

# John Killian - Bancroft's History of California

"In addition, a number of old-time Saints, not associated with the Utah migration, were also in California at the time of the gold discovery. [They were in California before gold was discovered.] This included Ziba Peterson (mentioned in Mormons' Doctrine and Covenants) and his family along with Jesse and Joshua Hitchcock as well as John Killian.

"Originally known as Dry Diggings (one of many), Hangtown had become officially known as Placerville by the 1850 Census when approximately 57 possible Mormons were in the area. As early as November of 1848, four old-time Mormons, not associated with the Utah migration, had become residents, albeit temporary, of the expanding village. They were Jesse Hitchcock, Joshua Hitchcock, John Killion and Ziba Peterson. . . . None of them were in Placerville at the time of the 1850 census." (Mormon Gold The Story of California's Mormon Argonauts p 14, 17, 362)

## John Killian's ties to California

In Bancroft's History of California, John Killian is listed as being in 1848 in Dry Diggings, later named Hangtown, and known today as Placerville. Also listed are Ziba Peterson, Jesse Hitchcock and Joshua Hitchcock.

About 110 miles west of Placerville is Yountville, a town settled by George C Yount, John Killian's first cousin. George is the son of Jacob and Marillis Killian Yount. Marillis is Philip Killian's sister. Philip is John's father. George Yount was a fur trader and first went to California in 1830. In the early 1840s he obtained land from the Spanish Government, built a house and surveyed a town. It was later called Yountville.

Jesse Hitchcock was John Killian's missionary companion in 1834. Jesse married (Mary) Polly Hopper, Lydia's sister (John's sister-in-law). Jesse and Polly both died in Mount Pisgah, date unknown. Jesse's brother, Joshua, married Keziah Hopper, also Lydia's sister. Keziah died in 1859 in Santa Rosa, California. Joshua died in 1864 in Santa Rosa, California. Ziba Peterson married Rebecca Hopper, another of Lydia's sisters. Ziba died in 1859 in Placerville. Rebecca died in 1896 in Yountville.

Lydia also had a brother named Charles Hopper. He was a member of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party of 1841. This party went around the north end of the Great Salt Lake and then followed the Humbolt River through Nevada. Before arriving in California, they had to abandon their wagons. In 1847, Charles Hopper lead a wagon train (referred to as the Charles Hopper Party) to California. Charles died in 1880 in Yountville.

Jesse and Joshua Hitchcock's father Isaac Hitchcock was a Mountain Man, and lead the Stephens wagon train (sometimes called the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party) to California in 1844, following the Fort Hall Road.