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The first ferry on the
American River near Sacto
Premises to 1850 nearly
all the travel to the northern
mines crossed the American
River at the ford four miles
from the city at what was
called Harris' launch on
the Seiderschub Grant. In the
early spring of 1850 the waters
were very high, and a ferry
boat was indispensable.

My father J. S. Bayley on
a trip from Sacramento to
Coloma, halted a few hours
at Brighton, and the ~~subject~~
subject of a ferry came
up. A resident of the place
said that he had a scow
on the river and troubles
were continually troubling
him to get them across
the river. That she would
like to sell the boat, so

as to the ²reticence of the
trouble and vexation, did
not think it would pay
much anyway. He offered
the boat to my father for
\$5000~~00~~ and he need not
pay for it until he made
it out of the business.
My father thought that
it would pay well if
moved down to the all-
ford and put into operation.
He bought the boat, came
on to Coloma and I went
back with him to take
charge of the boat. It was
moved down the river
and a couple of Kanakas
employed to put a cable
across the stream, and
get the scow in position.
I well recalled the first
money I took in. It was
pensive to getting the scow

in operation. A miner about
 came to the house and
 wanted to know if I could
 put him across the river.
 There was a dug out up
 the stream about a half
 mile above the house
 where the water was not
 very rapid, I took him
 up there and across the
~~river~~ river. He asked me
 the price I told him
 \$1.50. He said he had nothing
 but dust, I had forgotten
 my scales. He told me to
 put my handkerchief across
 my hand and when I
 thought he had panned in
 enough gold to say so, when
 the slade of the handkerchief
 touched my palm I said
 three. When I returned
 to the house and wiped
 it there was just \$1.00.
 Sent a few dollars more or

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less in those days was of
but little consequence,
He was satisfied, and I
am sure that I was,
When the ferry boat was
ready for operation, some
strange men on the north
side, who would use
the ferry frequently were
appealed to to ~~set~~ set the
scale of prices, which
were as follows,

Youtman	\$1.50
Man + Horse	4.00
at night \$8.00	
Paper + 2 Horses	8.00
of cattle	
each additional	
span	4.00

I was only 17 years old
at that time, it was
necessary to have a man
to assist me (the boat was
pulled across hand over hand)
A young man about 19 or 20

note

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for Sims, who has been
a resident of Sacramento to
ever since, and was Bancroft Library
living there a few years
ago, was employed at a
salary of \$200.00 per month.
In a few days, it was
known that a ferry was
in operation, and there
was a continual stream
of travelers on the road.
To the best of my recollection
there was but one com-
plaint as to the toll, and
that was from an emigrant-
that had come into the
state the ~~spring~~ fall previous
for eleven weeks we coined
money as it were. In that
time we cleared \$11000.00
clear of all expense.
Sundays were our busiest-
days. The packers & mimos
would generally remain

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in the city until Sunday
morning, before starting
to the mines. The highest
amount taken in any single
day was \$360⁰⁰ one Sunday.
When the river got low
enough to ford, of course
the ferry was useless.
At that time Capt. G. Childs
had possession of the Mann's
Ranch, and resided there
on the north side of the
river, with his family
of three girls about grown.
In an indirect way they
were quite a benefit to
the ferry. Several young
(or middle aged) ~~boards~~
would come out from
the city every Saturday and
Sunday night, horseback.
The residence was immediately
on the bank of the river.
But it would be beneath

their dignity to leave
these horses and cows
about, as they always come
after dark, and returned
that night - their ferry
bill was \$16.⁰⁰ each.

The girls afterward married
Jerome Davis of Danville
Vt. Co. Jake Brown near
the same place, and
- Gully of Napu Co.

The First Ferry on the American River Near Sacramento.

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Previous to 1850 nearly all the travel to the northern mines crossed the American River at the ford four miles from the city at what was called Norris' Ranch on the Leidschrf grant. In the early spring of 1850 the waters were very high, and a ferry boat was indispensible.

My father, N.S. Bayley, on a trip from Sacramento to Coloma halted a few hours at Brighton, and the subject of a ferry came up. A resident of the place said that he had a scow on the river and travelers were continually troubling him to set them across the river, that he would like to sell the boat, so as to be relieved of the trouble and vexation, did not think it would pay much anyway. He offered the boat to my father for \$500.00 and he need not pay for it until he made it out of the business.

My father thought that it would pay well if moved down to the old ford and put into operation. He bought the boat, came on to Coloma and I went back with him to take charge of the boat. It was moved down the river and a couple of Kanakas employed to put a cable across the stream and get the scow in position. I well recollect the first money I took in. It was previous to getting the scow in operation. A miner a foot came to the house and wanted to know if I could put him across the river. There was a dugout up the stream about a half mile above the house where the water was not very rapid. I took him up there and across the river. He asked me the price. I told him \$1.50. He said he had nothing but dust. I had forgotten my scales. He told me to put my handkerchief across my hand and when I thought he had poured in enough gold to say so,

when the slack of the handkerchief touched my palm I said there.

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When I returned to the house and weighed it there was just \$7.00.

But a few dollars more or less in those days was of but little consequence. He was satisfied, and I am sure that I was.

When the ferry boat was ready for operation some stock men on the north side, who wanted use of the ferry frequently, were appealed to to set the scale of prices, which were as follows:

Footman.....\$1.50

Man and horse.....4.00 at night \$8.00

{ Wagon and two horses \$8.00 each additional span \$4.00
{ of cattle

I was only 17 years old at that time. It was necessary to have a man to assist me. (The boat was pulled across hand over hand) A young man about 19 or 20, Jo Sims, who has been a resident of Sacramento Co. ever since, and was living there a few years ago, was employed at a salary of \$200.00 pr month. In a few days it was known that a ferry was in operation, and there was a continual stream of travellers on the road. To the best of my recollection there was but one complaint as to the toll, and that was from an emigrant that had come into the state the fall previous. For eleven weeks we coined money as it were. In that time we cleared \$11,000.00 clear of all expenses. Sundays were our busiest days. The packers and miners would generally remain in the city until Monday morning before starting to the mines. The highest amount taken in any single day was \$360.00 one Sunday. When the river got low enough to ford, of course, the ferry was useless.

At that time Capt. Childs had possession of the Norris ranch, and resided there on the north side of the river with his family of

three girls about grown. In an indirect way they were quite a benefit to the ferry. Several young(or middle aged) men would come out from the city every Saturday and Sunday night, horseback. The residence was immediately on the bank of the river. But it would be beneath their dignity to leave their hourse and cross afoot, as they always came after dark and returned that night their ferry bill was \$16.00 each.

The girls afterward married Jerone Davis of Davisville, Yolo Co., Jake Brown near the same place, and -- Tully of Napa Co.