

This plaque was hung on the outside of the computer room of the SMAT/Stem Wing in 2002 to honor Charles Deterding who was the first Individual to settle the city of Carmichael in 1907.

The first new settlers of Carmichael were Charles W. and Mary A. Deterding. In1907 they purchased a 425 acre site along the north bank of the American River. The Deterding Ranch is now Ancil Hoffman Park.

Mary was one of seven children whose parents were John and Elizabeth Shields. They lived on a farm at Mills Station then known as Hangtown Crossing (Rancho Cordova, today). She attended St. Joseph's Convent in Sacramento and married Charles W. Deterding soon after graduation.

Her brother Peter J. Shields, who graduated from Christian Brothers, became a Sacramento judge and the Deterding's son, Charles W. Deterding Jr., served as Sacramento County executive in the 1940's. Their other son, J. R. Deterding operated a plumbing supply company and their daughter, Mae, married A. D. (Arch) McDonell. The McDonell's still live in Carmichael today.

She was a past president of the Thursday Club of Fair Oaks, was a member of St. Mel's Alter Society and was the first president of the Carmichael Improvement Club. An active Democrat, she died September 27, 1940 at the age of 80.

By 1927, there were about 300 families living in Carmichael and the 1930 population was listed at 700. Nearly 2,000 people lived in the area by 1940 and the population was 4,499 in 1950 according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.