creditors</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Security</b>
Lake Company	1200	Water	Note	1858	Mortgage
A. Sichel	70	Goods	Note	1858	
Petitjean & Co.	500	Mining claims	Notes	1859	Mortgage
J. Johnson	449	Labor	Note	1859	
Coley	90	Merchandise	Note	1859	
J. Boulanza (?)	60	Labor	Note	1859	
Delaborde	70	Grub	Acct	1859	
B. Mayloire (?)	400	Grub	Note	1859	
M. Bremond	110	Grub	Acct	1860	
R. Rafford	148	Beef	Note	1860	
W. Favorite	300	Borrowed money	Note	1860	
Lake Company	1800	Water	Note	1860	
Cegar	60	Mining claims	Note	1861	
L. Porter	200	Wages	Note	1861	
L. Porter	25	Wages	open acct	1861	
J. Wallace	100	Blocks	open acct	1861	
W. B. Churchill	266	Lumber	Note	1861	Mortgage
W. B. Churchill	80	Lumber	Acct	1861	
Gallagher	108	Hose	Acct	1861	
Guillory	46	Labor	Acct	1861	
S. Levy	109	Clothing	Notes	1861	
S. Levy	100	Clothing	Notes	1861	Judgement
Penelon [M]	240	Labor	Note	1861	
Brownell	30	Grub	Acct	1861	
E. Rose	24	Labor	Acct	1861	
Coon	140	Goods	Acct	1861	
E. Remillan (?)	50	Labor	Note	1861	
Monier	76	Labor	Note	1861	

As with most mines in the vicinity, Malakoff was worked initially by sluicing off the top gravels into flumes lining the ravine below, where it was washed. The debris

expelled from the end or tail of the flume were simply flushed downstream. These methods worked well enough, until the Malakoff Flume Company hit a hard layer of cement conglomerate. Development had to slow down to excavate tunnels to reach the deeper gravels. The small ditch that ran from Logan Canyon did not supply enough water for all their needs, so by at least 1858 they turned, at great expense, to the Eureka Lake Company that Wattier helped to create, which had a nearby reservoir by no later than 1857. That year alone, Wattier paid \$1200 on credit just for water to work his claim (California District Court 1861, Case No. 833). With a tunnel in place and a steady – albeit expensive – supply of water, the Malakoff Mine miners could work the claims more effectively, and likely added a small hydraulic arrangement in the late 1850s.

Louis Simonin, a renowned French mining engineer, made his first visit to California's mining region in 1859. There was great interest in France in the nature of gold deposits in the Sierra Nevada and the new methods being developed there. Simonin took special notice of hydraulic practices and planned to study them more thoroughly. He wrote a column documenting his voyage in a popular French travel magazine, *Le Tour Du Monde, Nouvea Journal des Voyages*, in which he described the new hydraulic technology:

What is employed on placers near Nevada [City] is called the hydraulic method, which I had also seen in use on the banks of the Merced and at Knight's Ferry, but on a smaller scale. This method was invented in Nevada [City], and I had to go there to investigate. Entire mountains are demolished with a violent jet of water at very high pressure, shot by a miner from a tube like a fire hose. Land, gravel, rocks themselves crumble noisily, and the washers must act carefully lest they be swallowed up in the rubble. Soil and disaggregated rock are thrown into the same kind of channel as the sluices, but of much larger dimensions, called a flume. This method is employed advantageously to process the poorest soil in which the gold does not betray its presence. The runoff passes down the flume, and mercury that is placed on the bottom separates the gold and retains more than more complicated methods can (translated from Simonin 1862:40).

## **GRAVEL BUST**

Although many miners in the Sierra Nevada took leave in 1859 and headed to the Comstock silver strikes in Nevada, a large number persevered. Determined gold miners of the Virgin Valley Mining District continued to scratch out their living, convinced they would one day strike it rich. Meanwhile, loans backed by mortgaged mining ventures and other property in order to feed, house, and clothe themselves and their families, not to mention to develop their claims, became common. By the close of the decade notices of mechanic liens for unpaid work and sheriff sales of seized property filled the newspapers and must have been common topics of conversation. Although all kinds of goods and services had to be paid for, water was by far the most expensive, and was the cause of most debt.

In the dry summer of 1859, for example, Mayoux, Wattier, and Cook entered “into a mortgage with The Eureka Lake Company, the business of which is to sell waters to miners and others for mining and agricultural purposes, in consideration of \$1,206.25,” by mortgaging

their 4/5 interest in mining ground known as Malakoff Flume Company diggings, commencing at a point on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine and running up said ravine 8,000 ft. in the hill, being 1,000 ft. in width, also 4/5 interest in and to that certain flume and tunnel running up the ravine through which said diggings and mining ground is worked (Chattel Mortgages 3:399).

It is noteworthy that evidence of hydraulic mining was not mentioned in the indenture. Evidently the Malakoff Mine was still being worked by sluicing the gravel down into a tunnel. Later that year, in the autumn, Cook was still short of cash, as indicated by a Constable Sale notice in the *Nevada Democrat* on 5 October 1859, following the seizure of his share to a “...set of mining claims situated on Malakoff Hill, and known as the Malakoff Company’s claims.” Evidently Cook was unable to settle his own debts, even beyond what the group needed to develop the claim.

The situation did not improve with another year of mining. Wattier and Mayoux had to borrow \$300 from a neighboring miner, William Favorite, the following autumn of 1860, promising to repay the full sum plus 3 percent per month interest until fully paid (California District Court, Case 2220). Still the white upper gravels that the Malakoff Flume Company was digging did not pay. For two years they dug into the hillside. By this time, they had added a small hydraulic arrangement in hopes of improving their returns. They were still unable to pay back the small loan, so Favorite filed suit to get his money back. His own mines were probably not paying well, either. An attachment was put on Mayoux and Wattier’s property on 2 December 1862, that included a set of mining claims “just below the Malakoff Ravine near North Bloomfield with telegraph, flumes, cuts, sluices, hydraulics, and all improvements,” as well as a litany of other property including interest in the A. Jacobs and Company’s claims upstream from town on Republican Hill that Mayoux was involved with, and

a certain house or store and the lot and garden upon which the same stands, now occupied by defendant Mayoux, situated on the north side of Main Street in the village of North Bloomfield (Block 4, Lot 1), with all outbuildings, also claims of Mayoux located on Colorado Hill near North Bloomfield with telegraph, flumes, cuts, sluices, and hydraulics (California District Court, Case 2220).

These examples perhaps fail to convey the full extent of the indebtedness being experienced by gold miners of the Virgin Valley Mining District during this period. Much of it is camouflaged by the comradery fellow miners extended to one another, evidently often electing to forgive debts instead of ruining their debtors. For example, Léopold Wattier extended himself far more than is shown above, or than is reflected in recorded liens or sheriff sales. By October 1861 he had to formally file in the District Court of California for relief from his creditors, claiming insolvency due to “consequences of losses in unfortunate transactions in mining” (California District Court, Case 833).

Notice ran in the *Morning Transcript* for 30 days, from mid-October to mid-November, asking that all creditors of insolvent L. Wattier [spelled Wattiez in filings] appear with evidence of debt to be considered. Wattier provided his own schedules of losses, debts, and property, and also requested that his home, lot, and furniture shared with his wife and family be “set aside as the homestead.” Schedule A of losses includes “losses by bad debts – failure in mining claims, interest paid and expenses,” totaling \$10,000. Schedule B is tabulated below, showing a total debt of \$7,511 accrued from 1858 to 1861. Schedule C of his assets includes the

Malakoff mining claims at Humbug City valued at \$1,000; 1/3 Empire mining claims at same place valued at \$100; household furniture valued at \$100; clothing and apparel valued at \$100; wearing apparel of family valued at \$50; and one house and lot at Humbug City now occupied by petitioner and family as a homestead valued at \$250 (*California District Court, Case 833, Schedule C*).

Schedule D shows that no debts were owed to Wattier. The court decided in his favor and the petition for relief was granted.

The matter provides a detailed look at one Frenchman’s experience trying to make a living for himself and family at North Bloomfield, as well as the level of investment being made into the Malakoff Mine at this early stage of development. The first and most significant cost was the water that was purchased for three of the four years, totaling a monstrous \$3,600, or nearly half of the total debt incurred. Bearing in mind that the purchased water supplemented water from Mayoux and Wattier’s own small ditch, the situation underscores the staggering volume needed for this type of industry even at this early stage.

Wattier took much more than water on credit. About 17 percent of his debt went to domestic needs, including \$760, or 10 percent of the debt, for grub and beef, and \$500, or 7 percent, for goods, merchandise, and clothing. He invested even more on credit to open up and expand his ventures. In 1859 and 1861, a total of \$1,170, or 16 percent of the debt, went to labor and wages. Wattier borrowed another \$560, or 7 percent, for additional claims by mortgaging his existing share directly to Petitjean and Company. Finally, it appears that Wattier made a substantial push in 1861 by investing \$554, a relatively small 7 percent of his overall debt, into lumber from the local saw mill, probably for flumes, wood blocks to line the flumes, and canvas hose for hydraulics from the hose factory of Thomas Gallagher and Edwards up at Lake City (Nevada County Tax Assessments, 1862). Nevertheless, he could not get the Malakoff Mine to pay.

Only a couple of ventures were doing well in North Bloomfield during the winter of 1861-1862, and heavy floods in early 1862 made matters worse by causing severe damage and losses. Mayoux had the good fortune to join fellow Frenchman Anthony Jacobs in a venture on Republican Hill, on the east side of Humbug Creek across from North Bloomfield. The Republican Hill venture, along with the Hoglebone mine nearby, also known as the Canadian Company, were the only claims in the entire Humbug watershed that paid well that year (*Nevada Democrat*, 20 February 1862).

These were the exceptions to the rule, however, as along with the downturn and exodus of miners was the selling off of shares in claims.

Making the claims pay required access to inexpensive water. Once things dried out in the summer after the destructive storms of 1862, some of the original group involved with harnessing the high mountain lakes made a bid to acquire the whole system once again. Wattier, Poirson, Fauchery, Lay, Poquillon, and Aubert, who was at this time evidently back in Paris, were joined by Pie Namar, a native of Luxembourg, and in the presence of Mayoux, all signed an agreement, written in French, to purchase the Eureka Lake Water Company for \$800,000 (Miscellaneous records 2:215). Articles of agreement were recorded later that year, in September 1862, between the Eureka Lake Water Company and the same group in which water rights across the San Juan Ridge and other assets would be conveyed for that price. The deal included the Irwin Ditch that supplied water to the mining localities known as North Bloomfield, Malakoff Hill, Hiller Diggings, Lake City, etc.; the tail right and right to tailing in Virgin Ravine below Malakoff Hill, being about 2,000 ft. in length; and an additional 1.5-mile-long tailings right in Humbug below the confluence with Virgin Ravine. The indenture included two reservoirs at North Bloomfield and two at Lake City, as well as two claims in Virgin Valley Mining District and others beyond. The agreement was signed by the President of the Company, Henry McNulty, and all of the trustees, George C. Powers, James Creegan, R. C. Black, and L. B. Henry (Deeds 10:606). Although it appears that extensive negotiations went into the deal, it is not clear whether the consortium of Frenchmen finally obtained the profitable system. Subsequent documents show they did at least hold shares.

The hydraulic process that was increasingly used during the second half of the 1850s remained relatively simple, with little progress made in improving the method. The industry began to mature as the decade came to a close. Lists of property in public records such as deeds, mortgages, and liens that refer to the years 1858 through 1864 inevitably include the necessary equipment, such as “hose,” “pipes,” “hydraulic pipes,” and even simply “hydraulics,” a term in common use by 1862. None of these terms appear in records from before 1858. It took about a decade for the term “hydraulics” to be widely adopted. The other property typically listed with claims during the same period provides a detailed picture of common operations that included, in various combinations and in no specific order, telegraphs, flumes, tunnels, sluices, sluice boxes, sluice ways, quicksilver, mining tools, fixtures, and all improvements. The occasional claim would contain a blacksmith’s forge and bellows. By the early 1860s, most miners were attaching a tapered nozzle to a pipe that was connected to a hose, and the process was often called piping. Water would enter the hose from a telegraph or flume high enough to build some pressure in the pipe and nozzle at the bottom, where it was directed against a face of gravel that was loosened and washed down into sluiceways, flumes, and tunnels lined with mercury that picked up flecks of gold from the passing sediment.

The *Sacramento Union* reported on 18 September 1863 that hydraulic mining was on the decline, noting it was still in the crinoline hose stage, and that more pressure was required to reach the deeper and harder gravels and to allow pipers to stand

safely away from the high banks. The crinoline hose, “the latest mining invention” of 1861, consisted of a hose surrounded with galvanized iron bands about two inches wide and connected together every few inches apart with four ropes. The iron armored crinoline hose supported “a head of water more than twice as high as that of common hose” (Hittel 1861:145). The industry was still young, with the iconic long riveted iron pipelines and durable and versatile iron monitors not yet common.

## **AMBITIOUS CONSOLIDATION**

W. W. Kallenberger (1970:26), an old resident of North Bloomfield, explained that in the mid-1860s, claims could not be profitably worked because all the hydraulic mine debris had choked the ravines used for drainage and there was not enough water to wash it all away. By 1860 the “muddy current” extended “the entire length of the Yuba into the Feather River, and thence into the Sacramento far below Marysville” (Harper’s 1860:616). The *Mining and Scientific Press* (2 January 1864) pronounced California placers about exhausted in their 1863 review. This seemed to be the prevailing view. The gloomy conditions at the mines and the exodus of miners to the Comstock left North Bloomfield and Lake City in decline throughout the mid-1860s. A few of the French inhabitants moved on. Antoine Mayoux moved down to Marysville in the spring of 1864, where he managed the new Sweet Vengeance quartz mill for a short period before opening a liquor store that he managed until his death. Leopold Wattier and Louis Lay both migrated away in the mid-1860s, Wattier to a new strike in Kern County, and Lay to the emerging frontier in the State of Nevada. Madame August also disappeared from the records at about the same time. In her place, Petitjean briefly kept open the Hotel de France that Madame August had operated since 1855; it was listed as his asset in 1865 and 1866 county tax assessments. He also began to conduct business well beyond town in 1864, opening a store in Yuba County and erecting a type of gold processing mill known as a sulpheret works near Grass Valley, a mile from Allison Ranch (Bean 1867:247, Yuba County tax assessment, December 1864). Petitjean finally preempted 120 acres of land in the Grass Valley Township in January 1865 where he “settled” and then resided (Preemption Claims 2:78).

A large French community remained active in the Virgin Valley Mining District. Some of those who stayed turned to lode mining, also known as quartz or hard rock mining. This type of underground mining technology is entirely different from that used at the gravel claims so abundant in the Virgin Valley Mining District. Lode methods involved tunneling into rock to remove chunks of gold-bearing ore, typically quartz, and sending that on to various milling processes. Hard-rock miners became adept at tunneling, and developed various methods for crushing and processing the ore, such as stamping, roasting and treating with various chemicals.

The hard-rock boom of the early 1860s was not the first. Poquillon had claimed a quartz ledge with a few French partners up around Eureka South as early as 1857, before he moved to Lake City. Some of the other early Humbug settlers discovered a quartz ledge in the hills only about ½ mile east of town (Mining claims 1:215;244). It wasn’t until the top gravels seemed to be exhausted that miners from San Juan Ridge began to reevaluate the local hard-rock deposits.

The trend reached a crescendo in the North Bloomfield area beginning in the fall of 1863 with the recording of numerous quartz claims. For example, in September a large company claimed 6,000 feet on a quartz ledge on Montezuma Hill, not far to the west of the Virgin Valley Mining District (Mining Claims 2:77). Familiar names such as Julius Poquillon, Wattier and the Cook brothers, Pie Namur, Petitjean, and his longtime associate Etienne Derbec were all party to this claim, as well as a host of other French-speaking miners, including F. Picard, F. Lamoureux, A. Bordas, and Maurice and Company. Lamoureux operated the United States Hotel in North Bloomfield, and was the mine foreman of the Canadian Mining Company. He was probably a French-speaking Canadian. Bordas operated a hotel by the same name in Lake City, adjacent to Bremond's French Hotel. The Montezuma Hill Mining Company incorporated and in October issued \$100 and certificates of stock in exchange for each claimant's share (Deeds 13:475).

A smaller group attempted to develop quartz deposits east of North Bloomfield the following year, comprising 2,000 feet on what is called the South Fork of Humbug Canyon and "also the tunnel right of way to any point that may be deemed convenient" (Mining Claims 2:103). Some of this company had been involved with the prior Montezuma venture, including Poquillon and Wattier, while others were familiar French miners, like Fauchery and Poirson. Still other French nationals were involved, including P. Chandès-Aigues, J. Legrand, A. and B. Fremery, F. Gouies, and A. Isoard. Augustin Isoard was a well-known merchant and entrepreneur in Nevada City who was very familiar with the French community of North Bloomfield. He had purchased Bremond's Hotel de France in Sacramento back in 1855, when Bremond first moved to Lake City, and he had partnered with brewer Emil Weiss in the early 1860s to open a brewery in North Bloomfield, in what may have been the heart of the French quarter (Chevally 1980). He financed many mining ventures.

Poquillon became the superintendent of the Fellowes Company in 1863, and oversaw hard-rock mining operations and the construction of a stamp mill on the Fellowes Ledge that December, on the bank of the Middle Yuba River north of the park (*Daily Alta*, 11 December 1863). About a year and a half later, in the spring of 1865, he was back up at Eureka South, east of North Bloomfield, working with the Maggie Quartz Mining Company to erect another stamp mill (Mining Claims 2:369). Gravel mining was in a lull as miners pursued hard-rock ore.

Large water companies that were acquiring large gravel holdings in lieu of debt payments continued to work them. The *Nevada Daily Transcript* reported in May 1864 that the Eureka Lake Company was "working six or seven sets of diggings" (*Nevada Daily Transcript* 1864), and they "were paying exceedingly well, with more money out than for the past six years." About a year later, the paper reported that 14 companies were back at work in the Virgin Valley Mining District, and that the Eureka Lake Company had proposed digging a deep tunnel some 3,600 feet long to open up the blue lead deep in their claims (*Nevada Daily Transcript*, 4 February 1865). Such an engineering feat dwarfed the tunnels typically used before, and one had just been dug for the first time farther down the San Juan Ridge at French Corral (Kelley 1959:36). That tunnel was being used simply to access the deep gravels, in a process

called drifting, with the gravel being brought out and crushed in a “cement mill” and washed. Many operations were proposing to dig substantial tunnels in order to reach the deeper gravel, and some believed these tunnels would make hydraulic mining extremely profitable. The winter of 1864-1865 brought much-needed heavy rains. The steady water fed a thirsty hydraulic industry. The *Mining and Scientific Press* reported that “large amounts of bullion from hydraulic mines was pouring into San Francisco, thanks to the ample rain fall” (Jackson 1967:5).

All of this positive press lured many back from the quartz veins to the deep hill gravel. It was at about this time that Julius Poquillon reappeared in the Virgin Mining District and began consolidating large gravel claims. He eventually partnered with Benoit M. Pralus. One of their first actions, recorded on 1 February 1866, was to purchase for only \$100 from Claude Pralus, A. Isoard, J. Michel, Philippe Peyran, and Ferdinand Stumpf a set of claims about ¼ mile distant from North Bloomfield, together with the right of way for a tunnel or open cut for tail flume down to Virgin Ravine (Deeds 21:118). Their claim encompassed the upper reaches of Virgin Ravine and came to be known as Pralus Diggins. Charles Bever joined the Frenchmen, and the three of them took options on hundreds of acres of surrounding mining ground. They traveled to San Francisco to solicit investments so they could develop one enormous venture (Jackson 1967:5, Kelley 1958:37).

Earnest Van Muller was a financial backer of both Mayoux and Petitjean. He was a German businessman from Marysville who provided them some large loans in 1858 totaling \$15,182 (Mortgages 1:502, 2:79, 3:67). When gravel mining began to decline in the early 1860s, and Mayoux and Petitjean moved away, Van Muller was evidently left with substantial consolidated claims, including the Malakoff, Mamelon, and Independence, all on Malakoff Ravine; the Louisiana Company Claims on Colorado Hill, adjacent to LeDu’s diggings; a half interest in Jacobs and Mayoux’s claims on Republican Hill, east of North Bloomfield; and the Empire Store and other buildings in town. A few water ditches, including the one providing water to the Malakoff and LeDu’s original ditch, were part of the deal (Deeds 27:592). Van Muller then teamed up with a young fellow German businessman named Charles Ruff to open up some of the mining ground. They were probably spurred by the recent successes reported in the papers. Ruff moved up to North Bloomfield in about 1865 to develop the Independence and Mamelon property, which came to be known as Ruff Diggings. Petitjean, Pralus, Bever, Van Muller, and Ruff were certainly not alone in investing in gravel mines. The mid-1860s was a period of consolidation that saw substantial investment in the hydraulic industry. The *Mining and Scientific Press* reported on 17 March 1866, that “more people were engaged in hydraulic mining than ever before, more old claims were being re-opened, new methods were being introduced to reach deep gravels, and cement mills were being introduced to break up hard gravels” (Jackson 1967:5).

Benoit Fauchery was preoccupied with hard-rock technology, focusing at this time on using the water power that he had helped to bring to the diggings to process gold ore. On 5 May 1864, Leopold Charonnat demonstrated a water turbine that Fauchery invented, consisting of an 8-inch [*sic*] diameter wheel that powered six stamps (Comstock 2013:138). In July, Fauchery invented a new stone crusher called

“the crocodile machine” (Comstock 2013:138). In September, he exhibited three inventions at the San Francisco Mechanics Fair, including his improved turbine wheel and quartz breaker, as well as his new quartz “pulverizer.” Five of his wheels were already in operation, with one at Poquillon’s Fellowes venture, and others running at the French Mill at Canada Hill, the Nonpariel Company mill at Big Oak Flat, Downieville, and Little York (Comstock 2013:138). By the following February 1865, however, Brown and Company at You Bet and Gaylord and Company at Indiana Hill, in Placer County, gave unfavorable reports, concluding that Fauchery’s turbine was insufficient (Comstock 2013:138). This was not unusual at all. Hard-rock techniques, especially milling technology, hindered early lode mining for decades. Fauchery moved to San Francisco by 1865, possibly with his longtime companion Poquillon, who was there seeking investment for his grand hydraulic venture (San Francisco Directory 1865). In the summer of 1866, Fauchery, along with the original partners, Wattier, Aubert, Poirson, Lay, Pelletier, and Leliot, all of whom had apparently moved on to other ventures, were joined by a Mrs. McNulty to appoint John McNulty as their attorney to negotiate on their behalf regarding their share in the Eureka Lake Company. The purpose of the power of attorney was to mortgage the “whole right and title unto Eureka Lake Company” for “\$4,000 at 3.5% monthly interest” (Power Attorney 1:5). The property included “the waters of Canyon Creek, so called, a tributary of South Yuba, together with tools, mills, mill irons, and all property.”

Productive advances were finally being made in hydraulic technology throughout the 1860s. Metal clad crinoline hoses gave way to strong riveted sheet iron pipes, and hose nozzles to more powerful and versatile monitors by the mid-1860s (Isenberg 2005:35). The *Century Magazine* reported that “the hydraulic monitor was first used, according to good authority, in 1865. But it was not until a much later date—in 1869 or 1870—that it came into anything like general use” (Evans 1883:325). The new systems could deliver far more pressure and move much more soil. Innovation after innovation brought other improvements to the iron monitors, including goosenecks to withstand increased water pressure, and swivels, pivoting knuckle joints, and counter-balances so pipers could handle them more easily. Name brands became colloquial, such as the Globe Monitor. “By the 1870s, hydraulic monitors, or giants, came in a variety of shapes and sizes, some weighing a ton or more” (Limbaugh 1999:34). These innovations, combined with big investments and large consolidated ventures, propelled the hydraulic mining industry to the forefront of gold production for decades.

## **NORTH BLOOMFIELD GRAVEL MINING COMPANY**

Julius Poquillon is credited for conceiving of the Malakoff Mine. Following the productive hydraulic years of 1864 and 1865, he envisioned a massive gravel operation in the Virgin Valley Mining District (*Daily Alta*, 13 June 1876, Jackson 1967:5, Janicot 1991:16, Kelley 1959:37). He owned interest in the Pralus Diggins and the Poquillon Claims near Lake City. He knew that there was rich Tertiary gravel below the 4,500 feet separating his two claims that must be hundreds of feet thick. This was probably common knowledge, since early placer diggings in Humbug and Hiller ravines had exposed the gravels in these deep natural cuts into the slope between Poquillon’s

diggings. He managed to convince a consortium of capitalists in San Francisco that a huge project there was a good investment. The North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company (N.B.G.M. Co.) incorporated in San Francisco on 7 August 1866 (Articles of Incorporation, AI-N19).

The Articles of Incorporation say that the purpose of the company was “to mine gold and other precious metals upon property in vicinity of Humbug Creek or Canon.” The original board included L. L. Robinson, Francois Louis Alfred Pioche, W. C. Ralston, and S. F. Butterworth. These were some of San Francisco’s wealthiest residents. Pioche and his lasting partner, J. B. Bayerque, were businessmen in Chile when the Gold Rush broke out, and they came to San Francisco right away as 49ers (Janicot 1989:18). They established the very successful and influential mercantile and banking firm of Pioche, Bayerque and Company, which was a strong supporter of the French Colony in the city (Chalmers 2007:18). Lester L. Robinson, a railroad engineer by profession, joined Pioche, Bayerque and Company in 1852 to build California’s first railway, the Sacramento Valley Railroad, which ran from Sacramento to Folsom. He became one of the firm’s general managers and was personally involved with the Malakoff Mine for decades. He was also President of the Giant Powder Company (Jackson 1967:6). Sam Butterworth was the president and general manager of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Company between San Jose and Monterey, a prudent addition to the company given the amount of mercury that would be needed for the operation. The last member, William C. Ralston, is the “storied giant of California banking and the Comstock,” the man who founded the Bank of California (Kelley 1959:38). Robinson, B. M. Pralus, and Butterworth served as the first trustees, while Charles Bever was the first superintendent.

Lester Robinson acquired most of Pralus Diggings directly from Pralus in July 1866, before the company had actually incorporated (Deeds 26:152). Afterward they continued to buy up claims and extend their reach, starting with land around Pralus Diggings in October and acquiring Van Muller and Ruff’s extensive holdings, consisting of eleven distinct properties valued at \$15,000, in February 1867 (Deeds 26:590, 27:592). They paid Leopold Wattier, then in Kern County, \$3,500 for his “right, title, and interest as well as in law as in equity to mining ground known as the Malakoff Mining Claims near North Bloomfield bounded on the east by what is known as the Pralus mining ground and on the west by what is known as the Petit Jean [*sic*] mining ground, on the south by the center of Virgin Ravine and on the north by the summit of Backbone Ridge” and for title to the mining ground known as Empire and Eureka Gravel Mining claims in North Bloomfield (Deeds 29:169). The business directory that came out that year noted that a company of capitalists, including “Butterworth, Robinson, Pralus, and others, purchased the claims” covering one of the two deep Tertiary channels at North Bloomfield “and are now engaged in running a drain tunnel from the mouth of Virgin Ravine, which it is believed will be deep enough to drain them” (Bean 1867:395).

The N.B.G.M. Co. hired Eugene B. Verge to be the first engineer to work with Pralus and Bevers. He was born in about 1831 in Toulouse, southwestern France, and attended the Jesuit College there (Janicot 1991:14). Verge came to California

as a teenager in 1847 in the first party to cross the Sierra Nevada after the Donner Party. The trek across the mountains was so cold and hazardous that he lost a portion of his left ear to frostbite. Janicot (1991:14) describes Verge as “one of the great unsung heroes” of the N.B.G.M. Co. He presumably arrived at the diggins in late 1866, following his appointment. He helped to establish the company office on the main road connecting Lake City and North Bloomfield, between Pralus Diggings and the confluence of Malakoff and Virgin ravines. Earlier miners involved with the Malakoff Flume Company and other adjacent ventures, including the active Pralus Diggings, likely already had a small camp at the site. For the next 20 years or so, the village of Malakoff would serve as the headquarters of the Malakoff Mine. By the fall of 1866, newspapers reported the resurgence of hydraulic mining in the region, led by the French:

The village of North Bloomfield, more generally called by residents “Humbug,” now wears quite a cheerful appearance. Considerable mining is being done, but the largest operations are being conducted by Butterworth and Company, who have purchased extensive claims and are now engaged in running a cut and tunnel in order to open them. These claims are owned mostly by Frenchmen, and some 40 are employed on the works. The hotel is well filled with boarders, and French appears to be the ruling language. It may with reason be said that the French have taken Humbug (Nevada Daily Transcript, 28 September 1866).

Verge quickly determined that the slope of the channel being used for drainage was so slight that working the claims to any considerable depth would be impossible. He proposed running a deeper cut through the gravel bed and, if necessary, digging a tunnel at the lower end to maintain sufficient drainage and grade for washing. During the first two years of development work, water was purchased directly from the Eureka Lake Company at great expense (Greenland 2001:200). Verge knew the company had to secure its own water and build a system for delivery if it was going to be profitable. After scrapping several ideas, the N.B.G.M. Co. decided to construct a 45-mile-long ditch to Big Canyon Creek (Jackson 1967:10). The *Nevada Daily Gazette* reported on 8 July 1868 that “the North Bloomfield Company, commonly called the French Company, are about to commence operations on their projected ditch” (*Nevada Daily Gazette* 1868).

When work began on the French Company’s ditch, Verge moved to North Bloomfield, buying a house from B. and Betsy Sperry for \$75, between J. Staple’s house on Main Street and China Town, in the “alley near Skidmore’s saloon” (Deeds 31:339). According to Janicot (1991:14), Verge was in charge of the vast system of ditches, flumes and dams that brought water from the high Sierra to be hurled against the working faces of the Malakoff mine. He hired Chinese by the score to work on the flumes and ditches and “treated them to the individual dignity to which they were entitled.” Years after his death, the same Chinese, “in deep appreciation,” kept his wife and two daughters supplied with fresh vegetables from their gardens in North Bloomfield. According to the *North San Juan Times* (15 July 1876), “a force of 800 Chinamen and 300 white men” were hired to work on the ditch.

The key to the water system was a sizeable reservoir above the ditch, created by building a dam at Bowman Ranch. Completed by the fall of 1870, the reservoir was a game changer for the N.B.G.M. Co. They now had access to all the water they needed. Next they turned to how best to use all that water. The Board of Trustees brought on Hamilton Smith in 1871, first as engineer to assess the property and study the suitability of a deep “bedrock” tunnel, and then as superintendent to construct the tunnel and take over operations from Charles Bever (*Daily Alta*, 9 June 1871, Smith 1871:1). It appears that the direction of the company was the subject of much internal debate, with Robinson asserting his authority over Pralus, Bever, and Poquillon. Pralus was replaced by Thomas Bell, a banker with the Bank of California, as Trustee by early 1868 (Articles of Incorporation 1868). Poquillon became so dissatisfied with the company’s decisions that he sold his substantial share of the venture for \$28,000 and returned to lode mining up at Eureka South (*Daily Alta*, 13 June 1876). The Board appointed Hamilton Smith to replace Eugene Verge as engineer, and shortly thereafter in 1871 to replace Charles Bever as superintendent (Smith 1871:1). A few years later, in 1875, after completing the famous and widely reported North Bloomfield Tunnel, the Board of Trustees appointed Henry C. Perkins to replace Smith as superintendent. Perkins had worked in the office of Robinson’s Quicksilver Mining Company for about five years before arriving at Malakoff (Wells 1880:227). Perkins and Robinson continued to manage the operation for many years, building the Malakoff Mine up into the largest hydraulic mine of its time.

French miners were evidently losing some of their influence by the early 1870s, but they remained a sizeable community throughout the Virgin Valley Mining District, including at the village of Malakoff, and many continued to be employed at the mine. French mining engineer Louis Simonin paid a visit to the area right after the deep North Bloomfield Tunnel was completed, in the fall of 1874. It was his second trip to the California gold fields. His observations were captured in a French publication, *A Travers Les Etats-Unis de L’Atlantique au Pacifique*, published the following year. He paid little attention to Malakoff, noting only that

*in [the] Nevada [City area], we passed North Bloomfield, Humbug, Malakoff, where there are major canal works entrusted to the Chinese to bring water to huge placers. These are beneficially dried river beds, huge hills of ancient alluvial deposits, being felled hundreds of cubic meters at a time, using powerful hydraulic jets. These ancient alluvial placers and auriferous quartz mines are the gold deposits mainly operated in California today. Surface placers or modern alluvium were abandoned almost everywhere as a result of their exhaustion (Translated from Simonin 1875:230).*

A group of North Bloomfield residents became concerned that the N.B.G.M. Co. might one day expand enough to jeopardize their property. They petitioned the County Judge in December 1874 to file for a patent trust from the federal government on their behalf in order to protect their property. The company’s holdings extended right up to the north side of North Bloomfield and one of their recent prospect shafts was very close to town. Creating a formal town patent would protect them from any mineral claims. Three of the original eight petitioners were French, including T. F. P.

Aubert, A. D. Lemaire, and J. A. Lafertee. Jean LeDu provided supporting testimony (US Land Office, Patent 1390). Judge Caldwell had the town officially surveyed the following year, producing one of the earliest plats of North Bloomfield, and the town was patented in June 1875 (Bethell 1875, Patents 1:311).

## **THE VILLAGE OF MALAKOFF**

The N.B.G.M. Co. established their office on a small alley off the Nevada City road, about 1/2 mile west of North Bloomfield, on the slope overlooking the confluence of Virgin and Malakoff ravines. Pralus Diggins was up Virgin Ravine to the east, and Ruff Diggins was up Malakoff Ravine to the north. Trails and service roads still extend from the village into the diggins in all directions. Vestiges of development by the Malakoff Flume Company and Wattier's Company border the north side of the village, and the first workings of N.B.G.M. Co., or French Company as it was commonly called, are beyond them, between the Pralus and Ruff diggins. Assorted company buildings once lined the alley across from the office, including workshops of all kinds, warehouses, stables, and barns. Mine superintendents lived right next to the office, beginning with Charles Bevers. Eugene Verge probably also lived at Malakoff for a couple of years before he moved into North Bloomfield. Several employees lived on the slope above the office along both sides of the alley, on so-called Malakoff Hill. The small community thrived as long as the company did.

Two hotels or boarding houses sprouted up at Malakoff for all the employees. Marius Bremond, who had been operating a hotel at Lake City since 1860—the one he bought from Julius Poquillon—established another in the middle of the company's yard (Deeds 7:133). Bremond was surely aware of Poquillon's vision. In fact, he and his neighbor, Louis Lay, joined Poquillon in May 1866 in selling to B. M. Pralus all their shares in the Inkerman Company's claims, "situated on Malakoff Hill, 500 ft. front width and bordering Wattier claims on the north" (Deeds 22:403; 405). That claim became the Pralus Diggins, and among the first properties that the N.B.G.M. Co. purchased. Bremond's son, Camille, took over management in 1873. At that time the hotel was described as

a certain house and lot known as Bremond's Hotel situated and laying at a place called Malakoff Hill, and bounded on the north side by the mining claims of the N.B.G.M. Co., on the east side by a carpenter shop belonging to the same company, by the road leading from Lake City to North Bloomfield on the south side, and by a stable belonging also to the above mentioned company on the west side. Also all the furniture, bedding, cooking range, cooking utensils, bar fixtures, billiard table, and all belonging to the hotel with 2 cows, 10 hogs, 60 chickens, and all of the provisions necessary to run a hotel and bar business (Mortgage 13-23).

Bremond's old acquaintance Augustin Isoard, the man who had bought the Hotel de France at Sacramento from him back in 1855, provided him a fresh loan that same year (Mortgages 13:331).

Across the road to Nevada City to the south was another boarding house for workers operated by Isaiah O. Pingree and wife, Margaret Pingree. Isaiah, born

in Maine, and Margaret, who was Irish, ran the hotel until 1873 (Deeds 45:446, Homesteads 3:428). The Pingree Hotel was well furnished, with an

Abbott and Noble No. 10 cook stove and kitchen furniture, 7 bedsteads and bedding, 3 French bedsteads, 1 wash stand pitcher and bowl, 1 clock, 2 carpets, 12 chairs, 2 mirrors, 3 sets of dishes, 2 small tables, 3 dining tables, 1 bar counter and furniture, decanters and cups (Deeds 32:318).

H. Burns bought the property in 1873, “together with public house or hotel with household and kitchen furniture belonging to said hotel and all liquor bar and bar furniture” (Deeds 45:373). The Pingrees moved that year to between Nevada City and Grass Valley where they took over the Glennbrook Ranch and race course from Emma Pratt (Deeds 45:446; Homesteads 3:428). Burns continued to operate the hotel as Malakoff flourished for the next several decades.

## **RIDING THE WAVE OF CAPITAL**

The quantities of investment capital flooding into the hydraulic mining industry in the mid-1860s encouraged speculation. Much of the local population banded together to claim any remaining gravel property, hoping it would become valuable. Trade in shares of gravel properties from Lake City to the upper reaches of Humbug Ravine were recorded throughout the 1860s and 1870s. The Lake City, North Star, and Bloomfield Consolidated claims surrounded the town of Lake City. Several of the region’s French miners joined others in staking out claims east of the N.B.G.M. Co., on the ridge above Blair’s Pond (a corruption of the name of Francis Blain).

A party probably comprised entirely of Frenchmen, including familiar names such as M. Bremond, A. Isoard, and E. Weiss, none of whom actually mined, as well as J. Fleury, J. Legrand, J. Michel, and Philip Peyran, staked out the Ultimium Gravel Mining Co. ground in the summer of 1866, at the same time that the N.B.G.M Co. was forming (Deeds 26:207; 208). The Ultimium claim encompassed a strip of the ridge north of Humbug Creek, across from John De Bours homestead. The entire group sold their interest within a month to B. M. Pralus, J. Poquillon, and Louis Lucas (possibly Lay).

The following year, in the middle of summer 1867, another party of presumed Frenchmen staked out more gravel claims immediately north of the Ultimium Company’s claims (Deeds 29:611; 617; 620). This group, calling themselves the Last Chance Company, included H. Pellatier, possibly one of the original founders of the Eureka Lake Company reservoirs; Auguste Lemaire, one of the original founders of North Bloomfield; Julien Dussom, Madam Auguste’s original partner in the Hotel de France; H. Quevastre, John Dufresne, Leon Quiquecondon, Jean Baillieux, B. Peytary; and Caleb and Joshua Nash. Quiquecondon, known as “Old Franka,” lived in North Bloomfield for decades, and is buried in the town’s cemetery (Kallenberger 1970:29, Patterson 1989:52). As they had done with the adjacent Ultimium claim, B. M. Pralus, J. Poquillon, and L. Lucas (or Lay) purchased the Last Chance Ground that same summer. They had every reason to believe the N.B.G.M. Co. would chase the gravel beds farther up the ridge. It never happened, however, and discouraged Poquillon sold out his 1/3 interest in both the ventures to his partner Pralus in early

1868 (Deeds 31:135). That is about the time Poquillon parted ways with the N.B.G.M. Co. and moved up to Eureka to resume hard rock mining.

In the spring of 1871, after the N.B.G.M. Co. Board hired Hamilton Smith to replace him as engineer for the Malakoff mine, Eugene Verge joined a large company of North Bloomfield miners to stake out a 4,000-foot frontage along Humbug Creek above town and extending southeast to the South Fork Humbug Creek (Deeds 38:541). The party included many others who were involved with the Malakoff Mine, but none of whom were French. The party of miners called themselves the Yuba Gravel Mining Company. Before the end of the year, all of them conveyed their interest in the “consolidated deep hill claim” to North Bloomfield resident D. R. McKillican (Deeds 38:543). Verge remained in North Bloomfield until his death. US population census schedules for 1870 and 1880 list him as a carpenter living with his Irish wife, Bridget. Together they raised two daughters in North Bloomfield, Mary and Bridget.

## **DERBEC MINE**

Marie Petitjean continued to work in the sulphuret business around Grass Valley after leaving North Bloomfield in 1864. Both he and Etienne Derbec, with whom he had traveled to California in 1849, studied the reduction process whereby fine gold was extracted from ore. Derbec had run successful French and Spanish language newspapers in San Francisco, but was looking for opportunities in gold. Petitjean operated the Progress Camp Sulphuret Works that he built in 1864, and he purchased William Hill’s Sulphuret Works and other property in Grass Valley in July 1873 (Deeds 48:54). Derbec was traveling through on his way back to San Francisco that year, and the two friends sampled the ores he was bringing back from Colorado and New Mexico (Nasatir 1964:46). Only a few months later Petitjean passed away, on 2 August 1873, at the age of 62 (Wills A:113). Augustin Isoard provided testimony during probate, claiming to have known him since 1853 before Petitjean arrived to North Bloomfield. He bequeathed his factory at Progress Camp, all his other property, and a sizeable deposit at the French Savings Bank of San Francisco, to his nephews and nieces in France.

Etienne Derbec returned to Grass Valley to personally take charge of Hill’s Sulphuret Works, which he managed for two years. While living in Grass Valley, he scouted the surrounding countryside for a place to resume mining, concluding that Nevada County was “the best and richest part of California” (Nasatir 1964:46). He settled on pursuing deep hill mines, and purchased both the Ultimum and Last Chance gravel claims in May 1875 from B. M. Pralus, of Paris, and Louis Lucas of Battle Mountain, State of Nevada. Lucas is believed to be Louis Lay, with whom Derbec had also maintained a long-lasting friendship (Deeds 54:582). Lay was no doubt exploring prospects in Nevada after leaving Lake City. His old neighbor, Camille Bremond, executed the deal as their attorney. Derbec swiftly consolidated more claims until he held some 6,000 feet along “the Big Blue Ledge” east of the Malakoff Mine (Nasatir 1964:46).

Derbec organized the Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Company in 1877, and sold shares in the venture to French investors in San Francisco (Nasatir 1964:47). The mine was developed by drifting, instead of using hydraulics. Shafts and tunnels were driven into the ground in search of blue gravel. Derbec boasted of his new system of drifts to work the gravel, claiming that it was better than previous drift methods and an improvement on the hydraulic systems that were in general use. The Articles of Incorporation filed in October 1878 stated their intention to mine for gold, silver, and other minerals in the North Bloomfield district. Trustees included G. Dussol, Edward Bosqino, P. Huerne, Louis Duterte, and H. Barroi, all apparently French. Incoming investment was used to expand and continue developing the holdings over the following year. J. R. Lafertie, another French miner, sold them his claim west of the Ultimium in the fall of 1877, and R. D. Skidmore sold his mine adjacent to Lafertie, known as the Hope Tunnel Company, to the company in 1878. They also acquired the Montreal Placer Mine adjacent to the N.B.G.M. Co. from Francis Souchet (Deeds 52:584; 585). French-Canadian Francis Blain and his company had originally claimed the Montreal in the 1860s, but Souchet owned it by the early 1870s. The company developed its main shaft in the Skidmore claim.

A large force was employed and a small village grew around the main shaft, located about one mile north of North Bloomfield. A hotel was in service there by 1876, operated by R. G. Williams (Comstock 2013:464). L. Leriche also owned a boarding house there, which he conveyed to James Crossett in 1879 (Deed 59:309). Before then, Leriche resided in the village of Malakoff, where he had probably been employed by the N.B.G.M. Co. The community at Derbec recorded in the 1880 population census included a few French inhabitants, including innkeeper Williams's wife, Pauline Roazer, whom he married in France. The crowded hotels there were filled with Irish and English miners in 1880, presumably experienced underground miners.

Derbec lived at the mine between 1876 and 1880 in order to personally oversee development with his engineer Theodore Wetzel Jr. (Comstock 2013:456, Nasatir 1964:47). He added a laboratory and assay furnace to the mine to test and refine the gold. The Derbec shaft was 466 feet deep by 1884, with a couple of main drifts and several lateral drifts resembling a fishbone pattern deep underground. Rich blue deposits on the bedrock were scraped clean, hauled to the shaft, hoisted up, and washed (Nevada County Historical Society 1952). Eventually they added deep tunnels to wash the gravel underground to reduce hoisting costs. The venture was not paying well, however, and the directors concluded it was due to high-grading, which means they suspected their own employees of stealing gold. They promoted Silvia Galivotti, a 36-year-old French national, to become superintendent. Described as being short and heavy-set with a dark complexion, Galivotti arrived from San Francisco with his wife, Lucy Breese-Galivotti, and they took up residence at the Derbec Mine. He turned the operation around, and in a short time it was producing well, with Galivotti personally delivering bullion semi-monthly to Nevada City under armed guard. It was during one of his regular shipments that a bandit shot and killed Galivotti (*San Francisco*

*Chronicle*, 18 September 1891). He served as the mine superintendent for seven years, 1884-1891.

Derbec left to travel in Europe to study the science of mining, then moved back to San Francisco to develop his ideas. In 1889 Derbec's *New Hydraulic Power* was published by H.H. Bancroft. The brief publication lays out a vision of hydraulic power for the West Coast and for use in mining precious metals (Derbec 1889). It was about this time that Derbec became quite ill. He checked into the French Hospital in November of 1888 (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 19 February 1894). His health never returned and he essentially took up residency at the hospital as a guest of the French Mutual Aid Society. When interviewed in 1894, several years later, he still spoke of having "a single vision—that of regaining his former health and entering the North Bloomfield district to develop his great discovery, the Derbec mine." His dream did not come to pass. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported the following summer of 1895 that the Derbec drift mine had closed, the ground owned by the company having been worked out. While production was sufficient under Galivotti in the late 1880s to keep the mine open, it never produced big returns for its investors. The mine was producing little or nothing and most of the shareholders, including Derbec, were ruined. Derbec died destitute on 1 April 1897.

Faith in the Derbec Mine endured. As late as 1898 mine engineers were advocating consolidating all the claims on the Bloomfield gravel channel and running an even deeper tunnel to where the Derbec Company suspended its operations (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 26 February 1898). One of the original French trustees and major investors, Louis Duterte, even returned from Nevada long after the mine closed to examine other mining property in the "upper country" (*Sacramento Union*, 7 March 1907). The Derbec Mine never reopened.

## **MOUNT BLANC MINE**

On 21 August 1878, shortly after the Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Co. was founded, the Mount Blanc Consolidated Gravel Mining Co. incorporated. Francois Souchet, a French miner who arrived in North Bloomfield by at least 1866, was one of the speculators locating deep gravel deposits to the east of Derbec, on the opposite side of Humbug Ravine (Bean 1867). He was familiar with the territory, having been involved with the Montreal placer mine in the early 1870s. He was joined by another local, George Edwards, in seeking investment for the venture. Apollinaire Gauthier, a Frenchman living in Grass Valley, seems to have been the primary investor. He is better known for his later hard rock mine, the Crown Point, located near Grass Valley. The original shareholders of the Mount Blanc seem to have included the entire Gauthier family, including A. Gauthier, his wife, Salina Gauthier, along with E. Gauthier, Frank Gauthier, and Eliza Gauthier. Of course Francois Souchet and George Edwards were shareholders as well, along with Edwards' wife, A. B. Brady, Alice B. Brady, C. P. Bush, H. Bush, A. B. Dibble, George Johnston, W. P. Dewey, D. B. Marwick, Mary Sirard, Philone McCarly, and M. P. Stone (BANC MSS 97/138c).

Souchet and Edwards took on development and continued scouting out more ground in the area. Souchet claimed 10 acres known as the Thomas Point Placer Mining Claim at the junction of the north and south forks of Humbug Creek, near Francis Blain's pond (now Blair's Pond), early in 1879 (Mining Claims 7:562). In 1882 Souchet and Edwards located 30 acres of gravel ground right in between the Derbec and the Mount Blanc properties (Mining Claims 9:316). A. Gauthier, as President of the Mount Blanc Mining Co., and J. J. Rogers, clerk, wrote to the President of Derbec Gravel Mining Co. in the summer of 1886 requesting permission to survey their underground workings at their own expense (BANC MSS 97/138c). They needed to learn about the depth and orientation of the Tertiary channel to better develop the Mount Blanc.

Souchet and Edwards filed affidavits for work they performed at the Mount Blanc in 1888 in order to show ongoing development (Mining Claims 11:188). This had to be done annually in order to hold on to claims that were not patented by the federal government. The records of the company describe their work as ground sluicing, ditch construction, and sluicing for drainage (BANC MSS 97/138c). By the end of 1888, it appears that the venture was not going well. Gauthier entered into an agreement whereby Souchet would clean up a certain cut in the company's claims, commencing at a point above the blacksmith shop and running up to what is called the Mexican Cut, then clean out the flume still in the cut, and finally to drive the cut or tunnel further into "what is known as Blue Gravel and upon satisfaction of the company receive \$100" (BANC MSS 97/138c).

Souchet was simultaneously improving his own claim below the Mount Blanc in 1888 and 1889 (Mining Claims 11:187; 275). The property was described as commencing at the confluence of Humbug Creek and its South Fork, and running up Humbug Creek 3,000 feet to about 150 feet below the blacksmith shop of the Mount Blanc Tunnel. Souchet was about 60 years old by this time, but evidently had to still work as hard as ever to make a living for himself and his French wife, Artemise Moreau, who he had married only a decade earlier in 1879 (Marriages). He died on 10 September 1889, but not of old age; he was helping to fight a fire (*Oakland Tribune*, 10 September 1889). His wife received receipt for his work on the Mount Blanc that was arranged with Gauthier. She presumably also received the \$100 for her late husband's efforts (BANC MSS 97/138c).

## **LEDU MINE**

Jean Baptiste LeDu called North Bloomfield home from 1856 until his death in 1909. He faithfully worked his claim on Colorado Hill for many decades, through the booms and busts so characteristic of the mines. After originally claiming the LeDu placer ground downstream from Humbug City in 1857, he settled on the ridge above, near a small Eureka Lake Company reservoir. Francis Guillon and Antoine Laurant, two members of the original company, remained his partners for many years. They probably lived nearby. They brought their own water to the diggings, and mortgaged the ditch for funds that they sank back into the mine venture. They sold the ditch early on, but later purchased the Pan Ravine ditch in 1866 from Charles Ruff and E. Van Muller

for \$300 to supply water to their diggings (Deeds 28:420). They worked the upper gravels by cutting into the slope of Colorado Hill from the banks of Humbug Creek and lining the open cut with flumes. They got into better gravels as they mined deeper into the slope, but could not reach the deepest portion of channel.

LeDu married an Irish woman by the name of Annie who gave birth to their son, Jean Francis LeDu, in about 1872. The following year the North Bloomfield schoolhouse was built directly across the street from LeDu's house, which overlooked several diggings downslope toward Humbug Creek, including his own. Jean and Annie took out a \$763 mortgage in January 1874 on their dwelling lot and mining ground from Bryan Connolly, which they had difficulty paying back (California District Court, Case No. 4260). Nevertheless, they remained in town, and in fact provided testimony in 1875 when townspeople petitioned for a patent (US Land Office, Patent 1390).

Later that same year LeDu filed for his own patent for the "placer claim of Jean LeDu." The mineral report written for the petition provides a picture of what the company had accomplished in the preceding 18 years:

The gravel has been worked successfully for a number of years past, but as yet only the surface has been washed to a depth of from 60 to 80 feet, there being no outlet for the lower stratum of gravel lying on the bed rock. The gravel has been thoroughly prospected in various places on the channel, by means of deep shafts, reaching down to the bed rock and has proved to be very rich (Smith 1875).

The federal patent was issued in 1882, and designated according to the official survey as Lot 45, giving the LeDu's the 37-acre property in fee simple, without the requirement to perform annual labor (Patents 1:113). They sold the mine to John Downing, finally profiting from the claim (Deeds 94:226).

Although tales of gold captured imaginations and inspired countless cases of gold fever, only a few miners actually made more than a meager living. Jean LeDu provides a classic example of the California gold miner. He toiled away on his claim for decades, never making it rich, but making a living. He and his wife watched their son grow up, and enjoyed the company of their many grandchildren. He made local headlines when he was 80 years old by making the trek to North Bloomfield from Nevada City on foot, a distance of some 15 miles. For some time he had been complaining about his health. Annie finally passed away in 1910, and after two years, Jean could not bear the loneliness. Newspaper reports on 2 May 1912 tell the story of the old miner's demise (Historical Clippings, HC 34:717).

Tired of life, sick and despondent, aged Jean Le Du of North Bloomfield took a terrible way of leaving this world, Monday afternoon at that place. He went to his cabin on the hill opposite the schoolhouse, placed a stick of giant powder in his mouth, lighted the fuse and holding the deadly charge firmly in place with one hand calmly awaited the end.

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**APPENDIX A**

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***Identified French Speakers***

### Identified French Speakers

Name (last)	Name (first)	Birthplace	Birth	Death	Arrival (place)	Notes
Aignes	Pierre Chaundes				1866 (SF)	Sells Inkerman claims to Pralus
Aubert	Pierre (T. F. P Aubert)	Sirene Infeucure? France			1/1/1854 (SF)	French Lakes founder, NB petitioner
Auguste	Madame	France			by 1855 (NB)	Ran Hotel de France/Paris, vanishes by 1863
Blain (Blair)	Francis C.	Canada	1818	8/12/1900 (NB)	1854 (NB)	Settles at NB
Bordas	A. and G.	France			1862 (LC)	Lake City saloon, mine partnerships
Boutard	C.	France?			by 6/1856	Claims on Malakoff Ravine
Bremond	Marius	France			1850 (Sac), 1856(LC), 1873 (Malakoff)	Hotels in Sac, Lake City, and Malakoff; mine partnerships
Chabot	Antoine	Canada			1849(SF); 1850(NC)	Applied hose for mining
Charles	E.	France?			by 6/1856 (NB)	Claims on Malakoff Ravine
Cuanette	Dalfin	France?			by 9/1854 (NB)	Ditch and diggings on Humbug Ck.
De Bours	John F.	France			1853 (NB)	pre-emption
Derbec	Etienne	Dijon, France	1817	1897	1850 (SF), 1876 (Derbec)	Newspaper in SF, on <i>Cachalot</i> (from Le Havre), started Derbec mine
Dusome/ Dussom	Julien	France			by 1857 (NB)	Madame August's partner, settler, miner
Fauchery	Benoit	Brousse, Puy de Dome, Auvergne, France			1850 (SF), 1853 (Nev. Co.), 1859 (LC)	on <i>Jacques Lafitte</i> (from Le Havre), architect of Eureka Lake Water Co. system, Lake City settler
Fortin	Alexis	France?			by 9/1854 (NB)	Ditch and diggings on Humbug Ck.
Fremry		France			by 1859	Wattier partner

<b>Name (last)</b>	<b>Name (first)</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Arrival (place)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Galivotti	Silvia	France	ca. 1848	1891	1884 (NB)	Supt. of Derbec Mine 1884-1891
Gauthier	Appolinaire	Lons le Saunier, France	1836	1896 (SF)	1852 (sailed to Calif.)	Mount Blanc Mine financier
Guillon/ Guillaux	Francois	France			by 3/1857 (NB)	Lasting LeDu partner
Guillory		France?			By 1861 (NB)	Labor for Wattier in 1861
Henry	P.	France?			by 6/1856	Claims on Malakoff Ravine
Hermite	Pierre Antoine	France			by 1857 (NB)	Pre-emption
Inkerman	F.	France?			by 6/1856	Claims on Malakoff Ravine
Isoard	Augustin	Provence, France	1828	1900	1850 (NC)	Mine financier, partner
Jacobs	A.	France			1853 (NB)	Early NB settler, miner
Lafertee	Julius Raoul	Bordeaux, France	1825	1/15/1886 (NB)	1/1/1854 (SF)	NB petitioner (seaman on coast since 1846)
Lamandriaux	Francois	France?			by 9/1854 (NB)	Ditch and diggings on Humbug Ck.
Lamoureux (same as above?)	F.	Canada?			1862	Partnerships, on 1871 claim map
Lay [Lucas?]	Louis	Pas de Galan, France			1853 (Nev. Co.), 1859 (LC)	French Lakes founder, settled in Lake City, moved to mines in Nevada, associate of Derbec
LeDu	Jean Baptiste	France	5/15/1819	5/2/1910	1856 (NB area)	Longtime resident and miner
Leliot	Louis	French or Belgian			1853 (Nev. Co.)	French Lakes founder
Lemaire	Auguste D.	France?			1/1/1854 (NB)	NB petitioner, Last Chance mine (related to Madam Auguste?)
Leriche	Ludger	France?			1878 (Malakoff)	Malakoff miner, Hotel at Derbec

Name (last)	Name (first)	Birthplace	Birth	Death	Arrival (place)	Notes
Liuvan/ Lauriet/ Laurant	Antoine	France			by 3/1857 (NB)	Lasting LeDu partner
Magiant	Francis	France?			by 3/1857 (NB)	LeDu partner
Martin	Joseph	France?			by 3/1857 (NB)	LeDu partner
Mayoux	Antoine	Mayoux			1856 (NB)	Empire Store at NB, Malakoff Flume Co., partner with Wattier and Petitjean
Merle	A.	France?			by 1859	Wattier partner
Monier	B.	France?			by 1861 (NB)	Labor and water for Wattier 1861
Nebolar		France?			by 1859	Wattier partner
Paqueth	Pierre	France			by 9/1854 (NB)	Ditch and diggings on Humbug Ck.
Pelary		France?			by 1859	Wattier partner
Pellatier	Henri	France or Switzerland			1853 (Nevada Co.)	French Lakes founder, settler at North Bloomfield
Petitjean	Marie	France	ca. 1814	ca. 1873 (GV)	Jan 1850 (SF), 1856 (NB)	Empire Store at NB, partner with Mayoux, on the <i>Cachalot</i> (from Le Havre), partner with Derbec
Picard	J.	France			by 1863	Mine partnerships
Pierre	David	Bordeaux, France	ca. 1842	11/12/1882		Died from mining injury at NB
Poirson	Pierre Francois	Haute-Saône, France				French Lakes founder, NB resident, gardener next to Wattier
Poquillon	Julius P.	St. Yriex, near Limoges, Central France	1/15/1831	6/10/1876	11/24/1850 (SF), by 1859 (LC)	Eureka Lake Water Co. engineer, miner, conceived of NBGM Co.

<b>Name (last)</b>	<b>Name (first)</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Arrival (place)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Pralus	B. M.	France			1863 (Marysv'l) 1866 (NB)	Pralus Diggings, 1 <sup>st</sup> trustee of NBGM Co.
Prospair		France?			by 3/1857 (NB)	LeDu partner
Prospair	Gustave	France?			by 3/1857 (NB)	LeDu partner
Quiquecondon	Frank Lon	France		3/7/1912 (Patterson 1989)	by 1867 (NB)	Last Chance Mine; Described by Kallenberger (1970:29)
Souchet	Frank (Francis)	France	1829	9/10/1889	by 1866 (NB)	Settler, miner, Last Chance Mine
Verge	Eugene B.	Toulouse, France	4/1/1831	3/7/1883	ca. 1847	1 <sup>st</sup> NBGM Co. engineer, resident at North Bloomfield
Victor	George	France			by 1875 (NB)	Ditch tender
Wattier	Léopold Joseph	Taisnières-sur-Hon (Northern France)	1/21/1815		1853 (Nev. Co.), by 1858 (NB)	French Lakes founder, Malakoff Flume Company, Wattier Claims, NB resident, miner next to Poirson
Weiss	E.	France	1823		1850 at NB by 1866	Associate of Bremond, Brewer at North Bloomfield

**APPENDIX B**

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***Documentary Timeline: The French Community at Malakoff***

## DOCUMENTARY TIMELINE FOR MALAKOFF DIGGINGS SHP HYDRAULIC MINING AND FRENCH COMMUNITY BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

- 1849 (31 October): Marius and Henriette Bremond give birth to son Camille at sea (Chevally 1980). The Bremonds are in Sacramento by 1850 running the Hotel de France (US Population Census). Later they move to Lake City and operate a hotel there, as well as in the Village of Malakoff.
- 1849 (Fall): Antoine Chabot, French Canadian, arrives in Nevada City and stakes claim on Buckeye Ravine (Burgess 1992:25). He partnered with E. E. Matteson and Eli Miller, both of whom evidently traveled with Chabot to the gold fields (May 1970:67).
- 1850 (12/14 January): Marie Petitjean and Etienne Derbec arrive to SF on the French ship Cachalot (Cachelot) (Passenger List - get full source). The web page [www.maritimeheritage.org/inport/1850.html](http://www.maritimeheritage.org/inport/1850.html) indicates the Cachalot, under the command of Captain Le Grand, docked with 137 passengers on the 14th following 150 day trip from Le Havre, France that began in 1849 (accessed 3/3/2015). Other sources say the ship left at the end of August 1849 and arrived in January 1850 with 135 men and 15 women under the auspices of the *Societe Nationale* (Nasatir 1964:30). Dumas writes about the voyage in his *Gil Blas en Californie*. After the ship arrived, on February 13, 1850, the *Daily Alta California*, carried an advertisement: "Undersigned offer for sale, from French brig *Cachalot* a notable quantity of zinc sheets and tine nails of a very superior quality. For further information, apply to A. Hughe, Pioche & Co., Clay Street."
- 1850 (Spring): Chabot developed ditches and flumes to bring water to his dry diggings for sluicing, and constructed Long Toms for himself and for sale to other miners in the Nevada City area (Burgess 1992:30).
- 1850 (17 June): Benoit Fauchery arrives in SF from Le Havre, France, on the French ship *Jacques Lafitte* (Comstock 2013:138). He was born in Brousse, Puy de Dome, Auvergne, France and was by trade a merchant in Paris prior to the Gold Rush (Comstock 2013:138).
- 1850 (Summer): Marious Bremond is a hotel keeper in Sacramento (US Population Census).
- 1850 (15 October): French consul in San Francisco, Patrice Dillon, claims there are over 25,000 French in California, and increasing; the following December he estimated 10,000 at Marysville and on the Yuba and Plumas (Feather) rivers, 6,000 to 8,000 at Les Fourcades (Mokelumne Hill), 5,000 at Sonora and the Mariposa and Merced

ivers, 1,500 in and around San Jose in Agriculture, and 6,000 in SF (Nasatir 1964:26).

1850 (24 November): Jules Poquillon, born at St. Yriex, near Limoges, in Central France, on 1/15/1831, arrives to California at age 20 (Janicot 1991).

### **Prospectors begin mining for gold along Humbug Creek in Winter of 1851-1852**

1851 Gold discovered in the North Bloomfield Mining District (this name comes into use in the early 20th century; MDSHP area originally named Virgin Valley Mining District) (Clark 1979:101).

1851-1852 A small mining party of two Irishman and a Dutchman discovered rich gravels near Humbug Creek. When one of the Irishmen returned to town to sell their gold and pick up fresh supplies he was followed back by a large number of prospectors who subsequently concluded the diggings were poor and dubbed the creek a humbug (Bean 1867:395).

1851 (November)-1853 (May): During this period 17 French ships financed by the Lottery of Golden Ingots brought about 3,300 emigrants to San Francisco (Rohrbough 2013:160-161).

1851-1857 Captain Irwin constructs 2 or 3 small ditches, one of which carries water from Poorman's Creek to Relief Hill and on to Lake City and Columbia Hill, where it falls into the main trunk (of Eureka Lake Company Ditch) (Bean 1867:68).

1852 (April): Chabot adds a pressure box and hose to bring pressurized water to move gravel in his sluice operations on Buckeye Hill, in or near Nevada City (Caldwell's upper store) (Burgess 1992:31).

1853-1854 Company of 7 Frenchmen (contradicts Janicot, see below) claim the waters of 21 Sierra Nevada lakes, including French (Eureka) Lake (Comstock 2013:138).

1853 Benoit Fauchery (Faucherie), Léopold Joseph Wattier (Wattiez), Pierre (Peter) Francois Poirson (Pearson, Porson), Louis Lay, Pierre Aubert (Obert), Henri Pellatier, and Louis Leliot (5 Frenchmen, 1 Swiss, and 1 Belgian) appropriate the water of French (Eureka) Lake in 1853, and found 30 more lakes within the vicinity of Big Canyon Creek. Having no capital, they turned to other Frenchmen who had begun a ditch from Canyon Creek to Eureka South (Graniteville), a distance of 13 miles (Janicot 1991:12). Fauchery and Lay settle in Lake City. Wattier and Poirson settle in Humbug (west North Bloomfield). Aubert evidently returns to Paris by 1863 but continues to invest with the company. A Swiss-born Louis Henri Pallatier (or French born Henri Pellatier also found in census, see below) is involved with hotels and restaurants in Sacramento, Nevada City, and Grass Valley and the

Lafayette or French Lead in GV (Comstock 2013:330; US census 1850, Sacramento). The 1860 US Census also lists a Harry Pelletier in North Bloomfield Township. near Lake City, 48 year old Frenchman. Julius Poquillon later given credit as engineer along with Fauchery with the Eureka Water Company (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860).

- 1853-55 (ca) Hydraulic mining began in the North Bloomfield Mining District and grew into a major industry by 1855 (Clark 1979:101)
- 1853 First “little” cabin is built in Lake City by a man named Joiner (NCHS Bulletin 7(1):4). “This place is pleasantly situated on the main road up the “Ridge,” being two miles from North Bloomfield and 11 miles from Nevada [City]. A public house had long been kept at the place, for the accommodation of teamsters and travelers” (Bean 1867:396).
- 1853 (ca) The Marlow brothers, Roger McCullough, Dickerson, A. (Anthony) Jacobs, John Newman, and others settled near North Bloomfield and commenced opening up the deep hydraulic diggings. While they were not able to reach the bottom of the Tertiary channels, the shallow drifts led to a prosperous boom time for North Bloomfield (Bean 1867:395). Marlow’s ground is depicted on 1871 North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co. claim map commencing at Humbug Creek between Blair Reservoir and town and extending northwest through Blair and Waldron ranches. The Blair pre-emption describes Marlow’s cabin as about 50 ft. southeast of the southeast corner of the parcel, somewhere in the vicinity of the road between Blair Reservoir and Humbug City.
- 1853 (Summer): A. Chabot relocated from Nevada City to Rabbit Creek Diggings, Sierra County (later Plumas County and town of La Porte since 1857), approximately 20 miles north of Humbug, where he lived until 1855 developing water conveyance systems to bring water to Slate Creek dry diggins and constructed saw mills to produce lumber needed for fluming (Burgess 1992:33-42). The community became a productive hydraulic mining region (Gudde 1975:191)
- 1853-1854: Gold miners including Owen Marlow, Roger McCullough, C. or G. W. Carter, Dickerson, A. Jacobs, John Newman, and Francis Blair (Blain) arrived to the Humbug area and began opening up the deep hydraulic diggings; Owen Marlow constructed a dam across Humbug Creek (Jackson 1967:1; Kallenberger 1970:22). Tertiary deposits were worked by sluicing off top gravels to a level with the bed of the creek, but could not reach the bottom blue gravels. Francis C. Blain born Canada 1818, arrived North Bloomfield 1854, died 8/12/1900 North Bloomfield, wife Elizabeth, 8 children, pre-empted 60 acres for mining and ag, “in 1874, through legal maneuvers the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co. was awarded his home, mine, and about half his property. The portion they were awarded is now known as Blair Lake and the Cummings house in North Bloomfield. He then built a home and barn

across the road. When a mine employee, A. B. Lind moved into the old Blain home, he was soon murdered, and Francis was subsequently tried and acquitted of this crime. Burial at North Bloomfield Cemetery” (Patterson 1989:35).

- 1853-1854 First tunnels used to reach deep Tertiary deposits. Newton C. Miller and partners spend about one year cutting a tunnel approx. 650 ft. long into side of Negro Hill on lower American River (Folsom area) to sluice wash the 10-15 acre flat on the hill composed of top gravel or hill diggings 16 to 30 ft. deep only mined by coyote methods prior, “but the dirt will pay to sluice from the top down if there was a chance to get rid of the water and tailings. We are cutting it with regular grade of 7 ft. in 100 and shall set our sluice boxes along on the bottom--see photo of profile sketch; before completing their tunnel others paid to add lateral lines to their own claims; once tunnel was completed sluice operations paid well (Letters by Miller, 24 July 1853; 21 August 1853; 8 October 1853, on file at Bancroft Library, Berkeley). Miller ends up settling in N. San Juan, on the Ridge, and involves himself with the Milton Mining and Water Company until his death in French Corral in 1894.
- 1853 (Spring): E. E. Matteson, native of Rhode Island and one of Chabot’s partners, adds a nozzle to the hose to increase water pressure to excavate gravels from the hillsides of his American Hill claim (Burgess 1992:32). Chabot left Nevada County in summer of 1853 to develop water and mining ventures in Sierra County (Ibid).
- 1853 (18 May): Derbec’s paper *L’Echo* prints that 32,000 French citizens are in California (Nasatir 1964:26).
- 1853 (13 September): John F. De Bours (Debour) claims 160 acre Pre-emption in Humbug Canyon between the South and Middle Yuba River commencing at the SE corner of land belonging to Back Bone House, thence 440 yards SE, thence running 1 mile SW, thence NW 440 yards, thence NE 1 mile, and also water privileges of Humbug Creek; he records his grazing and agricultural claim again 10 June 1857 after original burns down in courthouse fire; accompanied by survey plat by John Day made 2 October 1856 (see plat) depicting claim irregular boundary embracing Humbug Creek (oriented NE/SW “at head of Humbug Creek about 1.5 miles above Humbug City” and a house approximately 80 chains east of creek in NE portion of Pre-emption (Pre-emption Claims 1:173).
- 1854 (1 January): Humbug City/North Bloomfield settled and subsequently improved by W. A. Johnson, T. P. Crandall, J. H. Helwig, A. D. Lemaire, A. A. Smith, E. Cummins, J. A. Lafertee, and T. F. P. Aubert (Aubert?) (US Land Office, Patent 1390, on file National Archives). “Helwig, John Henry, died on 3/2/1909, born in Germany in 1834, to New Orleans in 1844, to Missouri in 1854, and on to this area. Built a cabin in the Lake

City area near his mine on 10/4/1854, from 1867 until time of his death he operated a butcher-shop in North Bloomfield. He married Emma Bishop in 1854, 6 children;” “Lafertie, Julius Raoul, died on 1/15/1886, born in 1825 in Bordeaux, France, came to Pacific Coast in 1846 as a French seaman, in 1849 to SF as a Chilean seaman, then drifted to Nevada City, Missouri Bar, and finally North Bloomfield where he has resided ever since the mid-1850s, a respected miner, burial at North Bloomfield” (Patterson 1989:42, 44).

- 1854 (23 July): John McNulty, Louis Lay, Poison (Poirson), B. Fouchery (Fauchery), and O. Aubert (P. Obert?) locate and claim the waters in Sierra County, all the lakes and their tributaries lying between the South Fork of the Middle Yuba River and Canon Creek to be taken up and conveyed by flumes and aqueducts to Eureka South (Graniteville) (Mining Claims 1:1).
- 1854 (26 September): “Pierre Paqueth, Alexis Fortin, Francois Lamandriaux, and Dalfin Cuanette claim 256 inches of water taken out of Humbug Creek for the purpose of mining and intend to construct a ditch at the nearest advantages place on the left hand side [east bank?] to our claims up deep hill diggings which are located and joining Mr. Clark and Company’s claims a short distance above the upper end of Humbug City” (Mining Claims 1:16).
- 1854 (28 October): Pierre Paqueth Company commences construction on their ditch to convey water to their deep hill diggings upstream of Humbug City and east of Humbug Creek (Mining Claims 1:16).
- 1854-55 The Crimean War in which the French are victorious in battle for the Malakoff Tower, in Sebastopol. Mamelon is a tactical hill near Malakoff. The Battle of Inkerman that took place in late 1854 was another front in this war. Given so many of the claims in and around Malakoff memorialize battles from the Crimean War it is probable that they post-date the confrontation.
- 1855 Madame August, a French lady, built the Hotel de France, which was roofed in canvas (Wells 1880). “In the records of Nevada County for 1855 we find mentioned a canvas roofed hotel, run by Madame Auguste. This was called the Hotel de France. Surprising as it may seem there was a preponderance of Frenchman in this little settlement. The books of the Virgin Valley Mining District covering the records of the mining claims filed from the early 50’s through the 60’s show over 600 names and of these over 130 are French” (Kallenberger 1970:24).
- 1855 The Eureka Lake Company originated in 1855 when a group of French miners led by inventor and entrepreneur Benoit Faucherie teamed with San Francisco investors to buy water rights to the lakes and streams in the upper reaches of Canyon Creek, a major tributary of the South

Yuba. They also improved dams and doubled the capacity of reservoirs at French (Eureka) Lake and Lake Faucherie (Meals 2012:2). Julius Poquillon later given credit as an engineer on the project (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860).

- 1855-1860 “The great enterprise of damming the lakes high up in the mountains, and constructing the canal above mentioned (Eureka Lake Canal), was projected by B. Faucherie, P. Obert (Aubert), Louis Lay, H. Pellatier, P. Poirson, Louis Leliot, L. Watier (Wattier), M. W. Irvin (Irwin?), and John McNulty (Bean 1867:65). Julius Poquillon later given credit as engineer on the project (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860).
- 1855 (3 August): HUMBUG CANYON-Several companies are running into the hills here expecting to find a lead running along the side of the foot of the ridge, and indeed there is every reason to suppose that there is a lead there...I have recently been shown a piece of gold taken from one of the cuts along the ravine that weighed 27 ½ ounces. The lucky finder was a Dutchman (*Grass Valley Journal*). Dutch Ravine and Dutch Diggins are located between Humbug Creek and Lake City.
- 1855 (8 September): The French army storms and takes the Malakoff Tower at Sevastopol, with the rest of the siege ending the following day, thereby ended the 10-month long Crimean War.
- 1855 (26 September): A. Isoard takes over the proprietorship and management of the Hotel de France in Sacramento. Places Louis B. D. Lafontaine in charge of the kitchen (Sacramento Daily Union, 26 September 1855).
- 1855 (8 October): Pierre Paqueth Company re-record their claim to 265 inches of water from Humbug Creek conveyed in their ditch to their deep hill diggings upstream of Humbug City and east of Humbug Creek, ditch originally constructed in 28 October 1854 (Mining Claims 1:16).
- 1855 (16 October): “John McDonald, J. H. Blankinchip [Blankinship?], and James Sprall [or Sproal] of Eureka Township convey to John McNulty, B. Forshrey [Fauchery], W. Watiez [Wattier], L. Lay, Poirson, P. Obart [Aubert], P. Pellitier [Pellatier], Mrs. A. D. McNulty, and L. Lenliot [Leliot] of the same place, the waters and water privileges of Canon [Canon] Creek, said creek being a tributary of South Yuba, and all its tributaries above a certain point known as the site for a dam in course of erecting by parties of the 1st part in consideration of 30 running inches of water for 34 hours each day of the 6 summer months of each year commencing 1 June each year and ending last day of November, The party of the second part afforded reasonable time to convey water from Canon Creek by flume, tunnel or otherwise to place of delivery on the north side of the ridge dividing the south and middle Yuba, at the

head of Eureka Water and mining Ditch at Wever Creek, to begin after completing work from said dam on Canon Creek to point on Wever Creek excepting any unforeseen accidents which due diligence could not prevent” (Deeds 1:40).

- 1855 (9 November): Nevada Journal reported that “an affray occurred at Humbug Canon on Tuesday night, in which Mr. Joiner was instantly killed by a Mr. Jacobs.” Jacobs shot the man in self-defense. Mr. Joiner built the first cabin at Lake City (see above), Jacobs was an early French settler to Humbug. “Joiner, Israel, died on 11/6/1855 near North Bloomfield, was shot and killed over a disputed mining claim in Humbug Canyon, and was first settler of what was later known as Lake City” (Patterson 1989:43).
- 1855 (28 November): *L’Echo Du Pacifique*, a French language newspaper published in San Francisco by Etienne Derbec, includes extensive descriptions of the celebrations held in San Francisco to honor the allies victory in the Crimean War, a couple months prior. Events included a recreation of the Malakoff Tower at South Park.

**Malakoff Ravine is a place name by December 1855, within 3 months of the siege of Malakoff.**

- 1855 (5 December): Pre-emption of Alfred Johns for lot of land 160 acres in size in Humbug Canon, Virgin Valley Mining District, along and east of the “Great Malakoff Ravine” shown as a branch of “Little Malakoff” (otherwise known as Virgin Ravine) and described as containing no improvements and fit for only timber and agricultural land (Pre-emptions Book 1:223). Alfred Johns and William Taylor open a store in North Bloomfield.
- 1855 (21 December): “...I would advise all miners looking for diggings to come to Humbug City and risk a day or two, if no more...this locality affords an inducement to miners probability at this time unrivaled by any district in the state.” (*Grass Valley Journal*)
- 1855-1860 Eureka Lake Company consolidates all smaller ditches on the San Juan Ridge with the exception of the Middle Yuba Canal and the Shady Creek Ditch (1851), which later evolve into the Milton Mining and Water Company (Meals 2012:2).
- 1856 Antone Mayhew (Mayoux) and Pettijean (Petitjean) built a store in North Bloomfield (Wells 1880:59).
- 1856 The citizens of Humbug were dissatisfied with the name “which had been thoughtlessly bestowed, and when they procured a post office in 1856, had it changed to North Bloomfield” (Bean 1867:395).

- 1856 Kallenberger writes an article connecting Bremond to the Inkerman Company claim, next to the Wattier claim on Malakoff Hill (*Oakland Tribune*, 3 March 1857). Appears to be a mistake, duplicate of 1866 deed (see below).
- 1856 “LeDu, Jean Baptiste, died on 5/2/1910, born in France on 5/15/1918, came to this area mining in 1856, married Anna Mitchell in 1869, one son, Francis. He was tired, sick, and despondent since the death of his wife, went to his home opposite the school in North Bloomfield where he committed suicide, burial at North Bloomfield” (Patterson 1989:41, 46).
- 1856 (1 January): William Taylor (1804-1890), owner of Tennessee Ranch in Penn Valley, and partner, Alfred Johns, Owner of American Market in Nevada City, open a store in Humbug City (North Bloomfield) (Comstock 2013:219, 419).
- 1856 (20 January): Poirson, Roger & Co. confirm water claim to 10 lakes they have dammed and for ditching and fluming purposes to convey to “Lake Valley” between Canon Creek and South Yuba about 2 miles from American Ranch (Mining Claims 1:34).
- 1856 (8 February): *Nevada Journal* reports that new diggings in Humbug are being continually struck. “Those already opened have universally proved rich. Fred De Bore (De Bour) & Co. are taking out from 6 to 29 ounces a day. A few days ago they took out one piece weighing 112 dollars, and a number weighing 40 to 80 dollars. The great need now of the miners in that region is water. They hope to be supplied soon by ditches already in progress. Humbug bids fair to become one of the richest mining sections in the county.” Janicot (1989:13) notes that “scores of French miners arrived on the scene: Bordas, Cayet, Drovillet, Pierre David, Joseph Girard, Penelon, Polmere, Eugene Verge, Alphonse Pralus (of Boston Company), Albert Dennet (a road overseer), Jean Le Du (who will resurface later in this story) and Simon Hieronimus.” Not all by this date.
- 1856 (22 February): *Nevada Journal* reports that Humbug City “is going down very fast. The most of the miners after working for some time and not having made enough to pay their water bills have abandoned the place. Several stores which were started some three months since have been closed and the town presents a gloomy aspect.”
- 1856 (May): According to Kallenberger B. M. Pralus, “of Paris, France,” bought the Inkerman mine from “A.” Bremond and Louis Lay in May of 1856 (*Oakland Tribune*, 3 March 1957). This appears to be a mistake. The conveyance is repeated in 1866. This appears to be a mistake in original 1957 article.

- 1856 (25 June) Dr. Fredrick and French wife Hortence Wattier Hillersheidts of Nevada City convey to Theodore C. Lampe for \$1500 a town lot in Nevada City between Broad and Spring Street (Deeds 1:152).
- 1856 (July): "F. Inkerman, P. Henry, E. Charles, and C. Boutard took up four claims on the Malakoff Ravine, claims which ran down the ravine for 400 ft." (*Oakland Tribune*, March 3, 1957). Have not verified Kallenberger's claim.
- 1856 (12 July): John McNulty, A. O. D. McNulty, Benoit Fauchery, P. Francoise Poirson, Louis Lay, Pierre Aubert, Pierre (sic) Pellatier, L. Leuloit, and L. Wattier convey to M. W. Irwin for \$5,000 the ditches, flumes, mills, and fixtures, works belonging to them and known as the Eureka Lake Company's Works with the water rights attached, provided Irwin sell and deliver to the first part 50 inches of running water under a 6-inch head in the usual manner of gauging water for 6 months each year from and after the 1st of July 1857 in manner specified in said bond, and also to pay interest upon said sum of \$5,000 at 2% monthly from this day until said water is delivered, signed T. F. Poirson, L. Leutoit (also spelled Lintoit), P. Aubert, Pierre (Henry?) Pellatier, Fauchery, L. Wattier, J. McNulty, and Louis Lay (Mortgages 1:173).
- 1856 (10 September): *Nevada Democrat* "Mining Items" update for Humbug, "having no water for [sluicing], Jacobs & Co have gone to work with the rocker and are making from ten to eighteen dollars per day to the hand."
- 1856 (11 September): "hundreds will come by day and night and pitch their tents like an army, forest fall before them, and the hills, older than the pyramids glide into vales at their bases...wilderness and their people simply vanish. But it is not so disorderly as you might think" (*Hydraulic Press*).
- 1856 (16 September): J. E. Jacobs and Co. located 600 ft. of the bed of South Fork Yuba River between Missouri and Willow bars for the purposes of fluming and mining during the next season, recorded September 22 (Mining Claims 1:9).
- 1856 (24 September): Petit Jean (Petitjean) surveys and locates land at Humbug City, filing a plat depicting 500 yards fronting "Road from Nevada to Orleans Flat" - between two unnamed ditches - and extending back (westerly) 80 ft. and further depicts the bend in the road and what appears to be multiple dwellings on both sides of the road, and a few on the east side of "Canon Creek" (Humbug Creek) (Pre-emptions 1:40).
- 1856 (24 September): Anonymous article submitted to *Nevada Democrat* providing a review of Relief Hill gold discovery and orientation, noting

the development of a small village (Relief Hill) and the expected completion of “Captain Irwin’s Ditch.”

- 1856 (1 October): Pre-emption of Dr. Fredrick Hillersheidts known as 160-acre Virgin Ranch recorded. Survey accompanying the claim depicts Malakoff Creek, Virgin Creek (East and West Branches), Colorado Creek, Road from Nevada to Humbug City, and residence north of road in southern portion of Pre-emption boundary. His description cites a flume near boundary crossing at the head of Malakoff Creek, in northeast corner of lot where a spring is depicted on east side of Malakoff Creek (Pre-emptions 1:162).
- 1856 (21 October): Piere Paqueth Company re-record their claim to 265 inches of water from Humbug Creek conveyed in their ditch to their deep hill diggings upstream of Humbug City and east of Humbug Creek, ditch originally constructed in 28 October 1854 (Mining Claims 1:16).
- 1856 (28 October): Pre-emption of John F. De Bour containing 160 acres at the head of Humbug Canon about 1.5 miles above Humbug City. Survey accompanying the claim depicts Humbug Creek oriented NE/SW and a house east of the creek in northeast corner of plot (Pre-emptions 1:173).
- 1856 (16 December): Hope Tunnel Mining Claims recorded in North Bloomfield in Book 2 page 23 and situated in Virgin Valley Mining District, located between the ground known as Montreal and Ultimatum (Ultimum) claims and extending from the Humbug Creek up to the center of the main Back Bone Ridge (Deeds 52:585). Note, the Ultimatum and Montreal are later period claims and not located in 1856, based on available evidence.
- 1857 Bloomfield Township created, most of which was part of Eureka Township prior; a U.S. post office was established in Humbug, and the community name was officially changed to North Bloomfield (Bean 1867:395).
- 1857 R. D. Skidmore arrives to North Bloomfield, after arriving to Nevada City in 1854, he opens a bakery business and later a saloon business (Kallenberger 1996:40).
- 1857 Captain Irwin reaches Humbug (North Bloomfield) and Lake City with his ditch commenced in 1851 that carries water from Poorman’s Creek (Bean 1867:68).
- 1857 Franz & Esher had a saloon which was afterwards converted into the hotel and was known as the North Bloomfield Hotel, famous for its midnight suppers after the dances as well as for the comfort given travelers to and from the mountains. During this year many others came to live in Humbug. We will mention only a few -- James Marriott,

A. D. Dennett (A. G. Dennet), Ben Brockmeir (Brockmeyer), L. Haner, J. W. Stickler, Ernest Creig, Caleb Nash, R. D. Skidmore, and J. K. Brownell" (Kallenberger 1970:24).

- 1857 (5 January): Pan Ravine Ditch is claimed and recorded in North Bloomfield Township Virgin Valley Mining District, ½ mile south of North Bloomfield, including all the water of Pan Ravine and the ravine on the south side of Pan ravine, as described in the Virgin Valley Mining District records, O. P. Jones, recorder, page 24 (Deeds 28:420).
- 1857 (3 March): Jean LeDu, Francis Guilon, Antoine Liuvan, Prospair, Gustave Prospair, Francis Magiant, and Joseph Martin claim 7 claims of 100 ft. each front on Colorado Hill, joining the claims of Peterson, Pipes, and Co.'s claim, and running up (easterly) Humbug Creek 700 ft. and back to the center of the main ridge; recorder C. (O.) P. Jones, recorder (Smith 1875 [field notes for mineral survey 968, placer mine of Jean LeDu]). See Thompson 1871 map showing diggings of the Peterson Gravel Mining Co.
- 1857 (10 March): LeDu and Company, consisting of Jean LeDu, Francis Guillon, Antoine Lauriet, Petitjean, claim water from Relief Canyon, Eureka Township, and begin work on a 3 ft. deep by 3 ft. wide ditch to convey water to the Township of Bridgeport for agricultural and mining purposes, with all ravines, lakes and tributaries, and all surface water that may fall from all tunnels, tail races, sluices, cuts, etc. etc., emptying into canyon, and all surplus water of Humbug Canyon (Mining Claims 1:111).
- 1857 (10 March): J. Humphrey and William Smith and Co. locates a ditch for mining purposes the water will be taken out of the North Fork Humbug Creek 200 (?) ft. above the ditch known as the Vansaw (?) or French Ditch; we claim the water that runs in the ditch known as the Olenfer, Oliver, or Olenger Ditch, said water will be turned back into North Fork Humbug Creek above the dam of the Olinfer Ditch, said ditch to be 18 inches wide in the bottom and 18 inches deep (Mining Claims 1:48).
- 1857 (31 March): John Le Du records claim (cited Book 2:29 but not deeds or mine claims books; old deeds or virgin valley claims?) commencing at the dam of the (Eureka) Lake Co.'s Reservoir near the Graveyard of North Bloomfield and running from there in an easterly direction 800 ft. to a tree behind the brewery on the east side of the road leading to the Slaughter house and comprising all the mining ground north of the line to the center of the main ridge (Deeds 27:67).
- 1857 (16 April): Madame Auguste and J. Dusome claim three lots, 58, 59, and 61, situated on the south side of Main Street Humbug City, recorded in miners Book No. 2 and page 33, O.P. Jones, recorder (same person recording Virgin Valley Mining District claims), recorded

at county 29 April 1857 (Pre-emption Claims 1:158). These lot numbers correspond with those adopted in 1875 on Bethell's plat of North Bloomfield. The assessor map for North Bloomfield has these lots in Blocks 2 and 6, but only Lot 61 in Block 2 is south of Main Street.

- 1857 (7 July): The Jean Le Du Company of Humbug City, Jean Le Du (LeDu), consisting of L or P or F, Guillaux, and A. Laurant (spelling unclear) convey to Marie Petit Jean and Co. of Humbug City, in consideration of \$1,000 payable in provisions, tools, etc. to be used at the diggings and completing of a water ditch, □ of a certain water ditch taking its course from Relief Canyon and to be brought to Humbug City or further as necessary, and equal share of tools provisions etc. now owned by LeDu et al. (Deeds 3:271).
- 1857 (May): Julius Poquillon, P Chaudesaigues, M. Payle, and A. Pauliu, locate and claim 1,600 ft. Eureka Quartz Ledge running east to west located at the head of Weavers Creek in Eureka Township above the line of the Eureka Lake Company ditch, also the right of tunnel way upon any portion of the hill (Mining Claims 1:215).
- 1857 (22 September): Bernhard Fray or Franz deeds to Antoine Mayeu (Mayoux), both of Humbug City (North Bloomfield) for \$1,000 property in Humbug, consisting of lot with improvements, 50 ft. front on Main St. back 200 ft. back on Mill St. (Deeds 2:370). Description is for Block 4, Lot 1, later the McKillican and Mobley store.
- 1857 (1 October): John Enders conveys to Julien Dussom (Dusome), both of North Bloomfield, for \$300, a piece of ground about 8 acres enclosed by a rail fence, and being a portion of a ranch surveyed by John Day 2 October 1856 for A. Glotzbach, and known as Louisiana Ranch situated about ½ mile from North Bloomfield, or Humbug City, with house, improvements, fences, etc. (Misc Records 1:240).
- 1857 (23 December): Hermite Peirre Antoine and Hermite and Co. (?) claim by purchase two building lots and houses thereon situated on the south side of Main Street in Humbug City, the lots being 100 ft. front on Main and running 100 ft. back adjoining westerly Cafsits (sp?) lots and easterly the house and lots of Charles Verdelet (Pre-emption Claims 1:233).
- 1857 (30 December): "HUMBUG CITY-As you pass by Relief Hill you come to hill which is a vast out crushing from a heavy deposit of gravel, the main body of which may be seen breaking out between that and a spur of the Backbone Ridge, pointing out a short distance below Abercrombie's Ranch, upon this hill, there are some valuable mining claims; among them may be mentioned the claims of G.W. McPherson & Co. From this hill the ore bearing "rim rock" are easily traced via the Villa Rica Hill, Manzanita Hill, Colorado and Buffalo Hill which

mentioned hills hangs, as it were, above the turbid currents of the South Yuba River” (*Daily Union*).

- 1858 Lake City was laid out, “when it was made a local station of the ditch company. The town is not destined to attain any great size, there being no diggings in the immediate vicinity, but is a pleasant residence” (Bean 1867 396).
- 1858 L. Wattiez (Wattier) spent \$1270 on water and goods (California District, Case Cab 6 No. 833, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California.
- 1858 (12 February): M. Petitjean, Germarie Mory, and Sebastian Mallot (Mullot), all residents of Keystone Township (in the vicinity of Frenchtown), Yuba County, and Antoine Mayou (Mayoux) residing at Humbug City, and by profession merchants doing business under the name M. Petitjean and Company, convey to Earnest Van Muller of Marysville and by profession merchant for loan of \$6,000 a percent share of water ditch known as John LeDu and Co. ditch extending from a place known as Relief Hill to a place known as Humbug City and used to convey water for mining purposes (Chattel Mortgages 1:502).
- 1858 (May): A. Chavaune (Chavanne), L. C. Chanaune, G. A. Montgomery, J. P. Dorsey, J. Fricot, S. Rupert, A. Pralus, P. Pertin, E. De la Rue, and L. Majaerou (sp?) record their quartz claim on New York Hill near Grass Valley (Mining Claims 1:214). A. Pralus is related and probably brother of B. M. Pralus; A. is heavily involved in mining and milling, he bought the Eureka Hill Mine with Fricot and Ripert from B. L. Lamarque in 1857 (Bean 1867).
- 1858 (10 May): Marie Petitjean, Germarie Mory, and Sebastian Mullot, residents of Keystone Township, Yuba County, and Antoine Mayous (Mayoux) resident of Humbug City, all by trade merchants or traders doing business as M. Petitjean and Co. convey to Earnest Van Muller of Marysville, for loan of \$8,000 a 1/10 share in water ditch known as the John LeDu and Company’s ditch extending from Relief Hill to Humbug City and a proposed extension to Bridgeport and water in Relief Creek (Chattel Mortgages 2:79).
- 1858 (28 May): Renewal by Julius Poquillon, P Chaudesaigues, M. Payle, and A. Pauliu, locate and claim 1,600 ft. Eureka Quartz Ledge running east to west located at the head of Weavers Creek in Eureka Township above the line of the Eureka Lake Company ditch, also the right of tunnel way upon any portion of the hill (Mining Claims 1:215).
- 1858 (29 October): Joseph Rohn of Humbug City a miner by trade conveys to A. Jacobs of the same place and trade for \$200 loan a ¼ share of a certain mining claim in Humbug known as claims of A. Jacobs, Smith and Co. (Chattel Mortgages 2:82).

- 1858 (13 November): Fredrick, Hortence, and D. Albert, all of North Bloomfield Township. convey  $\frac{1}{4}$  share of the venture to Frank Gaschlin of Sierra County for \$1000, describing it as “on the road leading from Nevada City to the Village of Humbug, about 1.5 miles from said village, known as the Virgin Ranch Mining Company’s claims, now owned and occupied by the parties of the first part, the same being bounded on the east by the claims of Esenbeck and Co. (Eisenbeck) and on the westerly side by the claims of Albert and Co. (Dr. Gillespie’s claim) containing 1,083 ft. front on Virgin Creek and Running back between parallel lines to the center of the main ridge, also  $\frac{1}{4}$  share of the ditch and water right known as Hillerschidts and Alberts water right carrying water from Little Virgin Creek to said diggings with all the springs and ravines along the line of said ditch with water rights (Deeds 4:41).
- 1858 (3 November): *Nevada Democrat* reporting from the *Hydraulic Press*: “The experiment of blasting banks to procure a fall of earth for hydraulic washing is about to be tried in the claims of the San Juan Company at Grizzly Hill.”
- 1858 (22 November): Antoine Mayoux of Humbug City conveys mortgage to Van Muller and Co. of Marysville in consideration of \$1,182 a building lot and 2 houses on the northwest side of Main St., Humbug City, westerly corner of Main and Mill streets, being 50 ft. front on Main, 200 ft. back on Mill and 75 ft. on Superior St. (Back St. or Alley), (this is later the McKillican and Mobley Store) also 2 undivided 20th parts in a tail flume named Humbug Falls Flume and situated in Humbug Creek payable in 6 months of mortgage (Mortgages 3:67).
- 1858 (18 December): M. Petitjean and A. Mayoux under the name Humbug Falls Fluming Co. partnered with G. W. Arnold and Stickler in flume venture to drain Humbug Flat constructed for the distance of 3,000 ft. and later extended another 1,200 ft. (District Court of the State of California, Case Cab 2 No. 1483, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1858 (24 December): Jeremiah Job and Merritt A. Spicer convey to Jean LeDu and Co. in consideration of \$600 all that certain tail sluices situated in the west branch in Logan’s Canyon (Deeds 4:108).
- 1859 Eureka Lake Company enlarged its capacity by building a 70-ft. high dam on Canyon Creek. At Cheery Hill Gap, west of Graniteville, the former Irwin Ditch entered the south slope of San Juan Ridge and traveled a contour for 27 miles past the Relief Hill and North Bloomfield diggings and on to the Lake City Reservoir where the extensions ran to Kennebec Hill and Grizzly Hill (Meals 2012:2). Julius Poquillon later given credit as engineer on the project (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860).

- 1859 Benoit Fauchery is the architect and builder of the Magenta Flume between Cherry Hill and Eureka (Graniteville), east of North Bloomfield (Comstock 2013:138). Julius Poquillon later given credit as engineer on the project (Daily Alta, 1 January 1860). Janicot (1989:19) summarized the flume described as “one of the finest engineering features” in California” Completed in July throngs of French workers shouted “Vive Magenta” in honor of the great French victory over the Austrians. People came from all over the county, the French and American flags were raised while a band played and Canon shots fired. After a fine meal prepared by the Eureka Lake Company there was a display of fireworks and over 200 people danced. The flume was used for 8 years and then replaced.
- 1859 L. Wattiez paid \$1569 on claims, labor, merchandise, and grub (California District Court, Case Cab 6 No. 833, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1859 Louis Simonin, a French mining engineer, visits the mining region of California and later writes a column in a popular French travel magazine:”What’s near Nevada was employed, on placers, the method known as hydraulic, as I had seen in use on the banks of the Merced and Knight’s Ferry, but on a smaller scale. It is a method that Nevada was suspect, and that is that he still has to go to study. Through a violent jet of water, under a very high pressure a miner projects before which through a tube like spears of fire, it demolishes mountains, whole. Land, gravel, rocks themselves are eboulent noisily, and washers must act carefully if they want to not be swallowed up beneath the rubble. Land and disaggregated piers are in a same channel as the sluices, but much larger dimensions and which is called a flume. This is achieved by a so advantageously to treat the poorest lands, or even gold does not betray its presence. The washing with water in the flume, and the mercury that is arranged on the bottom of a bucket, separating gold and retain more that cannot make the most complicated mechanisms” (Simonin 1862:40).
- 1859 (20 February): Francois Guilloux and Jean LeDu, of Humbug City convey to Marie Petit Jean (Petitjean) and Co., a mercantile firm doing business in Humbug City, for \$500, a certain water ditch extending from Relief Hill to Humbug City with a proposed extension to a place known as Bridgeport, known as the John (sic) LeDu and Company’s Ditch (Deeds 4:525).
- 1859 (1 April): Henry Ross conveys Independence claims to Antoine Mayoux (Cited in Deeds 11:192). Several individuals named Ross are buried in North Bloomfield cemetery (Patterson 1989:52).
- 1859 (7 April): L. Wattier (Wattiez), A. Merle, Fremry, Pelary, and Nebolar locate 500 feet on Malakoff Hill running east to the center of the hill,

and bounded on the south by Henry and Co. (possibly Henry Ross) and north by Indiana Co. on the north (*Oakland Tribune*, March 3, 1957).

- 1859 (20 April): W. E. Van Slyke of North Bloomfield purchases from Julius Dusson (Dusome) of Nevada City mining claims in Humbug on the creek for \$500 in 3 payments with last made in January 1860 (Misc Records 1:488).
- 1859 (25 June): Francis Blair (Blain?) claims Pre-emption ranching, grazing, and agricultural purposes, bounded on the south by North Bloomfield town lots, on the west by Waldon Ravine (Butcher Ravine?), and the north and east by vacant land; commencing a few rods NW of Owen Marlow's cabin, thence due west 880 ft. to a few rods from Waldon (Waldron) Ravine, thence north 1,550 ft. thence east 840 ft., thence 1,640 ft. south to beginning (Pre-emption Claims 1:340). "Francis Blain, a French Canadian, and the pronunciation of whose name sounded similar to Blair, preempted a homestead on the hill above town and with several other French Canadians piped out the pit that was later called the Blair Reservoir. Here the lads of town learned to swim.... With the turn of the century we find a change; the girls were allowed to join in the sport... The steep hill that leads from up past the old Blair home was called the Blair Hill" (Kallenberger 1970:23).
- 1859 (20 July): J. B. Dambren (John Dambrow) enters into an indenture (borrows \$724 from) L. Marchall, both of Bloomfield Township, mortgaging the right, title, and interest in and to a certain mining claim known as Malakoff Company's claim situated in Malakoff Ravine, said interest being one undivided 1/5 of the whole claims (California District Court, Case No. 1204, on file Searls Library). The 1860 census lists Dambrow as a resident of North Columbia.
- 1859 (28 July): A. Mayoux, L. Wattier, and Wm. W. Cook, all of North Bloomfield, miners by trade, enter into a mortgage with William B. Churchill, residing at the same place and a lumberman by trade, in consideration of \$1,000 do mortgage their 4/5 interest in mining ground known as Malakoff Flume Company diggings, commencing at a point on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine and running up said ravine 8,000 ft. in the hill, being 1,000 ft. in width, also 4/5 interest in and to that certain flume and tunnel running up the ravine through which said diggings and mining ground is worked (Chattel Mortgages 3:405).
- 1859 (28 July): A. Mayoux, L. Wattier, and William W. Cook, residing at Humbug, and by occupation miners, convey to William B. Churchill of same place and by profession a lumberman for a loan of \$1,000 their 4/5 share in the Malakoff Flume Company's diggings commencing at a point on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine and running up said

ravine 8,000 ft. more or less into the hill being 1,000 ft. in width, also 4/5 in that certain flume and tunnel running up the ravine through which said diggings and mining ground is worked (Chattel Mortgages 3:406).

- 1859 (29 July): A. Mayoux, L. Wattier, and Wm. W. Cook, all of North Bloomfield, miners by trade, enter into a mortgage with M. Petitjean and Company (L. L. Mullot, and A. Mayoux), also of North Bloomfield, merchants by trade, in consideration of \$566 do mortgage their 4/5 interest in mining ground known as Malakoff Flume Company diggings, commencing at a point on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine and running up said ravine 8,000 ft. in the hill, being 1,000 ft. in width, also 4/5 interest in and to that certain flume and tunnel running up the ravine through which said diggings and mining ground is worked (Chattel Mortgage Book 3:391).
- 1859 (29 July): A. Mayoux, L. Wattier, and Wm. N. (W.?) Cook (of Indiana), all of North Bloomfield, miners by trade, enter into a mortgage with The Eureka Lake Company, the business of which is to sell waters to miners and others for mining and agricultural purposes, in consideration of \$1206.25 do mortgage their 4/5 interest in mining ground known as Malakoff Flume Company diggings, commencing at a point on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine and running up said ravine 8,000 ft. in the hill, being 1,000 ft. in width, also 4/5 interest in and to that certain flume and tunnel running up the ravine through which said diggings and mining ground is worked (Chattel Mortgage Book 3:399).
- 1859 (10 September): Jas. Cook, Jas. Ralph, J. Jeffery, J. Farrell, and E. Johns convey to Henry Pellatier, Peire Josphe Blaur, Piere Chedal, and L. Francois Chedal for \$25 all of 10 claims situated in Clark's Ranch and known as the Clark's Ranch Gravel Co. and the second part also claim another 6 claims below the above described, one for right of way for tailings and five for mining purposes (Misc Records 1:567).
- 1859 (5 October): "Constable's Sale" posted in *Nevada Democrat* following a seizure of property from William W. Cook to a "...set of Mining Claims situated on Malakoff Hill, and known as the Malakoff Co.'s claims..." (2:6)
- 1860 "The great enterprise of damming the lakes high up in the mountains [is completed after 5 years], and constructing the canal above mentioned [Eureka Lake Canal], was projected by B. Faucherie, P. Obert [Aubert], Louis Lay, H.. Pellatier, P. Poirson, Louis Leliot, L. Watier [Wattier], M. W. Irvin [Irwin?], and John McNulty" (Bean 1867:65). Julius Poquillon later given credit as engineer on the project (*Daily Alta*, 1 January 1860).
- 1860 "An unknown Frenchman located the waters of Canyon Creek at Bowman in 1860 and dug a ditch that paved the way for the North Bloomfield Company" (Janicot 1989:13).

- 1860 The North Bloomfield Township Population Census lists Fredrick and Albert Hiller (David Albert?) living next two each other, both fairly young Prussians. Fredrick, in dwelling 1276 was listed as a physician and living with his French wife and five children. Albert, in Dwelling 1277, was working as a miner and sharing the place with another Prussian, Just Mathias, and a Swede, John Nelson, both also mining. Nearby houses include those of J. E. Woodard (Dwelling 1275), William Colyclus (Dwelling 1278), and J. E. Cornelius (Dwelling 1279). Antone Mayoux is listed as 36-year old Frenchman (Dwelling 1346) working as a merchant in North Bloomfield, with \$6k in real estate and \$3k personal estate, next door are 2 unoccupied houses followed (Dwelling 1349) by 37-year-old French born Mare Pettyjohn (Marie Petitjean) working as a saloon keeper with \$300 personal estate. Leopold Wattier and Peter Poirson, listed as a gardener, are residing in dwellings 1370 and 1374. Indiana born Cook brothers William 24 and Aaron 20 live in Dwelling (1405), adjacent to Allen Mullen, Charles Haskell, and A. Deyo (US Census, North Bloomfield Township, Nevada County).
- 1860 L. Wattiez spends \$2358 on grub, beef, and water, and part of which is a loan to him (California District Court, Case Cab 6 No. 833, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1860 Both Watyes (Wattier, Wattiez) and Watyes (brother?), (William) Cook & Company assessed property in North Bloomfield (1860 Tax Assessments for North Bloomfield Township taken from *Nevada Democrat* 22 August 1860).
- 1860 (1 January): The *Daily Alta* includes an article on the Eureka Lake and Miner's Ditch Company in anticipation of their extension of service to the mines around North San Juan. Poquillon and Faucherie, who served as engineers upon the company's system and the later a stockholder were interviewed for the piece. At the time the company possesses over 200 miles of ditches bringing water from the Eureka Lakes, numbering 20 or more. The most important ditches are: Canon Creek Canal, "old Irvin's" ditch bringing water to Humbug City and Arnold's Ranch, 2 Humbug Ditches bringing water to Kennebec and beyond, the 1855 Miner's Ditch, Poor Man's Ditch, 2 Grizzly Ditches, and the Magenta Ditch.
- 1860 (11 January): *Nevada Democrat* announcement of a blasting accident involving Alphonse Baptist (Frenchman) "in the tunnel near Bloomfield" (3:1).
- 1860 (17 January): Case closes between Antoine Mayoux vs. L. Marechal (Mauchal or Marchall), whereby Mayoux sued Marchall for foreclosure of mortgage to pay debts, based on indenture made in 1859 between L. Marchall of Bloomfield Township. and J. B. Dambren of same Township. Foreclosed in favor of Mayoux on 15 December 1859 (District Court Case 1204, on file Searls Library).

- 1860 (6 February): Henry Ross conveys by instrument to Antoine Mayoux the Mamelon claims adjoining Malakoff with hose, sluices, pipes, and fixtures (cited in Deeds 11:192).
- 1860 (30 April): The Marysville Daily Appeal citing the *Hydraulic Press*, reports upon the creation of Lake City by the Eureka Lake Ditch Company (repeated in various periodicals). "Several houses are already built on San Juan Street, and occupied as dwelling, shops, and hotels. One of the hotels is the well known house of Henry Arnold. Another was lately built by Mr. Poquillon, and the roof of it commands an entrancing view of the adjacent mountainous, pine clad country, with far vistas of Sacramento Valley, the three Buttes, and the purple Coast Range.
- 1860 (9 May): *Nevada Democrat* announcement from the *San Juan Press* referencing Lake City, "The Eureka Lake Ditch Company have laid out a town site on a piece of land owned by them at Arnold's ranch... The embryo town is christened by the ambitious title of Lake City." Article mentions developments such as "laying out a park and garden" and highlights the hotels owned by Henry Arnold and Poquillon (Lake City Hotel) and speaks to the "deep rich soil" which is "adapted to horticulture and grape growing." Further a recommendation to French citizens to "...stop there and go into the wine-growing business systematically, they can make themselves independent and eventually build up a pretty village." Poquillon was planning to construct a new road to connect with the road that travels from Nevada to Eureka and the proposed Henness Pass road. Poquillon sells memberships to the Lake City Yacht Club.
- 1860 (22 May): Metcalf A. Spicer conveys to M. Petitjean and Antoine Mayoux in consideration of \$350 mining claims on Relief Hill (Deeds 6:226).
- 1860 (25 May): Julius Poquillon of Lake City deeds to Darius (Marius) and Henrietta Bremond of Folsom City, Sacramento, for \$2,200, that certain lot, hotel, and furnishings known as the Julius House or Lake City House at Lake City (Deeds 7:133).
- 1860 (2 June): .N. Stenhauser of Orleans Flat conveys to Antoine Mayoux of Humbug City in consideration of \$2,000 a 3 acre lot under cultivation with a dwelling house and brewery and all tubs, kegs, fixtures of brewery and outhouses and stables located near Orleans Flat bounded by H. (A?) Jacobs house (Deeds 6:281).
- 1860 (28 July): Leopold Wiggins (Wattier) is enumerated in US population census, Nevada County, Bloomfield Township, dwelling number 1374, apparently in west North Bloomfield, as a 45 year old gold miner from France with \$300 in real estate and \$2,000 in personal estate. Sharing

the house is Antone with no last name given, a 30 year old gold miner from France, without real estate or personal property, possibly a relative. Three unoccupied dwellings away is Peter Pearson (Pierre Francois Poirson), in dwelling 1370, a 56 year old gardener from France with \$200 in real estate and \$100 personal property. Pearson is partner on a number of water and mine claims with Wattier and others.

- 1860 (21 August): L. Wattier and A. Mayoux secure \$300 loan from William Favorite promising to repay the sum of \$300 plus interest of 3% per month until paid (California District Court, Case 2220, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1860 (25 August): "At nearby Lake City, otherwise known as Arnold's Ranch, the San Juan Hydraulic Press of August 25, 1860 reported a large French influence: There is a French restaurant at this point at which the countrymen of The Third Napoleon congregate during their idle hours, in large numbers, to exchange notes and converse in the vernacular tongue... There is a large community of these people scattered through the adjoining mines and those who have paid attention to the French character know that it is always original, fresh, sprightly and entertaining" (Janicot 1991:15).
- 1860 (1 September): L. Watteiz (Wattier) promises to pay back by 1 May 1861 Magloira Bayle / Maglaine Boyle (?) sum of \$357.77 with interest of 2% per month (District Court of the State of California, Case Cab 3 No. 2545, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1860 (12 September): *Nevada Democrat* "Constable's Sale" advertisement for the sale of property owned by A. Mayoux, L. Wattie, and D. P. Walters (see old Walters claim and cabin ref), members of the Union Flumes Co. taken as part of a lawsuit brought by Marion (2:6).
- 1860 (12 October): J. R. Mooklar borrows \$1500 from L. Wattier, both miners of North Bloomfield, as Chattel mortgage against 375 ft. of mining ground fronting on Malakoff Ravine bounded on the left by Little Johns claims (Petitjean), on the right by the claims of L. Wattier, and extending to the center of the hill and formerly known as L. Wattier's claims, payable with interest "out of the first money coming from the claims" (Chattel Mortgages).
- 1860 (6 November): Frank LeBlanc, native of Canada, shot and killed while robbing sluice boxes near North Bloomfield at the claims of Haskell near Arnold's Ranch (Lake City) about 28 years old" (Patterson 1989:45).
- 1860 (16 November): The new house of Benoit Fauchery and wife, Anna Carabine previously of Moore's Flat (married 3 February 1860), is blown down in a wind storm (Comstock 2013:138).

- 1861 “The latest mining invention, called the “crinoline hose,” is to surround the hose with galvanized iron bands, which are about 2 inches wide, and from 1 to 3 inches apart. These bands are connected together by 4 ropes, which run longitudinally from one band to another. The crinoline hose will support a head of water more than twice as high as that of common hose” (canvas only lasted a few months, leather and rubber hose held about 80 perpendicular ft.) (Hittel 1861:145). Crinoline hoses gave way to riveted sheet iron and nozzles to monitors by the mid-1860s (Isenberg 2005:35).
- 1861 Dominique Bremond (Bremmond) is proprietor of Lake City Hotel (Comstock 2013:45).
- 1861 L. Wattiez spent 2314 on a large variety of items (California District Court, Case Cab 6 No. 833, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1861 (pre-January 28): Plaintiffs John Wallace (Wallace?) and W. B. Churchill supplied materials to George Arnold, Johnson, Antoine Mayoux and Co., Petit Jean, and John Doe, being the Humbug Flume Company, for the construction of the Humbug Flume, in Humbug Creek near the town of North Bloomfield commencing at the falls on Humbug Creek a few hundred yards below town and extending up the creek to near ditch company’s dam, and known as the Humbug Falls Flume, being about ½ mile in length. Rubin Pierce and Joseph Woodward summoned as witnesses. Decided in favor of plaintiffs in the amount of \$1,018.55 (California District Court, Case 1669, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1861 (2 May): L. Wattier and A. Mayoux make partial payment only covering interest on a \$300 loan made 2 August 1860 from William Favorite (California District Court, Case 2220, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1861 (6 July) Francis Poirson conveys to Julian Dusom (Dusome) for \$6000 a ditch of the Eureka Lake Water Company, consisting of 80 shares in company, and also a piece of land in the village of Humbug, situated on street bounded on the south by property owned by Watrer (Wattier?) on the north by the residence of John Frank, fronting 100 ft. on said street, being 100 ft. square (Deeds 8:388).
- 1861 (October): L. Wattiez, a married man with a family now residing in a home at North Bloomfield, filed in District Court of California for relief from his creditors, claiming insolvency due to “consequences of losses in unfortunate transactions in mining.” Notice was run in the Morning Transcript for 30 days, mid-October to mid-November asking that all creditors of insolvent L. Wattiez appear with evidence of debt to be considered. Wattiez provided schedules of losses, debts, and property,

and further requests that his home, lot, and furniture be “set aside as the homestead.” Schedule A of losses includes “losses by bad debts – failure in mining claims, interest paid and expenses, totaling \$10,000. Schedule B is tabulated below, showing a total debt of \$7,511 accrued, 1858-1861. Schedule C of assets includes “Malakoff mining claims at Humbug City valued at \$1,000; 1/3 Empire mining claims at same place valued at \$100; household furniture valued at \$100; clothing and apparel valued at \$100; wearing apparel of family valued at \$50; and one house and lot at Humbug City now occupied by petitioner and family as a homestead valued at \$250.” Schedule D shows now debts owed to Wattiez. Petition was granted to Wattiez (California District Court, Case Cab 6 No. 833, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).

**Table 1. Total Debts on Schedule B of Wattier vs. his creditors**

<b>Creditors</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Security</b>
Lake Company	1200	Water	Note	1858	Mortgage
A. Sichel	70	Goods	Note	1858	
Petitjean & Co.	500	Mining claims	Notes	1859	Mortgage
J. Johnson	449	Labor	Note	1859	
Coley	90	Merchandise	Note	1859	
J. Boulanza (?)	60	Labor	Note	1859	
Delaborde	70	Grub	Acct	1859	
B. Mayloire (?)	400	Grub	Note	1859	
M. Bremond	110	Grub	Acct	1860	
R. Rafford	148	Beef	Note	1860	
W. Favorite	300	Borrowed money	Note	1860	
Lake Company	1800	Water	Note	1860	
Cegar	60	Mining claims	Note	1861	
L. Porter	200	Wages	Note	1861	
L. Porter	25	Wages	open acct	1861	
J. Wallace	100	Blocks	open acct	1861	
W. B. Churchill	266	Lumber	Note	1861	Mortgage
W. B. Churchill	80	Lumber	Acct	1861	
Gallagher	108	Hose	Acct	1861	
Guillory	46	Labor	Acct	1861	
S. Levy	109	Clothing	Notes	1861	
S. Levy	100	Clothing	Notes	1861	Judgement

Penelon [M]	240	Labor	Note	1861	
Brownell	30	Grub	Acct	1861	
E. Rose	24	Labor	Acct	1861	
Coon	140	Goods	Acct	1861	
E. Remillan (?)	50	Labor	Note	1861	
Monier	76	Labor	Note	1861	
Lake Company	600	Water	Note	1861	
B. Monier	60	Water	Acct	1861	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7511</b>				

- 1861 (11 October): Wife of Dominique Bremond (Bremmond), Henrieta declares intent to carry on business of running hotel restaurant, and bar (Lake City Hotel) and buying and selling wines and liquors at Lake City (Comstock 2013:45).
- 1861 (5 November): L. P. Bizzarde, A. Lanzer, C. Pralus, R. Pralus, A. Pralus, P. Rubert, J. Fricot, P. Chausanne, A. Chauranne, W. Watt, A. Chabaux (Chabbot? in SF by this time), D. Lanzer, J. Lermels, Thom. Cracklin, S. P. Dorsey locate 15 quartz claims 100 ft. each known as the Lombard (sp?) Ledge upon the north fork of the north fork American River (must be Yuba) about 12 miles above Humbug Canon and about 2 miles above Italian Bar (Station Bar?) (Mining Claims 1:497).
- 1861 (23 December): Dominique Bremond (Bremmond) gives a social ball at his Lake City Hotel (Comstock 2013:45).
- 1862 Patyjean (Petitjean) and company possess 3 lots in North Bloomfield (Empire store) and “small water ditch commencing at Logan Canyon in Bloomfield Township and conveying water to Malakoff claims at Humbug, also improvements on mining claim (Assessments for the year 1862, Bloomfield Township, first year of county tax assessments archived).
- 1862 (18 January): Richard Boulman conveys to Antoine Mayoux, both of North Bloomfield, in consideration of \$1,100 an undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  share of mining ground fronting on Humbug Creek near North Bloomfield on Democrat Point, formerly Republican Hill, 500 ft. and bounded on the north by Hoglebone and Co. claims, on the south by claims formerly known as Fulton and Cotton’s, and extending back to Jenny Lindi (Linds?) Ravine (Deeds 9:374).
- 1862 (20 February): *Nevada Democrat* “Letter from North Bloomfield” speaks to damage and losses following several floods. Further states that claims owned by A. Jacobs & Co. (including A. Mayoux, see below) and Hoglebone & Co. (Canadian company) are paying well. Marriott & Co. striping a large piece of ground, located in the center

of an old channel, working during the winter and spring months. Also, Amos T. Laird (from Nevada) apparently surveyed along the “creek” in preparation of constructing a tunnel and tailings flume to access various claims along the fall.

- 1862 (13 May): A. Jacobs and A. Mayoux, both miners of North Bloomfield, enter indenture with C. W. Mulford, a banker of Nevada City, in consideration of \$1,000 mortgage “certain mining claims known as the claims of Jacobs and Company situated in Republican Hill near North Bloomfield, bounded in front by claims of Stokes and Co. on the north side by Hogleboom and Co. and on the south by Trusdale and Co. said claims being 585 ft. front width, and running back to the center of the hill. Also the Water Ditch known as the Jacob Ditch, and one undivided half of the other ditch known as the Enders Ditch, both of which ditches take water from the South Fork Humbug Canon and convey the same to the claims of Jacobs and Co.” payable with interest by August 13 1862 (Chattel Mortgages 7:235).
- 1862 (5 July and 10 July): *Nevada Democrat* “Constable’s Sale” advertisement whereby a mining claim owned by A. Jacobs will be auctioned following a lawsuit brought by J. Burton & McCarty against the defendant (Jacobs). Property description, “fronting on Humbug creek and running back to the center of the hill, on the north east by Fuller & Co’s claim on the south by Jacobs & Co’s claims” (2:4 and 4:5).
- 1862 (10 July): *Nevada Democrat* “Constable’s Sale” advertisement whereby a mining claim owned by A. Jacobs will be auctioned following a lawsuit brought by H. H. Schaffer & Co. against the defendant (Jacobs). Property description, “on the west by Stokes & Co. Flat Claims, on the north by Hogelbone & Co., on the south by Crusing [sp?] & Co’s claims, and running back to the center of Republican Hill” (4:5).
- 1862 (13 July): (In French) Agreement of Leopold Wattiez, native of France (Nord), Pierre Francois Poirson, native of France (Haute Saone), inhabitants of Bloomfield, Nevada County, Benoit Fauchery, native of France (Puy-de-Dôme), Pie Namar, native of Luxembourg, Louis Lay, native of France (Pas de Galan), Jules Poquillon, native of France (Haute Vienne), inhabitants of Lake City, Nevada County, Pierre Aubert (P. Obert), native of France (Sirene Infercure) and actually a resident of Paris, all agree to....(see 15 September 1862 entry); in the presence of A. Mayoux and Isidore Viautty (Miscellaneous records 2:215).
- 1862 (22 July): Dominique Bremond (Bremmond, or wife?) gives a grand ball at his Lake City Hotel (Comstock 2013:45).

- 1862 (29 July): *Nevada Democrat* “Constable’s Sale” advertisement whereby a mining claim owned by “J. Proquiller” (Poquillon?) will be auctioned following a lawsuit brought by Marius Bremond against the defendant. Property description, “Fronting on the road and running back two hundred feet...on the east by Bremond’s Hotel; on the West by Bordice (Bordas?) saloon.” Also, “mining claim located in Malakoff Canyon containing five hundred feet...known as the claims of Theopolis Lamb & Co.”
- 1862 (15 September): Articles of agreement between the Eureka Lake Water Co. (a corporation) and Leopold Wattiez (Wattier), Pierre Francois Porson (Poirson), Benoit Fauchary (Fauchery), Pie Namur, Louis Lay, Jules Poquillon, and Pierre Aubert, in which water rights across the San Juan Ridge and other assets will be conveyed for \$800,000 including the Irwin Ditch which runs from the National to Lake City, supplying with water the mining localities known as Mt. Zion, Relief Hill, North Bloomfield, Malakoff Hill, Hiller Diggings, etc. etc., and the tail right and right to tailing in Virgin Ravine below Malakoff Hill being about 2,000 ft. in length. Signed by Henry McNulty, President of the Co. and trustees George C. Powers, James Creegan, R. C. Black, and L. B. Henry (Deeds 10:606). “Black, R. C., died on 1/16/1876 at North Bloomfield when 54 years old, came to Eureka South in 1852, married Mrs. Matilda Wiles of Orleans Flat in 1858, moved to North Bloomfield where he was a school board member and an owner of Sherwood, Black, and Haner Diggings, a native of England, death by general disability, burial at Nevada City.” (Patterson 1989:34). Henry McNulty died in Nevada City 23 July 1887 at 64 years of age, and buried at North Bloomfield under the auspices of the Masons (Nevada County Archives Obituaries, available on-line at [www.usgwarchives.net](http://www.usgwarchives.net)). Native of Minnesota, he came to California in 1849 with Gov. Bartlett, and to Moores Flat in about 1851. “Here he was one of the original company that built the line of mining ditches now belonging to the Eureka Lake Company. He was interested in numerous mining and mercantile operations, but of late years was unfortaunate and lost what wealth he had accumulated. He was accidental injured while mining two years ago...”
- 1862 (11 October): L. Wattier and A. Mayoux summoned in the matter of nonpayment of a \$300 loan made 2 August 1860 from William Favorite (District Court of the State of California, Case 2220, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1862 (29 October): Henry Mackie commences an action against A. Jacobs, A. Mayoux, and John Noyes for the foreclosure of mortgage on “certain mining claims known as the claims of Jacobs and Company situated in Republican Hill near North Bloomfield, bounded in front by claims of Stokes and Co. on the north side by Hogleboom and Co. and on the

south by Trusdale and Co. said claims being 585 ft. front width, and running back to the center of the hill. Also the Water Ditch known as the Jacob Ditch, and one undivided half of the other ditch known as the Enders Ditch, both of which ditches take water from the South Fork Humbug Canon and convey the same to the claims of Jacobs and Co. (Notices of Action 1:103).

- 1862 (12 November): Antoine Mayoux deeds to Marie Pettijean, Etienne Sebastian, and Simian Mullet for \$1,000 multiple lots with improvements and mining claims in and around Humbug City (North Bloomfield) including the Malakoff Company's claims, the Mamelon Claims adjoining Malakoff with hose, sluices, pipes, and fixtures conveyed by Henry Ross by instrument 6 February 1860, the Independence claims (Ruff Diggings) conveyed by Henry Ross 1 April 1859, and claims with sluices, tunnels, telegraphs, and belongings and claims situated in Virgin Creek and joining Mamelon and Pettijean and Company claims and Charles Eisenbeck and Company on lower end conveyed by Justin Braun (Deeds 11:192).
- 1862 (2 December): Received attachment in Favorite vs. Mayoux and Wattier for unpaid \$300 loan made in August 1860, filed made 25 September 1862 on property consisting of a set of mining claims located near the village of North Bloomfield known as Jacobs and Co.s claims, also claims "just below the Malakoff Ravine near North Bloomfield with telegraph, flumes, cuts, sluices, hydraulics, and all improvements, also a certain house or store and the lot and garden upon which the same stands, now occupied by deft. Mayoux, situated on North side of Main Street in the village of North Bloomfield (Block 4, Lot 1), with all outbuildings, also claims of Mayoux located on Colorado Hill near North Bloomfield with telegraph, flumes, cuts, sluices, and hydraulics (California District, Case 2220, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1862 (2 December): M. Petitjean and Co., merchants, loan \$500 to William Favorite, miner, payable with interest by 15 April 1863, against his undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest of mining property north of North Bloomfield known as the Marlow claims commencing at a stake in Humbug Creek, opposite the Canadian Tunnel, thence running down the creek in a line with stakes a distance of 1,000 ft. thence across the creek to the opposite land thence extending up said creek along the bank to a blazed oak stump, thence from the place of the beginning back into the hill without limits going back in line of stakes in the Hill between said claims and the claims known as the Canadian Co., also the same undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest in two water ditches conveying water from Humbug Creek to said claims and designated as Marlow's lower and upper ditch, together with water, telegraphs, hose, pipes, tunnels, sluices, and improvements (Chattel Mortgages 8:109).

## 1863: Bust period in and around North Bloomfield.

- 1863 The town began to decline. It was no longer profitable to work the claims as the creeks and ravines were filled with tailings and there was not enough water to carry the debris away. Then came the boom in Nevada State and many moved to greener pastures (Kallenberger 1970:26).
- 1863 B.M. Pralus listed as a miner, 44 year old, living at Long Bar, near Marysville, in the 1863 Civil War draft registrations records.
- 1863 (3 June): William Favorite commences action against Petit Jean and Co. for non-payment of loan against undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest of mining property north of North Bloomfield known as the Marlow claims commencing at a stake in Humbug Creek, opposite the Canadian Tunnel, thence running down the creek in a line with stakes a distance of 1,000 ft. thence across the creek to the opposite land thence extending up said creek along the bank to a blazed oak stump, thence from the place of the beginning back into the hill without limits going back in line of stakes in the Hill between said claims and the claims known as the Canadian Co., also the same undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest in two water ditches conveying water from Humbug Creek to said claims and designated as Marlow's lower and upper ditch, together with water, telegraphs, hose, pipes, tunnels, sluices, and improvements (Notices of Action 1:120).
- 1863 (8 July): Claude Pralus, Benoit Pralus, Alphonse Pralus, Sidoine Ripert, Antoine Chabeux, Xavier Ducoty, Josphe Ducoty, Damar Munier, Onesime Belivault, Jerome Meuneir, Ouwastre, Charles Verdeler, Jules Fricot, Louis Chauvannes, Lauzet Desire, Jolinean, and Alfred Bertrand locate and claim quartz ledge in Grass Valley known as the Roennaise Co. Eureka No. 3, on the Eureka (sic) Quartz Ledge on Eureka Hill (Mining Claims 2:53).
- 1863 (13 August): A large indenture of property from Pettijean and Mullet to A. Isoard that includes the Independence mining claims bounded on east by claims of Mamelon Co. on west by the claims of Eureka Lake Water Co., fronting on Malakoff Creek 800 ft., also certain undivided  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of Waeters (Wattier's) mining claims bounded on the south by the Malakoff Creek and fronting on same 1,200 ft. extending north 2,000 ft. (Deeds 13:2).
- 1863 (15 August): Creed Haymond and a large party of miners convey to J. B. Johnson S. Bush, and J. Poquillon for \$1 a total of 37 claims known as the Johnson and Bush Co. quartz claims on the Middle Yuba (Deeds 13:41).
- 1863 (4 September): We the undersigned claim 6,000 ft. quartz ledge near Montezuma Hill, Bill Flat, signed Porter, G. (A.?) Cook, W. Cook, F.

Picard, F. Lamoureux, L. Wattier, J. Poquillon, Stokes, Plummer, A. Bordas, J. B. Henry, L. Bell, D. Bell, F. Zinder, Augustine Paul, P. Ord, J. Adams, Vancombruge, Luceen Blanchard, Franconi, P. Namur, J. Crevolon, Moignew, Wilneuve, H. Ferras, Biqurel, Souza, McCallan, J. Blanchard, J. M. Henry, Bonnet, Derbec, M. Magloire, M. Volhaber, V. Masson, Huerne, Petit Jean (Petitjean), Mullot, Maurice and Co. (Mining Claims 2:77).,

- 1863 (18 September): Sacramento *Union* reported on the decline of hydraulic mining, noting it was still in the crinoline hose stage, and that more pressure was required to reach the deeper and harder gravels and to allow pipers to stand safely away from the high banks. *The Mining and Scientific Press* pronounced California placers about exhausted.
- 1863 (23 September): A Jacobs to Richard Skidmore for \$72 a cabin on Jacobs's claim about 300-400 yards south of North Bloomfield, with furniture, bedding, kitchen wares, etc., and 1/8 interest in Bush & Stokes Flume in Humbug Creek (Deeds 13:538).
- 1863 (25 September): M. Pettijean and L.L. Mullort (plaintiffs) vs. A. Mayonx, L. Wattiez, and William W. Cook (defendants). Attempt by plaintiffs to collect on mortgage made with defendants on 29 July 1859 (Notice of Action Book 1:125). Complaint specifies loan amount of \$566 with 2.5 percent interest monthly, and the three defendants as equal owners of mining ground known as the Malakoff Flume Company diggings commencing on the road crossing the Malakoff Ravine, running up the ravine 8,000 ft. and into the hill 1,000 feet, with flume and tunnel used in the venture ((District Court of the State of California, Case 2451, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1863 (16 October): Sheriff executes order of sale in the action of Henry Mackie against A. Jacobs, A. Mayoux, and John Noyes sold to the highest bidder for \$1,354 to Henry Mackie who, in turn, assigned the property to William M. Beck and Jno. M. Hickey "certain mining claims known as the claims of Jacobs and Company situated in Republican Hill near North Bloomfield, bounded in front by claims of Stokes and Co. on the north side by Hogleboom and Co. and on the south by Trusdale and Co. said claims being 585 ft. front width, and running back to the center of the hill. Also the Water Ditch known as the Jacob Ditch, and one undivided half of the other ditch known as the Enders Ditch, both of which ditches take water from the South Fork Humbug Canon and convey the same to the claims of Jacobs and Co." (Deeds 13:321).
- 1863 (20 October): E. Chantereau, Aaron Cook, Charles A. Haskell, E. Derbec, Victor B. Masson, C. Siedentoff, M. Lammers, B. Bonnet, Solomon Bell, J. Poquillon, J. B. Henry, Ponce J. M Henry, L. Watteiz,

- J. (F?) Picard, A. Bordas, J. Blanchard, F. Moignen, F. Crivalon, D. Bigarel, A. Van Combugh, J. L. Porter, F. Lamoureux, F. Zender, William W. Cook, G. Bordas, Pie Namur, A Paul, Thomas A. Bell, Vieoire, Lorenzo C. Perez, R. Hume, Thomas C. McCallan, and Dominique Loati convey for \$100 and certificates of stock each to the Montezuma Hill Mining Company, incorporated in California, claims situated at the dividing line between Bridgeport and Bloomfield Townships (Deeds 13:475). West of Lake City.
- 1863 (11 December): *Daily Alta* reports on the Fellowes Ledge, Julius Poquillon serving as the superintendent of the Fellowes Company operation. The mine and mill being located on the bank of the (Middle) Yuba River between Allegany and Orleans Flat.
- 1864 M. Pettijean and A. Isoard to Van Muller the multiple lots and claims deeded to him by Antoine Mayoux in 1862 (Deeds 15:470).
- 1864 (January): L. Wattier arranges to convey 200 shares each in the Orleans Gold and Silver Mining Company and Porter Gold and Silver Mining Company to satisfy judgement against him in suit brought by William Favorite for nonpayment of a \$300 loan made 2 August 1860. Favorite in turn sells the shares to Petitjean for upwards of \$600 (District Court of the State of California, Case 2220, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1864 (15 January): Pie Namur of Lake City, conveys to John La Du (LeDu) for \$200 a Lake City lot commencing at the SW corner of a town lot, with dwelling thereon, owned and occupied by Sullivan fronting on Main Street and running down street in a southwesterly direction a distance of 575 ft. thence back from st. 2000 ft. to the ditch known as the Lake Co.s lower ditch, thence along the bank of ditch in a northeasterly direction 575 ft, with dwelling house, out houses, stables, fences, fixtures, etc. also water right from spring fed creek commencing at the back of the building known as the Saloon of Henry and Bordas (Deeds 13 597). On the same day Pie Namur conveys to Jean LeDu money owed to him by the Eureka Lake Ditch Company in the amount of \$5000 plus interest and directs the company to transfer the amount due to LeDu (Deeds 13:599).
- 1864 (18 January): John LeDu of North Bloomfield conveys to Augustine Paul of Lake City for \$200 the large lot and dwelling just acquired from Pie Namur a few days prior and the large debt owed to him from the Eureka Lake Ditch Company Namur recently transferred (see above) (Deeds 13:600, 601).
- 1864 (27 February): Quartz claims of B. Fauchery, 20 claims of 100 ft. also the tunnel right of way to any point that may be deemed convenient, South Fork Humbug Canyon, signed L. Wattier, P. Chandès-Aigues, J.

Legrand, Ernest Lazarich, Michael Long, B. Fauchery, John C. Findley, F. Stumpf, William Plumhoff, P. Poirson, Catherine Stumpf, George A Randall, J. Poquillon, William K. Elliott, J. S. Johnston, B. Fremery, F. Gouies, A. Isoard, A Fremery, and Peter Johnson (Mining Claims 2:103).

- 1864 (23 March): A. G. Dennett, Lorenzo Haner, R. A. Pierce, B. Sellerkoff, W. Weise (Wiess), J. Bunour locate and claim for mining and fluming 600 ft. of Humbug Creek from bank to bank (Mining claims 2:111).
- 1864 (April): Magloira Bayle / Maglaine Boyle (?) loses case filed 26 January 1864 against L. Watter for unpaid debt made 1 September 1860. Judge found in favor of Watter for valuable considerations already conveyed and protection from further debts stemming from insolvency case earlier in the year (California District Court, Case Cab 3 No. 2545, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).
- 1864 (17/19 April): Anton Mayoux supt. of just completed Sweet Vengeance quartz mill, financed by SF capitalists, located northwest of Browns Valley, Yuba County, outside of Marysville (Marysville Daily Appeal, 17 April 1864). Large group visit the Sweet Vengeance Mill at the invitation of Poucillier, President, Pavillier, Secretary, Sabatiei, Treasurer, and Superintendent Mayoux (*Marysville Daily Appeal*, 19 April 1864).
- 1864 (25 April): N. W. Knowles, Sheriff of Nev. Co. conveys to Joseph Martin extensive interest of the Eureka Lake Water Co. including water conveyance systems and mining claims in the park (Deeds 14:303).
- 1864 (5 May): Leopold Charonnat demonstrates water turbine invented by Benoit Fauchery, an 8-inch diameter wheel that powered 6 stamps (Comstock 2013:138).
- 1864 (19 May): *Nevada Transcript* reported that the Eureka Lake Company (McDonald Claims) was “working six or seven sets of diggings,” and they “were paying exceedingly well, with more money out than for the past six years.” Over the prior few years the company acquired claims in lieu of payment for water delivery by claimants who failed to make any profit on their ventures (in Meals 2012:2).
- 1864 (16 July): Benoit Fauchery invents a new stone crusher known as “the crocodile machine” (Comstock 2013:138).
- 1864 (18 September): Benoit Fauchery showed 3 inventions at the San Francisco Mechanics Fair: improved turbine wheel, quartz breaker, and quartz pulverizer. Five of his wheels were presently operating at Fellows quartz ledge in Sierra Co.: French Mill at Canada Hill; Nonpariel Co. mill at Big Oak Flat; Downieville; and Little York (Comstock 2013:138).

- 1864 (17 November): *Nevada Daily Transcript* "Mining" section highlights North Bloomfield, "better known as Humbug," reports that "Wm. Beek[er], Esq." sold out his rich diggings at Moore's Flat in preparation of opening operations at "three diggings" at North Bloomfield.
- 1864 (29 November): *Nevada Daily Transcript* article presents a brief summary of mining operations from French Corral to Eureka, in that the "miners have plenty of water now, and every camp above Lake City is active." Further, it mentions the sale of the Dutch Company's claims and beginning operations of "Villa Rica diggings."
- 1864 (20 December): George Cornelius conveys to B. Brockmire (sic) for \$1,000, "all that mining claim known as Hanesansly Old Claims, situated on Colorado Hill and fronting Humbug Creek and commencing at the upper line of Petitjean and Co.'s claims and running up said creek 500 ft. to the lower line of the John le Due's [LeDu] claims and extending back to the Eureka Lake Co.'s reservoir, situated at the back of North Bloomfield, also all tunnel, cuts, sluices, and sluice ways, quick silver, hydraulic hose, pipes, etc also the blacksmith forge, bellows, and all tools" (Deeds 15:541).
- 1865 Water was abundant on the San Juan Ridge, with full reservoirs and thick snow pack. "There were some 14 hydraulic mines around Bloomfield in active operation. One of these employed 13 men. The top dirt was paying an average of \$6 a day for each hand. However, the lack of sufficient fall for drainage made the working of these claims very difficult. The Eureka Lake Company proposed a tunnel into Humbug Creek, to give a 60 ft. fall (Jackson 1967:4).
- 1865 (12 January): Marie Petitjean preempts 120 acres of land in GV TWP by Baize's Ranch (and Ravine) and Boutin's garden, lands being the lands upon which I have settled and now reside and occupy for the purposes of cultivating and grazing (Pre-emption Claims 2:78).
- 1865 (4 February): *Nevada Daily Transcript* reports 14 companies at work near North Bloomfield highlighting particular operations including Wm. M. Beck (Esq.), McCullough & Co., and Bush & Co's. "The miners at North Bloomfield have great difficulty in working their claims, being unable to obtain a sufficient fall" but Eureka Lake Co. proposes to run a tunnel in Humbug creek which would result in a fall of sixty, spanning an estimated length of 3,600 feet.
- 1865 (23 February): Brown & Co. at You Bet and Gaylord & Co. at Indiana Hill in Placer County both conclude Fauchery's turbine doesn't work well enough (Comstock 2013:138).
- 1865 (2 March): E. Van Muller deeds to Charles Ruff for \$2,500 multiple properties including town lots with improvements in N.B. and an undivided ½ interest in the Mamelon Mining Claims the extent of said

claims being 300 ft. and adjoining the Malakoff Claims (not included in the deed) the same being the claims conveyed to Petitjean by Henry Roper (or Rope or Ross), as well as the Independence Mining Claims and the sluices, sluice boxes, hose, and appurtenances there on (Deeds 16:533). Charles Ruff, born circa 1835 in Bavaria, merchant at Foster's Bar in 1860 (census), naturalized in Marysville in 1865, a miner in North Bloomfield in 1867 and 1868, per California Voter Registers, possibly in New York Township, Yuba County, in 1867 and 1870 running lumber business, per non-population federal census and 1867 voter registry.

- 1865 (22 March): E. Van Muller of Marysville conveys to Charles Ruff of North Bloomfield in consideration of \$2500, (1st) ½ lot of land in North Bloomfield on easterly side of Broadway (Main?) fronting 58 ft. on the northerly side by William Smith's lot of land, on the westerly side by Superior St., on the south by an alley, (2nd) and the lot west of above, (3rd) ½ of Independence Mining Claims, bounded on the east by mining claims of Mamelon Company; on the west by the claims of the Eureka Lake Water Company, fronting on Malakoff Creek 800 ft. and from said canon extending to the center of the ridge in a northerly direction, together with the sluices, sluice boxes, and hose; (4th) ½ of the tail flume commencing at the claims and mining lands of Penrose and Co. near Relief Hill; (5th) ½ mining claims near North Bloomfield bounded on south by road leading.... (11th) Spier claims and water rights on Relief Hill (Deeds 16:533) INCOMPLETE, BAD PHOTOGRAPHS; intent of this indenture to convey half of the shares conveyed to Van Muller by Marie Petitjean and A. Isoard 2 January 1864 recorded Deeds 15:470 (note that description abbreviated as well).
- 1865 (29 March): *Daily Alta* reports that Madame August and 2 children, and H. Levy, J. B. Chevalier, wife and daughter, C. J. Chevalier and wife, and others arrive on the Steamer Senator, J.S. Butters commander, from San Pedro and way ports, March 27th, arrived yesterday. Not clear if the same woman who opened the hotel in North Bloomfield.
- 1865 (1 May): *Mining and Scientific Press* reports that large amounts of bullion from hydraulic mines was pouring into San Francisco, thanks to the ample rain fall (Jackson 1967:5)
- 1865 (22 May): J. Poquillon, R. C. Clark, and John Young on behalf of Maggie Quartz Mining Company, record their claim of land and water rights on Pannaus Creek to erect a mill for reduction of quartz rock (east of park near South Eureka?) (Mining Claims 2:369).
- 1865 (3 July): J. Poquillon of Eureka South conveys to Ferdinand Stumpf of Nevada City for \$50 mine claims near Eureka South known as the Maggie Claim (Deeds 24:691).

- 1865 (July): Charles Bever of SF conveys to F. L. A. Pioche of SF and L. L. Robinson, in two deeds, for \$285 each,  $\frac{1}{3}$  share each of the Syke Ledge in Willow Valley (Deeds 17:605). (Pioche and Robinson are business partners and bankers in SF, primary investors of North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co.).
- 1865 (7 November): *Nevada Daily Gazette*, "Sheriff's Sale" announcing foreclosure of Eureka Lake Company properties and assets including the water ditch, "Canon Creek Lakes, Canon Creek, the Yuba Lakes, Poor Mans Creek, and all singular branches and tributaries of said ditches, water rights, easements and franchises...and all flumes, reservoirs and aqueducts..."
- 1865 (December) State of New York grants charter to Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Company Consolidated with capital of \$2,250,000 to supply water to virtually the entire ridge between the Middle and South Yuba rivers. Office in New York with general superintendence of Richard Abbey, Esq., of North San Juan. In general a single trunk extending 65 miles from 4 small lake in the high Sierra to North San Juan, with several side ditches that have been purchased and consolidated. Eureka or Canon Lake is the main supply reservoir with Lake Faucherie a few miles below (Bean 1867:65).
- 1865 (20 December): Jean LeDu's company "stayed for 4 months or until they can be worked to an advantage;" J. W. Denison, recorder (Smith 1875 [field notes for mineral survey 968, placer mine of Jean LeDu]).
- 1865 First year that Ruff and Van Muller are assessed property in Bloomfield Township, consisting of a water ditch from Logan Canon to Humbug (possibly to Malakoff claims per 1862 assessment) and the Empire store (both previously belonging to Pettijean and company), also improvements on mining claims at Humbug and tail flume at Relief Hill (County tax assessments for the year 1865, Bloomfield Township).
- 1865-1880 Hydraulic mining was developed on a very large scale in the North Bloomfield and neighboring mining districts (MacBoyle 1919:99).
- 1866 A company of capitalists, "Butterworth, Robinson, Pralus, and others, purchased the claims covering one of" the two deep Tertiary channels at North Bloomfield "and are now engaged in running a drain tunnel from the mouth of Virgin Ravine, which it is believed will be deep enough to drain them (Bean 1867:395). "The company have also located a ditch to bring the waters of the Little Truckee to their ground."
- 1866 Julius P. Poquillon, who owned  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest in a set of claims about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from North Bloomfield, bought out his partners' interests for a nominal figure during a bust period and conceived of the plan to consolidate mining ground into a single large company. He joined with Pralus and Charles Beaver (Bever) and solicited investments in SF (Jackson 1967:5).

- 1866 Two French miners, Picard and Souchet, fought a duel that ended with Souchet clubbing Picard with his pistol. Both men were arrested the following day for unlawful assembly and causing terror to the citizens and charged with assault, resulting in Souchet serving 20 days and Picard 21 days (Janicot 1989:15).
- 1866 (1 February): Claude Pralus, A. Isoard, J. Michel, Philippe Peyran, and Ferdinand Stumpf convey to B. M. Pralus and J. Poquillon for \$100 claims about ¼ mile distant from the Town of North Bloomfield commencing at a point where the new road crosses the ravine north of Colorado Hill and following said ravine up to the Eureka Lake Company's reservoir near the gravel yard, from starting point 500 ft. northerly at right angle with ravine, thence easterly parallel with ravine to the reservoir aforesaid, together with right of way for a tunnel or open cut for tail flume down to virgin ravine; appears to encompass Pralus Diggings (Deeds 21:118).
- 1866 (9 March): *Nevada Daily Gazette* reports an accident (12-15-foot fall) at Eureka Mine involving Nicholas Martin (3:1).
- 1866 (17 March): *Mining and Scientific Press* reports that more people were engaged in hydraulic mining than ever before, more old claims were being re-opened, new methods were being introduced to reach deep gravels, and cement mills were being introduced to break up hard gravels (cement) (Jackson 1967:5).
- 1866 (5 May): Pierre Chaundes Aiques (Aignes) of S.F. represented by J. Poquillon of N.B. grants to B. M. Pralus of GV "certain set of mining claims (and improvements thereon) known as the Inkerman Company's claims situated on Malakoff Hill near the Town of North Bloomfield, being 500 ft. wide in front and bordering the claims known as Wattier claims on the north and running in an easterly direction to the center of the hill"; and Louis Lay of Humboldt County, Nevada, by Dominique Bremond his attorney, and Dominique Bremond of Lake City deed to B. M. Pralus of Grass Valley for \$300, "all rights and interest to a set of mining claims known as the Inkerman Co. situated on Malakoff Hill, 500 ft. front width and bordering Wattiez (or Wattier) claims on the north and runs easterly to the center of the hill, the balance of \$300 to be paid to D. Marius Bremond without interest (Deeds 22:403 and 405).
- 1866 (11 May): Cardinal Mining Co. locate 2400 ft. of mining ground in French Corral below Rim Rock, consisting of Michael Quinn, John Crevley, James O'Neal, J. Donovan, Edward Dugan, J. B. Murphy, John Murphy, John Driscoll, John Lane, John McCarty, James Roach, Dennis Leahey, Michael Lahey, J. Olson, Pat Kilderry, J. Donnervan, Samuel Bell, L. Haner, R. A. Pierce, R. D. Skidmore, J. Marriott, C. Worden, H. Hobart. J. Rush. H. Brandle, H. Weifs, (Weiss?), I. Keller,

- W. Henry, A. Clark, P. McGur (McGuire?), W. Waldron, P. Sacks, F. Blair, A. Piper, N. Tilton, Pat Morrissey, D. Roaks, D. OBrine (O'Brian), C. Lynch, Jas Malone, John Glassett, P. Purdon (Mine Claims 3:468).
- 1866 (19 May): The Lafayette Company locates 18 100-ft. claims on Eureka quartz ledge in Grizzly Ridge, Bloomfield Township. North Bloomfield Columbia District, company consisting of F. Stumpf, J. Leme, J. Monroe, V. Letoux, A. Isoards, J. Michel, C. Beaver, (Bever), I. J. Rolfe, P. Peyran, J. Findley, J. Hinst, A. Goldsmith, P. Mansoire, R. G. McCutchan, F. Dusson, J. Hahn, D. Baker, and E. Lazariz (Mine Claims 3:531). (Note Bever, prior to this is mining multiple claims in Willow Valley area near Nevada City in 1865 and after this claim becomes North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co.'s first supt.)
- 1866 (9 June): J. Poquillon to B. M. Pralus, both of North Bloomfield, for \$100 an undivided  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest of the whole of a set of mining claims situated near the town of North Bloomfield and bounded on the south by Virgin Ravine on the east by the Eureka Lake Company's reservoir and being 500 ft. in front together with  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a tunnel and flume, tools, and implements (Deeds 24:653).
- 1866 (23 June): Charles Ruff of Nevada County and E. Van Muller of Yuba County convey to Jean LeDu of Nevada County for \$300 the Pan Ravine Ditch in North Bloomfield Township Virgin Valley Mining District,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of North Bloomfield, and all the water of Pan ravine and the ravine on the south side of Pan ravine, as described in the Virgin Valley Mining District records, O. P. Jones, recorder, recorded 5 January 1857 on page 24 (Deeds 28:420).
- 1866 (20 July): Rush D. Skidmore of N.B. deeds to L. L. Robinson of S.F. for \$500 land, mining, and tailings claims and ground in Virgin Valley Creek near town of N.B. "commencing at a pile of rocks near the remains of the cabin of D. P. Walter (see old Walters claims) and extending down the creek to the upper line of J. Keller's claim and same from J. Keller's lower line and extending down to the junction of said Virgin Valley Creek with the main Humbug Creek (Deeds 26:149).
- 1866 (23 July): B. M. Pralus to L. L. Robinson of SF for \$1 certain set of mining claims situated in Bloomfield Township., Nev. Co., near North Bloomfield formerly known as the Inkerman and Ender claims bounded on the south by Virgin Ravine and on the north by the Malakoff claims be the same more or less in extent to be determined by survey to be made also the improvements, tunnels, flumes, blacksmith shop, dwelling house, and all appurtenances (Deeds 26:152).
- 1866 (23 July): E. Weiss and M. Bremond to B. M. Pralus, J. Poquillon, and Louis Lucas (Lay) mine claims known as Ultimum Gravel Mining Co. near Fred Debany Ranch, including bed of Humbug Creek along

- Skidmore's claims; located 6 June 1866 (Deeds 26:208). Emile Weiss, French native of Alsace region, arrived in SF 1850 and resided in Nevada City, eventually relocated to North Bloomfield where he opened the Humbug Brewery with his son, Valentin (Janicot 1989:15).
- 1866 (23 July): Philip Peyran , J. Legrand, A. Isoard, J. Michel and J. Fleury convey to Julius Poquillon for \$500 20 mining claims of 100 ft. each on Humbug Canon near De Bour's Ranch, including the bed of Humbug, commencing up creek 2000 ft. to the center of the hill northwest of the creek in a parallel line with the ground of Skidmore and Co. also the tail right from the creek below to work said mining ground, being the claims of the Ultimium Gravel Mining Company located 6 June 1866 (Deeds 26:207).
- 1866 (24 July): Thomas Staples of GV to R. D. Skidmore of North Bloomfield for \$200 a ¼ interest in Jacobs & Smith ground, ½ in Dickerson and Ruse & Prent ground, west side of Humbug (Deeds 25:68).
- 1866 (27 July): Joseph Keller of N.B deeds to L. L. Robinson of S.F. for \$200 mine claims "situated in the bed of Virgin Valley Creek commencing at the lower end of Skidmore's upper claim 300 ft. more or less below the mouth of Malakoff Tunnel and running downstream 400 ft. down to the upper end of Skidmore's lower claim (Deeds 26:150).
- 1866 (29 July): L. Watter (Wattier), B. Fauchery, Aubert, Poirson, Lay, Pelletier, L. Leuhot (sp?, Leliot?), and A. O. C. Mrs. McNulty (McNulty?) appoint John McNulty (McNulty?) as their attorney to negotiate on their behalf to procure \$4,000 at 3.5% monthly interest by mortgage upon whole right and title unto Eureka Lake Company and rights to the waters of Canyon Creek so called a tributary of South Yuba together with tools, mills, mill irons, and all property, in witness of D. V. Huton and H. McNulty. All personally came before O. V. Norton (Huton?) justice of the peace for the Township of Eureka (Power Attorney 1:5).

### **North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company**

- 1866 (7 August): North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company (NBGM Co.) incorporated in San Francisco and begins consolidating claims and firming up titles. Articles of Incorporation say the purpose of the company is to mine gold and other precious metals upon property in vicinity of Humbug Creek or Canon. Issued capital stock of \$400,000 in 80 shares of \$5,000 each. The 3 trustees to serve the first 3 months are L. L. Robinson, B. M. Pralus, and Sam F. Butterworth (president and general manager of New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Company). Principal place of business to be in SF. Incorporated by L. L. Robinson, Francois Louis Alfred Pioche (French capitalist and SF Banker), W. C.

Ralston, and S. F. Butterworth (Articles of Incorporation, AI-N19, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, CA).

- 1866 (August): “Shortly after assuming his position, the new engineer, Eugene Verge, determined that the fall of the channel was so slight that it would be impossible to work the claims to any considerable depth. He proposed to run a deep cut through the gravel bed, and if necessary to run a tunnel at the lower end for the purpose of getting an outlet at Humbug Creek. During the two-year period of development work, water was purchased from the Eureka Lake Company (Greenland 2001:200). 1870 census lists 37 year old French carpenter Eugenia Verge, residing with 21 year old Irish wife, Bridget, keeping house, and 1 year old daughter, Mary, at home, in a dwelling in North Bloomfield near R. C. Black, McKillican, and Weiss (US Population Census, Bloomfield, Nevada, CA, Roll M593\_75; page 94B; image 190; family history library film: 545574). Janicot (1991:14) discusses “Eugene Verge, “one of the great unsung heros” of the NBGM Co., was the engineer in charge of the vast system of ditches, flumes and dams that brought water from the high Sierra for use against the banks of the Malakoff. Born in Toulouse, in southwestern France, Verge was a graduate of Toulouse Jesuit College, and was in the first party across the Sierra after the Donner Party (ca. 1847). The trek across the snowy mountains was so cold and so hazardous that a portion of his left ear was frozen off. He hired Chinese by the score to work on the flumes and ditches and “treated them to the individual dignity to which they were entitled.” Years after his death, the same Chinese, in deep appreciation, kept his wife and two daughters supplied with fresh vegetables from the Chinese gardens in North Bloomfield. (One daughter, Mathilde Verge Schmidt, was a teacher at nearby Lake City).” He is buried at North Bloomfield cemetery, died 7 March 1883 at age 52, born 1 April 1831 at Toulouse, France (Patterson 1989:55).
- 1866 (3 September): A. Mayoux has advertisement in Marysville Daily Appeal saying that if you want a good drink to see him, a wholesale and retail dealer in wines, liquors, champagnes, and cordials (*Marysville Daily Appeal*, 3 September, 1866).
- 1866 (18 September): Charles Bever conveys to NBGMC in consideration of \$5 a lot in North Bloomfield bounded on the south by Main Street on the west by land of Charles Ruff, on the north by vacant ground, and on the east by lands of Marriott, lot being 165 ft. front on Main Street and running back northerly 300 ft. with buildings, fruit trees, garden and growing crops therein (Deeds 26:356).
- 1866 (27 September): L. Watteiz (Wattier) denies validity of debt to M. Petitjean et al. from an 1863 complaint for unpaid loan of \$566 against the Malakoff Flume Company diggings (see above). Wattier further

claims he offered shares of the Malakoff Claim for ½ the total principal plus interest then due in November 1859, valued at that time to be \$530, with remaining \$265 due paid by W. B. Churchill as part of outcome of other suit (California District Court, Case 2451), on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).

1866 (28 September): The village of North Bloomfield, more generally called by residents “Humbug,” now wears quite a cheerful appearance. Considerable mining is being done, but the largest operations are being conducted by Butterfield (Butterworth?) & Co., who have purchased extensive claims and are now engaged in running a cut and tunnel in order to open them. These claims are owned mostly by Frenchmen, and some 40 are employed on the works. The hotel is well filled with boarders, and French appears to be the ruling language. It may with reason be said the French have taken Humbug (*Nevada Daily Transcript*).

1866 (1 October): L. L. Robinson conveys to NBGM Co. for \$1 all that certain parcel of land mining and tailing claims and ground and the earth gravel and water now being or that may hereafter be or flow therein situated in the bed of Virgin Valley Creek near the town of North Bloomfield, commencing at a pile of rocks near the remains of the cabin of D. P. Walter and extending down the creek to the upper line of J. Kellers Claim. Also all that certain piece and parcel of land mining and tailings claims ect. in the bed of Virgin Valley Creek commencing at J. Kellers lower line and extending down to the junction with Humbug Creek; and same in bed of Virgin Valley Creek commencing at the lower end of Skidmore’s upper claim 300 ft. below the mouth of the Malakoff Tunnel and running downstream 400 ft. down to the upper end of Skidmore’s lower claim; and the Inkerman and the Ender claims bounded on the south by Virgin Ravine and on the North by the Malakoff Claims, the same in extent determines by survey to be made, also the improvements, tunnels, flume, blacksmith shop, dwelling house, and all improvements; and the Marlow Company mining claims fronting on Humbug Creek commencing at the lower end of the Canadian Company’s Claims and from the line extending down Humbug Creek 800 ft. and extending north westerly to center of ridge; and the Canadian Co. mining claims fronting on Humbug Creek commencing at the upper line of the Marlow Co.’s claims and extending up Humbug Creek 400 ft. and extending northwesterly to the center of the ridge; and the Canadian Ditch that takes the waters of Humbug Creek to Canadian Co.’s claims; also 11/20 interest in the Montreal Company’s mining claims fronting on Humbug Creek 500 ft. and extending northwesterly to center of ridge and from Canadian Co.’s claims up Humbug Creek and along ridge, including all the lands from the creek to the ridge in a northwesterly direction to the Lemerisse

Co.'s claim, with 11/20 share of all flumes, sluices, tunnels and cuts; and ½ interest in the Montreal Co.'s claims fronting Humbug Creek 500 ft. and extending northwesterly to center of ridge and extending from the Canadian Co.'s claims and all lands from creek to ridge in a northeasterly direction to the Lemerisse claims; and mining claims on the north side of Humbug Canon bounded on the north by Ketchum and Co.' claims and on the south by Lemerisse and Powers claims fronting on Humbug Creek and running back to the center of the hill containing 600 ft. (Deeds 26:590).

- 1866 (10 November): Jean Le Du (LeDu) of North Bloomfield conveys to NBGMC represented by Charles Bever (Beaver?) Superintendent of NBGMC in consideration of \$300 a 7/8 interest in the John Le Du's claim recorded 31 March 1857 Book 2:29 (not deeds or mine claims books; old deeds or virgin valley claims?) and commencing at the dam of the Lake Co.s Reservoir near the Graveyard of North Bloomfield and running from there in an easterly direction 800 ft. to a tree behind the brewery on the east side of the road leading to the Slaughter house, marked out in presence of vendor and purchaser and A. G. Dennett and Jules Poquillon as witnesses, and comprising all the mining ground north of the line to the center of the main ridge, the western boundary of claim joining ground actually owned by NBGMC, and Le Du further conveys his remaining 1/8 interest by virtue of assessment due, with all rights but no other property cited (Deeds 27:67).
- 1866 (29 November): Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Company Consolidated (John Parrott, president, John B. Hunter, Secretary) conveys to NBGMC in consideration of \$500 all that certain mining ground in the mining district of Humbug Bridgeport Township (incorrect names) fronting on Humbug Creek 300 ft. extending back to center of hill and heretofore known as Lamerouse ground bounded on the upper side (east?) by the Abbott ground and on the lower (west?) side by ground now owned by said NBGMC (Deeds 27:440).
- 1867 North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company ( NBGM Co.) begins consolidating claims and developing operations, Charles Bever (Beaver?) is listed as the superintendent (Bean 1867:397).
- 1867 Lake City contains 2 excellent hotels, a saw mill, and 100 or more inhabitants (Bean 1867:396).
- 1867 B. M. Pralus listed as a North Bloomfield miner (Bean 1867).
- 1867 (10 January): James Marriott conveys to NBGMC represented by Charles Bever in consideration of \$370 all of the Stuart and Cameron claims on Humbug Creek commencing at the lower end of the Dickenson and (J. K.) Ruse (or Henry Ross?) claims, 300 ft. from the edge of Humbug Creek on the north side and running in a westerly

direction 600 ft. in a line with a tall pine tree standing on the NW side of Waldron Ravine, said line being the front line and fronting on the town of North Bloomfield extending back to center of main ridge, but all that portion of ground belonging to Marriott (Deeds 27:354). Bever appears to move on to the hard rock mines in Grass Valley/Slate Creek area by 1869.

- 1867 (14 February): E. Van Muller et al. of Marysville and Charles Ruff of N.B. deed to NBGM Co. for \$15,000 eleven distinct properties in and around N.B., 1 and 2 are two town lots; 3 is Independence Mining claims bounded on the east by Mamelon Company claims, on west by Eureka Lake Water Company, fronting on Malakoff Creek 800 ft. with sluices, sluice boxes, and hose; 4 is mining claims near N.B. called the consolidated Malakoff and Mamelon mining claims and bounded on the south by the road leading from N.C. to N.B. and extending northerly to the center of the ridge fronting on said road 539 ft. and bounded on the west by the Independence Mining Claims (included in this deed) and on the east by the Wattier Mining Claims (not included in this deed), with ditch conducting water to claims from reservoirs, sluices, and flumes, 5 is waters flowing through Missouri Canon with ditch; 6 is the Louisiana Company claims on Colorado Hill fronting Humbug Creek, commencing at the upper line of the Cement Company's claims extending up creek 600 ft to claims formerly known Ames Hensly's claim (as conveyed by Petitjean and J. B. Mouier 11 April 1861 deeds 8:108; 7 is water ditches taking water from Relief Hill and Missouri Canon to Petitjeans Ditch; 8 is the Petitjean Ditch (formerly the Le Due and Co Ditch) bringing water from Logan Canyon to North Bloomfield area; 9 is Spier Manzanita Claims on Relief Hill. and tailings rights; 10 is additional water rights on Relief Hill; 11 is ½ of mining claims on Republican Hill 380 ft. along Humbug Canon bounded on the west by Humbug Canyon, on the south by the northern part of R. C. Black's claims formerly known as Fuller's Claims, on the north by a little ravine extending eastward into the ridge as far as the gravel extends (Deeds 27:592).
- 1867 (2 April): William Edwards to NBGM Co. for \$250 a set of mining claims (Eisenbeck claims) commencing at the upper line of Dr. Hillers claims on Virgin Valley Creek and running 700 ft. to the lower line of Henry Ross and Co. claims (Ruff Diggings) and extending back to the center of the main ridge (Deeds 29:167).
- 1867 (20 April): L. Wattier of Kern Co. deeds to NBGM Co. for \$3,500 all portions of the mining ground known as Empire and Eureka Gravel Mining claims and his right, title, and interest as well as in law as in equity to mining ground known as the Malakoff Mining Claims also near North Bloomfield and bounded on the east by what is known as

the Pralus mining ground and on the west by what is known as the Petit Jean (sic) mining ground, on the south by the center of Virgin Ravine and on the north by the summit of Backbone Ridge, also the estate right title to same (Deeds 29:169). Note, Wattier moved to Kern County by this time where he opened a hotel and restaurant with his wife.

- 1867 (10 May): David Giroux conveys to NBGM Co. for \$60 mining claims commencing at the upper line of the claims located by Francois Blain (Blair) and running up both sides of the Waldron Ravine for 2000 ft. and running back on both sides of the ravine to the center of the hills alongside Waldron Ravine, these claims are recorded in Book 3 of Virgin Valley Mining District Records page no. 4 (Deeds 29:170).
- 1867 (10 May): James Marriott conveys to NBGM Co. for \$200 a parcel of land near North Bloomfield bounded on the east by the west line of fence of F. Blain (Blair), on the north by what is known as the Waldron Ravine, on the west by the line of fence of the Pettijean and Smith's garden lots, and on the south by the road leading from North Bloomfield to Moore's Flat, the same being fenced and about 7 acres (Deeds 29:520).
- 1867 (10 June): R. A. Loughead and Thomas Dunn and Fred K. Bechtel by his attorney R. A. Loughead conveys to NBGM Co. for \$450 a  $\frac{3}{4}$  interest in mining land on and adjoining the Main Road leading from North Bloomfield to Malakoff Ravine (so called) and commonly known as the Rothschild Company's claims being 800 ft. front on a ravine sometimes known as Virgin Ravine and also Rothschild's Ravine, the said claims hereby conveyed being recorded in the records of North Bloomfield District on page 19 Vol. 1 by Pettetien (Petitjean) , Poirson, and Pierre Dreydeni, with all mining and fuming rights and water privileges, etc. (Deeds 29:173).
- 1867 (12 June): Mathias Joost (or Jost) conveys to NBGM Co. for \$3,500 the mining claims publically known as Dr. Hillerscheidts mining ground fronting on Virgin Ravine 1083 ft. and running back between parallel lines to the center of Backbone Ridge, bounded on the east side by the lower line of the mining ground known as Eisenbeck and Co.'s ground and on the west side by the upper line of Dr. Gillespies (Gillespie's) ground (Deeds 29:175).
- 1867 (12 June): H. (Henri?) Pellatier, H. Quevastre, and John Dufresne conveys to Julius Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims, 2,000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:620).

- 1867 (17 June): Thomas Gill, Ed. Cummings, E. Graves, A. Lachaise, Thomas Ryan conveys to B. M. Pralus, L. Lucas, and J. Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims, 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:616).
- 1867 (17 June): Auguste Lemaire (relation to Madame August?), Leon Quigmandon, Jean Baillieux, B. Peytary, Caleb Nash, and Joshua Nash conveys to B. M. Pralus, L. Lucas, and J. Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims, 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:617).
- 1867 (17 June): J. B. Henry, Charles Faverean, and A Durand conveys to B. M. Pralus, L. Lucas, and J. Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims , 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:619).
- 1867 (12 July): Julian Dussom of Nevada City conveys to NBGM Co. for \$20 the Smith Mining Ground located in North Bloomfield (shown on 1871 NBGM Co. claim map), consisting of 12 claims of 100 ft. each commencing at the Marlow's SW corner and extending down to the Brewery, and running upwards to the center of the main or Backbone Ridge, such as recorded in Book 2:72 of mining records (note: not county claims but the Virgin Valley records), in North Bloomfield on 29 January 1858 (Deeds 39:579).
- 1867 (20 July): Julian Dussom conveys to NBGM Co. for \$20 his interest in the Smith Mining ground, consisting of 12 claims of 100 ft. front each, commencing at the Marlow's southwest corner and extending down to the brewery and running upwards to the center of Backbone Ridge, such as recorded in Book 2 page 77 of Mining Records of North Bloomfield on 29 January 1858, duly noted in front of Charles Bever (Deeds 39:579). This taken from abstracts, slightly different with mine district reference.
- 1867 (24 July): John L. Kinney conveys to B. M. Pralus, L. Lucas, and J. Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims , 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:614).
- 1867 (8 August): Leopold Wattiez (Wattier), age 52, born in France, is a hotel keeper at Havilah, Kern County, where he registers to vote in the Great

- Register after becoming naturalized (Great Register, Kern County, 1867:12).
- 1867 (12 August): Adolphe Bigot conveys to B. M. Pralus, L. Lucas, and J. Poquillon, all of North Bloomfield, for \$1, certain gravel claims known as the Last Chance Company's gravel claims , 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:613).
- 1867 (16 August) S. J. Dussom conveys to Julius Poquillon for \$1 certain gravel mining claim known as the Last Chance Company's claims, 2000 ft. front on Humbug Canon and extending westerly to center of main ridge immediately north of the Ultimium Company's claims (Deeds 29:611).
- 1867 (22 October): Milton Lambert and M. J. McDonald of SF convey to Julius Poquillon for \$1200 a water quartz mill property near Eureka built by J. W. Pearson, Milton Lambert, and A. Jones Jackson (Deeds 30:19).
- 1867 (18 November): Augustine Isoard and Justine Michel both of Nevada City, Charles Rigoudet, F. Stumpf and Wife, all convey to Julius Poquillon of North Bloomfield for \$400, \$200, and \$200 property in Eureka Township consisting of 18 claims of 100 ft. each known as the Maggie Jane Quartz Mining Co. (Deeds 30: 91, 92, 93).
- 1868 (11 January): R. S. Clark, Julius Poquillon, James Creegan, and W. D. Long convey to J. B. Stevens, J. A. Wise, D. W. Grisooled, J. C. Dean, G. O. Rooker, S. Buckingham, G. Gilson, C. P. Stevens, E. B. Butts, R. Woodburn, and Eliza Lynn doing business as the Liberty Gold Mining Co. for \$5 the Liberty Ledge, excepting the Maggie Jane Ledge and associated tunnel, but granting right of way to tunnel to access Liberty Ledge so long it doesn't interfere with working the Maggie claim (Deeds 31:391).
- 1868 (18 February): Certificate of incorporation for the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co. amended to issue \$800,000 capital stock of 8,000 shares of \$100 each. Articles restate purpose is to mine gold upon property belonging to said company. Added ditching and conveying water for mining purposes. Trustees increased to 5 for 3 months, Lester Robinson (Pioche's SF partner), S. F. Butterworth, Thomas Bell (clerk at Bank of California and then Banker), Romain Bayerque (Pioche's banking partner from So. America), and William C. Ralston (Ohio born financier who founded Bank of California) all stockholders, signed by Robinson, Pioche, Bayerque, Butterworth C. P. Brenham, Thomas Bell, William E. Barron, W. C. Ralston, William Sharon, E. S. Tibbey, G. Dussal, Ed Chevassus, and J. B. E. Cavallier (President of the *San Francisco* Stock and Exchange Board of Brokers) (Filed under AI-N20, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, CA).

- 1868 (20 February): Julius Poquillon of Graniteville conveys to B. M. Pralus of North Bloomfield for \$1 a certain set of mining claims known as the Ultimim Gravel Mining Co.'s claims situated on the northwest side of the Humbug Canon at a distance of 1 mile more or less above the village of North Bloomfield and extending 2,000 ft. and back to the center of the ridge, said interest being an undivided  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the whole, also all the right of Poquillon in mining ground known as the Last Chance Co.s Claims comprising 2,000 ft. in front of the Humbug Canon and extending back in a northwesterly direction to the center of the ridge and bounded south by the Ultimim Company aforesaid said interest consisting of 1 undivided  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest (Deeds 31:135).
- 1868 (27 June): The *Daily Alta* of June 30 citing Transcript of June 27 reports "Poquillon and Clark have started up their new 10-stamp mill at Eureka."
- 1868 (8 July): "The North Bloomfield Company, commonly called the French Company, are about to commence operations on their projected ditch" to bring water from their new reservoir to replace water supplied by Eureka Lake and Water Company (Nevada Daily Gazette, July 8 1868:1).
- 1868 (11 July): B. and Betsy Sperry convey to Eugene Verge for \$75 town lot and building in North Bloomfield adjoining lot of J. Staple in the alley way between Staples house and Skidmore's saloon on Main St. and running from lower or east line of J. Staple lot towards Humbug Creek 75 ft. and running back 25 ft. to L. Schroder's garden fence (Deeds 31:339).
- 1868 (16 July): Marysville Daily Appeal reports on a fire that occurred on the 13th at Eureka which destroyed several homes and cabins, including a new house being finished by Poquillon. The Poquillon and Clark quartz mill and the lumber and mill of the Ditch Company were saved.
- 1868 (17 July): A. Mayoux has advertisement in Marysville Daily Appeal for his whoelsale and retail dealership in various beverages, including wines, liquors, champagnes, cordials, Lyon's XXX Ale, best brands of French cognac, etc. etc. (Marysville Daily Appeal, 3 September, 1866).
- 1868 (29 July): R. L. Clark conveys to J. Poquillon, both of Eureka South, for \$500 all interest in the Poquillon and Clark quartz mill and Maggie Jane claims near Eureka South (Deeds 31:380).
- 1868 (12 August): B. M. Pralus to Camille Breinon (Bremmond) for \$5 claims of 600 ft. in Ultimim Gravel Mining Co. claims NW side of Humbug Canon 1 mile from and above North Bloomfield (Deeds 37:594).
- 1868 (29 August): Amended articles of incorporation for NBGM Co. back to 3 trustees for 3 months, consisting of Robinson, Butterworth, and William

E. Barron (Spanish partner in New Almaden quicksilver mine); signed Robinson, Pioche, Ralston, G. Dussol, John B. Felton, Bayerque, Barron, Bell, Brenham, and Cavallier (Filed under AI-N21, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, CA).

- 1868 (28 September): Pierre Grosgean of Virginia City, Nevada, to R. D. Skidmore for \$125 a North Bloomfield town lot bounded on north by lot with billiard saloon and on the south by lot owned by Levi being directly opposite the United States Restaurant, 30 ft. by 100 ft. (Deeds 32:317).
- 1868 (30 November): Isaiah O. Pingree and wife, Margaret Pingree, convey to S. S. Funk for \$1,035 all that lot of land lying about ½ mile in a westerly direction from the village of N.B. and bounded on the north by road leading from N.B. to Lake City and near the Malakoff Mining Claims together with the buildings there on and now occupied by the Pingrees together with: 1 Abbott and Noble No. 10 cook stove and kitchen furniture, 7 bedsteads and bedding, 3 French bedsteads, 1 wash stand pitcher and bowl, 1 clock, 2 carpets, 12 chains, 2 mirrors, 3 sets of dishes, 2 small tables, 3 dining tables, 1 bar counter and furniture, decanters and cups (Deeds 32:318).
- 1869 (6 February): Sheriff of Nevada County in executing a judgement against J. Poquillon for delinquent taxes conveys to Edward Burroughs for \$150, who signed over the Marks and Co., all that water power quartz mill ½ mile from Eureka South near the Eureka Lake Co.'s saw mill (Deeds 35:68).
- 1869 (15 February): Jean Le Du (LeDu) conveys land to John C. Martens in consideration of \$200 situated in the village of North Bloomfield, commencing at its north corner being on the south side of the main street and same as NW corner of James Merritt's premises, running westerly along main street 75 ft. to the east line of Phillipe Perran's premises, thence south 158 ft. to SW corner, thence east 72 ft. to west line of Merrett's, thence north 158 ft. (Deeds 33:539).
- 1869 (25 May): A. Mayoux, L. Watteir, and Wm. W. Cook paid off the Chattel Mortgage made on 29 July 1859.
- 1869 (13 August): Julius Poquillon acquires Liberty Gold Mining Co. from T. P. Crandell who purchased at auction for \$347 (Deeds 47:373).
- 1869 (17 October): Location of 6 deep hill mining claims of 100 ft. each fronting Humbug Creek and extending the Montreal Company's claims in and running up and running back to the center of the main ridge situated on the NW side of Humbug Creek, Virgin Valley Mining District, recorded by Max Jacobs, Francis Blain, William Blain, W. G. Montgomery, Louis Newtas, and Jerry Trottier (Mining Claims 4:553).
- 1870 "By 1870 the daily water consumption of the Milton Mining & Water Co., the NBGM Co., and the Union Gravel and Mining Co. is estimated

at 100,000,000 gallons (Wyckoff 1999). This is equal to the modern daily use of about 100,000 people, roughly the amount used by Daly City or Burbank (@100 gallons daily).

- 1870 (Summer): Leopold Wattier (Wattiez), age 56, is listed in population census living in Kern County using a Havilah post office, living with wife Augustine, age 44, working as a hotel keeper with \$40,000 in real estate and \$500 personal estate. Havilah is a mining town and early county seat
- 1870 (15 September): “Water from the Bowman dam and ditch first reached the mining ground, and washing began immediately” (Jackson 1967:12). NBGM Co. outfitted Malakoff Mine with pipes and equipment valued at \$40,000; at full capacity employed 3 monitors, each capable of carrying 1,200 inches, and a goose-neck carrying some 600 inches, under a head of 300 ft. and during full operation the company expects to use 80,000,000 gallons per day; in 1870 the company was running on 1,500 inches per day. The various flumes are arranged to allow clean-ups without stopping work. The main flumes are paved with stones and the branches with wooden blocks. Grade of flume is 6 inches to each 12-ft. box with some variation down to 5 inches (*Mining and Scientific Press*, 22 October 1870).
- 1871 (9 January): The Trienta Gravel Mining Co. locate 30 claims commencing on the bank of the NBGMC Ditch near the head of the West Fork of Roscoe Canyon in Eureka Township, consisting of D. R. McKillican, B. Burt, Gen. A. M. Dobbie, H. C. Perkins, C. B. (Charles Buchanan) Northup, R. C. Black, A.S. Clark, William Montgomery, August Lamaire, Louis Lucas, David Stokes, Patrick Maguire (McGuire), Richard Huntley, A. Powel, Louis Shuffle, James Dougherty, Ira Bean, John Bush, R. D. Skidmore, Ed Manner, J. C. Martin (Martens), John Stone, Henry Helling, V. Weiss, Owen Marlow, John Faber, J. R. Lafarty, L. C. Keith, W. A. Rogers, R. Schnider (Mining Claims 4:704). V. Weiss is Valentin Weiss, son and partner of Emile Weiss (Janicot 1991:15).
- 1871 (6 March): Lorenzo Haner deeds, quit claims, to Julius Poquillon, Christopher Gay, and Henry O. Anderson for \$1,000 the Porter and Co. claims (not Porter and Cook) located on New York Ravine, also New York Ravine down to Virgin Creek with sluice boxes, “Said claims have been plotted and known as Porter and Co.s claims (between Haskell and Poquillon, like the New York claims, or the Poquillon and Co. diggings?) (Deeds 38:527).
- 1871 (8 March): E. F. Whitmarsh, Robert Hill, A. L. Clark, R. L. Clark, D. W. Snapp, L. Haner, Barney Mc Kelvey, Charles Haskill, George Hubbard, William Montgomery, Isaiah Humphreys, R. A. Pierce, B. D. Burt, S. B. Lush, William Earl, C. B. Northup, A. M. Dobbie, W. C.

Perkins, J. M. Parr, W. P. Hays, Patrick Maguire, Charles Marr, J. C. Robinson, Thomas H. Carlisle, L. Trondell, David Stokes, J. C. Martins, Louis Nicholas, William Waldron, Eugene Vergi (Verge), W. H. Hyde, H. H. Hobart, William Powers, Ira Bean, Thomas George, George Wehrung, W. F. Scotts, J. W. Carter, and F. U. McAllister, all from North Bloomfield, convey to D. R. McKillican, of North Bloomfield, in consideration of \$1 each mining ground or deep hill claim between the Middle and South forks Yuba River, commencing at a point on Humbug Creek, 1500 ft. above or east of where the NBGMC water pipes cross said creek and running down said Creek in a westerly direction 4,000 ft. to a certain post situated in said creek near the SE corner of NBGMC claim, thence in a SE direction to the South Fork Humbug Creek, thence due east 4,000 ft., thence in a NW course to beginning, consisting of 40 claims of 100 ft. each fronting on Humbug Creek and running SE as described, the whole of which is known as the Yuba Gravel Mining Company (Deeds 38:541).

- 1871 (May): Hamilton Smith appointed engineer of NBGM Co. by Board of Trustees; evidently replacing Eugene Verge (Smith 1871:1).
- 1871 (9 June): *Daily Alta* reports on upswing in mining in the vicinity of North Bloomfield, citing the Nevada Transcript. Hamilton Smith, NBGM Co. engineer, has been locating the best place to open a bedrock tunnel based on results of prospect shafts. Plans include entering the mountain from the Yuba River and extending a tunnel over a mile long to reach 200 ft. below the gravel. "The company is still engaged in prospecting." In Shaft No. 1 they have run 500 ft. in opposite directions; in Shaft No. 2 they have struck the mine; in Shaft No. 3 they are still sinking, and are 160 ft. down. Their Bowman Dam is providing 2,800 miners inches and services on NBGM Co. They are using 4 6-inch pipes day and night (in the vicinity of Malakoff and Pralus Diggings - see 1871 maps). Besides that company Black, Gay and Poquillon (at Poquillon claim near Lake City) are also running and doing well.
- 1871 (29 June): M. Petitjean of GV to Skidmore for \$300 Humphry and Co.s claims on Humbug Creek commencing at Marlow and Co.s lower line, 100 ft. back from creek, down Humbug 300 ft., back into hill, being claims recorded 18 February 1856 and recorded in the Virgin Valley Mining District records book 1 page 147 (Deeds 39:266).
- 1871 (August): Hamilton Smith appointed Superintendent of NBGM Co. works by Board of Trustees (Smith 1871:1).
- 1871 (September and October): G. H. Thompson surveys the holdings of the NBGM Co. from which a "Map of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Claims, Nevada County, California, is drafted (on file, DPR archives, Empire Mine SHP, Grass Valley, California). The map depicts Malakoff with two rows of houses on a small street through town north of the

Lake City to North Bloomfield road. A boarding house is shown south of the main road; the company office is shown as the first building in the row on the south side of the smaller Malakoff road. An outlying building is shown northwest of town within the boundary of the diggings. All of the improvements are within the Consolidated Mamelon and Malakoff Claim.

- 1871 (25 October): Hamilton Smith submits report on NBGM Co., to C.J. Brenham, Esq., President NBGM Co., his summary of the Bloomfield property claims 1,535 acres, noting “The surface gravel on the claim was extensively worked by the original claimants from whom the Company purchased. Since their purchase, the Company has built long and large tail flumes, and through them has washed many thousands of yards of gravel. In years 1870-71 the Company used 220,891 inches of water, and obtained a product of \$34,175.91, or .16 per inch” (Smith 1871:16). “The position of the deep channel has been approximately determined by a number of prospect shafts. The lowest bedrock thus far found, is about 180 ft. below the Company’s present system of tail flumes” (Smith 1871:17). “Above the village of Bloomfield, in what is known as the Marlow ground, rich blue gravel is found, which is doubtless in one of these branches [branching off the main channel]” (Smith 1871:21). “Iron nozzles allowing a single man to control the discharge of a 1,000-inch stream of water, and other late improvements, have greatly diminished the cost of hydraulic mining from what it was a few years since” (Smith 1871:22). Smith concludes that hydraulic mining of the top white gravel provides a negligible return or even loss and that a tunnel must be driven to reach the deep blue gravel, which would require a big investment but with an appropriate return (Smith 1871:28). “The deep channel emerges from the lava at a point some 3,000 ft. due north of Malakoff, passes directly under [prospect] shaft one, goes between shaft two and Hilder [Hiller] shaft, and leaves the claim just west of shaft three” (Smith 1871:34).
- 1871 (November): Photographer Carleton Eugene Watkins makes first visit to NBGM Co.’s Malakoff Mine and a number of photographs (old series) are taken, including one of the village of Malakoff and the workings (Palmquist 1999).
- 1871 (1 November): Poquillon and partner cut, polished and displayed a large piece of marble from the bank of the Yuba near Blue Tent which could be quarried if a road was constructed to the location (*Nevada Transcript*).
- 1871 (28 December): Benjamin Brockmeyer and Lorenzo Haner convey to Isaiah O. Pingree for \$100 the hotel and lot situated at Malakoff commencing at a stake set as the dividing line between Brockmeyer and NBGM Co. being about 117 ft. NE of said Pingree house and

running SW 61 ft. thence south 150 ft. being 6 ft. beyond a flume crossing within described ground thence east 250 ft. then 6 ft. to said flume then up flume 175 ft. then northwest 418 ft. to beginning (Deeds 45:371).

- 1872 H. S. Bradley surveys T17N/R9E for the U.S. General Land Office, depicting the “NBGM Co.s gold diggings” in the NE corner of Section 1, north of the “road to North Bloomfield.” Malakoff is not shown.
- 1872 (12 March): Julian Dussom (Dusome) conveys to Lorinda Bishop for \$80 the lot about ½ mile from “the village of Humbug, now called North Bloomfield and known as the Dussom Ranch containing 8 acres” enclosed by a fence and “lately known as the Louisiana Ranch” or portion thereof (Deeds 30:588).
- 1872 (17 April): A. G. Dennett conveys property east of Pralus diggings/pond to NBGM Co. for \$250 described as mining ground “lying between the villages of N.B. and Malakoff... all that portion of the mining claims of said party of the first part, lying to the north of the Lake City, Malakoff, N.B. road and being bounded on the north and east by the ground owned by party of the second part, on the west by ground owned by Brockmeyer and Haner, and on the south by aforesaid road” (Deeds 41:509). Note the land to the south of the road remains in Dennett’s hands, so he sold his ground north of his property between the old Virgin ravine and the road, which is now mined away.
- 1872 (18April): C.J. Brenham grants property to NBGM Co. for \$824.00. The undivided ½ interest in a set of mining claims, being the same premises conveyed to Brenham from Manuel Pereira; the land from the junction of Humbug and Middle Yuba up creek to the Taylor Dam or falls (Deeds 42:49).
- 1872 (2 May): Julius Poquillon, H.O. Anderson, and Christopher Gay granted 1535 acres of land to North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company for gold coin worth \$300.00 (Deeds 42:5). Note: Gay and Poquillon reported as doing well in summer of 1871 (see above).
- 1872 (10 May): F. Souchet and George Edward take up and locate two claims of 20 acres of gravel mining ground each (later called Richmond Placer Mine) bounded on north and west by Camille Bremond & Co. ground and east and south by vacant ground, between Humbug Creek and South Fork Humbug Creek, N. Bloomfield, in the SE ¼ of Section 6 (corrected to read 31 and 32 in claims 7:413) T17N/R10E, recorded 11 October 1875. Subsequently mapped by S. Bethell and corrections recorded (Mining Claims 6:380; 6:398; plat map 7:413).
- 1872 (18 May).John Watt conveys to Francis Blain (Blair?) for \$500 mining ground situated on Waldron Ravine, “commencing at the lower line of Francis Blain’s Ranch on Waldron Ravine and running eastwardly to

the center of the ridge on the east side of the said ravine, thence along the center of the said ridge or hill northerly 5,000 ft., thence westerly across the said ravine to the center of the ridge or hill on the west side of the said Waldron Ravine, thence southerly down the center of the said hill, west of said ravine 5,000 ft., thence easterly to the place of beginning, embracing 214 acres” (Deeds 42:71). Notes that Watt applied for federal patent on 22 June 1871, which patent would be conveyed herewith.

- 1872 (22 May): Julius Poquillon, Christopher Gay, and H. O. Anderson deed to NBGM Co. for \$300 claims totaling 1,535 acres in Bloomfield Township. said application having been filed in US land office on 6 May 1871 and boundaries of claims fully shown by description and plan on file with application for purposes of finally determining the boundary line between said claims and claims owned by us which we purchased from one Haner in 1871, the southern boundary of said claims of NBGM CO. being agreed upon as the South Fork of New York Ravine and the main New York Ravine as shown by plan before referred to, on file in said land office (Deeds 42:5).
- 1872 (7 June): Articles of Incorporation for NBGM Co. amended and renewed by Charles J. Brenham, President (born in Kentucky and mayor of SF), and Andrew J. Moulder, Secretary (Filed under AI-N22, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, CA).
- 1872 (11 June): NBGM Co. conveys to Darius O. Mills of SF for \$5 and other valuable considerations the NBGM Co.’s claims situated in the Virgin Valley mining District bounded by the claims for Frank Souchet on the northeast and on the east by the claims of R. C. Black, D. Stokes, and Company, on the south by North Bloomfield and claims of John Le Du and A. G. Dennett (extensive meets and bounds provided) signed by C. J. Brenham, President, and Andrew J. Moulder, Secretary (Deeds 43:558).
- 1872 (11 June): Darius O. Mills and NBGM Co. enter into a complicated loan and sale of stock in the mining properties (Deeds 42:606).
- 1872 (15 June): Francois Souchet enters into an agreement or contract with A. Lind whereby Lind conveys \$100 to Souchet and promises another \$7,400 to be paid later to receive right to mine set of gravel mining claims near North Bloomfield known as the Montreal Company Claims described in Book 1 page 5 of the records of the Virgin Valley Mining District. Lind agrees to construct a flume with due diligence that will extend from the claim down past Marlow’s lower dam for sluicing. Souchet retains the right to clean up his own past workings (Deeds 43:326; 44:261).
- 1872 (17 June): John La Du (LeDu) conveys to Lorenzo Haner in consideration of \$200 the Pan Ravine Ditch and Brewery Ravine

Ditch, and water right of Humbug Creek, taken from canon a few rods SW of W. A. Johnson's barn, the same waters being used on the John La Du mining claims (Deeds 42:136).

- 1872 (11 July): Nuna Hubert, Archibald C. Peachy, both of SF, Joseph Martin, A. Isoard, and William B. Churchill, all of Nev. Co., convey to Mark Zellerbach of SF, for the sum of \$30,000 the Eureka Lake Water Co.'s ditch commencing at Canon Creek, and running down the ridge to National where it divides into the Magenta Ditch that crosses Bloody Run and extends to the head of Humbug Creek, and the Irwin Ditch that runs to Lake City, conducting water to Mt. Zion, Relief Hill, North Bloomfield, Malakoff Hill, Hill (Hiller?) Diggings, Magenta Hill, Villa Rica, Kennebeck Hill, and Grizzly Hill, also ditch known as the Miners Ditch conducting water to Snow Point, Orleans, Moores and Woolseys Flat, and Bloody Run, also Poor Man's Ditch, two Grizzly ditches, Spring Creek ditches, Montezuma Ditch, Cherokee and St. Juan ditches, Missouri Ditch bringing water to North Bloomfield, and other ditches and water conveyance systems as well as various mining claims on the ridge including, but not limited to, claims extending from the mouth of Virginia Ravine (Virgin?) down Humbug Creek about 1.5 miles, claims bounded west by Wells and Cos claims and east by Pettijean and Co, also claims bounded east by Haskell and Cos claims and west by Chapman claims (Deeds 42:196).
- 1872 (August): NBGM Co. begins construction of a deep, nearly 8,000 ft. bedrock tunnel (North Bloomfield Tunnel) by means of 8 double compartment vertical shafts, 1 for hoisting the other for pumping. The shafts were 4.5 x 9 ft., heavily timbered and sunk between 800 and 900 ft. apart, with an average depth of 197 ft (Greenland 2001:209).
- 1872 (19 August): A. Lind conveys to S. L. Marks and William H. Gleeson  $\frac{3}{4}$  interest in contract between Lind and F. Souchet made 15 June 1872 (see above) and enters into a co-partnership with Coll Dean and C. J. (?) Taylor for development of the Montreal Claim north of North Bloomfield (Deeds 43:329).
- 1872 (October): N. C. Miller (Newton C Miller) surveys the Montreal Gravel Mine claimed by Frank Souchet, bound by R. D. Skidmore ground on the NE and NBGM Co. on the SW (see photograph of plat, shown on GLO). Recorded 21 September 1876, and approved by US Surveyor General 27 November 1872 (Mining Claims 6:652).
- 1872 (15 October): Julius Poquillon of Lake City conveys to Marks and Company of Moore's Flat for \$1200 a  $\frac{2}{3}$  share to the Poquillon Quartz Mill, a 10-stamp water-wheel driven stamp mill with one arrastra for grinding the rock after crushing, situated about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of Eureka South (Deeds 42:500).

- 1872 (5 November): H. O. Anderson conveys to Marks Zellerbach for \$2500 his interest in the Poquillon and Co. mining claims for a more particular description see survey and map that was made (not part of this deed and not found), bounded easterly by NBGM Co. and southerly by the New York and Haskell Co.s and westerly by the Spargo and Co. and the Villa Rica Co. claims (Deeds 45:458).
- 1872 (5 November): Jno. Bonney conveys to M. Zellerbach for \$1800 interest in the Bonny Mining Claims, consisting of 9 claims, and the said John Bonny having sold 5/9 interest; the property is located in Bloomfield Township. on the east by what is known as the Poquillon (Poquillon) and Co.'s claims, on the west by the Vallorica (Villa Rica) Co. claims, and extending back to the center of the main ridge and each claim having a frontage of 100 ft. (Deeds 45:459).
- 1872 (11 November): C. Gay of Bloomfield Township. deeds to M. Zellerbach of SF for \$2500 his  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest in the Poquillon and Co. claims bounded on the easterly side by the NBGM Co. claims and the westerly side by the Villa Rica and the Spargo Co.'s ground, extending back to the center of the ridge, for a more definite description of the property reference is made to a survey made by S. H. Bradley (Deeds 45:461).
- 1872 (11 November): J. Poquillon conveys to T. P. Crandell for \$1000 a  $\frac{1}{3}$  share in the Poquillon and Clark Mill about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile from Eureka South (Deeds 48:58).
- 1872 (14 November): T. P. Crandell and W. D. Long convey to Mark Zellerbach for \$6,500, with Crandell selling 3.25/9ths and Long selling the whole of the balance, or entire share of the Lake City Co. claims bounded on the easterly side by what is known as the Dutch Co. Claims, and on the westerly side by the North Star and extending back to a line on the main ridge (Deeds 44:252).
- 1872 (29 November): NBGM Co. conveys to D. O. Mills in order to correct prior omissions certain interests in the Milton Mining and Water Co. all that certain gravel claim lying to the north of Lake City, and the Malakoff and North Bloomfield road and being bounded on the north and east by ground owned by NBGM Co., on the west by ground owned by Brockmeyer and Haner, and on the south by aforesaid road, which said claim was acquired from A. G. Dennett (and other property not abstracted), signed S. F. Butterworth, President, and Andrew J. Moulder, Secretary (Deeds 42:609).
- 1872 (18 December): James Spargo of Virginia City, NV, conveys to Mark Zellerbach of SF for \$800 all his 4/9 interest in the Bonny Mining Claims, consisting of 9 claims, and the said John Bonny having sold 5/9 - the property is located in Bloomfield Township. bounded on the east by what is known as the Poquillon (Poquillon) and Co.'s claims,

on the west by the Vallorica (Villa Rica) Co. claims, and extending back to the center of the main ridge and each claim having a frontage of 100 ft. (Deeds 45:463).

- 1872-73 Hamilton Smith serves as superintendent for the NBGM Co.
- 1873 “New school house was built with all improvements for \$3,700. This money was raised by subscription. There was a fine library and 2 teachers were employed” (Kallenberger 1970:26).
- 1873 Derbec’s friend Petitjean died so Derbec returned to GV to take charge of Hill’s sulphuret works that Petitjean had recently purchased and worked for 2 years. Derbec had laboratories and assaying furnaces in SF, GV, Derbec Mine, and other places (Nasatir 1964).
- 1873 (25 March): Francis Blain (Blair) arrested for the murder of Adolphus Lind Superintendent of the NBGM Co. (*SF Chronicle*, 27 March 1873).
- 1873 (April): I. O. Pingree and Wife convey to H. Burns for \$4,100 the lot and improvements at Malakoff as described in deeds book 45:371 together with public house or hotel with household and kitchen furniture belonging to said hotel and all liquor bar and bar furniture (Deeds 45:373).
- 1873 (5 April): Julius Poquillon of Lake City, by his attorney in fact Mark Zellerbach conveys to Charles Allenberg of Moore’s Flat for \$1 mining property in Bloomfield Township  $\frac{1}{3}$  share of all those certain mining claims bounded easterly by New York Ravine and the NBGM Co.’s ground, and south by the New York Company and Spargo Company and westerly by the Spargo Company and the Villa Rica claims and north by the center of the ridge, said claim formerly known as the Porter or Manzanitta Hill claims and are now known and designated as the Poquillon and Co. claims lying between Lake City and North Bloomfield (Deeds 44:420).
- 1873 (21 April): Isaiah O. Pingree and wife deed to John Goffette and M. H. Wilson for \$500 lot at Malakoff commencing at a stake at the NW corner of the Pingree Hotel lot and extending NW 22 ft. to a stake at the dividing line between claims then SW 216 ft. to the Andrero’s lot then 80 ft. south along the line of the Andrero’s lot then east 161 ft. to Pingree lot then 166 ft. to beginning. Together with the livery stable and shop built on said lot together with the use of the livery stable tank built upon Pingree lot and right to use all waste water running from hotel tank (Deeds 45:429).
- 1873 (24 April): H. Burns mortgaged property at Malakoff to D.R. McKillican and B.D. Burt for a sum of \$1100. Lot is described; “...22 ft. easterly from a stake originally set on the dividing line between the Brockmeyer and Co. and the NBGM Co. claims and running thence in a southerly direction 166 ft. Thence is an easterly direction to a point 6 ft.

beyond and up the large flume that crosses said lot a distance of 216 ft. Thence northerly across said flume 6 ft. Thence easterly 175 ft. Thence northeasterly direction 396 ft. to the place of beginning. 'Public house' or Hotel situated on said lot on the whole thereof being well known as the Pingree Hotel and lot being the property recently conveyed by said Pingree to the party of the first from herein" (Deeds 12-336).

- 1873 (5 May): Pingree and wife obtain title to Glennbrook ranch and race course from Emma Pratt and presumably relocate to that place near Nevada City and attempt to homestead there (Deeds 45:446; Homesteads 3:428).
- 1873 (16 July): William Hill to M. Petitjean for \$2000 Hill's Sulpheret Works in Grass Valley and other property (Deeds 48:54).
- 1873 (November): NBGM Co. and Ira Bean, who filed an adverse claim against the NBGM Co. mineral patent claim agree that if the company receives patent it will provide Bean with 1 year notice prior to mining and will provide for building or relocating improvements and for new house and barn (if erected) upon higher ground, a sum not exceeding \$600, and NBGM Co. agrees to pay taxes upon the land (Miscellaneous Records 2:479).
- 1873 (6 November): Marius Dominique Bremond grants unto Camille Gustave Bremond for \$3,000 intended as a mortgage to secure "a certain house and lot known as Bremond's Hotel situated and laying at a place called Malakoff Hill, and bounded on the north side by the mining claims of the NBGM Co., on the east side by a carpenter shop belonging to the same Co., by the road leading from Lake City to North Bloomfield on the south side, and by a stable belonging also to the above mentioned company on the west side. Also all the furniture, bedding, cooking range, cooking utensils, bar fixtures, billiard table, and all belonging to the hotel with 2 cows, 10 hogs, 60 chickens, and all of the provisions necessary to run hotel and bar business (Mortgage 13-23).
- 1874 (24 January): Jean and Anna F. Le Du mortgage and promise to pay back \$763 to Bryan Connolly 2 parcels: 1st lot bounded on the south by the road leading from Lake City to North Bloomfield, east by land of R. C. Black and the land of Haskell and the land of Charles Mahr, north by placer claims of NBGM Co. and west by placer claims of Benjamin Brockmire; lot 2 claims bounded on east by lot of the Le Du's and occupied by them containing 3 acres, on the south side by Humbug Creek, north by Brockmire and NBGM Co., containing 7 acres (District Court of the State of California, Case No. 4260, on file Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, California).

- 1874 (1 August): J. Poquillon of North Bloomfield (by Louis Franconi his attorney) conveys to Francois Roland of SF for \$3000 the Poquillon Quartz Mill, a 10-stamp mill with arrastra, located ¼ mile east of Eureka South or Graniteville, also the Liberty Ledge on North Fork Poor Man's Creek (Deeds 48:144).
- 1874 (2 September): Julius Poquillon of North Bloomfield (by Lois Franconi his attorney) conveys to Ami Vignier of SF for \$5 a ¼ share of the Poquillon Quartz Mill and ¼ share in the Liberty Quartz Ledge, both near Eureka South (Deeds 48:373). Vignier turns around and sells it to Louis Franconi for \$5 on 28 November 1874 (Deeds 48:375).
- 1874 (16 September): Mortgage between Marius Bremond and George Turner, A. Isoard, Camille Bremond, and A. Vignier in consideration of \$2,685 paid to M. Bremond grant land and premises situated and being at Malakoff with the hotel buildings thereon known as Bremond's Hotel, said lot being on the northerly side of the main wagon road from Lake City to North Bloomfield and being 100 ft. in front on said road more or less, and bounded on the north by the claims of the NBGM Co., on the east by the carpenter shop lot of NBGM CO., on the south by the wagon road, and on the west by the stable lot of Co., being used by Marius Bremond for hotel, outbuildings, grounds, etc. (Mortgages 13:331). Isoard and Bremond acquaintances since summer of 1855 when Isoard took over the Hotel de France at Sacramento from Bremond, who shortly ended up at Lake City running a hotel and joining mining efforts. Census indicates Isoard was a French liquor and tobacco retailer in GV ca. 1870; Ami Vignier was a French mine agent in 1870 residing with a banker in SF; and Geroge E. Turner a hardware dealer from MO then residing in Nevada City.
- 1874 (September): Palmer Smith, Deputy Surveyor, surveys for the Plat of the Placer Claim of the NBGM Co. situated in Bloomfield Mining District, Nevada County, California claimed by the NBGM Co. and containing approximately 1,610 acres. The plat depicts Malakoff south of the "present diggings" (the only workings shown) with what appears to be numerous structures clustered around a short road segment north of the Lake City and Bloomfield road. Buildings also shown south of main road in Brockmeyer and Co claim (Peterson Mining Claims), as surveyed in 1871. Field notes mention Marlow Dam (run 20) and Lower Marlow Ditch and flume (run 21) on west bank Humbug Creek, above North Bloomfield, and below Creek Placer claim of Souchet (run 21). Souchet's creek claim being in Humbug Creek east of NBGM Co. (run 21/NBGM C 1), and tailings (run 22). Old cabin of Souchet near old staked post with NBGM Co. Along run 24 is lower bank of Tisdale Ditch and just west of cut for Lind (Souchet) flume. Line of run 25 crosses Ruff Ditch, Moores Flat road, NBGM CO.'s distributing ditch. NBGM Co. post 36, between runs 44 and 45, Smith calls the Tunnel

Road of NBGM Co. Old sluice junction with New York Ravine at Post 38, run 46. Old tailings in Virgin Ravine, near confluence with New York Ravine, at Post 1 (on east edge of tailings), at run 50. Post 43, run 52, on east edge of tailings in Virgin Ravine and opposite mouth of Hilder (Hiller) Ravine. Note, most description of Virgin Ravine notes boundary is on east edge of tailings. Survey Line 57 crosses Main Flume of NBGM Co. at its juncture with Ruff Flume. Line 58 to north side of road to a post 49 being in the tailings in Virgin Ravine in the village of Malakoff the south gable of the French Hotel bear North 83 51 ft. east 70 links (see page 19/23 in notes). Post 51, described under line 60, being on south side of China Reservoir (not Pralus) and probably near the old position of said Virgin Ravine which has been washed away; and run 60 crosses China Reservoir and south portion of NBGM Co. washings or diggings. Note at end of survey regarding the varying width of drainages notes: “the banks of the streams are constantly changing, as the tailings from the mines accumulate in the stream beds during the summer months, or are washed away by the winter floods” (Smith 1874:21). Lake City is depicted with reservoir and 8 buildings scattered on every side of the four-way intersection. Milton Co.’s ditch depicted exiting west boundary of claim into Bloomfield Hydraulic Co. claim. North Bloomfield is depicted as about 16 buildings clustered along road SW of Relief Hill road and another cluster of about 10 buildings between North Bloomfield and Malakoff, in vicinity of what is shown as A.G. Dennett’s holdings. Blair Reservoir shown within patent and Souchet (claim) is shown on east side. Notes mention R. D. Skidmore’s claim as the Jersey Mining Company. Hill between North Bloomfield and Malakoff referred to as School House Hill. Improvements by the company are listed as a “bedrock tunnel, reservoirs, and ditches” (Smith 1874). Report: “The gravel is worked by the present process of hydraulic mining and carried through a long bedrock tunnel to Humbug Creek. Thence to the South Yuba River.” Expenses to 1874 tallied: bedrock tunnel \$500,000; prospecting \$31,600; work upon mining claims \$110,000; reservoirs and ditches \$560,000. Charles B. Northup and J. W. Ruff (Rabb?) sign affidavit on expenses.

1874 (October-November): Louis Simonin, a French mining engineer, visited the region: “In Nevada, we passed North Bloomfield, Humbug, Malakoff, where are major canal works entrusted to the Chinese to bring water on huge placers. These are beneficially dried river beds, huge hills of ancient alluvial deposits, being felled hundreds of cubic meters at a time, using powerful hydraulic jets. These ancient alluvial placers and auriferous quartz mines are the golden cottages mainly operated in California today. Surface placers or modern alluvium were abandoned almost everywhere as a result of their exhaustion. Annual

production of gold has dropped sixty-five million piasters, or it has long maintained in the beginning, twenty-five million figure of 1868. In 1870, she was no more than twenty million and she's down again. In Australia, the same reduction is observed" (Simonin 1875:230).

1874 (November): After over 2 years of construction the North Bloomfield GM CO. bedrock tunnel is completed at a cost of \$498,800 (Greenland 2001:210).

1874 (16 November): Julius Poquillon of North Bloomfield by his attorney Louis Franconi conveys to C. P. Hutchinson of SF for \$2000 a 1/9 share in the Poquillon stamp mill and Liberty Ledge, near Eureka South (Deeds 47:609).

1874 (28 November): Julius Poquillon of North Bloomfield by Louis Franconi his attorney, conveys to Owen P. Sutton of SF for \$2000 a 1/9 share in the Poquillon stamp mill and Liberty Ledge, near Eureka South (Deeds 47:573).

1874 "The gravel channel at North Bloomfield lies on the south side of the ridge. The depth of the deposit was from 200 to 500 ft. There being no natural outlet through which all this material could be washed, a tunnel, 7878 ft. long, was driven along the course of Humbug Creek, on a grade of 6.5 inches to 12 ft to tap the bottom of the deposit. This tunnel with its eight shafts cost \$528,000. In working the mine the gravel was loosened by the hydraulic giants as shown in the photograph on page 18. The water was brought to the giants, from a ditch on the ridge above the pit, through a 22 inch riveted iron pipe. After breaking down the gravel by means of the force of the stream, the gravel and water was allowed to flow to a timbered shaft connected with the tunnel. The timbering of the shaft was kept near the level of the surrounding gravel and as the cavity was enlarged and deepened the top timbers were removed. In this manner the work was continued until the cavity reached bedrock, after which time, as the work proceeded, open cuts were made in the bedrock on sufficient grades to convey the gravel-laden water to the shaft" (Hammon 1917:42). A wooden flume, 3 x 6 ft. and 1800 ft. long was built in the upper end of the tunnel, and a section of flume 300 ft. long added at the lower end of the tunnel. "In the upper sluice were placed wooden blocks, while the lower portion was lined with rocks and led to undercurrents, which consisted of an iron grating called a grizzly which allowed the fine material to go through to tables 24 x 36 ft. (variable) and sent the coarse material out over a drop. Reports show over 30,000,000 yards passed through this tunnel (Hammon 1917:43). At the beginning of a "run" mercury was added to the head of the flume and on the undercurrents and more added from day to day. "About 14 to 18 flasks of quicksilver was used during a "run." A "clean-up" of the upper sluice was made about every

12 days. “the mine was shut down and the wooden blocks removed from the flume in sections about 100 ft. long. A small stream of water was allowed to run down the flume during clean-up, which washed the quicksilver and amalgam down to the end of the section where it was picked up by means of small scoops, removed and retorted”(Hammon 1917:45).The process and replacing block riffles took about 10 hours. It was not necessary to shut down operations to clean up the undercurrents, which was completed whenever advisable. “From 10 to 30 percent of the quicksilver used in charging the sluices was not recovered.” In 1875 a total of 9,649 pounds of mercury was used in sluices at No. 8 shaft, Woodward claim, and Eisenbeck claim, with a loss of 1,242 pounds.

- 1874 (December): A group of North Bloomfield petitioners, consisting of W. A. Johnson, T. P. Crandall, J. H. Helwig, A. D. Lemaire, A. A. Smith, E. Cummins, J. A. Lafertee, and T. F. P Aubert (Aubert?), all resident house holders, petition County Judge Caldwell to file for patent in trust for inhabitants of 80-acre town site of North Bloomfield. The petition claims 200 inhabitants. Affidavit by witnesses: Jean Le Du states he is a 53 year old resident of North Bloomfield since 1856; John Bonham states he is a 33 year old US born citizen resident of North Bloomfield since Autumn 1872, that the 40-acre town has about 150 inhabitants with about 40 buildings, consisting of dwellings, 2 hotels, dry goods store, grocery store and a drug store, and 6 or 7 saloons, an express office and a post office, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 livery stable, 1 brewery, 1 barber shop; A. A. Smith states he is a 45 year old resident of North Bloomfield since 1868, by occupation a druggist, and that town has about 150 inhabitants, 2 hotels, dry goods store, drug store, 1 grocery store, 6 saloons, an express office, 1 post office, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 brewery, 1 livery stable, 1 barber shop, and about 30 dwellings (US Land Office, Patent 1390, on file National Archives).
- 1875 Henry Perkins becomes superintendent of NBGM Co. and resides at Malakoff until at least 1880 (Wells 1880:227).
- 1875 Derbec buys 40 mining claims (and later 20 more), each 100 ft. wide and some up to 6,000 ft. long on the Big Blue Ledge at North Bloomfield (Nasatir 1964).
- 1875 By this time the Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Company “owned some 300 miles of ditch and \$1,500,000 worth of mining ground and equipment. Its main canal began near the summit of the Sierra at Eureka Lake and Lake Faucherie, and snaked down the Ridge to North San Juan, a distance of some 65 miles. The company had also bought up large tracts of inactive mining ground near Columbia Hill and Moore’s Flat, and engaged in extensive mining operations” (Kelley 1959:54-55).

- 1875 (March): Palmer Smith completes a survey of the Penelon Placer Mine claimed by the NBGM Co. Owen Marlow and Michael Spelcey execute the duties of chain carriers with Henry McGinn serving as flagman. A. M. Dobbie and D. Stokes testify to the total expenditure upon the claim. Features mentioned in the survey include Taylor Dam at common boundary between Penelon and Humbug Canon Fluming Claim (below last NBGM Co. undercurrent) and mouth of the NBGM Co. tunnel. The brief report says that the NBGM Co. claim is for fluming purposes and is of no value except as a convenient location for under currents. The company has owned the claim for a number of years and have a good title to the same. Improvements listed on the plat include North Bloomfield Tunnel, flume, undercurrents, and appliances for treating gravel. Regarding a March 1857 notice by Emerson and Irwin (see above) "R. D. Skidmore being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Recorder of Mining claims in and for Virgin Valley Mining District, in the said county of Nevada, and State of California, and that the foregoing Notice is a true and correct copy of Page No. 30 of Book No. 2, of the Mining Records of the said Virgin Valley Mining District, in the County and State aforesaid, 2 November 1875 (Smith 1875:11).
- 1875 (17 March): Julius Poquillon of North Bloomfield, by his attorney Louis Franconi, conveys to Liberty Mill and Mining Co. a corporation for the sum of \$5 all his interest in the Poquillon Quartz Mill and the Liberty Ledge (Deeds 48:534).
- 1875 (19 March): Articles of Incorporation filed in Sacramento for the Liberty Mill and Mining Company to operate in Nevada County, with capital of \$1,800,000 in shares of \$100 each. Directors Louis Francont, Owen P. Sutton, Fred W. Hutchinson, Cyrus W. Jones, and Julius Poquillon. The principal place of business will be SF.
- 1875 (22 May): Frank Souchet of Malakoff sells to Camille Gustave Bremond of Malakoff all his gravel mining ground 700 ft. front on Humbug Creek ,Virgin Valley, known as Montreal Gold Hydraulic Gravel Claim located in North Bloomfield Township (shown on GLO), including flumes and the use of the creek. Adjoining the NBGM Co. on one side and the Hope Tunnel Gravel Mining Company belonging to Richard D. Skidmore on the other side, excluding blacksmith tools, one monitor, and iron pipes; formal survey made by Miller 1872 (not found) (Deeds 49:219).
- 1875 (24 May): R. D. Skidmore of North Bloomfield to Camille Bremond of Malakoff for agreements and claims ½ mile NE of North Bloomfield (Deeds 48-676).
- 1875 (25 May): B. M. Pralus of Paris and Louis Lucas (Lay?) of Battle Mountain, State of Nevada, acting by and through Camile G. Bremond, their attorney in fact, now residing at Corvallis, LA County, conveys to

E. Derbec of GV, in consideration of \$1 the Ultimatum and Last Chance gravel claims fronting on Humbug Creek 4,000 ft., commencing on Humbug Creek thence parallel with Skidmore claim 5,280 ft. to Back Bone Ridge, thence 4,000 ft. along the center of ridge, thence SE 5,000 ft. to Humbug Creek, thence following creek on left bank to beginning (Deeds 54:582).

1875 (30 June): The United States of America patents the 40-acre town site of North Bloomfield to John Caldwell, County Judge of Nevada County, in trust, for the relief of the inhabitants, and no title shall be acquired to any mine (Patents 1:311).

1875 Samuel Bethell surveys and creates first plat map of North Bloomfield in support of town patent of Judge Caldwell (see maps collection). The 40 acre town site on the north side of Humbug Creek contains 6 blocks with individual lots and some parcels unlabeled. Most of the south side of the creek is labeled mining claims on both sides of the road to Relief Hill. Block 1 is located on the northeast (NE) corner of the Main and Mill streets intersection: Lot 1 R. D. Skidmore; Lot 2 C. McCloskey; Lot 3 T. Lafertee; Lot 4 G. Victor; Lot 5 C. McCloskey; Lot 6 V. Weiss; Lot 7 Ed Cummings (Hall); Lot 8 R. S. Clark; Lot 9 ?; Lot 10 C. D. Kallenberg; Lot 11 V. Weiss; Lot 12 (?) A. A. Smith (?). Block 2 is the southeast corner of the Main and Mill streets intersection: Lot 1 R. D. Skidmore; Lot 2 W. Blain; Lot 3 ?; Lot 4 Helwig; Lot 5 T. F. Crandall; Lot 6 M. Penelon; Lot 7 Stone and Helwig; Lot 8 Ch. Nash; Lot 9 Robert Hundley; Lot 10 W. A. Johnson; Lot 11 V. Weiss; Lot 12 Owen Marlow (?); Lot 13 Robert McCullough; Lot 14 R. C. Black. Block 3 is located in the Northwest corner of the Mill and Main intersection: Lot 1 Charles Bohiens (?); Lot 2 Go. Buck, Lot 3 R. D. Skidmore (residence); Lot 4 Carter. Block 4 is the southwest corner of Mill and Main streets intersection: Lot 1 T. P. Crandall (was Mayoux and Petitjean's store); Lot 2 George Edwards (hotel); Lot 3 M. Simons; Lot 4 John Rohr; Lot 5 C. Nash. Lot 5 is west side of town, west of Back Street, up against the ravine: Lot 1 Carter (?); Lot 2 J. Tradells (?); Lot 3 A. A. (?) Smiths. Block 6 is located on the SW side of town, northwest of southern main, across from part of Block 2, both sides of Waldron/Butcher Creek: Lot 1 C. Marr; Lot 2 Stone and Helwig; Lot 3 V. Weiss; Lot 4 or 5 also V. Weiss, and Lot 4 or 5 John McKinney (Bethell 1875).

1875 (3 November): Annual Report to the stockholders of the NBGM Co. with Statements of Account. San Francisco, CA (Bancroft Library). President Thomas Bell, Secretary Thomas Derby, Superintendent, Henry C. Perkins, Trustees Thomas Bell, Hamilton Smith, Jr., L. L. Robinson, Thomas Brown, and Isaac Friedlander; Hamilton Smith, Jr., General Manager. Reported that "washing through the deep Tunnel of the Bloomfield Mine was prosecuted with but few delays" "larger portion of the material washed was white surface gravel, containing

but little gold, and only comparatively small quantity of the deep blue gravel was mined. The report states that the following year the operation will reach the deep gravel and that the small increase over the pre-tunnel years is due to reaching the deeper deposits. "Two under-currents and a tail-sluice have been built at the lower end of the Tunnel, and these will be increased next year, so soon as it may be found profitable to do so

- 1875 (11 November): Samuel Bethell surveys mining location of F. Suchet (Souchet) et al. known as the Richmond Placer Mine (see plat) located east of Humbug Creek spanning dividing line between sections 31 and 32 T18N/R10E (Mining Claims 6:398).
- 1875 (22 November): The *Alta California* repeated an article from the Nevada Transcript: "As soon as the weather will permit Baron Rothschild and party will visit this country to examine the mines. Hamilton Smith, formerly Superintendent of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mine, will accompany the party, and they will look over that property first. When our local railroad is completed dozens will visit us where one does now. There are no more extensive gravel fields in the State than can be found in this country, and capitalists will ere long become desirous of examining them with a view to investment. A good many of the mines are now owned by English capitalists, and are all paying good dividends. Bring on your Barons.
- 1875 (9 December): The U.S. grants to NBGM Co. the approximately 1616 acre placer mine in the "Bloomfield Mining District" designated Lots 39, 40, 42, and 49 (Patents 1:217).
- 1876-1882 NBGM Co. uses 5,585,752 miner's inches of water, produced \$2,047,794.77 of bullion, and lost 21,512 pounds of mercury (Hammon 1917:46).
- 1876 Watkins returns to photograph Malakoff Mine as part of his "New Series" (Palmquist 1999).
- 1876 R. G. Williams (1839- ) is proprietor of hotel at Derbec shaft near North Bloomfield. Married in France to Pauline Roazer (Comstock 2013:464).
- 1876 (3 February): Married at North Bloomfield, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Reverend P. O'Kane, Camille Bremond to Sarah Findley (*Nevada Daily Transcript*).
- 1876 (Summer): "James Marriott, writing for the *North San Juan Times* in the summer of 1876, echoed general sentiment when he summed up an article on his home town with the calm observation: ""Taking all things into consideration...North Bloomfield appears...to have a good steady and prosperous future before her."" In common with other mining towns, it was a populous, hard-working community. There were

“three hotels, one clothing store, one drug and variety store, one livery stable, four saloons, one blacksmith and one wagon shop, one bakery and one brewery, one meat market and two shoe shops, also a good school, the teacher receiving \$100.” (Kelley 1959:55-56).

- 1876 (13 June): *Daily Alta* cites the *Nevada Transcript* to report upon the death of Julius Poquillon, who committed suicide a few days prior. He was “an old resident of this county and the projector of the NBGM Co.’s works, and at that time a heavy owner in it during Beaver’s (Bever) superintendency. He became dissatisfied and sold out his interest for \$28,000. He then commenced operating in quartz at Eureka South, which was during the year 1867 or 1868. He built what is known as the Liberty Mill at that place. The mining enterprise was not a success, and he lost heavily in mining in that district. Last summer he reorganized the same company and started the works up again, and that proved a failure. After that he was out of funds, lost his hearing (stamp mill damage?) and was otherwise afflicted. He left this county about 3 or 4 months ago to place himself under a physician’s care at San Francisco, with the hope of recovering from his afflictions. He was a man of superior intelligence and culture. He leaves many friends in this county, who will regret to hear of his sad fate. His age was 45 years.
- 1876 (28 June): Frank Souchet claims 1500 ft. of quartz lead commencing at post on the main South Fork of main Humbug Creek and running southerly 1500 ft. to post. Also claim 300 ft. on each side of ledge for milling and mining purposes (Mining Claims 6:602).
- 1876 (17 August): Marius Bremond of the village of Malakoff do hereby lease unto Camille G. Bremond and to Frederick T. Bremond of the same place all of that certain house and lot or hotel building and lot situated in the said village of Malakoff about ½ mile westerly from town of North Bloomfield known as Bremonds Hotel, also billiards table, bar and bar fixtures, beds and bedding, and all the household and kitchen furniture, for terms of 2 years for \$720 broken out into payments over 2 years (Leases 2:236).
- 1876 (26 October): Marius Bremond conveys to C. G. Bremond all rights and interest in certain fire insurance policy No. 406.891 with Commercial Union Insurance Co. (Deeds 51-712).
- 1876 (28 October): “The French Hotel at Malakoff was destroyed by fire” (Wells 1880:59). “A man named Harmon was burned to death, and it was supposed that he was the cause of the fire, as he was in the habit of smoking a pipe while lying in bed.” This has been cited as being the hotel de France in North Bloomfield in the ELP guide, but it clearly states it is at Malakoff, and is probably Bremond’s hotel, which was operated by French owners, and not the Pingree hotel.

- 1876 (16 December): Annual Report to the stockholders of the NBGM Co. with Statements of Account. San Francisco, CA. President Thomas Bell, Secretary M. F. Game, Superintendent, Henry C. Perkins, Trustees Thomas Bell, F. Locan, L. L. Robinson, Thomas Brown, and Isaac Friedlander; Hamilton Smith, Jr., General Manager. Reported that "Washing was commenced at the Bloomfield Mine (No. 8) on November 13th, 1875, and was prosecuted with but slight interruptions until October 18th, 1876, when the supply of water became exhausted" 13 clean ups were made during the past year from the No. 8 Mine." Bedrock was reached and the bottom of the channel washed with "gravel of excellent quality" found. Smith concludes it took longer than expected to open the property with gravel banks 320 ft. in height, but once fully opened will pay well. "The Eureka Lake & Yuba canal Co. consolidated, owned a ditch (Tisdale Ditch) taking its water from Humbug Creek and the eastern limit of the Bloomfield claims, and passing in a winding course for a distance of some 2.5 miles across the Bloomfield Company's mining property." The ditch was destroyed during hydraulic activity since it was above the gravel channel and upon protest by its owner the Company purchased it for \$20,000 (NBGM Co. 1876, BANC).
- 1876-77 (ca.) A few years prior to 1880 a fire in the woods destroyed the bridge across the canon and the buildings of the NBGM Co. (Wells 1880:59).
- 1876-77 SF Directory gives Derbec as proprietor and publisher of the Currier (Nasatir 1964).
- 1877 "The agitation resulting from the filling of the beds of the rivers with mining debris was first taken in the courts in 1877" (Hammon 1917:63).
- 1877 Derbec organized Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Company (consolidated the 60 previous claims). He sold shares to investors and interested French capital in SF. Said to develop new system to work the mines, a system of drifts that he claimed was better than the old ones and an improvement on the hydraulic systems that were in general use. After 12 years in operation, the mines were producing little or nothing and most shareholders, including Derbec, were ruined, but the mines provided employment until the end of the century (Nasatir 1964).
- 1877 (7 February): In the matter of the estate of Julius Poquillon, Deceased: Charles W. Kitts administer. Property to be sold: ½ interest in the Colorado Ditch and water right the head of which is at the first fall of Humbug Creek, about ¼ mile below North Bloomfield; Marks and Co. purchased the ½ interest for \$1000 (Deeds 53:269).
- 1877 (11 August): B. Brockmeyer, B. Sellenhoff (Hellerhoff?), P. McGuire, and R. D. Skidmore convey to J. R. Lafertee (Laferty), all of North Bloomfield, in consideration of \$1 undivided 4ths parts of mining

ground between Ultimatum (Ultimum) and Hope Tunnel Co.s claims, said claims being situated in Virgin Valley Mining District in the town of North Bloomfield bounded on the NE by the Ultimatum Mining Co, on the SW by the Hope Tunnels Co., on the NW by the summits of the Backbone Ridge and on the SE by Humbug Creek, including the bed of said creek and also land for tailing purposes (Deeds 52:581).

- 1877 (22 August): Edward Cummings of North Bloomfield conveys to the Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Co. in consideration of \$650 mining ground commencing on the northern boundary line of Ultimatum (Ultimum) or Derbec Blue Gravel claims and extending down Humbug Creek 400 ft. to the Hope Tunnel or Skidmore claims line and bed of creek, located 22 August 1876 (Deeds 52:586).
- 1877 (23 August): J. R. Lafertie (Laferty) of North Bloomfield conveys to the Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Co. in consideration of \$1 an undivided fourths share mining ground between Ultimatum (Ultimum) and Hope Tunnel Co. claims, bounded on the NE by Ultimatum Mining Co., on the SW by the Hope Tunnel Co., on the NW by the summit of Back Bone Ridge, and on the SE by Humbug Creek (Deeds 52:584).
- 1877 (22 November): Annual Report to the stockholders of the NBGM Co. with Statements of Account. San Francisco, CA. President Thomas Bell, Secretary M. F. Game, Superintendent, Henry C. Perkins, Trustees Thomas Bell, F. Locan, L. L. Robinson, Thomas Brown, and Michael Castle; Hamilton Smith, Jr., General Manager. Reported that washing occurred 29 November 1876 to 13 October 1877 when water was exhausted. 12 clean ups from the No. 8 mine (shaft). 3 new undercurrents built bringing the total to 7 and 400 ft. of tail sluices. The tailings in Humbug Canyon only accumulated to a point 60 ft. in vertical depth, below the dump of the lowest undercurrent. No. 7 cross cut to be driven under the gravel progressing, giving two openings for washing deep gravel. Profits way up from prior years with less water (NBGM Co. 1877, BANC).
- 1878 The Marysville Appeal (1878:377) publishes a directory that includes North Bloomfield Township, noting it is the headquarters of the North Bloomfield Water and Mining Company, one of the most extensive and controlling more capital than any of like character in the State.
- 1878 (21 August): Mount Blanc Consolidated Gravel Mining Company incorporates (BANC, MSS 97/138c). "Mount Blanc Mining Co. formed by A. Gauthier, a Frenchman. The works were located in the Virgin Valley District of North Bloomfield, with the principal place of business at 90 Main St., GV, both in Nevada County, CA, Early principals, Gauthier, H. Bush, and A. B. Brady worked diligently to fund the mine, which ultimately never produced substantial quantities of gold. They also withstood a patent challenge by a counter claimant, another Frenchman, named De Bour.

- 1878-1902 Shares of stock in Mount Blanc Consolidated Gravel Mining Company sold to: A. Gauthier, Henry Buahr (?), George Edwards, F. Souchet, A. B. Dibble, A. B. Brady, Alice B. Brady, Geo. Johnston, C. P. Bush, H. Bush, W. P. Dewey, Mrs. George Edwards, D. B. Marwick, Rich E. Gauthier, Mary Sirard, Salina Gauthier, Philone McCarly, frank gauthier, Eliza gauthier, and M. P. Stone (BANC, record of stock, 97/138C, folder 1A).
- 1878 (20 September): R. D. Skidmore of North Bloomfield conveys to the Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Co. in consideration of \$2,000 all his title to certain gravel mining claim known as the Hope Tunnel Mining Co. or Skidmore Claims having frontage on Humbug Creek of 600 ft., commencing at Humphries and Co. upper corner, located between the ground known as Montreal and Ultimatum (Ultimum) claims and extending from the Humbug Creek up to the center of the main Back Bone Ridge, including the bed of creek (Deeds 52:585).
- 1878 (30 September): Ludger Leriche of the village of Malakoff deeds to James Crossett of the same place for \$125 all of that certain dwelling house situated on the main street or county road running through the said village of Malakoff... bounded on the easterly side by the lot occupied by the house or cabin of Murty Friel; on the southerly side by the county road on the westerly side by McGagin's lot and on the northerly side by the back street in the said village of Malakoff and known as the Pat Doyle and Leriche House (Deeds 58-454).
- 1878 (6 November): Original 1866 articles of incorporation of NBGM Co. filed in Nevada County (Filed under AI-N31, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City, CA).
- 1878 (7 October): Mark Guillaume et al. to Marie Stanislas Petitjean and other family descendants to E. Derbec the Humphry mining claims (Deeds 54:591).
- 1879 Hamilton Smith Jr. serves as General Manager of NBGM Co. and Henry C. Perkins continues as superintendent.
- 1879 NBGM Co. tunnel is extended to expand hydraulic efforts east to between Hiller and Malakoff ravines: "the bedrock tunnel had been extended, by means of a branch, an additional 1,006 ft., requiring the excavation of a ninth shaft. The addition was necessary to drain a portion of ground that otherwise could not be effectively worked. Upon completion, the extension lengthened the tunnel to a total of 8,875 ft. The new section, which was nine feet square, was driven by means of Burleigh air drills, requiring nine months to complete (Greenland 2001:217).
- 1879 (15 August): Theophile Petitejean (Petitjean) of France, probably Marie Petitjean's nephew, is naturalized (Foley Library, Nevada City, Naturalization cabinet).

- 1879 Directories give Derbec's address as North Bloomfield. He tried to increase his mining business; experienced declining health into 1890s (Nasatir 1964).
- 1879 Oakland, California, Directory lists Leopold Wattiez (Wattier), proprietor of liquor saloon at 351 16th St. SF (Ancestry.com).
- 1879 Theodore Wetzel Jr. came to North Bloomfield and was engineer at the Derbec mine (Comstock 2013:456).
- 1879 Photographer Watkins opens gallery at 427 Montgomery Street, images with this address likely post-date 1879 (Palmquist 1999).
- 1879 (6 January): Frank Souchet locates and claims 10 acres known as the Thomas Point Claim Placer Mining Claim commencing at the junction of the north and south forks Humbug Creek, thence running northerly along easterly bank of the North Fork 750 ft., thence easterly 600 ft. to a point on South Fork, thence SW down the westerly bank of said South Fork or Humbug Creek to the beginning (Mining Claims 7:562).
- 1879 (30 January): L. Leriche conveys to James Crossett a boarding house or hotel in Derbec, another mine in the area north of Malakoff (Deed 59:309).
- 1880 R. G. Williams (1839- ) is hotel keeper living with wife, Pauline Roazer, and son, at North Bloomfield (Comstock 2013:464).
- 1880 San Francisco Directory lists Leopold Wattiez (Wattier) proprietor of liquor saloon at SF located at 504 16th, between Rondel Place and Valencia (Ancestry.com).
- 1880 (9 January): Annual Report to the stockholders of the NBGM Co. with Statements of Account for Year Ending December 31, 1879. San Francisco, CA. President Thomas Bell, Secretary Henry Pichoir, Treasurer, Bank of California, Superintendent, Henry C. Perkins, Trustees Thomas Bell, F. Locan, L. L. Robinson, Thomas Brown, and Michael Castle; Hamilton Smith, Jr., General Manager. Reported that the autumn of 1878 being very dry, there was no water for mining at Bloomfield until the latter end of January. From that time washing was continued with but slight interruptions until 1 October 1879, when the general clean-up was made, which took 11 days, and then washing resumed to end of year. No 9 flume (shaft and tunnel) was connected to main flume at (Shaft and tunnel) No. 7 (between Hiller Tunnel outlet and modern N.B. Road), and an 8th undercurrent added (on Humbug Creek below N.B. Tunnel outlet). Electric light of 12,000 candle intensity added for night work, replacing pitch fires. Report of gross yield provided since company started: 1867-1870 = \$121,373; 1870-1874 = \$96,700; 1875 = \$83,078; 1876 = \$200,366; 1877 = \$291,125; 1878 = \$311,276; 1879 = \$331,759 (MDGM Co., BANC)

- 1880 Population of N.B. is about 1200, including that of Malakoff Settlement, which is practically a part of Bloomfield (Wells 1880:59).
- 1880 NBGM Co. at height of production, “working over 100 men and using nearly 4,000 miner’s inches of water (45,000 gallons per minute; 64,800,000 gallons per 24 hours). The Malakoff was capable of mining away about 50,000 tons of gravel per day. Excavations from 500 to 600 ft. in width extended for 5,000 ft. reaching a depth of 500 ft.” (Greenland 2001:217).
- 1880 NBGM Co. produces the largest gold bar ever shipped from Nevada County, a massive 510 pounds (Janicot 1989:16).
- 1880 (Summer): US Population census lists John Dusom, born in France, 60, laborer and his wife Mary, 48, also French born, residing in Nevada City.
- 1880 (March): US Federal Census mortality schedule lists Leopold Wattiez (Wattier), a married man originally born in France, circa 1815, had died of heart disease at San Francisco, at the age of 65.
- 1880 (20 April): Frank Souchet claims Rich Mount quartz ledge (extension of Bunker Hill ledge) in North Bloomfield Mining District commencing at post in main South Fork of main Humbug Creek, thence running northerly along ledge 1500 ft. Also 300 ft. on each side (Mining Claims 8:281).
- 1880 (22 May): George Edwards locates placer and gravel mining claims commencing at the SW corner of the Mount Blanc GM claim thence due west to the middle of Humbug Creek, thence northerly along the line of said creek to a point in the creek directly west of the small bridge which is due west of J. F. De Bour’s house, thence due east to said bridge, thence to the beginning, 15 acres - Book 8 page 302 (BANC, Notice on file, MSS 97/138C).
- 1881 (circa July): NBGM Co. announces a new policy of hiring only white workers (Greenland 2001:210). Prior to this the company employed a large number of Chinese workers.
- 1881 The legal battle between valley interests against dumping of hydraulic debris into streams resulted in a temporary injunction from the State Superior Court in 1881, which caused a suspension of mining for 4 months. “The valley interests lost out in the Supreme Court on a technicality and in June 1881 instituted an action in the US Circuit court which was a battle of the giants” (Hammon 1917:63).
- 1882 In cleaning the bedrock, it was found necessary to do considerable hand work. As the work progressed it was necessary to handle a lava capping of rhyolitic tuffs and andesite breccia which overlaid the gravel on the north side. This lava after it had been caved in the pit, had to be

broken up into sizes which would go through the flume. The amount of this class of work increased until in 1882 it is said that from 250 to 300 men were employed at the mine” (Hammon 1917:43).

- 1882 (28 January): Frank Souchet locates and claims 350 ft. below a certain mill known as the Bunker Hill quartz mill and 250 ft. above the mill, “commencing at the mill situated on the ravine of main south fork of main Humbug Creek and 250 ft. below the Bunker Hill Mine and running 750 ft. on each side of the mill on the north and southerly direction for the milling and mining purpose, dwelling house, and timber land include the ravine for the tailress [sic] as far as what is covered by that location” (Mining Claims 9:165).
- 1882 (14 February): Letter from Hector Quivastre in France to Jean Montes in Grass Valley mentions Marie Petitjean and others, all acquaintances in Nevada County; Quivastre also sold shares in a North Bloomfield mining venture to Jules Poquillon (Janicot 1989:35).
- 1882 (27 March): Mrs. LeDu records patent of the Placer Claim of Jean LeDu
- 1882 (6 September): Frank Souchet and George Edwards locate and claim 30 acres of gravel mining ground commencing at a post on the South boundary of the Derbec Mine in Section 31 running upstream at the corner no. 4 of the Mount Blanc claim (Mining Claims 9:316).
- 1882 (27 October): NBGM Co. and Francis Blain (Blair) enter into agreement whereby Blain leases property owned by Company, with Company paying property tax and Blain paying taxes on improvements, and Blain commits to not enlarging improvements, and that the Co. may enlarge the Blair Reservoir under certain conditions (Leases 2:500).
- 1882 (12 November): David Pierre, a 40-year-old native of Bordeaux, France, died as the result of a mine accident. He had long been employed by “Bloomfield Company” was working when a log rolled over and broke his leg, which was amputated. Buried at North Bloomfield (Patterson 1989:51).
- 1882 (18 December): A. M. Dobbie, C. Northup, H or W. Davis, (T. P. Crandall) F. P. Crandall, G. Ostrum, E. Cummins, D. Pridgeon, and Frank Souchet locate and claim 150 acres of mining ground called Gravelotte (?) mine, commencing at point on Vincent Hill running to center of hill on the south boundary line of the Mount Blanc claim west boundary line of the Bonanza Claim 7,000 ft. by 1,200 ft. between Humbug Creek and Gravelotte Ravine claim, including the ravine and 50 ft. each side 1,200 ft. running down to the main South Fork for purpose of tailing flume (Mining Claims 9:354).

- 1883 (7 March): "Verge, Eugene B., died on 3/7/1883 when 52 years old, born on 4/1/1831 at Toulouse, France, burial at North Bloomfield" (Patterson 1989:55).
- 1883 (4 September): Jean LeDu conveys to Benjamin Brockmeier for \$25 all of the placer mining claim of Jean LeDu and of Lot No. 45, Section 6, T17N/R10E, commencing at a point on the westerly line of claim and about 1 chain and 80 links distant from the NW corner of Lot 45, thence north 35degrees to NW corner of lot, being the same land now used by Brockmeier for the purpose of a reservoir, containing 0.11 an acre (Deeds 63:611).
- 1883 (24 September): Jean LeDu conveys 5 year lease to John Rohr property commencing at a point on the Easterly line of the Placer Mining Claim of Jean LeDu, being Lot No. 45, in Section 6, T17N/ R10E, about 50 ft. in a southerly direction from the house occupied by John Rohr and a few ft. northerly of a shed that stands on said easterly line, thence a series of angles and chains, containing 0.15 acre of land being a portion of the premises now occupied by Charles Haskell, for the period of one year with option to extend up to 5 years for \$5 annually and stipulating 6 month notice if intent to sell or mine (Lease 2:516).
- 1883 (24 September): Jean LeDu conveys 1-year lease to Charles Haskell property commencing at a point on the Easterly line of the Placer Mining Claim of Jean LeDu, being Lot No. 45, in Section 6, T17N/ R10E, about 50 ft. in a southerly direction from the house occupied by John Rohr and a few ft. northerly of a shed that stands on said easterly line, thence a series of angles and chains, containing 0.15 acre of land being a portion of the premises now occupied by Charles Haskell, for the period of one year with option to extend up to 5 years for \$5 annually and stipulating 6 month notice if intent to sell or mine (Lease 2:517).
- 1883 (3 October): Mrs. Hattie Blaine, wife of William Blain (Blair?), records a homestead declaration jointly with husband for property with a dwelling in North Bloomfield bounded on the east and south by land of Mrs. R. C. Black, on the west by land of James Marriott, and on the north by Main Street, with 85 ft. frontage and extending south 100 ft. to a fence (Homesteads 4:644).
- 1867-1883 NBGM Co. yields over \$2.8 million, netting over \$1.3 million (Hammon 1917:47). See table below.

**Table 2. North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co. Profit 1867-1883**

<b>Year</b>	<b>24 inches used</b>	<b>Gross Yield (\$)</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Profit (\$)</b>
1867-70	unknown	121,373	unknown	unknown
1870-74	710,987	96,700	unknown	unknown
1875	465,832	83,079	61,006	22,072
1876	786,200	200,367	101,890	98,476
1877	597,000	291,125	129,031	162,094
1878	796,449	311,277	138,001	173,276
1879	919,008	331,760	142,810	188,949
1880	945,550	287,924	unknown	unknown
1881*	744,600	236,935	125,729	111,206
1882	988,250	386,146	153,714	232,432
1883**	806,399	483,188	169,139	314,049
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,760,275</b>	<b>\$2,829,874</b>	<b>\$1,021,320</b>	<b>\$1,302,554</b>
*suspended 4 months by injunction.				
**to 1 Feb 1884 when closed by injunction.				

- 1884 Derbec Gravel Mine Shaft down 466 ft. deep with 2 main drifts and 9 lateral drifts. Rich deposits on the bedrock scraped clean, hauled to the shaft, hoisted up and washed. besides mine buildings there is a boarding house and several dwellings. Venture not paying and directors conclude it's due to high-grading; company promotes Silvia Galivotti, 36-year-old French national (short, heavy set, and dark complexion) to superintendent. Galivotti arrives from SF with wife, Lucy Breese-Galivotti. In a short time the mine was on a paying basis, with bullion shipped to Nevada City over Edwards Grade (crossing) in guarded rig. Galivotti serves for 7 years, 1884-1891 (NCHS bulletin 1952 6(3):1).
- 1884 "After the injunction issued, the North Bloomfield Co. reorganized their work and used the lower (west) end of its pit for a storage basin for tailings. A brush dam, 65 ft. high, was built across the pit, separating the tailings storage reservoir from the pit in which the hydraulicing was carried on. The piping was carried on in benches so that as much of the gravel as possible could be conveyed to the storage basin by gravity in a flume beginning at the crest of the dam and extending upstream to where the upper giants were working. The gravel on the lower bench was washed down into a flume in a bedrock cut and at a point near the dam was elevated by means of an "hydraulic elevator" and deposited behind the dam. A photograph on page 49 shows an hydraulic elevator in operation. The gravel is conveyed by water in a sump. Leading up from this sump is a pipe through which the gravel is to be elevated. At the lower end of this pipe is a special casting having a restricted throat. A stream of water under great pressure plays through this throat. This device being located below the level of the water and gravel, a suction is produced which draws the material into the throat whence it is carried upward by the energy of the moving water. The material deposited below the dam was dropped by the water and a pool of water collected at the lower end of the storage basin where it was allowed to overflow into the shaft leading to the tunnel. The water leaving through the tunnel carried no heavy matter in suspension but was colored by fine mud and slickens. The gold saving riffles were in the flumes conducting the material to the brush dam" (Hammon 1917:2).
- 1884 Production estimates for between 1866 and 1884 for the NBGM Co. is some \$3.5 million gross (Janicot 1989:16). According to Clark (1979:101) "The total output of the Malakoff mine is about \$3.5 million, and the Derbec mine has probably yielded \$1 million to \$2 million according to Lindgren (1911). He estimated that 30 million yards had been removed and 130 million remained at North Bloomfield: Jarman (1927) estimated that 40 million yards had been removed and more than 50 million remained."

- 1884-87 Large scale hydraulic mining comes to an end. “It is estimated that over \$15,000,000 has already been taken from this particular area” (Hammon 1917:2).
- 1884-1893 ca. In the case of the North Bloomfield Company, it can be said, on good authority, that while the method described in this report and in the court, was in accord with the injunction, not all of the material was mined in this way, in fact, at night time and even occasionally in the daytime, a large volume of water would be run and the tailings would be dumped straight into the river through the tunnel as they were previous to the injunction. In this practice they were reasonable secure from detection as everybody in the mountains was opposed to the suppression of the mines and if representatives of the valley interests or Courts came up into the mountains on inspection trips, the miners were promptly notified by their friends lower down the ridge and the mines would be running according to the Court decree when the inspectors arrived (Hammon 1917:64).
- 1884 (7 January): Court settles against NBGM Co., which appeals to Supreme Court but not taken up (Hammon 1917:63).
- 1884 (13 December): Andrew Trottier, 30-year-old native of Canada, employed at Derbec Mine, died after blast went off while checking the charge, was engaged to marry Lizzie McLaren of Nevada City (Patterson 1989:55).
- 1885 (23 February): The Peninsula Mining Company consisting of E. Cummins, M. (Micheal) Cummins, F. Souchet, T. Mahony, A. M. Dobbie, C. B. Northup, J. S. Ostrum, and Jerry Mahony locate and claim 160 acres placer ground commencing at corner no. 2 on the north side of New Blanc Mining Cos line and running north 1800 ft. to north corner of the Derbec Line, thence east 6,000 ft. to Section 28 and 33, thence running south 1,800 ft., thence west to beginning (Mining Claims 10:16).
- 1885 (25 September): *San Francisco Chronicle* reports “The North Bloomfield Mining Company is working its mine at Malakoff by means of an elevator, which permits of hydraulicking without violating the Sawyer injunction. The debris is forced through pipes by hydraulic pressure and deposited in the worked-out portions of the claim” (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* (1865-1922)).
- 1885 (25 September) “Examiner Houghton, of the United States Courts leaves for North Bloomfield Mine today to investigate the contempt the mining owners are alleged to have been guilty of after working the mine after Judge Sawyer has issued an order for an injunction (*Daily Alta California*).

- 1885 (26 December): Daniel Sullivan and J. Durbin receive \$100 from Souchet and Edwards for work on Humbug Canon (BANC, MSS 97/138c).
- 1886 (2 January): R. D. Skidmore, J. C. Marriott, D. W. Blair (Blain), D. Powers, William Cameron, J. C. Edwards, O. (Owen) Penrose, William Kallenberger, E. (Edwards) Penrose, James Guinn, Thomas Spargo, and John S. Black locate and claim placer ground in Virgin Valley Mining District known as Last Chance, commencing at Post 13 of NBGM on east side of Humbug Creek, containing about 126 acres bounded on the NW by LeDu and NBGM, and on the SE by Cook and Porter placer mine (Mining Claims 10:350). Appears to include large block of land south of North Bloomfield and not to be confused with other prior Last Chance claim, next to Ultimium, and consolidated into Derbec.
- 1886 (4 January): A. M. Dobbie, F. Souchet, M. Cummins, Thomas Mahoney, C. B. Northup, E. Cummins, Jerry Mahony, and J. D. Ostrum relocate 105 acres of the Peninsula Placer Mine situated in Virgin Valley Mining District bounded on north by Derbec Mine and De Noon Placer Mine, on the east by De Noon Placer and vacant land, on South by the Mount Blanc Placer Mine, in Section 29 and 32, T18N/R10E (Mining Claims 10:307).
- 1886 (6 February): A. M. Dobbie, C. B. Northup, E. Cummings, Walter Foss, M. Cummings, F. M. Pridgeon, H. G. Mobley, and Frank Souchet reaffirm their Gravelotte Placer Mine and correct conflicts with Bull Run Copper Mine, Bunker Hill Quartz Mine, and Richmond Quartz Mine (Mining Claims 10:360). "Cumming, Michael, died on 2/3/1905 when 57 years old as the result of a premature blast while at work at NBGM Co., where he had been employed for over 30 years. Arrived from Ireland about 40 years ago (ca. 1865) via Isthmus of Panama, married Miss Jane Madden of French Corral in 1890, leaves 2 sons. Brothers Edward and James predeceased him at North Bloomfield, both had earlier worked at Malakoff, where James was injured, Edward later had Cummings Hall and Saloon at North Bloomfield. Leaves one sister, Mrs. Pat Carey of GV, burial at Nevada City Catholic Cemetery" (Patterson 1989:38).
- 1886 (20 May): Hattie Blain (Blair) conveys to Francis Blair for \$500 her lot in North Bloomfield bounded on the north by the line of the Main Street, on the west by the lands of James Marriott, on the south and east by lands of Mrs. R. C. Black, fronting street 85 ft. and running 100 ft. to back fence, along with dwelling and other buildings, improvements, and household and kitchen furniture (Deeds 67:483).
- 1886 (8 June): A. Gauthier, Pres of the Mount Blanc Mining Co. and J. J. Rogers, clerk, write to President of Derbec Gravel Mining Co.

- requesting permission to survey their underground workings at their own expense (Letter on file, BANC MSS 97/138c).
- 1886 (6 July): Francis Blain (Blair) conveys to James Quinn for \$500 that dwelling parcel on south side of Main Street in North Bloomfield that he purchased from Hattie Blain on 20 May 1886 (see above) (Deeds 67:483).
- 1888 (January - December.): Frank Souchet records affidavit of labor for the year valued at more than \$100 in order to hold claim commencing at the junction of South Fork of Humbug Creek running up 3000 ft. up to the last fall of the main Humbug Creek 150 ft. below the blacksmith shop of the Mount Blanc Tunnel, as well as \$300 of labor on claims situated in Section 32 and outside the section line outside the SW line of section 32 lying and being in North Bloomfield district (Mining Claims 11:187, 188).
- 1888 (22 February) “Master in Chancery Houghton has filed the final decree of the court in the famous North Bloomfield hydraulic mining cases... the North Bloomfield Mining Company (and many others)... are perpetually enjoined from dumping mining debris in the Yuba River or any of its branches, particularly Humbug Creek, Deer Creek, Sucker Flat Creek and Scotsman Creek. They are also forbidden to let others use their water for hydraulic mining and are ordered to pay \$3107 78 costs...” (*Daily Alta California*)
- 1888 (March): George Edwards and Frank Souchet perform work at Mount Blanc mine: ground sluicing, ditch construction, and sluicing for drainage (BANC, MSS 97/138c).
- 1888 (7 December): A. Gauthier, Pres. of Mount Blanc Con. G.M.C., A. B. Brady, Sec., and F. Souchet, enter into an agreement whereby Souchet of North Bloomfield will clean up a certain cut in said co.s claims, commencing at a point above the blacksmith shop and running up to what is called the Mexican Cut, clean out the flume in said cut and to drive said cut or tunnel into what is known as Blue Gravel and upon satisfaction of Co. receive \$100 (BANC, MSS 97/138c).
- 1889 (7 January): Frank Souchet writes to B. Brady claiming to have worked every day since Brady’s visit and that he has “the blue gravel in sight” and “the flume is cleared off all the way long and the gravel is cut 25 ft. above the head of the flume on the easterly direction” (BANC MSS 97/138c).
- 1889 E. Derbec publishes *New Hydraulic Power*. Bancroft Company, San Francisco, California. The brief publication lays out a vision of hydraulic power for the West Coast and for use in mining precious metals. Derbec lists SF as his home.

- 1889 (8 February): David Stokes dies February 8; Helwig and Killican execute his last will and testament October 4, leaving Henry Young the cabin formerly occupied by Jestalor? As a dwelling at Malakoff; and to Frank Bell his 1/5 interest in royalties derived from sale of hydraulic deflectors to Richard Hasklia and H. C. Perkins dated 3 January 1879 (Deeds 75:260). "The day that Dave Stokes, the foreman in the pit cleaning his shovel by lacing the blade against the jet of water and noticed that the "giant" by this slight deflection moved on its gooseneck was the starter for Superintendent Henry Perkins patent of the deflector. By the slightest movement of this deflector the jet of water was moved sidewise or up and down. It paved the way for the huge monitors to come" (Kallenberger 1970:9). "Died on 2/8/1889 when 39 years old, a native of Switzerland, a member of Masons Lodge, employee of NBGM Co., while in their employ he invented and patented the steerable [sic, steerable] monitor, burial at North Bloomfield" (Patterson 1989:54).
- 1889 (19 March): Frank Souchet performs work for the entire year 1889 on his claim commencing at the junction of South Fork of Humbug Creek running up 3000 ft. up to the last fall of the main Humbug Creek 150 ft. below the blacksmith shop of the Mount Blanc Tunnel (Mining Claims 11:275).
- 1889 (25 July): *San Francisco Chronicle* carries heading Mines and Mining reporting that the Derbec drift mine has 135 men on payroll and about 125 working steadily, "as big a force as has ever been employed" (ProQuest Historical Newspapers, *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1891 (18 September): *San Francisco Chronicle* reports on the highway homicide and attempted robbery of Derbec gravel mine's semi-monthly clean-up amounting to \$4,000. The mine superintendent, Galavotte, who served at the mine for last seven years (since circa 1884), was killed instantly, and the buggy driver, J. D. Ostrom escaped with the buggy and body and notified the police (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1891 (16 October): Artemise Souchet, administrator of the real estate of F. Souchet, deceased, receives receipt for mining work done on the Mount Blanc Consolidated Mining Co.'s ground (BANC, MSS 97/138c).
- 1891-92 Frank J. Dusom (1821-16 June 1892) is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Nevada City. So is his wife Mary (1831-23 February 1891).
- 1892 (5 October): Courts side with NBGM Co. in a case in which valley interests challenged NBGM Co. over their use of hydraulic elevators and retention basins in use since the 1884 injunction; water laden with slickens and fines continued to flow into streams as the process only

retained only heavy components such as cobbles. California Debris Commission instituted action that stopped the practice (Hammon 1917:50).

- 1893 Caminetti Act becomes law, creating the California Debris Commission to regulate the mining industry and control movement of tailings into navigable rivers. NBGM Co. refused to apply for a permit arguing that they already complied with courts (Hammon 1917:65).
- 1893 (26 January): Letter to J. G. Mather, Supt. of mine, from Sect. Pichoir regarding debris discharges into tunnel in violation of Sawyer Injunction and threatening to hold him liable for any financial consequences.
- 1893 (6 February): Mather receives letter from Company Sect. Pichoir accepting his resignation; he is replaced temporarily by R. Thomas.
- 1894-1900 North Bloomfield mine operated intermittently (MacBoyle 1919:100).
- 1894-1902 (ca) “Later on, the Company (NBGM Co.) started drifting on bedrock from the face of the bank. This work was carried on for about 10 years and paid more than the expenses of timbering and drifting and was finally stopped because the main tunnel which was used for drainage purposes caved in (Hammon 1917:50).
- 1894 (1 February): North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company closed down (MacBoyle 1919:100).
- 1894 (2 August): *San Francisco Chronicle* reports “The men employed at the Derbec drift gravel mine, near North Bloomfield, this county [Nevada], quit work last night because the management attempted to reduce wages from \$2.50 to \$2 a day. The wages in the county for gravel miners have long been \$2.50 and for quartz miners \$3, and although the repeated efforts have been made by some of the operators to reduce them they have in every instance been unsuccessful despite the fact that the miners have no union” (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1894 (29 June): First letter in archives to L. L. Myers, mine supt. residing at the company-owned dwelling in Malakoff from Company Sect. Pichoir (DPR Archives, McClellan).
- 1895 L. L. Meyers listed as Supt. for NBGM Co. in Poingdestre’s Nevada County Mining and Business directory.
- 1895 (15 June): Newspaper reports that North Bloomfield is quiet with the closing of the Derbec Mine, noting the company is attempting to obtain the De Noon ground that would result in a thriving town for years to come. The same paper reports that “The appraisers of the property of the late Chas. Marre, have been looking for the buried treasure, but as yet have not succeeded in finding anything. Probably his money will never be found (Historical Clipping, HC 34:717, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City).

- 1895 (27 June): *San Francisco Chronicle* carries headline Mines and Mining reporting that the Derbec drift mine closed its works a few days prior, the men were paid and discharged, the ground owned by the company having been worked out. ‘This mine adjoins the noted claim of the North Bloomfield Company on the north and only 2 miles distant from the hydraulic works of the latter. The Derbec Mine has been worked from first by drifting and the company have steadily employed from 30 to 50 men during about 15 years” (ProQuest Historical Newspapers, *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1895 (23 July): A. Chavanne, Mining Engineer of Grass Valley, files patent for a hydraulic nozzle regulator (Prisk 1895:142).
- 1895 (25 September): Letter to L. L. Myers, Supt. between at least 1895-1901 from Sect. Pichoir (listed as mine sectary in 1880 census in SF as well) regarding insurance on improvements at Malakoff, and requesting a map of the arrangement of holdings (DPR Archives, McClellan). Mentioned are office and contents, warehouse and contents, and dwelling and contents, and barn, hay, barley, horses, buggy, and wagons.
- 1896 (4 November): Francis Blain (Blair) conveys to J. K. Davidson, both of North Bloomfield, for \$2,000, all that land situated northeasterly from the townsite of North Bloomfield, subject to the terms made between Blain and NBGM Co. between October 1882 and January 1883, not described herein but see Leases 2:500 above 27 October 1882 (Deeds 89:482).
- 1896 Derbec Blue Gravel Mining Company is idle (California State Mineralogist Report, XIII (1896:241).
- 1897 (21 January): Moses Bates conveys to Francis Blain (Blair), both of Nevada City, a dwelling in Nevada City (Deeds 89:60). F. Blain evidently relocated from North Bloomfield to Nevada City by this time. He conducts other business in Nevada City in August and September 1897 (Deed 89:422, 462) and passes away there in 1901 still owning two lots (Deeds 96:199).
- 1897 (1 April): E. Derbec dies at the French Hospital. Daniel Levy writes a letter that same day to the editor of a French Weekly, *L’Impartial Californien*, and a column in the April 10 edition entirely on Derbec, noting he had spent nearly all “of the last decade of his life in in a hospital, poor and virtually forgotten” (Nasatir 1964:65).
- 1898 (26 February): *San Francisco Chronicle* reports “the *Grass Valley Union* is advocating the consolidation of all the claims on the Bloomfield channel and working its auriferous gravel through one big tunnel. It says: A big tunnel could be run to tap the channel where the Derbec Company suspended operations. It would only be about 400

ft. long, and pay gravel would be encountered right away. This is the lowest point on the bedrock and it could be followed right up the ridge, working all the claims and employing hundreds of men. It would last a hundred years, and millions would be taken out. It is to be hoped that the owners will arrive at some conclusion for working the mines, as it is only a delay which should have been overcome long ago. Hamilton Smith has stated that, estimating from what has been taken out of this channel, \$180,000,000 still remain. The channel extends from Graniteville to French Corral” (ProQuest Historical Newspapers, *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).

- 1898 (2 May): NBGM Co. failure to acquire the proper permit from the California Debris Commission is tried and final decision on appeal delivered this day against NBGM Co., which shuts down (Hammon 1917:65).
- 1899 (15 November): The will of John W. Downing is recorded in which the 6th section provides for his niece Johanna Josphine Downing his “gravel claim and lands, water, ditch, and water rights situated and being in the Township of Bloomfield... particularly described as follows, that certain gravel mining claim formerly owned by Jean La Du (LeDu) and being a portion of Section 6 T17N/R10E and designated according to the official survey as Lot 45, containing 37 17/100 acres” and patented to Jean La Du (Patents 1:113), and water ditch known as the Pann Ravine Ditch (Parr) that takes water from Pann Ravine and Humbug about 600 ft. from the saw mill called Pridgeons Saw mill to the mine claims described, also claims commencing at mining claim called Creegan claims and extending up the line and banks of said mentioned Humbug Creek 1500 ft. more or less to the mining claim above described in Sheriff’s Deeds 1:258 (Wills 3:446).
- 1902 (ca) Drift mining on bedrock from the face of the bank at Malakoff stopped because the main drainage tunnel caved in (Hammon 1917:50).
- 1902 “The Malakoff mine, forming a small portion of the North Bloomfield holding, has been sold for \$106,000, and the reorganization now in hand of the various water and ditch companies controlled by your company (Empire Mines) give promise of greatly increased value and income” (Empire Mines and Investment Company, Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 1902, on-file Empire Mine State Historic Park Archives, McClellan).
- 1902 (27 April): The *San Francisco Chronicle* carries headline A Big Deal in Nevada County, Syndicate Secures Control of North Bloomfield Mining Company, reporting that “a syndicate headed by W. B. Bourn purchased a controlling interest in the North Bloomfield Mining Co. for a stated amount of \$300,000. Bourn is president of SF Gas and Electric. Properties include the “the famous Malakoff and

North Bloomfield hydraulic mines at North Bloomfield, which have yielded over \$6,000,000; the Kate Hayes hydraulic mines at French Corral, the Sweetland, production \$3,000,000; the Badger Hill mine, production over \$1,000,000, and the Union hydraulic, besides other claims. Besides this, there are about 100 miles of water ditches and canals. The famous Bowman Dam built at a cost of \$1,000,000, has capacity of storing 450,000 inches... The North Bloomfield mine has a record of producing the largest gold brick ever turned out by any mine in the world in a single run. The brick was exhibited and valued at \$114,000. The Bloomfield mine has 11,000 feet of tunnels, which cost \$1,000,000. It is estimated that if the mine could be worked by the hydraulic process there yet remains \$35,000,000 in the ground untouched. The company spent over \$3,000,000 putting the mines on a paying basis, since which time it has received in return \$6,000,000. Bourn's syndicate is also negotiating for the property of the Eureka Lakes Company, which own French lake, 50 miles of ditches, canals, and valuable hydraulic ground at Columbia Hill, Lake City, and San Juan" (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).

- 1903 (8 August): The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports on Nevada County's riches in classic boomer format, including among other items, "The auriferous gravel channels are very extensive in the county, the noted Malakoff mine having the record of being the largest hydraulic mine in the world. A single brick produced from this mine was worth \$114,000--the result of one month's run. Many productive drift and placer mines are in operation, and there still remain many miles of these ancient river channels awaiting exploration and development" (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1903 (10 October): The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports "the work of reopening the Malakoff gravel mine at North Bloomfield by the drifting process is now fairly underway. The tunnel run some years ago is to be extended and put in first class shape" (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1904 (22 April): Jean LeDu and Anna F. LeDu of North Bloomfield convey to George Starr of GV for \$1 and "other things moving from" Starr and agreement to sell Starr within 2 year for \$4,000 the placer claims of Jean LeDu, portion of Section 6 T17N/R10E, Lot 45, containing 37.72 acres, recorded in Book 1:713, and the water ditch bringing water to the claims known as the Penn (Parr, Pan) Ravine Ditch commencing near Pridgeon's Sawmill, also claims commencing at the claim called Creegan Claims extending up Humbug Creek 1500 ft., and excepting all of the surface of said property situated on the south side of the North Bloomfield/Nevada City road, including all improvements on same, and the mineral rights down 60 ft. (Deeds 102:4).

- 1904 (8 June): F. Le Du (LeDu) and S. McKinney locate placer claim commencing at stake no. 1 in Humbug Canon, thence running easterly 2000 ft. to stake 2 at Creagons (Creegan) dam joining the J. Le Du claims, thence across canyon to stake 3 joining Nortens claim thence running along said claim in a westerly direction to stake 4, thence across canyon to beginning, bounded on north by Malakoff Co.'s (NBGM Co.) claim on the east by J. Le Du claim on the south by Martens claim on the west by vacant property (Mine Claims 20:194).
- 1905 Mrs. E. Verge assessed tax for lot in North Bloomfield bounded W by R. D. Skidmore's saloon, E by premises of R. Penrose, North by lot of Landsburg, and South by mill site (State Tax Deeds 10:31).
- 1905 (5 February): *San Francisco Chronicle* carries headline Miner Killed by a Premature Blast reporting that Michael Cummins was killed by a blast on February 4 at the Malakoff Mine when he, Eugene Trudell and H. P. Larsen lit a defective fuse that exploded before he could get away. Only two nights prior that two miners were injured in the same way. Cummins had worked in the mine for 40 years and two of his brothers were also killed there (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1907 (7 March): French Investor Louis Duterte has arrived from Golconda, Nev. and has gone to the upper country to investigate some mining property in which he is thinking of investing. He was a large owner in the Derbec gravel claim above North Bloomfield and this is his first visit in seventeen years. (Sacramento Union, No 14)
- 1908 For tax year 1907, unpaid tax against La Du (LeDu) and McKinney, D. M. McKinney, agt.) on Placer mining claims known as the La Du and McKinney Placer Mining Claim in Humbug Canon, Bloomfield Mining District, recorded in Book 20, Page 194 of mining claims (Certificate Tax Sales 12:195).
- 1911 (11 August): Nevada County conveys to State of California for failure of Mrs. E. Verge to pay levied tax a lot in North Bloomfield bounded W by R. D. Skidmore's saloon, E by premises of R. Penrose, North by lot of Landsburg, and South by mill site (State Tax Deeds 10:31).
- 1912 (2 May): Newspaper reports of the death of Jean Le Du (LeDu) of North Bloomfield, native of France, who took his own life at age 89. "Tire of life, sick and despondent, aged Jean Le Du of North Bloomfield took a terrible way of leaving this world, Monday afternoon at that place. He went to his cabin on the hill opposite the schoolhouse, placed a stick of giant powder in his mouth, lighted the fuse and holding the deadly charge firmly in place with one hand calmly awaited the end." His son Frank and a grandchild discovered the body. His wife had died about two years prior. For some time he had been complaining about his health. Born in France he came to the

United States in his youth. At 80 and at 89 he made the trek to North Bloomfield from Nevada City on foot (Historical Clippings, 34:717, Searls Library, Nevada City).

- 1917 Hammon Engineering produces the Malakoff Report (Hammon 1917) which proposes a massive venture whereby all known productive gravel on the ridge is mined with a combination of hydraulic and dredges with debris stored in a 5000 acre reservoir constructed on Shady Creek.
- 1919 (29 April): Francis LeDu conveys to River Mines Company for \$10 the LeDu Placer Mine, portion of T17N/R10E, Section 6, being Mineral Lot No. 45, containing 37.72 acres, also water ditch and right known as the Penn Ravine Ditch taking water from Penn (Pan) Ravine and Humbug Creek from a point about 600 ft. easterly from the mill called Pridgeons Saw Mill by way of Humbug Creek to the mining claims also right known as Brewery Ravine water right connected to claim (Deeds 130;25).
- 1921 (18 September): *San Francisco Chronicle* carries story headlined Famous Old Mine to be reopened on San Juan Ridge reporting that Abe Hall and associates announced the old Malakoff Mine would be reopened. Noted one of the famous hydraulic mines, which yielded many millions during the days of that industry but closed for more than 30 years (circa 1891). "It is now proposed to work the gravel by other methods, and several months will be devoted to sinking and drifting along the old river channel. A group of local mining engineers and mine officials are connected with the enterprise" (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922).
- 1927 (8 March): C. H. Munro, mining engineer, San Francisco, pens letter to S. P. Eastman, Vice President of Empire Mines and Investment Company, that is included in the Company's annual report for year ending 1926 regarding possibilities of the San Juan Placers. Munro offers an optimistic assessment of the placer properties of the River Mines and the Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Company, Consolidated, which amounts to 5,490 acres, of which 4,248 acres take in the main gravel deposit between North Bloomfield and Badger Hill. Analysis of the records of 16,000 ft. of Malakoff Pit workings show average recovery of 10 cents per cubic yard for a total of 133,000,000 cubic yards, and an estimated gross recovery of \$42,000,000, with potential of providing a massive water reservoir after recovery is completed (EM&I Co. 1927, on-file, DPR archives, McClellan, California).
- 1984 (31 July): Charles F. Schwartz died. He was the last private owner of the Malakoff Mine. "Born on 9/13/1920, was president of San Juan Gold, owners of the Malakoff Pit at the time the state bought it to become a part of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, burial at NORTH BLOOMFIELD (Patterson 1989:53).

**APPENDIX C**

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***French Exhibit Elements***

1. Photograph. Carlton Watkins. Circa 1871 black and white overview of the Village of Malakoff. On-file, DPR photograph archives, McClellan.
2. Image of Eugene Verge, the first engineer of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company, 1866-1871. Black and White. Reproduced courtesy of Bob Paine in *The French Connection or The French in Nevada County, California* (Janicot 1991). Published by Michel Janicot, Grass Valley, California.
3. Photo. Carlton Watkins. Black and White overview of Pralus Diggings in foreground and NBGM Co. circa 1871 hydraulic workings in background, Malakoff Ravine in image. On file DPR archives, McClellan. Original Watkins photo no. 515 at California State Library, negative no. 5435.
4. Photo [Pic 4 Blo 7]. Black and White. Wells Fargo Office, North Bloomfield, with stagecoach and people. On file, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
5. Photo [Pic 4 Blo 10]. Black and White. Delivery wagon in front of building, North Bloomfield. On file, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
6. Photo [Pic 4 Blo 12]. Black and White. Mayoux and Petitjean's Empire Store, later McKillican and Mobley Store. On file, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
7. Photo [Pic 5 Min C16]. Black and White. Malakoff Mine with Crew. On file, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
8. Photo [Pic 5 Min C133]. Black and White. Malakoff Mine with Crew. On file, Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
9. Photo. Black and White. Humbug circa 1865, viewing northerly across Mill Street/Relief Hill Road. On file DPR archives, McClellan.
10. Photo. Carlton Watkins. Black and White 1871 overview of Superintendent's house at the Village of Malakoff.
11. Drawing. Black and White. Hydraulic Mining at French Corral. In *How we Get Gold in California*. 1860. Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Volume 20. Harper and Brothers, New York.
12. Drawings. Black and White. Two similar early images of hydraulic process appear in two publications by M. Louis Simonin: A wood engraving "Wahing by Hydraulic Method" after a drawing by Gustave Chassevent, published in Simonin's 1859 "Voyage en Californie" that appeared in *Le Tour Du Monde, Nouvea Journal des Voyages* (Vol. 5), 1862:37. Hachette, Paris, France. And a second titled "Hydraulic method invented in California to demolish the gold-bearing alluvium" published in Simonin's (1867) treatise on gold mining, *La Vie Souterraine, ou Mines et Les Mineurs* (Figure 147) engraved by C. LaPlante. Hachette, Paris, France.
13. Drawing. Black and White. Image of hydraulic operation titled "A Claim or Miner's Workshop" by J. Pelcoq according to *Reports of Explorations*, published by Baron Wogan (1860) in "Voyages et Aventures du Baron de Wogan en Californie [1850-1852]." In *Le Tour Du Monde, Nouvea Journal des Voyages*. Hachette, Paris, France.

14. Drawing. Black and White. "Un Mineur Californien : Lavage par la method Hydraulique. By J. Ferat, based on a photograph. In "La Conquete Blanche" by M. W. Hepworth Dixon (1876:147). In *Le Tour Du Monde, Nouvea Journal des Voyages*. Hachette, Paris, France.
15. Map of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Claims surveyed by G. H. Thompson in September and October, 1871. In Color. Depicts North Bloomfield, Village of Malakoff, Lake City, and all claims consolidated to create NBGM Co. Thompson, G. H. (1871). On file at Empire Mine State Historic Park, Engineers Map Room, 335-266-24, Grass Valley, California.
16. Map and description of John's 1855 Pre-emption depicting Malakoff Ravine (First occurrence of name in park). In Color. On-file at the Nevada County Office of the Recorder, Nevada City, California. Book 1, page 23.
17. Map and description of De Bour's 1856 Pre-emption depicting Humbug Canon (early French settler in park). In Color. On-file at the Nevada County Office of the Recorder, Nevada City, California. Book 1, page 173.
18. Map and description of Petitjean's 1856 Pre-emption depicting central Humbug City (earliest map of North Bloomfield). Black and White. On-file at the Nevada County Office of the Recorder, Nevada City, California. Book 1, page 40.
19. Map of N. B. G. M. Co. Claim, 1535 Acres, drawn by R. H. Stretch, S. F. June 1871. In Color. Depicts NBGM Co. property, circa 1871 workings, Village of Malakoff and North Bloomfield, and region. On file at Empire Mine State Historic Park, Engineers Map Room, 335-266-26, Grass Valley, California.
20. Map. Color mineral survey plat by Palmer Smith (1874): Plat of the Placer Claim of the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company situated in Bloomfield Mining District, Nevada County, California. Mineral Survey No. 302. On file at the United States Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento.
21. Map. Color. Map of the San Juan Ridge, Nevada County, California, Showing the Mining and Ditch Property of the Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Companies Consolidated [undated] by T. P. Wilson, created about 1876. Includes French and Fauchery lakes.
22. Map and various images. Black and White map and line drawings of San Juan Ridge, geology and hydraulic mining technology, along with report in French by mine engineer M. Ed. Sauvage (1876). *Notice sur L'Exploitation Hydraulique De L'Or de Californie* Published in Paris, France. On file, Bancroft Library, University California Berkeley, call no. F862.3 H93 No. 4.
23. Map. Color. "The Siege of Sevastopol" depicts the city and both Malakoff and Mamelon defenses. On line at <http://www.britishbattles.com/crimean-war/sevastopol.htm>.
24. Newspaper clipping. Nevada Daily Transcript, 28 September 1866. Describes French at North Bloomfield: "The hotel is well filled with boarders,

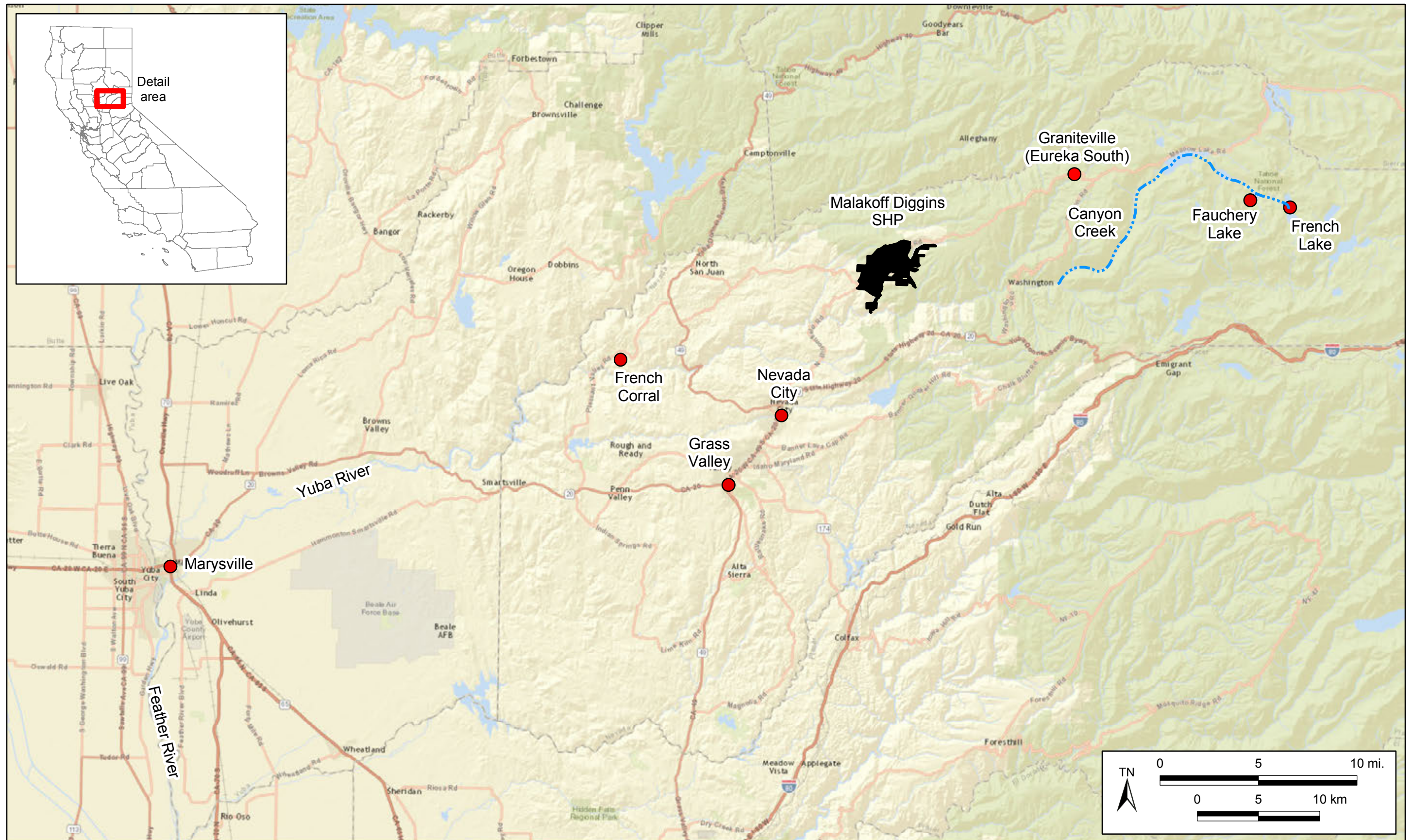
and French appears to be the ruling language. It may with reason be said the French have taken Humbug.”

25. Newspaper clipping. Nevada Daily Gazette, 8 July 1868. Describes NBGM Co. as commonly called the French Company noting its ditch construction.
26. Newspaper clipping. Marysville Daily Appeal, 30 April 1860. Describes Lake City, Eureka Lake Water Company, Poquillon, and beseeches French inhabitants to move there to grow grapes.
27. Painting. Color. Vernet’s “La Prise de Malakoff” depicts French soldiers planting the tri-color on top of Malakoff.
28. Painting. Color. Félix-Joseph Barrias. Disembarkation of the French Army at Eupatoria, 14 September 1854. Depicts French forces with tricolor flag on the shores. Found in the collection of Musée de l’Histoire de France, Château de Versailles. (Photo by Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images).
29. Painting. Color. Gold rush artist Ernest Narjot painted iconic images. One with three French placer miners huddled around a pan in Black and White is in French San Francisco [Images of America] by Dr. Claudine Chalmers, on page 17. Arcadia Publishing, San Francisco, California. This one is in the collection of Susan and James McClatchy. Another painting by Narjot with a similar feel is “Two Miners.”
30. Archival document. Wattier vs. His Creditors, 1864. California District Court documents pertaining to the petition for debt relief by Leopold Wattier, filed under Cab-6, No. 225. On file at Searls Historical Library, Nevada City.
31. Archival document. Mining Claims (Book 1, page 1 and page 2): John McNulty, Louis Lay, Poison (Poirson), B. Fouchery (Fauchery), and O. Aubert (P. Obert?) locate and claim the waters in Sierra County, all the lakes and their tributaries lying between the South Fork of the Middle Yuba River and Canon Creek to be taken up and conveyed by flumes and aqueducts to Eureka South (Graniteville) (23 July 1854).
32. Archival document. Mining Claims (Book 1, page 111): LeDu and Company, consisting of Jean Ledu, Francis Guillon, Antoine Lauriet, and Petitjean, claim water from Relief Canyon, Eureka Township, and begin work on a 3 ft. deep by 3 ft. wide ditch to convey water to the Township of Bridgeport for agricultural and mining purposes, with all ravines, lakes and tributaries, and all surface water that may fall from all tunnels, tail races, sluices, cuts, etc. etc., emptying into canyon, and all surplus water of Humbug Canyon (10 March 1857).
33. Archival document. US Population Census of 1860 [2 pages]: page with Leopold Wattier and Peirre Poirson, French miners who settled in Humbug City near the Malakoff Mine, and page with Antone Mayoux and Mare Petitjean, merchants at North Bloomfield and mine financiers.

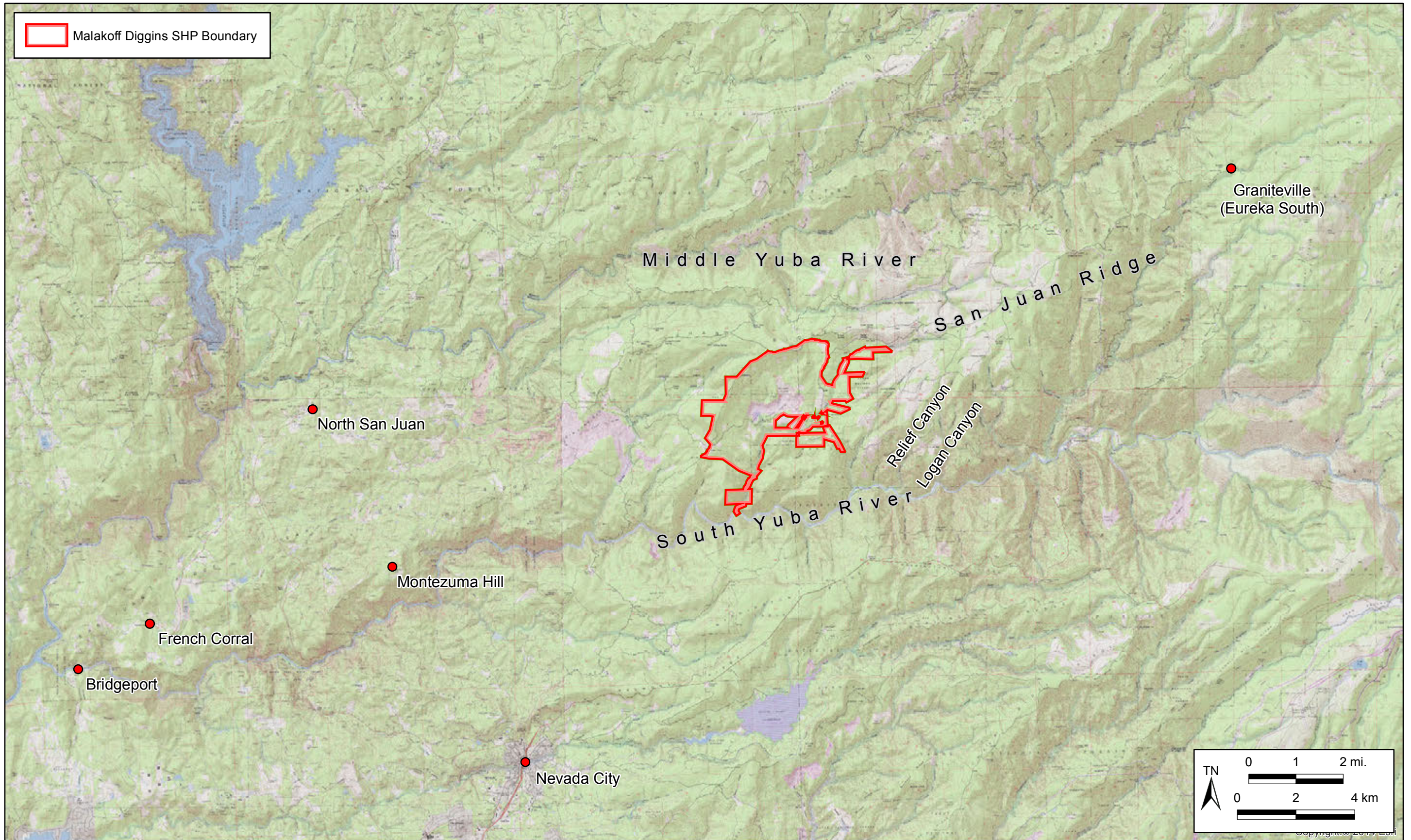
## **APPENDIX D**

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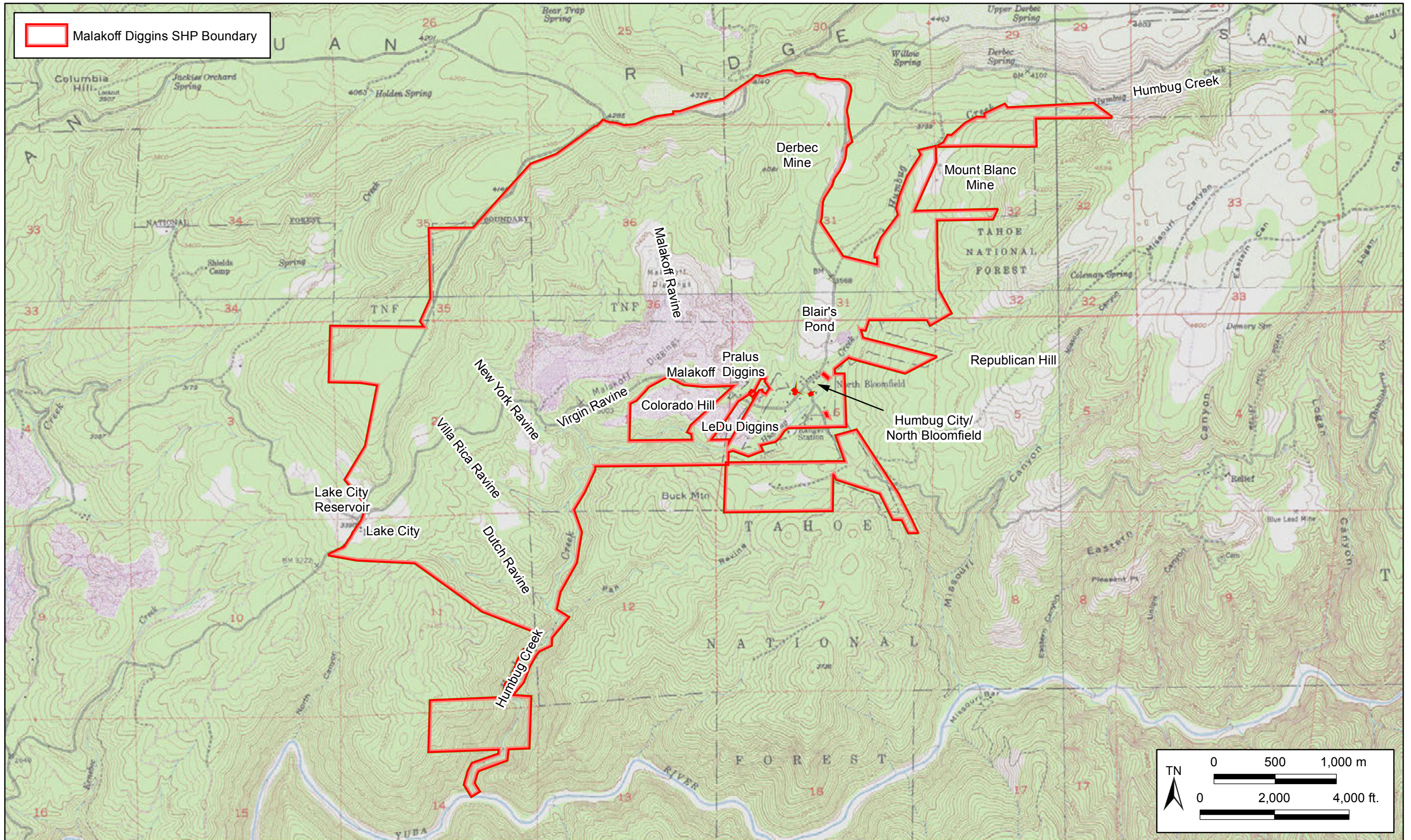
### ***Maps***



Map 1. Location Map of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.



Map 2. Areas surrounding Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.



Map 3. Places In and Adjacent to Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.