

## HAYDEN & HUNTLEY'S OF BOLTON

**M**artin Van Buren Hayden was born in Duxbury Vermont, 1842 to Alonzo and Sarah Hayden. Duxbury at the time was in the midst of the state wide lumber boom which saw increased growth of people settling the area. North Duxbury saw the completion of the Central Vermont Railroad which allowed for lumber and other products from farms and sawmills to be brought to the nearby station and transported to cities like Burlington, Montpelier, and St. Albans for trade.

1863 in the midst of a Civil War, The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln January 1st of that year, The Union were successful at the Battle of Chancellorsville and had been in heavy battle at Vicksburg where the Union soldiers claimed victory. Just months before the storied 'Battle of Gettysburg' Martin, age 21 along with cousin Stephan and neighbor Eber Huntley were drafted into the war.

Returning home to Duxbury in 1865, Martin married North Duxbury resident Melissa A. Preston, the daughter of Daniel and Esther Preston. They would purchase a home along the main stagecoach road in Bolton. The house sat on a slight knoll just before the Walter White Farm. It was here, they would raise a family and reside for 35 years before moving back to Melissa's childhood home where they would eventually live their remaining years.



The Hayden's home in Bolton is where they raised 5 children who attended school at the District 1 schoolhouse located halfway between their home and Pinneo Brook. If that school had no teacher staffed, the children would go to the Station school in the village. District 1 schoolhouse, also known as the Pinneo Schoolhouse stood until the devastating flood of 1927 washed it down the valley.

Youngest daughter Etta would grow up as an impactful resident of Bolton, Although there was a 19 year age difference, She married Alton "Alta" Huntley from Duxbury on September 30, 1891. They would take up residence near the base of Joiner Brook and Alta went to work for C.P. & G.W. Stevens lumber operation along the base of the same brook in the East Bolton Village. Etta and Alta would have no children but they cherished their nieces and nephews just the same as they would have done their own and remained close to them through adulthood.



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Etta who received schooling at Pinneo schoolhouse as a child would go on to teach school across the river at the schoolhouse in North Duxbury and in 1896 her school children presented their cherished teacher with a nice writing desk for her successful teachings.

The Huntley residence along Joiner brook provided boarding for those who were traveling through town or in town for business dealings. Many people utilizing the Green Mountain Trail (Long Trail) would stop in for a nice warm meal and stay the night before venturing on their way the next day, headed either over Bolton Mountain toward Stowe or south across the Winooski River toward Camels Hump Mountain.

Etta was also the 'Local Editor' and the source of Bolton "happenings" as she would submit information to the local and state newspapers about what was going on around town. Etta died after a brief illness in 1923 at his home in Bolton. Etta continued to run the boarding house until October of 1925 when she boarded up her house for winter and headed west to Los Angeles California where she stayed with friends. Etta fell in love with California as well as a man Jefferson Bruce. Bruce, a lumber businessman was a widower himself who had children from his previous marriage. He and Etta married on February 8, 1926 and in March Etta sent correspondences to the Waterbury Record back home in Vermont informing those in the area she had married Jefferson Bruce and they would spend the remainder of their time in Santa Rosa, California before returning sometime in 1926 so Etta could "dispose of her goods."

Etta and Jefferson returned to Bolton in April 1926 and a serenade party was held by family and friends to congratulate them on their marriage. They were greeted with candy and cigars. The newlywed's would settle in the small town Occidental, California which had already

seen its hay day from the lumber boom. The 1930 Census lists Etta and Jefferson both employed as Janitor and Janitress in Berkeley City. Etta lived to be 80 years old, dying on September 6, 1946 in Occidental, Sonoma county California. Jefferson survived her until 1961 and died in Santa Clara, California.



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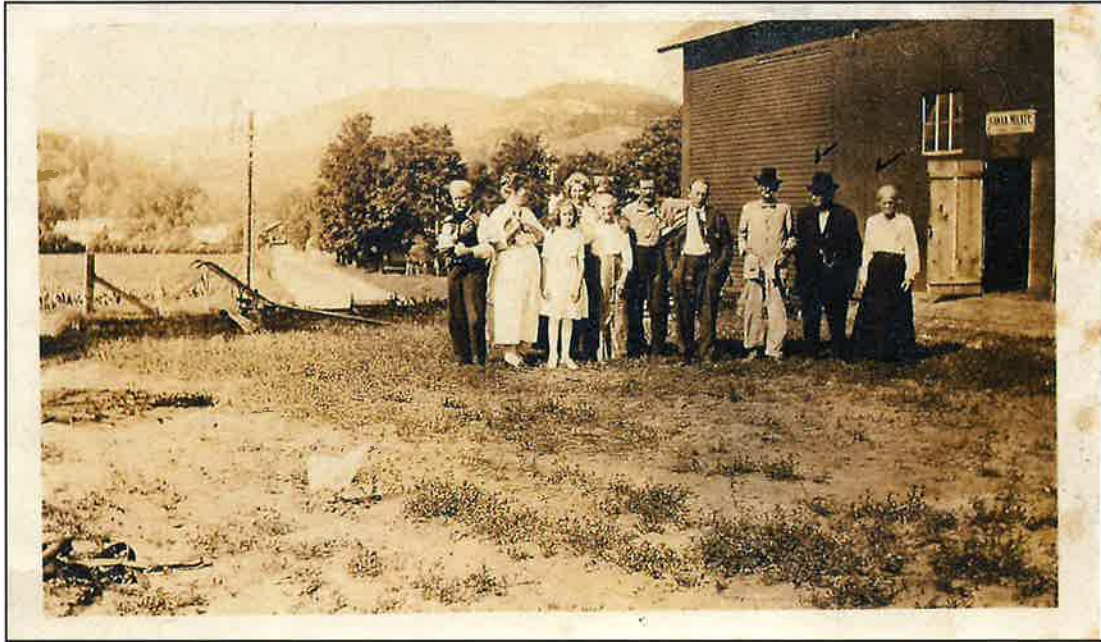
Occidental, California circa 1920

Picture 1 above of Hayden Family

Left - Right Standing Lucy, Daniel, Esther, Caroline. Etta sitting on the left with parents Martin and Melissa Hayden

Picture 2 above of Etta and Atla Huntley's boarding house near Joiner Brook in East Bolton

Note: Alton Huntley and Eber Huntley were brothers.



Gathering at nephew Rufus Preston farm in Duxbury 1920. Martin and Melissa with ✓ above their head.



Martin and Melissa Hayden at Duxbury "Preston Homestead"