

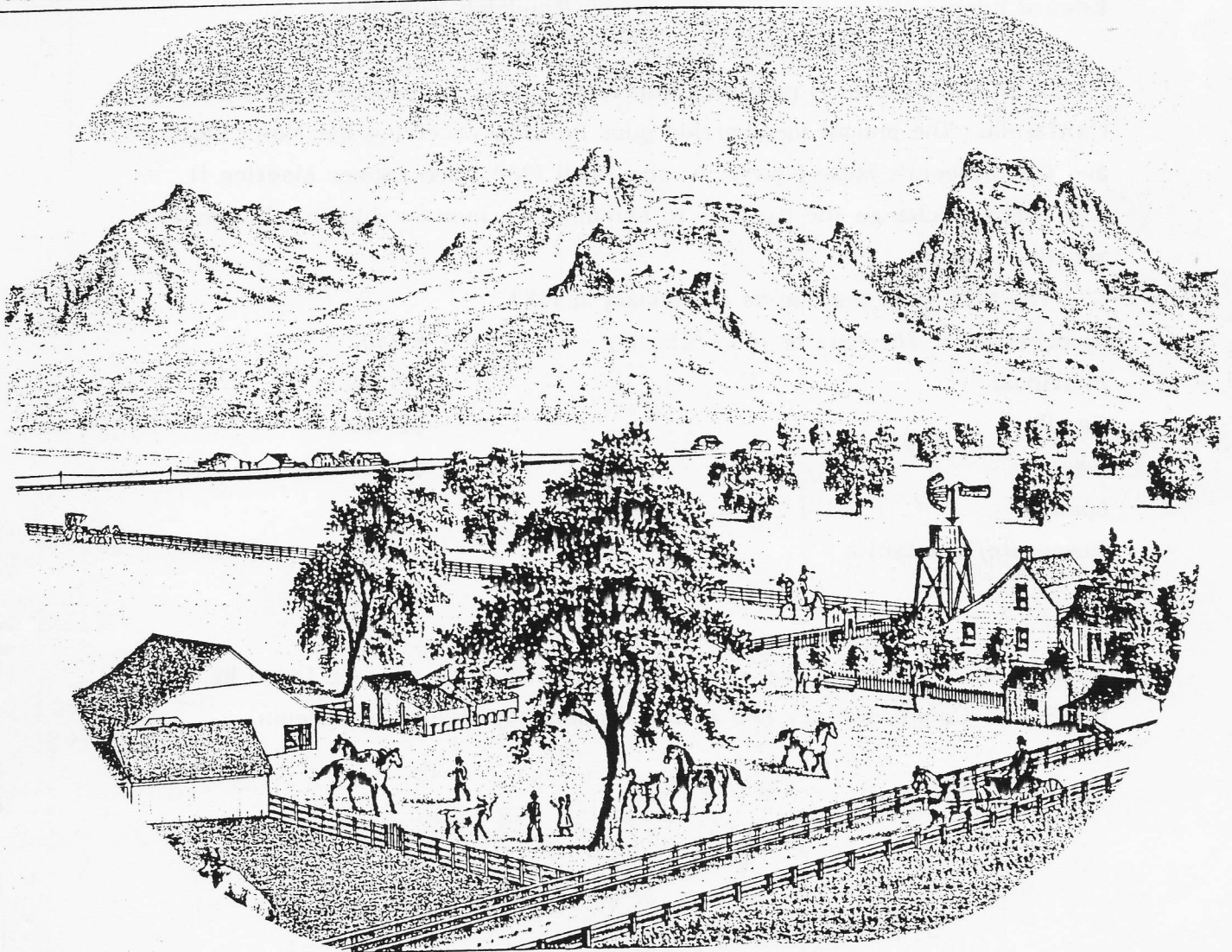
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL XXX No 2

Yuba City, California

April 1989



A RESIDENCE AT WEST BUTTE IN THE LATE 1850'S

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 and the Museum's Muse News. At the April 1987 April Dinner Meeting it was voted to change the By-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 1989 dues are due as of January 1, 1989.

Student/Senior 70 years or older/Library	\$7.50
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Business	\$50.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1000.00

An index and file of all the past issues of the Bulletin may be found in the Sutter County Library and at the Community Memorial Museum.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989, AT SUTTER YOUTH ORGANIZATION
BUILDING AT BUTTEHOUSE AND ACACIA ROADS, SUTTER, CALIF.
TIME: 6:30 P. M. PREPAID RESERVATIONS TO BE MADE AT THE
COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM AT \$10. PER PERSON BY APRIL
14TH. THE SPEAKER WILL BE WALT ANDERSON WITH A NEW SLIDE
SHOW.
WE ARE ALWAYS SERVED AN EXCELLENT DINNER BY THIS GROUP
SO DO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

WE HAVE A REQUEST FROM FREDERICK ZIEGENMEYER OF
P.O. Box 408, SUTTER, CA 95982 WHO HAS A PHOTO OF HIS
MOTHER'S CLASS AT LIVE OAK SCHOOL ABOUT 1914. HE WONDERS
IF ANYONE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP HIM IDENTIFY HER CLASS-
MATES BY NAME. (PERHAPS FROM A SIMILAR PHOTO WHERE
THEY ARE IDENTIFIED) HIS MOTHER'S NAME WAS ENID BURGRAFF.
HIS PHONE NUMBER IS 755-0005

WE STILL HAVE ROOM ON THE BUS FOR OUR BUS TOUR AROUND
THE BUTTES ON APRIL 8TH. \$5. PER PERSON WITH PREPAID
RESERVATIONS MADE AT COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM. THERE
WILL BE A NO-HOST LUNCH BREAK AT MONTERO'S IN LIVE OAK
PART WAY THROUGH THE TOUR.

WE HAD TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL DAYS OF NATURE HIKES IN THE
BUTTES IN MARCH WITH OUR THANKS GOING TO MARGIT AND
PETE SANDS, NATURALISTS, FOR GUIDING SAID HIKES. THIS IS
ALWAYS A POPULAR FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE SOCIETY.

Director's Report by Jackie Lowe

Spring is a busy time for the Museum. In April alone we have three different exhibits coming and going-- and we hope that you will be able to view them all. A photographic study of the Sutter Buttes by Jeff Lock will lead us into April, then on Friday, April 7 we will try something a little different with "Women Coming Of Age", an exhibition of modern art by Luisa Leger. Luisa's wonderful work will be at the Museum until the very end of April. At that time we will welcome "California Raptors" by naturalist/ photographer John Hendrickson. "California Raptors" will run through the end of July.

When you come to visit the Museum we hope that you will be pleasantly surprised by our new look. We have finally retired the much-used and abused red carpet that has been in the Museum since its opening 14 years ago and replaced it with brand new blue/gray carpet. Due to some unforeseen circumstances the Museum was closed for two weeks while the carpet was installed, twice as long as we had anticipated. We hope that our extended closure did not inconvenience anyone. Fortunately, we were able to put that time to good use by painting all of the walls, so when you come in everything looks clean and fresh.

Two of the Museums most important fund raisers are coming up soon and we hope that you will all participate. On Friday, April 28 the Museum Commission will host its annual Wine and Posies Gala. This wine party and May basket give away is always a favorite, and this year it should be even more so with the evening also serving as a preview party for "California Raptors". In May the Museum Commission and Auxiliary will once again be putting together beautiful "Mother's Day Decadence" gift baskets for you to pick up or have delivered to your favorite lady. This is an especially important fund raiser for the Museum, funding all of our educational programming including the traveling trunks. There is a pink order form included in this Bulletin for your convenience, and sample baskets are set up at the Museum for your inspection.

The Museum has received a great deal of community support recently and this seems like a good time to acknowledge it. Last year the Rotary Club of Yuba City built a much-needed artifact storage building. The Yuba City Kiwanis Club is currently building exhibit furniture that will help the staff to revamp the entire west side of the Museum's "permanent" exhibits. Longs Drug Stores Marysville/Yuba City has agreed to sponsor the exhibit catalog to accompany the upcoming exhibit "Double Vision: J.J. Reilly's Stereoscopic Odyssey from Scotland to Marysville", that will be here in the fall. We are very fortunate to be in an area that is so supportive of its community institutions and activities. As long as the Museum enjoys that kind of community support can continue to be an active and useful part of the community.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AG. BUILDING FUND AND TRUST FUND

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Fidelity Natl. Title Ins. Co.

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Edith & Glenn Kimerer

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Joe Benatar, Daniel Hewitt & Staff

John & Audrey Breeding

Dorothy & Wallace Coats and

Rosemary Redhair

In memory of Donna Greathouse

In memory of Art Bagley, former
Sutter County Supervisor

In memory of Edna Mae Harmon

In memory of Hope Lamme

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Carrie Forderhase

In memory of John Cary

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Vasilios Karperos

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Margaret Hope Lamme

In memory of Henry Kimerer

In memory of Arthur Bagley

In memory of John Cary

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Marjorie L. Winship

In memory of Marjorie L. Winship

In memory of Marjorie L. Winship

In memory of George Briick

In memory of John Cary

In memory of Marge Winship

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Judith Barr Fairbanks

In memory of Henry C. Kimerer

In memory of Earl Ramey

In memory of Roger Starke Mackensen

In memory of Effie Felber

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Scott H. Geary

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Marjorie Winship

Rosemary Redhair, Dorothy &

Wallace Coats

Kathleen & Joe Ruzich

Kathleen & Joe Ruzich

Kathleen & Joe Ruzich

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James, Frances, & Blythe Gentry

James, Frances & Blythe Gentry

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Caroline Ringler

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Marnee Crowhurst

Lodel and Norman Piner

Helen Frye

Jim & Alberta Gilpatric

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Hall

In memory of Ethell Stafford

In memory of Marge Winship

In memory of George Briick

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Ethel Barnes Stafford

In memory of John Cary

In memory of George Briick

In memory of Effie Felber

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Edna Harmon

In memory of Ethel Stafford

In memory of Patricia K. Cheney

In memory of Theresia Huber

In memory of Ethel Barnes Stafford

In memory of Hope Lamme

In memory of Marjorie Winship

In memory of Lorene W. Williston

In memory of Lorene Williston

In memory of Glenn L. Thoma

In memory of Lorene Williston

In memory of Dwight S. Sullivan

In memory of Lorene Williston

In memory of Betty Lu Boyd

In memory of Angelo Giusti

In memory of Gordon Sterud

In memory of J. R. Biggs

In memory of George Briick

In memory of Karen Cheney

In honor of Ruth Voorheis' 90th birthday

In memory of Eugene Sherlock

In memory of Carrie Forderhase

In honor of Jackie, Julie & Commission
Members

In memory of Hope Lamme

In memory of Gayle Heckman

In memory of Troy Sprinkle

Mary C. Gillis
Mary C. Gillis
Mary C. Gillis
Donald & Esther Brookman
Delta Chapter of Alpha Sigma
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Bogue County Club
Janet Heisch
James & Judith Barr
James & Eleanor Clark
James & Eleanor Clark
James & Eleanor Clark
Eleanor Holmes
Dorothy & Ron Ross
Loadel Piner
Mr. & Mrs. Guy M. Davis

In memory of Eugene Sherlock
In memory of Wilton Eich
In memory of Hope Lamme
In memory of Hope Lamme
In memory of Carmelita Brewer
In memory of Hope Lamme
In memory of Marjorie Winship
In memory of Marjorie Winship
In memory of George Briick
In memory of Marjorie Winship
In memory of Marjorie Winship
In memory of Hope Lamme
In memory of Marjorie H. Winship
In memory of Hope Lamme
In memory of Indra Nason
In memory of Mae Shepherd
In memory of George Briick
In memory of J. Arthur Bagley
In memory of Marjorie L. Winship
In memory of Helen L. Staehlin
In memory of Arthur S. Powell
In memory of John Cary
In memory of Ethel Stafford
In memory of Marjorie Winship
In memory of Art Bagley
In memory of George Changaris
In memory of William Karperos
In memory of Ada Brannen
In memory of Vernie Engstrom
In memory of Ivadel McBride
In memory of George Briick
In memory of Effie Felber
In memory of Ethel Stafford
In memory of Harvey Schmidl
In memory of George Briick
In honor of Grace Fuller's 90th birthday
In memory of John Shell



Let the
Community
Memorial Museum
deliver a special treat
to Mother
for Mother's Day

May 14

MOTHER'S DAY DECADENCE

Mother's Day Decadence

includes:
(for Mother & a friend)

Chocolate Truffles
Peach Silk Rose
Champagne (or sparkling cider)
Glasses, napkins
Strawberry/cream cheese Croissants
Card
Delivered in a floral "box-basket"

The cost of \$17.50 includes delivery on
Friday afternoon, May 12

Order by Tuesday, May 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Sample baskets on display
at Museum

All orders prepaid.

Extra baskets, if available, can be purchased at the Museum
on Saturday, May 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Mini-Decadence

includes:
(for Mother)

Chocolate Truffles
Peach Silk Rose
Card
Packaged in floral "mini basket-box"

The cost is \$7.50, and it may be picked up
at the Museum on Friday, May 12 from 1:00-5:00
or Saturday, May 13 from 1:00 -4:00.

Send this form with check payable to:
Community Memorial Museum
P. O. Box 1555
Yuba City, CA 95992

Delivery to:
Sutter County
Marysville proper

I will pick up a Mini-Decadence at the
Community Memorial Museum
1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City

Deliver a Mother's Day Decadence to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

Sender's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Sign the Card _____

Check one:

Champagne _____

Sparkling cider _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Delivery on full size basket only.

Please draw a map with major cross streets on the back.

100'th Anniversary of Yuba City Founder's Death

May 5th of this year will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Samuel Brannan, the founder of Yuba City. For one hundred years it was thought that Mr. Brannan had died of an acute case of inflammation of the bowels which had kept him confined to his room for two weeks prior to his death. However, newly found evidence indicates that Mr. Brannan did **NOT** die as had been reported in the newspaper obituaries and tributes published throughout the state of California at the time of his death.

While doing research for a definitive biography of Mr. Brannan, Donna North, a researcher from Gridley, California, found a statement written by Isaac Tabor, M.D., Mr. Brannan's attending physician at his death. The statement is written in Dr. Tabor's hand and states:

I do hereby certify that Samuel Brannan-aged 70 years-
died on the 5th of May 1859- in the City of Escondido- San
Diego Co. State of California-**of paralysis of the throat
and heart-**

Isaac Tabor M.D.
Attending Phy-
Escondido San Diego Co Cal
May- 5th 1859

At the bottom of the same piece of paper is this statement by the San Diego County Coroner:

I Wm H. Eadom Coroner having made satisfactory
inquiries do hereby certify that the above is correct
Wm H. Eadom
Coroner

The above document was found by Ms. North in the San Diego County Recorder's Office. It is not known what may have caused the press of the time to report the other cause of death. However, it is interesting how far from correct their reporting was involving, as it did, the wrong end of the digestive tract.

On November 16, 1858, in the last letter Mr. Brannan wrote to his nephew Alexander Badlam, Jr., he tells of an inability to swallow anything solid. Mr. Brannan had suffered a gunshot wound to the neck in a skirmish in Calistoga many years earlier, but it is not known if that wound could have been responsible for his subsequent difficulties. While in the 1850's Mr. Brannan had been in Mexico working on a land development project, and had suffered a stroke while at the cathedral in Guaymas listening to music. Therefore, there is some evidence that he had circulatory problems which could have led to a heart attack, which may have been what Dr. Tabor referred to as a "paralysis of the heart."

It is puzzling that the early reports had listed Mr. Brannan's death as caused by an inflammation of the bowels, especially when there was a doctor's report saying otherwise. There are several other mysteries that remain in the last chapter of Mr. Brannan's life, such as, why it took nine days to get Mr. Brannan buried in a vault in Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego, and why Alex Badlam waited almost seventeen months to pay to have his uncle buried? These and other puzzles in Mr. Brannan's life will keep researchers like Ms. North busy for years.

January 25, 1989

Sutter County Historical Society,
Box 1004
Yuba City, California 95992

Dear Members,

Just received my first Sutter Society News Bulletin and thoroughly enjoyed reading it, especially the letters at the end. Thought you might be interested in reading copies of several letters I have, written by my great-grandfather and great-grandmother.

My great-grandfather, Samuel William Empey, crossed the plains to California c. 1859-60. My great-grandmother, Martha Amidon Empey and her only child, Willie, came out by boat in 1860. My grandmother, Ida Kate Empey, is the new baby mentioned in the letters, born 31, December, 1862.

My great-grandfather died suddenly, April 1, 1868. I don't know what he died of. He is buried at the Marysville City cemetery, lot #26. My great-grandmother with three children, a second daughter was born in October of 1866, and pregnant, returned, again by boat, to her family in Sparta, Michigan.

My grandmother told of a memorial parade or something like that that was held in Marysville when Abe Lincoln died. Her father rode a horse in the procession and she rode with him. She was always proud of the dress she wore that her mother had made special for the occasion. Do you have any records of this? I still have the dress.

Sincerely,

Karolee D. Bates

Karolee Bates

Rt 1 Box 296 F

Ocean Park, WA 98640

Letter to Mr. Levi Hodges received May 1861, addressed to Sparta Center, Kent County, Michigan.

Sutter County, Cal. March 17, 1861

Dear Brother and Sister,

We received your letter on Tuesday last and we were much pleased I tell you to see such a fine fat one. Martha and myself and Willie enjoy good health at present and I hope that those few lines may reach you all enjoying the Blessing of God. Dear Brother Levi I think that I shall be back there in the course of two or three years, I want to know if Willard will sell me that place back again and what he will take for it. If I send him the money in the course of a year or so I shall surely come if I live. I think I can make money enough in that time to buy me a place there again. It is too lonesome here at work although the country suits me and the climate too but I miss my old friends and relations to visit but thank God we have the privilege of going to meeting. And there is plenty of God's friends there and they are very kind to us. But never mind the wheel must turn round and you bet I shall grab for my part as the old saying is. I have my fence done for this winter. We have enclosed all. I have a very bad cold, it almost makes me sick. I do not intend to work any more till I get over it. Well, Hodges, Mart is homesick or sick of the place but I think she will get over it soon. Mrs. Blodgett and Mart has been visiting for the last two weeks and now I intend to take a week or so at it. Our grain looks well but we want rain. This hot weather brings it along too fast. Times are hard for money here and much excitement about the war or rumors of war off East. I expect you chaps will be calling on us for help, well we will help you if you need it. Good on old Abe's head if he only goes ahead and takes back the forts and all the property belonging to the Federal government. That is what I want him to do.

Well I must stop and say something else. You tell Willard that there was but one Mortgage given and Taylor filled the blank out and Martha signed it there at his house, so if there is a new one Mr. Taylor can tell his own writing and for the old one, it was of no use after it was sued in chancery and the decree that was given against me, I had it taken off record. I paid Pete Pierce 3 dollars for taking it off so that is all right. And also tell him that I will take the place off his hands at what he paid for it and all the improvements he makes I will pay him for that is if done right. I want him to let you know

right off so that you can tell me in your next. He must not destroy the sugar bush for I think much of that. I miss the Maypole sugar here. Don't fail and let me know what he will do so ends that. I said we wanted rain about ten minutes ago in this letter and I must tell you it has commenced raining so you see how quick it comes, but it generally lasts three days before it quits, sometimes a week. This makes me feel three hundred better off now since it commenced raining.

Well I must tell you about our women here. As the Dutch did on Jenisee St. in Buffalo, one by the hand, one in the arms, and the other you may guess where. Kicken like fun? to come to California rule. Myself I shall succeed. I suppose it will cause trouble but never mind that. Mart has two turkeys laying eggs all the time. They do not have much time to eat. I tell you I think she will have a heap of Turkeys don't you? I must stop or cross this way (written crosswise) so I shall. Paper is plentyful but I suppose you cannot read it so I will send another sheet.

Dear Brother and Sisters and all,

Your letter was received a week ago and not answered yet. You know how I hate to write and Sam is very busy at present. We are all well this morning and so is Rub. He was here last Saturday evening and he received two letters the same day we received yours, one from Willard and one from Uncle Caleb, and we had a time reading the letters I tell you. Aunt Ruth wrote a piece to me. I must tell you that I do not like California much better than I did when I first came, and I don't think I ever shall. But it is very warm and pleasant here now and has been for some time. I think it is as warm here now as it is there in the summer and has been for four weeks or more. The peach trees were in blossom the middle of February. They all say that is very late for this country and is a very backward spring. There is but few apples raised around the Buttes yet, but the people are setting out trees and in a short time there will be plenty. Mr Blodgett has never had any but thinks he will this summer. He will have plenty of peaches if nothing happens. They will bear in two years after planting the seed. They do not have any currants here, they say they will not grow here. The grain looks nice and the hills are covered with flowers but they are small and not very pretty. I don't think the rains are very cold and the wind will blow with it enough to

tear everything all to pieces. But when the sun comes out it is as warm as summer. I have heard it thunder once since I have been here but at a great distance, and they all said it was the loudest they had ever heard. It is uncommon thing to hear it more than once or twice a year. Sarah you ought to be here on that account, but you would not like it I don't think. Mr. Blodgett and Sam have in a hundred acres of grain and looks nice, and they have a good deal of volunteer. You see they get two crops from one sowing and some times three. Mr. Blodgett has a piece of barley that he has cut two crops already and will cut another this summer and it looks nice, so you see that it saves work, but building stone fences is as hard work as clearing land there but our folks will finish to day, then both farms are fenced. We do not think of building right away. If Mr. Blodgett's folks move to Marysville in the fall we shall take there place. How does Jane get along? Why don't she answer my letter that I sent by a man that was going to Rockford. He crossed the plains with Sam. This is the second time he has been back. He goes back to buy horses and crosses the plains with them and sells them here for a good price. I think I will write a separate piece to Jane. I think your likenesses look very natrual but I wish I had Johns. I look at them every day. Pa and Ma looks perfect I tell you. We will get ours taken as soon as we can. It costs a good deal here. I think it will be very pleasant when Pa builds and lives there. I wish I was there but I never should have been contented if I had not seen California. Hodges you know that you can laugh at me but I never thought I should like it here, but you will see us back before long. Rub is afraid we will go before he gets ready. He grows fat and has earned over a hundred dollars since he has been here, and his work is not as hard as it was at first. Warm days the sheep are very quiet, all he has to do is look at them. You wanted to know if we had a room on the boat. We did on the other side of the Isthmus. On this side we did not. The berths were on the sides of the cabin. I got acquainted with a good many folks that I hated to part with and I had a pleasant time. Willie often says lets go and see Charley and Freddy. Who teaches school where John goes? Does he learn well? I would like to see him and you all very much. You must tell Aunt Ruth I will write a piece next time to her. Ruth said there was as much reading in your letter as there was in the tribune. Now write another as long.

My love to all Mart

(foot note)

Tell Pa our letters are for them as much as you. I have not wrote to Hamburgh yet nor Sophia. You can send Mother her carpets if she sends for them. Expect you are making sugar like fun. Hodges send me a saucer of wax for that sixpence you owe me. Write soon.

My love to all from Mart

(from letter written by Samuel W. Empey to Levi Hodges, Sparta, MI.)

Sutter County. Cal. 1862

Levi, I must tell you about my place and how it is situated. It is on the west side of the Buttes in a very handsome valley, east of the Sacramento river 3 miles, but there is water between the river and my place. The stream is called Buttecreek. It sinks about two miles south of here. There is no wood on the place. We get our wood along the Sacramento River. It does not cost us any thing yet but I think it will soon. There is plenty of wood there, all oak. I think I can sell ours to emigrants next fall if I want to. Blodgett is talking of letting me have the place alone, his family wants to live in town but I do not know what he will do yet. We intend to milk about 80 cows and make butter and some cheese this summer. I have half of everything that we make. I thought I would tell you all about it so you would no (sic) something how I am situated. If the season is good I shall do well if not you will no the reason. I think I have said enough about that. I gave you the height of the Buttes in my last letter according to my own views of it. I have found out how high they are. The survayors say that they are 16 hundred feet above the sea level so that makes some difference to what I estimated them as I was afraid to say how high they were. So you have it now and about the valleys or plains along the Sacramento river, they are covered with water about 3 months or more caused by rain and snow in the mountains. It rises about ten feet so it runs over the banks of the river and spreads over the plains or low lands as we call it. I must stop for this time on this subject. Now for another.

The people are getting crazy around here about this time. They commenced about two months ago having evening partys. The first was maid (sic) by a member of the Methodist Church. It was called a social visit or an apple eat so we all went and we had a candy putt at the same time. Well it went off first rate. There was some few that did not get an invite so they thought they would make one to have revenge on the first man and not invite him. So it had been kept up with the addition of dancing to them. We did not go to anymore after the first

one for do not dance but cards and special invites are sent daily. There was one last night at our nearest neighbors. They said if we did not come they would be mad at us but we did not go. I suppose they will think hard but it will not do to attend those dances. Rubin is called on by all of them he could give you more of a minute detail of them than I can. I suppose he makes something out of them. Rubin stops with the man Parkes that had the party last night. He is a rich man. I must close for this time on this subject. I will tell you in my next how they come out. Give my love to Father Nelson and Mother Amidon. I shall write them a letter soon but I think that one letter aut (sic) to do where you are so close together. It takes considerable time to write to all. Give my love to Uncle Caleb and Aunt Ruth and tell them religion makes me happy yet. The end.

S.W. Empey to L and S Hodges

I must say a few words to Jane. I hope you are well Jane from that disease that you have. I love you as well as the rest. I do not mean to slight you by no means, so I hope you will not think hard of me because I did not mention you name in some of my letters. I meant them for all. I must give you a little advice (gave) with the rest. Do stop dancing and take care of your helth, for God is merciful in unto all of us and had we not ought thank him for his mercies. I say Jane he is the best position we can apply to, so give up going to dances and pray to God to have mercy on you and you will be happy and find rest. You must not think hard of me writing in this way to you but it is my prayer that you will seek for religion and find it. God bless you in this world and make you happy in the next. I must close give my love to all the friends far and near so I leave the rest for Martha to fill up. This is your affectionate Brother-in-law until death.

To Jane E. Amidon

Samuel W. Empey

To Jane and Net,

As Sam has left the piece for me I will write a few lines to you Jane. I wrote you a long letter some time ago and I am looking for an answer every day. How do you get along now, why don't you go and get some more medison of Dr. Shepard if that helped you so much and take good care of yourself for we will be back there sometime and be nabours yet I hope./ What have you done with Mr. Chatman, when are you agoing to get married, now or six years from now? You and Net must take lots of comfort visiting this winter. I often wish I could pop in once in a while and see you all. I have come to the conclusion that it is better to liye near our friends what little time we have to live and put up with a little inconvenience that to be separated on earth. We shall be back there as soon as we can make enough to buy us a farm and not before. We can earn enough to buy us one in two or three years if nothing happens. How does Aunt Malindy get along and Uncle Cyrel get along through the long cold winter you have there. I should like to hear from them. Give them my love and tell them to write. Be sure and give my love to Uncle and Aunt Ruth and Uncle Joe and tell him I never shall forget that song he sang when shall we all three meet again the day before we left. I should like to hear him sing it again. Where is Susan Taylor this winter? Give my love to all of them and too tell her I wish her much joy and I believe she has got a good man. Net you need not worry about Rub for he enver looked better in his life. I see him most every week and I do his washing and mending and the man he works for says he is the best man he ever had to work for him and he is sure of his pay for he is a rich man. Give my love to Nick and Olive. What has she named her baby? My love to ma and pa, write soon, good by for this time.

to Jane and Net from Mart, yous sister and cousin.

Marysville, the 10th of May 1863

Dear Brother and Sister,

In answer to yours of the 27th of March, we was glad to hear that you all were enjoying good health but we felt bad to hear that Pa had cut his foot, but I see that the best of us meet with accidents. I hope it will not make him lame, he must take good care of himself. I did not hear from Levi in the last letter, he had nothing to say. Did the news kill him about the baby? It had no such intent, when I wrote but before I get through I will tell you some more about babys so look for it. We are well up to this date and doing as well as we can. The baby (Ida Kate) is 4 months and 10 days old today and weighs 18 pounds. Large blue eyes, black hair good clear skin, not white nor black but she is handsome and good with all. Willie has all he can do to hold her on his lap. He is holding her now, he says don't stratin back so, she is so heavy Pa take her, so I am writing with her on my lap. Mart is gitting dinner or supper just what you may call it for it is 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon. I don't expect to get any more done today for I have had to put up with that on Sunday since we have had two babys to take care of. I go to church every Sunday. I do not miss any and I want to take the babys along with me for I am proud of mine I tell you. I must stop a little here and commence something else.

I cannot give today the prospects in full of our crops in this state but about this vicinity it is mighty poor. I hear the big gun roaring and the drums beating, I must go and hear the news. Monday morning: Hara! for our boys they have taken Richmond good and glorious news. I did not rest very well when we heard that Hooker was driven back to the north side of the river again but I profiside that he would be back again in a week and so he did and bully for him for so doing. We are expecting war here in California for the cecetionist say if they do not gain their election this fall that the streets will be sprinkled with blood. I think it will if they commence it, they will get enough before they get through with it. Our City is ornamented with the stars and stripes so that it looks as though something had taken place. I have my revolver at the gun smiths for cleaning and making it shure fire. It is nothing but war and money. I have one hundred doller in Green Back laid by for eastern use. Times mighty dull here at present but will be better soon.

Monday June first: I have been up in the mountains and just got back Saturday night. Times is dull there but will soon be better. The gold is all turning into copper and silver here----everyone is taking up claims. I did not make my fortune this trip in the hills but I will try it again soon. I have to get someone to stay with Martha while I am gone away. I am sorry that our correspondent writer to the union paper in this state cannot write the truth and not send lies to the publisher about the war. We got the news that Richmond was taken but that was not so and Vicksburgh also and that is not so. Two men got killed rejoicing over the news. The cannon went off while loading and killed two that was loading it. I must close and promise you again to do better than I have done in answering your letter. I had so much work to do that I thought Martha would have more time to write than I had but not so, she was all the time at work, but I will after this set down and answer yours as soon as we receive them. Crops is small this year as a general thing, write me what money can be let for and if there is plenty of chances for to let a little out and I would like to no about the Green Backs, if they go at aprr in that country and if you want any to let out on good interest. I have not many on hand but I can get plenty for the gold. I have one hundred note on hand, that is all. Write as soon as you get this.

From your brother S.W. Empey

Dear sister and brother and all,

Your kind letter was received some time ago but I have not had time to answer it. I will tell you the reason. Mrs Blodgett came in here to confined. She was taken sick the day before I got your letter and had a boy-- her youngest was 5 years old when she had this one so you may judge what I had to do to take care of her and two babys. The reason she came here was there was no doctor near there place. She left here this morning for home and you better believe I was not much sorry for I had got tired out. She wanted to come and I could not refuse but you always said that I would be run on and run over by every body and I begin to think it is so. She was here most 5 weeks. Sam and the children are abed and asleep and I would be there too but knowing that your looking for an answer from your letter everyday I feel it my duty to sit up and answer it. Our baby groes finely and looks well so they say she is most 5 months old, she is very smart of course and knows her pa as soon as he comes in and she will make her feet and hands fly and holler till he takes her. When she was 3 months old she took a severe cold and settled on her lungs and was very sick, but we had one of the best doctors in the city. He said she was a very sick child but he thought he could help her and he did but I thought we would lose her for several days. Well Sarah I guess you will think we never will answer your letter, two weeks has past since I commenced this letter but I have been to the Butts on a visit and last week Sam went up in the mountains with eggs and canned fruit and just got back last night and his cousin is here a boarding and it keeps me busy all the time to do my work and take care of my baby. Sam says I had not ought to waited for him to write but finished it and had it off along ago. I am sorry I did not do so when I see how long it is since we got your letter but I will try and do better. Ida is five months old today and is fat as she can be. The hooping cough is in town quite bad and the baby has been exposed and yesterday was the day for her to come down with it. I can't see as she has got it and I feel in hopes she did not take it. I am very glad you took my baby up and burry it in the burring ground. I think it must have been a solom day for you all. I should like to see you all very much and have a good old fashioned visit. We think Aunt Malinday's likeness looks just like her only she looks older

Rub has got a very handsome case for it. I wish uncle Cyrel had set with her for I am afraid I'll never see him again as he said in his letter to Rub that his health was very poor. I am very sorry to hear that Janets eyes are so poor, I was sorry to hear that pa had cut his foot. I hope it is well by this time. Tell him to have a fatted calf ready by the time we get along there. I hope that time will come soon. Tell Ma to save a nice piece of hunney--although we have it here but not as nice as it is there. John what are you about now days. I hope you have given up the thought of going to the war. Hodges how do you get along farming, getting rich or fat, which is it? I wish you was here. I think you would like it in California. If you all was here I would be contented here for it is a better country then. That cotten goods is not as high as it is there b ut is rising slowly. The cheapest calico 20 cts. white cotton two bits and 30 cts. Well Charley and Freddy are you going to school? If you are you must hurry and learn as fast as you can and when your pa and ma comes here then you can teach school and get lots of money, and I will send Willie to you for he does not learn very fast. I just asked him what should I tell you for him? He said tell them I can write but have not got Charleys letters yet, he feels ashamed b ecause he cannot write, he reads his letters often. John how I wish you was here to stay with me when Sam is peddling in the mountains for I hate to stay with strangers. I would bake lots of cake. I wish we was able to send for you, Sam is hurrying me up for he wants to take this to the office. My best love to you all Mart

(written across the top of the letter)

Mart is frightened about the whooping cough, the time is passed that the b ab y was exposed. I have her on my lap a writing and she is kicking and jumping about so I cannot write. Sarah, she is (worth) 500 dollars, I don't begrudge the 20 I paid. We are having babys fast here, our Ika Kate is fat. I measured her ab ove the elbows and it was 6 inches, her leg at the calf in thigh $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, head $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I laid her on the floor and she is two feet and one inch tall. We are going to have her likeness taken as soon as she will set still. She is all move!