Chapter 1

Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta

The Nineteenth Century at Mount Shasta was full of science, art, literature, and exploration, but it was not until the Twentieth Century that anyone took the time to compile and interpret what had transpired in the previous hundred years. Thus the first general account of Mount Shasta history, Ansel Franklin Hall's "Mount Shasta" Sierra Club Bulletin report, did not appear until 1926. A few years later, in 1929, Charles Lockwood Stewart presented as a U.C. Berkeley master's thesis a major comprehensive history of the mountain. Stewart's thesis, "The Discovery and Exploration of Mount Shasta" is still used by scholars today because of its wealth of original research. Nearly three decades passed by until 1957, when the next significant general Mount Shasta history, Arthur Francis Eichorn's "The Mount Shasta Story," would be published. In his book, Eichorn began to answer the kind of historical questions about mountaineering, the legends, the early exploration, the naming of Mount Shasta, and so on, that the old and new residents of the area were eager to read about. The new ski area of the late 1950's had enlivened the region by bringing new people, and had brought about the need for updated information. Throughout the decades, however, the eminent artist, scholar, and mountaineer Edward Stuhl had been collecting historical material and was kept an extensive ongoing bibliography about the mountain's past. Stuhl first came to Mount Shasta in 1917, was a friend and collaborator of Charles Stewart in 1929, and had been planning a general history of the mountain all along. In 1981 he published his famous "Wildflowers of Mount Shasta," which in fact (albeit overshadowed by his wonderful art) contains much of the history he wished to see in print. The complicated presentation and incompleteness of Stuhl's book were evident, and so a need still existed for an accessible and readable history of the mountain. It was Stuhl's good friend and fellow mountaineer Michael Zanger who finally, in 1992, brought out an up-to-date, readable, illustrated history of Mount Shasta. Note that each work selected for this section of the bibliography is wholly devoted to the comprehensive history of Mt. Shasta. This history has many facets, and, given the varying interests of the authors, no two of the works in this section cover exactly the same topics. Unique material will be found in each book or report. Each work is in and of itself a worthy overview of, and introduction to, Mt. Shasta studies. Other historical works which are specific about particular subject matter, for example, Willis Linn Jepson's 1942 "Early Botanical Ascents of Mt. Shasta" (in Section 31. Science: Botany), will be found in the appropriate topical sections of the Mount Shasta Collection annotated bibliography.

The [MS number] indicates the Mount Shasta Special Collection accession numbers used by the College of the Siskiyous Library.


Contains the following topic headings: 'Statement of Findings; Project Background and Research Procedures; Introduction; Mount Shasta in Early EuroAmerican Exploration of Northern California; Scientific Exploration; Early Mountaineering on Mount Shasta; Early Scientific Exploration on Mount Shasta; Recreation and Culture; Spiritual; Extractive Land Uses; Forest Service Administration; Summary; References.'

Contains a thoroughly documented review of the major themes and personalities of Mount Shasta's historic era (approximately 1800 A.D. to Present). The authors have portrayed the various scientific, philosophical, literary, artistic and religious roles which Mount Shasta has played in the lives of its visitors. These intellectual and artistic activities, as
opposed to physically extractive land uses, are seen as being more integral to the mountain's unique history. Thus land use themes of logging, "checkerboard" land ownership, railroad building, CCC work, etc., although historically important, did not serve to fundamentally augment the mountain's unique history as a place for significant activities in the realms of exploration, science, art, religion, mountaineering, etc. The authors present the opinion that the value of individual historic sites on the mountain are best evaluated by asking whether or not they are inextricably linked to this larger historical perspective defining Mt. Shasta "as an entity."

This paper begins: "This report documents the findings of an investigation into the non-American Indian history of Mount Shasta using a thematic approach....Rather than the usual situation of the 'place' being secondary or merely the backdrop for the historic activity, in this case, the focus of the research was on the importance of the mountain in relation to the themes. In light of this, the authors determined that historic-era activities related to the themes of conservation/philosophy, art/literature and religion stood-out as being not only historically noteworthy but also as integrally related to Mount Shasta as a distinctive place and, thus, were given more attention in the narrative. Historic activities related to the theme of geographic and scientific exploration, though determined by the authors as less historically important, became a relatively lengthy component of the narrative because it provided an important historical context for several of the other themes" (p. i). 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS884].


Contains many original findings from various sources. For example, from Edward Stuhl, Eichorn learned that the cryptogramic name of Wis/har Spen/le Cer/ve, author of "Lemuria: the Lost Continent of the Pacific" can be deciphered into the name of Rosicrucian author Har/ve Spen/er Le/wis (p. 20).

Contains a letter from the Academy of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Institute of Geography, dated May 22, 1956. The letter states that the Russians, who founded Fort Ross in 1812, did indeed make exploring trips into the Sacramento and Slavenka River valleys and that "your hypothesis that the Russians must have seen Mount Shasta before the expedition in 1827 must be considered a correct one" (p. 5).

Contains photographs of "I AM" pageant, the mountain summit area, the old geodetic monument, climbers, Shasta Indians, aerial views, etc. Eichorn's book has served for decades as the most comprehensive history of Mt. Shasta. 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS88].


The history of the name "Shasta" is given, and Hall refers to both Power's 'Shastika' and Hodge's 'Sustika' theories, among others (p. 253). Hall's report carefully notes the conflicting accounts of "Pearce's" [Pierce's] first ascent in 1854 (p. 254). Hall describes the climbing and survey work of Diehl, 1855; Roman, 1856; Mayhew, 1859; Whitney and Brewer, 1862; Moses; King, 1870; Muir, 1874-1875; Rodgers, 1875; Colonna, 1878; Thompson, 1883; Ricksecker, 1884; and McAdie, 1903 (pp. 255-258).

Hall discusses a Scientific American article titled "Fighting Caterpillars with Steam" which was about an incredible invasion of butterfly larva (caterpillars) near or on Mount Shasta. The larva made the tracks so slippery that the trains could not stop nor could the trains get traction to move. An engineer devised a steam jet to clear the tracks. Coincidentally, Hall himself was at a logging camp 30 miles east of Mount Shasta during that caterpillar invasion in 1914, and he describes the damage of millions of food hunting larva which devoured the brush about the region.

Hall credits the Horse Camp lodge building efforts of M. Hall McAllister of the Sierra Club: "...that Shasta now begins to take its place among California's great mountain recreation areas" (p. 259). Contains several full-page photographs of Mount Shasta.
Note that Hall's article was in part 'ghost written' by famed Sierra Nevada historian Francis Farquhar (see Huber 1946, p.1). 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS275].

[MS57]. Lamson, Berenice McKeown. *Mount Shasta: A Regional History*. Stockton, Calif.: University of the Pacific, 1984 (Thesis, Master's). 128pp. An important and detailed historical study of Mount Shasta with extensive references. Contains six chapters: "Survey of Geologic History; Pre-History; Discovery and Exploration; Early Settlement and Land Use; Federal Regulation; Shasta Forest." Also contains appendices of maps, legends (e.g., How the Old Man Above Created the World. p. 107), extensive bibliography (pp. 120-128), and photographs. Discusses the history of Mt. Shasta National Park proposals. The work is particularly detailed as to U. S. Government historical documents pertaining to U. S. Forest Service policies, and includes appendices containing detailed lists of early Forest Service personnel, Forest Boundary Changes, Forest Revenue Comparisons, etc.

The author's own introductory abstract explains that: "The purpose of this study was to evaluate a period in the history of the region surrounding Mount Shasta, a sentinel on the surface of the earth and in the minds of ancient as well as modern man. The study presents the area's geologic history, it's pre-history and discovery by the white man in order to provide the reader with an understanding of the later exploration and early settlement of the region. The emergence of the U. S. Forest Service and the creation of Shasta Forest as well as the evolution of Federal regulatory policy and control is presented along with a discussion of the area's transition and recent wilderness legislation. It is the writer's hope that this information might be utilized by others who are concerned with the preservation of the Shasta Peak Wilderness Area (p. v.)." 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS57].

[MS2030]. Miesse, William C. *Mount Shasta: An Annotated Bibliography*. Weed, CA: College of the Siskiyou, 1993 [2002]. viii, 289 p.; 28 cm. Printed version published (with 1253 entries) in the year 1993. [Updated as a website in the year 2002 with approximately 220 new entries; new entries can be identified as having MS numbers larger than M S 2000] An annotated bibliography of 1,473 selected books, articles, manuscripts, ephemera, and audiovisual materials pertaining to the Native Americans, early exploration, mountaineering, history, legends, literature, tourism, art and science of the Mount Shasta volcano, California. Contains thirty two subject chapters with each chapter given a brief introduction, outlining the theme of the entries for that chapter. Entries were selected based upon historical and scientific relevance and/or uniqueness. Quotations from the original works are often given. In many instances the historical or scientific significance of a particular entry is discussed in terms of its relevance in answering historical or scientific problems. 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS2030].

[MS2191]. Schrader, George. *Schrader Files-Finding Guide: Page by Page Annotated Catalog of All Documents in Volumes 13 and 16*. [with] Author - Title Index for Schrader Files Vols. 13 and 16. [George Schrader Manuscript Collection, United States Forest Service, Shasta - Trinity National Forest, Mount Shasta Ranger District]. Mount Shasta, CA.: United States Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Mount Shasta Ranger District, 1995. A finding guide to an extensive archive of local history materials held by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Mount Shasta Ranger District. George R. Schrader was a co-founder of the Siskiyou County Historical Society. He was for many years acting supervisor of the Shasta National Forest and a major proponent and secretary for the building of the first Mount Shasta Ski Park in the 1950's. Upon his death his extensive files were left to the Mount Shasta Ranger District headquarters with the stipulation that the materials remain with the forest service. In 1995 the USFS Shasta-Trinity archaeologist organized a 'Passport in Training' volunteer group to create a finding guide to the materials in the boxes. Among the most important materials were local history documents and articles in Volumes 13 and 16 of the Schrader Files. Nearly every aspect of local history is covered, including much material on Mount Shasta. The archives are especially useful for unique place-name history on and around Mount Shasta. 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS2191].

[MS505]. Stewart, Charles Lockwood. *The Discovery and Exploration of Mount Shasta*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California, 1929 (Thesis, Master's). A scholarly historical study of Mt. Shasta. Extensively researched and footnoted. Thesis work supervised and approved by the distinguished University of California historian Herbert Bolton; the thesis approval committee included the equally distinguished anthropologist A. L. Kroeber. The author enjoyed close cooperation not only with Bolton and Kroeber, but also with noted historians and anthropologists C. Hart Merriam, Francis Farquhar, Lewis McArthur, Leslie Spier, and Roland B. Dixon. As is to be expected of a thesis aimed and abetted by such a distinguished host of associates, this paper is especially strong on conveying the wider application of Mt. Shasta's history to the larger sphere of the history and ethnography of the American West. Note that in 1937 Stewart received a Ph.D. in history from U. C. Berkeley.

The author postulates and draws conclusions on many of the important historical quandaries associated with Mt.
Shasta. The following chapter titles do not do justice to the detailed presentation within each chapter: "The Significance of Mount Shasta to the Indians Living about the Base" (pp. 1-14); "Did Don Luis Argüello Discover Mount Shasta?" (pp. 15-25); "Ogden and the Naming of Mt. Shasta" (pp. 26-38); "Trappers and Official Explorers" (pp. 39-51); "Early Ascents of Mount Shasta" (pp. 52-70); "The Period of Scientific Surveys on Mount Shasta, 1862-1898" (pp. 71-90); "The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey on Mount Shasta" (pp. 91-109); "Mount Shasta in Recent Years" (pp. 110-130); "Bibliography" (pp. 131-178).

Note that Stewart in this 1929 thesis has addressed and put into form many of the historical problems associated with the naming of Mt. Shasta. For example, after a detailed, independent evaluation of C. Hart Merriam's 1926 suggestion that Peter Skene Ogden did not name present Mt. Shasta, but instead named present Mt. McLoughlin as "Shasta," Stewart says: "So there the matter stands, with good evidence on both sides of the question. At any rate, one fact appears certain: that Peter Skene Ogden was the first white man to bestow the name Shasta (or some variation of the word) on a mountain peak....Whether Ogden really intended the name Shasta for the mountain we now know by that name or whether there has indeed been a transposition of nomenclature, we cannot say definitively" (p. 37. See also Merriam "Source of the Name Shasta" 1926, and LaLande "Geographic Names: "The Confusing Case of 'Shasta'' in First Over the Siskiyous 1987).

As another example of Stewart's posing questions, rather than completely answering them, consider the question of whether or not it was Mt. Lassen or Mt. Shasta that Jedediah Smith in 1828 named as "Rogers Peak." Stewart concludes: "Hence we cannot be entirely certain as to whether Smith had Shasta or Lassen in mind when he bestowed Rogers name on a peak" (p. 41). The author backs up this statement with an analysis of the maps and documents from Albert Gallatin, George Gibbs, J. J. Warner, Sir George Simpson, etc. Note that the author has posed historical questions and has left these problems open to future debate.

The detailed bibliography from Stewart's thesis is partially annotated, and contains a wealth of references, reports, and manuscripts, all of which may be of help to future researchers.

Some minor corrections and amplifications could be made to this 1929 thesis, in light of more recent findings. But note that the author's open-ended approach, combined with his precise and extensive documentation, make this thesis the single most forwardly useful historical study ever written about Mt. Shasta.

The author's introductory acknowledgments end with the statement: "But above all others my greatest obligation is to my friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stuhl, with whom it was my privilege to spend two summer vacations on the McCloud River. My interest in Shasta dates from two ascents made in company with Mr. Stuhl in the summers of 1924 and 1926. Mr. Stuhl is at present preparing a more general work on Mt. Shasta, designed to serve the visitor to the mountain as a convenient guide to the geology, natural life, and human history of Shasta. His enthusiasm for the mountain kindled in me a similar interest in the great peak,--the direct outgrowth of which is this thesis" (p. iv). Note that Edward Stuhl's research contributions to the thesis were substantial. In a personal letter, dated Feb. 21, 1929, Stewart wrote to Stuhl concerning the fact that historian Francis Farquhar wanted the University of California to publish the thesis: "How does this arrangement suit you? I ask that question because it involves making public all our most prized documents, such as the original Shasta register, Rodgers' diary, Argüello, and many other features which we like to think are our contributions to Shasta information" (Stewart's letter in Stuhl Collection, COS). 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS505].

[MS150]. Stuhl, Edward 1887-1984. Wildflowers of Mount Shasta: Lone Giant of the Cascades. Klamath Falls, Ore.: Clementine Publishing Co., 1981. This is one of the most important history and natural history books about Mount Shasta. Edward Stuhl was trained as an artist in Europe, came to this country and worked as a naturalist, historian, and conservationist. He was an expert mountaineer. Note that Edw

Divided into two parts; note that each part begins with a page 1. The first part, pp.1-72, consists of essays and photographs. The second part, following page 73, but renumbered as pp. 1-134, is the art section. Although an excellent book, it lacks ease of use, and suffers from a lack of clear organization. There is no index and the table of contents does not name the various authors nor convey the sense of each chapter. Throughout the book are many excellent photographs, mostly taken from the air, of Mount Shasta. There are also several photographs of Edward Stuhl and his wife.

Part one contains the following: a Mount Shasta poem by Penny Castle (p.10); an introduction by Dr. Wm. Bridge Cooke (pp. 11-12); a biographical essay (about Edward Stuhl) entitled "For the Love of a Mountain" by Marilyn Ford (pp. 14-23); an essay about Mount Shasta entitled "The Grandeur of Mount Shasta" by Edward Stuhl (pp. 25-27); an essay entitled "The Plant Communities of Mount Shasta" by Wm. Bridge Cooke (pp. 30-36); an historical essay entitled "Mount Shasta Botanical Excursions" by Marilyn Ford (pp. 39-46); an essay on the mysteries of the mountain entitled "The Lure of Mount Shasta" by Marilyn Ford (pp. 49-55); an essay of excerpts from the Mount Shasta journals of Edward Stuhl dating as far back as 1923 (pp. 57-69); and a three page glossary of botanical terms (pp. 69-72).
For many decades Edward Stuhl strove to capture in watercolor paintings the likeness of each and every species of wild flower which could be located on the slopes of Mount Shasta. Part two of the book presents in color reproductions nearly all of those wild flower paintings (pp. 1-104). There are also several lists of scientific botanical material (pp. 105-129): Plant Families; Sensitive Plant Species; Flora Common Names; Scientific Names; Illustrations of Flower Parts; Mt. Shasta Flora Descriptions. There are three pages of bibliography listing references used in the essays of the first part of the book (pp.130-132): "Botanical Essay References;" "References, Lure of Mount Shasta;" and "References, For Love of Mountain." 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS150].


[MS149]. Stuhl, Edward 1887-1984. Mount Shasta Bibliography. no date. Unpublished typewritten manuscript, with handwritten supplement. A unique, painstakingly compiled bibliography of Mt. Shasta. Contains over 1200 entries of articles, books, maps, paintings, photographs, illustrations and other materials relating to the history and natural history of Mount Shasta. Some of the entries are briefly annotated. Note that in its time this was the single-most comprehensive reference of Mt. Shasta materials and has proved invaluable in locating materials for the College of the Siskiyous Mt. Shasta Collection.

Each entry in Edward Stuhl's bibliography has an entry number, though there is no apparent chronological or alphabetical order to the entries. It has recently been determined that these numbers correspond to the order of the materials as found in the handbound folders constituting Stuhl's lifelong and ever growing personal collection of Mt. Shasta reference materials. Each item in these folders is either an original clipping, a typescript copy, or a photocopy. Each item has a number handwritten at the upper right hand corner, and these numbers correspond to his bibliography entry numbers. Each folder in his reference collection measured 8 1/2 by 11 inches and was bound in the form of a booklet; the booklets have attractive matching covers hand-lettered by Stuhl. Titles of the reference booklets/folders include: "Mt. Shasta Park Movement," "Mount Shasta Discovery and Naming" "Mount Shasta Paintings," "Mount Shasta Watercolors," "Mt. Shasta Mysticism," "Mt. Shasta Poems," "Mt. Shasta Indians," "Mt. Shasta The Monument," "Mt. Shasta History Descriptions, Impressions," "Mt. Shasta Sisson," etc. Copies of most of the numbered items in the Stuhl bibliography, including copies of personal letters and manuscripts, are available from the College of Siskiyous Mount Shasta Collection. 01. Comprehensive Histories of Mt. Shasta. [MS149].

[MS457]. Zanger, Michael. Mt. Shasta: History, Legend and Lore. Berkeley, Calif.: Celestial Arts, 1992. Preface by Gary Snyder. The most recent and in many ways the best of the Mount Shasta books. In a scholarly yet personable style the author discusses the historical and contemporary lore of Mt. Shasta. This is by far the best illustrated book about the mountain, containing a comprehensive selection of historic and contemporary photographs, maps, and artwork. Includes portraits of dozens of well-known and lesser-known personalities who have become part of Mt. Shasta's legacy: John Wesley Powell, Gilbert Thompson, Clarence King, John Muir, Joaquin Miller, Justin H. Sisson, Edward Stuhl, Mac Olberman, William Bridge Cooke, etc. Numerous quotations from past and present important visitors to the mountain are interleaved throughout the book. The early chapters present discussions about historical controversies surrounding subjects such as the 1786 eruption sighting by the French explorer La Pžrouse and the naming of "Mount Sastise" by Peter Skene Ogden in 1827. Later chapters concentrate on more modern topics, including interesting behind-the-scenes
comments by legislators associated with the creation of the Mount Shasta Wilderness Area. There is an excellent chapter on logging, lumber, and railroads, illustrated with pictures of horse, 'big wheel,' and 'steam donkey' logging of the huge timbers from Mt. Shasta. The book conveys a wholesome and well-rounded historical and contemporary view of Mt. Shasta.


The author is a mountaineer, mountain guide, photographer, and writer who has lived for more than 20 years in the Mount Shasta region. Part of the appeal of the book stems from the author's personal friendship with the late Edward Stuhl and with several other important mountaineers and scientists discussed in the work. By publishing excerpts from many of the documents associated with Mt. Shasta, such as the original summit register, Augustus Rodgers's journals, early maps of Mount Shasta, and so on, the author has continued and augmented the historical work begun in the 1920s by Edward Stuhl and Charles Lockwood Stewart (see Stewart 1929).

The author's ending statement: "What does the future hold for Mt. Shasta and the surrounding area? These are questions asked by residents, developers, environmentalists, skiers, spiritualists, Forest Service planners, Native Americans, and legislators. In the end, Mt. Shasta is a plain statement of itself--a bridge between past and present, earth and sky, and we are left to behold and wonder. Whether seen, climbed, contemplated, or immortalized in legend and poetry, Mt. Shasta has secured its place among the great mountains of the world" (p. 117).