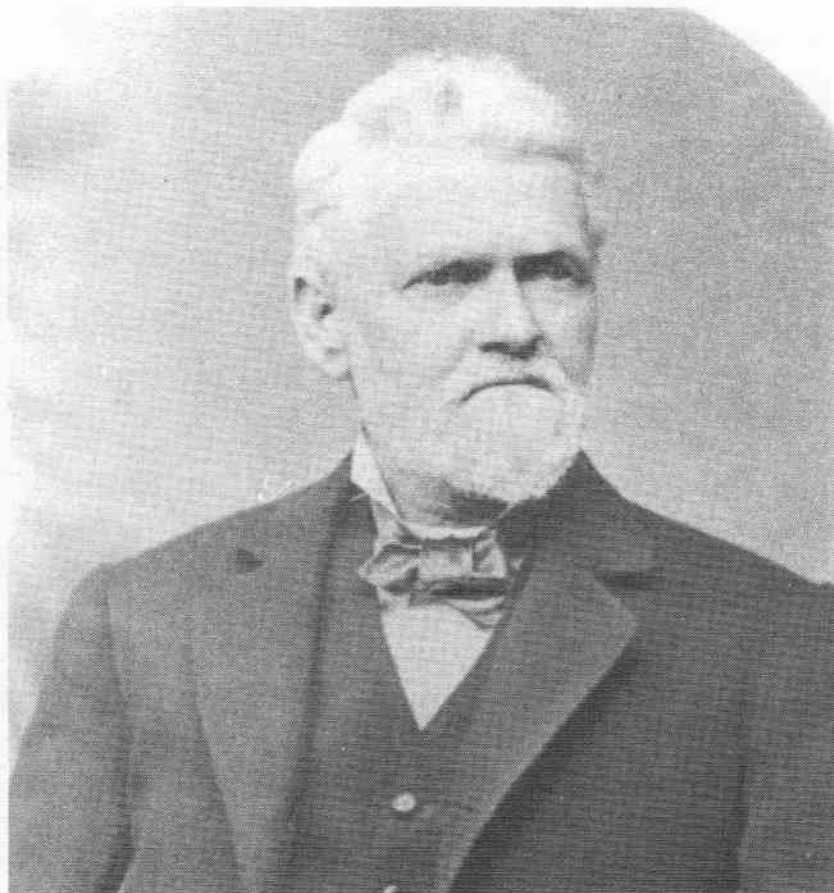


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Yuba City, California

April 2002



Caleb Elisha Wilcoxon
(Photo courtesy of Phylis Wilcoxon Gavin)



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Constance Cary, Secretary

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Bonnie Ayers-2001*

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Phyllis Smith-2000

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*The year the director joined the Board.

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Historical Society in Yuba City, California. Payment of annual membership dues provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin** and the Museum's **Muse News** and membership in both the Society and the Museum.

The 2002 dues are payable as of January 1, 2002. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at P. O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555.

Student (under 18)/ Senior Citizen/Library	\$ 15
Individual	\$ 20
Organizations/Clubs	\$ 30
Family	\$ 35
Business/Sponsor	\$ 100
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1000

President's Message

It is time to give you another "State of the Society" report. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to tell you that all goes well! The society is viable and continues to have a positive impact on Sutter County.

Some of the good news:

BULLETIN - Thanks to our editors for fulfilling our promise of four issues each year. I still consider this a top priority item.

FINANCES - Our Treasurer Dorothy Ettl reports that we continue to build our reserve, have no outstanding obligations, and are able to add to the Building Fund. Your membership and donations are greatly appreciated.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS - Attendance at the quarterly membership meetings has increased considerably over the past year. The luncheons in April and October have been particularly well received and will continue along with the July Picnic in the Park and the January meeting at the Museum.

HISTORIC SITE REGISTRY - The preservation committee is off to a great start. Chairman Phyllis Smith and her committee have completed most of the initial surveys and will now fine-tune their selections before making recommendations to Yuba City and Sutter County authorities.

CENTURY FARMS OF SUTTER COUNTY - This project is in its initial phase of organizing and setting definitions, guidelines, selection criteria, and publicity. You will be hearing more about this project as the year progresses.

HOCK FARM DOORS RENOVATION - Progress has been slow; working with the Sutter County Public Works Department and Supervisors requires time to work out details. Steve Perry has shown great patience and perseverance in his efforts to bring the renovation to fruition. The Society plans a monument that will bring honor to Sutter County and our membership.

LETTERS HOME PROJECT - The Letters Home project, an annual contest for elementary school students, is a joint effort of the Society and the Museum. The essay winners will receive their awards at the annual meeting April 13.

HISTORIC BUS TRIP AROUND THE BUTTES - The trip was a great success; the bus was filled early. Dorothy Ettl and Bonnie Ayers chaired this fundraiser. Our great thanks to our perennial tour guide, Don Burtis.

BUTTE HIKES IN THE DEAN RANCH - Interest was low this year; Directors will evaluate the hike program and attempt to create more interest. Thanks to Margit Sands for her continued support in setting dates and providing guides.

We have one opening on the Board of Directors; if you are interested, please contact me or one of the other directors. As this is an even-numbered year, there will be no elections at the April meeting.

My heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors and to the membership for such a successful and rewarding year. Please remember that this is your Society and your comments, questions, and suggestions are always welcomed.

John V. Reische
President

Director's Report

I am pleased to say there are a lot of things "popping up" at the Museum this spring. The most visible is the new and long awaited patio on the west front of the Museum. Walls are up, awaiting stucco, and concrete has been poured; bricks and lighting have been ordered and, most importantly, the paving stones have arrived. The Sutter County Facilities Management crew is hard at work, and, before long, the patio will be a pleasant garden retreat, surrounded by roses, and ready for museum events. When all is in readiness, a well-deserved celebration will be planned for all those who have waited so patiently during this incredibly long project. Only upon completion of the patio project will pavers again become available for engraving and purchase. Watch for information on this in the *Muse News*.

During April the Museum is host to an exhibit of artwork created by students from the Yuba City High School Art Department. *Art and Sole* is a whimsical look at footwear and includes some examples of historic footwear from the Museum collection. Be sure to "hot foot" it over to the Museum to see this amazing artistic endeavor.

April also brings the *Wear & Remembrance* Vintage Apparel Fair, which is a major fundraiser for the Museum. It takes place on April 20 and 21 in Franklin Hall at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. Saturday hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 to 4:00. Admission is \$5.00 (or \$4.00 with a pink coupon from the Museum). This admits you to a world of vintage clothing and accessories ranging from the Victorian era through the 1960s. All of the wonderful vast array is available for admiring or purchase. Lunch is available from Java Retreat, and the Museum's bakery booth features homemade delicacies. Have a most entertaining day and help support the Museum too!

May 21 is the opening reception and program for the new traveling exhibit *Andrew Jackson Grayson: Audubon of the West*. A reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the program at 7:30 featuring Andrew Hoyem of Arion Press in San Francisco, which first published the portfolio of Grayson's bird paintings. These exquisite bird portraits, painted in the 1850s and 60s, after Grayson discovered that Audubon had not painted the birds of the western United States, lay unpublished in the Bancroft Library until 1986 when Mr. Hoyem brought them to life. This very special exhibit and program are brought to us through the auspices of the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA). You can see that spring at the Museum has something for everyone. Please be a part of your museum.

Julie Stark
Director

Historical Society Meeting

January 15, 2002

Mike Hubbard from the Middle Mountain Foundation spoke to members and guests about preservation efforts regarding the Sutter Buttes. After thanking the staff for allowing their organization to use the museum as a staging area for Buttes hikes, he pointed out that he views the Buttes as a 75 square mile museum that builds on the information stored within the walls of the museum.

Mr. Hubbard presented a slide show of his view of the Buttes. Since moving to the area in 1971, his fascination with the best known landmark of the region grew. The Buttes are privately owned and the Foundation is working hard to help current owners, some of whose names are on the first maps of the county, maintain their excellent stewardship of the Buttes and to demonstrate their appreciation for the hard work that current owners undertake to preserve the Buttes and their history.

Among the views he shared of the Buttes were the rock walls that served double duty to mark off property lines and clear stones from fields, the Noyesburg school which burned down in late 2001, cemeteries, quarries, and Pass Road by air. This revealed an interesting phenomenon of a series of mounds that line the road. These are ancient sea beds turned on their sides. From the air it is also possible to see that the Buttes are not a linear phenomenon, but rather a soft circle or oval of mountains.

Some of the pictures were testimonies to step carefully - poison

oak, rattlesnakes and steep inclines to bypass or carefully traverse. There is tremendous geological interest in the Buttes as well as historical, anthropological, and ongoing studies of local fauna. There are eleven species of bats found in the Buttes - from the smallest species in the continental United States to the largest. There is no way of knowing how many pounds of insects these flying mammals munch on a year, but can you imagine the mosquitoes if they were not around? There is a study on ringtails that is 20 years old and still continuing.

The most striking photographs to me were those taken from atop the Buttes on a day when we flatlanders were enshrouded in clouds and fog. Bright sunshine reflected off thick, solid white clouds with only the tips of various peaks in the Buttes popping out here and there. This was a great reminder as to just how different the weather can be within our own county.

Mr. Hubbard closed with a brief question and answer period and the question was asked regarding turning the Buttes into a national monument. He made it clear that the Foundation's goal is to work with land owners who have taken it upon themselves to preserve this land for, in some cases, six generations - a reminder that while historically and scientifically important, the Buttes are also called home by some. The Foundation is searching out common ground amongst owners, neighbors, admirers - all of us really - to insure continued protection of the Buttes.

Memorials

In Memory of **Harriet Adams**
Ivadel Simmons

In Memory of **Robert Berg**
Donna Brockman McMaster

In Memory of **Jim Berry**
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryant

In Memory of **Eva Chan**
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryant

In Memory of **Dan Dillon**
Mr. Mrs. Frederick Boone

In Memory of **Melville Earhart**
Barbara Putman

In Memory of **June Gingrich**
Connie Cary
Bruce and Gini Harter

In Memory of **Phyllis Hall**
Marjorie Banks
Sabrina and Bob Benton
Kenneth G. Callhoun
Connie Cary
Dolores Clark
Barbara Moberly
Wanda O'Hara
Ida J. Philpott
Marian Regli
Len and Wilma Richert
Joe and Jane Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Serger
Viola Spencer
Kathleen Shannon
Barbara Shelly
Della M. Wanek

In Memory of **Paul Clay Heilmann**
Helen Heenan & Family
Bob & Jean Heilmann &
Family

In Memory of **Paul S. Henson**
Robert and Sandra Fremd

In Memory of **Gratia Hill**
Bob and Pauline Masera
The Phillips Family

In Memory of **Ed LePine**
Mr. Mrs. Frederick Boone

In Memory of **Elizabeth (daughter
of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller)**
Dolores Clark

In Memory of **Gilbert Mulcahy**
Fred & Jane Boone
Charlie & Mary Dossey
Bob and Lillie Inman
Nicholas Kroeze
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Morton
Tom and Jean Pfeffer
Jason Russell
Art and Dee Worledge

In Memory of **Elliot Nelson**
W. C. McFarland
Marian Regli

In Memory of **Shirley Pratt**
Mary Crane
Helen Heenan & Family



In Memory of **Suzanne Reynolds**
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryant
Arlene Chesnut
Bob and Sandra Fremd
Gerald and Carmen Frye
Ray Frye
Thomas Frye
David and Jennifer Giampaoli
Keith & Sandi Murray
William Struckmeyer Family
Gene and Jim Taresh
Richard & Barbara Walsh

In Memory of **Harold Seyferth**
Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Schmidl

In Memory of **Ivadel Simmons**
Dale & Alma Burtis
Burtis Ranch, Inc.
Ken and Vivian Calhoun
Connie Cary
Meriel Davis
Jane & Anson Dobson
Dorothy Ettl
Esther Fortna Forsythe
Louise, Harold & Kate Heise
Bob and Pauline Masera
Calvert & Begonia McPherrin
Vern and Marilyn Ornbaum
The Phillips Family
Ida Philpott
Harold & Evelyn Quigg
Marian Regli
Mrs. Murleen Schneiter
Elizabeth W. Smith
Phyllis Smith
Louis and Betty Tarke
Harry & Bernice Wilson
Michael Wilson

In Memory of **Gordon Smiley**
Dewey Greuning
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Herr
Evelyn & Harold Quigg
Ila Shaw
Jim and Gene Taresh
In Memory of **Elmer and Lela Smith**
F. Catherine Booth

In Memory of **James E. Smith**
F. Catherine Booth

In Memory of **David Sullivan**
Marie E. Fuller

In Memory of **Carmelita Sweeney**
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Schnabel

In Memory of **Anna Ulmer**
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Schnabel

In Memory of **Victor Uriz**
Alexander Petzinger

In Memory of **Emma Rolufs Wulff**
Julian & Nancy Rolufs



Outright Gifts
Alexander Petzinger
Marian Regli
Yuba City Women's Club
Inner Wheel Club of Yuba City

The C. E. Wilcoxon Story

by
Don Burtis

Author's Comments:

I have been gathering information about C. E. Wilcoxon from many sources for many years. Prior to my actively engaging in historical Sutter County research, I don't remember ever hearing his name. There are no schools, streets, parks, buildings or anything else named after him. His memorials include his signature on a multitude of county government documents filed in the archives of the county and his gravestone. All of the pioneers who came early to California were special people and all contributed in their own ways to the development of our area, but the more I learned about this man, the more impressed I became.

He was a leader of men in the community. I believe he was one of the most active and productive pioneers who came to Sutter County. I know of no other who spent more time serving in a variety of county offices, or was more active in the early days of engaging in a wide variety of business enterprises. His support for public education in Yuba City was nothing short of great. He was both generous to and active in his church as well as the fraternal organizations to which he belonged. He was readily available to serve as an appointee replacement on a number of occasions when county offices were vacated and needed to be filled quickly.

He was not without "enemies" in the early days because it must be remembered that he came from a slave state and many of those who came from the "free" states were of different political opinions. When slavery and states' rights in the country became an issue before and during the period of the Civil War, there were some doubts cast about what Wilcoxon believed. These issues mainly came to light when he was running for political office against an opponent of another party who had the support of a local paper. There is no known record of his ever doing anything that would prove him to be other than a loyal and upright citizen who strongly supported the best interests of this community.

Wilcoxon lived in Yuba City during the time that General John Sutter lived on the Hock Farm about six miles south of Yuba City. He was 23 years old when Alexander Graham Bell was born and he was using the telephone that Bell invented in the early 1890s at his corner store in Yuba City.

I hope you enjoy reading about this relatively unknown (at this time) but significantly important man (during his life) whose contributions to the development of Yuba City and Sutter County have affected all of us.



This picture of C. E. Wilcoxon is thought to have been taken in Newark, Ohio prior to his coming to California. It is the earliest picture available and is how he looked as the first public school teacher in Yuba City in 1854. (Photo courtesy of George T. Boyd)

Caleb Elisha Wilcoxon was born on September 8, 1823, near Shepherdville, Bullitt County, Kentucky. He was one of 16 children, 8 sons and 8 daughters born to Lewis and Lauraner Wilcoxon. In the spring of 1830, when Caleb was 6 years old, his family moved to New Franklin, Howard County, Missouri.

About 1840, at age 17, Caleb began working at farming in Howard County, MO. In 1845, Caleb became a store clerk in New Franklin, Missouri, an occupation he followed for eight years until 1853.

On February 12, 1846, at age 22, Caleb married in Howard County, MO, to Julia A. Crow, a native of Virginia. They became the parents of 11 children.

COMING WEST TO CALIFORNIA

C. E. Wilcoxon departed from Booneville, Missouri for California on April 4, 1853, driving an ox team across the plains in company with 48 others, including his eldest child, Laura Pierce Wilcoxon. She was nearly a year old when they reached Yuba City.

Wilcoxon arrived in Yuba City (Tues) September 27, 1853 with his

wife, child, mother-in-law, an orphan nephew, 18 head of oxen, and a saddle horse after traveling approximately 2000 miles in 5 months and 24 days. The trip took 177 days, averaging 11 to 12 miles a day.

Caleb was 30 years old when he arrived in Sutter County. He had no cash money left. He and his family camped under an oak tree and he began working by cutting wood and hauling it to Marysville. He had the oxen to do the hauling. He continued cutting wood until the following spring. Caleb's wife and mother-in-law did washing, sewing and other things for the neighbors.

A PORTRAIT OF 1850s YUBA CITY

The land on which the original town of Yuba City was laid out was deeded by Captain John A. Sutter July 27, 1849, to Samuel Brannan, Pierson B. Redding, and Henry Cheever. The tract extended from the mouth of the Yuba River four miles down the stream, and was one mile in width. Yuba City was laid out in lots, which were first sold on September 16, 1849 which is the town's birthday.

When the Wilcoxon family arrived, Yuba City was only four years old and not much more than a village located between the slough and the river in the area of Bridge to C Streets and along Second Street a bit farther south along the river. Some farms were located in the surrounding area. There were no levees along the river to hold back water during the spring and rainy season.

The town was located along the western bank of the Feather River because it was the highest ground in the area and most likely to be free from flooding when the river overflowed. This area was once used by the Indians as a location for their dwellings, obviously because it was safe from flooding.

The street next to the Feather River was called Water Street (instead of First Street). Two businesses were located either on or near Water Street in 1850. There was the Yuba City Store with groceries and miners' supplies, operated by Horace Cole, and the Western Hotel. (Water Street is now covered by the levee.)

The slough that is now called Gilsizers Slough flowed out of the Feather River during high water at a point about even with Queens Avenue and following about the same southerly route as it does now, eventually reaching the tules. It was not confined to a ditch but rather formed a kind of a broad flowing lake that then formed of boundary for Yuba City on the west. During the overflow time of the year, the slough area was not only a boundary, it also was a barrier for anyone who needed to cross to the other side. One of the first things the citizens did was to construct a Slough Bridge over this low area to allow them

passage to the west side. This bridge (long forgotten) was located on Bridge Street and initially extended from about halfway between Sutter and Yolo Streets almost to the Yuba City Cemetery.

The bridge over the slough was likely constructed while the passage between Marysville and Yuba City was still by ferry. Thus Bridge Street was possibly so named because of the Slough Bridge rather than because of the first bridge (a toll bridge) between the two towns built in 1853.

Both the Feather and Yuba Rivers were clear and deep and capable of providing good landings for river boats to dock at both Yuba City and Marysville.

SETTLING IN

C. E. Wilcoxon was an enterprising young man who obviously wanted to provide for his family and also become an active person in his adopted city. The Wilcoxon family was soon at home in a location across from the courthouse on Second Street.

By the spring of 1854, Wilcoxon became acquainted with many of the people in Yuba City. Seeking a better job than woodcutting, he accepted the appointment as Undersheriff of Sutter County under Sheriff Mark F. Garr, a position he held until October, 1855. It was the first of many county and state government positions he held during his lifetime.

In 1854 the people of Yuba Township took action to create a new school district. Yuba School District was the third district to be created in Sutter County. It was agreed that the school should be located in Yuba City. C. E. Wilcoxon was one of the forces in getting the school established. His

daughter was 3 at the time and another child was on the way. It was only natural that he was very interested and concerned with getting the public school started. He agreed to be the first teacher and would remain in that position until a trained teacher could be hired.

In 1854 he taught a three month Spring Term in a clapboard building, owned by John Kupser, which was located on property at the northeast corner of C Street and Phipps Alley (later called McRae Way). C Street was a dead end into the slough just west of the school.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Wilcoxon became a Mason in Booneville, Missouri, in the summer of 1850. During the fall of 1854, a little band of Master Masons, who had congregated in Yuba City from various parts of the United States, imbued with a spirit of doing good, assembled in the little old clapboard school house and signed an application for a charter. On October 5, 1854, Wilcoxon affiliated with Marysville Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M. of Marysville, California.

In January of 1855, the name of Caleb E. Wilcoxon appears on a petition for dispensation to form Enterprise Lodge U. D. at Yuba City. On January 13 a dispensation was duly granted by the Grand Lodge of California, authorizing the petitioners to institute a Masonic lodge. The first official lodge meeting of Enterprise Lodge was held that day, in the school house, called to order by C. E. Wilcoxon, as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Those present were Caleb E. Wilcoxon, C. L. N. Vaughn, D. H. Apperson, J. W. Gaither, G. M. Hanson, A. S. Hightower, D. G. O'Donnell and C. C.

McClure. A charter was granted by the Grand Lodge on May 4 for Enterprise Lodge No. 70 at Yuba City. C. E. Wilcoxon as a charter officer was elected as the Charter Worshipful Master.

Enterprise Lodge continued to meet in this building until their new lodge was completed in 1870. It is well known that the Masonic Lodge is a great supporter of Public Education and this was exemplified by the actions of Wilcoxon throughout his life in Yuba City. He was elected to a total of six terms as Worshipful Master, ending in 1872. In addition, he joined the Odd Fellows Lodge in 1853 and over the years served in all the chairs.

SERVING THE COUNTY

On March 30, 1855, the Board of Supervisors of Sutter County was formed. This first meeting was held in the Clerk's office in the town of Nicolaus, the county seat. On September 5 Wilcoxon was elected as County Clerk of Sutter County. He was re-elected County Clerk repeatedly. Many times he also served as Superintendent of Schools, sometimes by appointment of the Board of Supervisors, sometimes by election. All told he served seven terms as County Clerk between 1855 and 1875, and was Superintendent of Schools on and off from 1855 to 1863.

The Sutter County Courthouse burned on December 20, 1871. The fire started between 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning. The Wilcoxon home was about a block from the courthouse. C. E. played a major role in saving the county records from being burned.

In September 1861, Wilcoxon was elected to the California State Legislature on the Breckenridge Ticket

for the 1862 session of the State Legislature. He served one year, and in December 1861 resigned as School Superintendent because of his election to the Legislature. He also served for a time as County Treasurer.

In September 1882, Wilcoxon was elected a member of the State Board of Equalization for a term of four years. (The B.O.E. was created in 1879 by a constitutional amendment, and charged with the responsibility for ensuring that county property tax assessment practices were equal and uniform throughout the State.) In May 1886, Wilcoxon made an official visit to Yuba City and spent five days examining the appraisements. In September he was re-elected to the B.O.E. for four years. He served as Chairman of the Board during this second term.

IN BUSINESS

Within two years of his arrival in Yuba City, C. E. Wilcoxon went into business. In spring of 1855 he operated the Western Hotel in Yuba City which stood on or near the present bed of the Feather River, which has changed its course since that time, the original channel being now filled. It was described as being located opposite the old ferry landing from Marysville in the upper and most delightful part of Yuba City. This would be where B Street met the river.

In 1868, while in office as County Clerk, C. E. Wilcoxon engaged in mercantile business with Thomas E. Boyd in a Yuba City store known as Boyd & Wilcoxon. The store was located on the south side of Bridge Street about halfway between Second and Yolo Streets. The store sold

oranges, lemons, provisions, boots and shoes, buggy whips and umbrellas.

In September 1868 Thomas Boyd was elected Sutter County Treasurer. Boyd had been appointed in 1857 as the first Treasurer. When he died in 1871 his partner Wilcoxon was appointed Treasurer in his place.

In 1869 there were no church buildings in Yuba City. Church services were held in the courthouse, in schoolhouses, in people's homes, available halls, and outside, in front of businesses such as Wilcoxon's store. The Weekly Sutter Banner announced on May 15, 1869 "Service in front of Boyd and Wilcoxon's store next Sabbath 3 p.m. Text - 'Be not Hasty in Thy Spirit to Anger, For Anger Resteth in the Bosom of Fools.'"

It was reported on May 13, 1871, that John Bowen & John Sansome, convicted of robbing Boyd and Wilcoxon's safe, were each sentenced to 18 years in San Quentin prison.

After he had become a partner with T. D. Boyd in the mercantile business, Wilcoxon made a number of trips each year to San Francisco to purchase groceries and supplies to sell in the store. The Vallejo to Marysville Railroad that connected Yuba City and Marysville to San Francisco was completed in 1869. This made two ways to get to San Francisco, either by boat or by rail depending on how fast you wanted to travel. C. E. mostly chose the railroad because he was usually busy, and travel by boat was enjoyable but slower than by rail.

In 1877 C. E. Wilcoxon sold the mercantile business to C. A. Duncan and W. H. Lee. In 1887 C.E. went back in the mercantile business as C.E. Wilcoxon & Co. in partnership with Mr. M. Strange. In 1888 a local paper

reported that both general stores in Yuba City (C. E. Wilcoxon & Co. and Duncan & Van Arsdale) "are doing an immense business in groceries and provisions, clothing and hardware."

C. E. Wilcoxon retired from mercantile business about 1900 and worked as an Insurance agent. He had continued in business as a merchant for about twenty-five years, having in the meantime six different partners, namely: T. P. Boyd, C. P. Barry, M. C. Clark, L. D. Parkhurst, C. A. Duncan and M. Strange.

BUILDING FOR MASONS & SCHOOLS

On July 12, 1860, Wilcoxon was a trustee of Yuba School District No. 1 when property was purchased from John Kupser, on which to build a schoolhouse. It is likely he played a prominent role in arranging for the transaction, because the purchase of the land and building was a partnership between the school district and the Masonic Lodge.

In 1869 Yuba City was growing. Plans were in operation to survey the land north of Bridge Street and turn it into town building lots. In June, the Enterprise Lodge trustees, C. E. Wilcoxon, J. McIlmoil and R. D. Brown, were authorized to purchase a lot at the corner of Bridge & 2nd. for the purpose of building a Masonic Hall - the lot was purchased for \$1000 from H. F. Shulte. On October 30, it was reported that work on the Masonic Building had started. The cellar was dug, and would require 256,000 bricks and cost about \$9,000. The plans for constructing the temple indicated that Boyd & Wilcoxon would own the first floor and would move their store to this location when the building was completed. The Sutter County Farmer report in 1929

that "The brick used in the building was burned in a kiln on the Jacob T. Onstott ranch." (The Onstott ranch home may be seen by looking to the southeast across Highway 20 where Harter Road intersects the highway.)

On January 8, 1870 an ad in the paper announced the new store - Boyd & Wilcoxon - in the Tasker Building (located west of the new Masonic building) - "Dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Clothing, Feed, Grain, Wool and Calif. Produce." On March 12, it was announced that the Masonic Hall on the corner of Bridge & 2nd had been finished in a most elegant manner and was ready for occupation by the "brethren of the mystic tie." From this point on, the Masonic Lodge no longer shared the building on C Street with the Yuba School.

Wilcoxon had been instrumental in promoting the cause for the construction of a new school house in Yuba City. Receiving support from the people of the area, he authored the petition which was sent on February 24, 1872 to the State Legislature. It was approved. On March 30, Phil W. Keyser, District Judge, appointed Wilcoxon, J. H. Esselstyn, and J. Marcuse to discharge the duties of arranging for and building a new school house. On June 7 the Trustees of Enterprise Lodge (including C. E. Wilcoxon) sold their undivided half interest of the school property to Yuba School District for \$100. At this time the Yuba School District became the sole owner of the property at the northeast corner of McRae Way and C Street. In June the Yuba School District let a contract for \$4,897 for construction of Yuba School, to be finished by October 1. The school was in fact completed about or near the

end of November and the citizens in the community were very proud of this accomplishment.

WAREHOUSE BUSINESS

Wilcoxon was ever mindful of business opportunities. In 1873, he and his son-in-law, M. C. Clark, built a warehouse 100'x76', back from the Feather River, with a capacity of 2000 tons. Cost for storage per ton was \$1 for wheat, \$1.25 for barley. In 1874 he built a warehouse near the Central Pacific Railroad in Live Oak. The farmers in the area were pleased to have the it located there. This warehouse provided safe storage of their grain until they could get it sold and shipped to market.

The Feather River provided a means for shipping grain to market. On May 30, 1876, the river steamer "D. E. Knight" departed on Tuesday with 140 tons of wheat from Wilcoxon & Co.'s warehouse in Yuba City, consigned to Pioneer Mills, Sacramento.

The following observation about the Yuba City warehouse is from the October 19, 1876 edition of the Weekly Sutter Banner, published on Second Street in Yuba City: "This immense structure is full to overflowing with choice wheat. Its construction shows that the farmers of this county are beginning to fully realize the importance of Yuba City as a shipping point. The west bank of the Feather being so high, it is peculiarly adapted to the location of warehouses above the highest water. The enterprise having been crowned by such complete success, we shall next year doubtless see similar structures erected."

CREDIT FOR WILCOXON

It has been said that the early history of Sutter County could not be written with this gentleman left out. The following is evidence of this.

C. E. Wilcoxon is mentioned in a speech given at a 4th of July celebration in Yuba City by Judge Phil Keyser. In 1876, there was a grand celebration held at Hock Farm celebrating our nation's one-hundredth birthday. One of the largest crowds ever assembled at this location was there. Among the many events that happened at Hock Farm on that day was a historical sketch of Sutter County given by Judge Keyser, one of the early pioneers of the area.

After a very long oration he ended with the following remark in reference to Caleb Elisha Wilcoxon. "It would extend this sketch to too great a length were I to make individual reference to the various county officers who have from time to time conducted the county affairs. Suffice it to say, they will compare favorably with those of any other county in the State; and they may all be dismissed with that remark except one; a special reference to whom is absolutely necessary to make any historical sketch of Sutter County complete. He was not a pioneer. He came into the county a venerable relic handed down to us from the times we celebrate today. The same wintry locks and snowy beard that adorn his ancient brow and thee today, the same hacking cough which seems to us to rend his frame and to tear his lungs to tatters, pointed him out then as now, and then as now he was greeted "Ancient of days!" August Rosicrucian! Immortal Wilcoxon!"

There were other indications Wilcoxon was regarded highly in the

community. On November 9, 1888, the Sutter County Farmer printed this article.

Uncle "Cale" Pays His Bet

"Uncle 'Cale' Wilcoxon having agreed to curry Dr. Lyman's [G.B. Lyman, Superintendent of Schools] horse if Harrison was elected president, so on Thursday morning when there was no longer any doubt to pin a hope upon, the Dr. was ordered to bring up his steed to the old corner, when 'Cale' took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves and went for the trotter in first class hostler style. We didn't see the performance, but hearing the fun we ran to catch it, but it was all over when we got to the corner. It must have been funny, indeed, for several were drying their tears from their eyes as we approached. It was a 'Horse Laugh.'"

MILESTONES

On September 8, 1893, Uncle Cale celebrated his 70th birthday. The local paper reported that he and his wife were the only living pioneer residents of Yuba City who arrived when of age. They had lived in Yuba City 40 years.

Three years later, on February 12, 1896, the Wilcoxons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Six of their eleven children were still living. Their children and eleven of their grandchildren attended the reception held at their home.

There were many guests, including Mr. and Mrs. George Brittan from Sutter City, and Polk Simmons, who crossed the plains with the Wilcoxons.

The paper reported that "at age 72, [Wilcoxon] has now retired from active pursuits, but takes a lively interest in what is going on. His friends

are legion and will attest to Uncle Cale's wholesouled liberality and his genial disposition as a practical joker has long been established. He is still full of fun and no one can crack more jokes or relish them better than this old veteran."

Caleb Elisha Wilcoxon died at his home in Yuba City on Saturday January 2, 1904 at age 80 yrs., 3 months, 24 days. His funeral was held on January 5 at the M. E. Church South. He was buried in Yuba City Cemetery.

THE WILCOXON FAMILY

Laura Wilcoxon was nearly a year old when her family arrived in Yuba City in 1853. On August 29, 1855 Julia Wilcoxon gave birth to their second child, Strother E. Wilcoxon. This child is recorded as the first white child born in Yuba City. Strother grew up and lived his life in this area and died aged 71 in 1927. He married Mary Alice Butler. Two of their daughters were Mrs. Josie Krull and Mrs. Jennie Hauck. For 43 years he lived in the house where he died, on the south side of B Street, across from the present Masonic Temple, the second house east of the corner. The home was originally the home of John Kupser, who owned the original school. At one time it was possibly the oldest home in Yuba City, having been constructed in 1850 of lumber from the east that was shipped around the Horn. This house burned down March 24, 1940 (Easter Sunday).

On September 28, 1859 the sound of the third child of C. E. and Julia Wilcoxon was heard. Jeffery L. Wilcoxon married Lizzie Lamdin. Their eldest child was Phillip Wilcoxon. Jeffrey died at age 82 in 1941, having lived his entire life on 2nd Street in Yuba City. His home was on the corner

of Second and B Streets just west of where his brother Strother lived.

In 1862, Caleb R. Wilcoxon was born in the home across from the Courthouse. Lewis Boyd Wilcoxon was born July 30, 1864. L. B. worked for the newspaper "Sutter County Farmer."

The first edition of the Weekly Sutter Banner, the first newspaper published in Sutter County, was printed on Monday, April 8, 1867. Two months later it reported the first of several escapades about young Caleb. "On Wednesday Caleb, son of C. E. Wilcoxon, had a narrow escape from drowning in the Yuba City Slough. Near Mr. Wilcoxon's residence there is a bridge over the slough made by laying boards upon stakes, only one plank wide, and from this bridge Caleb fell into the water, backwards. Stroud Wilcoxon being present waded in and held his brother's head above water, at the same time calling loudly for assistance. Joseph Barnard hearing the noise ran to their assistance and rescued them. Had not assistance been so opportunely at hand 'little Caley' would have been drowned."

The same month the paper reported "On Tuesday evening Caleb, son of C. E. Wilcoxon, while endeavoring to alight from a wagon on which he was riding, fell between the wheels one of which passed over his body. His injuries were very slight. This is the same boy who came near being drowned last week."

Caleb grew up in Yuba City and served as the Deputy Auditor and Recorder of Sutter County. During the first administration of President Cleveland he was Postmaster at Yuba City. He also served one term as County Clerk from 1893 to 1895. He left Yuba City in 1896 for San Francisco

and at age 34, took up dentistry, graduating from the Affiliated Colleges of the State University, and established an office in Woodland where he continued to live. Dr. C. R. Wilcoxon also served as mayor of Woodland for one term.

On May 2, 1871 Laura Wilcoxon and Mr. Nathan Ellington Boyd, known as Taylor Boyd, were married. Taylor Boyd was a brother of Thomas Boyd, C.E. Wilcoxon's business partner.

Lela M. Wilcoxon and Dr. Charles L. Zeigler of San Francisco were married in her parents home on B Street at 6 o'clock in the morning on January 9, 1893. Only the near relatives and friends were present when the minister of the M. E. Church South officiated, after which a wedding breakfast was enjoyed by all and adieus were said to the home folks. Then the bridal party took the carriage for the depot accompanied by about twenty young people who showered blessings on them as the train departed, as they left for their home in San Francisco.

I'm sure "Uncle Cale" would be pleased to know that his great great grandson also became a teacher and taught in the Yuba City school system. C.E.'s daughter Laura married Nathan Ellington Boyd, who was the father of Eugene M. Boyd, who was the father of Eugene Boyd Jr., who was the father of John N. Boyd, who is our present Sutter County Superintendent of Schools.

Another descendant living in this area at this time is Mrs. Phylis Gavin, wife of the late Donald Jack Gavin, who was a local businessman who served as mayor of Marysville. Caleb's son, Jefferson L. Wilcoxon, who was the father of Phillip K. Wilcoxon, who was the father of Phylis Wilcoxon, a

great granddaughter, descended from a straight line of Wilcoxons.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How did the local people feel about C. E. Wilcoxson?

The answer may be found in the following excerpts from articles announcing the death of C. E. Wilcoxson, taken from local newspapers in this area.

"Again the death angel has invaded one of the old-established homes of Yuba City and taken from us one of the county's honored citizens and one of the kindest and most considerate of neighbors, Hon. Caleb E. Wilcoxson. While he had long passed the allotted time for man to live and while his health for many years had been feeble, his many friends in town and in the community were shocked to hear of his passing. Life, even at his age, seems too short for those we love

and honor."

"For forty years the name of Mr. Wilcoxson has been prominent before the people of this county and of the state. At home he was known for his many acts of charity and for his devotion to his church. Many are the young men who, when starting out in business in this county, can remember the good advice and the helping hand of Uncle Cale in their first years of business experience. The poor he never forgot and the sick and bereaved could always count on sympathy from him."

"Few indeed are those who have lived any time at all in this section who have not known Mr. Wilcoxson, and many the number who have esteemed him as the friend indeed that he has at one time and another proved himself to be to them in years past when a kindly act or a helping hand was most needed."



This house located on B Street in Yuba City was built by C. E. Wilcoxson in 1870 and was his home until he died in 1904. It is presently the home of the Reverends Shannon and Lois Black and their family. (Photo courtesy of Sharyl Simmons)

Wheatland

by

By Mrs. C. H. Dam and Cora Dam Ferguson

1946

This article is a compilation of two articles written by Mrs. C. H. (Magdeline) Dam and Cora Dam Ferguson. Mrs. Dam was the grandmother of Meridian resident Elaine Tarke, and Mrs. Ferguson was her great aunt, Mrs. Dam's sister-in-law. Mrs. Dam was born in Pekin, Illinois in 1870 and died in 1949. Mrs. Ferguson was born in Berkeley and died in 1961.

Throughout this article are references to specific buildings or business. Remember this was written in 1946 and some of them may have changed.

Wheatland, where the four corners of Yuba, Sutter, Nevada and Placer Counties meet, was laid out in 1855, by George Holland.

Prior to the establishment of the town of Wheatland, the area was the home of the Chico and Bear River Indians, also called Meidoc, Mano or Maidee. In 1844 Don Pablo received a grant of five Spanish Leagues of land on the North Bank of the Bear River. When he was killed in 1845, the grant was sold at auction by John Sutter to William Johnson from whom the section gets the name of Johnson Rancho. Johnson did not build here, but built at Johnson's Crossing.

On October 18, 1846, there was a great trail of emigrants who came here, headed by Claude Chano, who settled here and built a beautiful home at Johnson Crossing just this side of the "Camp Far West" monument. The house was later destroyed by flood.

Many of the emigrants settled in this vicinity. Charles Covillaud also came at this time and settled in what is now Marysville.

In 1852, there was no grain growing here, but Timothy grass and red clover were in abundance. Residents sold and hauled this hay to the mines in the mountains and brought back lumber to build homes. In 1860, 8 years later, there were 20,000 acres of wheat grown in this vicinity, and the town derived its name from the vast amount of wheat grown around here. In 1866, the town lots were laid out.

The Central Pacific Railroad was completed to Wheatland in 1866, and a Post Office established.

One of the first buildings was a saloon, the second erected by Ziegelbrin and Co. for a store. This was a wooden structure on the corner of Main and Front Streets about where Burchell's Hardware Store is now. The first residence was built the same year by C. Holland, at the corner of Main and D Streets, where the Highway is now. E. W. Sheets built a Blacksmith shop on the corner of Main and D Streets where Mrs. McCurry now lives, and Asa Raymond built a hotel on Main Street near the east end of town, about where the Grammar School is.

Not until 1871-72 did the sale of lots become brisk. On account of the inability of the town to protect itself against fire, and provide sanitary regulations, etc., the citizens decided to have the town incorporated, which was done, by act of the Legislature, March 13, 1874. The first Board of

Trustees were Dr. D. P. Durst, President; H. C. Niemeyer, Clerk; and H. C. Lokse, C. Holland and S. Wolf; David Irwin, Treasurer; Cyrus Stoddard, Assessor; Joseph T. Trimmer, Marshall; and A. W. Brag, and W. L. Campbell, Justice of the Peace.

The Farmer's Bank of Wheatland was incorporated October 22, 1874, with a Capital stock of \$125,000 divided into 1250 shares at \$100 each. In 1875, a year later, the capital stock was increased to \$250,000 and divided into 2500 shares. The Officers of the Bank at that time were H. Holland, President; A. W. Oakley, Secretary; and W. W. Holland, Cashier; after many years of service it was sold to the Bank of America.

In 1892, Wheatland Flour Mill was built. The Directors were M. V. Sparks; F. R. Lofton; C. K. Dam, J. M. C. Jasper and P. Hutchinson. C. K. Dam was superintendent of the mill for many years until it was destroyed in the first fire of 1898.

Wheatland has twice been razed by fire, the first in August 1898 and the second on July 4, 1903, five years apart. The first fire was started near the railroad tracks by workmen camping out back of Niemeyer's grocery store and took the lumber yard, Roddan's home and all the business section of the town up to and including the Bank. The second fire started in the DeWayne woodshed burning two homes and Carney's Hotel on that street, and the depot. All of Front Street and on both sides of the two streets, up as far as the Baptist Church, including the Church where the club house now stands, burned. Lack of water pressure and scarcity of water caused the fires to have full sway. After the second fire, the city well was

bored deeper and the tall water tower built.

As Wheatland was an important shipping point of the community, manufactured flour was shipped out, also 16,800 sacks of potatoes, 7,000 bales of wool and 3,000 lbs. of milk in 1878.

The hop industry followed later by Durst Brothers, E. C. Horst and others, and this community was known as the "Hop Center." In 1898, Durst alone shipped out 3,000 bales of hops.

In 1913, the nationally known Wheatland hop riot occurred in the Durst fields. During the disturbance, attributed to the I.W.W., four men were killed and several others seriously injured. Frequent slumps in hop prices caused the growers to lessen the hop acreage and turn to fruit and vegetable raising as well as hops.

The Odd Fellows Hall was rebuilt after the fire in 1899 and here all Lodges held their meetings, including a Masonic Lodge, A Parlor of Native Sons, and a Branch of the Good Templers, Grange and later the Native Daughters, Order of the Eastern Star and Rebekah Lodges.

In 1879, the town of Wheatland could claim a railroad depot; 4 freight warehouses; 1 flour mill; 1 lumber yard; 4 saloons, 2 dry goods stores; 1 drug store; 1 variety store; 1 millinery shop; 1 dress making shop; 1 meat market; 2 harness shops; 1 paint shop; 1 shoe shop; 1 barber shop; 3 physicians; 1 lawyer; 1 post office; 1 school house; 1 bank; 1 harness store; 4 brick buildings; 37 business buildings; 1 livery stable; 1 city hall and jail; Odd Fellows Hall; 3 churches; 80 dwellings; 600 white people and a Chinatown with 300 residents.

The churches of Wheatland are a credit to this community. As the years passed and the town grew, a school house was built and in this school house the first Sunday School was started by 2 girls in their early teens, Bell Justis and Lizzie Jasper. They found they had song leaders, but no one to lead in Prayer, and no Sunday School is complete without prayer. They found Uncle Dave Wood to pray for them. For nearly 50 years he was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School.

With the growth of the community, people of various faiths arrived. Each faith desired a building of its own. The result was that five churches were built.

First was the Methodist, as a Community Church. It was later taken over by the South Methodist. In 1872 or 1873, the first Catholic Church was built, Father Coleman of Marysville was leader at that time. The Episcopal Church was next in 1874 and later a Sunday School was established. For over 60 years the late Mrs. Jeanette Brock was president of the Episcopal Guild.

In the early 1870s, in the Virginia School House, the Wheatland Baptist Church was organized by the Langdon family who lived near the school house. Later the meetings were held in the Methodist Church, until the Baptist Church was built in the early 1880s. Those closely affiliated with this church were the Langdons, Lena Elder, the Dams, B. F., and C. K., and their families; Geo. Monson; Dr. Melton; Mary Alexander and Viola McCurry, daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Melton; Maude Monson leader of the choir, with her never-to-be-forgotten alto Fannie Dam, Musician; Betty Atkinson, John King, John Stineman, three Roddan

families; and others. The Church building was destroyed by the second fire of the town, and later rebuilt from hand made cement bricks by Rev. and Mrs. Stone and Magdeline Dam. After years of service, members passing on and moving away, the five remaining members sold the church building for \$1.00 to the Wheatland Civic Club, to be used for all meetings that would be of benefit to the community. The Civic Club remodeled and repaired the building and it has been of great service to the town. In March 1946, it was turned over to the Episcopal Guild to be used as a Guild Hall.

In September 1883, a Sunday School of the Christian Faith was organized by H. C. Niemeyer, who was superintendent, and in January, 1884, the first service was held in their own Church building and has carried on ever since.

Some of the outstanding events of these Churches were Community Christmas Trees, Camp meetings held in the Oakley Grove in September after harvest was over, opened by the Methodist people and enjoyed by all. Farmers and their families for miles came and camped for ten days of the meeting. This was their real yearly outing, as well as a feast of good things, both spiritual and educational. Meetings of the Christian Church were also held in the Oakley Grove, with music by the united choirs and sermons by the local pastors.

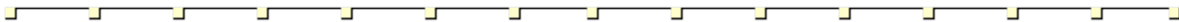
Thanksgiving Day was a day of prayer and family gatherings, and those fortunate enough to have new winter clothes wore them on that day. It was almost a breach of etiquette to wear them before Thanksgiving Day.

The weekly newspaper was started in the early 1870s and was

named the "Wheatland Enterprise." In 1874, it was sold and the name changed to "The Wheatland Free Press." In 1875, a former Marysville attorney took over the paper and called it "The Recorder." Later it was sold to T. H. McFarland, and he called it "The Graphic." Then the paper was published produced, owned, run etc. by Johnathan Durst, and he named it "The Four Corners" as Wheatland was located at the four corners of Yuba, Sutter, Nevada, and Placer Counties. He sold it to John Cheek who ran it for a number of years. Later it was sold to

Claude Biggs, who added a linotype to the plant equipment. He named the paper "Wheatland Herald." After a number of years, Mr. Biggs moved to Yuba City, taking the paper with him.

The Women's Civic Improvement Club was organized and was a valuable asset to the town. The members of this club aided the Chamber of Commerce of Wheatland in planting of trees along the State Highway between Wheatland and Marysville. The club has not been active during the war, but hopes to take up the work again.



Annual Meeting

Come one, come all to our April luncheon! We're meeting again at the Veterans' Hall in Meridian on Saturday, April 13. We know we're giving you a short deadline for making your reservations - please see our insert for details.

Wear and Remembrance

A Vintage Apparel Fair

The twelfth annual Wear and Remembrance takes places on April 20 and 21, 2002 at the Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds in Franklin Hall. Saturday hours are from 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday hours are from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$5, \$4 with a pink coupon available at the Museum and other sites throughout the community.

Director Needed

The Sutter County Historical Society has a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Here's your opportunity to have an impact on the preservation of history in Sutter County. Interested members can call President John Reische at 674-8106 or any current board member.

Sutter County Historical Society Financial Report

March 14, 2002

Checking Account Balance 12/03/01 \$9,698.42

INCOME

Interest	7.48
Dues	1,645.00
Ornaments	440.61
Gift	100.00
Memorials	710.00
Memorial Building Fund	75.00
1/15/02 Raffle	83.00
March 9 Hike	300.00
March 17 Hike	75.00
Bus Trip	410.00
April Luncheon	169.00

TOTAL INCOME 4,015.09

EXPENSES

Printing January Bulletin	720.60
Preservation Committee	17.48
Membership Cards	31.88
State Fee	20.00
Treasurer's Expenses	28.24
March 17 Hike Refund	75.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 893.20

Checking Account Balance 3/14/02 \$12,820.31

Edward Jones Accounts

Certificate of Deposit	14,999.16
Money Market Account	3,232.59
Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Account	9,383.05

Total assets at Edward Jones \$27,614.80

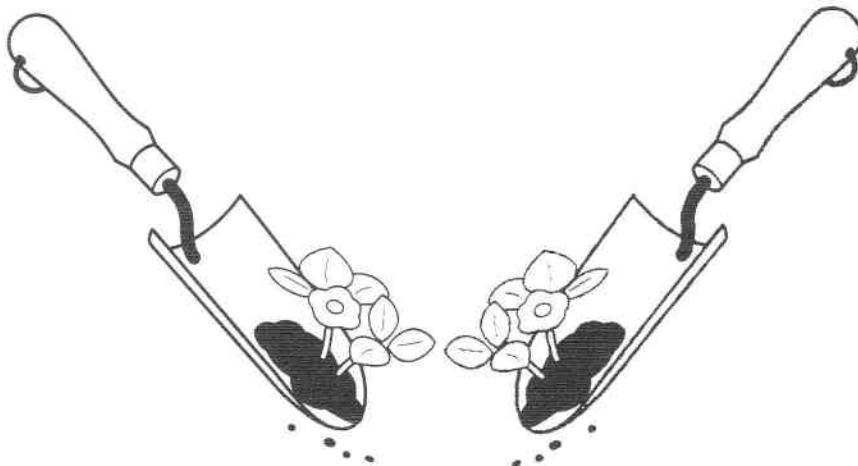
SCHS Total Net Worth 3/14/02 **\$40,435.11**

Prepared by Dorothy Ettl, Treasurer



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Boyd	Equalization	Mackensen	Perry	Warehouse
Burtis	Farms	Mason	Preservation	Water
Business	Johnson	Meridian	Remembrance	Western
Caleb	Julia	Missouri	School	Wheatland
Durst	Luncheon	Mosburg	Shoes	Wilcoxon



Coming Events

July

- 14 Audubon of the West exhibit closes
- 16 **Potluck Picnic in the Park**
Howard Harter Park (behind the museum)
Social time 5:30, dinner 6:00
Program: Pennington – The Man and the Town
Dorothy Redhair Coats, Presenter
- 18 Children's Summer Program
1:30 p.m. at the museum
Call for information

August

Keep cool!

September

New exhibit opens featuring the art photography
of Tim Moen