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LETTER, N. HORSLEY TO LEYBURN WILKES, May 6, 1852

Nicholas Cabell Horsley writes from Sacramento City, California, to his future brother-in-law, Leyburn Wilkes, of Bedford County, Virginia, describing life in Sacramento and his efforts in business in California. Also mentioned in the letter is "B. CRENSHAW" (probably John Balda CRENSHAW) of Lynchburg, who "will soon be on his return t the old state...and will take with him a large amount of the 'oro' [i.e. gold]..."

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NICHOLAS CABELL HORSLEY (1826-1891)

Nicholas Cabell Horsley, born in 1826, was the son of John & Mary Mildred Cabell Horsley and the grandson of William Horsley, Jr., of Nelson County, VA. After returning from a trip to the California gold fields, he married first in 1853, Elizabeth Wilkes, daughter of Benjamin and Matilda Duffel Wilkes, Sr., of Bedford. Secondly, he married Nannie Deane, of North Carolina.

He purchased the Peaks of Otter Hotel from his brother-in-law, Leyburn Wilkes, and ran it until it burned. He then operated a hotel out of his home, known as Horsley Inn. Between 1888 and 1889, he moved to Lynchburg and ran the Horsley House at 210 Eleventh Street until his death August 1891.

[Peaks of Otter Chapter, DAR, *Bedford Villages—Lost and Found*, Volume 1 (Bedford, VA: B & B Printing-Adv., Inc., 1997); Brown, Alexander. *The Cabells and Their Kin*. (Franklin, NC: Genealogy Publishing Service, 1994; Obituary, *Lynchburg Virginian*, 12 August 1891, page 4, column 1; Ackerly & Parker, *Our Kin*. (Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Co., 1976.)

LEYBURN WILKES (1831-1891)

Leyburn Wilkes, the son of Benjamin & Matilda Duffel Wilkes, Sr., was born in Virginia circa 1830. He married Elizabeth J. Owen, of Botetourt County, Virginia on 17 June 1852. Benjamin Wilkes, Sr. acquired thousands of acres of land in the area of Goode and the Peaks of Otter during the 1850's, and with his son, Leyburn, operated the ordinary at the Peaks of Otter until 1857, after which Leyburn ran it alone and built the Otter Peaks Hotel. Additions were made to the hotel, and it became known as Peaks of Otter House and, later, Peaks of Otter Hotel. Nicholas Cabell Horsley, Benjamin's son-in-law, bought out Leyburn's interest in the hotel. Leyburn Wilkes was the first postmaster of the Peaks of Otter Post Office from 25 July 1857, until it was discontinued 17 December 1860.

The 1860 US Census for Campbell County, VA, lists Leyburn as a hotelkeeper in Lynchburg. Asbury Christian reports in *Lynchburg and Its People* that Leyburn Wilkes refitted the Piedmont House in 1860. In 1870, he was a hotelkeeper in the Liberty District of Bedford Co., and in 1880, the Forest District of Bedford Co., as a farmer.

Wilkes died on 7 April 1891 in Lynchburg, Virginia, and was buried in Presbyterian Cemetery.

[Peaks of Otter Chapter, DAR, *Bedford Villages—Lost and Found*, Volumes 1 & 2. (Bedford, VA: B & B Printing-Adv., Inc., 1997-1998); obituary, Leyburn Wilkes, *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, 8 April 1891, p. 1, c. 7; 1860 US Census, Campbell Co., VA, NAM M653, Roll # 1338; 1870 US Census, Bedford Co., VA, NAM M593, Roll #1635; 1880 US Census, Bedford Co., VA, NAM T-9, Roll #1355; Vogt & Kethley. *Botetourt County Marriages, 1770-1853*, Vol. 1 (Athens, GA: Iberian Pub. Co., 1987.)

B. (JOHN BALDA) CRENSHAW

John Balda Crenshaw, the son of John & Lucy McDaniel Crenshaw, was born c.1830. He married Mary Bell Jeter, daughter of Jesse Jeter on 18 Sept. 1861 in Bedford County, Virginia.

Balda Crenshaw, a native of Bedford County, served there for a time as commissioner of revenue. At the end of the Civil War in 1865 he moved to Lynchburg and engaged in the tobacco business. He was also widely known as a tobacco auctioneer and was a partner in Crenshaw and Company along with A.J. Camp and Thomas H. Love. This became Crenshaw and Withers in 1868. Mr. Crenshaw was a justice of the peace in Lynchburg for nearly 15 years and became presiding justice and was serving as police justice at the time of his death on 22 November 1894. He was buried at Presbyterian Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA.

[Obituary, *The News* (Lynchburg, VA), 23 Nov. 1894, page 6, col. 3; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Marriage Records, Bedford Co., VA, 1853-1908, Reel 6; Presbyterian Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA, Burial Records (electronic database), Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA; Rhodes, Phillip Wayne. "Descendants of Thomas H. Love." *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Oct-Dec. 1991).]