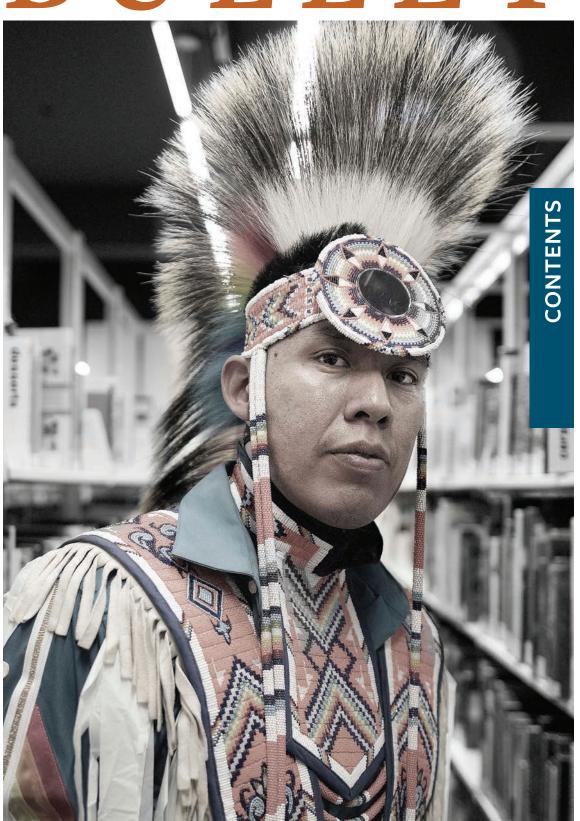


BULLETIN



O3 Along West Butte Road

15 Covered Bridge

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Peach Bowl of the
World: The Origins
of Fruit Production
in Sutter County

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ON THE COVER:

Orlando Begay, Dine 2017 Photograph by Matika Wilbur

Community Memorial Museum Staff

Jessica Hougen, Museum Director / Curator Sharyl Simmons, Assistant Curator

Kelly Gash, Museum Aide Janie Payne, Museum Aide

Visit the Museum

1333 Butte House Road Yuba City, California 95993 530.822.7141

www.suttercountymuseum.org



Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County



Museum Association

The Association is a 501(c)(3) organization that fundraises and supports the operation of the Museum.

Applications to join are always accepted (available on the Museum's website). If you are interested in history and want to do something meaningful for our community, please consider applying! New applicants to the Association are approved by a vote of the full Association. Members serve for 4 year terms.

Current Association Members:

Tony Kurlan, President Eric Gruenthal, Vice President Babs Cotter, Secretary Phyllis Smith, Treasurer

Carol Bordeaux Mark Hartney
Katie Bryant Randy Lavender
Christie Burns Amber Milner
Neil Gibbs Margit Sands

Scott Hankins



Quinna Hamby Photograph by Matika Wilbur

- The submissions for **The** Scholastic Art Awards this year were incredible! Our region covers 7 counties. We had great participation from the Truckee/Tahoe area this year, which was wonderful to see. I'm thrilled to share with you that one of our students, Dylan Silva, won a national award. His piece was shipped off to New York City a few weeks ago to be included in the exhibit of national award winners, which will open in June. The exhibit is so large they divide it between multiple locations throughout New York City!
- Opening April 28th is **Yuba**College: 90 Years of Service. This exhibit has been created by staff and students at Yuba College, and celebrates the institution's long history.
- I'm really excited to share with you our summer exhibit, Natural Wanderment: Stewardship -- Sovereignty Sacredness. This is an exhibit of photography by Matika Wilbur. Matika, of Swinomish and Tulalip heritage, has dedicated herself to traveling the country

photographing members of all of the 562+ federally recognized Native American tribes still in existence. Her work is incredible. Here is a description, in her own words:

"Matika Wilbur's newest Project 562 collection Natural Wanderment:
Stewardship - Sovereignty Sacredness is an exhibition of
Native American portraits and stories that honors and seeks to protect ancestral ways of life and lands in North America. Project
562 offers a creative relationship with people from 562+ Tribal
Nations in the United States that builds cultural bridges, abandons stereotypes, and renews and inspires our national legacy.

Matika Wilbur's Project 562 is an inspiring artistic adventure unfolding the living history of North America's ancient peoples. Over the last three years and 250,000 miles, Wilbur, one of the nation's leading photographers, has journeyed tirelessly to hear the stories and imbibe the culture and wisdom of the original peoples of the land. From Alaska to the

Southwest, Louisiana to upper Maine, to date she has acquired exquisite portraits and compelling narratives from over 300 tribes. The stunning and unprecedented work of Project 562 has been featured in national and international media, attracted scores of thousands of visitors to galleries and museums in the U.S. and around the world, been awarded leading creativity grants, and drawn invitations from leading universities and institutions. Wilbur's artistic mission has caused such intense conversation and transformative awareness about the vibrant, multifaceted identity of Native Americans she is brilliantly exploring.

This human-focused artistic undertaking has revealed that at the core of many Native American's identities and lives in the United States is their indispensable connection to their ancestral lands."

This exhibit opens June 9. Matika Wilbur will be here on June 16th to give a talk on her work. We'll have a reception afterwards. I hope you will join us!

■ Night at the Museum

continues to be a very popular kids program. We're holding one per month. Each movie is shown twice to allow more kids to come participate. These programs fill up quickly, so be sure to register in advance if you want to bring your kids or grandkids! In May we are watching The Incredibles. June's film hasn't been chosen yet, so keep an eye out!

Dinner Theater is coming June 8th, 9th, and 10th! Gail Carter will be directing the show again, and you'll see some familiar faces, as we'll be presenting the sequel to last year's show! If you missed last year's show, don't worry, you'll still be able to follow the story just fine. The show is called Noir Suspicions, and it picks up with ex-private eye Rick Archer, who is now the confused manager of Cafe Noir on the island of Mustique. He is confronted with a corpse on the dock, a mysterious femme fatale, a French blackmailer and a businessman who wants both the cafe and the woman. Rick is arrested after the blackmailer is murdered in his club. It is up to the audience to convince the magistrate that he is innocence. A tribute to Casablanca, this promises to be a lot of fun! Tickets are available at the Museum, and are \$50 in advance, or \$60 at the door. Buy them soon, this is a popular event!!

News

If you haven't signed up for our eNewsletter yet, you should! Since we're adding programs and events on a regular basis, it's the best way to make sure you know about everything we're up to. Just visit our website at www.suttercountymuseum.org and scroll to the bottom. You'll see the box to sign up.

- As many of you have seen by now, a part of our new Donor Recognition Wall has been installed. It is a metal sculpture of a peach tree, created by local artist Inger Price. This particular tree is for our highest level of donors, which is \$100,000+. Three more trees will be added to complete the donor recognition wall altogether they will represent 6 levels of giving. We have compiled all of the records we have on donations to the Museum since 1975, but I will be frank with you: we know we are missing some. So, if you expect to see your name or your parents' names on the tree and you don't, please let us know! We want to make sure we are recognizing everyone that we should.
- The Artisan Community Garden at the Community Memorial Museum is full steam ahead! We hit a few snags which slowed down our installation schedule, but we're past all that now. Soon you will see a beautiful garden on the east side of the Museum building. New Earth Market donated fencing, and Kellog Garden is donating soil through the Grange Co-op, which is a great start! We'll need plants soon, so if you have any that need a good home please let us know. We have also received our first monetary donation for the garden, from the Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the garden so far!

I'm thrilled to say that our Strategic Plan is complete! It is a 5 year plan which gives us a great roadmap for meeting our goals. Some big goals for the near future are increasing our marketing, taking care of some much-needed upgrades to the building, and (fingers crossed!!) adding one or two staff positions. We'll be sure to keep you up to date on our progress towards these goals. In the meantime, if you'd like to read the plan, please let me know!

Along West Butte Road

By Sharyl Simmons

I was recently asked to speak to a local group about the former communities on the west side of the Buttes. The story has been told before, but this gives us an opportunity to tie the three communities together in one article and our new format allows for the use of more images.

West Butte

I'll start with the community of West Butte, with a main street on Pass Road between the jags of West Butte.

Among the first settlers was Martin Van Fleet who was born in Ohio, crossed the plains, mined on the American River and settled in the Buttes in 1853. Francis Hamlin



Francis Hamlin

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

came to California in 1849 as part of the Cincinnati Mining and Trading Company, which mined on the Yuba River. He returned to Maine in 1852 and drove a herd of cattle to California the following year. He was the nephew of Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, Abraham Lincoln's Vice-President in 1861-1864, and was



West Butte Street Scene

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Wilbur House

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

active in Republican politics locally. W. W. Wilbur was born in 1830 in New York, moved to Michigan at age 7 and to California in 1852, and settled on the west side of the Buttes in 1853.

As the community grew and the number of children increased, the need for a school became apparent and on February 28, 1860 the West Butte School District was established by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors.



West Butte School with Students

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

There is no date of construction for the school, but the schoolhouse was ready for classes in 1860. It is possible classes were held earlier in local homes.

From descriptions and photographs (not in our collection) it appears that the original school house was the typical rectangular one room with a gable-end

roof, windows on the long sides and a door at one end. That school burned in 1908 and was rebuilt in 1909 and the second building still stands on the corner of Pass and West Butte roads. The building was electrified in 1937and at some point indoor plumbing was added. Prior to that there was a hand pump in a lattice well-



Second West Butte School

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

house behind the school and two outhouses, one on either side of the playground. It stopped being a school in 1943, was used for a residence for a while and is now vacant.

Title is held by the Sutter Buttes Land Trust which is working on restoring the building to use as an education center. An application to the National Register of Historic Buildings is underway based on the importance of the school to the community as well as it being the work of a master architect, James T. Narbett, who cleverly designed it for maximum passive light through large windows and a passive cooling system used to draw cool air up from the intermittent watercourse and out of the building through the vented bell tower.

There was also a general store established along the Marysville & Colusa Road (Pass Road) with L. Mayze as proprietor. About 1870, a post office opened in the store and West Butte was recognized by the United States Post Office. The store changed hands several times and it appears that the new owners took over the role of postmaster. The store was rebuilt in a different location in 1877.

The stagecoach from Marysville to Colusa passed through the community and dropped off mail for local residents. With a school, general store and post office, other services grew around this hub including a blacksmith shop, town hall, church and several homes to house those working in those services. Later the minister of the M. E. Church Circuit took the mail every second Sunday and dropped it off at the watering trough on Butte House Rd. and a post-boy took it on to Marysville.



Frederick Tarke



Marie Stohlmann Tarke
PHOTOS FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

Frederick Hoke and Frederick Tarke were typical early settlers in the area. They came to America from Germany in 1844 and in 1850 traveled together across the plains. They worked as miners for a time, and in 1855 they went back to Iowa to find brides, then returned to settle in the West Butte area. By 1860, most of the lands west of the Sutter Buttes had been claimed.

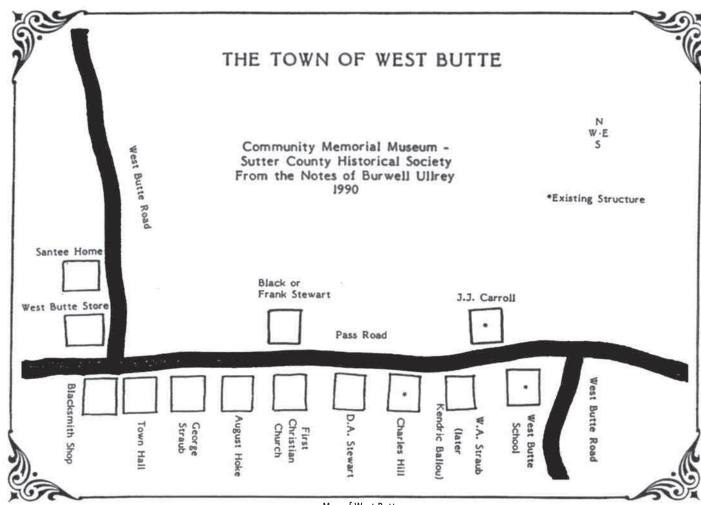
In 1879, Frederick Hoke owned 1,860 acres, of which 800 were cultivated, and Frederick Tarke owned 2,500 acres with 800 were under cultivation. They built their homes near each other and started having children – the Hoke family increased by four and the Tarke family by three. Other people moved to the area to either work for the earlier settlers or provide services.

Other old family names are Santee, Zelle, Cope, Gray, Stohlmann (sometimes spelled Stohlman by branches of the family), Carroll, Jones, Adams (West Butte, then moved to Noyesburg), Ullrey and Wilbur.

George Straub and his son arrived in 1880 and built a blacksmith shop and the town hall. In 1890, they took over the general store which prospered until new roads and better transportation shifted commerce to larger nearby cities such as Yuba City and Marysville.

An advertisement for the Straub store lists columns of what you can get for a nickel, a dime and 20 cents. Five cents would get you 25 Good Envelopes, one pair of men's cotton socks, a glass cutter, or a package of stove polish. For a dime, you could get one pair of men's or ladies' black cotton hose, a pair of screen door hinges, a chair seat in maple veneer, or a pound of good roasted coffee. And for 20 cents, you could acquire a bottle of Best Jockey Club or Ylang Ylang perfume, a brass padlock, a fancy cuspidor, or one of the best quality brushes for clothes, hair, tooth, shaving or horse.

In a tour of the Buttes printed in the Sutter County Farmer in 1892, "Old Squire" noted "We ... arrive at West Butte. George Straub and sons run everything here, which consists of a general merchandise store, blacksmith, and repair shop. There are some neat residences, a public hall, and a fine church."



Map of West Butte

After the fire destroyed the schoolhouse in 1908, students met for classes in the town hall owned by George Straub.

The church at West Butte was constructed in 1884. It was a nondenominational church and has been referred to as both the West Butte Christian Church and West Butte Union Church. Frederick Hoke donated the bell and Charlie Stohlmann rang the bell at the dedication. There was no regular minister, but it was part of the Butte circuit. As transportation improved, just like the secular businesses in town, the church lost patronage as people went into Meridian, Sutter and Colusa

to attend church. However, the church lives on – just not in West Butte.

A Lutheran church was organized in Marysville in 1927. Having no church of their own, they bought land on Cooper Avenue in Yuba City in 1932. The group was aware that the West Butte Church was unused by this time and in 1933 they purchased the church at a price of \$1.00. The old church was dismantled and the timbers were used to frame the new church. The bell was hung in the new church and when it was dedicated in 1935, Charlie Stohlmann had the repeat honor of ringing the bell during the dedication in Yuba City.

Noyesburg



Allen S. Noyes

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

Noyesburg, named for Allen Noyes, never developed into a real town.

Located on West Butte Road about four miles north of the corner of Pass Road and West Butte, there was a blacksmith shop run by Noyes, a school and cemetery he donated the land for, but no store or church.

Allen S. Noyes, born in New Hampshire in 1826, came to California in 1849, traveling round Cape Horn – a trip that took about 145 days. He mined at Foster's Bar in Yuba County and later worked as a butcher in the same area. In late 1854 - early 1855, he returned to Massachusetts and married Philena Cilley. The bride and groom returned to Foster's Bar in 1855 and continued in the butcher business. Making the mistake of putting up security for a friend, he lost a great deal of money and had to sell the business.

Noyes, his wife and their young son Edward, left Foster's Bar and traveled to the Buttes where he paid \$50 for a "squatter's claim" (homestead patent) and set up in

the ranching business. By 1879, he owned nearly 2000 acres of field, hill, slough and pasture land. The first home was a one-story house on the west side of West Butte Road approximately a quarter mile north of the current cemetery property.

Their son, Edward, married Isabella "Belle" Dean in 1876 at which time the elder Noyes built a new house across the road and a bit south of their former home. The newly married couple moved into the old homestead and among their

production were five children.
Belle Dean's various diaries of their summers in the mountains have been published in the Historical Society Bulletins and there are still a couple more that will appear in future Bulletins.

The elder Noyes couple took in two little girls and raised them as their daughters. Amanda Amelia Westervelt, the daughter of Andrew G. Westervelt and his wife, a Native American woman whose name we don't know, came to live with the Noyes family after her mother died. Andrew Westervelt was a market hunter and died after accidentally shooting himself and bleeding out in 1872. Amanda Westervelt was about 5 years old when she moved in with the Noyes family, and grew up and married Arthur Desseau "Dess" Stewart, another native of California who was born in Brownsville. He arrived in the West Butte -Noyesburg area about 1880. They had five children.

The second little girl, Anna Elizabeth Gilpatric, was their niece; her mother died during childbirth and hers is the first official burial in the Noyesburg graveyard. According to Analena Stohlmann Sears, the girls called Mrs. Noves "Mother" and Mr. Noyes "Uncle." Anna's father, George Gilpatric, homesteaded 160 acres adjoining the Noyes property in 1863, the same year he wed Anna Elizabeth Cilley. They had a son, Frank, in 1864 and a daughter, Anna, in 1868. Mrs. Gilpatric died soon after giving birth to Anna, at age 25. Evidently, George Gilpatric left his children in the care of his wife's sisters, Frank with Eunice Cilley Proper and Anna with Philena Cilley Noyes. George sold his property to Noyes and went back east where he apparently had, and raised, a second family.

The Noyes Grammar School opened around 1863 with Allen Noyes, Benjamin Stevenson and Francis Hamlin as trustees. It closed in



Noyes School after converted to a barn

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Noyes School with Children

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

1923, but wasn't officially "retired" until 1927.

The Noyes cemetery probably started as a graveyard – the earliest known burial is B. F. Stevenson's child in about 1860. The child's date of death appears on the family grave marker. The earliest official burial at what was known as Noyes Cemetery occurred in 1868 when Anna Elizabeth Cilley Gilpatric, Mrs. Noyes' sister, died shortly after childbirth.

In 1888, twenty years after Anna Gilpatric's burial, Noyes deeded 1.39 acres



Noyesburg Cemetery

to be used as a public burial ground to the trustees of the Noyes School District, and therefore Sutter County, for \$1.00. The land was part of the school property which Noyes had donated earlier. When the school closed in 1923, Trustees of the school signed over the care of the Noyesburg Cemetery to the Sutter County Cemetery District. At some point after that, the school was moved off the property, was extended off each side and spent the next few decades as a barn in the area.

Cousins of Noyes, Charles and Serepta Noyes, visited the ranch in the mid-1890s from back east and liked it so well that they built a house there to spend the winters. They built a large home across the road from the "new" Noyes home that Allen and Philena built. In January 1908, Charles and Serepta deeded their house to Edward and Isabella's daughter, Abbie Noyes Vagedes. A short time later, the slough property Edward and Isabella owned was sold



Edward Proper

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Eunice Cilley Proper PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

to a gun club in Sacramento –
The West Butte Gun Club. Abbie sold the house to the gun club and it was used to house visiting hunters.

Other prominent citizens lived in the Novesburg area. Edward Proper (who married Eunice Cilley, one of Philena Noyes' sisters). They later settled in the O'Banion Corners area where he gained fame developing the Proper wheat - a variety that shipped better than previous strains.

Benjamin Stevenson and his older brother, Robert, arrived in California from Missouri in 1850. Benjamin spent the next 16 years mining, except



Benjamin F. Stevenson



Sara Stevenson
PHOTOS FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

for a trip to Missouri to marry Sara Ann Compton. After the birth of three children and death of his wife Sara in 1866, he moved the family to Sutter County and home-steaded 203 acres at Noyesburg. In 1870 he once again returned to Missouri and came back to California with a second wife, Louisa Jane Counts. This marriage produced three more children.

His older brother, Robert Stevenson, returned to Missouri in 1851 and brought his wife and children across country. After a couple of years in the mines, in 1854 he moved the family to West Butte, later becoming partners with his brother in Noyesburg.

Charles Immendorfer is another Noyesburg farmer who came to the area in a roundabout way. He and his wife had two daughters, Lena and Louisa, who were invited to visit by their aunt and uncle, Mary and Chris Kennel. The Kennels evidently held mortgages on several properties in Sutter County and after foreclosing on property in the Noyesburg area, they offered the daughters ranchland and lots in Sutter if they would move out west. The entire family came out in approximately 1880 and their father farmed the land the girls were given.

Henry Counts moved to Noyesburg from Missouri at the invitation of his aunt and uncle, Louisa and Benjamin Stevenson. Henry worked on various ranches in the area and courted and wed Lena Immendorfer in 1890. Henry farmed the property owned by Lena and her sister, Louisa, raising sheep and planting almond trees. Louisa, who never married, eventually sold her share of the land to her sister and brother-in-law and moved into Sutter.

Pennington

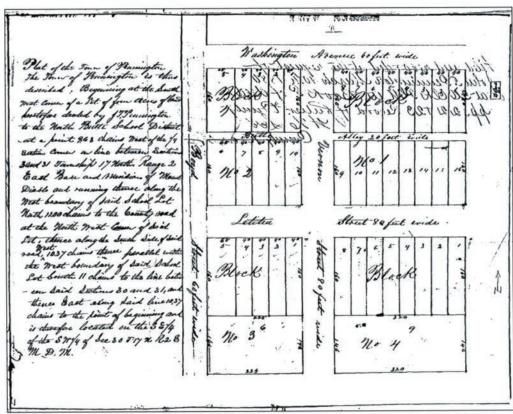
Pennington was named after John T. Pennington, one of the early landowners in the area. Pennington was a civil engineer as well as a farmer. Drawn to California by the gold rush in 1849, by 1862 he located in Sutter County and obtained 525 acres at North Butte. By 1879 he was in partnership with S. J. Stabler and together they owned about 1700 acres in both Sutter and Yuba Counties.

In 1867, Pennington was elected Sutter County surveyor. The end result of his work was a complete map of the county which was made official by the Board of Supervisors in 1873. The map isn't merely the outline of the county, but shows the owners of properties throughout the county. There is a copy of the map hanging in the Museum.

In 1891, Pennington died as a result of being thrown from his buggy. Pennington, the town, continued to thrive, containing a two-story schoolhouse, a church, general store, two blacksmith shops, a hotel and numerous homes.

The Pennington school was erected in 1877 in a joint effort by the Odd Fellows

Lodge and the school district. The second floor of the building was used as a lodge hall with the students on the first floor. The Lodge moved to Live Oak in 1904, but the school continued in use until 1954 when the building was razed and a two-room school replaced



Map of Pennington

FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Pennington School with Children

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

it. It was one of the last one-teacher schools in Sutter County and continued until 1965 when the district was absorbed into the Live Oak Unified District.

The old school served as a community center as well, including housing church services. When the population

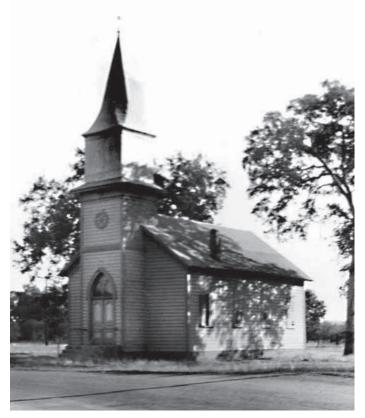


Pennington Amateur Theater 1892

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

grew large enough, the desire for a local church grew and in 1892 the construction of the non-denominational "People's Church" began with a dedication in January 1893. As families moved from the area, the church doors closed. The church burned down in 1955.

Nettie Fairlee Ballard, the youngest child of George Washington Fairlee and Mary Williams Fairlee Pugh, presented a church history in 1934 and, among other things, mentioned "In the past ..., it was the custom for all public meetings to be held in the school house – church services, Sunday school, singing school, elections, ice cream socials and magic lantern shows. When the need for more room to hold church services was recognized, subscriptions were gathered in money and labor toward the construction costs. James Pennington donated the land for the church." At the dedication, Nettie remembers that the church was so crowded with people there were not enough seats. People came from West Butte, Gridley, Live Oak and the plains, the flat, open land leading up to the Buttes.



Pennington Church

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Home of J. D. & Jennie (Hibbs) Spilman

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

Other names in the area include Graves, McMurtry, Hogeboom, Spilman and Neer.

Henry Graves was born in Connecticut in 1830 and came to California at age 19 and engaged in mining for a few years before buying land at North Butte. In 1862, he married Mary Terstegge Daple, a widow with one child. Henry and Mary were members of the Good Templars – a temperance organization – and very active in temperance politics in the state. This is a photograph of them in their regalia. They had six children together. Their house is still standing on West Butte Road.

The Fairlee family left Iowa for California in 1852. After mining in La Porte, they moved to Marysville and then on to "Butte Mountain" in 1855. Four of their six children were born in California, the last three in the Buttes. The elder Fairlee was killed instantly in a buggy accident when horses bolted, the harness broke and Mr. Fairlee was thrown from the buggy. He, his older children and a school teacher were returning home following a funeral for a child in the Dow family when it happened. No one else was seriously injured. Seven



Henry and Mary Graves in Independent Order of Good Templars regalia

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Henry Graves Ranch

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

years later, Mrs. Fairlee became the third Mrs. Arron Pugh, a native of Ohio who came to California in 1850.

Frank L. and Emma (Hogeboom) Neer began their family in the 1880s. Neer was born in Michigan and ended up in California as a young man. He got to Pennington in the 1870s and obtained 120 acres of farmland. In 1883 he married Emma Hogeboom.

While Pennington was a generally peaceful community, in April 1897 John P. Madden (55) and John J. Bruce, Jr. (26) engaged in a violent quarrel resulting in Bruce's death from gunshot wounds inflicted by Madden. It

happened at the general store in view of children at the nearby school. After two trials resulting in hung juries, the judge declared Madden couldn't receive a fair trial in Sutter County and dismissed the charges.

In 1914, fire swept through Pennington, destroying nearly the entire community. Both the church and the school were far enough from the road that they were spared, but many buildings

along the road vanished in flames.

There are still homes in these areas and stock is being raised, orchards are flowering, grain is still harvested, and families are continuing to live their lives on the west side of the Sutter Buttes.

Sources:

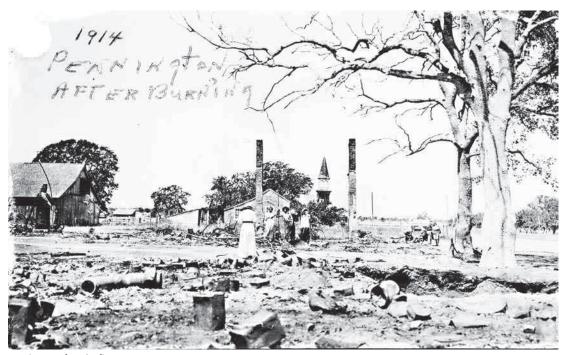
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Neer House

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION



Pennington after the fire

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

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Gas Lights Marysville's Darkened Streets

Reprinted from PG&E Progress

February 1987

San Franciscans weren't the only people to benefit from Pete Donahue's determination to bring gas lights to the darkened streets of the city.

The technology that he used at his gas works, which opened in 1854, soon spread to other California cities.

Just four years later, gas lighting came to Marysville when David E. Knight opened a small, rough-hewn plant there and began producing 18,000 cubic feet of gas per day.

This was quite an accomplishment in those days, but it pales in comparison to the amount of gas PG&E distributes now to its 3.1 million gas customers each day of the week — nearly 2 billion cubic feet.

Public buildings in Marysville were lighted for free; other customers paid \$12.50 per thousand cubic feet, nearly three times today's rate much more, really considering the value of an 1854 dollar.

Today's fuel comes from natural gas wells in Canada, the Southwest and California to customers through a sophisticated system of 36,000 miles of pipeline; the gas manufactured in Marysville started as coal mined in Scotland, Ireland, New Brunswick and Australia.

After arriving in San Francisco by ship, the coal was bagged and shipped by river steamer to Marysville.

Gas mains made of wood as well as iron (they're made from steel and plastic today) were laid in the shortest path to the customer's home, cutting across streets and private property at all angles.

Three years after it opened, the little plant fell on hard times when floods swept over it two months in a row.

In 1867 it was finally rebuilt using iron work shipped from Philadelphia on the clipper ship Old Hickory.

In 1899, Knight's company merged with a competitor and became the Marysville Gas and Electric Company which in turn became part of PG&E in 1907.

For a while the company used oil to make gas, but in 1926, as an economy measure, the plan began to use some low-grade coal again.

With discovery of natural gas in the southern San Joaquin Valley area, PG&E began bringing natural gas to its customers in 1929.

In 1939 the Marysville gasmaking plant was turned off when conversion to natural gas was completed.

The founder of the Marysville gas works was as remarkable as his enterprise.

David Knight opened the first horsecar line between Marysville and Yuba City. He owned a race track, started the first steam laundry, was a foundry owner, president and manager of a local woolen mill and had two river boats named after him.

Such were the men who, despite sometimes imposing difficulties, forged a tradition of service. It's a tradition that lives to this day in the men and women of the PG&E.



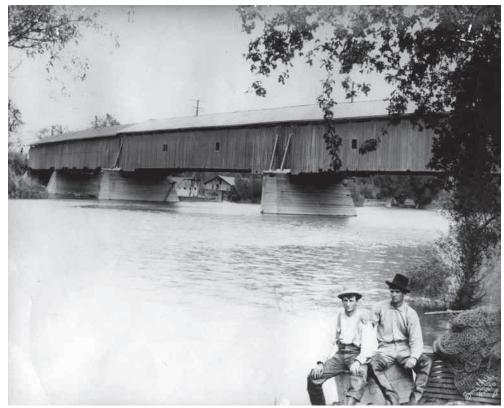


PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

[Ed. With the work on the 5th Street Bridge well underway, we thought it might be interesting to remember the earlier covered bridge and what it was like crossing the river in the dark.]

Sutter County Historical Society Bulletin

January 1958, Taken from "First Impressions of Yuba City" by Ruth Smith Grant

I think riding across the covered bridge that spanned the Feather gave me more thrills than any other one thing in my early experiences. The bridge was located south of the present structure. The Yuba City approach was on the ground where the Veterans Memorial of World War I was located.

Mr. Fletcher Bickley who was the bridge tender on our side who always kept his eyes peeled upon the traffic that came and went across. The most important thing was to obey the sign "Walk Your Horses" and he saw to it that you did just that.

Keeping to the right was of great importance as the bridge was divided in the middle. It was hazardous to walk across on your own power. One time my brother and some friends were walking and a herd of cattle came crowding in at the other end and they were compelled to climb the beams to escape injury. It was sort of dark and smelly in the bridge and the beat of the horses hoofs sounded loud and spooky. The only lights came in from the open windows and they were few and small. Of course, at night it was pitch dark, no lights inside or out.

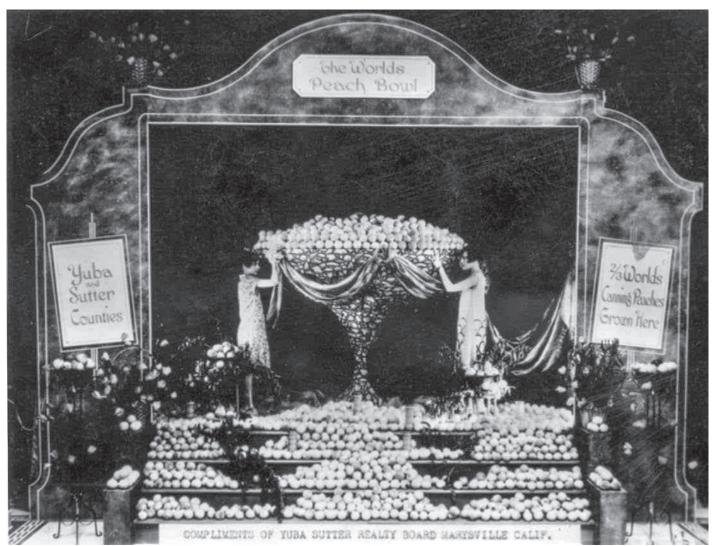
The public transportation between Yuba City and Marysville was by means of a small street car drawn by two small mules. Several trips were made each day. On festive occasions a second car was brought into use. Mr. David E. Knight, the owner of the car system, had several pairs of mules, so after each trip the animals were changed so they might have a rest.

Mr. Tom Peirano, Mrs. Estelle Crowhurst's father, was the driver of the mules. How well I remember the blacksnake with which he gently tapped the little fellows to start them out. Then there was the hand brake he turned off at will. If a large crowd was aboard, the men always helped to push the car up the grade to the covered bridge.

Peach Bowl of the World: The Origins of Fruit Production in Sutter County

By Margaret Kimerer

[Ed: Originally published in the Independent Herald, May 17, 1951. Edited for length.]



Peach Bowl of the World

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

Almost daily new varieties of fruit trees are planted in the fertile soil of Sutter County. This silt-like loam, washed down from the mountains by the Sacramento, Feather and Bear Rivers, nourished by an ideal climate, has yearly produced a heavy yield of fruit crop, truly earning the county the title of "Peach Bowl of the World."

Today little thought is given to the first trees planted almost 101 years ago, probably with some misgivings, by Captain John Sutter, who planted the first peach orchard of Northern California on his Hock farm, nine miles south of Yuba City.

As early as 1857, Dr. S. R. Chandler grew a small orchard of peaches and pears on his ranch 15 miles south of Yuba City, near the present Chandler station. By 1860, others had seen the success of the first fruit trees and that year orchards were set out by P. L. Bunce, for whom Bunce Lateral was named, Dr. Eli Teegarden (Teegarden Avenue bears his name) and John Briggs. His ranch was later called the Dr. Jackson place and is the present site of the Yuba City migrant camp [now the Richland Housing Authority].

In 1867, the John Briggs orchard consisting of 100 acres of diversified fruit and nut trees became famous all over

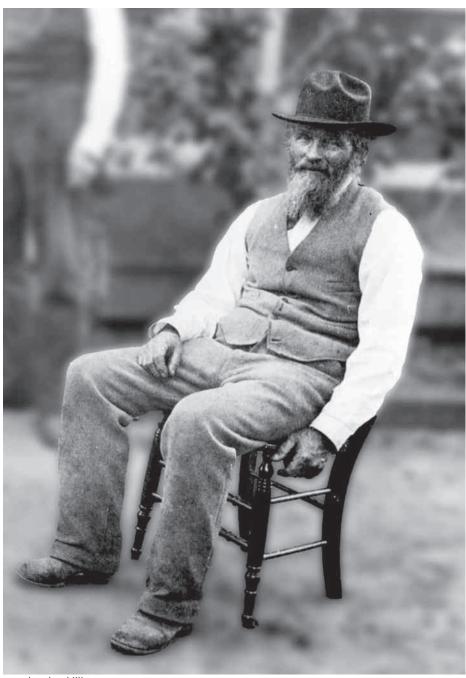
California for the excellent quality of its pears, peaches, cherries, apricots, figs, prunes and apples. California's first pecan trees were grown successfully on the Briggs ranch and many of the pecan trees still bearing remain to shade residents of the migrant camp.

A heading of a Marysville paper dated Aug. 7, 1860, read: "Large Shipment of Fruit" — and this item followed: "Mr. Cummings, agent for the orchardist Briggs in this section, shipped by yesterday morning's boat for below, 6800 pounds of peaches. This is but the beginning of the trade."

From that beginning has sprung Sutter County's peach industry which now comprises over 14,000 acres of orchards, from which more than 150,000 tons of peaches were shipped last year.

A story in the Sacramento Daily Union dated August 22, 1858 listed entries in the state fair held in Marysville that year. Entries included: No. 174, G. G. Briggs, Sutter County, peaches; splendid assortment consisting of some of the choicest fruit in the state. His orchard is said to be the largest in the state. He exhibits the first Stanwick nectarines ever raised in California, some would measure eight inches. Pears — Bartlett pear five inches long; Pippins three and a half inches in diameter. No. 117, John A Sutter, hard shelled almonds are among this lot, also some fine figs, grapes and pomegranates.

To A. F. Abbott and Joseph Duke Phillips go the credit for Sutter



Joseph Duke Phillips

County's vast peach industry. Abbot was an early Sutter County pioneer who had learned about fruit culture when he was employed on Hock Farm by Capt. Sutter. Phillips, since boyhood, had engaged in the fruit industry and in 1882 was considered one of California's leading horticulturalists.

In 1882 Abbot and Phillips planted

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

55 acres of cling peaches 10 miles south of Yuba City on Abbot's grain ranch. Within a few years, the orchards on the property, known as "Abbot Orchard," grew to cover 425 acres. It was in this orchard that the Phillips cling peach originated. Phillips imported from Augusta, Georgia a cling peach called the Tuskenis, which became known as the Tuscan.

In 1883 because of the enterprise undertaken by Abbot and Phillips, farmers and businessmen formed the Sutter Canning and Packing Company with a cannery and packing shed in Yuba City. The first fruit canned in Sutter County was grown in the Abbot orchards. In 1888, Phillips discovered in the Abbot orchard a

the Abbot orchard a chance seedling which he budded to other trees, resulting in the world famous Phillips cling peach.

The following account concerning the propagation and discovery for canning of the Phillips cling peach is a story told to W. Ray Chandler by the late R. W. Skinner of Yuba City, who was an orchardist who previously operated canneries and fruit tree nurseries.

"I operated a cannery out on 12th Street

in Marysville in the 1880s. Our only cling peaches for canning at that time were the Tuscan and the Orange cling. Consequently, our season was very short. One day my forelady came to me and said that she had a box of green peaches on the floor and she did not know what to do with them. The peaches were grass green. Her worry was that she would have to waste the fruit, but I saw that there was a possibility of getting a late maturing peach. The teamster who delivered the load said he thought

he knew where the tree was. After work, Mrs. Skinner and I drove down to the orchard, located the tree and marked it. There were a few peaches on the tree. Later, when they had matured, I tested them and found they had good canning qualities. The tree was on an orchard operated by Joseph Phillips. Later, J. T. Bogue, a nurseryman and orchardist, propagated the trees."

"You can hardly realize what the Phillips peach did to the orchard and canning industries of California. It lengthened our canning season by another two weeks. Our cannery output could be nearly doubled."



Rosenberg Bros. & Co. Cannery

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

"Leonard A. Walton of Yuba City made the first commercial planting of the Phillips peach, planting about 20 acres in 1891. The peaches did not size well in those days because there was no irrigation. When the orchardists started irrigating the trees, the peaches sized well and for many years the Phillips peaches were the most popular variety grown."

Today the old Abbot orchard is absorbed into the 1500 acres belonging to the C. E. Sullivan ranch. However, none of the original trees still stand and the oldest trees on the ranch are those in an almond orchard which is about 30 years old. There is also an Adriatic fig tree which was probably planted even before Abbot and Philips planted the peach orchards. Alexander Abbot died on March 11, 1905 at the age of 75 after enlarging the orchards and establishing a dry yard and packing shed on his property. Mrs. John Hale was his only surviving child.

Joseph Duke Phillips, whose name became world famous, spent his last



Ferdinand Hauss

PHOTO FROM CMMSC COLLECTION

years in comparative poverty, living on the bounty of his friends, and was buried in an unmarked grave in a local cemetery.

In 1885, Ferdinand Hauss was farming 520 acres which comprised the Five Mile House (Oswald District), formerly a portion of Hock farm and inherited by Mrs. Elizabeth Schmidt, widow of Andreas Schmidt, who married Hauss in 1884. Schmidt became owners of Hock Farm after John Sutter was forced to sell and the two brothers divided the property, Christian taking the river section which was where the farm buildings were located and Andreas taking the lower section called Five Mile House.

Hauss was a native of Germany, born in 1855, and came to America when 18 years old. He worked as a cooper in New York City where he met and married Mrs. Schmidt. Together they came to Sutter County in 1885 and established a home on her Five Mile House property. Hauss did general farming, but was primarily interested in fruit raising. He planted his first peach orchard in 1887. By experimentation, he propagated the Hauss cling peach which was put on the market in 1898.

In 1885 orchards of 100 acres each were planted west of Yuba City by S. J. and B. J. Stabler, father and uncle of the late horticulture commissioner, Harry Stabler of Sutter County. That same year orchards were planted by C. F. Butler of Yuba City, E. W. Hixson of Franklin Corners and T. B. Hull, who lived "down the river" near Tudor (Roy Hull of Yuba City is his son.) The following year, G. F. Starr planted a large orchard north of Yuba City. Also in 1886, B. F. Walton planted orchards of peaches, almonds and prunes in the present Bogue district. About the same time Sutts and Hudson planted 155 acres of orchard near Live Oak. Also in the middle



R. A. Skinner & Grandson

eighties, J. T. Bogue, who was first to propagate the

Philips peach commercially, established a nursery near

what is now Bogue Station.

A shipper and experienced orchardist was R. W. Skinner, previously mentioned, who came to this county from San Jose in 1887 and established a branch office of the "Golden State Canning Company" in Marysville. He later became the owner of one of Sutter County's largest cherry orchards.

In the early '90s Giblin Brothers planted a cherry orchard south of Yuba City. About the same time Herman Berg planted 12 acres of olives north of Yuba City and the Marcuse brothers planted 100 acres of fruit on the bottom land of the Feather River east of Marcuse Station. It is believed that 16 acres of productive pear trees, until recently owned by Harry C. Cheim of Marysville, are a part of the original orchard planted by the Marcuse brothers. Two years ago this orchard produced more than 400 tons of first quality pears. It is now owned by the Susuki brothers of Loomis.

In 1900, in the orchard of B. F. Walton, another peach variety was found. This variety was named "Walton" and is an early type mid-season peach. In 1911, G. Sander Johnson, a native of Sweden, found the so-called "Johnson" peach, which proved to be an excellent variety and is still grown extensively today. Louis Gaume discovered the "Gaume" peach variety in 1913. In a lot of Lowell (freestone) peaches delivered to the cannery from the orchard of John O. Ames he noticed a different variety of fruit. Since it was a cling peach, it was not difficult to trace the "parent" tree in an orchard of freestones. The Gaume peach is still a popular variety.

According to Farm Advisor Herman I. Graser, there are only two ways in which new varieties can originate. One of these is a "bud sport"; the navel orange and nectarine are examples of this.

"Many people," said Graser, "believe that a nectarine is a cross between a peach and a plum, which is not true. There are many cases where peaches have borne peaches for years, then suddenly one branch would develop bearing nectarines. This is a good example of a "bud sport."

In the development of that single bud, which became a branch, something happened to change its character, possibly the "gene" or carrier of heredity pertaining to fuzziness has been lost, causing all peaches borne by the growth developed from that bud to be smooth rather than fuzzy. Generally speaking, that is what is meant by a "bud sport" and new varieties are the result of grafting wood from the growth resulting from this "bud sport."

The other method of getting new plants is that of "crossing" or hybridizing varieties. Until the science of plant eugenics was developed to its present point, much of this crossing was a haphazard business, but with present knowledge scientists are able to get the kind of progeny they want.

In the '90s a large acreage of pears was planted by B. S. J. Hiatt near Kirksville. A few years earlier C. P. Berry, who later became a state senator, planted an orchard of peaches and pears north east of Nicolaus on the Bear River.

E. J. Thornborough, father of Mrs. Hammond Jacobs of Meridian, about this time also planted the "Robe de

Sargent" variety of plums for the first time in the county on his ranch south of Meridian. The name of this variety has been abbreviated to the name of "Robe."

Prunes were planted in 1880 by Wesley Wilson, for whom the Wilson district was named, on his ranch southeast of Tudor, some of which is now owned by Harry Cheim of Marysville.

Many fig trees were planted in the county and a number of trees still remain, bearing fruit each year. Fig trees planted in 1872 on property owned by the late Billy Coats now belonging to Mrs. Myrna Pottle Gray, still remain and yearly produce excellent figs.

At one time the growing of figs was of commercial importance to Sutter County and a large packing house was established in Yuba City for the packing of figs. Dried figs were imported from surrounding counties and packed with the local product. It was said that as late as 1924 nearly every grocery store in the United States sold figs packed in Yuba City.

Numerous black walnuts, pomegranate and almond trees planted for family use by the pioneers still remain and are productive. Many almond orchards are in the vicinity of the Sutter Buttes, some of which are considered the oldest in the county.

In 1850, when Capt. John Augustus Sutter experimentally planted fruit and nut trees, little did he know that out of this humble beginning, 100 years later, would have grown in Sutter County alone a total of more than 39,000 acres of various fruit, walnut and almond orchards.

The Last Living Pioneer

First Settler

In 1926 the Marysville Democrat reported that Thomas Benton T. Cooper, 89, had been identified by the Native Sons as the oldest living pioneer of northern California, having combed all of northern California looking for just such a man. The Native Sons, headed by Postmaster Ed Lewis, was assisted by The Democrat.

Francis Ann Van Winkle (previously married to Robert Baylor Semple); Susan Wolfskill of Winters (married to John Robert Wolfskill); Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Calmes of Colusa (married to Waller Calmes); Martha Roberts; Sarshel (or Sarshall) Cooper; and Thomas Benton Cooper.

Stephen and Elizabeth came west to California in 1846, the same year active in local and regional politics, and in 1880 went as messenger to Washington, D.C. to announce California's electoral vote in the presidential election. California voted for the Democratic nominee, Winfield Hancock, but he was defeated by Republican James A. Garfield.

Stephen died in 1890 at the age of 93 in Winters at the home of his

Benton Cooper arrived with his family in 1846, two years before gold was discovered and four years before California gained statehood. He remembered when the Sacramento Valley was "one vast unfenced plain," and he knew Capt. John Sutter, James Marshall, Major John Bidwell, and Sam Brannan, and was Kit Carson's cousin.

Benton Cooper's Lineage

Benton's paternal grandfather, Captain Sarshel Cooper, was from Virginia but migrated to Kentucky when it was still wilderness. His son, Major Stephen Cooper, Benton's father, was born in 1797 in Kentucky, and in 1807 his family continued westward to Missouri. Stephen served under his father in the War of 1812 at the age of 15, and ten years later helped open the Santa Fe trade. In 1824 he married Melinda Tate, the daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Tate. Melinda could trace her roots back to John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Coopers were blessed with six children:

as the Donner Party. Stephen was captain of his 80-person, 48-wagon train, three of which belonged to the Cooper family. The wagons arrived in the Sacramento Valley in November. The Coopers settled briefly in Sacramento, and the next year moved to Benicia, in Solano County.

In 1848 Sam Brannan stopped by their house and told Stephen that gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill. Stephen wrote to President James K. Polk, telling him the news, and believed he was the first person to notify the President.

Stephen moved his family to Colusa in 1855, where Melinda died in 1871. Stephen continued to be

daughter, Mrs. Wolfskill.

Benton Cooper's Life

Benton Cooper was born in Howard County, Missouri, in 1837. When he arrived in California there was a single adobe building on Theodore Cordua's ranch, which is the site of Marysville today.

After working in the stock business in Colusa County, in the 1870s
Benton moved to Modoc County, but the weather drove him back to the Sacramento Valley. In 1874 he met his wife, Hettie (or Ettie)
Montgomery, in the Western Hotel in Marysville. They were married two years later in Colusa and raised nine children, seven of whom stayed nearby in Yuba City, Sacramento

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF SUTTER COUNTY | The Last Living Pioneer

and Orland. His wife died in 1921.

In 1926, at the age of 89 years old, Benton lived on N Street in Sacramento, but he spent a great deal of time visiting his children, including his son Ben and his daughter Mrs. Paul Demott, both of Yuba City. He died in 1928, two years after the original story was printed, and is buried in the Chico Cemetery.

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Washing Recipe

[Ed. Provided as a service to those of you who wish to make your own laundry soap.]

- 5 lbs sal soda
- 1 lb Borax
- ½ lb fresh unslaked lime
- 4 oz salt of tarter
- 3 oz liquid ammonia

Dissolve the soda and Borax in one gallon of boiling water to which when cold add the salt of tarter and ammonia. Boil the lime for five minutes in one gallon of water and let stand until thoroughly settled when the clear fluid should be carefully drained off. Add to this the other ingredients with eight gallons of cold water. You now have eleven gallons of the compound ready for use. One quart of this compound with three lbs of bar soap cut fine and 2 lbs of sal soda boiled in three gallons of water for ten minutes will make four gallons of excellent soft soap.

Care should be taken not to have the water too hot when the clothes are covered in the morning nor should the clothes be boiled too long as too much boiling is apt to give them a yellow tinge.

Memorials & Gifts Outright Gifts

Membership

In Memory of Nicole "Nicky"

A. Balough

Mel M. Tsuji

In Memory of **Beryl Burtis**

Merlyn Rudge Sharyl Simmons Phyllis Smith

In Memory of Mary Etta Carr

Mike & Ann Chesini

In Memory of John Carter

Sharyl Simmons Julie Stark

In Memory of Timothy Galusha

Bogue Country Club

In Memory of LeRoy Hilbers

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In Memory of Norma Jenks

Connie Cary Sharyl Simmons Phyllis Smith

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Sharyl Simmons Julie Stark

In Memory of Glenn McFadden

Jim Staas

In Memory of Louie Medina

Sharyl Simmons Julie Stark

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Sharyl Simmons Phyllis Smith

In Memory of Taeko "Tae" Sano

Julie Stark

In Memory of Robert "Bob" Wood

Connie Cary Robert Inman Sharyl Simmons

In Honor of Arlene Chesnut's

Birthday

Sharyl Simmons

Ritch & Joan Eich

Peach Bowl Lions Club -Children's Programs

Carol Withington -African-American Exhibit New and Renewing members January 20, 2018 – April 25, 2018

AAUW Marysville/Yuba City

Mary Allen

Paulette Almeida

Sandy Becker

Phyllis Bullard

Alice Chesini

Dorothy Clark

Karan Curbow

Dave & Sandy Davini

Lilli Duval

George & Shyrlie Emery

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Jeffrey Keney

Betsy Lee

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Karen Morrison

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Norma Paden

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Become a member today!

For more information, visit www.sutterycountymuseum.org or stop by the Museum

We have some great new items in the gift shop. Stickers from Wild Slice, wire-wrapped rings made right here in Yuba City, and new scents of candles and incense from P.F. Candle Company. Soon we'll be adding some garden-related items, including specialty seeds and some books!





PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLAKE VAUGHN

Puzzling

C S RΕ R S R P \mathbf{E} T Ν U L O D P \mathbf{T} A Ι Ι E S E W E P U Η S K Ι R \mathbf{T} E E 0 Y S A E R F Q V G A Ι G 0 0 В K Μ C N P Ι E G R Ι Т \mathbf{L} M В D M F K Ι V Ι 0 C D Α P S 0 G E J В Ν X S Т E Ι S E W F U Ι В R G S Q Η D Μ Y F Y Ι Ι K Α E P V Η L X E C Ι E S \mathbf{T} F 0 S G C G A R Ε Ν Ι C Η X S Y S Ν D E Ι S \mathbf{L} Α K D P E U 0 M 0 Η Ι \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{Z} Ι X G C S R P K \mathbf{L} P R 0 В Ν W Y Ι Z Ι \mathbf{E} R P В Ι E K Η W Ν A V U В Y P E Ι G K L Η E R Y A R Y Z Ι K Y V 0 D K Η G J В Ν U В P N P Y E Η E J U E D \mathbf{L} E В F Ν W 0 J W Α Η D V V \mathbf{L} G \mathbf{Z} Ν \mathbf{Z} D V G Y X L Η S G Ι R Η X Ε D E 0 В 0 D E G Ι Η E Y S K Ι В Η U J D C F 0 X Ι O F Ι D J

ADVENTURE BRIDGE DONOR EXHIBIT GARDEN HERITAGE MEMBERS NOIR NOYESBURG PIONEER PORTRAITS PROGRAM RECOGNITION **SACREDNESS SCHOLASTIC SOVEREIGNTY STAGECOACH STEWARDSHIP UNSLAKED VOLUNTEERS**

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The Museum is a partnership between Sutter County and the Community Memorial Museum Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Association supports all of the public programming aspects of the Museum, including education programs, fundraising events, temporary exhibits, updates to permanent exhibits, and the Museum Store. Donations made to the Association are tax deductible.

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 (Yes, you can donate using a credit card.)
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We also have corporate sponsorship opportunities for our events and temporary exhibits.

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Our Mission

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County shares local stories to strengthen community bonds, to inspire celebration of our diverse cultural heritage, and to demonstrate how understanding the past prepares us for the future.

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Our members are vital to the success of the Museum. The funds we raise from this program help us to properly care for our collection, bring in traveling exhibits, and provide education programs.

Membership benefits include: advance notice of events and exhibit openings, a 10% discount in the Museum Store, and subscription to the Museum's quarterly journal.

For information please call 822-7141 or visit www.suttercountymuseum.org

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Organization/Club	\$35.00
Family	\$40.00
Business	\$100.00





1333 Butte House Road Yuba City, CA 95993

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

JUNE

Friday – Sunday 8, 9, & 10 Dinner Theater Fundraiser

Saturday

9 first day of NaturalWanderment: Stewardship -Sovereignty - Sacrednessexhibit

Saturday

16 Matika Wilbur presentation and exhibit reception, 3pm

Friday

22 Night at the Museum children's program, 5:30pm

JULY

Saturday

21 Night at the Museum children's program, 5:30pm

AUGUST

Sunday

19 last day of Natural Wanderment: Stewardship -Sovereignty - Sacredness exhibit



Mary Evelyn Belgarde Photograph by Matika Wilbur

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