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## John Agnew Chesnutwood [*not* Chesnutwood]

J. H. Janson

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**1884 Feb 4**

Source: Watsonville Pajaronian 1891 Sep 11 2:5  
Seventy-two pupils from Watsonville and vicinity have entered Chesnutwood's Business College in Santa Cruz since its organization — **February 4, 1884**. This speaks for itself that the school is recognized by our residents as a worthy institution. Many of the graduates hold responsible positions throughout the State, and none of them have had their capability questioned.

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**1884 Apr 14**

Source: Great Register of Voters 1886  
#754 John Agnew Chesnutwood 41 years old at date of Registration, Apr. 14, 1884, native of Illinois, occupation Teacher, resident Santa Cruz No. 2.

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**1885 May 13**

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1885 May 13 3:1

—Chesnutwood's Business College will be removed to Hihn's new building next Monday. Prof. E. P. Hussey, of Stockton, will take charge of the Normal class.

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**1885 May 17**

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1885 May 17 3:4  
**Chesnutwood's Business College.**

It was a year ago on February 4<sup>th</sup> that Professor Chesnutwood opened his Business College in a room on Park Place. Only seven scholars answered to their names at roll-call on the first morning the college opened for business. It was not long before the fame of the school spread, and pupils began to enter from other portions of the State. Soon the room became too small, and another was added. Even with the addition of this room the accommodation was too small for the sixty-five scholars who now answer to roll-call. **When F. A. Hihn was about to erect his new building on Pacific avenue**, Prof. Chesnutwood immediately rented the upper portion of it, as he needed room, his classes being constantly on the increase. As fast as one pupil graduated two would fill the place. It was in the second story of the new building that a reporter, after ascending an easy flight of stairs, found Prof. Chesnutwood, Saturday afternoon, as busy as any two bees, mentally planning how to convert the large room, 82x72 feet, with a ceiling 15 feet in the clear, into one of the most commodious business colleges in the State.

"Yes, I am quite busy at present, but I expect to be ready to receive my pupils Monday," cheerfully responded the Professor to the reporter's question. Then he took the reporter into an office 28x7, situated on the south side of the room. The front of this office is to be handsomely grained. On the top is an elaborate cornice that is supported by fluted columns. Underneath the cornice is a glass front before each department. The main office is divided into the following departments: Railroading, Lumber, Insurance, Real Estate, Bank, Commission, Merchandise Emporium, College Express, and Post Office. Four feet is allotted to each department. Opposite, on the north side, are the cloak room, stationery and fuel rooms. Each one as convenient as

possible for its size. The main room is furnished with tables and chairs for the accommodation of the pupils. In the front portion of the room are two bay windows which, with the other windows, give ample light for all purposes. The pupil, before being allowed to enter the Practical Department, which the large office is called, has to pass an examination in the Theoretical Department.

Professor Chesnutwood intends to have a college that will be second to none in the State. He has now more departments than other business colleges. The Professor is a live citizen, fully awake to the interests of his pupils; and a pupil who receives a diploma from him can rest assured that he has received a thorough business education in a college that this city takes pride in.

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**1885 May 19**

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1885 May 19 3:2 "Sentinel Jottings."

—Since Chesnutwood's College opened there have been 130 pupils on the roll. At present there are 118 in attendance. In Sunday's SENTINEL it was mentioned that 65 were in attendance. This only included those who were present in the daytime last week, and did not include those who were absent or who attend evening sessions.

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**1888 Aug 8**

Source: Great Register of Voters 1890

#2347 John A. Chesnutwood 45 years old at date of Registration, Aug. 8, 1888,  
native of Illinois, occupation Teacher, resident Santa Cruz No. 4.

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**1889 May 1**

Source: Daily Surf 1889 May 1 6:5

**A BUSINESS COLLEGE.**

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**The Wonderful Success and Growth of the "Chesnutwood"**

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Santa Cruz has reason to boast of an institution for practical learning which has grown up, like our trees and rose bushes, so quietly but so steadily that a chance visitor is thoroughly astonished at its magnitude and importance.

We refer to Chesnutwood's Business College which opened here in a small room, upon an obscure street, on the 4th of February, 1884, with seven pupils, and is now occupying — and fully filling — the largest, pleasantest and most conveniently arranged business study-room in the State, with handsome and commodious offices for the practical part of the work.

Indeed, its present quarters are already becoming inadequate, and when the fall rush of students begins an enlargement will have to be made. Mr. **F. A. Hihn**, the owner of the present building, has in contemplation a much more commodious one immediately adjoining — this will supply adequate accommodations for the college, even at its present rate of growth, for a long time to come.

While this remarkable success is, of course, most gratifying to the proprietor and principal, Prof. Chesnutwood, it should not be forgotten that an institution of this sort, constantly growing in size and influence, is of the utmost importance to Santa Cruz. It brings in new life, new interests, new residents — for many families choose their homes largely with reference to the educational advantages to be obtained. The students of such a school spend, during the year, a

large amount of money which is of direct benefit to the place, and, in fact, the whole tone of the city is raised by the possession of well-conducted educational institutions.

That this college is well conducted is being proved constantly by the character of its work. Nearly one hundred graduates have gone from its doors carrying its diploma, and none have found trouble in securing — and keeping — good positions. Not once has any complaint come back of incompetence on the part of graduates. This is doubtless owing to the inexorable rule that the diploma is never given save where thorough competence has been attained. The record of graduates' names and addresses, which has been faithfully kept, shows a large majority who are in business for themselves or are occupying responsible positions.

To obtain the college diploma it is necessary to understand not only bookkeeping, but to have gone through the various practical offices of Commission, Railroading, Banking, etc., to be familiar with all classes of business paper, to spell correctly and to have a good knowledge of Commercial Law.

The college is open to young women as well as to young men, and a large number of the former have graduated with much honor, while the number of lady students increases each year.

Prof. Chestnutwood[sic] has no classes, he gives personal attention and individual instruction to each pupil. This method works admirably and secures the most rapid progress possible to each student. The watching of the development of character and the mental progress of individual students is an interesting study in itself, and enable the Principal to judge what sort of business man or woman each pupil will make. The new ideas generated by the course of study, the new projects for future usefulness and success, so visibly formed in each youthful mind are so many landmarks in the path of attainment and victory.

There is one thing which those who have any interest, direct or indirect in the college, are remiss in. It is in the matter of visiting the school. There are no special times or seasons for this, but visitors are welcome at all time and there is always something of interest to see and to be told. The daily lectures on Commercial Law, forms of business paper and kindred topics are very interesting, while the students' books are always open for inspection.

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### 1889 Oct 29

Source: *The Daily Surf*: Saturday, October 29, 1889, pg. 3:5

Riffles From the Recorder's Office.

Reported by

H. E. MAKINNEY,

*Searcher of Records, Conveyances and Notary Public.*

DEEDS.

**F. A. Hihn** and wife agree to sell to **Janie A. Chesnutwood** a lot on the south side of Locust street for the sum of \$3,000.

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### 1890 Sep 11

Source:

Watsonville Pajaronian 1891 Sep 11 2:5

Seventy-two pupils from Watsonville and vicinity have entered Chesnutwood's Business College in Santa Cruz since its organization — February 4, 1884. This speaks for itself that the school is recognized by our residents as a worthy institution. Many of the graduates hold responsible positions throughout the State, and none of them have had their capability questioned.

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**1891 Sep 29**

Source:

Surf 1891 Sep 29 3:3

**CHESNUTWOOD'S COLLEGE.**

AN INSTITUTION OF WHICH SANTA  
CRUZ IS JUSTLY PROUD.

The Finest and Most Convenient Business School-Rooms in the State.

A conspicuous feature of the SURF supplement today is the engraving of Chesnutwood's Business College, an institution which it always affords pleasure to the SURF to refer to in terms of compliment. Already hundreds of the Native Sons of California owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Chesnutwood and in the years to come these hundreds will be multiplied into thousands.

**The college has recently been removed into a new building, the handsomest and most conspicuous block in the city.**

Professors, assistants and students are all alike delighted with the new study room, the finest and most convenient belonging to any business college in the State. This main apartment is 53 by 60 feet in dimensions and is of fine proportions, perfectly lighted and ventilated and provided with ample heating facilities, when needed, by a furnace in the cellar.

A grand corner bay of five windows looks out upon two avenues while two large double windows and three single ones complete the number in the room. There are two large single sashes to each with transoms of colored glass.

Two entrances have each double doors and a commodious dressing room for the young women and hat room for the young men are in convenient locations. The stationery room, a very necessary adjunct, is also roomy and well arranged.

Most important and most elaborate of all are the offices, ten in number, where the student, after having passed the necessary time in studying the theory of business, enters into all its actual phases and applies his well-learned theories to practice. They are arranged in the following order: College Express and Post Office; Merchandise, (purchases); Real Estate; Merchandise, (sales); College Bank-Teller; College Bank—Cashier; Insurance; Commission; Lumber; Railroading.

In its new home, the college looks back to its "early days" only seven years ago. It was opened February 4, 1884, with seven pupils, in what is now Pacific Ocean House hall on Park street. Now its graduates have capital positions in every sort of business all over the coast and in New Mexico and Texas. There have been more applications for scholarships in the past two months than during the whole of '89 and '90.

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**1902 Nov 11**

Source: Santa Cruz Surf November 11, 1902 8:5

—Prof. J. A. Chesnutwood is the Principal of Chesnutwood's Business College in this city. Six months' tuition in Commercial, Stenographic or Normal Department, \$50. **J. H. Janson**, President and Manager.

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**1902**

Source: Source: Santa Cruz City Directory, 1902 p. 91

**1906 Jul 18**

Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1906 Jul 18 6:7

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS  
OF THE CHESTNUTWOOD'S BUS-  
INESS COLLEGES.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a resolution and order of the board of directors of the Chestnutwood's Business Colleges, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, adopted at a special meeting of said board duly held in accordance with the following Call and Waiver of Notice:

"The undersigned, being president of the Directors of the Chestnutwood's Business Colleges, hereby calls a meeting of the said directors to be held in the office of the college, on the corner of Walnut avenue and Pacific avenue, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, on the 7th day of July, 1906, at 5:15 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of increasing the capital stock from 1000 shares at \$10.00 per share to 1500 shares at \$10.00 per share.

"Dated Santa Cruz, Cal., July 5th, 1905. "J. H. JANSON."

"The undersigned, being all the trustees of the Chestnutwood's Business Colleges, hereby waive all requirements as to notice of a meeting of the said trustees to be held in the office of the said college in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, on the 7th day of July, 1906, at 5:15 o'clock p. m., and consent to the transaction thereat of any and all business which may come before such meeting.

"Dated: Santa Cruz, Cal., July 5th, 1906, "E. F. OTTO,  
"C. L. BLISS,  
"T. G. M'CREARY,  
"A. H. FOSTER,  
"J. H. JANSON."

on the 7th day of July, 1906, at the said office of said corporation, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, a meeting of the stockholders of said corporation is hereby called for and will be held at the said office of the said corporation, at the said corner of Walnut avenue and Pacific avenue, in said City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California (said place of meeting being at the principal place of business of said corporation and at the building where the Board of directors usually meet), on Saturday, the 15th day of September, 1906, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, for the purpose of considering and acting upon the proposition to increase the capital stock of said corporation from ten thousand (10,000) dollars, divided in to 1000 shares of the par value of ten dollars (\$10.00) each to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,00.00) divided into 1500 shares of the par value of ten dollars (\$10.00) each.

The amount to which it is proposed to increase the capital stock is fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

By order of the Board of Directors, Dated: Santa Cruz, Cal. July 7th, 1906.

A. H. FOSTER,

Secretary of the Board of Directors.

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**1906 Aug 10**

Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1906 Aug 10 3:3

## **Colleges Merge.**

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HEALD'S AND CHESTNUTWOOD'S COMBINE.

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A Chain of Colleges to Be Established on the Coast.

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The negotiations which have been pending for the merging of the Heald Pioneer Business College of San Francisco and Chestnutwood's of this city have about been completed, and E. P. Heald will be president and J. H. Janson of Chestnutwood's colleges of Fresno and Santa Cruz will be secretary. The combination will include the two Heald colleges in San Francisco, the Oakland, Sacramento and Stockton colleges, and the proposition is to form a chain of colleges in the State.

Many new branches are to be taught in the institutions and the commercial and shorthand courses in the various colleges will be uniform.

The new combination is to be capitalized at a quarter of a million dollars.

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**1906 Aug 25**

Source: Paso Robles Record

1906 Aug 25 1:6

### **Consolidated Business Colleges**

A movement which contemplates greater scope in commercial education than has ever been attempted on the Pacific Coast has been launched by Professor E. P. Heald of business college fame throughout the west says the Fresno Republican. A chain of schools along the coast from Seattle to San Diego will be opened, and the following colleges and schools are already included in the Heald's Associated colleges: Heald's Business College and School of Mines and Engineering, San Francisco, Heald's Dixon College, Oakland, Heald's Chestnutwood's College and Normal School Fresno, Heald's Chesnutwood's Business College, Santa Cruz and Heald's Stockton Business College, Stockton.

Sacramento, San Jose and Los Angeles will soon have schools affiliated with the Heald's colleges.

The local college will, besides retaining its present force of teachers secure teachers of marked ability from among the best in this country who are specialists in their line.

Professor Heald, the president, is a graduate of Bowdoin college, and entered the field of commercial education forty-three years ago and his first institution was one of the famous Bryant and Stratton schools which were scattered all over the United States.

Prof. J. H. Janson [sic], the secretary who has been the manager of the colleges at Fresno and Santa Cruz and who will exercise supervision over these schools, needs no introduction to the people of this community. Prof. Janson [sic] came to Fresno and opened a branch of Chesnutwood's Business College, 23 months ago, and has enrolled in the popular Chesnutwood's Business College here during that time 540 students. A fine edifice, second to none in California, was built to accommodate the college and this building, which is a pride to Fresno, will be used for the future work of the college.

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