

El Dorado County Limestone, Marble, & Slate Deposits

Excerpts from the

Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County, California:
with illustrations and biographical sketches of its
prominent men & pioneers,
By Paolo Sioli, 1883

(This book is available on Google Books.)

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This excerpt, which begins on the next page, is presented on the
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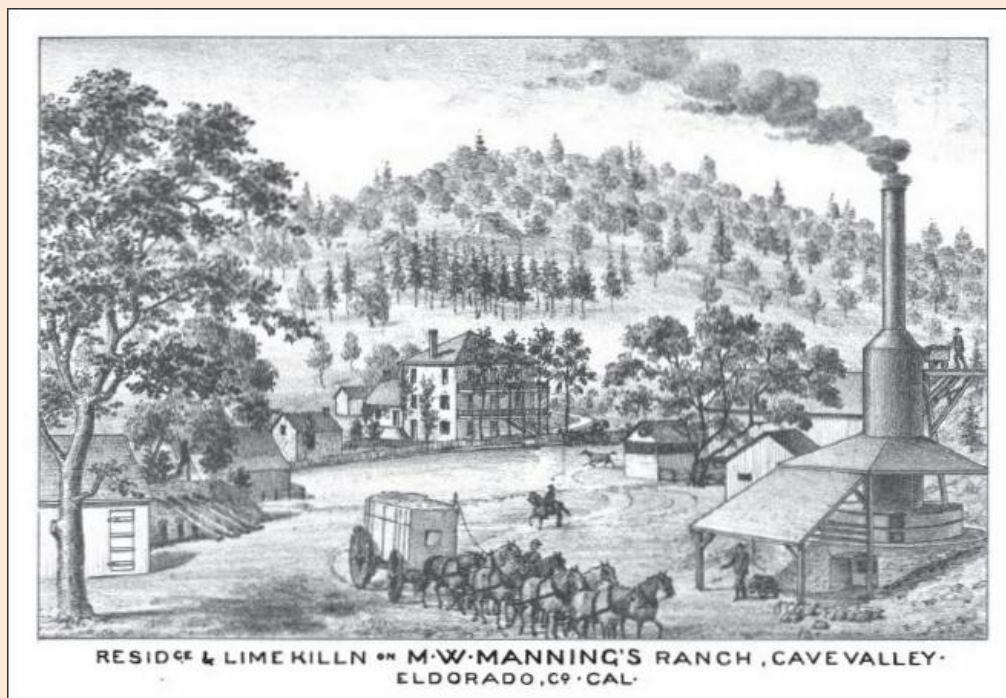
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By Paolo Sioli, Oakland, California, 1883, pp. 96.

Limestone.

“In various parts of the county, several quite extensive masses of limestone have been discovered, quarried, and burnt within the past 30 years, and the product, of a superior quality, always found a good market, part of it in the great valleys of this State, and part in the State of Nevada; only a small amount is used for home absorption now. The firm of Cowell & Davis, of San Francisco, are in possession of some well opened quarries, but only little work is done at present in their quarries and lime kiln. Mr. M. W. Manning, in Cave valley, is the owner of a limestone quarry, which, in connection with one of the highly improved patent lime-kilns, produces an article of superior quality. A trestle-work is communicating between the quarry and the top of the kiln, which is surrounded by an iron mantle, and by filling up from the top continuously, furnishes a daily product of 75 barrels; this is shipped daily by means of an eight mule team over Lyon’s toll bridge to Auburn station, from where the agent designates it either way of the railroad. A view of Mr. Manning’s residence and lime-kiln, located on the road from Auburn station to Georgetown, can be seen in this book, also. Another limestone quarry and kiln is located in the same section of the county near Rattlesnake bridge, and is shipping its product to New Castle, on the Central Pacific railroad; but is not worked at present. It is owned by the same parties that are in possession of the Alabaster cave, close by.



“In Ringgold creek canyon, south of Carlington’s ranch, is an inexhaustible ledge of the most excellent limestone, in the possession of Mr. P. B. Hogan, who has built a kiln for the production of lime to supply the demand of Placerville and surrounding neighborhood, which at present is quite limited. Marble Valley, in the western part of the county, close to the Placerville and Sacramento road, is another inexhaustible deposit of fine limestone; kilns were built here years ago, and a great amount of lime produced, that went down and helped to build up the city of Sacramento, but the place is lying idle at present.

Marble.

“Numerous are the ledges of marble, and just as numerous are the different varieties of marble, of all colors and grains, that have been discovered in the some parts of El Dorado county. Only a few of them have been worked to such an extent that an estimate about their value could be given. Marble deposits have been discovered in Marble Valley, in Ringgold creek canyon on Mr. Hogan’s place, at Indian Diggings, and at various places on the Georgetown divide. Prominent among these is, because it is the only one that has been worked sufficient to justify an estimate, the marble ledge at Indian Diggings. It was opened about ten years ago, by Messrs. Luce & Aiken, of Sacramento, who were the first owners. They erected saw-works in 1876 or 1877, and, after these had been destroyed by fire, a large marble-mill was erected with four gangs of saws, run by a ten-horse-power engine, which has been successfully worked during the favorable season of the year. The marble of this quarry is of beautiful texture, and inexhaustible in quantity, and by competent judges has been pronounced as fine, as susceptible of a high a polish, as the best Italian. The marble is used for mantle-pieces, for grave stones and other monuments – a very limited use, as long as we call a big lumber box inhabited by human beings, a mansion.

Roofing Slate.

“El Dorado county in general, and Placerville particularly, can boast of the first roof covered with domestic slate in the State of California; some parts of the roof of the Cary House and Mr. Louis Landecker’s store in Placerville, were the first buildings in this State, covered with the material produced from the slate quarry on Chili Bar, on Kelsey Hill. Mr. W. O. Thomas, of Nashville, Tennessee, located two slate ledges here, one at the south end of Chili bar bridge, which was first opened, and with the slate produced the aforesaid buildings roofed in, in 1875.

“The quarry is now owned by the El Dorado County Slate Company, and a good many contracts for slate roofing to be done with this material have been executed since all over the State. When fully opened, this quarry will be able to give employment to about a hundred laborers. Another deposit of superior slate has been discovered near Latrobe. Messrs. Rapp, of Latrobe, and Conoly, of Sacramento, were the owners. The quarry would have been opened thoroughly if there was a demand for roofing slate, but the same reason that is unfavorable to the development of marble ledges, as we have seen, is also retarding the slate industry.”