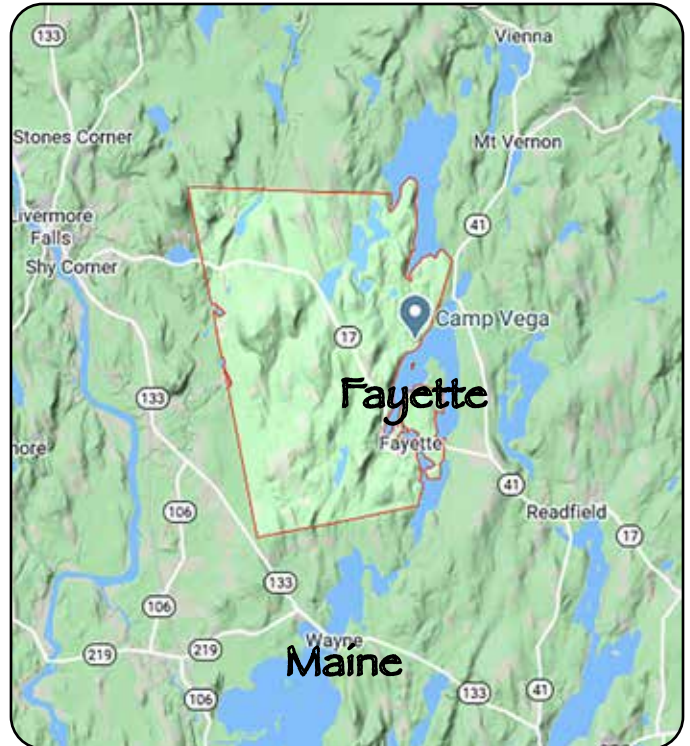


# Ranches of Bodega Bay

Joseph Knowles - Ocean Township, brother of David Knowles

**Joseph Knowles**, born: 7 Jan 1815 Fayette Maine, died: 16 Mar 1891 Modesto CA, buried: Sebastopol Memorial Cemetery, Sonoma County CA, married: Rebecca (born: 1822 Tennessee, died: 17 Jul 1877 Bodega CA) children: William 1846, Mary 1848, Lousia 1850, David 1854, Sara 1856, Alice 1859, Clarence 1865



## William Knowles

in the 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: William Knowles

Age: 56

Birth Date: Jul 1843

Birthplace: Illinois

Home in 1900: Modesto, Stanislaus, California

On his maternal side, Mr. Philbrick is descended from a long line of hardy Scotch ancestry, his branch of the family having been transplanted to American soil several generations ago. His mother was Mary Jane Knowles, a native of Illinois. Her father was Joseph Knowles, a native of Maine, who emigrated to Illinois, where he was married, when that state was on the western frontier. He came to California in 1849, mined for a time, then went back to Illinois and in the early '50s returned with his family, settling in Sonoma County, where he was owner and manager of a grist mill across the river from Markham's for many years; afterwards owning and operating the grist mill at Paradise City, in 1878, when he sold out in Sonoma County and moved to Stanislaus. His death occurred in 1891, at the home of his daughter, Mr. Philbrick's aunt, Miss Sarah E. Knowles, who now resides at the old homestead.

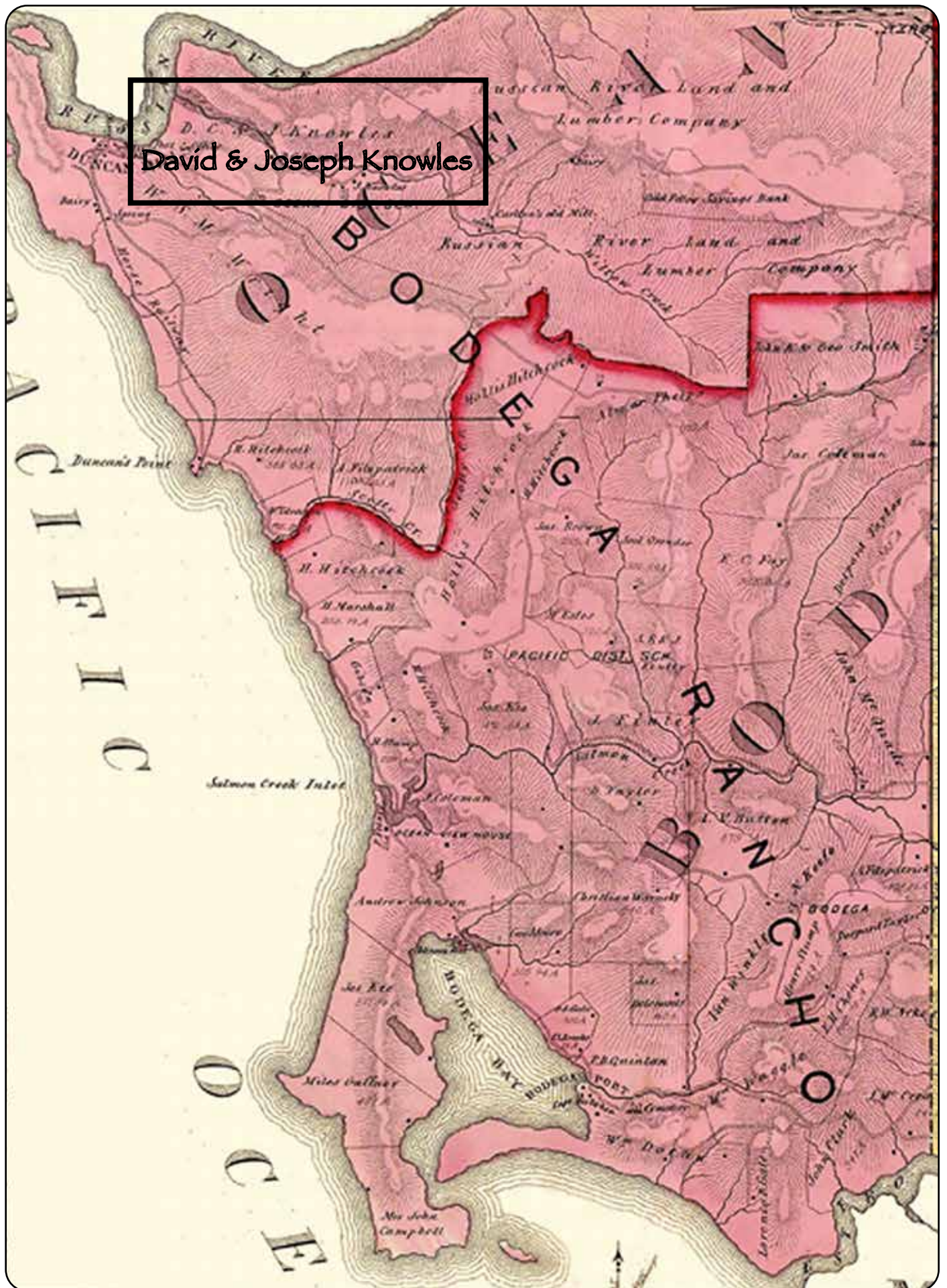
## Joseph Knowles

BIRTH 7 JAN 1815 • Fayette, Kennebec, Maine,

DEATH 16 MAR 1891 • California, USA

When Joseph Knowles was born on January 7, 1815, in Fayette, Maine, his father, David, was 26 and his mother, Lydia, was 26. He had four brothers and seven sisters. He died on March 16, 1891, in California having lived a long life of 76 years.





David & Joseph Knowles



Spouse & Children

**Lydia Shaw**

1788-1834

**Rachel Knowles**

1813-1814

**Joseph Knowles**

1815-1891

**James Samuel Knowles**

1816-1907

**Mary Ann Knowles**

1819-

**Jane Chaplin Knowles**

1821-1887

**Maria Knowles**

1823-1896

**William Knowles**

1830-

**David Chaplin Knowles**

1830-1915

**Lydia Shaw Knowles**

1832-1906

**Paulina H Knowles**

1839-1864

**Olivette Knowles**

1841-

**John Knowles**

1843-1915

Parents

**David Knowles**

1788-1871

**Lydia Shaw**

1788-1834

**Joseph Knowles**

in the California State Census, 1852

Name: Joseph Knowles

Birth Place: Maine

Estimated birth year: abt 1814

Age: 38

Residence County: Sonoma

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ANY PERSON or persons using fire-arms on the premises of the undersigned that they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**  
 [Signed] Joseph Knowles, Winfield Wright, Moore & Brothers, D. C. Knowles, Andrew Stump.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The first board of Supervisors met in the town of Sonoma on the 5th of July, 1852. D. O. Shattuck, Sr., was elected president, James Singley, W. A. Hereford, L. P. Hanson were the other members. Hanson appears on the record at but one meeting, and on the 4th of October, W. O. King succeeded him.

1857-8, W. B. Hagans, president, R. Smith and Josiah Morin. In January, 1858, at a special election, Joseph Knowles was elected in place of R. Smith.

**Rich Men.**

We continue the publication of the assessment roll of Sonoma county, by townships, giving the names of all persons who pay taxes on assessments amounting to \$10,000 and over; having heretofore given the names of those who pay on \$20,000 and upward. We give today the townships of Petaluma, Vallejo, Russian River and Mendocino:

OCEAN TOWNSHIP	
Joseph Knowles.....	\$18,452
August Mayer.....	10,000
John Orr.....	13,448

In 1858 Joseph Knowles purchased Willow Creek acreage, which included continuing the timber lease to Bethuel Phelps and then to John Curry. The lease allowed construction of sawmills and digging of wells and also grazing for some horses, cattle, and oxen.

Ranching and farming was not prominent again in the Willow Creek area until the Knowles family settled there in 1858. Joseph Knowles bought 1,623.23 acres of land which he, his wife, and his brother David used to grow grain and livestock. The Knowles lived and worked the land for over 30 years. Most of the watershed area now owned by California State Parks was land they occupied.

Joseph first raised cattle, horses, and hogs and David grew wheat and other grains. By 1860 they had established the Knowles flour mill where they produced flour from the grain David grew. During the 1860s and 1870s Joseph began to raise sheep and lambs rather than cattle.

In the 1877 records it shows Joseph Knowles had 1400 sheep, 300 lambs, 75 hogs, and 13 dozen poultry. By grazing standards so many animals would have overgrazed the land. Therefore it is thought that the animals might also have grazed on neighboring property since that was a common practice at the time. It seems likely that the fertile bottomland was used to grow grain for the Knowles flour mill and that the animals grazed on the upland slopes. By 1900 the Knowles family no longer lived in the Willow Creek area though they still owned the land.

With a mill the brothers could grind their own crops of wheat and that of neighboring farmers into flour that was a staple in most households. The mill needed to be near running water or moved by horses to turn the wheel that turned the stone to grind the wheat.

## Joseph Knowles

in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Name:	Joseph Knowles	
Birth Year:	abt 1815	
Birth Place:	Maine	
Home in 1860:	Bodega, Sonoma, California	
Post Office:	Smiths Ranch	
Occupation:	Stock Raiser	
Real Estate Value:	6000	
Personal Estate Value:	5000	
Household Members:		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	Joseph Knowles	45
	Rebecca Knowles	38
	Wm H Knowles	17
	Mary J Knowles	12
	Louisa M Knowles	10
	David J Knowles	6
	Sarah E Knowles	4
	Alice Knowles	1
	David C Knowles	28
	Martha E Crandall	28
	James Salvage	20

## Joseph Knowles

in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	Joseph Knowles	
Birth Year:	abt 1815	
Birthplace:	Maine	
Home in 1870:	Bodega, Sonoma, California	
Post Office:	Duncans Mills	
Personal Estate Value:	8795	
Real Estate Value:	32260	
Household Members:		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	Eliza Boyd	23
	Henry Gillett	25
	James Phillipini	19
	Joseph Knowles	55
	Rebecca Knowles	50
	Wm H F Knowles	26
	Louisa M Knowles	21
	Sarah E Knowles	14
	Alice M Knowles	10
	Carence E Knowles	5



## The Paradise Flour Mill

One of the enterprises of Paradise City was its fine flour mill, constructed by Herron & Company. It was a brick building, four stories in height, and could be seen for several miles from the surrounding country. Its massive machinery was propelled by a sixty-five horsepower engine and the capacity of the mill was 150 barrels of flour per day. Its construction was begun early in the year and completed in time for the harvest of 1868. The flour was sold throughout the southern counties and I have seen it on sale by the Stockton grocers. It changed hands quite often and its senior partner, Joseph Knowles, died March 16, 1891, at the age of seventy-six years.

The mill is four stories in height, walls at the base twenty inches in thickness. The engine room is 25x44 feet, with an engine with a sixteen-inch bore and a thirty-inch stroke. The boiler is sixteen feet long, with a diameter of fifty inches and with a capacity of eighty pounds steam pressure. There are two run of stone and a barley mill on the second floor.

### Joseph Knowles United States Census, 1880

Name:	Joseph Knowles
Event Type:	Census
Event Date:	1880
Event Place:	Empire, Stanislaus, California,
Age:	65
Marital Status:	Widowed
Occupation:	Mill Operator
Birth Year (Estimated):	1815
Birthplace:	Maine, United States
Father's Birthplace:	Maine, United States
Mother's Birthplace:	Maine, United States

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
<b>Joseph Knowles</b>	Self	Male	65	Maine, United States
<a href="#">W H Knowles</a>	Son	Male	34	Illinois, United States
<a href="#">A M Knowles</a>	Daughter	Female	21	California, United States
<a href="#">C E Knowles</a>	Son	Male	14	California, United States
<a href="#">S B Bamford</a>	Other	Male	48	Maine, United States
<a href="#">E B Bamford</a>	Other	Male	21	Maine, United States
<a href="#">H Wilson</a>	Other	Male	33	Ireland
<a href="#">Eck Lah</a>	Other	Male	25	China

Name:	Joseph Knowles
Residence Place:	Sonoma Co., California,
Age:	76
Birth Year (Estimated):	1815
Birthplace:	Maine
Death Date:	16 Mar 1891
Death Place:	Modesto, Sonoma Co., Cal.
Cemetery:	Sebastopol Cemt. Calvary

### Rebecca Knowles

Find A Grave Index

Name:	Rebecca Knowles
Birth Date:	1822
Birth Place:	Tennessee
Death Date:	17 Jul 1877
Cemetery:	Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California
Spouse:	<a href="#">Joseph Knowles</a>

### Joseph Knowles

Find A Grave Index

Name:	Joseph Knowles
Birth Date:	1815
Birth Place:	Maine
Death Date:	16 Mar 1891
Cemetery:	Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California



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