

BULLETIN



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PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

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Sutter County Museum



suttercountymuseum

Our Mission

The Sutter County Museum 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.

About the Bulletin

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Community Memorial Museum Association. Editors are Sharyl Simmons and Phyllis Smith. Payment of annual membership dues provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin**.

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:

Mike Morris, President

Margit Sands, Vice President

Phyllis Smith, Secretary

Amber Milner, Treasurer

Carol Bordeaux

Manny Cardoza

Babs Cotter

Eric Gruenthal

Scott Hankins

Tony Kurlan

Randy Lavender

Coleen Morris

Debbie Reid

Sukh Sidhu

Chuck Smith

Exhibits

Black and White in Black and White: Images of Dignity, Hope, and Diversity in America opens in early March. This exhibit is another traveling exhibit that we have rented from Exhibit Envoy, a wonderful California-centric exhibit company that specializes in affordable exhibits for small museums.

We are very excited to be showing this exhibit. We plan to also have on display 12-15 photos from our collection that show local African Americans.



MANITOBA JAMES AND HIS CHILDREN
COURTESY OF THE DOUGLAS KEISTER COLLECTION.

Exhibit Envoy's website shares this information about this exhibit:

The beginning of the 20th-century was a time of great promise and hope for race relations in America. This optimistic era was fueled by what was known at the time as the "New Negro Movement," a period which set the stage for the Harlem Renaissance. No one better captured the essence of this time of advancement than African American photographer John Johnson.

Johnson primarily used his neighborhood in Lincoln, Nebraska as his canvas to craft powerful portraits of dignity and hope from 1910 to 1925. Equally as important as Johnson's ennobling images of African Americans are his images of blacks and whites and other racial groups together, an occurrence that was almost unheard of at the time. The Smithsonian recently acquired 60 of these photographs for their collection and will display Johnson's work in three upcoming exhibitions.

A number of the people depicted in Johnson's photos and their extended families eventually migrated to California. There, they settled in Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Riverside, Blythe and other cities, and became educators, artists and business owners.

Black and White in Black and White: Images of Dignity, Hope, and Diversity in America is curated by Douglas Keister and presented with support from California State University, Chico.

Events

We're hard at work planning movie nights and spring break programs. Nothing is set in stone yet, so be sure to keep an eye on our website or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to learn more! The first movie night this year will be on March 13th. We'll also have movie nights in April, June, July, August, and October.

Spring break this year is April 6th-13th. We're hoping to have at least 2 programs for the kids while they're out of school.

We're also planning events to accompany our temporary exhibits!

News

- We're still working on our Master Plan with Brent Johnson Design, an exhibit design firm. In essence, this will be a road map to help us redevelop our permanent exhibits, identify subjects that are left out but should be included, and make sure we are telling a comprehensive and cohesive story of the history of the Yuba-Sutter region. Look for a big reveal coming late spring!
- Our other big pieces of news - we're starting a Farmers Market at the Museum! It will be open on Wednesdays 4pm-7pm, and will be held in the park behind the museum. We'll be recruiting for vendors soon, so if you know a certified grower or craftsperson who would be interested in being a part of it, please send them our way!

We plan to match the dates of the Saturday market here in Yuba City, so we will likely begin the season in late April and run through the end of September. The museum will stay open late on market days, and we will offer kids programs, yoga, live music, and other additions on a rotating basis. Keep an eye on our website for more information as we hammer out the details.



The Power of the Purple Dress

By Andrea Frisby

Ed. Note: In December 2019, Andrea Frisby contacted us to ask if we were interested in a wedding dress that originated in Sutter County. She sent multiple pictures of the 1894 purple silk and velvet two-piece dress along with a history that connected it to the Blevin family. Based on its provenance and condition, we agreed to add it to our collection. Andrea, who is retired from the U.S. Marshals Service and American Airlines, asked if we would like her to bring it to us. Since she lives in Ohio, we were a bit surprised but told her we'd love to have her bring it. Early in January, she arrived at the Museum with the dress carefully wrapped up in her carry-on luggage. See photo of the dress on previous page. This is her account of the dress' history.



LAURA BLEVIN JESTICE

On 27 February 1894 this purple wedding dress was worn by Laura Eleta Blevin for her marriage to Hezekiah B. Jestice in Sutter County, California. This dress, while it appears to be made of fabric, is so much more. It marked the beginning of five generations of our family.

Laura Eleta Blevin was one of seven children of William Thomas Blevin and Ona Koontz Blevin, Sutter County pioneers. W. T. Blevin of Virginia came to California in 1849. After several years in California, he traveled east and married Ona Koontz of West Virginia. They settled for a time in Missouri, but by 1862 W. T. Blevin and family were in Sutter County and successfully ranching on property northwest of Yuba City. At the time of his death in January 1889 he owned nearly 1500 acres of land within the county and was a well-respected member of the community.

In the early 1880s, apparently traveling alone, Hezekiah Jestice left his home in Virginia. He slowly made his way to Sutter County, California. It is unclear what year he arrived but Fate led him to Laura Blevin, William and Ona's third child. They wed in 1894 in Sutter County with Laura wearing the purple silk and velvet dress. Their first child, Hezekiah Burdine, was born in 1898 and Laura Aleta followed two years later. Tragically, Laura Blevin Jestice died six months later in July of 1900.

Hezekiah felt he had no option but to return to Virginia and his relatives who could help raise the children. In 1902, Hezekiah Jestice, traveling with his two small children (ages 2 and 4), left Sutter County for the last time

and somehow managed the long journey to Virginia. Traveling by both wagon and train, with limited space for their belongings, Hezekiah lovingly packed his deceased wife's wedding dress and her photo. Knowing the children were not old enough to remember their Mother, he clearly wanted to ensure she was not forgotten.

The family settled ultimately in Kentucky. Hezekiah remarried but held onto the purple dress. His namesake, Hezekiah Jr., married and had nine children. His daughter, Laura, married Frank D. Frisby in Kentucky in 1916 and placed her mother's wedding dress in her cedar chest. By 1921 the growing Frisby family moved to Ohio where they raised eight children. Hezekiah Sr. remarried and relocated to Ohio where he died in 1938. Hezekiah Jr. passed away in 1958. And in 1986 Laura Aleta Jestice Frisby died.

The purple dress, now unknown to most and forgotten by others, remained in the cedar chest for more than 103 years. It was rediscovered in 2019 by the great-grandchildren of the bride for whom it was made 125 years before.

After a 118-year journey, it seems only fitting that this wedding dress, made for the daughter of a Sutter County pioneer, should find its way back home.

Thank you for providing a place where we can share it with others and continue our great grandfather Hezekiah's hope that Laura Eleta Blevin Jestice is remembered.

MORE ABOUT THE BLEVIN FAMILY

Lou Eichler's column, *The Rambler*, offered up a bit more information about the Blevin family. This was first published in the *Appeal Democrat* in June of 1938.

Folks from Los Angeles are transforming one of the pioneer ranches of Sutter county out in Nuestro district into something modern with modern methods.

It is the old Blevin ranch which the Pinsons of Los Angeles have purchased and are improving. The elder Pinson has been a businessman in Los Angeles but has retired. A son has been educated in the agricultural college of the University of California at Davis. General farming and purebred livestock will be undertaken.

As a beginning, the old barn, the second to be erected in Sutter County it is claimed, is being razed. It was put together with wooden pegs, the siding and roof being nailed with the old square cut nails. It was a good barn, but that sort is not built or used today. The old tank house, supposed to be insecure, but which withstood the heavy wind in February, will probably also be razed.

Blevin, for long a leading farmer of the county, homesteaded his first land and obtained his government deed. Through the years he added to

Noyes Family 1913 Camping Trip

Ed. Note: A few years ago we published the Isabella Noyes diary account of the family's extended camping trip during the summer of 1913. The photos that accompanied it were indicative of the era, but the Museum only had one photograph of Charlie Noyes in the collection. Recently Brett Meyer, a descendent of Edna Noyes Meyer, brought in some loose photographs and a photograph album from the Noyes family. We hit the proverbial jackpot as the album is a record of the family's trip in the summer of 1913 – and many of the photographs are labeled. The following is an abbreviated, illustrated look at camping in 1913. Italics indicates text is taken from Isabella Noyes' 1912-13 journal.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS:

Edward A. Noyes
married Isabella Dean (author) – 1876

THEIR CHILDREN:

Bernice
(Mrs. Otis W. Hill, and daughter Grace)

Abbie
(Mrs. Antone Vagedes.
Children – Necia & Winton)
Myrtie (Mrs. James L. Haynes)
Charles A. Noyes (Maud)
Edna (Mrs. LeRoy H. Meyer)



ORIGINAL NOYES HOME. BUILT BY A. S. NOYES, THE HOUSE WAS TWO STORIES WITH PORCHES ON THREE SIDES OF THE HOUSE TO CATCH ANY BREEZE AVAILABLE. THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD IN 1913 JUST PRIOR TO THE FAMILY'S EXTENDED CAMPING TRIP THAT SUMMER. IT WAS LOCATED NEAR THE NOYESBURG CEMETERY, THE ONLY PART OF NOYESBURG THAT REMAINS.

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

THE NOYES FAMILY, LEFT TO RIGHT:
ED, ISABELLA, CHARLIE, MYRTIE (HAYNES), BERNICE (HILL), ABBIE (VAGEDES), AND EDNA (MEYER).



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

June 12th –

The Noyes family in the Oldsmobile with Calvin Wisner and Mr. Kock in the Kissel Truck loaded with tents, cots, cooking utensils, stove and provisions and clothing left on a camping trip of two or three months. They camped that night back of Myers Hotel at Magalia.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

June 15th –

Packed up and were on the road by 8 o'clock. Stopped at Magalia for gas, eggs and bread.



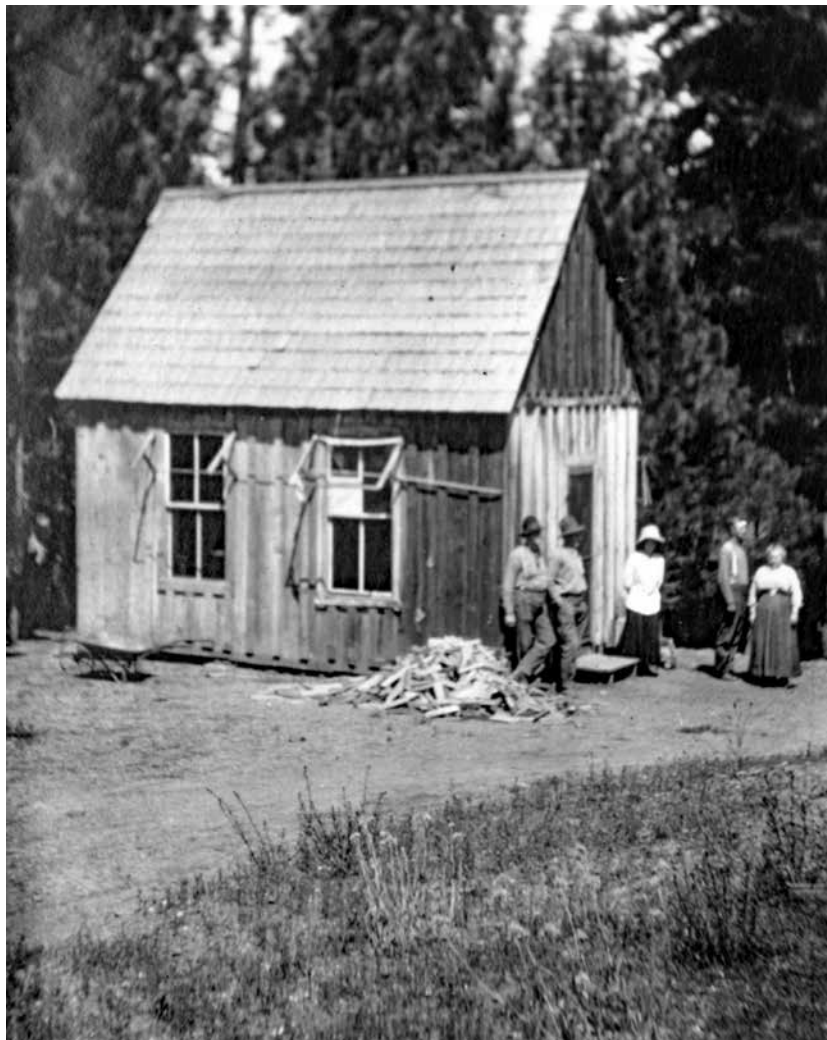
PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

June 16th –

(Front porch of Miller's hotel) Reached Humbug about five o'clock. Green grass, running water, everything looking its best, a drove of fat cattle in the pasture. Found Welsh's Hotel deserted – nothing but a dairy herd. Came on to Miller's and found the foreman of the Oro Electric Co. living in the hotel with his wife and children and Indian girl to do the cooking. He gave us permission to camp. We pitched our tents near Charlie Ward's old camping spot.

June 19th –
*Moved into cabin near Millers
 where we cook and eat.*

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



July 10th –
*Packed up and left
 Humbug where we passed
 a delightful three weeks.
 Going to Chester which
 we reached at ten o'clock.
 Chester did impress me
 much at first site. Dance
 every night, church – had
 a good little store and
 Post Office.*

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

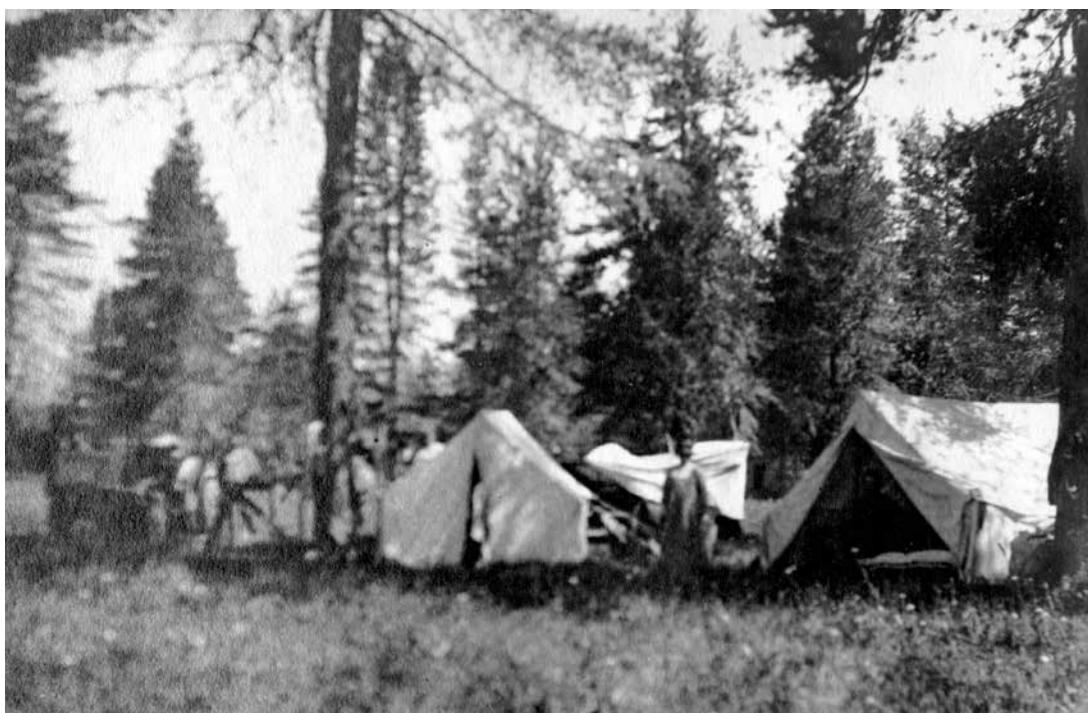




PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

July 15th –

Left Chester for Susanville, Lassen County. Found the roads rough and rocky. Had some trouble with truck. Olds stuck in deep creek. Boys pulled out a few big rocks and we came through alright. Later the rear tire of the truck was punctured which was our first tire trouble. After passing through Coppervale over steep, rough, dusty roads before reaching the pretty little town of Susanville. Most tiresome ride we have had.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

July 19th –

Left Susanville about 11 o'clock for Alturas.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

July 25 –

Shortly after breakfast we started for Fort Bidwell. The roads were good considering the rain we had. Passed through a very pretty valley – more thickly settled than any valley we have passed through. Lovely homes with fine gardens. Bidwell has a population of 350. Has been twenty years since the soldiers were quartered here. Have a fine Indian school here.

July 29 –

A cloud burst had reached here a day ahead of us so we found more bad roads. We soon came to Warner Lake, a beautiful body of water with grass and tule on every (illegible) plenty of young ducks and geese. That night we camped near 7T Ranch at Plush, Oregon. Plush contained two hotels, merchandise store, Post Office, barn that had been a garage.

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION





PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

August 6 –

We decided to remain at Fairport (near Goose Lake) all day – at ten o'clock Charlie, Maud, Calvin and Cookie procured bathing suits and were soon out in the lake. Mrs. E. A. N. could not get a suit so she went out in her brown waist and bloomers and shoes that had tread the boardwalks at Santa Cruz. Enjoyed herself as much as anyone.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

August 4 –

Cooking on new stove near Lakeview.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

THE INTERIOR OF A TENT. NOTICE THE DOUBLE BED, CARPET ON THE FLOOR, TRUNKS AND SUITCASES. THERE IS A SECOND BED PERPENDICULAR TO THE FIRST AT THE REAR OF THE TENT. A WOMAN'S MAGAZINE, *THE DELINEATOR*, IS PROPPED UP ON A SUITCASE IN THE BACK.

August 16 –

Camp at Bear Creek. With Leland Proctor as guide, rode all over the mountains that day but failed to get sight of a deer.

Mr. Kock came in with a badger and one quail. No fish in creek. Cold mornings.

At this point the journal ends, but there are more photographs in the album. Isabella indicated that they kept traveling and were crossing into Nevada, but she didn't write any more in this journal. These could be from the same trip as they have the same Oldsmobile and Kissel truck, or it could be from a different trip.





NEAR DONNER LAKE

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



ROAD AT DONNER SUMMIT

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

A Young Girl's Account of the Flood of 1875

Ed. Note: In January 1875, at age 8, Birdie Burch wrote her first letter to her big sister, Ada (Burch) Ashford. Ada was on her way to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) with her husband, Wilson Ashford, and her little sister wasn't pleased. We've left Birdie's creative spelling throughout.

Dear Ada

I want you to come back and not to go away again. We are so lonesome without you. We're all so uneasy about you. We are afraid the ship will sink or you will be so seasick and nobody to take care of you and I expect Wils will be seasick too. And if ever you get home again you shall never, never go away again. If you had staid here you could have had all of the water you wanted without going so far off. The levee has broak in about a dozen places and the water is all over the country. We would all take a ride on the water if we had a boat. We would not go to the Sand-wich Islands, but as long as you are there you may bring me some fruit and bring Net a bug or something for her cabinet.

The overflow came Wednesday the 20th of January. When papa got up in the morning and looked out and saw the water a coming he said girls jump up quick the overflow is coming. They thought he was a joaking but when they got up they found it no joak. They were like Bopeep. We all went out and picked up things as fast as we could and by the time we got them picked up the water was running into the well and cellar. The water was about a foot in the old house.

The water wet some of our grain and some of Uncle Billie's. Papas summer fallow volunteer and sowed grain was every bit under water. Pappa thinks his barley is all kild out. Ada you ought to of been here to see the little pigs swimming around in the water. They did not know what to make of it and the chickens too went flying about in the water. Wils said Papa did not give his cattle water enough. If he was here now he would think they had enough to last them until summer.

Henny-penny is all right. She goes waddling about like an old hen. Old watch has come home to take care of the ranch. Willie bothers me so I can hardly write.

Papa and I went over and set out the cypress trees. The colts are all right. Net wants to know if you lost your teeth. I want you and Wils to come right home. If I write any more I will have to get another sheet for this is full.

Jan 24th — The north wind blowed for two days and nights awful hard and the water is nearly all gone from our place. The Parks levee broke and the tuly is full of water, but the water was deeper in Marysville than anywhere else. It was from 5 to 7 feet in the stores on D Street and it was up to the top of the doors in Grandma's house. There has been no school for a week but it will open again on Monday if it does not rain. I can't tell you half about the floods and the suffering it has caused. There was only one person drowned and that was a little boy about six years old.

Judge Bliss saved his fine sheep by carrying them out of the water and putting them on his porch. The water ran over the fence in front of his house and Uncle Charley's.

Feb 2nd — Net got your letter last night. We were so glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well. Mama is saving a nice fat turkey for you and you shall eat all you want of it. I expect you was seasick so long that you are half starved.

Excuse this for it is the first letter I ever wrote and Uncle Billie is ready to go so I will close. Love to Wils and yourself.

From your little sister Birdie

Good by



ADA ASHFORD C 1875
PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

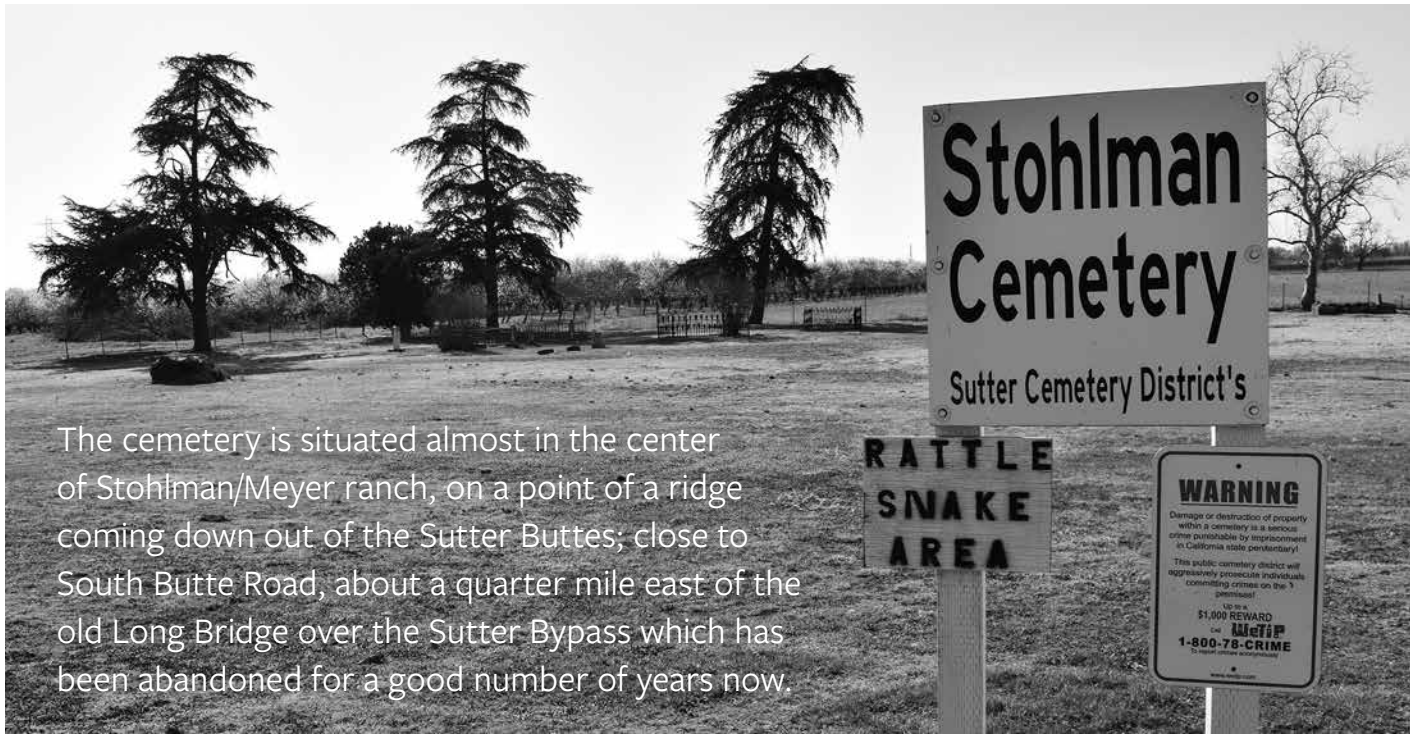


PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

The cemetery is situated almost in the center of Stohlman/Meyer ranch, on a point of a ridge coming down out of the Sutter Buttes; close to South Butte Road, about a quarter mile east of the old Long Bridge over the Sutter Bypass which has been abandoned for a good number of years now.

History of the Stohlman Cemetery

By Rainous T. Todd

Ed. Note: This article was first printed in the Bulletin in 1979. It has been updated to reflect the current ownership of the ranch that surrounds the cemetery.

The land was claimed by a Mr. Johnson in the early 1860s, and he buried a daughter there in 1866. The earliest burial, according to the gravestones, was in 1860. This burial was for Elzer B. Gray, son of B. G. Gray, who drowned in 1860, July 9th, at the age of 7 years, 8 months, 28 days. In his memory the following quotation is found on the headstone "Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Mr. Johnson sold the land to a Mr. Isaacs on September 1, 1869. Isaacs held the land for a year and sold it to Peter Charge on October 25, 1870. In October 1887, Henry Stohlman purchased the land from Pete Charge. The property has come down through the Stohlman heirs to the Meyer family.

It is reasonable to assume that Mr. Johnson set the site for a cemetery. At the time of the setting aside of the cemetery area or shortly thereafter a small one-room church was built. The pastor was known as Father

Crepts who was a circuit rider, traveling from one small church to another in the area. Miss Johana Meier's father, Chris Meier, went to the church at the Stohlman Cemetery. It was said of Father Crepts that when he sang, his voice was so strong that no one could hear any voice but his.

The church building was moved probably during the 1905-10 period and incorporated into a barn that Henry Stohlman built on the ranch.

The church was always open. The children of the area played in the cemetery and church, cousins Henry and Fred Stohlman among them. The first order of the day was settlement of an argument, by fists, between the Stohlman cousins to see who would be the preacher that day. When that was decided, the winner did the preaching and the girls were the choir and had to sing. Mrs. Christine Summy (Billy Summy's mother) and Mrs. Nau (Peter Nau's wife) were among the choir. The church had regular pews and hymn books. We have not

been able to find any records or anyone who remembers what became of the pews.

The care of the cemetery was left to the families of those buried there and the farmer farming the land. When Sutter County formed the Sutter Cemetery District in 1925, the Stohlman Cemetery and Noyesburg Cemetery were included with the Sutter Cemetery in the District and the County took over the care – what upkeep was done was usually just trying to keep the weeds down. The first Directors were Jack Lamme, Doc Howard and Ed Proper.

The juniper trees were planted in 1927 by Addison Schellenger, Ansel Schellenger and Delmar Frye. The year before, the men had cleared the site of weeds using scoop shovels and wheelbarrows. The job took 45 days as it had been some time since it was last cleared.

The church must have sat in the front part of the area as most of the graves are situated to the back or south and east part of the lot. That was the custom in all the old church and burial grounds at that time and the location of the graves bears this out.

The Native Daughters of the Golden West installed a monument in the cemetery in 1935. It reads “FIRST USED 1860 – Dedicated to the MEMORY OF THE PIONEERS.” Below on the same plaque is a raised picture of a covered wagon drawn by a team of oxen with hills in the background.

J. A. Friend, the sixth Sheriff of Sutter County, is buried there. His stone is gone. His wife, Harriett, is buried there as well. Her stone is still standing.

Some of those buried in the cemetery are not known by those of us remaining. Listed here are some of those resting there and what information we have on them:



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

■ Peter Charge died 1871 at the age of 41 years. His wife was Mrs. Mary Magdalena Weaver from Germany. She had one daughter when she arrived in the area. The daughter married Peter Nau. Mary Magdalena Charge died in 1912 at 88 years of age.

■ Peter and Mary's son, Martin Charge, married Agnes Burgett. Martin Charge is buried in the Meridian Cemetery and Agnes is buried in the Stohlman Cemetery. She died November 10, 1885 at 19 years of age, following the birth of their child, Mamie Charge Meier, who resided in Yuba City and died in 1985 and is buried in Sutter Cemetery. Mr. Milbury Burgett, father of Agnes Charge is buried here. Agnes' mother was Lucinda Rockholt Burgett. After she separated from Mr. Burgett, she married a man by the name of Davis and she is buried in the Sutter Cemetery.

■ Felix Mertin died at the age of 61. He was a native of Prussia. He was drowned while hauling grain to the river to be loaded on the river boats. The wagon and team were sliding into the river and Felix was trying to hold them. The men nearby called "Hold to him Frank." This is what is on his tombstone, with a silhouette of a man and horse cut into the stone.

■ Franz Nau died in 1895 at 63 years. He was from Germany. Engraved on his stone by his daughter is the following: "We shall meet again dear Father in a brighter cline than this, where the anguish of this world of ours is lost in deathless Bliss."



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

■ Dexter Wood died in 1875 at 26 years; he was from New York.

■ Herbert Brown died in 1864 at 32 years of age.

■ Edith Wilbur was born on November 4, 1864 and died in 1866 age 1 year, 8 months, 20 days.

■ Barthena Gray, wife of B. G. Gray, died on March 10, 1866 at 34 years of age. Included on her stone were the words: "In thou Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you."

■ Marsha Burgett, born 1871, died 1960. She was the mother of Mae Burgett Thompson McDougal, who died in 1990 and is buried in Sacramento.

■ David William Burgett, born 1864 and died in 1938, was Mrs. McDougal's father. M. Burgett (Milbury) born 1832 and died in 1910, was Mrs. McDougal's grandfather; he was also the grandfather of Mamie Meier.

■ Herman Erke, Sr., was born in 1874 and died at 38 years of age. One of his daughters, Charlotte, was buried at his side in 1880. His widow, Charlotte, who had married Peter Gardemeyer after Erke's death, was laid to rest next to Herman and her daughter.

■ Addie Johnson, daughter of T. and S. A. Johnson, died in 1866 at 16 years, 5 months, 18 days. On her stone is written: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

■ William Meier died in 1903 at 67 years. His wife, Christina Meier, died in 1875 at 23. Both had been born in Germany.

■ Mary Compton died in 1873 at 65 years; she was from England. "Our Mother is gone but not forgotten" was engraved on her stone by the children – M. J. Morrow, Bettie Maze and A. Compton.

■ Andrew Compton died in 1863 at 27 years and was from Missouri.

■ Two small boys were buried in the southeast corner of the cemetery. They were the George and Sarah Thompson babies. There is no stone marker and as far as we know, they had wooden markers which have long since disappeared. The graves are lost as to the location now.

This is by no means a complete list, but as far as we can verify, there never was a list of plots and who was buried in them. A lot of the markers have been destroyed and are lost.

Information gathered through the courtesy of the following:

- Miss Addie Meier of Yuba City
- Mrs. Mamie Meier of Yuba City
- Miss Johana Meier of Meridian
- Donald Meyer of Sutter
- Addison Schellenger of Sutter (Cemetery custodian 37 years at Sutter)
- Gerald F. Allen, Assessor of Sutter County
- *History of Yuba and Sutter Counties* by Peter J. DeLay



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

Sheriff Henry Lorenzo “Hank” McCoy

Henry “Hank” McCoy came to California from Pennsylvania in 1856, when he was 16 years old, taking the Isthmus of Panama route. He arrived in Marysville in 1858 and spent the rest of his life working in law enforcement in Yuba County. He married Minnie Wheeler, the adopted daughter of David and Mary Knight, in 1873 when she was 16 and he was 33. The Knights, a prominent family in Marysville, disapproved of the marriage and disowned Minnie when she married. Hank and Minnie’s union resulted in two sons, Charles J. and George Wheeler.

Hank died unexpectedly in 1885 at the age of 45 while serving as sheriff¹. Minnie eventually remarried and passed away in 1915. Their son, Charles, followed his father’s footsteps into police work and served as Yuba County Sheriff from 1914-1946.

While an officer with the Marysville police, McCoy distinguished himself as a dedicated lawman. An example of the efforts he put into his profession is given in Peter Delay’s *History of Yuba and Sutter Counties* published in 1924 and reprinted below.



PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

The Decker-Jewett Bank Robbery

The latter half of the year 1873 provided enough excitement for the officials of the city of Marysville and the officers of Yuba County to offset a season of quiet that for some time had prevailed. It was in that period that the futile attempt to rob the Decker-Jewett Bank, then located at First and High Streets, was made.

About 3 o’clock in the afternoon of July 11, 1873, John H. Jewett was standing behind the counter of the bank acting as cashier, and the late A. C. Bingham was engaged in a curtained counting room of the bank nearby, out of public view. Supposing that Jewett was alone, a man slipped up and leveled a six-shooter at his head, saying, “Don’t you move!” Jewett, quickly comprehending the situation, crouched down and moved behind a desk, exclaiming at the same time,

¹ First elected in 1878.

addressing Bingham, “The gun!” There were four double-barreled shotguns in different places in the bank. Jewett seized the nearest, not far from where he had taken refuge.

The robber passed inside the railing and grappled with Jewett, just as he was grasping the gun, and struck him on the head with his revolver. Bingham, rising from his seat, fired a shot at the robber with a pistol. The stubborn resistance from the bank officials, coupled with the fact that he was receiving no assistance from his accomplices, determined the robber to retreat. But before he made his exit, Bingham, from over the curtains of his desk, fired both barrels of a shotgun loaded with buckshot point blank at the retreating robber. Jewett also fired once with his shotgun. The man staggered through the door and fell on the sidewalk. Jewett

followed, and was about to shoot again, when the man begged to be spared, saying, "Don't, I am dying."

John A. Toney, the partner of the dying man, unhitched the wounded robber's horse, standing in front of the bank, and mounting the animal, rode rapidly toward E Street, and on to Yuba City. The wounded robber proved to be James Collins, alias Frank Whipple, and best known in the section as "Big Frank." He was as fine a specimen of man as can be imagined, those who knew him say. When he was carried to the police station, doctors found that twenty buckshot had entered at the small of his back, two were found near the crown of his head, and one in his neck. He died that night in the jail, after suffering great agony.

Before dying, Collins implicated P. W. Winkley, who had served the city both as city marshal² and chief of the fire department, as the master brain in the plan to rob the bank. He had during his death agony, earlier in the day, asked A. C. Bingham, who called on him, if Winkley had said anything to him about the plan to rob the bank. Bingham assured him that Winkley had not done so. Bingham's suspicions were at once aroused; and it afterward transpired that the plot was framed in Winkley's saloon in Yuba City, two days before, between "Big Frank," John A. Toney and Winkley. Winkley was to take a station at the corner of First and D Streets and give the necessary signals. He was to take off his hat and replace it when he thought the time ripe to act. It was then recalled by citizens that Winkley was seen hastening from the vicinity of the bank when the shooting began, something quite unlike anything he was ever before known to do at a time of peril and public excitement, as he was a brave fellow, according to his police record. Winkley was arrested and was convicted of complicity in the attempted robbery. He served a term in the penitentiary.

Officers Hank L. McCoy, father of Charles J. McCoy, the present sheriff of Yuba County, and Mike Hogan took up the pursuit of Toney, the trail leading through Sutter County and into Colusa County. In the territory now known as Glenn County, a constable apprehended Toney. Handcuffing him, he placed him on the robber's own animal, a racer, and, mounting one of his own, rode alongside. The start was made for Marysville. Reaching a watering-trough at a small town, the constable decided that the horses needed water; but no sooner had he dismounted for the purpose of watering the horses than Toney gave his horse the spurs and was off at lightning speed.

He made a clever get-away and found security for a time in the Lava Beds in the northern part of the State. Hank McCoy did not quit the chase, however. Suspecting the direction Toney had taken, he followed on horseback, and was rewarded by coming upon his man. There was a gun battle in which Toney received a broken arm. He then gave up and was returned to Marysville by McCoy. He paid the same penalty as Winkley.

² Winkley served as Marshal of Marysville from 1864-1865.

Hank McCoy – Family Man

A softer side of the rough and tumble Sheriff can be found in Gertrude Cable's book, *Mama Came to California*. Published in 1971, Cable wrote about her mother and uncle coming to California to stay with their uncle and aunt, Hank and Minnie McCoy, in Marysville. She dedicated the book to the memory of Sheriff Henry L. McCoy, her mother Sara Jane (McElroy) Finnegan and all the brave men and women who brought order and success to her beloved Yuba County.

Wishing to write about the exploits involving the author's great-uncle, she chose to have her mother accompany him on various jaunts and relate the experience through her mother's eyes. Sara Jane (Sadie) McElroy and her brother Lou journeyed from Vermont to California to visit their uncles. Two of their uncles, Henry "Hank" McCoy and William "Bill" McCoy were in Marysville. Hank McCoy was the sheriff by that time and Bill owned a livery stable/feed store that also served as the stage stop in Marysville.

Uncle Hank McCoy met their train in Roseville and the trio then caught another train to Marysville. Their youngest uncle, Bill, met them at the station with his best carriage and took them to the Sheriff's house just south of the Yuba County Courthouse on D Street between 5th and 6th Streets. Greeted by Hank's wife Minnie and their sons Charles and George, the cousins settled in swiftly.

A trip Sadie made with her uncle highlights the distances he had to travel in order to perform his duties as sheriff. Yuba County covers 644 square miles and it's hard to imagine trying to police that varied terrain by wagon and horseback. What follows is the author's description of a trip to Brownsville by Sheriff McCoy and his newly arrived niece and nephew. We've taken the liberty of editing the account to smooth out the narrative. Our readers familiar with Yuba County landmarks and family names, may recognize many of these people and places.

Driving a four-horse team from Bill McCoy's livery stable, the three traveled out B Street, past Knight Park and over the levee into the Cordua District. They passed the Mathews home and over Jack Slough bridge. Continuing on, they turned onto the La Porte Road. They passed the Folsom Ranch and arrived at Honcut where they stopped at the local store.

They continued into Hansonville (later Rackerby) and came to a halt in front of "Colonel" Rackerby's home. The ranch house was a stone building with an "L" shape with dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. Colonel Rackerby kept a store and did a good business. At the time, the whole country had lovely orchards and vineyards. It was renamed Rackerby after Colonel Rackerby became postmaster.

After leaving Rackerby it took about an hour to arrive at Brownsville. After dinner at the inn and spending the night, the trip continued past the Sharon Valley Ranch house. This was built by the Crane Brothers, both

Harvard men, who came to the area during the gold rush and established a sawmill where they provided wood for the towns and camps springing up as well as sluice boxes and bridges.

Within a few miles, they reached the Willow Glen Road which forked off the central road. They traveled past the Lubman place, down Stanfield Hill and past the Peoria House which was kept by Jacob Sperbeck and his wife, Margaret. The next landmark was the Landerman Ranch and then on to the Brown's Valley store which was operated by the Burris family.

At this time, Brown's Valley was still an active mining center and business was thriving. The next stop was Gus Wade's Ten Mile House where a lunch was enjoyed. After a brief stop at the Seven Mile House, Gertrude wrote "the horses sensed the homeward stretch and literally flew through Cordua, past Dr. Teegarden's farm, and onto the Brown's Valley grade. Nearing the outskirts of Marysville, we went past the Jacob Schimpf farm and dairy onto B Street, down Fifth to D, around the corner and home."

SOURCES:

History of Yuba and Sutter Counties
by Peter Delay

Mama Came to California by
Gertrude Cable

Donate

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.

There are many ways to donate to the Museum:

- Mail a check
- Come visit us!
(Yes, you can donate using a credit card.)
- Planned Giving

We also have corporate sponsorship opportunities for our events and temporary exhibits.

The Power of the Purple Dress, from page 4

his holdings by purchases until he was farming 1500 acres. The early day settlers who saw his arrival with his seven children and who remarked that here was another immigrant to starve to death beheld a successful man.

Next to the Blevin barn was the first one in the county. In it the change of horses for the stage teams were made on the first transportation line in the Sacramento Valley.

There is supposed to be buried treasure on the property the Pinsons are developing. One day, in the long ago, when the family was about to start on a journey by team, of course, Miss Laura Blevin buried the valuable family jewels to keep them safe until the return. Upon their return she was unable to remember where they were buried. Much of the land was well cultivated during ensuing months as the search for the jewels progressed. If they were ever found, someone outside the family must have been the finder.

The 10-room Blevin mansion erected after the family had made a success of the farming venture was burned many years ago, supposedly by a firebug.

Elijah Sitton, father of Marion Sitton now of Yuba City, came out from Missouri on a visit to his half-sister, Susan Fields, and was later employed by Blevin as riding boss on the big ranch. He married Eliza Blevin and became a member of the family, remaining on the ranch the rest of his life.

A. B. Gage, now of Gridley, owned part of the Blevin ranch for some time and the new owners are related to him.

Renew your membership today!

Funds from membership directly support the work we do here, including taking care of our collections and offering stellar education programming.

Not a member? Consider joining today!
And don't forget, a membership is a great gift!

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

In the Artisan Community Garden

In the Museum Store

We have so many great items in the store right now, it's hard to know what to mention! Wonderful soaps made with fresh goat's milk right here in the Sutter Buttes, great books on California history, fantastic jewelry made all over California, and as always, a great selection of cards!



The garden has been resting during the winter months, and we're beginning to plan for Spring programs! We will also be bringing back our Fun Friday mornings in the garden. If you would like to be on our events email list, please send us a quick note to artisancommunitygarden@gmail.com or follow our Facebook Page - Artisan Community Garden.

There will be some rental plots available in the Spring, so if you have been wanting some extra garden space, please email us at artisancommunitygarden@gmail.com for plot sizes and pricing. Our renters enjoy being out in the sunshine, meeting other fellow gardeners and connecting at a wonderful community space!

Volunteer

We would not be able to do what we do without our volunteers. Volunteers staff the front desk when the Museum is open. This includes greeting visitors, answering any questions they may have, answering the phone, and selling items in the Museum Store. Volunteers also work on special projects, help at events, make ornaments and help decorate for Trees & Traditions. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you are interested please contact us or come by the Museum!

Membership

In December, each of you should have received a letter detailing the changes we have made to our membership program. Hopefully you have also received your renewal notice (we spread those out through January and February - if you haven't received one please let us know!).

Membership is a fantastic way to support the Museum, and we can't tell you how much we appreciate that support. Don't forget that memberships make great gifts too!

Membership

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

October 10, 2019 – January 23, 2020

Allen County Public Library
Alliance for Hispanic Advancement
Mary Allen
Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley
Linda Baker
Lydia Barkley
Merilyn Beck
Linda & Tim Beilby
Audrey Breeding
Tonya Byers
Ma'Carry Cairo
Connie Cary
Dianna Ceballos
Alice Chesini
Ann Chesini
Deane Coats
Creative Art Center
Nance Contreras
Paul Costa
Roland & Roberta D'Arcy
Michael Dockrey
Chet & Andrea Dunbar
Marilyn Elliott
Gene & Joan Erfle
Susanna Ford
David Freiler
Carmen Frye
Jerry Fulkerson
Kelly Gash
Leslie Haynes
N. Dwayne Haynes
Russell Haynes
Kimberly Heisch
Diane Hilbert
Christine Hodgkins
John & Linda Houston
Robert Inman
Mary Jensen
Bob & Lee Jones
Tony & Joan Kurlan
Blake Leone
Nick Limonoff
Donna McMaster
Meriam Library
John & Louise Miller
Laura Miller
Zachary & Amber Milner
Charlotte Mitchell
Doris Mitchell
Carl & Thea Norum
Susan Odegard

Cynthia Paine
Janie Payne
Jan Perry
Steve Protine
Lee Roy & Sarah Pryor
Linden Reynolds
Darlene Close Rhodes
Peter & Margit Sands
Tom & Barbara Silver
Sharyl Simmons
Keith Smith
Bill & Leita Spoto
Tamara Spoto
Julie Stark
Cynthia Struckmeyer
John Taylor
Patsy Thompson
Damon Ullrey
Gabriela Wackerli
Janice Wallace
Williams Family
Dennis Wilson
Carol Withington
Rose Wood
Joan Young
Yuba-Sutter Home School
Meet-up Group

Memorials

In Memory of **Fran Crawford**
Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Lillie Inman**
Robert Inman

In Memory of **Betty Meyer**
Alice Chesini
Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **George Post**
Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Michael Wilson**
Connie Cary
Laverne & Maria McPherrin
Sharyl Simmons
Phyllis Smith

Gifts

David Burroughs
Connie Cary
Dan Flores
Coleen Morris
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Sorooptimist International
Marysville-Yuba City
Sutter Buttes Garden Club
Rose Wood

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Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau

Membership Information

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.

For a complete listing of benefits by level, visit www.suttercountymuseum.org

Membership Levels

Basic*	\$35
Basic Plus*	\$60
Bronze**	\$100
Silver**	\$250
Gold**	\$500
Harter Circle**	\$1000

*\$10 discount for Student/Senior/Military/Long Distance (200+ miles away)

**\$15 discount for Student/Senior/Military/Long Distance (200+ miles away)

Business Levels

Business Basic***	\$250
Business Basic Plus***	\$500
Business Sustaining***	\$1000

All Business Memberships include Basic benefits as well.

*** 20% discount for Non-profits



Puzzling

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

MARCH

Friday

13 Night at the Museum, 5:00 pm, movie TBD

Friday

20 Opening Reception for Black and White in Black and White

Saturday

28 Celebration for the new permanent Nisenan exhibit, 1:00 pm

APRIL

Monday

13 West Coast Falconry program, 2:00 pm

LATE APRIL

Wednesday

TBD First day of the **Farmers Market at the Museum!**

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.