The following is a biography of Byron Deming from the 1915 *History of Humboldt County with Biographical Sketches*. It can be found in digitized format at, https://archive.org/details/historyofhumbold00irvi/page/n11
HISTORY
OF
HUMBOLDT COUNTY CALIFORNIA
WITH
Biographical Sketches
OF
The Leading Men and Women of the County who have been Identified with its Growth and Development from the Early Days to the Present

History by Leigh H. Irvine

Illustrated
Complete in One Volume

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1915
he is still connected with their operation. Mr. Soulé has always used his influence in financial circles to place local business on a sound footing, and whenever possible has aided the merchants and other business men of the town by accommodations when in his judgment conditions could be worked out to the best advantage by so doing. He is conservative to a proper degree, but experience has taught him that generosity and unselfishness are not incompatible with good business methods, and this policy has been instrumental in making many progressive movements successful. In this respect, as much as in the discharge of public duties directly intrusted to him, he has shown an exemplary degree of public spirit.

In 1891, when the Humboldt chamber of commerce was organized, Mr. Soulé was one of the organizers, and served as trustee and treasurer continuously until the present time, except the year 1904, when he served as president. He belonged to this organization at the time it secured an appropriation from the Federal government for the improvement of Humboldt Bar, and as such assisted in securing the enactment of legislation giving the sum of $1,750,000 for the construction of the jetty and the deepening of the channel. This was subsequently augmented by $1,037,000 and recently by a further sum of $500,000. He was one of the movers in the formation of the Humboldt County Development Committee, which is doing effective work. Other enterprises in which he has been interested are the Eureka Water Company and the Skinner-Duprey Drug Company, in both of which he has been a director. He was one of the committee of citizens chosen to solicit a donation for a free public library building for Eureka, and the handsome library obtained is a credit to the city and to those who gave their services to secure it. Mr. Soulé has been a prominent member of the Humboldt Club, took an active part in founding it, was made a trustee at the time of its organization, and has since served a term as president. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks and the Masons, in the latter connection belonging to the Knights Templar and the Shrine; he has attained the thirty-second degree. On political questions Mr. Soulé is a Republican.

On August 6, 1872, Mr. Soulé was married, at Hamilton, in White Pine county, Nev., to Mrs. Mary A. (Herriott) Kennedy, daughter of Ephraim and Frances (Waugh) Herriott. She is a native of Pennsylvania. The only child of this union, Amy D. Soulé, is the wife of H. W. Lowesberry, of San Jose, Cal., who has two daughters, Eleth Agnes, born in 1898, and Carmine Soulé, born in 1906.

BYRON DEMING.—The pioneer of '50 is the recipient of special honors and the subject of particular distinction in California. Few of that brave band are living today and those that survive have witnessed the wonderful growth of our fair state. They have seen the going of the old ox team and the coming of the steam train and have seen changes that seem more wonderful than a tale from the Arabian Nights. After more than half a century of life in California, Mr. Deming may well be called the pioneer of Humboldt county. Born in Salisbury, Addison county, Vermont, October 15, 1826, he attended the subscription schools in the county for several years. After completing his schooling, he was employed in the woolen mills in the vicinity, following the trade of machinist, afterwards rising to the position of superintendent of the mills. It was while engaged in the mills that he sustained a serious injury that has caused him considerable trouble in life. It seems that in
working about the machinery one day, his arm became entangled in the
shaft and he was injured in such a way as to break his arm and tear the lig-
ments, leaving him in a delicate state of health for the greater part of his
life. In 1850, hearing of the discovery of gold in California, he decided to
leave the East and join the seekers for gold. In June, 1850, taking passage
on a steamer by way of Panama for San Francisco and crossing the Isthmus,
he took passage on the steamer Oregon, arriving in San Francisco July 22,
1850. Only remaining there a short time, he next went to Sacramento and,
entering the mines on the Tuolumne river, engaged in mining for himself
and became very successful in his search for gold. While living in Sacra-
mento an epidemic of cholera raged in the year 1851, but he was fortunate
enough to escape the dread disease. Hearing of the gold strike in Humboldt
county in 1851, he decided to go there and see the field for himself. Coming
over the mountains by way of the Trinity River to Trinidad, he encountered
great obstacles for there was no wagon road and every foot of the way was
marked by terrible hardships. He had taken passage on a ship to sail to San
Francisco but it was wrecked in the harbor of Trinidad so he had to remain
there. Here he engaged in lightering, carrying the cargo from the large
boats ashore in a flat-bottomed boat. For this work he received sixteen dollars
a ton, and there being a great deal of trade at Trinidad at the time, he became
financially benefited. All the supplies for the mines in the interior were
shipped first to Trinidad and from there on pack-mules to the mines. He also
built a saw-mill and engaged in lumbering, but in 1854 he gave up his light-
ering business and moved to Uniontown, which is now the city of Arcata.
When he first located in Uniontown there was no town at the site of the
present city of Eureka, all the ships landing at Uniontown. His first enter-
prise was to build a wharf two miles long extending out into the bay, and on
this wharf was built the first railroad, in California, built for the purpose of
handling the large quantities of freight that the ships brought to the port.
Two other men were associated with Mr. Deming in this work, Henry Walker
and Stillman Daby, it taking them four months to complete the work. The
mails only reached the port once a month after the ships started to make
Uniontown a port of call. About the time of the completing of the wharf the
Indian wars of Humboldt county broke out but he did not take an active part
in them. As there was no undertaking establishment in Uniontown, he de-
cided to engage in that business, and did so for a number of years. Aside from
this, he took up the making of pack-saddles, and, though not an adept at the
trade, he worked up a large business. Men came from far and near to obtain
one of the Deming pack-saddles. The first one he made was from a box and
later his reputation as a saddle-maker extended from Oregon to Arizona.
Giving up his undertaking business in 1885, he opened a general repair shop,
conducting this several years with much success. He was a natural mechanic
and the people of the surrounding country would come for miles to have
him mend their broken implements. The saying was, "Something broken?
Take it to B. Deming." He acquired considerable land in Arcata which he
still possesses. He is a member of Anniversary Lodge No. 85, I. O. O. F.,
at Arcata, having joined the lodge in Vermont in 1850. He was the founder
of the lodge in Arcata and is the only surviving charter member. He also did
a great deal toward founding the Presbyterian Church in Arcata and was
instrumental in securing the services of clergymen from San Francisco, the
Reverend Mr. Scott being the first pastor of the church in Arcata. Mr. Deming was superintendent of the Sunday school for a number of years. He served as justice of the peace for fifteen years, has held office as a deputy sheriff, deputy county clerk and notary public for years and was also county coroner. He has always taken an active part in all temperance work and has entered whole-heartedly into all movements pertaining to the good of the community. Being a stanch Republican he has also entered extensively into all political affairs. He married, in Arcata, May 26, 1856, Jane A. Pratt, a native of Middlebury, Vermont. When but three years of age Mrs. Deming moved with her parents to Ontario, Canada, locating at Chatham, a town situated between Lake Erie and Lake Huron. At the age of twenty-three she came to California with a cousin, coming by way of the Isthmus of Panama, engaging passage on the steamer Columbia with Captain Dahl in charge of the ship, to San Francisco. They are blessed with three children: Eugene Albert, deceased; Byron B., who is married and living at Auburn, Placer county, and Charlotte Louise, deceased. Mr. Deming is truly a pioneer of the county and many monuments attest his good works. He is a man who has always been actively associated with all public affairs tending to upbuild the community, one whose word is as good as his bond and one who holds the highest regard of his fellow men. He is known from one end of the county to the other as a reliable citizen and one for whom everyone has only the highest praise.

WALTER ELGEN CLARK.—A native son of Humboldt county, and the son of one of the oldest of the California pioneer families, Walter Elgen Clark has all his life resided in this county, and has been engaged in farming since he completed his education. He has made a success of farming, first for himself, making his initial independent venture when he was little more than a lad; and later as manager for his father's extensive farming and stock-raising interests, he has won for himself a reputation for careful attention to detail and for good judgment and business sagacity that is in itself a valuable possession.

Mr. Clark was born in Arcata, Humboldt county, Cal., April 20, 1877. He is the son of Schuyler and Mary Jane (Johnson) Clark, natives of Canada; the father was born January 4, 1848; he came to San Francisco, California, November 25, 1868, and came direct to Humboldt county, and for eight years was employed in the lumber woods and in rafting logs across Humboldt bay, between Arcata and Eureka. In 1872 he invested his savings in land on Arcata bottoms. This he cleared and improved, and engaged in farming. He was successful and added to his holdings other properties hereinafter mentioned.

He was married in Arcata, March 31, 1876, and of this marriage were eight children, five of whom are living. Walter Elgen was second oldest in order of birth, and is giving his best efforts to the care of the large property entrusted to him by his father, who makes his home with him. The son attended the public schools of the Alliance district until he was seventeen, helping his father on the farm, mornings and evenings, and during vacation times. In 1894 he gave up attending school and became associated with his father in the active management of the farm, and for a few years they conducted the home place together, engaging in diversified farming and dairying. His first independent venture was in 1896 when he rented a farm