

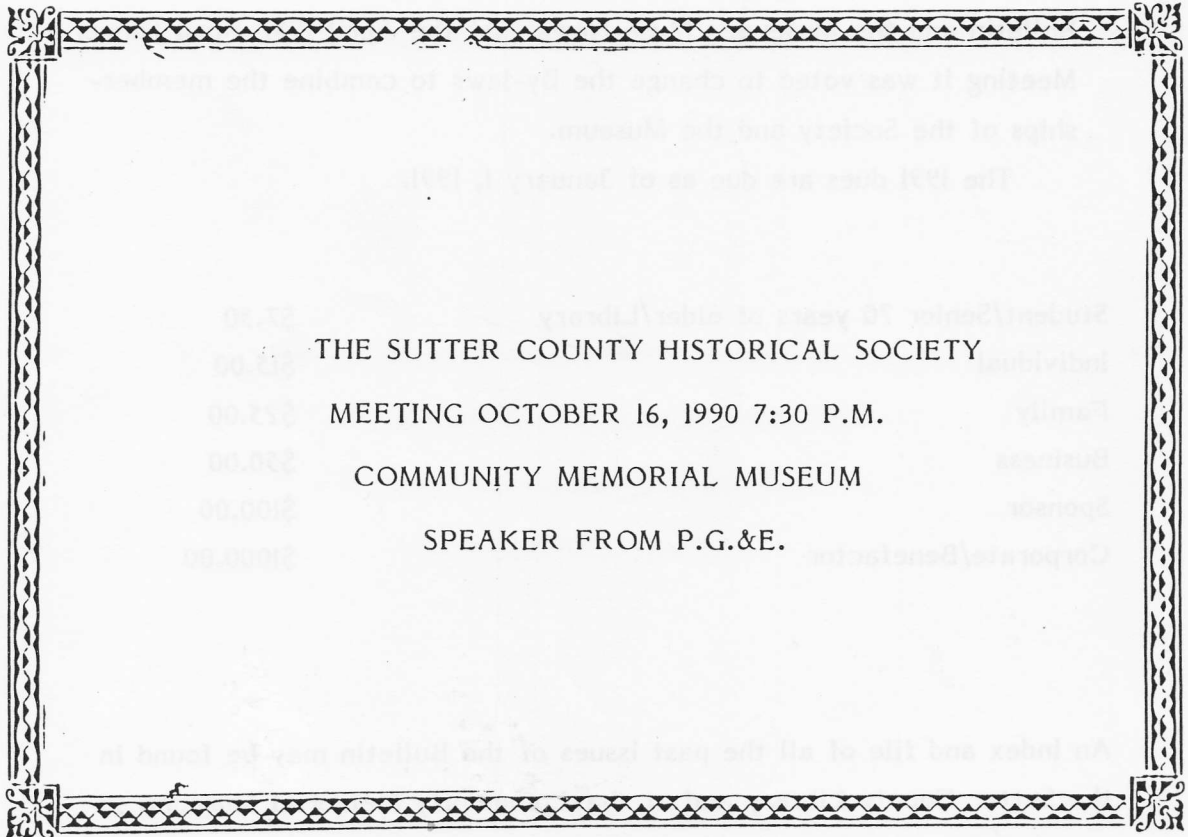
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXXI No. 4

Yuba City, California

October 1990



THE SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OCTOBER 16, 1990 7:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

SPEAKER FROM P.G.&E.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Elaine Tarke, President
Brock Bowen, Vice President
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Cassius Epperson
Randolph Schnabel
Linda Leone

The News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society in 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 1991 dues are due as of January 1, 1991.

Student/Senior 70 years of 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Tuesday, October 16, 1990 at 7:30 P.M. at the Community Memorial Museum we are having our Historical Society Meeting. Brock Bowen has arranged a very Interesting speaker from P. G. & E. I understand his talk is of local interest, so please come, bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

Thank you for the splendid large audience at our Ice Cream Social in July. Some good suggestions as to programs were made, we had delicious homemade ice cream and beautiful voices joined together with songs accompanied by the very talented Rev. Dan Damon. I am very grateful to all who assisted and attended that evening.

The new book by our own Curators, "Worth Keeping", is a valuable resource of our local history, really a splendid book.

Please keep in mind our projected goal of a new building for the preservation of our agricultural history. We need your input as to how we can expedite this project. I will appreciate your thoughts at our meeting in October.

I hope all of you had a very enjoyable summer. We look forward to the autumn days and the changing of colors of the leaves. We look forward to the Harvest so the lands may have a rest and those of us who love the soil may also rest from the summers toil. With thanks we raise our voices in praise and let us share, the bounties fair, of our blessed harvest days...

Looking forward to seeing you

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elaine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Looking forward to seeing you".

Director's Report

This fall, the Smithsonian Institution makes its second visit to the Community Memorial Museum, in less than six months, with the arrival of the exhibition "Family Folklore". Designed to look like the pages of a family photo album, the exhibit explores the various ways in which families collect the things that are precious to them. We all have family traditions, expressions, photographs and objects that we hold dear. Keeping these things near to us is a way of holding on to our roots and our sense of belonging. Most of us do this in a very casual fashion, but for those of you who are interested in delving more deeply into your family folklore the Museum is holding a free symposium on Saturday, October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In the morning, folklorist, Don Christensen, will be here to help participants get a better idea of what kind of things make up our family folklore and ways to collect them. In the afternoon, with assistance from Don, local scholars Dorothy Ross and Jan Schmidl will be here to share their experiences and to give pointers on doing oral histories with family members using both audio and visual equipment.

"Family Folklore" will be at the Museum through October 22. The Symposium is open to all, free of charge. Space is limited, so reservations are advised. Lunch at the symposium is available for \$8.00, reservations required.

In November, the Museum welcomes Yuba College photography instructor, Rick Murai, with a show of his work in color photography. The exhibit reception is Saturday, November 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The show will run through December 9.

As most of you know, Christmas at the Museum starts early, so it will come as no surprise to learn that Christmas ornament workshops for the Museum's 18 foot Christmas tree have already begun. But don't despair! You can still attend workshops on October 17 and November 7. Both start at 10:00 a.m. The theme this year is a "fan-tastic Christmas" with lushly decorated fans, echoing past fashions.

Other Christmas events include : "Ghosts of Christmas Past" sale featuring ornaments from the last four years. Past themes have been Victorian, Country, Art Deco and California. Items will be priced to please the smallest budget. "Trees and Traditions", everyone's favorite Christmas gala will be December 15 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and will be available at the Museum and from Museum Commissioners starting in mid-October. Christmas Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Children's Story Hour is from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. After the Story Hour, there will be book signing for the Museum's newest publication "Worth Keeping : An Architectural History of Sutter and Yuba Counties, California".

Happy Holidays!

Jackie Lowe

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AG BLDG FUND & TRUST FUND

Howard & Ruth Anthony	In memory of Joey H. Burkes
Wanda Rankin	In memory of Walter Ettl
Mr & Mrs Grover Davis	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Rick & Jerrie Libby	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Mr & Mrs Ted Crumley and Mr. Reginald Cleckler	In memory of Walter Ettl
Marion & Elsie Brown	In memory of Walter Ettl
June & Ed Watson	In memory of Walter Ettl
Perry & Gratia Hill	In memory of Walt Ettl
George Cothrin	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Mike & Marlene Ettl	In memory of Walt Ettl
Ernest E. Hatch	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Irene Bagley	In memory of Walter Ettl
Arthur Bristow	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Fred & Beverly Durst	In memory of Walt Ettl
Frank & Mary O'Neal	In memory of Walt Ettl
Elizabeth Moore	In memory of Walter Ettl
Otto Moser of Vienna, Austria and family of London, Vienna and New York	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Mr & Mrs Lawrence Harris	In memory of Walter Ettl
albert & Mary Ulmer	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Chipman & Renfrow/ Fred Bell	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Lloyd & Billiejean Durst	In memory of Walt Ettl
Mike & Kathryn Hislow & family and Kate Summy	In memory of Walter Ettl
Arlene Harris	In memory of Walter Ettl
Ted & Carol Koelker	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Mae E. Brown	In memory of Walter Ettl
Mike Rogers & Family	In memory of Walter Ettl
Sharon Nishita	In memory of Walter Ettl
Bill & Jeannette Littler	In memory of Walt Ettl
Bunny & Dave Lane	In memory of Walt Ettl
Steve & Patti Davis	In memory of Walt Ettl
Anson Dobson	In memory of Walter Ettl

Gladys Jennings	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Dorothy Pond-Smith	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Walter Ettl
Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Blair Best
Mary G. Poole	In memory of Blair Best
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Ray Stallins
Mr & Mrs Dick Brandt	in memory of Miss Cecil Roche
Constance Cary	In memory of Roy Goodman
Richard & Elaine Tarke	In memory of Frank Butler
Richard & Elaine Tarke	In memory of Raub Butler
Richard & Elaine Tarke	In memory of Walter Ettl
Richard & Elaine Tarke	In memory of Lucile R. De Jarnett
Constance Cary	In memory of Michael Cooper
Mr & Mrs Howard Anthony	In memory of Beatrice Anderson
Evelyn Mar	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Howard & Ruth Anthony	In memory of Carrie Souza
Mr & Mrs John Jelavich	In memory of Walter Ettl
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Martin Underwood
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Don Curtis
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Guy Davis
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Lynn "Doc" Pursell
Kay Goodman	In memory of W. H. Wimp Manford
Merle & Alice Russell	In memory of Alice Soderberg
Joe & Ellie McCarron	In memory of Emma Durst
Jane & Walter Ullrey	In memory of Roy Goodman
Tierra Buena Women's Club	In memory of Violet Shintaffer
Mary Carnegie	In memory of Walter Ettl
Mr & Mrs Robert Kells	In memory of Melvin Clyma
Lee & Edna DeWitt	In memory of Walter Ettl
Rosemary Redhair, Dorothy & Wallace Coats	In memory of Cecil Roche
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst	In memory of Walter J. Ettl

Robert & Jean Kells	In memory of Blair Best
Robert & Jean Kells	In memory of Walter Ettl
Ron Clyma	In memory of Melvin F. Clyma
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Bachan Teja
Lester & Joan Doty	In memory of Walter Ettl
Marion Hankins	In memory of Lucille DeJarnett
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Cecil Roche
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Bachan Teja
Sutter Orchard Supply	In memory of Walter J. Ettl
Ken & Vivian Calhoun	In memory of Lucille DeJarnett
Louis & Betty Tarke	In memory of Walter Ettl
Chipman & Renfrow Accountancy Corp.	In memory of Lucile DeJarnett
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey	In memory of Francis J. Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Bryant	In memory of Lucille DeJarnett
James & Judith Barr	In memory of Lucile R. DeJarnatt
Alberta Gilpatric	In memory of Ailene D. Young
Eleanor Holmes	In memory of Blanche McBride
Mary C. Gillis	In memory of Guy Davis
Adah R. Borchert	In memory of Alice A. Soderberg
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst	In memory of Dan Walker

Rough and Ready, Cal.
Jan. 24, 1853

Dear Mother:

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are well and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. We have not had a letter from you for more than a month but the day being my regular time to write I thought that I would not stop writing because I did not get any letter for a month or 2 perhaps you have write and they have been miscarried. We have fine weather at this time and have had for the last 2 weeks. provisions are comeing down flour is worth 35 per lb. or 50 cts. other things in proportion. John Randal is living with us. He is well and hearty John is a fine fella we have not had a hard word to pass between us since we left home we have been separted since came here it was not because we did not like each other. Brothers cannot allways stay together here. Bud never let you know it before the reason we separated was to make money when we see it best for some to work in one place and some in another. We do it but I think that we will all be together for the next year to come if nothing happens to us more that we look for Johns mother has wrote for him to come 2 or 3 times and it rather discourages him to have such news to come to him for we have just fairly got settled and to turn around and come back would be a looseing game. I do not want you to get to writing for me and Bud to come home we will come home when we think it will pay us right well to come we do not want to come home poor as Jobs turkey and have it throwed up to us that we came to California and could not stay long enough to make anything. John wants you to go down and see his mother and tell her not to write to him to come home He says it makes him feel bad to have her wanting him to come home so soon.

I sent you a check for \$400. about a month ago on Adams & Co Cincinatti. I mention in several letters to if you do not get you will be sure to hear of it and I want you to mention in several of yours whetheryou get or not so I will know how things stand. John sends his best respects to you. No more but remain your affectionate son until death.

Brutus C. Epperson

Let me know how many hogs you sold this winter.

Rough and Ready, Cal
May 29th 1853

Dear Mother

I wrote a letter to you a few days ago and circumstances require me to write you again today I wrote to you some 2 months ago that a certain Mr. William Price had my note for seventy five dollars for a claim on Deer Creek and it has turned out that Mr. Price has basely defrauded me that is he did not own the claim that he sold and that has been fairly proven to me by several witnesses before Justice H. Robberts of Rough & Ready and I want you to get my note from him and if he will not give it up just let him keep it and I will indict him for fraud and that will go pretty hard with him don't you pay him one cent and if he has been to see you perhaps he has tried to get you to pay him the money if he has got any money of you just get some good trusty friend to go and have him to pay it back I wrote him a letter today and let him know how things was and what would be the consequenses and I send you a notice in this letter that you must send or take to Charleston as soon as you get it and have it published in the Charleston Courier one insertion will be sufficient you pay for the insertion and take it out of my money. Justice H C. Robberts wrote the form of the notice and I copied it. I do not like to have to publish this in a public paper but the law requires me to do it to get rid of paying the grand rascal the money and I do not like to pay for a thing that I never got. Now mother have that notice published in the Courier as soon as you get it and send the Courier to me that has it in so that I can see it and be sure that he cannot sue me for the money. I got 2 papers a Salinest (???) and an Atlas 2 or 3 days ago and was glad to get them. We are all well and hearty. J.B. Randal & Henry Winters sends you their best respects. Spanish Jo a young fellow about 22 years old wants to know if there is any chance for a Spaniard that has plenty of money to get an American girl for a wife in that part of the country. Just look around and send him word what kind of a chance he would stand. No more but remain your affectionate son

B C Epperson

Be sure and have that notice published as soon as you get it and perhaps it will save a good bit of trouble hereafter

Rough & Ready, Cal
June 26, 1853

Dear Mother,

I recd your kind letter of May 5th Yesterday. We was truly glad to hear from you. We are well at present & truly hope that you & your family is enjoying the same good health. I read 2 papers with your last letter. I am pleased to get papers & letter from home as regular as I do & I want you to keep sending them to me & I will write regular to you and send you a paper every few weeks. I do not have a chance to send papers to you very regular but I can send letter of any amount.

I got a letter from Hank at the same time I got yours. They were all well & Sid has not started home but Hank said that he was going after harvest & Hank is going with him. He says that Mr Bull is coming back to Cal & Hank wanted me to tell him what I thought we could do if he was to come with Mr. Bull. I did not give him much encouragement for if I was to persuade him to come & he was to have bad luck I would feel bad about it. But I think if Hank was here he could do well for he is the right kind of a man for this country. He is stout, hearty & industrious & they are the sort for this country.

You said in your letter that Mr Price had got home but you had not seen him. I sent you a specimen by him worth 6 dollars & some other little things of but little value. I wrote to you some time ago that he had sold me some claims that did not belong to him & had my note for 75 dollars due on the first of Sept next. I sent you a notice to have it published in the Courier & for fear you did not get it I will send you a copy of the notice in this. Be sure to have it published as soon as you get it. If he has not got you to take the note on a discount if he has got you to pay him any money you get Hank to attend to him when him & Sid comes down this fall. Tell Hank to go to make him pay the money to his fine & pay him well for his trouble. If Price has not got any money of you dont you let him have one cent. Just let him sue for he cannot do any thing without giving me warning & then I have plenty of witnesses here & I will have their affidavids taken & sent on & before I quit he would be brought back to Cal. You said that Mr. J. Hite did not pay the taxes on the land in Clark Co. & still had the money you gave him. You know how much you gave him & you must get the receipt of his if he payed any they will show how much is coming to you. Pick up courage and ask him

for it for I recollect of seeing him ask a man for 25 cts when he kept store in Hitesville & if you owed him that amount at this time he would ask you for it. I would like for him to settle up the business of ours that he has in his hands for the longer it stays unsettled the more it will cost. Bud chooses you for his guardian & I suppose that the rest of the children will do the same. If Lord John Hite & the law of the state of Illinois will take my name & land for security I authorize you to sign my name as such & if they will not take me just let him keep it all & do as he pleases with it & I will try to make soemthing here & bring it home with me for us all to make a start on again. I do not like Illinois as well as I do Cal for it is all law & no Justice in Ill. & little law here with all Justice. It makes me so mad to so think how fathers property has been distributed among the county officers when there was no need of it for if it had been let alone as it was when he died we would all have been as well off or better than we are now.

Our old friend Spanish John has sold & left for New Orleans for that has been his home since 1832. He sold one fourth of the diggings which was his part for 12 hundred dollars. Me and Bud could have sold for the same but we do not want to sell. Old John left here with about 7 thousand dollars which he has worked hard for for the last 3 years. He gave us a splendid dinner last Sunday & left Monday morning.

I will now tell you what we had for dinner. There was 8 of us in all. We had 6 chickens, rice, milk, butter, cheese, bread, molasses, fried ham, eggs & 6 bottles of lemon soda, 6 bottles of sasparilla soda, 6 bottles of wine & 2 bottles of champaign. It all cost him about 50 dollars. His chickens cost 4 dollars each & eggs 25 cts which made the greatest part of the cost. I never saw a stranger in all my life that I thought as much of as I did Spanish John for he was like a father to me & Bud. You may think that we all got drunk but none of the drinks we had would make a person drunk. The wine was claret wine. old John never used any intoxicating liquor since I knew him. I hope he will land safe in Orleans with all his money. Tell Martha that I will send her a present in her name & she must write to me often in your letters. Give my love to all of the children & the same to you. Tell Road & Green that they will get something before long.

From your affectionate son

B C Epperson

Parks Bar Yuba Co. Cal. Sept 25, 1853

Dear Mother,

I read your kind favor dated July 12th a few days ago and I was glad to hear from you. Bud had the letter some time before he had an opportunity of sending it to me and I do not know whether he has wrote an answer to it or not and so I will write a few lines to you today and let you know that I am well and hearty and I heard from Bud last Sunday. He was well. He is staying at Rough & Ready to take care of our chickens and claims. The company pays his board and all he has to do is to feed his chickens and kick up his heels. He sent me word last Sunday that he had 13 chickens left out of 63. The indians and mountain cats had stole them. ~~He said~~ I sent him word to kill the rest and eat them and we would quit raising chickens. I am looking for him to come down here this evening. It is 15 miles from here to Rough & Ready. I want to see Bud as bad as I want to see any person. I have not seen him for 4 weeks and it appears as long again to me . For the last year him and me have slept on the same buffalo rug and under the same blankets until the 4 weeks and he appears nearer to me at this time than either of my brothers. We have never disagreed but once since we left home and it was about cooking some beef almost a year ago and it was a funny little time we had too. He kicked the meat over into the fire and I kicked the bread over and throwed it down the hill and we went to bed without any supper. That was when we camped out by ourselves

I expect a letter from Hank soon. I am of the opinion that Sid has but little idea of coming home this fall from what Hank said in one of his letters this last summer. If he does not come home let him stay and I want you to give Roads & Green a good chance to make something for themselves providing they are good to work and to take care of the farm and you must not get into a fret with them because they do not do as well as men for you must recollect that they are boys and you cannot expect them to do every thing exactly as it should be done. (Rhodes, Sid & Green are brothers of B.C. Epperson. Another brother, Cassius, called Bud is in CAL. with B.C.)

I have thought for the last 4 months that I would send them a present but I do not know what to send them. Tell them that I will

try to send them something sometime. It is generally healthy here at this time. The companies in the river are not making any thing yet and the chance looks pure for the rest of the season for about the time they were ready to begin to make money the river raised and away went the greater part of their summers work and what money they had spent there will be a great money loss.

Friend John Randal wishes to write a few lines in this so I will give way for him. Your affectionate son

B. C. Epperson

Mrs. Epperson as I am out of employment today I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that Brutus & Myself still have some hopes of getting a wife if our girls did marry. They are some of the handsomest Spanish ladies here you ever see. Though we would rather have an American girl if they was any show. You must intercede some for us and if you think we can come in let us know and if you think they are no show for us there I presume we will take the Spanish ladies. As for Cassius you wrote in your letter that his intended was not married yet so it is all right with him

I am yours truly

John B. Randal

You was saying in your letter that Doctor Moore in his settlement produced a bill against me or rather a verble account as being the balance on cattle but you did not pay it. You done right for I do not owe Doctor Moore one red cent to the best of my knowledge and I am willing to be qualified to it for when we bought the cattle I paid my part all down and paid a few dollars for Pa and before I left home Doctor Moore had laid in his bill for all that was due him and more than that was \$3.30 for a pair of pantaloons and I paid that to him and I borrowed the money of Grandmother to pay him with. Tell Doc that I send him my respects and most assuredly I do not owe him a cent. No more but remain yours

B. C. Epperson

Direct your letters to Rough & Ready

Parks Bar, Calif.
Oct. 24th 1853

Dear Mother

It is with pleasure that I take up my pen this evening to let you know that yours of August the 10th has come to hand & it found us truly well & Hearty & I truly hope that these lines may find you & the rest of the family enjoying the same good health. I will now tell you how I am situated at this present moment whilst I am writing to you. I have been hard at work all day & have just had my supper & I am sitting on the ground in my tent. It is 12 feet long & 10 feet wide. I have my paper laying on my cot that I sleep on & my ink sitting on the ground close to my right foot & a small bit of candal stuck into a chunk of clay (which acts in the place of a candalstick) & I am scratching away whilst Spanish Tom & 2 Portugues are laying on the ground close behind me smoking their pipes and gabbing away in the Portugue language & now you see that I have a poor chance to write but still I must write a few lines to you for I know that you are glad to get a few lines from us at any time John Randal is here. His tent is about 50 steps from mine. We have to live in a very rough manner while we stay on the river but when we go back to Rough & Ready (we will live perfectly at home) It has been rebuilt and looks better than it ever did & as soon as it rains it will be a lively little town again but at this time it is a rather dull place..... You said that Green claimed Buds colt but you would save it until Bud came home. I guess that Bud does not claim the colt at all. Even if he did it would not be right for he sold you his mare for \$75. and he was to have her back for the same if he wanted her. If the mare was to die before Bud came home of course he would not want to give \$75. for her carcass but if she was to live and raise 2 or 3 colts almost any person would give \$75. for her and her colts. Now I think that you should give Green a colt for Bud Sid and Rhodes has had one given to each of them. I want to see fair play. I do not want to see the older children have all & the younger ones have nothing. The money that you let Bud have to come to Cal. on you should recollect was family money & you should keep it as correct as if you had let a stranger have it so that the younger children cannot say that they did not have as good chances as the older ones and that by the time they got old enough to begin to make something there was nothing to make with for

the older ones had all the property in their hands. When we was about to leave Bud gave you his note for what he owed you if you recollect. Jake Ewing was at our house the same day. I think Jake saw me write the note and Bud signed it. The note is written on one of the leaves in that long red backed day book in your drawer. You should credit him with two hundred dollars. Just under the note & then he will owe you fifty dollars still that he will pay you when he comes home.

If we was certain that we would all live to settle these little matters ourselves there would not be any use in being so particular about keeping it so correct. Perhaps you may think that I am afraid that Bud will get a little more of the property than I will or that we have fell out or that I am thinking something wrong one way or another. But not so. I think that when you hear me amking any curse about any money that I did not work for will be sometime when I am so crippled & cannot work for something to eat.

Bud has been over to one of our neighbors tent while I have been writing but he has come back & he says what I have wrote is all right & he says for you to give the colt to Green. I have not room to write much more & itis getting late so no more but remain your affectionate son until Death.

Brutus C Epperson

Oct. the 27th 1853

Today I put this letter in the post office & it is my birthday

B. C. Epperson

Direct your letters to Rough & Ready

Brutus C. Epperson
letters to mother
November 20th 1853

Rough & Ready, Cal.

Dear Mother

I read your kind letter yesterday dated Sept 6th I just came to Rough & Ready yesterday from the river. I was glad to hear from you and was also glad to learn that all was well and had so much fruit & such fine crops of corn. I would like to be there for a while to get cider to drink and apples to eat but they would all be gone by the time I got there & I have concluded to wait until next year & I will take a fair start when the peaches are about beginning to get ripe. We are both well and hearty. J. B. Randal is also well & we truly hope that you & the rest of the family will be enjoying the same good health when these lines reaches you. We have had some rain within the last week. It raised the rivers enough to stop all the works on them & we are getting ready to go to work in our old diggins. The ditch company will have the water into Rough & Ready within a few days. I feel as though I was at home when I am at Rough & Ready for I am acquainted with almost every person about town & the society is better than any place in the mines that I have been. There is preaching every Sunday & more than that there is quite a number ladies living in Rough & Ready. Two of my old partners went home last fall & came back to this place this summer with their families & several other families came with them. There is a great host of girls belonging to the families & being as I was an old partner of some of the men of course I was about the first one that they began to enquire after when they got to Rough & Ready. But I must quit writing about the California girls for fear that you might think I am about to marry some of them. You said that Price had been after money & was going to sue. Just let him sue. It is not you that he will sue. It is me & he cannot do anything without giving me notice. But I want you to let me know what he is doing about it but do not tell him that I have said anything since I want the notice to be published.. I will write a few lines to Mr Linder but for fear he does not get it I want you to go & see him the first time you go to Charleston & tell him that I shall want him for my council if Price sues me & tell him when Price sues that I shall bind him to good & approved security & tell him

that Price sold a claim to me that did not belong to him & I have plenty of proof as soon as Price sues & now dont you let Price get you to compromise by paying a part of it. Dont you give him one cent. If he comes on the place tell the boys to get after him with the dogs and make them eat him up if they can. Instead of being profited by the claim that Price sold to me it has cost me some money & I will spend more before he shall hav e a cent. I have but little news to write. There was a fire in Parks on the night of my birthday. The loss was estimated at twenty thousand dollars. You must write as soon as you get this & let me know how you are all getting along. So no more at present. But remain your affectionate son until death.

Brutus C Epperson

Yuba City, California

Jan 15, 1859

Dear Mother

I recd a letter from you some time ago but have put off writing it so long that I feel it my duty to ask your forgiveness for not writing sooner. But when I tell you the reason why I did not write I think you will forgive me.

I had my house burnt down just a few days after I got your letter. I did not save any thing that was in the house except a samll box with some papers in it which was of some value to me. I have been so busy ever since building and fixing up to live that I have put off writing until the present. The loss was between 3 & \$400. I have got a new house and newly furnished & living away again fine as I could wish. I had a trunk full of as nice clothes as any young man in moderate circumstances could wish to wear. I had bought me a splendid suit for last St. Johns Day. But all I could find was some of the buttons after the fire.

I have but little news to write for there is not much news stirring. I will send you some papers occasionally & you can get some of the California news in general. I sent a couple to you some time ago. I think that we have had some of the foggiest weather this winter that I ever saw. We have had heavy fogs for two weeks. I got lost about a mile from home about a week ago & went five miles from home before I found myself. It was in the middle of the day too.

The grass is growing fine. We will have good feed soon. I have seen green leaves on the trees the year round for the last 4 years & can see snow the year round from where I live. It is about one hundred miles off on the mountains. The prospects are good for fair crops this year if we do have heavy crops this year I think it will break the country for grain was low last year & this year it will be lower. I bought barley for one cent per lb & wheat for 2 cts this year. I do not farm any for I have come to the conclusion that those who tear up the most ground in California makes the least money. I know men who had heavy crops last year that came out in debt after paying their expenses. The cause of this is grain is low & labor is too high to make it pay.

I can think of nothing to write that would interest you if I could I would do so with pleasure. I had been looking for the painful news of Grandmothers death for some time, poor old soul. She is now at rest in that heaven above which she richly merited. I will say no more only we are well & send our love to you and the children. Let me know whether Hank has sent you any money or not.

From your affectionate son

B. C. Epperson

P.S. Direct to Yuba City, Sutter County, Cal.