

BIBLIOGRAPHY

There is much available material, both of a primary and secondary nature on Pierson Barton Reading. The Reading Collection in the California Section of the State Library contains much of Major Reading's correspondence. Other primary materials located at Bancroft Library are additionally helpful. A University of California Master's Thesis "Pierson B. Reading, California Pioneer," written in 1937 by Lottie Osoffsky, is a valuable synthesis. An unpublished biography of P. B. Reading by Rev. John Winkley of Walnut Creek is particularly helpful in relating the first Shastan's activities to the total perspective of California history. The Genealogical and Biographical Memorial of the Reading Family by Josiah Leach is very valuable for family background. Three periodical articles are noteworthy: "Pierson B. Reading Journal" in the September, 1930 Society of California Pioneers Quarterly, "A Chronology of the Life of Pierson Barton Reading," by Gertrude Steger in the December, 1943 issue of the California Historical Society Quarterly and a brief biographical sketch entitled "Pierson B. Reading" by Alice Reading in the May, 1928 issue of the Grizzly Bear. These basic materials are well supplemented by local newspaper accounts and references in a variety of books. What follows is a brief bibliographical comment on each chapter of the booklet, concluded by an overall list of materials on P. B. Reading.

CHAPTER I -- BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE

A major source for Reading family background is The Genealogical and Biographical Memorials of the Reading Family (and other families), by Josiah Leach. Actually little is known of Major Reading's boyhood. The only primary material available was his school copy book in the California State Library.

CHAPTER 2 -- THE TRIP WEST

Two sources formed the basis of this chapter. Major Reading's journal available at the California State Library and the Master's thesis on Pierson B. Reading by Lottie Osoffsky. The latter is based not only on Reading's journal, but also on the journals and reminiscences of numerous other members of the Chilés-Walker Party. Miss Osoffsky clearly relates locations named by Reading to present geographical localities.

CHAPTER 3 -- AS SUTTER'S LIEUTENANT

Most of this material is based on letters between Pierson B. Reading and John A. Sutter, available in the Reading Collection at the State Library. The two corresponded extensively while Reading served as chief trapper for the hospitable Swiss. Most of the extant correspondence is from Sutter to Reading.

CHAPTER 4 -- PAYMASTER: CALIFORNIA BATTALION

Again, the Reading correspondence at the State Library is most important. Much communication between Fremont and Reading is available, as is Major Reading's daybook for part of this period. Both the thesis by Miss Osoffsky and the unpublished biography by Rev. Winkley relate Reading's activities to the total picture of 1846 activities in California much more completely than does my booklet.

CHAPTER 5 -- GOLD SEEKER, RANCHER, MERCHANT, POLITICIAN

A variety of sources provided the material for this chapter. Again the letters in the Reading Collection at the State Library are basic, particularly regarding the unsuccessful race for the governor's office by Reading. Also at the State Library is a copy of the ranch journal kept by the foreman on the "Buena Ventura" for several years. Newspaper accounts, especially the Sacramento Union, are helpful particularly in appraising the gubernatorial race.

CHAPTER 6 -- THE LAST YEARS

The diary and letters of Mrs. Fannie Reading comprise a major source for this chapter. These letters are located at the State Library, in the files of the Shasta Historical Society in Redding, as well as in Rev. Winkley's manuscript. Other materials are also available in the Reading Collection at the State Library including letters to and from Major Reading. An article by Mabel Frisbie in the 1966 issue of the Shasta Historical Society publication, the Covered Wagon, clearly summarizes the disposition of the grant.

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