

<p>Hills Ferry San Joaquin Co July 17th 83</p> <p>Dear Brother</p> <p>your kind favor is at hand I simpathise with you and Sister in your tryng affliction let us hope they are not gone from us forever but are entered into there blessed abode there to await our coming, how sweet it is to contemplate our loved ones there to wellcom us on arrival I have thought our heavenly ^Father^ bestoyed a rich blessing on me when he took some of my family from earth to heaven, although it seemed to rend my verry heart strings to part with them, it was ounce hard for me to understand David when he said it was good for him that the Lord had afflicted him</p> <p>[p 2] but I can now tell by experience what he ment, this earth is not our abiding home but our affect are so riveted here our heavenly ^Father^ in his Allwise providence sees it is for our good to remove some of our loved ones to that City eternal in the Heavens wose</p>	<p>builder and maker is God I feel so thankful you and Sister were spared to care for those precious little babes you are boath getting old what a change you will have but it is a precious charge, that the Lord in his allwis providence may spear you to care for them is the sincer prayor of your Sister¹-</p> <p>[p3] this leaves us in reasonable health we are having extremely warm weather, crops very light grain badly shrunk in concequence of hot wind; I have come to the conclusion San Joaquin valley is not the garden spot of California is very healthy but is more subject to drouth or rather the soil requires more rain than other parts of the state does not retain the moisture, the canal is great advantage to those on the East Side, Burtons land is on the West Concequently cannot get the Water¹, we have a splendid health Here good society nearly all Mous sions mostly from Pike Co church and Sabath school our Preacher Rev E C Lattie says he has been at your house he spent the winter in your neighbor hood some years since</p>	<p>[p 4] [at top of page, written upside down: <i>are you living in town heard you had sold your farm</i>]</p> <p>Have had several letters from home this summer our relations are all well, believe I told you Sister Patsy² husband Horatio Bruce is dead her youngest son John is living with her Dick and Clara³ are Married and living near her; there are but one of our old neighbours left that is Aunt Sallie Trail⁴ Maus black woman ould Aunt Sintha died in 82 she was living on Allen Clare place Wesly has been dead 10 or 12 years it is so long since you left there I suppose these things have gone Out of your mind⁵ Will ^cose^ with love to you all Give my best wishes and love to your children when you see them remain as ever your sister Clara Fentem</p> <p>[written next to signature, upside down: <i>hope to hear from you often</i>]</p>
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¹ On 30 April 1883, Martha (Palmer) Davis, JH and Catherine's daughter, died, leaving behind two children, Henry E Davis (1879-1945) and Charles Burton Davis (1881-1945). In 1884, Thomas Davis, Mattie's husband, remarried, and they had three additional children. It is highly probably that the Palmers were taking care of the two baby boys in at the time of this letter. Additionally, son Herbert Palmer was killed in a logging accident.

² Patsy (Palmer) Bruce, JH's sister. She first married Peyton Graves, and had one or two sons, Hiram P Graves (b 1845, d 1862 in a prison camp), and perhaps William B Graves (he may be a cousin. The jury is still out on that one). Peyton was one of Catherine Nowlin [Graves] Palmer's brothers. Catherine was, of course, John Henry Palmer's wife. Secondly, Patsy married her first cousin, Horatio Gates Bruce, son of Horatio Bruce, who was brother to Patsy's grandmother, Rebecca (Bruce) Palmer. They lived in Texas, where Horatio was big in politics. They had five children, only one of whom I've been able to track children for. Horatio died 11 Jan 1882, in Austin, Texas. There was a town, Bruce, Texas, named after Horatio.

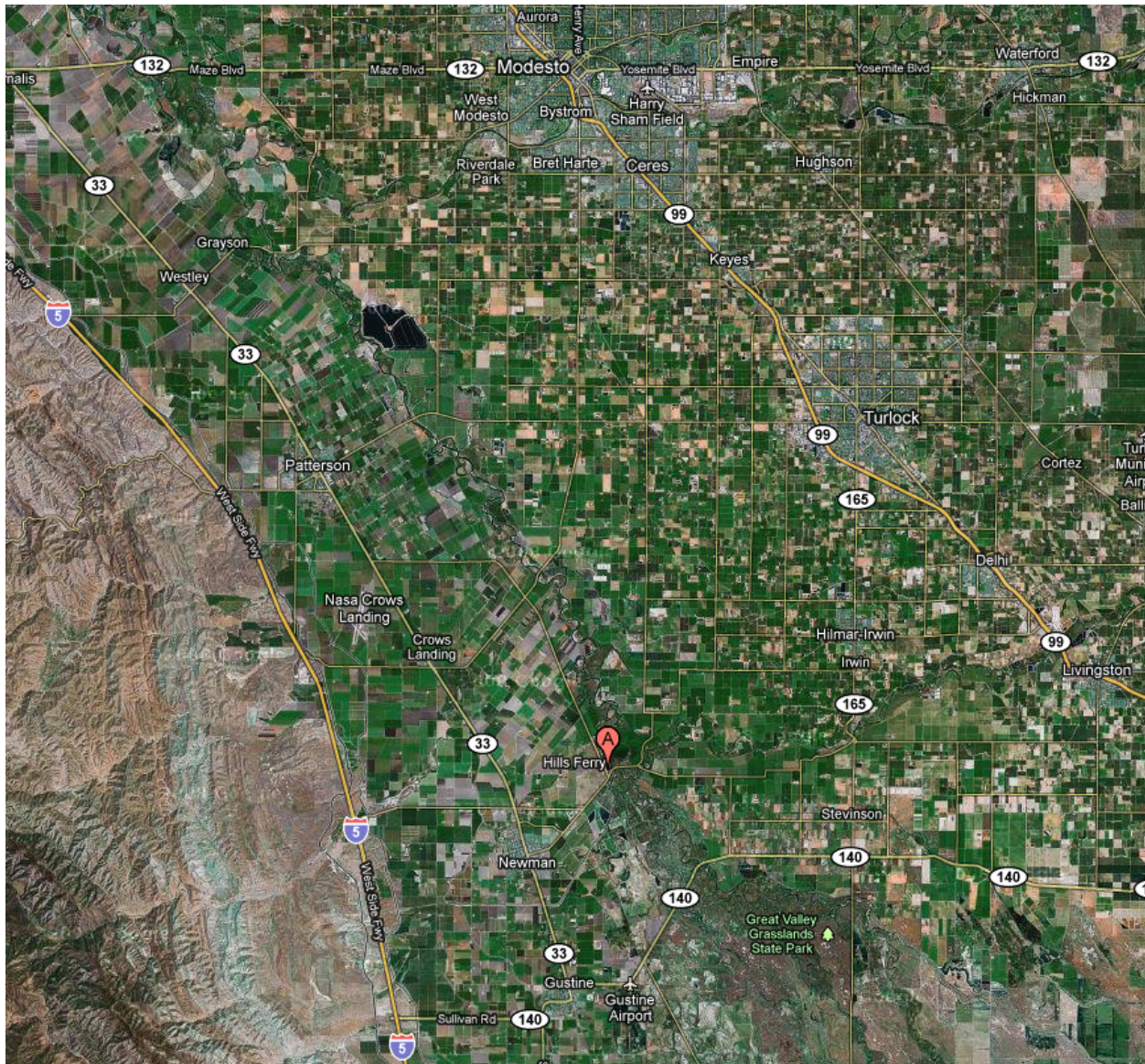
³ John Henry Bruce, 1860-1927, m Olivia May; Clarissa Ruth Bruce, 1857-1915, m Wm Henry Dickenson; Richard T Bruce, 1849-1895, m "M E".

⁴ Aunt Sallie Trail is likely to be Sarah Trail, 85, the first entry in the Millwood, Lincoln County, Missouri, 1880 census. She was born in Pennsylvania, and has her daughter and granddaughter living with her, along with a hired man.

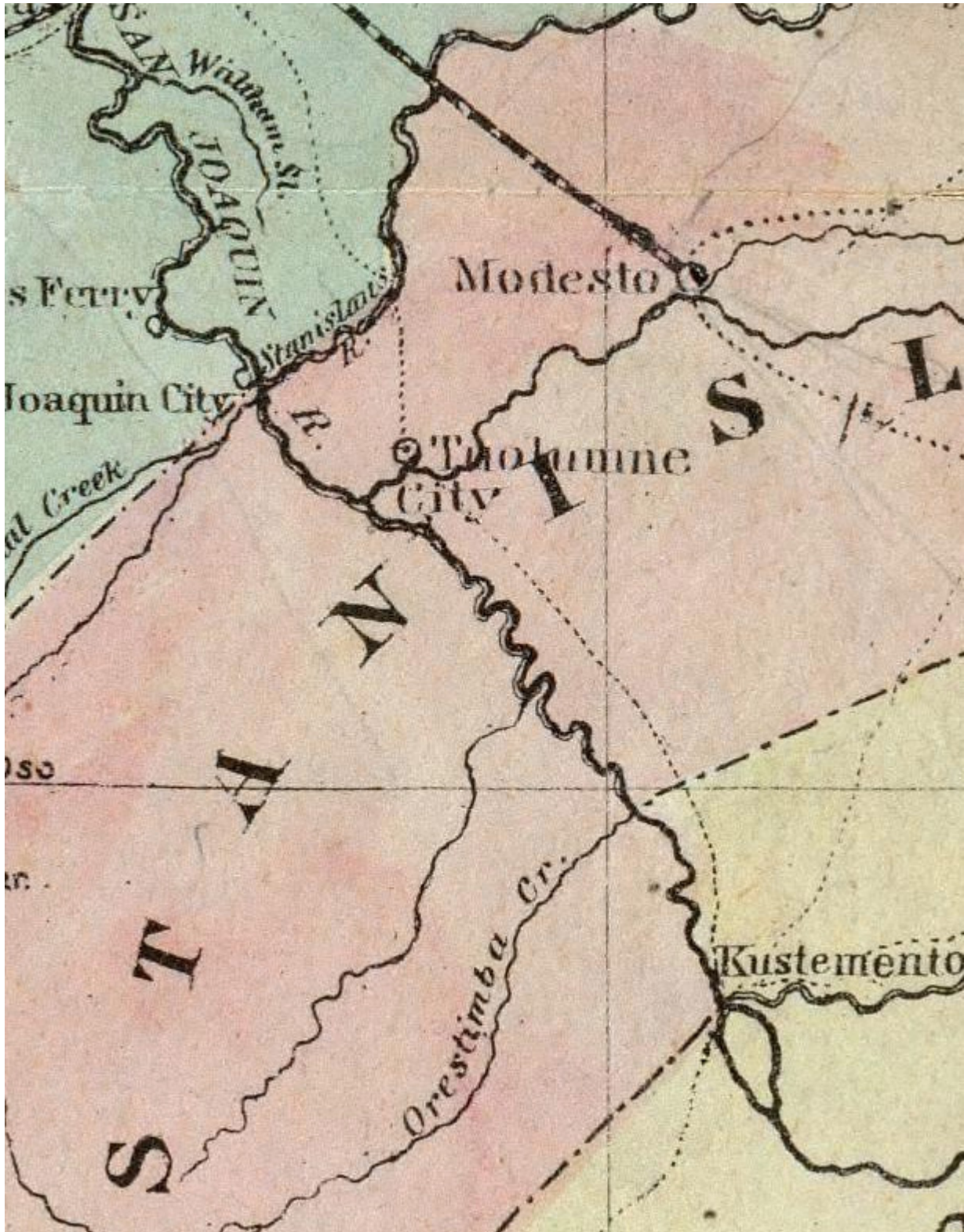
⁵ Sinthia Palmer is found in the 1880 census, widow, 73, b Virginia. The others are not found.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
✓			Walter Elizabeth	W 7 40			Wife	/					Reaping House											W.P.	Isaac	18 1/2
✓			Walter	W 7 11			Son	/																W.P.	W.P.	W.P.
✓			- Kate L	W 7 13			Daug	/																		
✓			- Fera M	W 7 12			Daug	/																		
✓			- Wm S	W 11 10			Son	/																		
✓			Valmer Smith	W 7 53			Servant	/																W.P.	W.P.	W.P.
	15	19	L. I. W.	W 11 11				/					Farmer	/										W.P.	W.P.	W.P.

Hills Ferry is south of Modesto, as shown on this map:



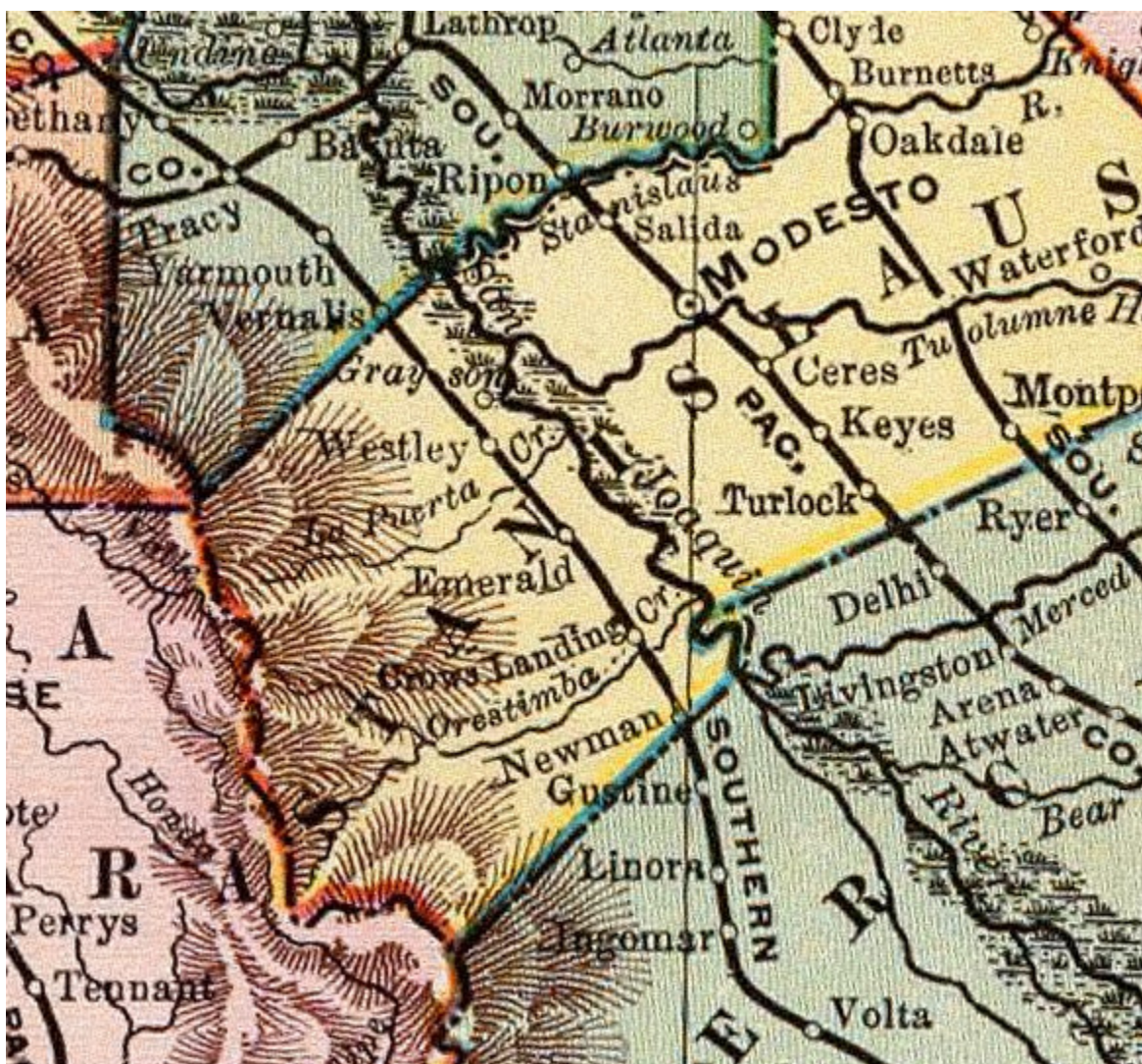
Apparently Richard Burton had property in this area, but I don't have just where. The only property I found was a ways away.



1871

Author:

Bancroft, A.L.; Knight, W.H. : 1871 . [DavidRumsay.com]



Rand McNally and Company: 1897 [from DavidRunsay.com]

