

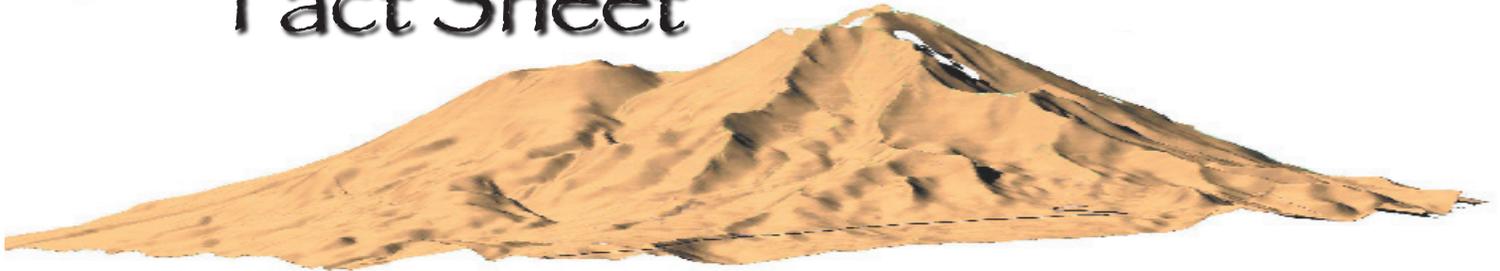
"I consider the evening twilight on Mt. Shasta one of the grandest sights I have ever witnessed."

~President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908. [MS1032]

Mount Shasta

Fact Sheet

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- **Geologic and Geographic Descriptions**
- **Native Americans**
- **Origin of the Name "Shasta"**
- **Timeline of Historical Events**

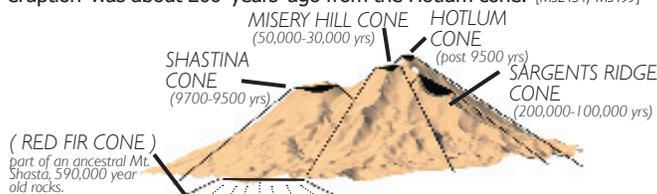
- **Lemurians and Metaphysical Legends**
- **Famous Writers, Artists, Photographers**
- **Place-Names History**
- **Little-Known Facts About Mount Shasta**

INTRODUCTION Travelers have been coming to the Mount Shasta region in northern California since the 1820's. Nearly everyone who sees Mount Shasta for the first time is struck by the beauty and majesty of this solitary snow-capped mountain surrounded by a multitude of natural wonders. The Mount Shasta Fact Sheet was developed to answer many of the common questions visitors have about the mountain and the area. It is also meant to provide a glimpse into the rich history of Mount Shasta. The Fact Sheet is written by William Miesse, author of *Mount Shasta: An Annotated Bibliography* [MS2030], a guide to the extensive resources of the College of the Siskiyou Library's Mount Shasta Collection. It is impossible to answer all of the questions people may have, so I invite you to explore the resources of the Mount Shasta Collection and to contact us for more information. Corrections and suggestions for the Fact Sheet are welcome.

-Dennis Freeman, Library Director, College of the Siskiyou

Inquiries College of the Siskiyou Library, 800 College Ave., Weed, CA 96094. Phone: (530) 938-5331 E-mail: library@siskiyous.edu Fact Sheet web page with references at: <http://www.siskiyous.edu/library/shasta/factsheet/>

GEOLOGIC DESCRIPTION A **Compound Stratovolcano**. Although it looks like just two volcanic cones, Mt. Shasta is actually composed of four major volcanic cones. Each cone is built of layers, or strata, so each cone is itself a stratovolcano. Each cone was created in its own eruptive period. Mt. Shasta is called a compound stratovolcano because the four separate stratovolcanic cones are overlapping. Portions of the summit craters of all four major volcanic cones remain. A fifth cone, the Red Fir Cone, named for its rocks which outcrop at Red Fir Flat at 6340 feet and elsewhere lower on the mountain, was part of an earlier and since collapsed compound stratovolcano often referred to as the 'Ancestral Mt. Shasta.' The oldest rocks on Mt. Shasta, those of the Red Fir Cone, are about 590,000 years old. Almost all you can see of Mt. Shasta is less than 200,000 years old, and the Shastina cone is only about 9700 years old. The last eruption was about 200 years ago from the Hotlum cone. [MS2151, MS199]



THE FOUR MAJOR CONES OF MOUNT SHASTA

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Location Siskiyou County, California. The mountain is about 60 miles south of the California-Oregon border and about 60 miles north of Redding, California.

Latitude 41.42 North / **Longitude** 122.20 West

Elevation of main Shasta peak 14,161 feet (4,317 meters).

Elevation of lesser Shastina peak 12,330 feet (3,758 meters).

2nd highest volcano in Cascade Range, after Mt. Rainier. 4th highest volcano in N. America. 5th highest mountain in Calif.; 61st highest in N. America. [MS3044]

Timberline at 8,000 - 8,500 feet (2,400-2,600 meters) around the mountain.

Diameter of base ~16 miles (27km). Circumference ~50 miles (84km).

Volume 120 cubic miles (500 cubic km). Largest Cascade stratovolcano, bigger in volume than Mount Rainier.

Glaciers Seven USGS officially named glaciers- Bolam, Hotlum, Konwakiton, Wintun, Mud Creek, Watkins, Whitney. Indian names from John Wesley Powell, who climbed Shasta in 1879; Whitney glacier named by Clarence King in 1870. Three small additional glaciers have been proposed: Upper Wintun, Chicago, and Olberman. [MS433, MS3015, MS2151]

Watershed Underground flow through the fragmented lavas of Mount Shasta creates many pure springs; two "Big Springs," one in the Mount Shasta City Park and another in the Shasta Valley, are often considered the main sources of the Sacramento and Shasta Rivers. International bottling companies including Crystal Geyser, Danone (Coca-Cola), and Nestle currently bottle or have water bottling rights for Mount Shasta spring waters.

Waterfalls The Whitney, Coquette, Ash Creek, and Mud Creek falls. [MS433]

Hot Springs Two separate small sulfurous hot spring areas near main summit, temperatures have varied over the years from 150 to 183 degrees F. [MS416, MS199]

Cascade Range The Cascade Range consists of the active High Cascades and the parallel older inactive Western Cascades. The High Cascades range from Mt. Garibaldi (40 miles north of Vancouver, British Columbia) south to Lassen Peak in northern California. The vulcanism in the High Cascades is caused by the subduction of the Explorer, Juan De Fuca, and Gorda oceanic tectonic plates sliding beneath the North American plate. The melted materials then rise and erupt. There are about 20 major volcanic peaks in the High Cascades range, and hundreds of smaller volcanic structures. [MS2151]

Ring of Fire The Cascades are part of the 'Ring of Fire,' a chain of volcanic arcs and oceanic trenches found at tectonic plate borders around the Pacific Basin.

Shasta Valley Hills The hills in the Shasta Valley are mostly debris from the massive collapse of the Ancestral Mt. Shasta sometime between 360,000 and 160,000 years ago; geologists consider it one of the largest landslides on earth. [MS426]

REFERENCES, e.g. [MS2151], may be accessed from the Fact Sheet web page at <http://www.siskiyous.edu/library/shasta/factsheet/>

ERUPTIONS When Did Mt. Shasta Last Erupt?

A U.S. Geological Survey report in 1980 states that a pyroclastic flow and hot mudflow traveled down Ash Creek and another hot mudflow down Mud Creek about 200 years ago, based on radiometric dating. This is the main report citing eruptive activity of Shasta about 200 years ago (from a 1980 date). An oft-mentioned 1786 sighting of Shasta in eruption, however, is an error. [MS199, MS2151, MS412, MS2198]

An Eruption in 1786 : A Misinterpretation Geologists sometimes accept as fact that in 1786 the famous French explorer Francois Galaup de LaPerouse saw from his ship off Cape Mendocino an eruption of Mount Shasta. LaPerouse wrote in his journal that he witnessed a volcanic eruption. However, the idea that it was Shasta, or even a volcanic eruption, is very doubtful for two reasons: First because in 1818 another French explorer, Camille De Rocquefeuil, also sailing past Cape Mendocino, explained that: "*The natives, at this season, set fire to the grass...doubtless, this circumstance, which was unknown to our illustrious La Peyrouse, and that was the cause of his error, when seeing a great fire on Cape Mendocino, about the same time of year, he thought it was a volcano.*" Second, and more important, LaPerouse's detailed 1786 manuscript map shows he saw an event directly on the Mendocino coast, and not something further inland. [MS281, MS828, MS2150]

Will Mount Shasta Erupt Again? Yes. Mount Shasta is dormant but will erupt again. Geologists think Shasta has erupted 10 or 11 times in the last 3,400 years, and at least 3 times in the last 750 years. Keeping in mind that statistically every present year is equal in odds even if an eruption hasn't happened in 200 years, the odds for an eruption are thought to be as follows:

- 1 in 250 to 300 in any given year.
- 1 in 25 to 30 in any given decade.
- 1 in 3 to 4 during a person's lifetime.

Recent investigations suggest both Mount St. Helens and Mount Shasta are located on the boundaries of large rotating blocks of the continental plate itself, which could explain the higher number of past eruptions of these two peaks versus other Cascade volcanoes. Nearby Lassen Peak erupted dramatically from 1914 to 1921 with 170 explosive eruptions in the first year alone. [MS141, MS2151, MS199, MS274, MS755]

NATIVE AMERICANS of the Mount Shasta Region

Evidence of an Indian camp on the north side of Mt. Shasta dates back to at least 600 BCE and possibly to 2500 BCE. Artifacts in the greater region suggest 9,000 years of Native American habitation. Mt. Shasta is a 'corner' territorial boundary for four Native American peoples: The Shasta, Modoc, Ajumawi/Atsuwegi, and Wintu. Additionally, Mt. Shasta is within the view of the Karuk Tribe on the mid-Klamath River and the Klamath Tribe of the upper Klamath River. [MS49, MS761, MS1219, MS577, MS2195, MS816].

Creation and Other Stories All the tribes noted above revered Mount Shasta and have myths recorded about the creation of the mountain or feature Shasta in a teaching myth. 'The Great Spirit Builds Mount Shasta To See The Ocean' tells of the creation of the mountain itself and of the hillocks in Shasta Valley. 'The Great Spirit With The Mountain As His Wigwam, His Daughter, And The Grizzlies' tells of the origins of the native peoples. 'Mis Misa' tells of the tiny but powerful spirit in the mountain which balances earth and universe. 'The Yellowjackets Steal Coyote's Salmon' tells how persistence is valued and how the buried salmon high on Shasta makes one a bit nauseous up there. 'How The First Rainbow Was Made' tells of cooperation of animals on the mountain. Many authentic and unusual teaching stories from Wintu elder Grant Towendolly (Indian name Laktcharar Tauhindauli) were compiled into the 1966 book *Bag of Bones*. [MS1102, MS2195, MS771, MS186, MS2009, MS816]

THE NAME SHASTA The word 'Shasta'

is a modern spelling of the name of a Native American tribe first spelled as "Sastise" in the Dec. 26, 1826 journal entry of Hudson's Bay Company fur brigade leader Peter Skene Ogden. Ogden, while in the Klamath Lakes area, states that the name "Sastise" was used by the Klamath Indians for an enemy tribe on the other side of the mountains. Traveling to the other side of the mountains and into the Rogue River Valley on Feb. 14, 1827 he gave the name "Sastise," which he also spelled as "Sasty," not to present-day Mt. Shasta, but to present-day Mt. McLoughlin in southern Oregon. Ogden had seen present-day Mt. Shasta earlier while he was in the Klamath Lake region, but never gave it a name. Throughout the 1830's and early 1840's present-day Mt. McLoughlin remained on maps named "Sasty" and present-day Mt. Shasta was variously named on maps as "Mt. Simpson," "Pit Mountain," or "Mt. Jackson." A few explorers beginning with Alexander R. McLeod in 1830 would confuse which mountain was "Sasty," as did the United States Exploring Expedition in 1841. Books and emigrant maps based on the authoritative surveys of the Exploring Expedition firmly transferred the name "Sasty," later spelled "Shasta," to present-day Mt. Shasta. [MS173, MS654, MS528, MS1154]

TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS Page 2

- 1817** Possible Mt. Shasta mention (as "Jesus Maria") by Fray Narciso Duran. [MS198]
- 1821** Possible Mt. Shasta mention ("Los Quates," 'twins') by Louis Arguello. [MS358]
- 1826** Dec. 26. Mt. Shasta seen but not named, by Peter Skene Ogden. [MS175]
- 1827** Feb. 14. Name 'Sasty,' 'Sastise' given to present-day Mt. McLoughlin, by Ogden. Name transferred in 1841 mistakenly to present-day Mt. Shasta. [MS175]
- 1828** Jedediah Smith sees Mt. Shasta, names it "Mt. Simpson." [MS170, MS1036]
- 1830** Alexander R. McLeod snowbound, loses 300 horses, 2400 furs. [MS651]
- 1837** Ewing Young and Philip L. Edwards lead cattle drive up Sacramento canyon, 630 of 729 cattle complete arduous journey to Oregon. [MS2, MS332]
- 1839** Hall J. Kelley names Mt. Shasta "Mt. Jackson," part of President's Range. [MS17]
- 1841** U.S. Exploring Expedition, aka Wilkes Expedition. First scientists at Mt. Shasta, officially transfer 'Shasta' name (spelled 'Shasty') to the California mountain [MS672]
- 1850** W. S. Lowden party, first recorded summit attempt, turns back. [MS67]
- 1852** John Jeffrey discovers 'Jeffrey' pine, climbs to Mt. Shasta's timberline. [MS791]
- 1854** Elias Davidson Pierce and party, 1st ascent of Mt. Shasta summit. [MS599]
- 1854** Joaquin Miller, author, begins four year stay in Mt. Shasta region. [MS215]
- 1855** Israel S. Diehl, first solo ascent of Mt. Shasta. Mentions seeing glaciers [MS557]
- 1856** Harriette C. Eddy and party, first ascent of Mt. Shasta by women. [MS1279]
- 1862** California Geological Survey, J. D. Whitney and William Henry Brewer climb Mt. Shasta, 1864 survey return trip includes Clarence King. [MS224, MS625]
- 1868** Justin H. Sisson, guide and innkeeper, places register on summit, where it remained until 1900. Signed by Muir, King, Powell, etc. [MS505]
- 1870** Clarence King discovers first active glaciers in U.S. on Mt. Shasta. [MS223, MS231]
- 1873** Joaquin Miller's popular *Life Amongst the Modocs* makes Mt. Shasta well-known, the Modoc War of 1873 also puts Mt. Shasta in the public eye. [MS806]
- 1875** John Muir, famous overnight survival in snowstorm on summit. [MS10]
- 1875** Reflecting signal cone built on summit for U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey triangulation, tower falls 1903 (cone now at Sisson Museum.) [MS54, MS530]
- 1877** Asa Gray, Joseph Hooker, famed botanists, visit Mt. Shasta with Muir. [MS3036]
- 1879** USGS director John Wesley Powell climbs Mt. Shasta. [MS732]
- 1879** World record: mirror flashing, 192 miles, Mt. Shasta to Mt. St. Helena. [MS530]
- 1887** Railroad last spike driven in Ashland, Oregon, connects Oregon and California, boom in population, settlement, lumbering, and tourism. [MS1177]
- 1888** National Park proposals for Mt. Shasta by railroad and others. [MS116]
- 1898** U. S. Biological Survey of Mt. Shasta, led by C. Hart Merriam. [MS169]
- 1905** Shasta National Forest established by Theodore Roosevelt. [MS3035]
- 1923** Dedication of Sierra Club's Shasta Alpine Lodge at Horse Camp. [MS1121]
- 1924** Konwakaton Glacier creates dam, releases massive 7 million cubic yard mudflow; frontpage news in S.F. papers for weeks, McCloud threatened. [MS2078]
- 1959** Mount Shasta Ski Bowl opens. Closes in 1978 after avalanche. [MS3025]
- 1984** California Wilderness Act of 1984, 37,000 acres of the Shasta-Trinity N.F. on Mt. Shasta are designated as the "Mount Shasta Wilderness." [MS1076]
- 1985** Mount Shasta Ski Park opens on Douglas Butte volcanic cone. [MS3026]
- 1985** Robert Webb, record climb, Horse Camp to summit, 1 hr. 39 min. (the average climber's time is about 8 hours). [MS457]
- 1987** Harmonic Convergence, Shasta one of many world power point sites. [MS143]
- 1994** Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places designates Panther Meadows and Mt. Shasta above 8,000 feet as a historic district. [MS2091]
- 1995** Large six-fingered avalanche on west side of Shastina alters landscape, still visible from freeway just north of Mount Shasta City. [MS2092]
- 1997** Whitney Creek debris flow cuts off half mile of Highway 97, burying highway to depth of 4-5 feet. [MS2152]
- 2002** Four parapalegic climbers, 3 men and a woman, each using hand-cranked 'snow pods,' achieve summit after several epic days of work. [MS3011]

Clouds: Mount Shasta is known for its spectacular lenticular clouds, especially in Fall and Spring. They appear stationary, but are actually continuously forming from multiple flowing horizontal layers of condensation.



Little-Known Fact Prior to 1850 spellings for the mountain included Sasty, Saste, Shasty, Shasté, Shaste, Shastl, Tshastl, Chasta, Chaste, Chasti, and Chastl. In 1850 the California State Legislature officially adopted the name and spelling of SHASTA for the new Shasta County and for the mountain itself. Surprisingly, this is the first time the spelling "Shasta," with both an initial "S" and a last letter "A" is used in print. It is likely that Spanish maps of early California were consulted for new county names. Spanish place names commonly ended in "a" or "o" to indicate gender, and the county name of "Shasta" was probably spelled to conform to this pattern. Siskiyou County was carved out of Shasta County in 1852. [MS1154, MS3039]

The Seven Sacred Mountains of the World In the last few decades Mount Shasta has become known locally as one of the 'Seven Sacred Mountains of the World,' however there is no officially recognized world list of seven sacred mountains and regional lists of sacred mountains (of the Navaho people or of China, for example) do not include Shasta. Nonetheless Shasta as a sacred mountain does have a well established and widespread legacy. To generations of Native Americans the mountain was and is a highly important place of reverence and a place of balance between earth and universe. To early Californian explorers, climbers, and settlers it was a source of awe and inspiration. To travel writers of the late 1800's it was "The Keystone of California Scenery" and "California's Fuji-san." But it was in the early 20th century that three books firmly established Shasta's reputation as a most unusual and sacred mountain. These three books, *A Dweller on Two Planets*, *Lemuria*, and *Unveiled Mysteries*, as discussed below, gave Shasta a body of myth and legend that is perhaps unrivaled in all of North American mountain literature. [MS771, MS667, MS778, MS783]

The Mystic Temple inside Mount Shasta From 1883 to 1886, teenage author Frederick Spencer Oliver, while living in Yreka, California wrote the spiritual fiction novel *A Dweller on Two Planets: or, A Dividing of the Way*. In part about Mt. Shasta, it is a source of legends such as Mt. Shasta's mystical brotherhood, the mystic temple inside the mountain, mysterious lights, a secret tunnel entrance, space ships coming out of the mountain, and the 'I AM' spirit. Oliver claimed to be an amanuensis for the 'true' author of the book, a non-corporal entity named 'Phylos the Thibetan.' Oliver passed away in 1899 at the age of 33, the book unpublished. In 1905 Oliver's mother and a group of friends published the novel which continues to inspire readers with the mysteries of Mt. Shasta. [MS157]

Lemurians and Mount Shasta The myth of a spiritually advanced race of people from the lost continent of Lemuria can be traced to the 19th century writings of H.P. Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society. In 1925 the writer 'Selvius' published the first article linking Lemurians to Mt. Shasta. In 1931, Wishar Spenle Cerve (pseudonym of Harvey Spencer Lewis) wrote and published *Lemuria, The Lost Continent of the Pacific: The Mystery People of Mount Shasta*. Cerve wrote that Lemurians were tall, graceful and agile, with larger heads and much larger foreheads than average humans. Lemurians would come to town and spend gold nuggets. The publication of this popular AMORC Rosecrucian book resulted in a steady stream of writers and tourists coming to Mt. Shasta in the 1930's and later. (Lemuria was named for the lemur. The name Lemuria was proposed in 1864 by zoologist Philip L. Sclater for a hypothetical sunken continent which could account for the migration of lemurs between existing continents.) [MS611, MS153, MS158]

Saint Germain and the Ascended Masters In 1934 Guy Warren Ballard, using the pen name of Godfre Ray King, published the autobiographical novel *Unveiled Mysteries* which reveals his 1930 meeting with the timeless Ascended Master "Saint Germain" on the slopes of Shasta. The book told about the mountain, and discusses the teachings of the mystic spiritual teacher Saint Germain and other Ascended Masters who exist on a higher realm. Ballard explained that Saint Germain was "the same Great Masterful 'Presence' who worked at the Court of France previous to and during the French Revolution..." Mr. Ballard wrote several other books before passing in 1940. His wife Edna continued the "I AM religious activity" and published many volumes of additional Saint Germain material. By the 1940's hundreds of thousands of people were part of the activity. This religious group, still popular throughout the world, brings many visitors to Mt. Shasta each summer to attend a series of pageants at the Saint Germain Amphitheatre in Mount Shasta City. [MS152, MS913, MS1285]

FLORA AND FAUNA Flora From the summit of Mount Shasta down to its lowlands there are about 880 species of plant life. One plant, the Cooke's Phacelia, is so exceedingly rare that it is thought to grow nowhere else in the world. Another plant, the beautiful Shasta Lily, has some of the mountain's largest and most fragrant flowers (but please don't pick them!). Several plants new-to-science, including the Shasta Bluebell and California Pitcher Plant, were first discovered on or near Shasta in the nineteenth century. Among the more unusual trees in Shasta's higher elevation forests are the Shasta Red Fir, Whitebark Pine, and Mountain Hemlock. The lower forests include many pines (Ponderosa, Jeffrey, Sugar, Western White, Knobcone, Lodgepole) and other trees (Douglas Fir, White Fir, Incense Cedar, Western Juniper, Black Oak, Mountain Dogwood). [MS3036]

Fauna Wolves, Grizzly Bears, Bighorn Sheep, and Elk disappeared from the slopes of Shasta by the early 20th century. Still existing are Pine Martins, Coyotes, Mountain Lions, Bobcats, Black Bear, Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Foxes, and Picas. Interesting birds found above 7,000 feet include the Common Raven, Gray Jay, and Rosy Finch. There are also the Clark's Nutcrackers who bury seeds of the timberline Whitebark Pine, digging some up and forgetting others which become new trees. [MS169, MS3036, MS956]

"MOUNT SHASTY...A VISION OF IMMENSITY SUCH AS PERTAINS TO THE VAST UNIVERSE RATHER THAN TO OUR OWN PLANET."

~James Dwight Dana, 1849. [MS567]

"AND WELL THIS GOLDEN STATE SHALL THRIVE, IF LIKE ITS OWN MOUNT SHASTA, SOVEREIGN LAW SHALL LIFT ITSELF IN PURE ATMOSPHERE - SO HIGH."

~ John Rollin Ridge, 1854. [MS544]

"AS LONE AS GOD, AND WHITE AS A WINTER MOON, MOUNT SHASTA STARTS UP SUDDEN AND SOLITARY FROM THE HEART OF THE GREAT BLACK FORESTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA..."

~Joaquin Miller, 1874. (First American edition)[MS806]

"WHEN I FIRST CAUGHT SIGHT OF IT [Mount Shasta] OVER THE BRAIDED FOLDS OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY, I WAS FIFTY MILES AWAY AND AFOOT, ALONE AND WEARY. YET ALL MY BLOOD TURNED TO WINE, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN WEARY SINCE."

~ John Muir, 1874. [MS176]

Writers: Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula*, wrote the 1895 novel *The Shoulder of Shasta*. Robert Heinlein, author of *Stranger in a Strange Land*, wrote the 1940 Mt. Shasta story "Lost Legacy." Joaquin Miller, the Poet of the Sierras, successful novelist, playwright, and journalist, wrote many Shasta pieces, including the classic 1873 Mount Shasta novel *Life Among the Madocs: Unwritten History*, and the 1881 novel *Shadows of Shasta*. John Muir, a great voice for Mount Shasta studies and preservation, wrote the epic 1875 summit survival story "Snow Storm on Mount Shasta," and many other Shasta pieces. John Rollin Ridge, a Cherokee Indian, N.Calif. miner, and editor for the Sacramento Bee, wrote the highly popular long poem "Mount Shasta" in 1854. [MS156, MS21, MS212, MS205, MS806, MS215, MS10, MS164, MS219, MS544, MS2192]

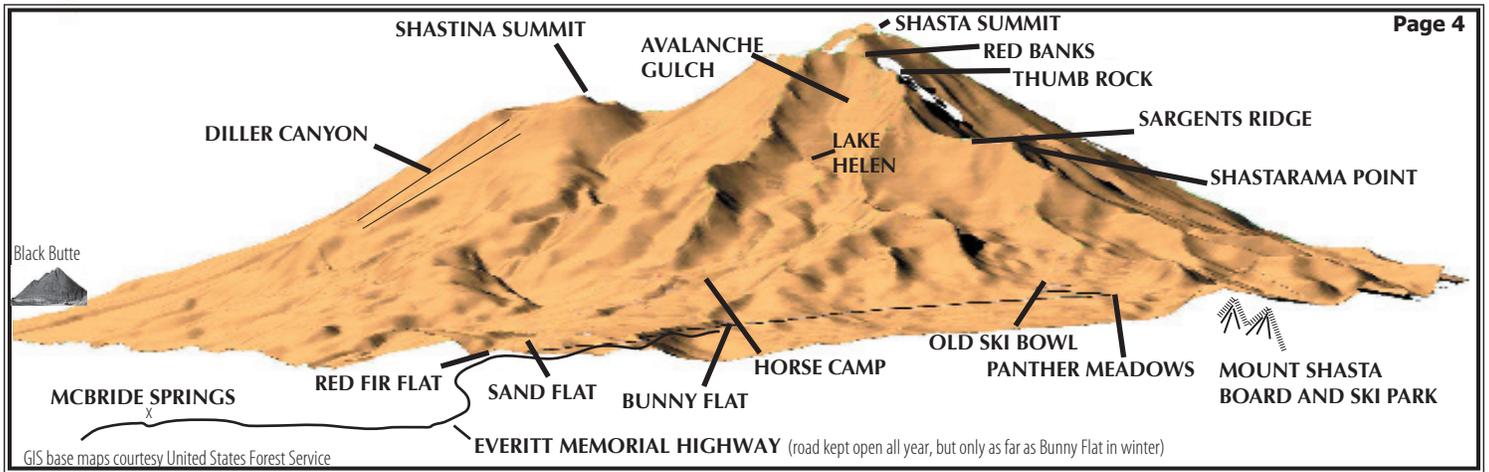
Photographers: Carleton Watkins (1829-1916), William Henry Jackson (1843-1942), Edward Weston (1886-1958), Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976), Ansel Adams (1902-1984), and Galen Rowell (1940-2002). [MS252, MS2161, MS250, MS2215, MS3038]

Artists Well-known artists have been coming to Mount Shasta for over 165 years and have helped establish Mt. Shasta as an icon of California. First published picture of Mt. Shasta was in 1844 from an 1841 sketch by Alfred Agate (1812-1846). Other artists include: Titian Peale (1799-1885), Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), Arthur Wesley Dow (1857-1922), William Keith (1838-1911), and Thomas Hill (1829-1908). [MS876]

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

- Only major mountain in the West officially with a Native American name. [MS1249]
- Deepest single-storm recorded snowfall in history (15.75 feet), at Mount Shasta Ski Bowl Feb. 13-19, 1959. (*Guinness Book of Records*, 2001). [MS1288]
- About 8000 climbing permits yearly, about 50% of climbers reach summit. [MS3043]
- Nearly 50 people have died on Mt. Shasta since record keeping began in 1916 [MS3012]
- A mountain near Valdez, Alaska, is also named Mount Shasta. [MS750]
- Mount Shasta spring waters have been bottled and sold since the late 1800's.
- In 1858 the Yreka brass band played the Star Spangled banner on summit. [MS375]
- Over 8500 feet of skiable vertical descent possible from summit most years, considered one of best ski mountaineering mountains in the United States. [MS3041]
- The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey determined in 1928 it is mathematically impossible to see the ocean from Mount Shasta's summit. [MS457]
- Although separated by a mere 50 miles, Mount Shasta and Medicine Lake Volcano (a low-lying shield volcano to the east of Mount Shasta) are the two largest Cascade volcanoes by volume. Mount Shasta is the lesser of the two. [MS3040]

What's In a Name? The name "Shasta" has been applied to a wide range of places, products, people and pets. What person, product or place would not want to be associated with such a magnificent mountain? In addition to the Shasta Tribe of Native Americans, from which the mountain takes its name, there is Shasta County, City, Dam and Lake. Commercial uses of the Shasta name include bottled water and beverages, trailers, hot tubs, a high rise building in Berkeley, CA, coffee, tea, cigars, shampoo, a Seth Thomas clock, computer software, a U.S. Navy ship, racehorses, and a punk rock band just to name a few. There are many species of plants and animals with Shasta in their name. Examples include the Shasta daisy, lily, fir tree, salamander and an extinct sloth. Shasta has also been in the top ten list of popular names for dogs. People, too, have taken Shasta as a surname and as a given name. The first child born to settlers at Yreka, CA in 1851 was named William Shasta Hill. His parents called him "Shasta Butte." [MS3042]



SOME PLACE-NAMES OF MOUNT SHASTA

Black Butte alt. 6,325 feet. Name in use since at least 1855. Later named Sugar Loaf, Little Butte, Muir's Peak, Cone Mountain, Black Cone, Wintoon Butte. Local Indians called it "Saw-chem poyok" meaning 'beaver mountain' for its resemblance to a beaver's house. [MS5, MS135, MS219, MS223, MS731, MS1215, MS3001]

Bunny Flat alt. 7,020 feet. Named for the large number of beginning skiers, i.e., 'snow bunnies,' using the portable rope tow set up on the west side of the flat in the 1940's. [MS2142]

Diller Canyon Named in 1898 for USGS geologist Joseph Silas Diller. [MS169]

Dunsmuir alt. 2,289 feet. In 1886 San Francisco coal businessman Alexander Dunsmuir, son of Canadian coal baron Robert Dunsmuir, promised the residents of the railroad station site named "Cedar Flat" a new fountain if they would rename the place for him. They did so. The next year, and unexpectedly, the railroad moved the newly-named town of Dunsmuir a mile north to another station site known as "Pusher," which became the permanent Dunsmuir site. The famous fountain was built and can be seen today. [MS116, MS3003]

Everitt Memorial Highway The Shasta Snowline Highway was renamed in 1934 as the "John Samuel Everitt Memorial Highway" shortly after the new Shasta National Forest supervisor died in a forest fire on Mt. Shasta. [MS2142]

Horse Camp alt. 7,880 feet. Named for the 19th century climber's horse corrals and springs at timberline in Avalanche Gulch. Currently the location of the Sierra Club Foundation's Shasta Alpine Lodge, completed in 1923. [MS249]

Lake Helen alt. 10,400 feet. High in the middle of Avalanche Gulch, it was named in 1925 by local artist-mountaineer Edward Stuhl in honor of his climbing companion of the day, Mrs. Helen Wheeler. Charles H. and Helen Wheeler owned the famed Wheeler ranch in McCloud. [MS2190]

McBride Springs alt. 4,880 feet. Early accounts called McBride Springs 'Deer Springs,' located on a trail to Horse Camp. Today it is a U.S.F.S. campground. [MS116]

McCloud alt. 3,200 feet. The McCloud River was originally named "McLeod's River" for Alexander Roderick McLeod, the Hudson's Bay Company fur brigade leader who became snowbound near the river in January, 1830. His brigade lost 300 horses and 2400 beaver pelts. For decades afterwards the "McLeod's River" name appeared on maps. The spelling eventually changed to "McCloud," most likely because the Scottish name 'McLeod' is pronounced 'McCloud.' In 1897 G. W. Scott and W. Van Arsdale created the McCloud River Lumber Company and named the company town of McCloud. However, they first had to petition the U. S. Postal Service for the nearby Southern Pacific Railroad's "McCloud Station," on the Sacramento River mainline, to be renamed as "Azalea." In addition, it is thought that the George McCloud family, owners of the nearby Upper Soda Springs and descendants of early settlers Ross and Mary McCloud, were the namesakes of the original "McCloud Station" for their care of railroad workers. [MS654, MS116, MS3004, MS3005]

Mount Shasta City alt. 3,500 feet. In the 1850's and 1860's the settlement was called "Strawberry Valley." From 1870 to 1887 the local post office was named "Berryvale." In 1887 the railroad established the station and town of "Sisson," named for famed pioneer innkeeper and mountain guide Justin H. Sisson. Incorporation was in 1905. In 1924 the town voted to change the name to the more commercial "Mount Shasta City." [MS1112, MS3006]

Old Ski Bowl alt. 7,760 feet. Named for the timberline Mount Shasta Ski Bowl which operated from 1959 until 1978, when an avalanche destroyed the main chair lift. Subsequent avalanches and environmental lawsuits halted future ski development at this location. Another ski area, the Mount Shasta Ski Park, opened at a lower elevation in 1985 and currently offers 1400 vertical feet of descent serviced by three chair lifts. [MS2191, MS2090]

Panther Meadows alt. 7,600 feet. Panther Springs and the fragile meadow land around it were purchased by the Forest Service in 1936 in anticipation of completion of the Everitt Memorial Highway. Probably named for an early sighting of a panther. In 1994 the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places designated Panther Meadows and the portion of Mount Shasta above 8,000 feet as a historic district, recognized as an important place of Native American mythology and culture. Today the protected meadow and a nearby campground occupy the site. [MS3026, MS1215, MS646, MS3033]

Red Banks alt. 12,400 feet. Named for the red pumice lava flow formed from an eruption about 9700 years ago. [MS439]

Red Fir Flat alt. 6,340 feet. Named for the nearly pure stands of towering old-growth Shasta Red Firs. These stately trees, up to 175 feet tall, make up a large, high elevation forest- perhaps the most characteristic forest of Shasta. [MS1068, MS1212]

Sand Flat alt. 6,800 feet. A picturesque flat open area of about 30 acres of sandy volcanic sediment offering some of the best high views of the mountain.

Sargent's Ridge Named in 1940 for George E. Sargent, assistant forest supervisor of the Shasta National Forest, who died at age 34. He took pride in using this ridge as a supply route for forest service projects. [MS1209, MS3002]

Shastina Summit alt. 12,330 feet. Name used by 1883 on a USGS map. Suffix of -ina in Shastina creates a meaning of 'Little Shasta.' [MS230]

Shastarama Point alt. 11,135 feet. The name of a proposed top point for a planned Mount Shasta Ski Area chair lift from the Old Ski Bowl. [MS2191]

Thumb Rock alt. 12,923 feet. Named for the thumb-like prominence which is part of the 200,000 year old Sargent's Ridge volcanic cone. [MS2151]

Weed alt. 3,467 feet. In 1897 lumberman Abner Weed bought the land which would become the company town of Weed in 1901. Windy, and therefore very good for drying wood, the site resulted in a prosperous mill community and attracted a large work force. [MS53, MS487]

Shasta and Shastina seen from the northwest, with the Whitney glacier between them. Eastman postcard photo, c. 1950.



Recommended Readings Arthur Francis Eichorn - *The Mt. Shasta Story*, 1957, 1987. Michael Zanger - *Mt. Shasta: History, Legend and Lore*, 1992. Emilie A. Frank - *Mt. Shasta: California's Mystic Mountain*, 1997. [MS88, MS457, MS2157].

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