

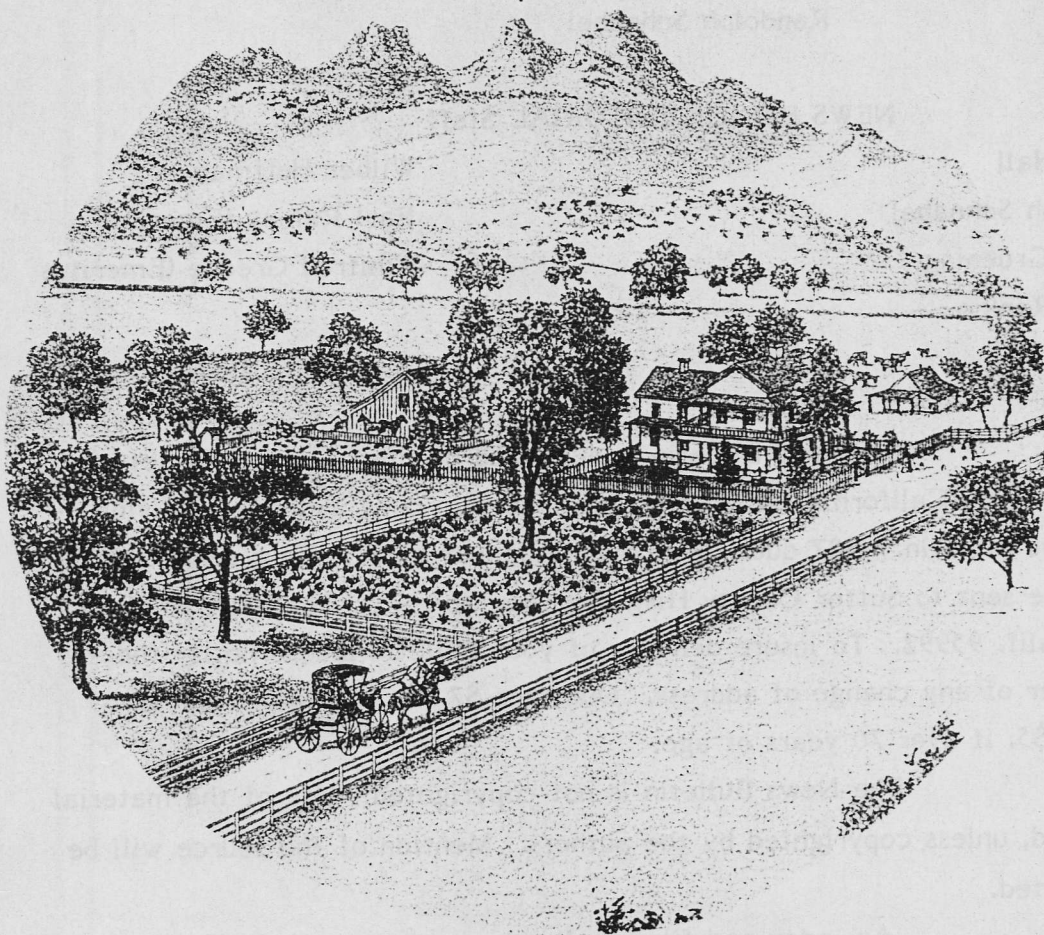
# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XXV No. 4

Yuba City, California

October 1986



RESIDENCE AND RANCH OF E.J. HOWARD, EAST BUTTE, SUTTER CO., CAL.

## SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### NEWS BULLETIN

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The News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California. The annual membership dues includes receiving the News Bulletin. 1987 dues are payable January 1987. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, Calif. 95992. To insure delivery of your Bulletin please notify the Treasurer of any change of address. Dues are \$7.50 per person, \$10. per family, \$5. if over 70 years of age.

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My thanks to Lela Zak for her expertise as a typist, her skill  
in planning the format and her ability to decipher my script.

Anita Laney

## THE HOWARD PLACE

### "Saint's Rest"

(Introduction: How it all began. The "Howard Story" has been long in my mind. After writing "Pioneer Families of the Buttes" for the July 1976 issue of the Sutter County Historical Bulletin, I, more than ever, wanted to write about my beloved neighbors who lived "down the road" from my home, the Lang Ranch. Many interruptions, constant pressures and - but rarely - utter frivolity - intervened. But now the story - as I recall, as survivor Jack Howard recalls, as neighbor Mildred Wilde Lang recalls. Can we do justice? I hope so! A. Laney)

The beginning:

June, 1983

Jack Howard ·  
Apt. 1709  
899 Pine Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Jack:

It has been a long time since I last saw you. As I recall, it was at a dance, either Merrymakers or Monday Night Dancing Club - at the Elks Club long ago. I believe you were with Stell and Roy.

I ask about you on occasion. The last time was when Nora Marie and Leon Hyman were in town. I am always so glad to see them. It took Berniece's death to bring us together again. Not that there was any dissension between us. When they hit town before they always had Berniece to visit and catch up with the local gossip. Now they have me.

Although I have had your address for several years, I am just now getting around to using it. I have been asked to continue the story of the Buttes property owners. Originally, I had written about the owners of the really large ranches several years ago for the special July 1976 issue of the Sutter County Historical Society Bulletin. At that time I was asked to continue the story of owners of Butte properties and I said I would. Now I must have it ready either for the July or October issue of the Sutter County Historical Bulletin. Thus this letter to you. I would like very much to do the story of the Howard Family. As you know - or should - I was very fond of your Aunt Lura and Cousin Sue, and of course, your Dad even though I dreaded going to the dentist - still, in fact, do. And I was always very excited when you came home from school, but you didn't know that.

Often when I go out to the ranch, I will turn down the lane past your old home of which I have many fond memories. It's like renewing my youth when I was crazy about horses, Lura's Egyptian cake and conversations with Sue. I can still remember her love of a little dog - a poodle - and how she grieved when it died. I remember the deep philosophic discussion of life after death and whether dogs reincarnated. Isn't that something? I was about 13 and rather cocksure that there was a heaven, hell and limbo, the latter for Protestants who weren't baptized in the Catholic faith. (The Howards were Methodists.) As to dogs and the hereafter, I was equally cocksure. They weren't going any place but a hole in the ground. Ah, life! It's pretty simple when we are young. The process of living changes us all.

But back to my reason for writing you. Will you help me write the story of your family? Before I send it in to the printer, I will ask for your approval. I will need pictures of your immediate family - Dad, Mother, Lura, Sue, Towser, Sue's bicycle which she gave to me - my very first bicycle. The pictures can be copied and returned to you.

I remember many things and could write from my viewpoint but a story is much more intimate and colorful when anecdotes told by the family member or a relative bring a story to life.

If you wish, I can prepare a series of questions, but let me hear from you.

Remembering the family fondly, I am

Anita Lang Laney  
P. O. Box 1670  
Marysville, CA 95901

And so the story unfolds: County records, newspaper articles, biographical and historical publications data, Jack's recollections, my reminiscences, and gleanings from living sources - now a scant few.

The California scene opens with the arrival from Missouri in 1865 of Emsley Jackson Howard and his brother-in-law, William David Sharp. Marysville, a bustling commercial city was their lodestar; cheap land their magnet. They wasted no time. Sharp purchased an acreage on the east side of the Sutter Buttes (then called Marysville Buttes) in Township 16 North Range 2 East, portions of Sections 34, 35, 26 and 27, an overall parcel of 170.8 acres. This was patent land first acquired by Harrison Landon Montgomery in 1862 from the General Land Commission of the United States Government which carried the signature of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. In 1866, E. J. purchased this property from Sharp and later in 1869 purchased the SW quarter of Section 35 from Sharp. In 1875 E. J. purchased the interest of his brother-in-law, James T. Hill, 120 acres in the same area.

By 1875 this total acreage became the sole property of E. J. Howard. First through the purchase of brother-in-law Sharp's interest - in two actions - 1866 and 1869. Further, another brother-in-law, James T. Hill, had purchased a parcel from William Sharp. This was the last acreage acquired in November 1875 - and the last purchase of any acreage by Mr. Howard.\* On his death in November, 1909, his property was left to his three children - twins Waldron and Walura, and Julius L. To Sue Anne Sharp (daughter of William D. and Martha Pennington Sharp who apparently was dead) he left a life interest in ninety acres, formerly owned by her father.

Back to the beginning of life in Sutter County, California: Mr. Howard, enthusiastic about the land, the climate and the view of The Buttes went back to Missouri in the spring of 1866 to settle affairs there and, gathering his wife Isabella Jane, his 7-year-old twins, Waldron and Walura, and his niece, 3-year-old Sue Anna Sharp, returned to California.

The question now arises: upon the family's arrival at the ranch, what did they live in - a tent? After the puzzle surrounding Sue Anne Sharp, we have the puzzle of a home. A building must have been on the premises. The story from the beginning has been that a residence was there, that it was the old Philadelphia House formerly located in Marysville on the east bank of the Feather in 1852. Further, because of the scarceness and the costliness of lumber, that it was cheaper to disassemble the building, cart it to the ranch, and reassemble it. Fact or fiction? We have to proceed on the assumption that the "Philadelphia" story was fact.

Soon Mr. Howard had added a wing to this building - creating a dining room, kitchen and pantry downstairs; upstairs, a large middle bedroom with fireplace and a small child's room - and just in time - Julius Liberty, the Howard's last child, was born there in September 1866 a few month's after their arrival. The architectural style of the home was Italiante Victorian - greatly simplified! The building program continued gradually. A barn was next, followed by a blacksmith shop, a woodshed, a smokehouse, a granary and a chicken house. Somewhere early along the line, the tankhouse, an architectural gem as far as tankhouses go, was erected. With its gambrel roofing, flared eaves at the middle and semi-round shingles on the upper story, it looked rather out-of-place when compared with the no-nonsense lines of the house it was supposed to match.

\*Mr Howard had to borrow some cash to finalize this purchase at 2% per month.

Grandmother Howard, pint-size Isabella Jane (nee Pennington), not only ran an efficient household, she also trained Lura and Sue to do likewise. Jack, her grandson, on his school vacations (he lived with his parents, Julius and Maude at 720 D Street, Marysville) remembers the summer-time kitchen as a bustling center of food processing in preparation for the winter stalemate. "Putting up" the fruits and vegetables was a grueling, exacting science carried out in a heat encompassed kitchen. Non-essentials were cleared for the operation. The big woodbox was filled to the over-flowing; the fire box was properly stoked for a steady flame; on the stove three large pots were kept bubbling - one for holding the components of a winter fare, the other two for "scalding," separately, the thick-glassed Mason jars, and their screw-topped, glass-lined zinc lids. With everything in readiness, the clock was set for the processing. In that stifling heat, with hair covered by kerchiefs, full, floor-length aprons covering dresses, long sleeves rolled to the elbow, our coordinated threesome were properly positioned for an efficient and sanitary operation. (This scene was enacted in every farm home during each long, hot summer of the years before refrigeration and air conditioning.)

Jack also recalls other gastronomical delights such as the pork sausage prepared from the family's own butchered hogs. "Hogkilling" time occurred in the fall (usually November) after the first heavy frost. At this time enough pork was smoked to last until the following fall. Since four or five men were involved in the butchering process and the Howards were short of men, the Lang boys from up the road were called in. After the hog carcass had been dipped several times in a truly large iron kettle of boiling water to loosen the hair, it was scraped clean. The carcass was then pulleyed upon a rack and "gutted" by a slit down the belly. After removing edible organs (heart, liver, etc.) which were shared with the neighbors (no refrigeration), the remainder was divided into easily handled cuts such as ham, shoulder, rib, loin, etc. These were salted and readied for the smokehouse. From the various parts, meat for the sausage grinder was cut and formed into patties. These were put down in hot lard and stored in the coldest spot available. Lard was rendered from the fat-laden skin, the latter being cubed and tossed in a hot kettle. After draining the liquid lard into small containers, the remainder, a brittle dry brown skin called "cracklings" was saved for nibbling - better than potato chips!

1903



Grandpa Howard holding Baby Jack, his grandson, on his lap. View taken from east side of ranch house verandah. Jack approximately 1 year old. Behind Grandpa is the front door. Grandpa-75years old. (Born Oct. 8, 1828 in Missouri-Died Nov. 11, 1909)

L to R

Jack M. Howard  
Maude Maxwell Howard  
Julius Howard, D.D.S.  
c. 1910



Jack, the only child of Julius and Maude Howard, attended schools in Marysville. It was easier for his father, a prominent and successful dentist, to have a home in town. Jack's mother, a Gibson-Girl type, was socially active and very popular. Julius tried his hand at politics but the political field was not his arena. Julius and Maude Maxwell Schooley were married in Kansas City, Missouri, May 1, 1901. Maude had been a former resident of Marysville where she was a stenographer for J. R. Garrett and Company. It was apparently during this period that she had met Julius. For certain, after she returned to her home state, she was followed by Julius, who married her there. On their return to Marysville, they established a home at 720 D Street (a site now occupied by a wing of the Methodist Episcopal Church pre-schoolers). Here Jack was born at home on July 11, 1902 - his permanent home for nineteen years - at that time he enrolled at the University of California and, thereafter, was not truly associated with this area.

Returning to Grandpa and Grandma Howard and the early years at the Howard Place, we find things proceeding in a fairly orderly fashion. Waldron married Elsie Wren in 1891 and moved to Yuba City. The family on the home place was now reduced to four. In addition to Emsley J. and Isabella, only Lura and Sue were left. There were many visitors of course. Isabella Jane, being active both in the Methodist Episcopal Church South programs in Sutter City and in Democratic political circles in Sutter county, moved about in an ever-widening circle of friends. Her husband, E. J. and her daughter Lura were content to remain involved in farm and home activities. Sue apparently would have enjoyed being involved in social and literary affairs but was isolated by lack of transportation - neither horse nor bicycle being adequate!

Although E. J. Howard remained quietly behind the scenes, he did participate in a few community activities. Union District School, for example, was having housing difficulties. (My source of information regarding this matter has long departed. It was Rachel Thorpe Pottle, stepdaughter of Gilbert N. Smith (previous owner of the Lang Ranch) and the wife of John L. Pottle of Sanders Road. Further, she was the grandmother of Mildred Wilde Lang, my sister-in-law.)

From Grandma Pottle, I learned that the Union District School house seemingly had moveable sites. At least two sites before Mr. Howard in 1881 resolved the problem. He granted 1 5/8 acres at the corner of East Butte Road at Howard Lane to the trustees of Union District School, namely, G. N. Smith, Charles J. Newkom and M. L. Vivian - prominent property owners in the school district. The deed contained the standard reversionary clause - the acreage to be returned to the grantor, his heirs, or assigns if no longer used as a school site. In 1916 Union District was absorbed into Brittan School District in Sutter City. The acreage then reverted to the heirs of E. J. and Isabella Jane - both deceased - the heirs being Waldron and Walura (twins) and Julius.

Lura, the quiet one, was the culinary artist of the family. My remembrance of Lura as the best pastry cook in Sutter County was bolstered not only by nephew Jack, but by all of us young horseback riding enthusiasts who frequently rode up Howard Lane, heading for Sand Creek Canyon and some mysterious destination further up in the "Buttes Mountains." Whenever we stopped at the Howard Place for a chat, Lura always had a plate of delicious cookies for us to enjoy. What a happy carefree world we reveled in! No "Keep Out" signs or hostile property owners marred our freedom of movement. Times - how they have changed!

During the holiday season Lura displayed her talent by preparing a tempting variety of epicurean delights to please the palate. Jack especially remembers one pre-Christmas party when we gorged ourselves on treats. I was a pre-schooler, he was a third grader. Did we suffer from our stuffing? Neither of us remembers.

As to Sue - she was the historian and the theologian of the family. She was a delightful and interesting story teller - tales stoutly vouched for and attested to. She related anecdotes of the "early days" - of Union District School and the teachers who often had no choice in "boarding" arrangements but to live with one of her student's family. An easy way to earn an "A"? Be the child of the teacher-keeper! Of the Methodist preachers, often destitute of housing, many hung their habits where invited. The early day preachers had circuits; consequently, they were called "circuit riders" even if they had walked with saddle bags on their backs.

Sue's most famous stories relate to Reverend Henry James Bland, a member of the Feather River Circuit of which the popular and famous Camp Bethel was a part. This site was handily close to the Howard Place where the Reverend Bland was most welcome to stay. Evidence exists as to some preacher - probably Bland - having left his habit there. In a trunk in the Howard tankhouse is a black woolen habit with the gold and red cross insignia on collar and cuffs. Unfortunately its sanctity has been relished by those experts of holiness - MOTHS!

Sue always insisted, as I recall, that the Reverend with his son lived in a small cabin under an oak tree on the Howard Place immediately south of the Union District School. She spoke of this often. Once upon a time, a large oak tree stood midway between the school and Sand Creek. It is no longer there. Jack believes that the Reverend lived much farther south. Facts distort my picture of the Reverend's habitat.

Reverend Bland's son, Henry Meade Bland, chose to ride a different circuit - that of the Liberal Arts in Education and Writing - a circuit in which he was most successful. He was named Poet Laureate of California, the second to hold that post. It is to him we are indebted for the secondary title of this article "Saint's Rest", a sensitive interpretation of the tranquil atmosphere of the Howard Place.

On theology, Sue adamantly believed in reincarnation for all animals - four legged as well as two. I, being Catholic bred and convent trained, strongly differed. Jack clearly remembers a vehement discussion between Sue and me on this matter. His recollection carries a picture of Sue at the west side gate and me on the horse outside the gate. He was leaning over the fence in the shade of the fig tree. Sue had just lost her beloved poodle, Fido, thus prompting the discussion. I was strongly entrenched in the belief that animals were not sanctified by God and, on death, went nowhere, that people had three places to go - their choice - Heaven, Hell or Limbo - the last for those who couldn't make up their minds! Fairly simple - but I was all of 13 years old - life complicates thinking.

On May 24, 1907, E. J. and Isabella Jane celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home on Howard Lane with their many friends. This social event was reported on the front page of The Sutter County Farmer (a copy of the report is in the Addendum). The Howards were married in Missouri, their native state on May 17, 1857. In 1858, twins Waldron and Walura were born. In 1865, with the Civil War waging, E. J. disturbed by the turmoil, decided to get as far away as possible. California beckoned. His trip in 1865 via Nicaragua convinced him. In early spring, 1866, he went back to Missouri for his family which now included Sue Anna (her mother, Martha Sharp (nee Pennington) had died. A later reference to Isabella Jane's blood relatives mentions only the one sister - Lavinna Hill (nee Pennington).) In March 1866, E. J. and family were in California. No time lost.

On October 25, 1909, an ailing Grandpa Howard with his wife made the painful trip (for him) to Marysville where they had a joint grant deed drawn up and notarized by Charles J. Covillaud (son of the founder of Marysville). This deed distributed their property to their children as follows: to Julius and Walura 202.31 acres (this included the improvements). On October 28, another grant deed was drawn up granting to Waldron, 160 acres.

The entire acreage as first figured, amounted to 368.31 acres. Yet, in the parcel granted Julius and Walura a discrepancy of 7.58 acres appears indicating an error either in adding or surveying. Actually, the parcel purchased from brother-in-law Sharp in 1866 contained 170.88 acres, not 178.25 acres as recorded in that grant deed. The reading of the grant deeds from both brothers-in-law - Sharp and Hill - containing metes and bounds descriptions is confusing in trying to determine the acreage even though it does give a figure. The plat maps, if gospel, are clearer. I did not find a deed granting Sue Anna a Life Estate in 90 acres, but the delineation of the property along with her name appears on the 1910 plat book.

On November 20th, one month later, the following caption and obituary appears in The Marysville Appeal: "E. J. Howard's Funeral Largely Attended. The funeral of the late E. J. Howard took place this morning at 11 o'clock from the late home in East Butte and was largely attended by friends and relatives. There was an abundance of flowers in remembrance of the deceased

who was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of the County. The pall-bearers were as follows: W. H. Forderhase, F. E. Forderhase, R. S. Mahon, T. S. Brown, D. J. McLean and W. H. Lang (my father). The funeral was conducted by Kelly Brothers of Marysville."

Now there were three little ladies left to manage the Howard Place (somewhat reminiscent of "The Ten Little Indians," and you know where that count led!). Julius, involved in a demanding dental practice and a home in Marysville, nevertheless, kept a sharp eye on the ranch and its management. Claude Brown, lease tenant, was found to carry on the farming operation. Son of T. S. Brown across the road, Claude, his wife Amy and their three sons lived in a small cottage on the Howard Place midway between the big house and the school house. Neighbors stuck together in those days!

Life moved apace. The little ladies managed the household; the tenants managed the farm. Julius, his wife Maude and son Jack rode out on weekends - usually Sunday since every one worked in the offices at least half-a-day on Saturday. To give Jack something to do, his father bought him a cowpony. Horses were still all-purpose although automobiles were making an appearance. The purpose of the cowpony was to keep Jack amused. Amused? We shall see.

It is doubtful whether Jack received any equestrian training. His experience with the pony belies it. The disciplined pony, upon seeing a cow, took off. So did Jack - off its back. Again and again, the scene repeated itself. Jack was not amused. The final chapter came soon. Jack, riding along the lane, found himself at cross-purposes with his steed. The pony, in a pique, pitched him skyward. Dusting his pants, Jack shook his fist at the rapidly departing animal and cried, "Begone!! I hate you!" It was their last goodbye.

The next step in keeping Jack amused was the boxing glove incident. His father purchased two sets of gloves, one for Jack, one for any visiting friend. This day it was Clyde Manwell. As they sparred, Towser, the family's devoted St. Bernard, fearful that Jack was being hurt, jumped on Clyde and knocked him flat. Clyde didn't dare move until Towser was assured of Jack's safety.

Not all incidents ended in this manner. One I remember vividly was a pre-Christmas dinner at the Howard's. Papa, Mama, Regina (2 years older) and I were there. Grandma Howard, Sue, Lura, Julius, Maude and Jack made up the Howard contingent. Especially exciting was the dinner table with its

white linen, matched china, sparkling crystal and shining silver. And candle-light. Romantic! But at five, romance was not even a word, let alone an emotion. Red wine was served the grown-ups. Seated next to my mother, I was curious. It looked somewhat like grape juice. To satisfy my curiosity, she gave me a sip. My response? "Yucky" and a grimace. Cookies were better!

Later, after the table was cleared, my mother and Maude were conversing in the dining room. I was with them. They were discussing Maude's ailment - a heart condition. My mother asked, "What do you take for it?" Maude answered, quite blithely, "A pinch of strychnine." My mother, astonished, "Isn't that dangerous?" Maude, "It's only a little pinch." End of conversation. Years later, I, who had a deadly fear of poisons, recalled that conversation.

Grandma Howard survived her husband by five years, dying at the family home on September 19, 1914. Nora Marie Burns remembered her as a small, quiet lady who, always cold, was often wrapped in a blanket. She sat in a reclining rocker by the fireplace and steadily rocked back and forth. She had suffered for a number of years from diabetes - according to the doctor's report "swelling of the ankles." The heart finally quit. She was "laid out" in a corner of the parlor which despite the occasion was a pretty, cheerful room with white lace curtains, pictures of living and deceased relatives on the wall and at least one marble topped table near the room's entrance. How can I be so sure? I was there - under protest. My mother, out of all her children, chose me. I entered the room clinging tightly to my mother's shirt and averting my gaze from the casket in the corner. There were a number of people in the room. Annoyed by my timidity - I feared death would reach out from the casket and seize me - she lifted me and compelled me to look down on Grandma Howard. I still recall my reaction: Grandma Howard looked like a beautiful doll - tranquil, serene - I was no longer afraid.

Although three more were to die in the home, Grandma was the last Howard to be "laid out" there. The following were pallbearers: William Thorpe, Florence Forderhase, Henry Bruce, Don Sharp, Peter Burns (my uncle) and W. H. Lang (my father - again!) She was interred by the side of her husband, E. J., in Sutter City Cemetery. Services were performed by Reverend W. D. Dominick of the Methodist Church, Sutter City. (The deceased had been a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church South. The obituary did not clarify the minister's affiliation, although a Methodist Church North also served its Sutter congregation.

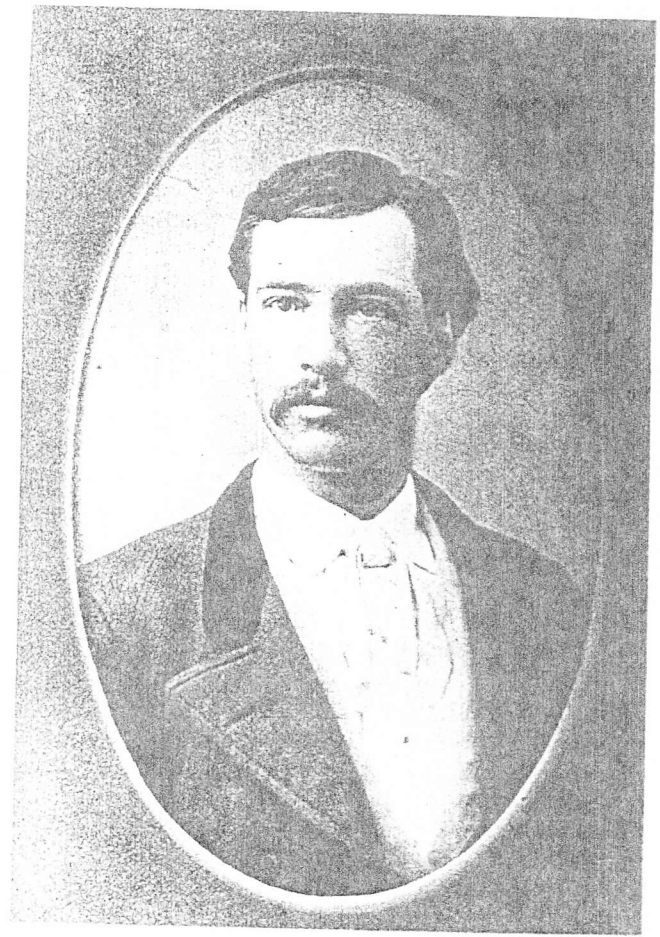
1860

JOHN W. PENNINGTON

Early surveyor in Sutter County

Photo taken at Wood's Photographic  
Art Gallery, Odd Fellow's Building  
Marysville, California

He served in the Sutter County  
Recorder's Office in the 1860's



1860

SUSANNA WYATT PENNINGTON

Grandma was born in the seventeen  
hundreds. Picture taken by L. J.  
Stinson, Marysville, Cal.

Lavinia Pennington Hill and her husband  
James T. Hill bought 120 acres immediately  
adjoining the Howard property on the west.  
On this they built a home and barn. In  
Sept. 1875 they sold the property to  
E.J. Howard and moved to Santa Rosa.  
Lavinia was Isabella Jones Pennington  
Howard's sister.

With the death of Grandma Howard, the count in the homeplace was reduced to two, Lura, 56, and Sue, 51. In no time, these lonely little ladies were devastated by a dearth of activity. No longer did the constant care of a dear one fill their days and nights. The chore of cleaning the house, picking up the figs, feeding the turkeys and chickens was an automatic reflex - neither time nor mind consuming. What to do? The one event that stirred their pulses was the Sunday visit of Julius and family - an event the equivalent of the major holidays - Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter - merged into one. Julius, concerned, efficient, checked the ranch records; Maude, beautiful, effervescent, regaled with tales of social activities and town gossip; Jack reserved, scholarly, hiked the lower Butte hills, gathered the seasonal, succulent mushrooms, marveled at a myriad mass of spring wild flowers, and searched for Indian grinding stones and burial mounds, the latter often identified by beads and shells. Dependent on its involvement - fast or slow - time passed.

And then the unspeakable shock! On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, December 16, 1917, it happened! Julius and Maude were making their customary visit to the ranch. Jack, very involved in high school activities, had stayed home. Suddenly, at the Lang home, the phone rang! My mother answered. Her reaction! Instantaneous! To Tex, within earshot, "Hitch the horse to the cart. No questions! - Hurry." Rushing about, she seized the medicine kit and the "Home Remedy" encyclopaedia - (kept together for emergencies). She dashed out the door and into the cart which, miraculously, was ready. Without further ado, the two, Tex and my mother, were onto East Butte Road, careening wildly toward the Howard House. Terribly alarmed, I had rushed to the very best spot to watch the action - the back of the tankhouse. In record time, Tex had whirled the cart to the Howard House side door. Someone, probably Sue, dashed from the house to meet my mother. Both disappeared into the house. Extremely fearful - I watched, never moving from my spot. I prayed, "Please, God, help!" An eternity passed. Finally, my mother reappeared with Sue (I assume). Following a brief interlude, cart and contents moved slowly from the Howard House homeward. My father, awaiting the return, asked, "How is she?" My mother bluntly answered, "Dead!" Of course, more followed but I, still by the tankhouse was stunned. The pinch of strychnine to cure the heart flurry had killed. Beautiful Maude Howard was dead! Although her son Jack and the doctor had been notified of the serious situation, both arrived (separately) after Maude was beyond recall.

The Death Certificate, dated December 19, 1917, and signed by Dr. G. W. Stratton, recorded the following: Death at 3:45 p.m. (December 16) . . . Cause of death - strychnine poisoning . . . an overdose . . . Age, 42.

Her funeral held in the Chapel of Kelly Brothers Funeral Parlors on D Street was largely attended. The Marysville Appeal reported: "The floral pieces were beautiful and numerous . . . Miss Alice Juch rendered several vocal selections and Miss Calla Hale was the accompanist. The remains were taken to Sacramento for cremation."

Although unnerved by the sudden death of his beautiful wife, Julius continued to maintain his Marysville home and his profitable dental practice until Jack graduated from Marysville High in 1920. A talented and scholarly student, Jack was accepted at the University of California. In 1921, Julius, assured that Jack was a certainty at Cal, decided to change his life style. After 34 years of successful dentistry, he sold his practice to Dr. R. F. Gilbride and put his Marysville home on the market.

Lonelier than ever, our two little ladies, Lura and Sue decided the solitary ranch life was not for them. Thinking city life would offer involvement, entertainment and excitement, they chose Sacramento and rented an apartment there. Along with the change in residence, they wanted a change in furniture. Curvaceous marble-topped Victorian was so passé. They sold it. Its replacement? Squarish, no-nonsense Mission Oak. I can still remember my mother's horror at their choice. Unfortunately, the sojourn in Sacramento was very short-lived. They returned to the Italiante Victorian ranch house with their very unsuitable Mission Oak. (There is still a piece - a dining room sideboard - in the tankhouse.) At least now, in 1921 with Julius home on the ranch, they were content.

In 1924, Lura's twin, Waldron, who had been living for many years in Portland, Oregon, died. Laprice, Waldron's only child who had been born in Yuba City but now lived in Portland, returned to this area to take care of Waldron's 160 acres which adjoined the Howard Place. She would make one more return to the ranch - when Lura died.

College, law school (Hastings), a law career and marriage removed Jack from the ranch scene. His interest was now focused on this law practice in San Francisco and his home and family in Burlingame. In 1925, Jack had married Gladys Adelle Brockman, a local Sutter County girl, descendant of a pioneer family. They had one child, a daughter, Jane Wineinger (nee Howard), mother of two boys and a girl. The legal demands of deaths in his family would bring him back, again and again, to Sutter County but only long enough to handle legal aspects. His last sad trip came in 1943 with the death of Sue. Now, Jack, the sole survivor of the E. J. Family is the last to carry the name. Retired from law practice, he and Adelle live in San Francisco. His daughter and her family live at the Burlingame residence (Jack's). \*

Lura, having been ill for a number of years, died at the home place in 1929. Her death notice was as follows: "Walura Howard, 3/7/1858 - 10/16/29. Death occurred at 11:00 a.m. She was 71 years, 7 months, 8 days. She lived for 64 years on the homeplace. Dr. James Barr saw her only once - the day of her death. Death: Valvular tension of the heart. Contributory cause: Diabetes."

The following article appeared in The Marysville Appeal: "A large gathering of friends in Yuba and Sutter Counties attended the funeral services for the late Miss Walura Howard at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday (October 19) at Lipp and Sullivan. Large quantities of flowers bespoke the esteem in which the daughter of the Sutter County pioneer family was held. The Reverend M. Cottingham of the First Methodist Church of Marysville conducted the services. Interment was made in the Sutter City Cemetery. Casket bearers were A. G. Gage, W. D. Sullenger, G. C. Galbraith, Francis Lang, Harry Wisner and Harvey Putman." She died intestate.

Julius Howard was named administrator. In 1930, a full inventory of the ranch property - real estate and personal property followed. Laprice Howard, to assure herself of her entitlement of one-half Lura's share, arrived from Oregon. In August, 1934 the estate, finalized, was signed by Julius Howard, Hugh K. McKevitt and Jack Howard. Economic conditions had reduced the value extremely.

\* Jane is now the owner of the property. 120 years under one family.

The 1920s, which had started with a boom, in 1929 ended with a bang .. ushered in unceremoniously by the stock market crash. The Depression wasn't even around the corner - it was devastatingly here! The core of the economy - the farmer - could produce but who could buy the produce? Peaches at \$5.00 a ton were left to rot. Who could afford labor at 15¢ an hour? Beans and legumes were stored in warehouses to be, eventually, consumed by rodents - or flames (arson suspected?) The once financially flushed financiers were jumping out windows. Although the farmers' financial state was equally desperate, his windows weren't high enough! Survival was the key to living.

Many farmers didn't survive financially, they could not meet payments on the land or the improvements. The Howards owed only the annual taxes and insurance. **They survived.** A spartan existence assured that survival.

Julius, Sue Sharp and her brother Elbert, a recent arrival, carried on chores at the home place. Tenants farmed the almond orchard and grain fields. The economy by the middle 1930s was somewhat stabilized. Roosevelt's economic program consisted of categorized units identified by initials - such as WPA, CCC - covering all phases of the economy. Recovery was slow. In October, 1937 I took my mother to visit Sue. Neither was well. One month later, my mother was dead.

The situation in Europe continued to be desperate. Germany under Hitler was entering a strong military phase. By 1939, England, supporting Poland, had declared war on Germany - a war quickly involving all European nations except a few. By 1940, the United States geared its economy in strong support of the Allies. By December, 1941 the United States was at war. Economic recovery was dramatic, sudden!

On March 6, 1941, The Appeal Democrat carried the following article: "Dr. Julius Howard, 75, member of a pioneer Sutter County family, a dentist in Marysville for 34 years retiring in 1922 (sic) to devote himself to his ranch in the East Butte area, died this morning. Death came to him in the same house in which he was born, September 16, 1866."

"Dr. Howard had been in poor health the past two years and since last December had been seriously ill. . . . He is survived by his son, Jack Howard, of Burlingame and a granddaughter, Jane. Two cousins residing with him at the ranch are Susanna Sharp and Elbert K. Sharp. Funeral arrangements were to be made this afternoon through Lipp and Sullivan."

On March 8, 1941 in The Appeal: "Funeral services for Dr. J. L. Howard . . . were held in the Lipp and Sullivan Chapel Saturday afternoon and were largely attended. The Reverend E. L. Fisher was the minister and Miss Vashti Prentiss was the organist. Interment was made in the Sutter Cemetery. Fifteen local doctors were honorary pallbearers. The following bore the casket: W. D. Sullenger, A. B. Gage, L. R. Pinson, W. L. DeForest, Clarence Griffith and Laurence Lang." He was the last of the Howards to die at the family home.

With Dr. Julius Howard now in the Sutter City Cemetery with his father, mother and sister, with most of his friends and neighbors gone, only his two cousins, Sue and Elbert Sharp, were left to mope about in the, now, lonely old house. Twenty years earlier, Julius's son, Jack, had established himself on the San Francisco Peninsula and was no longer associated in the old familiar way with the Howard home on Howard Lane. For these two cousins, little time was left. Elbert, seven years older than Sue, spent only a short while longer at home with his sister. A year and a half later he was in the hospital - his final stay. Elbert Sharp's obituary read as follows: "Place of death: Yuba City Hospital for 5 weeks. In community and in California, 17 years. Profession - a miner. Cause of death: arteriosclerosis heart disease . . . signed, Thomas Keyes, M. D., 8/13/42."

Shortly thereafter, this article appeared in The Marysville Appeal: "Elbert Sharp Rites: Funeral services for Elbert Sharp, 85, who resided for years on the Howard Place east of the Sutter Buttes, will be held at the graveyard, Sutter City Cemetery, Monday at 10:00 a.m. and will be strictly private. Lipp and Sullivan in charge, Saturday, August 15, 1942. Informant: Sutter County Hospital." Who was left to mourn? Just Sue!

Sue, the last of the clan, had been a "Howard" in spirit though not in name. And speaking of "spirit" - at the Howard Place she had at least one - the question - Whose? Someone's - certainly a dissident's. Sue had a framed print she especially loved - a lovely fragile lady with strawberry blonde hair and a wide halo of pink roses fashioned around her. Efforts to hang it proved

futile. It constantly fell from the wall. One day my niece, Patti Lee Lang, stopped by on a horseback ride. Sue asked for her magic touch in picture hanging - on the only wall not tried - the bathroom wall. Patti firmly drove the nail into the wall and, with her magic touch, hung the picture. As she stepped back to admire it-lo! It tumbled from the wall. End of picture hanging episode. There are other "spirit" stories, some fairly dramatic. For now, this is enough!

After the death of Elbert, Sue was moved into town from the home. It was now completely empty. Living in town, however, did not lengthen Sue's life. The following notice appeared in The Appeal Democrat on February 14, 1943 - 6 months after her brother's notice - "Sue Ann Sharp; place of death - Sutter County Hospital. In this community 77 years. Birthdate, December 31, 1863. Birthplace, Missouri. Father, William D. Sharp, Virginia; mother's maiden name, Martha E. Pennington; birthplace, Missouri. Informant, Jack Howard, Burlingame, California. Cremation: 2/17/43, Sierra View Memorial Park. Funeral Director: Lipp and Sullivan."

The medical chart provided the following data: "I attended the deceased on January 15, 1943, and February 14, 1943 - last I saw her alive, February 14, 1943 and that death occurred on date and hour stated above. Cause of death: carcinoma of the cervix (with a general metasis of the pelvic area). Duration 1½ years. Signed, Thomas F. Keyes, M. D., Sutter County Hospital, 2/15/1943."

Sue's funeral was reported in The Marysville Appeal on February 17, 1943. "Miss Sharp buried. Friends, largely from the Sutter Buttes district, attended funeral services, held yesterday afternoon in the Lipp and Sullivan Chapel for Miss Susann Sharp, the Reverend B. Lowry of the Yuba City Methodist Church officiated. Miss Vashti Prentiss was the organist. Six Lang brothers were the casket bearers when the body was taken to Sierra View for cremation. They were: W. H. Lang II (actually a Lang nephew), Ignatius, Francis, J. B. (Joseph B.), Laurence and Alphonso."

Thus it was the end of a pioneer family and the era with which it was intimate. Although the land is still the same, the climate the same, the view the same, the family that made it special is not the same. I miss every member of it!

Remembering the Howard family fondly,

I am Anita Lang Laney, the neighbor kid from up the road.

ANITA LANEY

\*9/12/49 Judgment of Partition. Re: Sue Anna Sharp Life Estate

Jack M. Howard - Plaintiff -- Laprince Howard - Defendant -- Sue Anna Howard Life Estate - 90 acres. One half - Laprince Howard, 45 acres  
One half - Jack M. Howard, 45 acres



1927    Nuestro Home Department

Lura Howard is standing far left. Sue is standing third from left.

Top row:

Lura Howard, Helen Stelle, Sue Sharp, Eolie Galbraith (with jug) and Elizabeth Clark.

From left seated:

1st- Mary Williams (hat)

4th- Nellie Wisner

5th- Hattie Sutherland

6th- Myrl Gage (partially concealed\_)

## EDITOR'S PAGE

You have Anita Laney's permission to copy this "Egyptian Cake" recipe. She says it is delicious.

### LURA'S "EGYPTIAN CAKE"

1/2 cup butter	1 rounding teaspoon baking powder
1 1/2 cups sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 3/4 cups flour	4 eggs
1/2 cup milk	
1/2 cup chocolate (Ghirardelli's)	

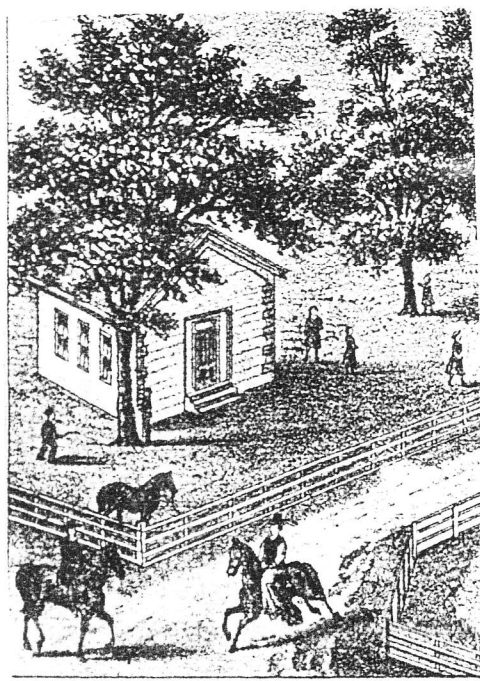
Cream butter, add sugar, beaten egg yolks; add chocolate dissolved in 5 teaspoons hot water--add flour, baking powder and milk. Beat vigorously. Add stiffly beaten egg whites. Add vanilla.

Bake in 3 layered 9" tins in quick oven 325° = 350° twenty to 25 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Clyde Bush of 1126 Keifer St. Marysville mentioned this when he visited the museum. He closed his photography studio in Marysville some years back and anyone who had pictures taken there (as long as 29 years ago) may have the negatives at no charge. He has eight or nine thousand.

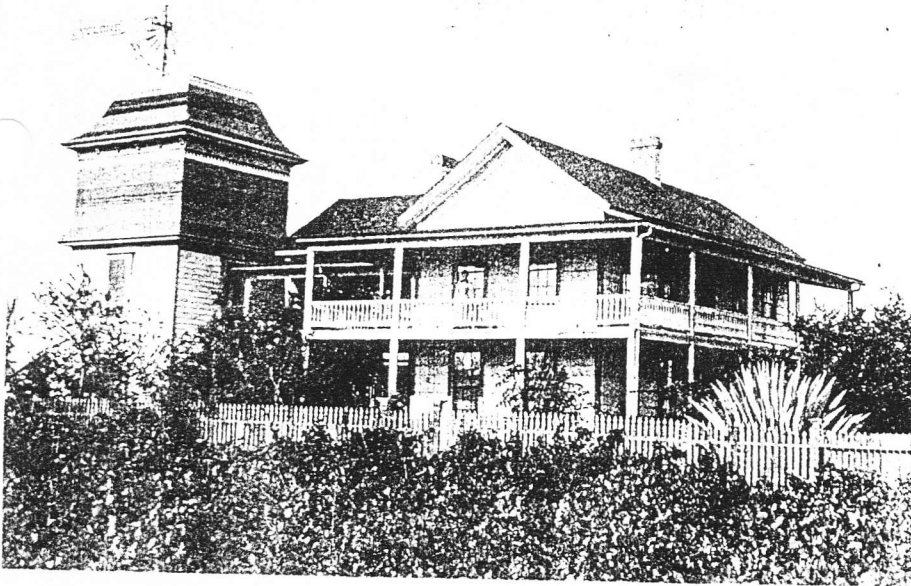
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UNION DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSE.

### UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

In 1881 E.J. Howard granted to the trustees one and five eighths acres for a school with a standard revisionary clause. The trustees signing for the Dist. were G.N. Smith, Chas. J. Newkom and M.L. Vivion. The school property reverted to the Howard estate when in 1916 Union District was absorbed by Nuestro School District.



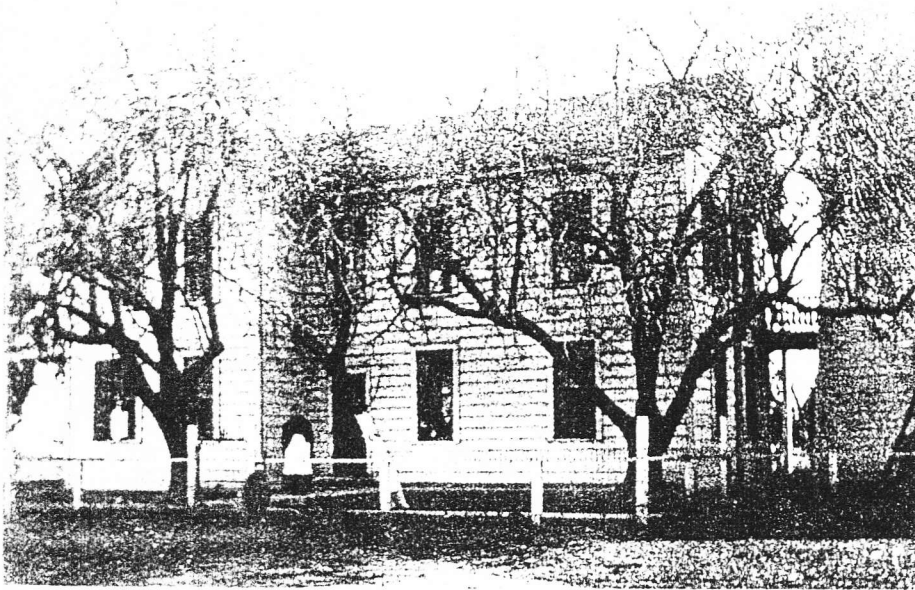
The tankhouse is architecturally significant with a gambrel roof, semicircular shingles on upper half with gambrel line at middle half.

1898

Eastview

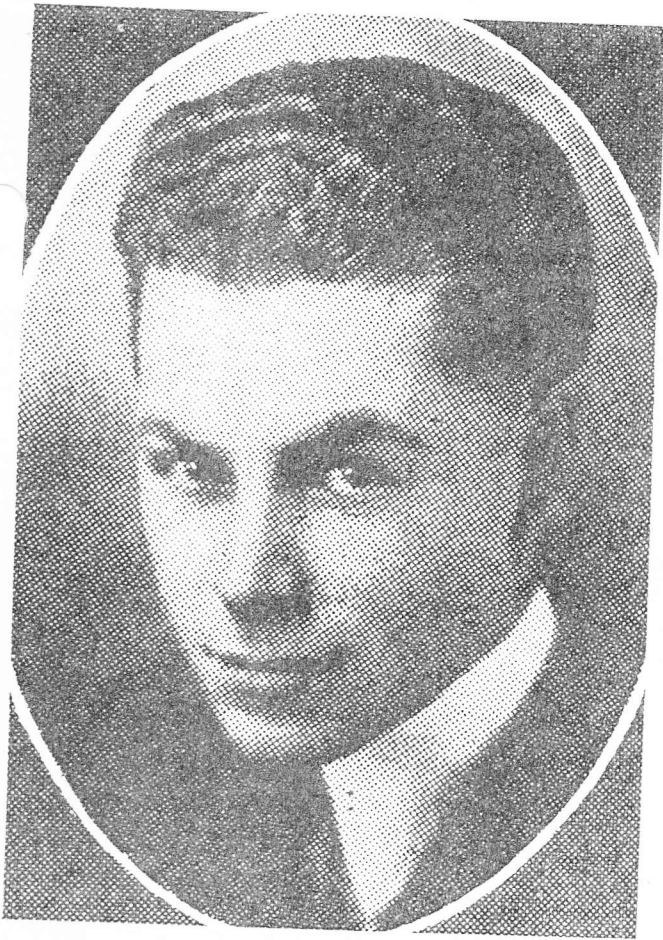
The Italianate style Victorian home of E.J. Howard on East Butte Road in Sutter County, just south of Sanders Road.

The covered two story porch ran across the front and east side. A stairway went up east side off the kitchen area. A doorway opened from upstairs porch into second floor of tankhouse (built in 1880's) From this floor a ladder led up to the third floor on which the water tank sat. A windmill provided the power for bringing the water from the well to the tank.



1898

View from the west side of the Howard house. Grandmal Howard standing by door to dining room. On this side the porch is a single extending from the corner where dining room wall adjoins living room extension and runs along kitchen to join the verandah porch. The lower porch has a doorway into the tankhouse first floor. The upper verandah extension into the tankhouse can be seen. This porch is concrete.



1920

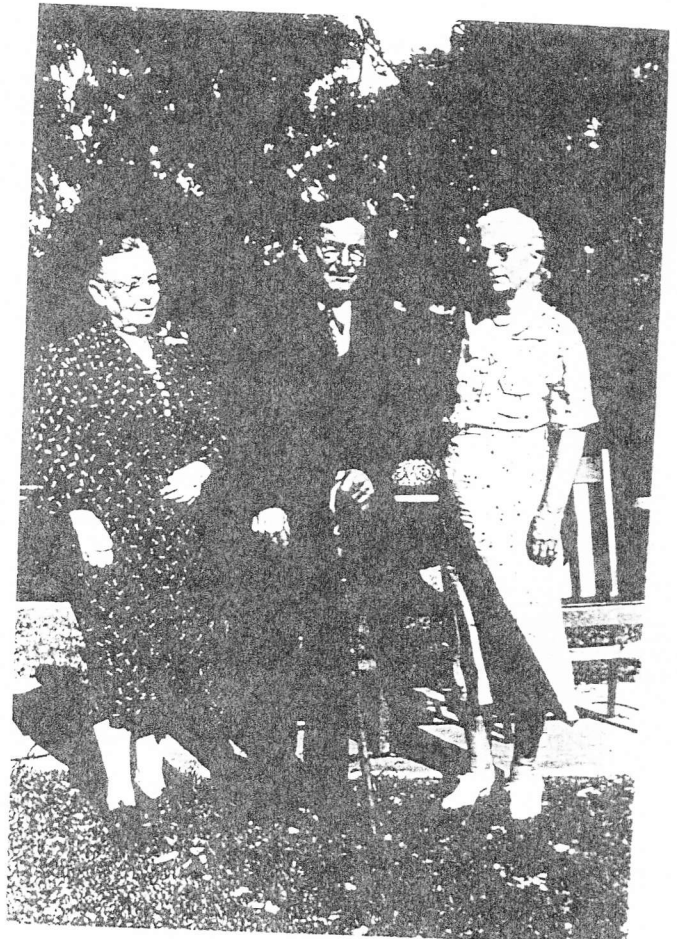
Jack Maxwell Howard, son of Dr. Julius L. and Maude Howard. Picture taken from the Yuba Delta, Marysville Year Book.

Jack, age 18, was editor-in-chief of the yearbook for 1920.

Sept. 8, 1941

Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Norton (Phoebe Smith Norton was Gilbert Smith's daughter. The wedding took place at the Smith home on East Butte Road. Home is still standing)

Sue Sharp, cousin of Julius Howard, is the lady on the left. She was bridesmaid for Phoebe on her wedding day, Sept. 8, 1891. The Nortons are celebrating their Golden Wedding in Sutter.





1860

Grandma Brice, born in Ireland 1798  
It was she who brought Jack's father  
into this world in 1866, at which time  
she would have been 68 yrs.

Picture taken by J.J. Stinson, Marysville,  
Cal.

1860

Nathaniel Wyatt, first cousin to Grandma  
Howard. A law partner of J.S. Stabler  
in Yuba City in 1850's and 60's.

Picture taken in McCrary's Studio, Odd  
Fellows Bldg, Marysville

