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George Ohleyer

*Photo courtesy of Community Memorial Museum*



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The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Sutter County Historical Society in Yuba City, California. Editors are Phyllis Smith and Sharyl Simmons. 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 2014 dues are payable as of January 1, 2014. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City, 95993-2301 530-822-7141

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## President's Message

We had a good turnout for our January meeting. Larry Green's presentation about growing up near Beale was very interesting. Thank you to all that came to share in the fun and congratulations to our three drawing prize winners!

At the end of January I took the Judith Barr Fairbanks essay contest information to all the elementary schools in Sutter County. The essay contest is for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and this year they were asked to write about what school was like in the 1890s and compare it to today. They were also asked to provide original artwork to illustrate their essay.

Speaking of school history, I've collected histories of Winship School, Franklin School, Meridian School, and Brittan School. All of these schools have been around for over 150 years. I'm hoping that all of the schools in Sutter County will provide the Society with their histories. If you have some historical information to share about our schools, please contact me or Phyllis Smith.

Our next meeting is Saturday, April 5th at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum. There is a lot going on in this meeting. We will be announcing this year's winners of the Judith Barr Fairbanks essay contest and have an update on the status of the West Butte School project. We'll also be announcing the new officers elected at the last Board Meeting.

An election for new officers sounds very interesting, doesn't it? Two of our offices require you to be on the Board of Directors for the Society. To be elected President or Vice-President, you need to be a Director and we are looking for more people to serve on the Board. Uncle Sam wants a few good men but the Sutter County Historical Society wants anyone interested in preserving the history of Sutter County to consider joining the Board of Directors.

The picnic in the Buttes at the Dean Ranch is coming up on Saturday, April 26th. With the weather we have had this year I almost can promise a beautiful day for a picnic with your friends and family at the Dean Ranch. Please see details on page 20.

Sarah Pryor, President  
530-755-0702

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## Director's Report

You may have noticed that Spring has sprung, and that is certainly true around the Museum and the lovely Howard Harter Park. The Museum grounds are kept in fine form by the Sutter Buttes Garden Club, whose members dedicate regular times to care for the roses and flower beds in front of the Museum, the agapanthus bed on the east side, the front patio, the Conkey Memorial Rose Garden in the park, and the Schnabel and Dean Patio. The hardworking men in the Sutter County General Services Department mow, prune, and maintain the Bicentennial Fountain. They keep the grounds looking great. In early spring, the fountain takes on a distinctly blackish hue. The pollen from the trees in the front parking lot drops into the fountain and interacts with the chemical used to keep the fountain clean. So, for a brief time while the pollen is dropping, there is quite a dramatic effect.

Be sure to catch both of the local high school student art shows at the Museum. Yuba City High School's exhibit opens on Friday, April 4 with a reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and extends through April 19. River Valley High School's opening is Friday, April 25 with a reception, and it remains through Saturday, May 3.

Plan on attending the opening reception of *The Unmentionable Exhibit* on Friday May 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This new exhibit reveals the underpinnings of feminine fashion for the last 150 years. It will remain for just three weeks. You will want to attend the coordinating event in Ettl Hall, *BRAvo!*, a fun and educational event highlighting artfully decorated brassieres, which will be included in silent and live auctions. The event supports the work of the Geweke's Caring for Women Foundation that assists women with breast cancer in our own community. Tickets are available at the Museum prior to the event for \$25 or for \$30 at the door. The museum exhibit reception is free, but you will surely want to experience both events.

The Museum Staff and our wonderful volunteer photographer Allan Lamb are now working toward the summer exhibit of Clyde Taylor's photograph collection of the local area. The donation of photographs that the Museum received in 2005 contains 600 photographs, from which we will cull the most interesting for you to see. Clyde Taylor was an amateur photographer who lived in Marysville from about 1900 to his death in 1945. All of his years in our community, he took pictures of everyday life or remarkable events. So his photos paint a picture of life here in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Look forward to this exhibit opening in June.

As the Museum will be entering its third year of 20% budget and hours cuts in July, please keep in mind the ways you may support the Museum. Your membership dues provide important support, and when you make a memorial donation or a donation in honor of a special occasion for someone, that helps support the Museum. When you shop in the Museum Store or recommend it to friends as a great place to shop, you help the Museum. General donations are always appreciated. You may purchase a paving stone in the front patio. You may also wish to serve as a Museum volunteer. There are openings on the Museum Commission, the advisory and fundraising board for the Museum. Sutter County Historical Society is also in great need of board members, and the Society's support of the Museum is crucial. So, if you want to support the Museum and Historical Society, there are many ways to help.

Julie Stark, Director

## Memorials

In memory of **Alice Andreason**  
Marnee Crowhurst  
Cynthia Stuckmeyer

In memory of **Sandra Fremd**  
Lliz & Jim Austin  
Sally & Bill Broce  
Marnee Crowhurst

In memory of **Roland "Rolly" Haynes**  
Marnee Crowhurst

In memory of **Margery J. Igo**  
Marnee Crowhurst

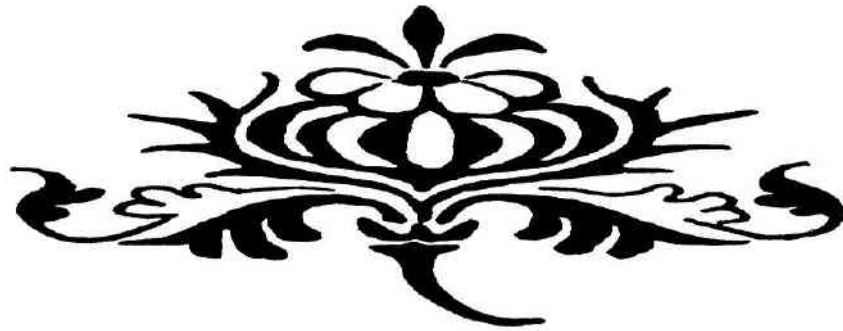
In memory of **Tom Krull**  
Elaine Tarke

In memory of **Pauline Pantaleoni**  
Tyrone Shaeffer

In memory of **Marsell Patterson, Jr.**  
Jim Staas

In memory of **Betty Lou Storm**  
Elaine Tarke

Outright Gift  
Bob & Lillie Inman



## Correction

In the last issue of the Bulletin, the article “Historical Significance of West Butte School” contained an error. In a description of the town of West Butte was a misprint of a name. The corrected sentence reads, “Adjacent to Straub’s store on West Butte Road was the Santee home.”

The editors regret the error.

# History of the Ohleyer Family, 1830 – 2009

by  
Michael Butcher

This paper was prepared under the Brandstatt Family History Project. The Project's purpose is to produce histories of longtime Sutter and Yuba County families involved in agriculture, pre-1925, to preserve the history of local agricultural families in our area and make it available to researchers and visitors at the Community Memorial Museum. James Uren, husband of the late Irma Brandstatt Uren, made a gift to the Museum to honor his wife and her father, peach farmer Frank Brandstatt, and family and from this gift a stipend is awarded to the participating student.

This paper concerns the history of the Ohleyer family, their life and times. They were politicians and agriculturists, editors of respected papers, veterans of the armed forces, directors of unions, treasurers, secretaries, historians and one of them was once declared, uniquely enough, "best looking man."<sup>1</sup> The Ohleyer family, especially George Ohleyer, greatly impacted both the farming interests and the environment of Yuba and Sutter Counties and Northern California. Their achievements are remembered.

First we must begin with an overview of California as it appeared to George Ohleyer. In our modern eyes California is simply the western edge of the United States of America, a well-established republic that has elected its own governors for over a century. In 1850, however, it was a different story. The Mexican-American war was over, and California had just been admitted into the Union. It was still inhabited by Native American tribes as well as the Mexicans and Spanish who had settled and called the land home for almost a century before that. Annexing California was the culmination of Manifest Destiny, the belief that

the United States and its citizens were destined to expand across North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The famous discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill proved to be a catalyst which amplified this drive toward the west. Beginning in 1849, it caused mass immigration into the new state. The numbers are staggering, given the short number of years. The first year alone brought nearly 40,000 miners to California.<sup>2</sup> Nineteen years later would see the number of whites alone increase to almost 380,000. Every decade brought over 150,000 people into the state, with the population boom losing momentum near the 1890s, when around 1,000,000 people lived in California.<sup>3</sup> This population boom made pre-existing settlements, such as San Francisco, ever more prosperous and led to the founding of others. Boom towns rose and fell.

Beginning with locals panning for gold in nearby rivers, the Gold Rush later attracted people from every corner of the world. Chinese and other Asian peoples poured in from the other side of the Pacific; Latin Americans from Brazil, Chile and other countries. Entrepreneurs came in droves: Europe-

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<sup>1</sup> See page 2.

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<sup>2</sup> Nelson, 278-279.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

ans and people from the eastern United States. Australians, as well, came from half a world away. Many came; each with their own backgrounds and conditions, but their desire was universal. They wanted gold. As such it became an international event on a global scale, attracting not only individuals, but also corporations in later years.

### Reaching California

The first of the Ohleyers to be discussed, and easily the most memorable of the family line, was George Ohleyer. He was born in the town of Hoften, Alsace-Lorraine, France, on October 24, 1830. Born to George and Barbara Ohleyer, he was the youngest of five children, the first four being all girls.<sup>4</sup> He grew into a physically attractive man, winning an award for being the best looking attendant at a mask ball at the age of 56.<sup>5</sup> There are different accounts of his father, one saying that he was a farmer, while another insists that he was an officer in the French or German army. It is possible that he was both a farmer as well as an officer. This, along with the fact that they were wealthy enough to have a servant, firmly establishes the Ohleyers as part of the French middle class.<sup>6</sup>

As a border region between France and Germany, Alsace-Lorraine has been claimed by both countries at different times in history. Ms. Ada Ohleyer was interviewed many years later and revealed many family heirlooms in her keeping which indicate

that the Ohleyers were culturally and ethnically German.<sup>7</sup>

In 1830 France was in a state of revolution. Known as the French Revolution of 1830, or the July Revolution, it saw the downfall of Charles X and the rise of Louis Philippe. Along with repudiating the Constitutional Charter, Charles X had signed into law a series of ordinances which greatly diminished the powers and rights of the middle class. Royal permission was now required to publish journals; the Chamber of Deputies was dissolved and the property-qualification for voting was increased. All but the rich were finding it more and more difficult to have representation and a seat in government. In short, the constitutional and parliamentary provisions were being done away with.<sup>8</sup> In a few short days, a revolution, with a largely middle class base, overthrew Charles X and put Louis Philippe on the throne. The people of France had high hopes that the new king would respect civil liberties more than the previous king had, and these hopes seemed justified at first, when Louis Philippe readopted the Constitutional Charter. But these changes went little further. During Philippe's reign, the vote was extended from 100,000 to only 170,000 citizens, out of a total population of 30,000,000.<sup>9</sup>

Much of the populace was furious. They had supported Louis Philippe, taken up arms against Charles X in order to have greater civil liberties, and now they were to have only a passing acknowledgment? This left the populace disenfranchised and bitterly resenting the order of things in

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<sup>4</sup> King; Reische Family Papers.

<sup>5</sup> *Wheatland Graphic*, October 23, 1886.

<sup>6</sup> Reische Family Papers.

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<sup>7</sup> *Appeal Democrat*, December 18, 1929.

<sup>8</sup> Fyffe, 767-768.

<sup>9</sup> McKay, et al., 767-768.

France. It was not political pressures and disappointments alone that caused people to emigrate from France but also economic conditions. Wages were being cut; unemployment was rampant and bread prices soared.<sup>10</sup>

Having recognized that living in Alsace-Lorraine was no longer favorable because of the political strife, the Ohleyers decided to move to the United States. They were accompanied by a family servant, who later married George's sister Barbara. George was two to three years of age when they emigrated.<sup>11</sup>

After living in Wayne County, New York, for two years, the family moved to Loudonville, Ohio in October 1835.<sup>12</sup> We have no credible data on the Ohleyers' activities in Ohio, though farming was their most likely occupation. Upon hearing of the discovery of gold in the far western country of California, the young Ohleyer and others formed a large party in order to pan for gold in California. Their collective plan was to reach California and to spend one year (two years at the most) before they returned with however much gold they could carry along with them.<sup>13</sup>

The Ohleyer party and its wagons set out March 22, 1852. As such, they were considered to be neither pioneers nor '49ers as a part of the early Gold Rush. The party was described as being large, but organized. Several women were included, and a curious story suggests that they proved to be a boon to the party when, upon reaching a toll-booth before entering California, they were

allowed to proceed without payment as a token of the toll-booth operator's gratitude for bringing women into the new state.<sup>14</sup> But this story, while entertaining, cannot be taken as historical fact as we have no other credible references to toll-booths on the paths to California. This is to be regarded as a pleasing anecdote which, however, does illustrate the scarcity of women in California at that time. Of the other members of the Ohleyer party there is no information. The trip overland proved to be surprisingly peaceful. They were not assailed by natives, and the source suggests that there was not even as much as a sighting of them.<sup>15</sup> The only disturbance which the party reported concerned a cask of brandy.

Ohleyer later reported that this cask of brandy was brought for medicinal purposes, these being the cleaning of wounds, dulling pain in case of injury and for warming themselves. Along the route the Ohleyer party came upon a river or creek. While fording the water a few of their wagons became stuck in quicksand and in the ensuing work of pulling the wagons out, the men were drenched in water. They decided that they should drink the brandy in order to warm themselves. The man assigned to fetch the keg lifted ... and promptly fell backwards. It was empty. Someone had been drinking it in secret. The incident caused such uproar that the guilty man, John Zerr, was ostracized and it was decided that he should depart once they reached California. Zerr consented and left the group when the time came.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Fyffe, 367-370.

<sup>11</sup> Reische Family Papers.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> *Appeal Democrat*, December 18, 1929.

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.





George Ohleyer

*Photo courtesy of Memorial Museum*

### Ohleyer in California

The party reached California in 1852 and Ohleyer at once entered the pioneer's business of individual mining in Sierra, Plumas, and Yuba Counties. But mining brought little profit and therefore did not last long.<sup>17</sup>

Having become disillusioned at mining from not striking it rich, Ohleyer decided not to return to Ohio, but rather to stay in California. He switched occupations and took up farming in the Suisun Valley.<sup>18</sup> Farming became his main occupation and

defined much of Ohleyer's life, leading him to become a well-known figure in Yuba and Sutter counties. Picking up a plowshare became far more lucrative than panning for gold had been. Ohleyer later held that "mining brought but temporary prosperity, while agriculture was the backbone of commerce and would last for all time."<sup>19</sup>

Sometime in 1855 Ohleyer made one of his rare trips to Ohio. He stayed one year in Loudonville, Ohio, where, on September 25, 1855, he married Ellen Guthrie.<sup>20</sup> Guthrie was the daughter of Joseph and Nancy Guthrie, natives of Scotland and Pennsylvania,

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<sup>17</sup> Delay, 320. More precise information on when or where he mined could not be found.

<sup>18</sup> Despite knowing that he farmed in the Suisun Valley, there is no evidence that he owned land in the area. The precise date of his taking up farming is also unclear. *Sutter County Farmer*, April 24, 1931.

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<sup>19</sup> *The Times of Yuba-Sutter*, June 28, 1996.

<sup>20</sup> Reische Family Papers.

respectively.<sup>21</sup> It is possible that George Ohleyer and Ellen Guthrie knew each other before he visited Ohio and may have been friends from childhood. But as we are given no word on the subject, one cannot say for certain.

Rather than make their return to California via the overland route, as Ohleyer had previously done, the newlyweds decided to come by way of the Isthmus of Panama. They are reported to be one of the first couples to use the newly constructed railway route across the Isthmus. After reaching California, they traveled by riverboat from San Francisco to Sacramento. From there they rode by stage coach to Marysville.<sup>22</sup>

On October 19, 1858 George and Ellen had the first of seven children, named Anna. Her two sisters and four brothers were, in order of birth, Frank, Mary, George II, Fred, Lewis and Ada.<sup>23</sup> In 1859 Ohleyer invested in a thresher, with which he began work in contract grain threshing. He is believed to be one of the earliest farmers to have invested in such a machine in Yuba and Sutter counties. In the same year, the growing family moved to a ranch on the Yuba River, where they continued harvesting grain and began to grow fruit, especially peaches. The Ohleyer farm and orchard did well until January 1862.

An enormous flood suddenly roared through the Sacramento Valley in December 1861 and January 1862. Caused by a rapid melting of snow in the nearby mountains, the floods swept through for over a month without reprieve, making it the most devastating in valley history. George lost

heavily. He was not alone; the valley as a whole suffered along with him. Homes were destroyed. Farmland was ruined. Entire neighborhoods were buried and scores of people were injured and killed.<sup>24</sup> To add insult to injury the floods had another effect. The floods had brought down silt from higher elevations, silt which had a detrimental effect on the fertility of the soil and which washed across farm lands. Flooding was a common occurrence in the Sacramento Valley, but the silt was not. It became obvious to the farmers that the causes for this extremely heavy flooding were man-made.

This flood gives us the clearest reason for Ohleyer's relocation to Sutter County in 1865. Here, Ohleyer purchased land three miles west of Yuba City. Over time he continued adding parcels of land to the lot until he had accumulated over 900 acres of "choice valley land" by 1895.<sup>25</sup> He continued growing grain (wheat), contract threshing and cultivating fruits, especially peaches.<sup>26</sup>

Between the late 1860s and early 1870s Ohleyer founded the Farmers Cooperative Union of Yuba City, of which he was president for several years. The purpose of the Union was to borrow money and to loan its surplus to its stockholders, to buy, store and sell groceries, wares and merchandise, to improve the breed of

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> *Appeal Democrat*, December 17, 1929.

<sup>23</sup> Reische Family Papers.

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<sup>24</sup> Kelley, *Battling the Inland Sea*, 72.

<sup>25</sup> Delay, 320.

<sup>26</sup> Ohleyer's lands were located around Township 15N, Range 2E, and the surrounding areas, of Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. Today the remains of Ohleyer's ranch have either remained, or been converted to, peach orchards. "4.05 Cultural Resources"; Sutter County, Clerk, *Book 28 of Deeds*, 469; Pennington

livestock, and to support agriculture in general.<sup>27</sup> The Union addressed several problems inherent in farming, namely financial. Large sacks were needed to store the grain during shipping. While not costly individually, purchasing large numbers of bags became expensive. The Farmers Cooperative Union addressed this in 1873 by purchasing 128,000 sacks at wholesale rates, which were then sold at cost price back to stockholders.<sup>28</sup>

Farmers wished to hold onto their crops and wait to sell them until prices were favorable. Stockholders pooled their resources in order to build warehouses, which allowed them to store their grain until such a time. In 1874, for example, the Farmers Cooperative Union built a large warehouse with a storing capacity of 5,000 tons. Three years later this capacity was surpassed and the building of another warehouse became necessary.<sup>29</sup>

Ohleyer also became a member of the state Grange, known more formally as the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry. Being a nationwide organization, it allowed members to come together to voice their opinions and to discuss policies. The Grange encouraged farmers to educate themselves and provided organization. Like the Farmers Cooperative Union, it allowed farmers to pool their collective resources for true political action by electing statesmen who would pass laws to solve common problems. They were able to take advantage of fluctuations in the market for better crop prices. Again similar to the Cooperative Union, the Grange

purchased and imported grain sacks for the benefit of farmers. It shipped grain as well as chartered ships. In the Grange, George Ohleyer served at both the local and state levels of California, later becoming the head of the Yuba City Grange in 1874.<sup>30</sup> Ohleyer continued working in the Cooperative Union and the Grange, while also building in 1878 the home in which he lived for the remainder of his days.<sup>31</sup>

But George was not remembered only for these things. His claim to fame came later, when he came into conflict with the hydraulic mining companies. In order to understand this story it is crucial to first understand the state of mining in the 1850s. The romanticized view of the Great Gold Rush gives one a sense that only individuals were attracted to mining and individual prospector mining dominated. This is not true. Individuals came for only a few brief years. After that time, the easy gold was gone and all that remained was buried deep within the mountains.

Reaching these deposits required organization, advanced hydraulic technology and, most importantly, money. This led to the corporatization of mining, as individuals working alone could not provide the resources required. Beginning in the early 1850s, hydraulic mining rose and fell at times until an introduction of new technology renewed the practice in 1861.<sup>32</sup>

Hydraulic mining involved the use of water pressure to literally wash away entire mountainsides. By channeling vast amounts of water into narrower and narrower channels, it was

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<sup>27</sup> Wells and Chamberlain, 85.

<sup>28</sup> Wells and Chamberlain, 85.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>30</sup> Stengel, 203-206; *The Times of Yuba-Sutter*, June 28, 1996.

<sup>31</sup> Delay, 320.

<sup>32</sup> Stengel, 177.

blasted through nozzles and directed at hillsides. As the gravel and other sediments washed down the mountain they were collected in sluice boxes, which separated the gold from the rest of the sediment because of the gold's heavier weight. With the gold removed, the sediment was then washed into rivers and streams.<sup>33</sup>

Flooding was part of the natural cycles of the rivers, as was the melting of the snows from the Sierra Nevada. Hydraulic mining intensified this exponentially to unnatural and alarming levels. The effect of this sediment, nicknamed "slickens," was disastrous in many ways. The debris dramatically reduced the amount of water the rivers were capable of holding, making it easier for them to overflow and flood surrounding regions. This was made worse in that the flooding left a greater amount of slickens and mud on agricultural land and even in flooded buildings, as a result of the increased sediments in the water. The slickens stayed and raised riverbeds wherever they went.

By August 1860, many rivers, such as the Feather and Sacramento, had accumulated so much of the debris that they were no longer navigable.<sup>34</sup> Others became so clogged that wagons could be driven across them when the waters were low enough.<sup>35</sup> This of course had an adverse effect on not only industries and cities that relied on the rivers for commerce, but also on agriculture as a whole.

Most importantly, the debris ruined large tracts of farmland. It became commonplace to see fields with stunted crops. Floods brought

melted snow water into the valley. This, combined with warm climate temperatures, caused plants to mold. An accumulation of salt in the soil ruined fields. Repeated flooding raised water tables, making soil too moist to accommodate crops. Because of this, farms both large and small were rendered incapable of any production.<sup>36</sup>

Seeing this, George Ohleyer and several others took action against the hydraulic mining companies in what was to be known as the anti-debris movement. It began small, as many such movements do. By the time George Ohleyer became involved in the movement there had been many lawsuits filed by disgruntled farmers which, however, failed to produce any positive results for the farmers.<sup>37</sup> There were inherent difficulties in these cases, namely that it was nearly impossible to blame a specific hydraulic mining company. How could farmers prove that a specific company was causing the damage when it could just as easily be caused by another?<sup>38</sup>

In 1876, for example, James Keyes forced the Little York Gold and Water Company (Ltd.) and others into court. After meeting with initial success when the judge ruled in his favor, the ruling was later cast aside by the State Supreme Court due to a misjoinder of parties. The decision stated that it was wrong to join the separate companies along with the Little York Company, as they cannot be made "responsible for a wrong which [they have] neither done nor threatened."<sup>39</sup> Cases such as these led to a

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<sup>33</sup> Stengel, 177.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>36</sup> Stengel, 178.

<sup>37</sup> An exact number cannot be ascertained due to the amount of companies involved.

<sup>38</sup> Kelley, *Gold vs. Grain*, 121-122.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

resignation on the part of the citizens of Yuba and Sutter counties, an almost turn-the-other-cheek mentality. To break the cynicism and pessimism of the citizenry as to the impossibility of stopping hydraulic mining, there was a mass meeting held in the month of January, 1876 in Yuba City. At this meeting George Ohleyer presented figures pertaining to the property damage caused by hydraulic mining. After totaling the figures, the property damage along the Feather, Yuba and Bear rivers was estimated at just over \$3,000,152 for Sutter County alone.<sup>40</sup> It is one of the great ironies of the Ohleyer family that George Ohleyer came to California in order to mine gold and eventually came to oppose mining companies.

During the long case of *Keyes vs. Little York* it became apparent that the farmers were engaged in an epic struggle worthy of David and Goliath. They were in an all-or-nothing struggle against opponents equipped with massive resources and millions in capital. And an all-or-nothing fight it was. If hydraulic mining continued, farming in the Sacramento Valley would wither away. Robert Kelley in *Gold vs. Grain* states plainly that “The farmers were attempting nothing less than the destruction of hydraulic mining.”<sup>41</sup> Just as hydraulic mining required organization and money, so would the farmers. In the end, organization was needed.

This dream was realized in Yuba City, August 24, 1878. A meeting, called to order by James Keyes, whose previous attempts at ending hydraulic mining had ended in a failure,

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<sup>40</sup> It is unclear who called the meeting. *Wheatland Free Press*, January 8, 1876.

<sup>41</sup> Kelley, *Gold vs. Grain* 112.

attracted other members of the Farmers Cooperative Union, such as B.F. Walton and George Carpenter, organizer of the Union and director of the Union, respectively.<sup>42</sup> These men would form an organization with farmers all across the Sacramento Valley, funded by its members, whose sole purpose was to combat hydraulic mining. The Anti-Debris Association of the Sacramento Valley was born.

Ohleyer was proclaimed the permanent chairman, with the previously mentioned men as founding members. When the association was discontinued in 1892 and remade at the state level as the State Anti-Debris Association, Ohleyer was later placed on its executive committee in order to continue the work.<sup>43</sup>

Ohleyer organized the Sutter Publishing Company, a stock company, with which he bought two pre-existing papers, the *Sutter Banner* and the *Yuba City Journal*. Ohleyer consolidated them into the *Sutter County Farmer*, and its first issue was released April 22, 1881. The paper covered the same material as other newspapers did, however its defining purpose was to bring attention to and end hydraulic mining in the Sacramento Valley. As editor and one of its main writers, Ohleyer often used the paper as a propaganda tool for the farmers’ cause. After the Sawyer decision the paper lost this anti-debris focus. Until 1891 Ohleyer remained the editor of the paper, after which time he continued to write prolifically.<sup>44</sup>

Ohleyer’s struggles in the anti-debris movement led to his involvement in politics. In 1874, he

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<sup>42</sup> Stengel, 178.

<sup>43</sup> Delay, 258.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

was elected Supervisor of Sutter County, a position which he held for one term. He was elected as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1879 and was also elected to the State Legislature from 1886 to 1888. Along with this he served as the Commissioner of Levee District 1, which protects against flooding along the Feather River. Ohleyer also made a number of trips to Washington, D.C. in order to address federal politicians directly in his fight against hydraulic mining.<sup>45</sup>

In the summer of 1883 the conflict with the mining companies came to a head when the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company, et al was forced into an injunction suit. The suit was brought by Edward Woodruff, who owned land in Marysville as well as the Woodruff Block Company in the same city. One may recall that previous attempts at injunctions failed because of the difficulties of forcing many companies at once. This case was possible because Judge Lorenzo Sawyer ruled that since hydraulic mining as a whole was responsible for the damages, then the companies could be taken to court as a whole. Hearings were held and over two hundred witnesses were heard in July of that year.<sup>46</sup>

On January 7, 1884, Judge Lorenzo Sawyer read his anxiously-awaited twenty-five page decision. After three hours of reading, the

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<sup>45</sup> The exact number of trips is unclear. Peter Delay says that Ohleyer made five trips, whereas newspapers later recorded it as three trips. Where there have been disagreements between sources, preference has been given to the information provided by John Reische. Delay, 320; *Appeal Democrat*, December 17, 1929; Reische, interview.

<sup>46</sup> Kelley, *Gold vs. Grain*, 234.

results slowly dawned on the farmers. They had won!<sup>47</sup>

While the Sawyer decision did not legally end hydraulic mining, it brought an end to the deposition of sediments and an eventual end to property damage from hydraulic mining. The two points of interest are that the companies were no longer allowed to dump their debris into the nearby rivers or any of their tributaries and also that water companies could no longer use their water for hydraulic mining. The effect for the mining companies was twofold: the mining companies had to find a new location for depositing their debris, as well as being deprived of a source of water.<sup>48</sup> This revitalized farming in the Sacramento Valley.

This case which ended in the so-called “Sawyer Decision” had several results, both for the farmers and the economy of California. For the farms and the people in the valley, the Sawyer decision meant that they would no longer have to contend with the pools of debris that had been settling over their land for a quarter century. Given time for the debris to wash away, the rivers would again be navigable, clearing the way for greater trade and transportation. Flooding in the Sacramento Valley would no longer be made worse by the hydraulics and could return to natural cycles. Farmers would benefit from being able to bring their fields back into production. Harm had been done, but it could be repaired in time.

Although Ohleyer did not directly bring the mining companies into court, his part in the movement must not be

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<sup>47</sup> Ibid, 240.

<sup>48</sup> Despite this, hydraulic mining lived on, albeit not as freely before. Stengel, 190.

underestimated. Ohleyer battled hydraulic mining with unusual charisma and leadership. Ohleyer took the initiative many times and acted where others did not. One must remember his estimation of property damages and his chairmanship of the Anti-Debris Association. By founding and editing the *Sutter County Farmer*, Ohleyer allowed meetings and information to be regulated smoothly, as well as using the paper as an organ for the farmers' cause. He visited Washington, D.C. several times to press the issue with Congress. Without George Ohleyer the anti-debris movement would have been lacking a key member with the ability to rally men to his cause.

The farmers' victory was celebrated with the ringing of bells in Marysville and Yuba City. People sang and celebrated and congratulated the farmers in their great victory. Speeches were given. Gun salutes were made and fireworks were set off. Bonfires were ignited, bands marched throughout the cities, parading and loudly playing their victorious songs. The farmers had won! George Ohleyer was naturally elated by the decision, saying, "This is cause for rejoicing ... A new era will dawn on both sections ... and the rights of all will be guarded and respected."<sup>49</sup>

There was another effect of the Sawyer Decision which was felt nationwide. One must not forget that one of the arguments against the use of hydraulics in gold mining was that it resulted in entire mountains being washed onto the valley floor. In a deeper context this was significant in that it was an early instance in which the environmental effects of an

institution were taken into account. But the people did not find this as important at the time. The decision proved to the people that large companies could be subdued, and therefore farming lived on in the Sacramento Valley. In time, the farmers would have their livelihoods back.

Thirteen years after his great triumph, George Ohleyer died. His health troubles began with what was called a "white swelling" in his foot.<sup>50</sup> Doctors amputated the great toe of his right foot and found the bone to be diseased and later amputated the entire leg. Although he appeared to recover, Ohleyer died suddenly on August 15, 1896. There is consensus that he died of a blood clot that formed in his heart, but the sources disagree as to what caused the clot. Some say it was caused by the repeated surgeries which took first his toe, then the leg. John Reische, George Ohleyer's great-grandson, argues his death was the result of the diabetes which had afflicted Ohleyer.<sup>51</sup>

George Ohleyer was mourned and his life celebrated at his funeral. A crowd of well over five hundred attended in order to pay their respects to the man who had given so liberally of his time and energy in his life. He was laid to rest in the Sutter City Cemetery, approximately three miles west of Yuba City, at one o'clock in the afternoon on August 18, 1896.<sup>52</sup> On his casket was placed not a bouquet of

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<sup>49</sup> *The Times of Yuba-Sutter*, June 28, 1996.

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<sup>50</sup> Also known as tuberculosis arthritis, it is a swelling of the bone most commonly found in joints. Fullerton, 336.

<sup>51</sup> Reische, interview.

<sup>52</sup> Delay, 260.

flowers, but a single sheaf of wheat.<sup>53</sup> It was a fitting and symbolic testimony to his life, so many years of which had been spent struggling for his fellow farmers of California through the granger movement and the anti-debris association in the Sacramento Valley.

### George Ohleyer's Descendants

Ohleyer's widow, Ellen, was appointed executrix to her late husband's estate one month after his death.<sup>54</sup> By all accounts she accomplished all that the task required of her and did it well. She administered the farm while selling and transferring the land, in ten and fifteen acre tracts, most often to the Ohleyer children, which was required in order to keep the family's finances in order.<sup>55</sup>

She continued managing the farm until she became seriously ill. She died April 6, 1924 at the age of 87.<sup>56</sup> Her family at the time consisted of four sons, three daughters, seventeen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.<sup>57</sup> The rest of this history will be divided between the sons and daughters of George Ohleyer and their children.

The oldest daughter was Anna L. Ohleyer. Her mother gave birth to her on October 19, 1858, and the date of her death is unclear. She was married to Julius Hausinger July 29, 1883 at the age of 25 years. Aside from this information the sources are mute. It is

unclear whether she and Julius had any children.<sup>58</sup>

The oldest son of George and Ellen was Frank Ohleyer, who lived from August 30, 1861 to March 4, 1930.<sup>59</sup> Unfortunately, the dates and details of Frank's life are scarce, as are those of his brother Lewis. Of Lewis we know that he was born on September 8, 1870 and died April 9, 1948. He married a woman by the last name of Downey. Together they had two children, Lewis T. Ohleyer and Marion Loretta Ohleyer. The residence of Frank is unknown; however, we know Lewis lived in San Francisco.<sup>60</sup>

The son of Lewis Ohleyer, Lewis T., lived from October 8, 1911 to October 12 1980. He married a woman with the last name of Margaret.<sup>61</sup> Whether he had any children by her is unknown, as is the date of their marriage. Marion Loretta Ohleyer was born February 13, 1906 and lived until March 19, 1986. She married and took the last name of Levien at an unknown date.<sup>62</sup>

Mary Ohleyer, the younger sister of Frank, was born November 25, 1863 and died February 26, 1951. Little is known of the events of her life, save that at the age of 25 she was involved in an accident while using her sewing machine. According to the newspaper sources, she placed her right index finger under the descending needle. As the needle came down it penetrated her finger, piercing her fingernail and finally all the way through the bone.

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<sup>53</sup> Regarding his funeral oration we have no information; Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> *Sutter County Farmer*, October 2, 1896.

<sup>55</sup> Delay, 464.

<sup>56</sup> King.

<sup>57</sup> See family outline, page 19.

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<sup>58</sup> Where they were married is unknown; *Appeal Democrat*, August 4, 1883; King.

<sup>59</sup> King; Sutter County, Clerk, *Death Index* p. 176.

<sup>60</sup> King.

<sup>61</sup> King.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.



Fortunately, no permanent damage was caused by the accident.<sup>63</sup> After marrying a man with the last name of Frick, she bore one child. The newspaper which later reported on this child's wedding, listed his name as Donald Ohleyer and not as Donald Frick, which could indicate that the reporter simply made a mistake.<sup>64</sup>

As with the vast majority of the later members of the Ohleyer family, the details on the life and achievements of Donald are in short supply. It is known that he served for three years in the United States Army, in all likelihood serving those three years during World War II. It is also known that he was married at eight o'clock in the evening, in the Linda Baptist church on August 20, 1949. The first name of the bride is not known, only that she was the daughter of F. J. Berry.<sup>65</sup>

George Ohleyer's third son's name was Fred Ohleyer. He lived from November 10, 1865 until September 14, 1928 and married Mary Ellen Cahill (1870-1951) in November, 1891. Together they had four children. Acquiring the names and dates of birth for these children has required a fair amount of detective work, as the newspapers that mention Fred Ohleyer having children do not state their names. However, two daughters and one son have been identified through cross-referencing other articles.

The older daughter of Fred was Florence. Assuming the articles in question are referring to her, she was born on or near February 5, 1904 and married Lloyd Luther on August 3,

1921.<sup>66</sup> If they had children, their names are not known. Virginia, Florence's sister, married Noel Parkinson in his parents' house in August, 1929. In a letter written by the previously mentioned Marion (daughter of Lewis, addressed to Guy Snively in George Ohleyer's previous home city of Loudonville, Ohio) there is a mention of a daughter of Fred Ohleyer by the name of Virginia Haligarda, indicating that she remarried.<sup>67</sup> Virginia was born August 11, 1910 and lived until August 30, 1999.<sup>68</sup>

The brother of Florence and Virginia was named Harold Raymond Ohleyer. He was born June 29, 1892 and died August 12, 1919. He married Alta Mae Lane September 14, 1912.<sup>69</sup>

The final daughter of George was Ada E. Ohleyer, perhaps the most dynamic and memorable of the Ohleyer women. She was born July 10, 1875 and she lived until October 5, 1939.<sup>70</sup> She never married. By all accounts, her true love was history, as she managed to carve out a name for herself as a good local historian in Yuba and Sutter counties. She wrote prolifically for numerous newspapers, especially the *Sutter County Farmer*, which her father edited. The majority of her work was on the early history of California as well as the myths and legends of the California Indians prior to the arrival of white settlers. This includes *Indian Legends of the Sutter Buttes* and, what appears to be the *magnum opus* of her work, *The Romantic History of Sutter County*.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> *Sutter County Farmer*, January 6, 1888.

<sup>64</sup> *Appeal Democrat*, August 30, 1949.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>66</sup> *Sutter County Farmer*, February 5, 1904.

<sup>67</sup> King.

<sup>68</sup> "Social Security Death Index Search Results."

<sup>69</sup> Kennith.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>71</sup> Reische Family Papers.

In addition to this, Ada held several offices and memberships. She lectured at the Adult School at the Yuba City Union High School. She was a member of the Sacramento Region's Citizen's Council and served as chairman of the "Trails of '49," possibly a periodical.<sup>72</sup> Ada was also active in the Northern District Federation of Women's Clubs, Bi-County Federation of Women's Clubs of Sutter and Yuba Counties, as well as the Bogue Country Club, and held various chairmanships. She was also active in the State Chamber of Commerce and in the State Federation of Women's Clubs.<sup>73</sup>

The final child to be discussed is George Ohleyer II, who was born August 5, 1864. Despite bearing his father's name he was not the firstborn son, being the second son, born after Frank. As a young child of fourteen he worked on his father's ranch and was farming by the age of sixteen. George II shared his father's habit for being engaged in a multitude of activities throughout his life. He worked at the local level, serving as the deputy county assessor for Sutter County from 1916 to 1924 and the director and assessor of Levee District 1, a similar job to that his father had held as commissioner. In addition, he served as a member of the Franklin Center of the Sutter County Farm Bureau.<sup>74</sup>

Unlike his father, George II was actively engaged as a member of the armed forces, being a member of the 8th California National Guard in Company C and also the Fifty

Champions Military Rifle Shot.<sup>75</sup> In 1894 a great railroad strike was called in protest of the Pullman Palace Car Company's treatment of its workers. During the strike the workers effectively blocked much of the railroads to and from Pullman, Illinois. Developing into a nationwide strike, it became a large enough threat to warrant federal intervention, and it was during this strike that George served in the armed forces.<sup>76</sup> During World War I he served on committees which helped the war effort through bond drives, and he worked for the Red Cross.<sup>77</sup>

George II was married to Annie Dowell on December 3, 1892. They had seven children, five daughters and two sons: Clarice, Erma, Carolyn, George III, Raymond and the twins Eleanor and Francis. George II died August 23, 1928, due to drinking from bad well water contaminated with typhoid. His daughter Carolyn, born July 21, 1914, died shortly thereafter from the same cause on November 1.<sup>78</sup>

Carolyn's older sister Erma was born June 2, 1912 and lived until June 27, 1983. She married Howard Wesley Mayfield, possibly in 1929. Within that year she bore Rosemary Mayfield on November 25.<sup>79</sup>

Francis was born April 14, 1879.<sup>80</sup> It is known that Francis married Ernest Ingle after graduating from Chico State College as well as teaching for three years in both Sutter and Glenn counties.<sup>81</sup> Francis and

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<sup>72</sup> "Covered Wagon T-Z."

<sup>73</sup> Our sources are mute as what her duties were within these positions. *Sutter County Farmer*, October 17, 1930.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>75</sup> *Sutter County Farmer*, October 17, 1930.

<sup>76</sup> Faragher.

<sup>77</sup> Delay, 464.

<sup>78</sup> Reische, interview; Sutter County, Clerk, *Death Index*, 89.

<sup>79</sup> Woehrle

<sup>80</sup> Reische Family Papers.

<sup>81</sup> Delay, 464.

Ernest had two children, Gordon and Leonard, born around 1924 and 1926, respectively.

Eleanor lived from April 14, 1897 to 1970.<sup>82</sup> She attended Chico State College but did not graduate and pursued nursing school instead. This, too, she did not complete. She married Chester Reische around World War I.<sup>83</sup> They had six children, including John Reische, whose assistance has contributed to this history. John Reische has two children, David Frederick Reische and Duane Edwin Reische, born July 25, 1957 and November 21, 1959, respectively.<sup>84</sup>

Clarice lived from October 14, 1903 to July 12, 1941. Aside from this it is known only that she worked for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.<sup>85</sup>

The older son of George Jr. was named George III (as he will be known in this history). Information about him is scarce, due mostly to the confusion caused by the repeated use of the name George. It is known, however, that George III was in the armed forces, as he is shown in a photograph while in uniform.

Raymond Ohleyer was the younger brother of George III. Living from April 21, 1910 to Jan 19, 1986, he had a love for the game of baseball. He was sufficiently talented to be offered to play professionally. However, Raymond refused the offer on the grounds that his wife would not accompany him if he accepted. There is no record of them having children.<sup>86</sup>

As the discussion of Ohleyer's descendants comes to a close, so does this history. Within a life span of nearly sixty-six years, George Ohleyer was able to become a highly respected figure in Yuba and Sutter counties. By holding memberships in organizations such as the Grange and by founding a few of his own such as the Farmers Cooperative Union, he made a name for himself as a successful, self-reliant farmer. In taking an activist stance against hydraulic mining through founding the *Sutter County Farmer* as well as being a key member in the Anti-Debris Association, he proved that he was willing to not only speak out against an injustice, but also to act on it and win. With respect to his career in politics and in public office, he was above all else a farmer. In the end all his actions revolved around this aspect of his life. It is no overstatement that he, perhaps more than anyone else, advocated and safeguarded farming interests in the Sacramento Valley at a critical time.

His family, most of whom lacked his flair for politics and activism, lived their lives as everyday citizens of California. Ada and George II are the exceptions to this rule. We have seen that Ada wrote for the newspapers and lectured in a classroom setting about early California history, and that George II was active in public offices and in supply drives for the armed forces. Despite the gaps in the family history, it is clear that the Ohleyers have had a tremendous impact on the history of the Sacramento Valley. They were one of the great farming families of Yuba and Sutter counties. Descendants of the Ohleyers continue to live in Yuba City.

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<sup>82</sup> Reische Family Papers; "Meridian Cemetery."

<sup>83</sup> A more precise date could not be found.

<sup>84</sup> For more information on John Reische's siblings, see family outline; Reische, interview.

<sup>85</sup> Reische Family Papers; Delay, 464.

<sup>86</sup> King.

## Ohleyer Family Outline - Children and Grandchildren

George Ohleyer (1830 - 1896) & Ellen Guthrie (1836 - 1924)

1. Anna Ohleyer (1858 - ?) & Julius Hausinger
2. Frank Ohleyer (1861 - 1930)
3. Mary Ohleyer (1863 - 1951) & ? Frick
  - a. Donald Ohleyer & ? Berry
4. George Ohleyer II (1864 - 1914) & Annie Dowell  
[see following chart]
5. Fred Ohleyer (1865 - 1958) & Mary Cahill (1870-1951)
  - a. Florence Ohleyer (1904 - ?)
  - b. Virginia Ohleyer (1910 - 1999)
  - c. Harold Raymond Ohleyer (1892 - 1919)
6. Lewis Ohleyer (1870 - 1948) & ? Downey
  - a. Lewis T. Ohleyer (1911 - 1980) & ? Margaret
  - b. Marion Loretta Ohleyer (1906 - 1986) & ? Levien
7. Ada Ohleyer (1875 - 1939)

### Known Descendants of George Ohleyer II

George Ohleyer II (1864 - 1914) & Annie Dowell

1. Francis Ohleyer (1879 - ?) & Ernest Ingle
  - a. Gordon Ingle (near 1924 - ?)
  - b. Leonard Ingle (1926 - 1996)
2. Eleanor Ohleyer (1879 - 1970) & Chester Reische
  - a. Rosemary Gene Demattos (1920 - Present)
  - b. Martha Anna Biggs (1921 - Deceased)
  - c. John Voriece Reische (1923 - Present) & Dorothea
    - i. David Frederick Reische (1957 - Present)
    - ii. Duane Edwin Reische (1959 - Present)
  - d. Georgia Susan Trexler (1924 - Deceased)
  - e. David Farell Reische (1926 - Present)
  - f. Carol Ray Trexler (1932 - Present)
3. Clarice Ohleyer (1903 - 1941)
4. Raymond Ohleyer (1910 - 1986)
5. Erma Ohleyer (1912 - 1983) & Howard Mayfield
  - a. Rosemary Mayfield (1929 - ?)
6. Carolyn Ohleyer (1914 - 1928)
7. George Ohleyer III

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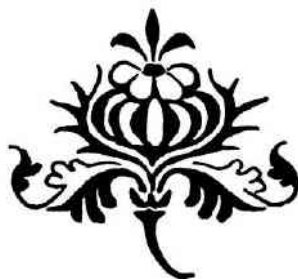
## Calendar of Events

### April

- 4 Yuba City High School art exhibit opens at the Museum, 5 - 7 p.m.
  
- 5 **Historical Society Membership meeting at the Museum**  
2:00 p.m.  
Program: Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest winners,  
West Butte School  
Dessert follows the program  
No charge
  
- 16 Children's Spring Vacation Program at the Museum, 10:00 a.m.
  
- 19 Yuba City High School art exhibit closes
  
- 25 River Valley High School art exhibit opens at the Museum, 5 - 7 p.m.
  
- 26 **Picnic in the Buttes**  
10 a.m. - meet at the Museum to carpool  
Location: Dean Ranch  
Potluck, donation \$10 per person or \$20 per family covers  
drinks, plates, utensils, tables and chairs  
Questions? Call Sarah Pryor, 530-755-0702

### May

- 3 River Valley High School art exhibit closes
  
- 9 The Unmentionable Exhibit opens at the Museum, 6 - 8 p.m.  
In conjunction with BRAvo in Ettl Hall



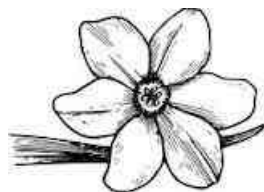
# Puzzler

H D C N M Q Q U S Y O O F O W L G M I O T I G B G V U C D U  
 O N G O V M I L T R F G T I O Y U S I H D W Q E H G S U Z Z  
 F Z G Q O Z P J X R U O R S L B E P Y L A V O D Y M L O Y V  
 P V N D N P G M V T R O P S H G D O M E Q R B J G A K H Y Q  
 O C N E L L E R H E L A H F I R K D T Y G X G Z Z F W H E M  
 M C A S R E M R A F M M I I O J N I Q E G S Q J K L D W C G  
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 H L L U S E L F D T G Q I R C H T U H G M W N L O E H K Y M  
 M S W K R M R S M X I E P S I Z O L M V J J V S Z R O U M G  
 A I I R Z T M G W O Q V P X T K I L O C F M T W F S Q R L K  
 Q N O C R S S Z A D O Y E J D G C D R X R C Z M O S P R C C  
 U G F K A H A M L T O L Q E H Z E O L U D V R M M T F F Q T  
 E S A Z J T G J T T B I B R E S X D Q I S G Z L D Y H L K M  
 P X D J I C R H O A B R U J O Q Y H S L E B F S C D R P A X  
 A X Y A R H P W N T I S E F G C N J O E N V C A W K P H A H  
 I X W X R J P O T S N S A Y I R B Z R H N Y V N S Y O P B I  
 D X N H Q A I O J D E F M G W M N Z W Q Q K S Y G C B V Z A  
 K W X I K T B D C N S N B P A A M C J S X N G W E Q L T D C  
 B Z S K N A B R I A F L K V E X S I F N G B W D B F B X Y F  
 O J A E X T F U A R R Q V L K C Q C Z E O M O X K S J B Q O  
 Q A M O K N M F F B T T E A Y Q L T D Z U X M S N D P I C B  
 D N A G G Z O F Q M H U S I Z I Q W J L Y S G A R E A G O A  
 U D A Y A X X E A F H C F A V X T P X J H I U Y H P N L A B  
 L W F C V P U L S L Y E D M H A J U L O U M V G N D P D T G  
 Y B C F S H C F Y D H S C T I A F Q G Y M T F D Y O K E P S  
 A H N K X D O S A Y Z K K R M W F V O H G C X C N M G R E S  
 J I O R G M S J U E Z Y K Q U Y D K A B V K C V S L Y R G Y  
 Q K X U R O R T I O L Q F J V H H F C I A Y O K P V Z T U X  
 L U P X H B R D I O L I O A Z K S S R C J L O N H R O U S X  
 I G K Q V W N B U O T J Y I E E P E Q J R I A T V A N P T I



BARBARA  
 BLOOMFIELD  
 BRANDSTATT  
 COOPERATIVE  
 CULMINATION  
 DEBRIS  
 ELLEN  
 FAIRBANKS  
 FARMERS  
 GEORGE

GRANGE  
 GUTHRIE  
 HYDRAULIC  
 LORENZO  
 OHLEYER  
 PHILIPPE  
 SAWYER  
 UNMENTIONABLE  
 WALTON  
 WOODRUFF



# **Membership Meeting**

**All are welcome**

**Saturday, April 5, 2:00 p.m.**

**at the Museum**

**1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City**

**Program:**

**Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest winners**

**West Butte School**

**Dessert follows meeting**

**No charge**

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 1004  
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