

BAMBER & CO'S EXPRESS

1853

J. W. Hoag & Co. 1856
 J. Bamber & Co. 1859
 Bamber & Co.
 Whitney & Co. 1875

in 1856 J.W. Hoag & Co were a S. Fr local which became the Cal. City Letter Express Co. in 1862

This company was started towards the end of 1853 By W. F. Herge, probably of French nationality. He sold his business to J. W. Hoag and Bamber, under the name of "J.W.Hoag & Co." Upon the death of Hoag the name of the firm was changed to "J. Bamber & Co.", and later on to "Bamber & Co." Upon the retirement of Bamber in 1875 the name of the firm was changed to "Whitney & Co." In the San Francisco Directory, Hoag's name appears in 1858, and Bamber's in 1863. Bamber's Express was in operation until 1894. Route: San Francisco, Contra Costa, Alameda, and adjoining countries. Connected also with Wells, Fargo & Co. Express run over a route of about 50 miles

Note 1. "I find Hoag in the San Francisco Directory for 1858. Bamber appears from 1863 to date (1877).

Bamber's Express still runs from San Francisco through Contra Costa, Alameda, and the adjoining countries and connects with Wells, Fargo & Co. Its present proprietors are Whitney & Co., who acquired possession from Bamber & Co. in July, 1875. The carriage of letters has recently been discontinued by W. & Co., but is likely to be shortly resumed."
 (C.H.Coster, Edition 1877)

Note 2: From the Bulletin - San Fr. April 3 - 1922

Note 3:

In Saratoga, where they held their Blossom Festival on Saturday and yesterday, life is so lovely and everything else is so lovely that people seem never to grow old.

Most notably, to the understanding soul, it was reflected in the person of J. J. Bamber, who was fluttering about on his lawful occasions as editor, reporter and everything else of the "Mountain Realty," and chatting with friends and comrades from all the country there around of the balmy weather that, like yesterday, prevailed in the spring of Lincoln's election year.

But at that period, as Mr. Bamber was careful to explain, Saratoga had not yet attained eminence through its Blossom Festivals. White plum blossoms were not then the motif of its April scenery, and population thereabouts was not abundant. No automobiles obtained, no flivvers, no railways.

HE KNOWS HIS FIELD.

And on those points the critic of yesterday's program well informed, because it is business to keep posted on transportation facilities in a country.

J. J. Bamber and his brethren during the sixties and earlyties of the last century, were owners of Bamber's Express carried the mails and the San Francisco newspapers down to Cruz from Oakland. They carried express letters, too, and the Bamber Express envelopes cost 10¢ each. That was the price for pressing a letter to Santa Cruz before Uncle Sam took over the

"I'd give a dollar for one of those envelopes now if I knew where to find one," said Bamber yesterday speaking not as an editor, but as an old-timer. "I can't find any more."

TIME BRINGS CHANGE

"Of course, when the times change and all that sort of thing goes along, it knocked out our business."

"Changes happen. My wife, she was the first white girl in Oakland. She was Miss V. Hill. In those days the transcontinental road wasn't even a dream."

"Radio concert now going on!"

G. A.
 San Francisco, April 1, 1922

BAMBER'S EXPRESS

Editor The Bulletin: In the account of the Saratoga Blossom Festival published in Monday's Bulletin, the writer, Edward A. Morphy, describes having met J. J. Bamber, one of the proprietors of the old Bamber's Express. As a philatelist, the information that Mr. Bamber still survives is to me most interesting. I have a Bamber's Express envelope mailed from Saratoga in June, 1864, to a pioneer in the old Court Building, San Francisco. It is a yellow envelope, with a red circle imprint an inch and a half in diameter, inscribed "J. Bamber & Co's Express, S. F." with the date "June 9" in the center. The year is shown in the context of the letter it encloses, which was from Joseph Columbet, proprietor of the Saratoga House, June 7, 1864.

ROSS O'SHAUGHNESSY.
 San Francisco, April 4.

*Santa Clara
 Cal.*