

# Sutter County Historical Society

## News Bulletin

Vol. XXXIII No. 4







Yuba City, California

October, 1992



### A SENSE OF PLACE

*Photograph: Elsie Allen (Pomo) at home with her family collection, 1981*





  
**Sutter County Historical Society**  
  


  
**News Bulletin**

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Linda Leone, Vice President	Linda Leone, Treasurer

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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 Annual Dinner Meeting it was voted to change the By-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 1992 dues are payable as of January 1, 1992.

Student (under 18)/Senior Citizen/Library . . . . .	\$10.00
Individual . . . . .	\$15.00
Organizations/Clubs . . . . .	\$25.00
Family . . . . .	\$30.00
Business/Sponsor . . . . .	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor . . . . .	\$1,000.00

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brock Bowen, the President of the Historical Society, thinks that going off to fight forest fires relieves him of his duty of writing a letter to the membership. I guess he's right.

The end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993 has a special meaning for the Historical Society - Museum membership. Yes, it's time to pay your dues and renew your membership. As you will notice, the rates for 1993 remain the same as the 1992 rates. The Historical Society's share of the membership dues enables us to pay our bills and publish the bulletin. You, in turn, receive the Muse News, the Historical Society News Bulletin, a 10% discount on items purchased in the Museum "store" and (perhaps most importantly) the knowledge that you are helping to preserve the history of Sutter County. Please renew your membership and encourage your friends and family to join as well.

In addition to a request for you to share information (articles, stories, photos, etc.) with the membership, the Board of Directors would like some ideas for programs. Is there a particular event or person you are interested in hearing about? Do you know of the a speaker who would be of interest to the membership? Please contact us with suggestions.

Linda Leone  
Vice President

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### PULLS RATTLESNAKE FROM HOLE WITH EMPTY SHELL

Yuba City, Aug. 22--To have a large rattlesnake sink its poisonous fangs deep into a paper shotgun shell that was being used to pour poison into squirrel holes and to have the reptile only miss your hand by a very small margin, is not an experiene desired by many people but is exactly what happened to Will Sherer of Yuba City Saturday afternoon near the Boyer place in this county. Shearer is employed by the California Midland railroad compnay and was at work Saturday afternoon pouring poison into squirrel holes, using a shotgun shell as a measure. He was in the act of emptying a shell full of poison into a hole when, without warning, the retile sank its deadly fangs into the shell, barely missing Shearer's hand. On the impulse of the moment Shearer drew back his hand still keeping hold of the shell so tightly that the fangs of the became wedged in the paper and the reptile was pulled out from the hole at the same time. Mr. Shearer then killed the monster, which had nine rattles and a button.

Oroville Mercury

11 August 1911

## The Director's Report

By Jacqueline Lowe

If you come into the Museum and the air feels like December-you're not wrong, that's Christmas you're sensing. Because Museums are always looking forward at least three months (our exhibit schedule is already booked through mid 1995!), it doesn't seem strange at all that Christmas preparations are already underway. If you haven't participated in a Museum Christmas, now is your chance to do so. There are two ornament workshops, one in October and one in November, and everyone is welcome to join in the creating. On December 12, Museum Decoration Day, all hands are needed to get the Museum into its best Christmas dress in time for the fund raising event, "Trees and Traditions, A Christmas Gala" on December 14th. This year's "Trees and Traditions" decor is Victorian Rose, a delight for the eyes and nose. Be sure to check out the four raffle prizes that will be given away that evening. Four artists (Laura Jane Coats, Judy Hall, Luisa Leger and Bev Speckert) have donated their work to make these prizes truly outstanding. You don't need to be present to win, but you do have to come by and purchase a ticket or two to be in the running.

One final event of the Christmas season is Open House on Tuesday, December 22nd. From 1:00 to 2:00 that afternoon, John Carter will entertain with his lively guitar music and singing. John is a favorite of area children who enjoy singing along with his assortment of silly songs. At 2:00 we will celebrate the 110th birthday of Gertrude, the china doll. Gertrude was given to Oba Algeo of Wheatland on Christmas Day, 1882. Everyone is invited to bring their best doll friend and partake of birthday cake.

If you are mostly an "easy chair observer" of Christmas this year, we have just the thing for you. The latest Museum publication, "Trees and Traditions: Six Years of Christmas Creations at the Community Memorial Museum" will be available for purchase at the Museum Gift Store. Organized by year, each Christmas theme is briefly described and discussed with instructions and patterns given for each of the ornaments made for the tree over the past six years--over 80 ornaments in all! You can use this as a motivator to start creating some of your own Christmas ornaments, or simply enjoy reading it and not lift a finger. All proceeds from the sale of the book go toward the Museum's educational programs, so you can't go wrong with this purchase.

In what ever way you choose to celebrate the holiday season, we hope that you make the museum a part of your holiday traditions.

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We received some feedback from the membership concerning the format, etc. of the bulletin and would like to have more. We know people are reading articles because a couple of people pointed out that there was something missing from the piece on voter registration in the last issue. We are printing the entire text in this bulletin.

For some reason, there was a problem with the delivery of some of the July bulletins. If you did not receive that issue, please contact us.

Since everyone who is 100 years old or older didn't rush to contact us, the planned article has taken a different turn. Everyone is a part of "history." Therefore, we are contacting people, 80 and over, to learn about their lives, memories, families, etc. We will concentrate primarily on native Sutter County residents; however, we will also be talking to people who have moved here from other areas. Due to the time of the year, we are concentrating on holiday traditions in this issue.

The January issue will highlight "firsts." We received some response to our request for information, but we can use more help. Do you know of a "first" event you'd like to share? For instance, who flew or owned the first airplane here? If you would like to share your memories we will be appreciate the input. The January issue will also feature an article on the Kimerer family's arrival in

Sutter County.

Future issues will contain information concerning Freda Ehmann, Brown School and interviews with Sutter County residents.

We would like to do an issue dedicated to entertainment in Sutter County. We need help. Do any of you have any information on Tom Godfrey who lived in Sutter City and was an aerialist/trapeze performer? What kinds of public entertainment do you remember? Baseball? Football? Dances? Oktoberfest? Magic Lantern Shows?

We would like topic suggestions, information, research papers, diaries, letters, names of people who are willing to be interviewed, and names of people who are willing to write a piece for the bulletin. We want (and need) your help to keep this bulletin interesting. This is something that we can do, as members, to preserve the history of the area and it is a responsibility that we all share. If you have an item for us, you can drop it off at the Museum or send it to the Historical Society (P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992). If you would like to talk to us about an idea, give us a call (Linda--673-2721 or Sharyl--674-7741). We're looking forward to hearing from you.



Linda Leone  
Sharyl Simmons

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUILDING  
AND TRUST FUND

- In memory of **Lila Adams**  
Mrs. Myrtle Newcomb
- In memory of **Wesley Beadle**  
Caroline Ringler
- In memory of **Gladys Brizee**  
M/M Len Richert  
Bridge Club
- In memory of **Frieda Dedecker**  
Norman and Loadel Piner
- In memory of **Nellie Ellis**  
Bob & Katie Bryant
- In memory of **Barbara Sue Empey**  
Caroline Ringler
- In memory of **Barbara A. Fillmore**  
The Robert Schmidl Family
- In memory of **Howard (Pete) Gordon**  
Blanche Davis
- In memory of **Dorothy Heier**  
Bob & Cathrine Bryant
- In memory of **Jan Helder**  
Richard & Elaine Tarke
- In memory of **Ruby Hooper**  
Harold & Evelyn Quigg
- In memory of **Glenna Kay**  
Dale & Alma Burtis  
David & Karen Gilbert  
Linda Leone
- In memory of **Herbert C. Lytken**  
Margery G. Edmonds
- In memory of **Olive McCarthy**  
Mrs. Myrtle Newcomb
- In memory of **Steve "Chip" McNally**  
Jack & Helen Heenan
- In memory of **Mildred Maslan**  
Bob & Katie Bryant
- In memory of **Mardel Meyers**  
Bob & Katie Bryant  
Betty & Louie Schmidl  
Rosemary Moses  
Louis & Betty Tarke  
M/M Roger Chandler  
Norman & Loadel Piner  
The Robert Schmidl Family  
Cynthia Stuckmeyer  
Richard & Elaine Tarke  
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey  
Merle & Alice Russell  
Cathy Pangle  
Wanda Rankin  
Joe & Eleanor McCarron
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M/M Herbert Edmonds
- In memory of **C. Sharkey Rooney**  
Margery G. Edmonds
- In memory of **Dan Stevenson Jr.**  
Barry & Donna McMaster  
Sandra Fonley  
Judith Barr  
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
- In memory of **Haskell Ward**  
Fidelity National Title  
Insurance Company
- In memory of **Charles (Roy) Welch**  
Jim & Alberta Gilpatrick
- In memory of **Estelle Welch**  
Norman & Loadel Piner  
M/M J. F. Deaton  
M/M F. H. Brockman
- In memory of **Elinor Newcomb Witt**  
Mrs. Myrtle Newcomb
- In memory of **Lorene Wood**  
Harry & Bernice Wilson



In Honor of Helen & Pat Burke's 50th Wedding Anniversary  
Dick & Cuba Scriven

In Honor of Randy & Shirley Schnabel's 80th Birthdays  
Helen Brierly  
Dr./Mrs. Garland Stroup

In Honor of Anna Tarke's 95th Birthday  
Roberta McCoy  
Marcella Hardy  
Elizabeth Phillips



In Honor of Winnie Weis' 100th Birthday  
Linda Leone

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Sports critics have been around for a long time...

EXHIBITION THE POOREST EVER SEEN ON LOCAL GROUNDS THIS YEAR--  
SHAKE UP TEAM

My what a massacre. Will somebody please call help? Talk about baseball. Forget it quick. Rotten, yes and then some. Yesterday's exhibition was enough to give the fans heart failure. Town lot, yes, and then some. Talk about a stench, some of those errors had enough odor to make a tannery look sick. An they talk about a record. Where, when and why? It was awful. What the White Sox know about baseball can be sized up in one word--nothing.

Bring on the Eureka Boys' Club for we want to see a game, not a wild west show. Manager Tyler is going to make some changes. It would have been better for the future of the game in this city if he had stated that he had fired the whole team. The fielders had a bad case of frigid extremities. They reminded one of living pictures. They had the uniforms but not the motions of ball players.

Uniforms don't count when you can't catch the ball and now is the time to do something. Tyler says he has signed Koch. Good, that helps some. He is going to shake up the infield. Let us suggest that he take the outfield as escorts for the discharged players. Better have a vacant garden than that bunch of grass pullers...

Oroville Mercury  
5 June 1911

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## "A Sense of Place"

By Jacqueline Lowe

"A Sense of Place: The Ethnographic Photography of Scott M. Patterson" is an exhibit comprised of sixty-eight eloquent black and white photographs on loan from the Grace Hudson Museum of Ukiah and the Mendocino County Museum of Willits. The images in the exhibit are of contemporary Native Americans in the abundant natural setting of California's North Coast. They are powerful reminders of the vitality and richness of a cultural tradition thousands of years old that too many Californians today believe no longer exists.

The photographs in "A Sense of Place" were chosen for their conceptual focus on the Russian River drainage system as "the center." Images of traditional beadmaking, food gathering, basketry production, resource-rich microenvironments, and compassionate portraits of today's Native American elders form the heart of the exhibit. While the focus of the exhibit is on the Pomo of Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake Counties, there is a link to Sutter County and the Maidu Indians who once make their lives here. Intertribal trading objects that are clearly coastal in origin, such as clam shell disk beads, made their way into the Central Valley and became part of the local culture. When viewing the exhibit, Museum visitors are invited to remember that the Maidu culture today is as alive as the Pomo culture depicted in these photographs; this was clearly evidenced by the Museum's exhibit this past summer: "Honee Tooweydom: Heart Praying."

While "A Sense of Place" celebrates the Native American cultures of California's North Coast, it is also a tribute to the vision of the creator of its many memorable images. Scott Patterson was an anthropologist and photographer who died in an automobile accident in July of 1986, at the tragically early age of 33. Nevertheless, Patterson left behind a legacy of thousands of black and white and color photographs taken over a span of more than a decade in the North Coast region.

"A Sense of Place" will be at the Museum through November 29, 1992. A selection of the photographs in the exhibition have been reproduced in a handsome portfolio publication by the show's sponsoring museums. The publication will be on sale at the Museum through the run of this exhibit.



## HONORARY MEMBERS

At this month's Historical Society board meeting, mention was made of the past practice of presenting honorary memberships. It was first established in 1969 and was discontinued when the Museum and Historical Society merged. We decided that this should once again be done. It's easy to belong to this special group of people. All you have to have done is be born in Sutter County, California 90 or more years ago. You do not have to be a current resident of this county. Upon completion of an information form, you will become an Honorary Member of both the Sutter County Historical Society and the Community Memorial Museum.

If you are eligible or know someone who is eligible, please call either Linda (673-2721) or Sharyl (674-7741). If we aren't home, please leave a message. We will call you back and mail you the form to complete. It's really simple. In the January bulletin, we will run a list of current "Honorary Members."

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### MARY AARON MUSEUM REOPENS FOR SPECIAL EVENT

The doors of the Mary Aaron Museum have been closed due to extensive repairs which are still underway. On Saturday, December 5th, the doors will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate a "Victorian Christmas." Luisa Leger, a Marysville artist specializing in water colors, will present a one-woman show. Many of Ms. Leger's paintings are of local buildings.

Karen Burrow, Director of the Mary Aaron Museum, previously was employed at the Community Memorial Museum and is the person responsible for the recent wedding dress exhibit here.

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### The Sutter County Farmer 8 July 1892 - page 1

The registration of voters, as generally understood, will begin on the 30th of July and close on the 22nd of October. The person registering will have to give a full and particular description of himself. His height, complexion, color of eyes, and the description of scars, or any other marks and their location much be given. Besides preventing a man from voting under a name that does not belong to him, the description can be used by the officers to apprehend him should he run away from home. --Biggs Argus

## JOHANN A. SUTTER

by Stephen C. Perry

On the morning of February 15, 1803, Johann August Sutter was born in the village of Kandern in Germany's Margravate of Baden, thirteen miles north of Basel, Switzerland. His father, Johann Jakob Sutter, Jr., was the manager of the hamlet's paper mill. His mother, Christine Wilhelmina Stober, was a pastor's daughter from Grenzach, just up the Rhine River.

As Johann Sutter grew up, he had several jobs. He spent most of his time as a grocery clerk and he held that position when he met Miss Annette Dubeld of Burg'dorf. On October 24, 1826, at the age of 23, Johann August Sutter and Annette Dubeld were married and a day later they had a son, Johann August Sutter, Jr.

Sutter worked hard to make a success of himself in Burg'dorf. He bought a house on the main street with the help of his mother-in-law and he gave up clerking. The upper story of the house became a home for him and his growing family; the ground floor he devoted to a dry-goods and drapery shop of his own: Johann August Sutter & Company.

The dry-goods business did not do very well and Sutter was soon forced to get a part-time job. He chose a military career, volunteering for the Reserve Corps of the Canton of Berne in 1828. On March 16, 1831, Sutter advanced to the rank of First

Under-Lieutenant of the 2nd Center Company. Shortly after that, Johann August Sutter & Company went bust.

Sutter swore that he would never see the inside of a debtor's cell. Secretly, he put together a little cash and on May 8th or 9th of 1834, he abandoned his wife and five children along with a debt amounting to 51,183 Swiss Francs and left for the Promised Land of "America".

The news of the debtor's flight spread quickly. Sutter's creditors secured a warrant for his arrest on June 12, 1834.

Sutter landed in New York in July of 1834 and set out immediately for the West, determined to put as much distance as possible between himself and the Swiss authorities whom he knew were close behind. Sutter flatly stated that his object in migrating to America was to become a farmer -- so the 31-year old fugitive skipped out of town and headed West. Sutter lived and worked in several states over the next few years, taking odd jobs and even doing a little farming. On August 21, 1838, he formally declared before the proper authorities his intentions to become a citizen of the United States. On the document, he gave his correct birthplace (Baden), but did not specify the town. He also falsified his age, giving it as 45 when he was only 35 years old, perhaps to throw a little dust on his already

cold trail.

Sutter eventually arrived in California, then part of Mexico. Sutter made camp where the Sacramento and American Rivers meet and did what he had done for all those years as a boy -- he started a trading post and became a clerk once more.

In Monterey, Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado praised Sutter for his great accomplishments with the Indians and the settlers in the area and granted him permission to farm eleven leagues of wilderness in the Central Valley. Sutter was also promised Mexican citizenship in one year. Thus was founded, on August 13, 1839, the colony of New Helvetia. A year later Sutter became a naturalized Mexican Citizen and was appointed judge and government representative for the Inland Territory, a position he believed gave him "power of life and death over all subjects".

During 1840, Sutter had Indian laborers build an eighteen foot high wall of baked adobe bricks. The wall was two-and-a-half feet thick and it was virtually cannon-proof. The compound which it enclosed was 320 feet long on the north and south, 160 feet long on the west, and 140 feet long on the east. From the first it was known as "Sutter's Fort". At times, Sutter had as many as 1,000 Indians working on the compound. Inside they built his headquarters ("Casa Grande" - a large three-room structure) as well as a bakery, a mill, a blanket

factory, and various workshops. The Indians worked the fields and tended the livestock for Sutter. Sutter's Fort became the stopping-off place for settlers in the area.

On June 18, 1841, Sutter received the land grant entitling him to ownership of New Helvetia as promised. Governor Alvarado gave Sutter eleven square leagues of the rich Sacramento Valley, not counting overflow lands within the general bounds of the grant. The New Helvetia patent was bordered on the north by three eroded remnants of volcanic cones, the Tres Picos (today called the Sutter Buttes) on latitude 39° 40' 45". The Sacramento River bounded the grant on the west, the Feather River was the eastern boundary, and the line of latitude 38° 49' 12" was the boundary on the south.

The year 1841 was a big year for Sutter; not only did he acquire New Helvetia, but a Russian company offered to sell Fort Ross on the Pacific coast to him. Sutter was to pay \$30,000. for Fort Ross. The terms were \$2,000. cash down, three installments in produce (chiefly wheat), and the fourth and final payment in cash. Sutter agreed to pay \$5,000. in wheat for the first two years and \$10,000. in wheat the third year. Payment was guaranteed by mortgaging his New Helvetia property.

Just why Sutter was so eager to possess Fort Ross still puzzles California historians. It was no bargain. Sutter understood that he was buying only the stock, buildings and equipment

- not the land. He plunged into great debt from which he never really extricated himself. What did he get? About 1,700 cows, calves and oxen, 1,000 horses and mules, and 2,000 sheep were added to his herds. He also received many tools, plows, carts, corrals, a tannery, a dairy, a bathhouse, kayaks, a fishing boat, and a canoe.

All Sutter had to do now was move Fort Ross to New Helvetia and pay the bills. This was easier said than done. To accomplish this task, Sutter hired a young, 20-year-old teacher named John Bidwell who would become one of his best friends and a loyal employee.

Sutter decided to move most of his newly acquired assets to an area of New Helvetia in the far north by Tres Picos. This was an area of rich land, suitable for farming, near the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers in the shade of old cottonwood trees. Sutter called this area "Hock Farm" which is German for "High Farm". John Bidwell was transferred from Fort Ross to manage Hock Farm and build "Sutter's Greatest Dream".

The next few years would be a great challenge for Sutter. He started selling parts of New Helvetia near Sutter's Fort to pay for the Fort Ross blunder. By the end of 1845, Sutter had turned bad luck into good and the "wheat king" of California was master of 4,000 head of cattle, 1,500 mares, 200 tame horses and mules, 3,000 sheep, and many hogs on his virtually winterless ranges of New

Helvetia. Things were going very well for Sutter now. Sutter's Fort was the trading post in the west for new settlers and Hock Farm was a beautiful working farm supplying goods for Sutter's Fort.

In January 1846, Sutter gave himself just two years to get himself clear of all debt. This was in no sense wishful thinking. By continual frenetic activity, he was at last closing in on his goal to be debt free. Then a calvary clash on the Texas/Mexico border, so far away from Sutter's world of New Helvetia, led to a declaration of war on Mexico by the U.S. Congress on May 13, 1846.

A war requires a vast amount of military personnel and supplies on both sides. New Helvetia had all the supplies on hand -- food, clothing, horses, etc. Sutter had it all.

For once, Sutter found himself in the strange role of creditor instead of debtor. The problem was that the government did not pay its debts promptly either. If Sutter could get paid, he would be out of debt. By January 1848, most of Sutter's supplies and livestock were gone.

On January 28, 1848, John Sutter was at the fort wondering how he would rebuild New Helvetia and get back to where he was before the war when to his surprise John Marshall, an employee who was running Sutter's saw mill on the American River near Coloma, arrived at the fort. Marshall wanted to talk to Sutter in private. They went

to the Casa Grande and locked the door. Marshall said that on January 24th, he was cleaning the raceway at the saw mill and found some dull yellow grains -- "I think it is gold." After several tests, Sutter and Marshall were both convinced it was indeed gold and they should keep this find very quiet.

Well, someone told -- within six months the population of the New Helvetia area went from 1,600 people to 16,000 people. Now things went from bad to worse. People were stealing Sutter's livestock, grain, supplies, and squatting on his land. New Helvetia was being carried away one piece at a time. All Sutter could do was watch.

The Mexican-American War ended. On February 2, 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was signed. Sutter could not know what the signing of this treaty would do to New Helvetia. One of the conditions would be that the United States would pay Mexico \$15,000,000. for all of California and New Mexico (which included present day Arizona) and declare a known border between the two countries. When the United States bought California, they did not recognize all previous grants or agree with old known boundaries set by Mexico. John Sutter knew the property boundaries of New Helvetia very well; the United States Government did not.

The year 1849 was not a good year for Sutter as "49er" settlers were pouring into the area by the hundreds and thousands and they all had the same idea: **GOLD!** Sutter found

himself without workers to run New Helvetia and it went to ruin. He started selling large portions of New Helvetia for ridiculously low prices and in the fall of 1849 he sold Sutter's Fort for \$7,000. Now that the fort was gone, Sutter moved north to Hock Farm where he was sure he could live in peace.

In early 1850, Sutter was so lonely and depressed over his losses that he sent for his wife and children. He thought that he would live like a king at Hock Farm with his family. This was not to be. The Gold Rush was bigger than ever and there was no place to hide. In 1850, Sutter was signing deeds and selling property day and night. The property was being sold so fast that Sutter found himself selling the same property to different people. To keep Hock Farm clear, it was deeded to his wife, Anna Sutter. Hock Farm was now cut down to only an area near the Feather River, six miles long and four miles wide.

On September 9, 1850, California became the thirty-first state of the United States and with this came a new claim on New Helvetia. Sutter engaged in a legal battle with the United States Government over property lines that made New Helvetia much smaller than it was in the beginning. Over the next few years, Sutter lost it all.

All that was left by 1855 was Hock Farm. That is where Sutter lived until June 21, 1865 when a fire destroyed his grand house and all his possessions. In December of 1865, Sutter moved to

Washington, D.C. where he continued his fight against the United States Government. His pleas, however, fell on deaf ears and Sutter gave up hope. Sutter's last parcel, Hock Farm, "the garden spot of California", was sold on March 20, 1868. Sutter plunged into a deep depression. Late in the afternoon of June 18, 1880 at the Pennsylvania Hotel in Litiz, Pennsylvania, the "Father of California" died.

Ed. Note: Stephen Perry spoke to the Historical Society Meeting in January of 1992 on this same topic. He was kind enough to write up a version of the presentation he made last winter for publication in our bulletin. He also provided us with the ledger excerpts, pictures, and other items of interest on the following pages.

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In 1876 when Captain Sutter was dictating his reminiscences to the historian H. H. Bancroft, he included the following passage:

"In March of 1849 I moved to my Hock-Farm which had been laid out in 1842. Bidwell had built a fine mansion for me there and had prepared everything for the reception of my family, whose arrival from Switzerland I was expecting just then.

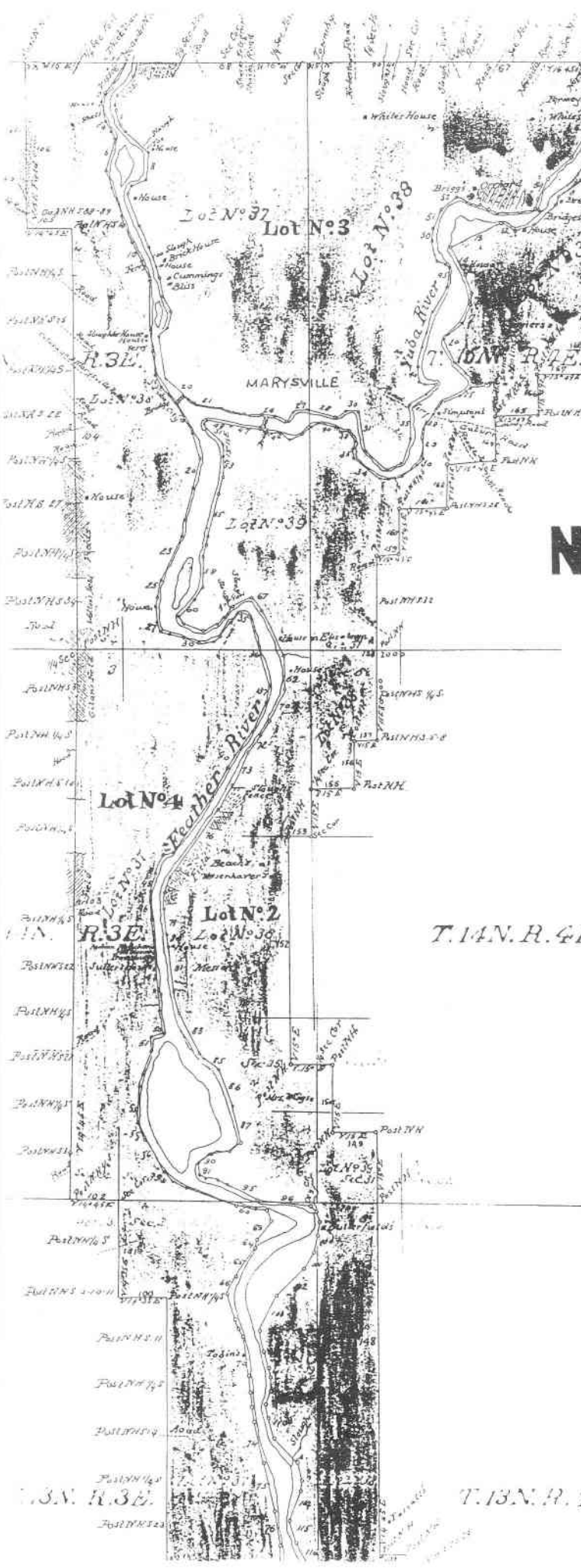
My livestock continued to be decreased by killing and stealing. It soon turned out that transferring the animals to Hock-Farm had not improved the situation and numerous horses were stolen and entire manadas of mares were driven to Oregon.

...My large stock of hogs was likewise an easy prey for the robbers. One day a man by the name of Owens from Missouri proposed to me that I let him kill all the cattle which had strayed beyond the Buttes. I agreed to this suggestion with the understanding that I should receive half of the profits. I knew that people from Marysville would kill of these cattle anyway. Mr. Owens started his work by slaughtering a fine Durham cow which had cost me three hundred dollars, and I had to chase him away.

During the great flood of 1849, the cattle had to take refuge on the island and knolls between the Buttes and the mouth of the Feather River. Here my vaqueros could not guard them all and people from the surrounding towns approached by boat and killed hundreds of animals..."

[We quote this passage from Sutter's Own Story, p. 224-226, by Erwin G. Gudde, 1936.]

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# PLAT of the NEW HELVETIA RANCHO

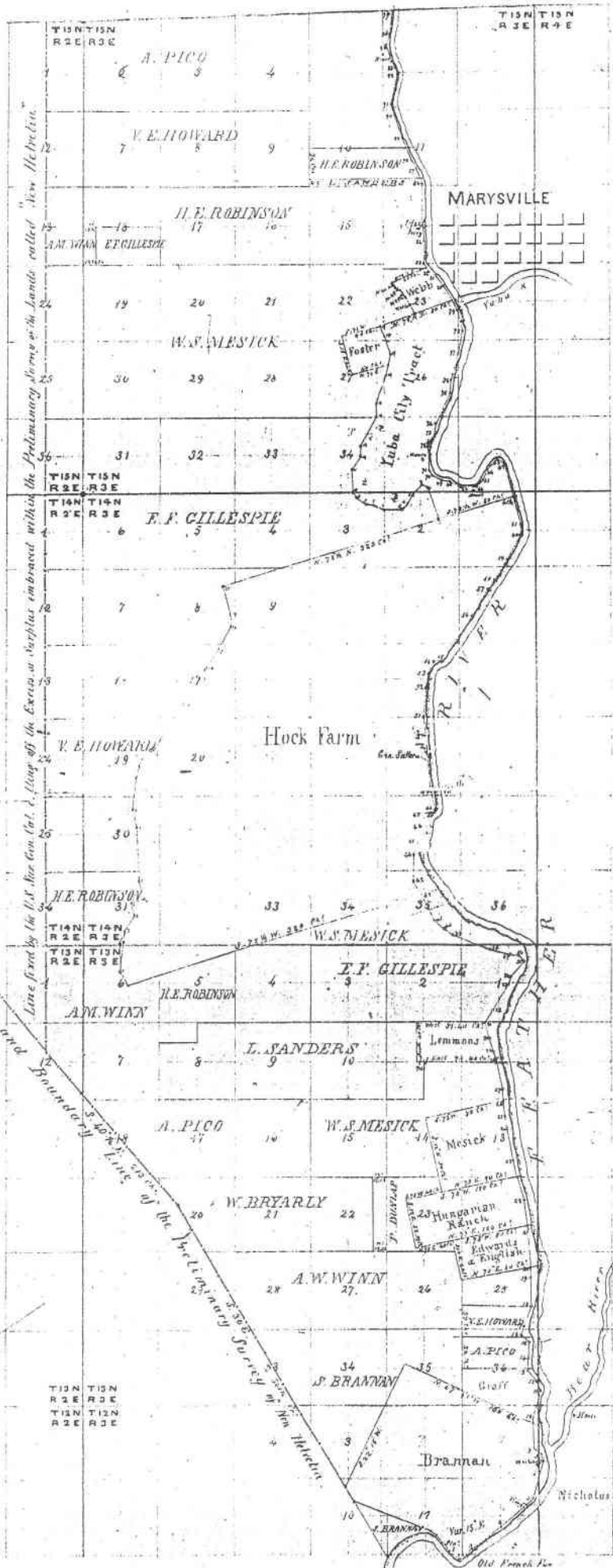
finally confirmed to  
**JOHN A. SUTTER**  
Surveyed under instructions from the  
**U. S. SURVEYOR GENERAL**

by  
**A. W. Von Schmidt**  
Deputy Surveyor  
September and October 1859

Containing  
 Lot N°1 including Sutter Lake 8879 <sup>23</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Acres  
 Lot N°2 16657 <sup>62</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Acres  
 Lot N°3 9457 <sup>20</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Acres  
 Lot N°4 13844 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Acres

Aggregate of Lots N° 2, 3 & 4	39960 <sup>23</sup> / <sub>100</sub>
Aggregate	48839 <sup>30</sup> / <sub>100</sub>

Scale 80 chs to an inch



*Meaders of Yuba City Tract*

Sta.	Course	Dist.	Sta.	Course	Dist.
Beginning at a Stake opposite the Mouth of Yuba R. then along Bankline of an Old Right Bank of Feather River thence down Stream					
25	S. 216 E.	14.00	26	N. 70 W.	5.15
25	S. 16 E.	21.65	27	S. 202 W.	12.00
27	S. 11 W.	27.00	28	S. 252 W.	11.00
28	S. 102 W.	25.40	29	S. 32 W.	7.00
29	S. 32 W.	14.00	30	S. 302 W.	10.00
30	S. 252 W.	30.00	31	N. 63 W.	12.00
31	S. 112 W.	4.00	32	N. 172 W.	13.00
32	S. 20 W.	14.00	33	N. 652 W.	11.00
33	S. 172 W.	20.10	34	N. 102 W.	7.00
34	S. 112 W.	7.00	35	N. 102 W.	28.00
35	S. 402 W.	11.00	36	N. 20 E.	10.00
36	S. 472 W.	19.00	37	S. 112 E.	2.00
37	S. 62 E.	12.10	38	N. 252 E.	20.00
38	N. 52 E.	14.00	39	N. 52 E.	14.00
39	N. 57 E.	7.20	40	N. 102 E.	25.00
40	N. 222 E.	15.00	41	N. 11 E.	27.00
41	N. 422 E.	12.45	42	N. 102 E.	21.00
42	S. 722 W.	8.15	43	N. 212 E.	15.00
43	S. 13 E.	35.00	44	N. 722 E.	50.00
to place of beginning					

*Meaders of Hock Farm*

Sta.	Course	Dist.	Sta.	Course	Dist.
Beginning at Stake 674 (N. Right Bank of Feather River thence down Stream)					
61	S. 15 E.	30.00	2	North	50.00
61	S. 10 W.	16.00	3	N. 62 E.	13.00
59	S. 24 W.	25.40	4	N. 26 E.	20.00
58	S. 362 W.	23.40	5	N. 7 W.	12.00
57	S. 30 W.	12.00	6	N. 77 E.	13.00
56	S. 23 W.	31.50	7	N. 13 E.	20.00
55	S. 58 W.	47.25	8	N. 212 W.	38.70
54	S. 82 W.	7.15	9	N. 3 W.	20.15
53	S. 22 W.	15.20	10	North	30.00
52	S. 162 W.	13.20	11	N. 142 W.	15.20
51	South	30.00	12	N. 23 E.	15.20
50	S. 3 E.	10.15	13	N. 52 E.	7.15
49	S. 222 E.	55.75	14	N. 36 E.	57.75
48	S. 13 E.	20.25	15	N. 212 W.	31.25
47	S. 77 W.	15.10	16	N. 31 E.	22.00
46	S. 7 E.	12.25	17	N. 362 W.	25.25
45	N. 26 W.	28.24	18	N. 23 E.	27.26
44	S. 16 W.	13.00	19	N. 10 E.	16.00
43	South	30.00	20	S. 42 W.	30.00
42	S. 212 E.	14.60	thence S. 722 W. 320.00 to place of beginning.		

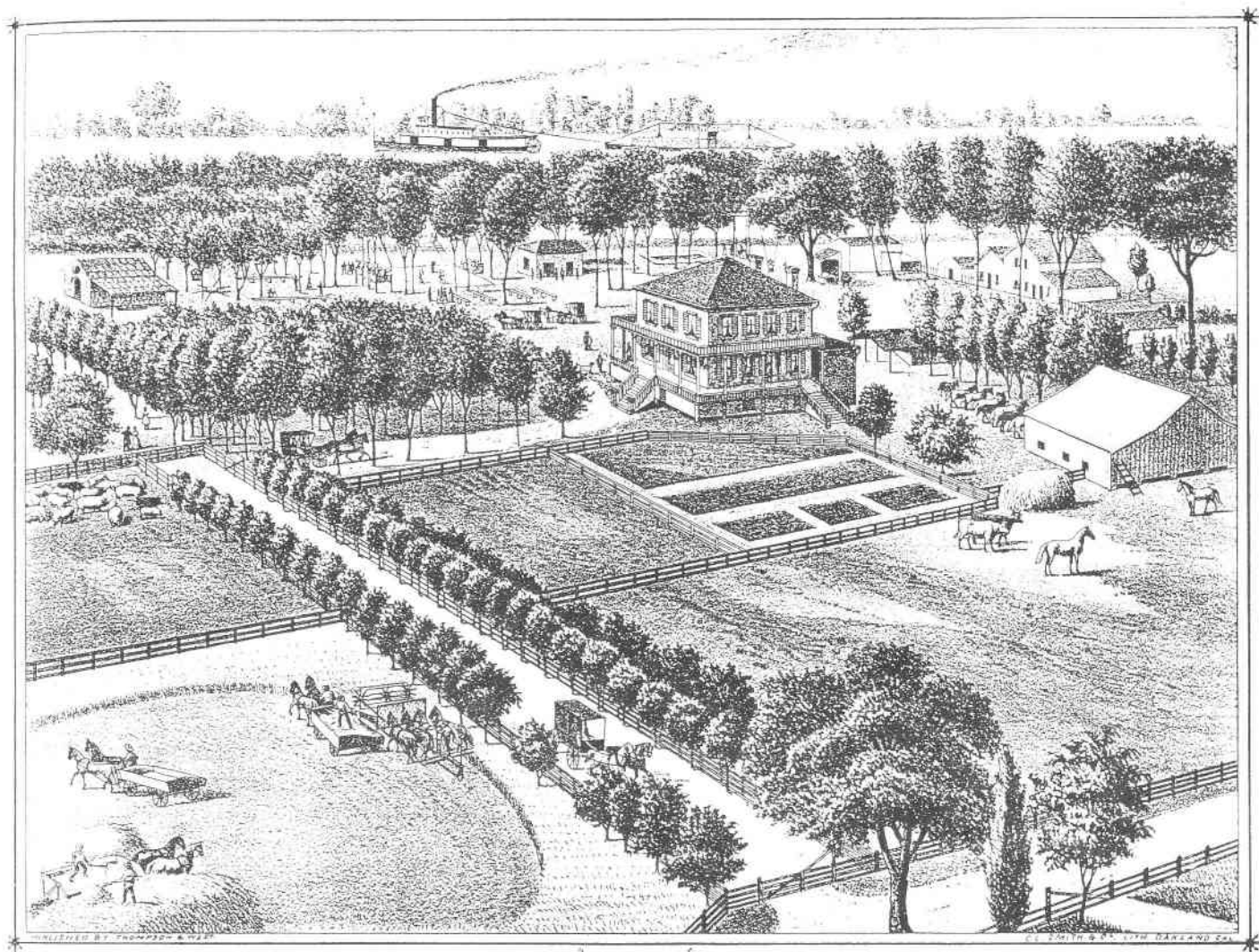
**MAP**  
OF PORTION OF  
**NEW HELVETIA.**  
LYING WEST OF FEATHER RIVER  
SUBDIVIDED  
in conformity with the U.S. Land Survey  
and according to  
**DEED OF PARTITION**  
Dated December 4th  
1852  
Drawn by  
*Joseph W. Galtland*  
C. L. D.

SCALE 80 CHAINS TO 1"

Note: The Figures and Lines upon this Section of the U.S. Survey



NAME OF GRANTOR	NAME OF GRANTEE	DATE OF DEED	WHERE RECORDED	
			Book	Page
Sutter J. A.	Sutter, Brammon, Reading et al	July 27 1849	A	1
Sutter J. A. et al	Reading P. B.	Sept 18 1849	A	2
Sutter J. A. et al	Reading P. B. (power of atty)	Sept 16 1849	A	3
Sutter J. A. et al	Schoolcraft W. A.	Jan 29 1850	A	4
Sutter J. A. et al	Fairchilds H. A. (in trust)	Jan 29 1850	A	5
Sutter J. A. et al	Rolfe T. H. et al	Jan 29 1850	A	6
Sutter J. A. et al	Piersow George	Jan 29 1850	A	7
Sutter J. A. et al	Piersow & Rolfe (Pow. of atty)	Jan 29 1850	A	8
Sutter J. A. et al	Lundy E. D.	Feb 5 1850	A	9
Sutter J. A. et al	Richardson George	Feb 12 1850	A	10
Sutter J. A. et al	Fairchilds H. (in trust)	Feb 10 1850	A	14
Sutter J. A. et al	Cheever C. C.	Mar 6 1850	A	15
Sutter J. A. et al	McCorkle J. W.	Mar 20 1850	A	18
Scholfield & Fairchild	Green & Hannah	Apr 23 1850	A	45
Stone & H.	Hanna J. L. G. & S.	Apr 16 1850	A	46
Sutter John A. et al	Hellington & Cooper	June 14 1850	A	53
Sutter John A. et al	Doster William	Mar 20 1850	A	59
Seivage James	Grant Gilbert A.	May 16 1850	A	60
Sutter John A.	Seivage James	May 4 1850	A	61
Sutter John A. & wife	Robinson, Fowler & Gillespie	June 11 1850	A	64
Smith Eben (Mortgage)	Philips Elijah	June 27 1850	A	67
Sutter John A. et al	Bean David	June 27 1850	A	72
Sutter John A.	Savage James	Jan 1 1850	A	74
Sutter John A.	Brammon Samuel	May 11 1849	A	76
Sutter John A. et al	Brammon Samuel	Sept 18 1849	A	78
Sutter John A. et al	Prendergast Henry	Jan 25 1850	A	81
Sutter John A. & wife	Robinson, Fowler et al	July 1 1850	A	84
Sutter Ann E. et al	Robinson, Fowler et al	July 8 1850	A	90
Snowden Richard W.	Smith Samuel B.	July 8 1850	A	93
Sutter John A.	Fowler John D.	July 9 1850	A	94
Sutter John A.	Queen James	July 4 1850	A	97
Sutter John A. et al	Tabor J. R.	July 10 1850	A	99
Sutter John A. et al	White Sarah	Apr 19 1850	A	101
Sutter John A.	Lawton Alfred	Apr 11 1850	A	102
Sutter John A.	Veigins S. H.	June 11 1850	A	103
Snowden R. W.	Robinson S. H.	July 13 1850	A	104
Sutter John A.	Sutter E. V.	July 16 1850	A	105
Sutter John A. et al	Williams H. J.	June 29 1850	A	106



HOCK FARM

John A Sutter et al  
 — To —  
H. H. Low

This Indenture, Made the Twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Sixty-Eight Between John A. Sutter and Anna Sutter, his wife, of Washington, D.C., their children, John A. Sutter Jr. and Ann Elisa Sink of Acapulco, Mexico, and E. V. Sutter of the City and County of San Francisco, California; and Xavier Sink of said Acapulco, husband of said Ann Elisa Sink; and Pauline Van Gulpen, formerly Sutter, late widow of Wm. Asphores Sutter, deceased, of Anaheim, California - parties

of the first part and J. J. Low, of the City and County of San Francisco aforesaid party of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Thousand Dollars, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the enrolling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents Do grant, bargain and sell unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, All that certain parcel or tract of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Sutter, State of California known and designated as the "Hook Farm" containing Six Hundred acres more or less, Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainders and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof.

W.S. J.R.C.  
E.V. Sutter  
24, 1868 \$5.00

And also, all the estate, right, title, interest, claim of Homestead, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity, of the said parties of the first part, of in or to the above described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, To Have and to Hold, all and singular the above mentioned and described premises together with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness Whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written, by his atty in fact E.V. Sutter Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of } John A. Sutter, E.V. Sutter  
Anna Sutter State

by her atty in fact E.V. Sutter, Pauline Van Sulpenter State,  
Ann Elisa Sinter State, K. Sinter State, John C. Sutter Jr State  
E.V. Sutter, State.

State of California, } ss.  
City and County of San Francisco }  
On this Twentieth (20th) day of March A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight before me, Henry S. Tibbey a Notary Public in and for said City and County, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared the within named E.V. Sutter whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Instrument as party thereto, personally known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the said foregoing Instrument, and said E.V. Sutter duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily, and for the

uses and purposes therein mentioned.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Henry S. Tibbey, Notary Public

State of California,

City and County of San Francisco

ss.

On this Twentieth (20th) day of March A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty eight, before me Henry S. Tibbey a Notary Public in and for said City and County, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared E. V. Sutter personally known to me to be the same person described in and who executed by Power of Attorney from John A. Sutter and Anna Sutter his wife the annexed Instrument as the Attorney in fact of said John A. Sutter and Anna Sutter his wife named in the annexed Instrument, as parties thereto, and therein described as the parties executing the same by their said attorney; and the said E. V. Sutter duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily, as and for the act and deed of the said John A. Sutter and Anna Sutter and each of them and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.



In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Henry S. Tibbey, Notary Public.

Ciudadano Licenciado José B. Espejo,  
Jefe de letras del Distrito de Fabaner



Certifico que la firma que está en la faja primera de este documento que dice Juan A. Sutter es del Señor Vice-Consul de los Estados Unidos de América residente en este Puerto y de su autenticidad, doy fe así como de que fue puesta libre y espontáneamente.

Y para los usos que convengan estando el presente en Acapulco a cañon de Abril de mil ochocientos sesenta y ocho.

Lic José B. Espejo

Anstancia los Señores Adame

Alsa.

Emiliano Vargas

## HOLIDAYS

by Linda Leone

As we begin to prepare for the holidays, our minds tend to drift back to holidays past. Our heritage, place of residence, and age tend to influence the way in which we celebrate. Our heritage and religious affiliations also determine which holidays we observe.

Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement is the most solemn day of the Jewish year) and Columbus Day (the celebration of Christopher Columbus landing in the Americas in 1492) will have come and gone before you receive this, so we will begin the discussion of holidays with Halloween.

### HALLOWEEN

Our "Halloween" has evolved from a Celtic celebration held on October 31st. They believed the souls of the dead were allowed to return to their homes and all the witches, trolls, demons, hobgoblins, etc. were allowed to roam the earth on this night. In England, large bonfires were kept burning and men with pitchforks frolicked around the fire to keep evil spirits away. As people became less superstitious, the night became one of parties for young people who dressed up in costumes and played games. The parties eventually evolved into children dressed in costume going door-to-door "Trick or Treating" for candy. The past few years, more schools and churches have been organizing parties for the children on this night.

There have always been those kids who were more interested in the "Trick" than the "Treat." Shirley (McLean) Burtis remembers, "Some people dumped over the outhouses." Her husband, Newell "Hoagie" Burtis said that there wasn't

much to do in Sycamore (Colusa County) where he grew up; "If we turned any toilets over, they'd be our own." Ila (McLean) Brown didn't remember anything drastic about Halloween. Cassius Epperson said he didn't go trick or treating and was always looking for someone strong enough to turn over the outhouses. Marian (Channon) McElroy remembers: "I used to hear tales when I was young about the pranks the young men of the town would play. They would put buggies, you know, horse and buggies, that type of buggies, up on top of buildings and tip over the old outhouses and all this sort of thing. They did it in a big way in those days."

Of the few people I spoke with, only John Breeding, Sr. of Live Oak admitted to any Halloween pranks (maybe because it wasn't done in this area): "(We) went to Saratoga school (in Santa Clara County) and they had a great big hole that they were going to bury a tank for fuel and we rolled an old wagon into it and we took -- a whole bunch of us pulled up a slide in the

school yard and took it down in front of the what-do-you-call it and put a sign on it 'business is slidin'....And they took gates off people's houses and pulled them up on telephone poles and things like that, you know." John also admitted to being the look-out while his brother, Lester, filled business door keyholes with plaster.

#### VETERAN'S DAY

Veteran's Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, is celebrated on the 11th of November every year to honor American servicemen, past and present. Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day a holiday to commemorate the end of World War I. In years past, there were big parades held to celebrate this holiday.

#### THANKSGIVING

We all know the story of the first Thanksgiving and the meal shared by the Pilgrims and the Indians. The roots of the holiday stem from English harvest festivals. President Lincoln declared this a national holiday in 1863 at the height of the Civil War.

Through the years the way of celebrating has not changed much. The day has centered on a meal enjoyed by family and friends. Cassius Epperson says they "...too often ate too much and sat around the rest of the day holding their stomachs." Shirley Burtis remembers Thanksgiving being spent at her McLean grandparents' home where they had turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and apple pie. She

also remembers that the table was set with a tablecloth since it was a special occasion; tablecloths not being an item used for everyday meals. Marian McElroy said, "We always had some of the relatives in and, you know, we'd have the traditional turkey dinner Thanksgiving and Christmas."

The November 29, 1895 issue of the Sutter County Farmer carried the following items related to the Thanksgiving observance:

"The bank, post office and county offices observed holiday hours yesterday."

"There were special Thanksgiving exercises at the Yuba City school Wednesday."

"There were appropriate Thanksgiving services at the churches in various parts of the county yesterday."

#### HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is a holiday celebrated by Jews in remembrance of the miracle of a small amount of sanctified oil lighting the eternal light in the Temple for eight days. The celebration, also known as the Festival of Lights, lasts for eight days (the number of cups on the Menorah and the number of days it takes to prepare fresh consecrated oil). This is a very gay holiday with good food and an exchange of gifts. Children are given small square spinning tops which have Hebrew letters on the side. The letters are NGHS which stands for "Nes Godol Hoyo Shom" ("A great miracle happened there.") This is a

very simplified explanation of this very important Jewish holiday.

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas has become a two-part holiday, the religious and the secular. The underlying "feeling" runs through both -- that of kindness and sharing.

The ancient Romans observed the winter solstice with a festival dedicated to the god of agriculture, Saturn. It was called the Saturnalia. Gifts were exchanged and there was great fun for all.

In the fourth century, Emperor Constantine decreed Christianity to be the faith of the Roman Empire. The celebration held in December was called the Mass of Christ, or Christ Mass. Tradition has set December 25th as the birthday of Christ. Many early Christians refused to celebrate Christmas Day because of the previous Saturnalia celebration.

The Puritans in New England not only did not celebrate Christmas, but it was against the law to do so. Anyone caught celebrating and feasting or not working on that day was fined. Today the religious aspect of Christmas is celebrated by Christians around the world.

Santa Claus, as we know him, entered the picture fairly recently. He has his counterpart in most countries around the world. The concept is based on St. Nicholas, archbishop of Myra (now known as Kale, a seaport in Turkey), who was both kindhearted and

generous. Clement Moore's description of Santa Claus in his 1822 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas", established the American impression of Santa Claus. This poem was the basis for Thomas Nast's sketches of Santa Claus. His first sketch appeared in Harper's Weekly newspaper on January 3, 1863. His sketches were the first visual representation of Santa as we know him today. (Nast was a political cartoonist who, among other things, instituted the use of the donkey and elephant as political party symbols.) Santa has changed over the years, but is as loved by children today as he was 170 years ago.

When asked about childhood Christmases, everyone I spoke with mentioned the Christmas trees illuminated by lit candles. Cassius mentioned the bucket of water that was kept by the tree in case the candles caught something on fire. Mrs. McElroy in describing the trees said, "...I can remember the Christmas tree over in my cousin's house, well, maybe our house too, where they had used candles on the trees and they had to be very careful, of course. That was before the electric light bulbs were put on Christmas trees. I can remember those candles. They had a little clip-kind of a thing, a little metal thing with a little round place to set this candle in -- out of tin."

Estelle Lyden, a resident of Yuba County, was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia. She remembers a different kind of fire lit Christmas. When

she was a girl, the tradition was to celebrate by setting off fire works on Christmas Day. The neighbors across the street received a large box of fireworks from relatives and set them off for the neighborhood to enjoy. She remembers the explosives as being larger and more powerful than today's fireworks, measuring up to five inches and, "probably able to blow someone's hand off."

Santa Claus was a part of Christmas in Sutter County in the early part of this century. Mrs. McElroy didn't recall seeing anyone dressed like Santa Claus coming to the house when she was a child, but "...I believed in Santa Claus until I was about five; I got wise pretty fast." Shirley Burtis remembers hammering a nail into the mantle and hanging her stocking from it and that Santa came down the chimney. She remembers giving some of the neighbors presents, usually books. Ila Brown remembers staying home at Christmas and that Santa always came. She said she received a lot of toys and always liked everything she got.

Newell Burtis said they had a Christmas tree sometimes and remembers school programs where children recited pieces, but there weren't many plays.

Cassius Epperson remembers church programs where you had to recite poems and getting the words mixed up.

The December 27, 1895 issue of the Sutter County Farmer carried the following items related to Christmas observance:

"Christmas was observed by the court offices, bank, and most of the business houses."

"C. W. Ward's School, Slough, held their Christmas entertainment Wednesday night."

"Several of the Cottonwood pupils have taken part in the literary programme for the Christmas tree, which is to be held in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant Grove Christmas Eve. Pleasant Grove. Dec 23 1895."

#### SOURCES:

Joseph Gaer, Holidays Around the World, Little, Brown and Company (Boston), 1953.

#### Sutter County Farmer

Interviews with John Breeding, Sr., Ila Brown, Newell and Shirley Burtis, Cassius Epperson, Estelle Lyden, and Marian McElroy.



## FASHION NEWS

Have you read about Mrs. Russell? In Boston she has been giving talks to fashionable ladies in private parlors. Mrs. Hodgson Burnett opened her new house for her and Mrs Russell lectured. So graceful a woman I have never seen. Everywhere she goes she is the most beautifully dressed woman in the room and her dress made of cheesecloth, five cents a yard. All women look at her with envy.

Thirty of us in tight sleeves, tight belts, heavy draperies, hot bonnet-strings, gloves as tight as our skins, and boots almost so, listened to Mrs. Russell while she talked to us on dress.

There were not three present who could raise their arms straight over head or who could stoop to pick up a pin as a child would. Mrs. Russell in her sixty-five cent crimson cheesecloth, was as comfortable as a boy in a bathing suit, as beautiful as a picture, and no one could find fault with this dress wherever she might wear it.

"Perhaps in heaven we shall know how to dress like that," said a woman whose back ached under her bustle (as most backs do) whose collar chaffed her neck (as all collars will) whose sleeves pinned her arms down, and whose corsets, thought not even tied, were tight, as all corsets are, however loosely put on, the weight of skirts dragging them down to where they must fit.

I doubt if a single woman who reads this is altogether happy and comfortable in her clothes; yet, strangely enough, we all hate "dress reforms." But when a pretty woman like Mrs. Russell shows us how to get our whole year's wardrobe for the amount we pay for one Paris dress, and discards everything that tortures other women, yet is exquisitely dressed and draped, so every man admires her and every woman envies her, it seems there are reforms and reformers. Mrs. Russell's dress expresses her knowledge of the laws of harmony in everything.

Odd Fellows Newspaper  
July 22, 1886

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The debating society of Pleasant Grove is progressing quite rapidly. The question for the last debate was "Resolved that bloomers are more becoming than skirts." The negative side won. They will meet again a week from Friday night, the question being, "Resolved that ignorance and superstition has caused more crime than poverty." All are cordially invited.

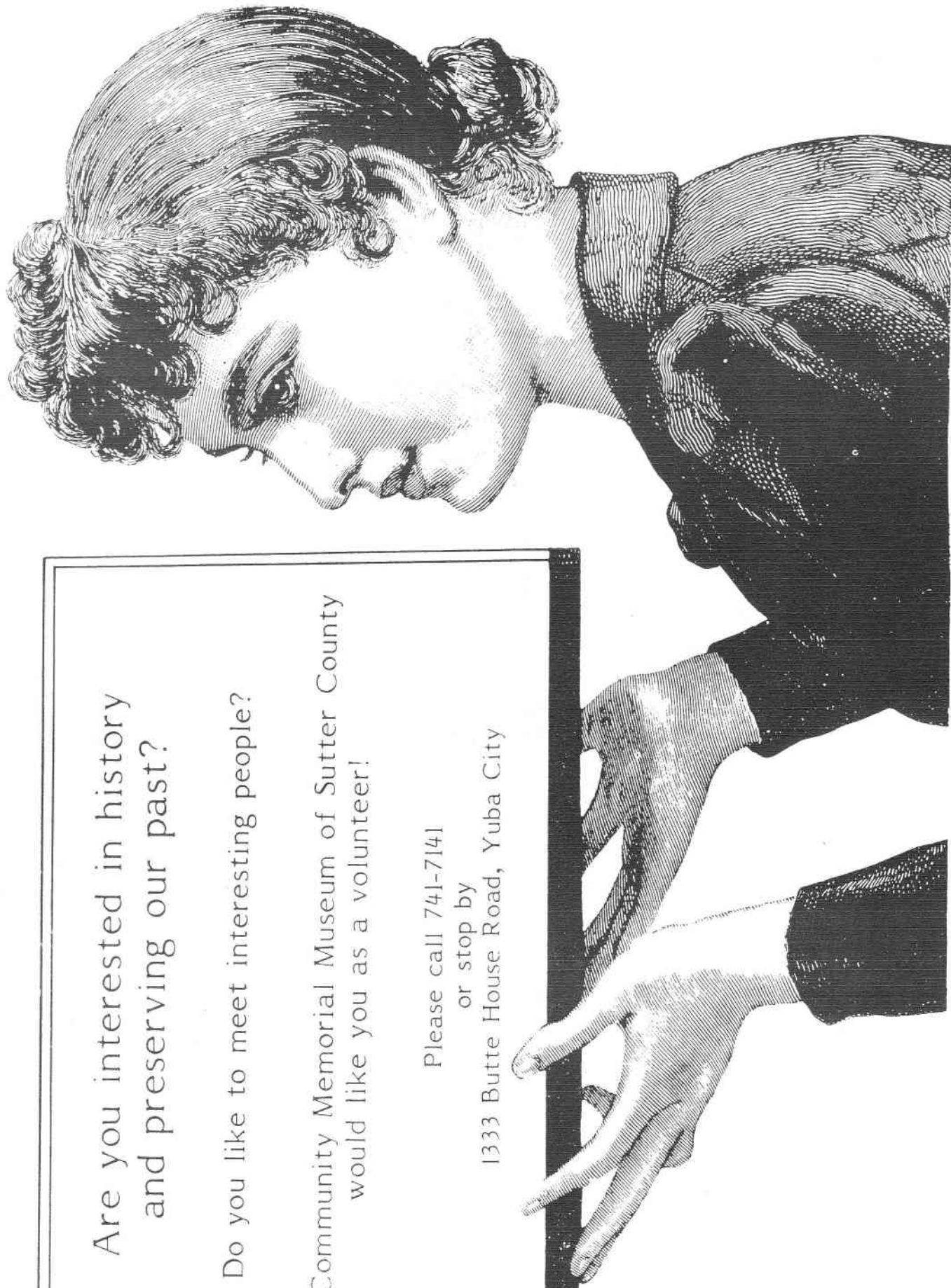
Sutter County Farmer  
November 1, 1895

Are you interested in history  
and preserving our past?

Do you like to meet interesting people?

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County  
would like you as a volunteer!

Please call 741-7141  
or stop by  
1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City



## COMING EVENTS

### October

- 20 Historical Society Meeting - 7:30 at the Museum  
Speaker: Maggie Moyers  
Topic: Maidu Travelling Trunk
- 21 Christmas Ornament Workshop - 10:00-Noon at the Museum
- 28 The American Experience: The Donner Party  
PBS Channel 6 - 9:00 p.m.

### November

- 3 Election Day - Don't Forget to Vote
- 18 Christmas Ornament Workshop - 10:00-Noon at the Museum
- 24 Sutter's Fort Living History Day
- 29 "A Sense of Place" exhibit closes

### December

- 3-4 Sale of Past Museum Christmas Decorations -  
Museum gift shop
- 5 John Hendrickson - Book & Calendar signing  
"Artist's Sale" at Museum - 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 10 Museum Decoration Day - 9:00 a.m.
- 12 Trees & Traditions - 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Museum
- 22 Christmas Open House & Children's Program -  
1:00-3:00 at the Museum  
John Carter will entertain with music  
Gertrude the china doll's 110th birthday party

### January 1993

- 19 Historical Society Meeting - 7:30 p.m. at the Museum  
Speaker: To be announced

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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