

FALL 2022

BULLETIN

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DOROTHY DEAN.

Sutter County Museum Staff

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www.suttercountymuseum.org



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. This fiscal year, the Association is publishing three editions due to the financial ramifications of the pandemic. Editors are Sharyl Simmons and Phyllis Smith. Renewal of annual membership 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:

Phyllis Smith, President Margit Sands, Vice President Debbie Reid, Secretary Amber Milner, Treasurer

Tara Art Carol Bordeaux Manny Cardoza Babs Cotter Eric Gruenthal Barbara Hankins Scott Hankins Wade Kirchner Tony Kurlan Sukh Sidhu Chuck Smith

From the Director

Hello, everyone!

As we approach the end of the year, we want to thank you for your commitment to our Museum and our mission. Through your support, we have gotten back to our usual slate of free programing this year. From kids' movie nights to open play in the Artisan Community Garden, and from exhibit receptions to the launch of our new Sutter County Museum Speaker Series, we have been pleased to host hundreds of people at a variety of special events. Thanks to the generous commitment from Museum volunteers, the return to our full public hours of operation has been an excellent resource to the community as well.

We also experienced a big change this fall with the retirement of our longtime Assistant Curator, Sharyl Simmons. As many of you may know, Sharyl served in this role for over 20 years, bringing her love of history and vast knowledge of our local area to every aspect of her work. Through her efforts in managing the Museum's collection, completing research requests for members of the community, conducting tours for schools and groups across Yuba-Sutter, and more, her impact on the Sutter County Museum is immeasurable. We are very fortunate that in her retirement, Sharyl wants to continue her great work here! You'll continue to enjoy the wonderful articles that she writes and coordinates for the *Bulletin*, and we'll continue moving forward on the great path that Sharyl has helped establish for the future of the Museum.

And we are not slowing down! Thanks to an NEA grant through Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture, local artists have been commissioned to create artworks for the Museum's main gallery that showcase key aspects of our local history. Upcoming exhibits include *Chinese Pioneers: Power and Politics in Exclusion Era Photographs*, on display from December 13th through February 5th, 2023. Another exhibit next year will feature impressive Mountain Maidu baskets by four generations of women. Keep an eye on our website, social media, and eNewsletters for information on upcoming events, or stop by the Museum to learn more.

Lastly, and perhaps most excitingly, **Trees & Traditions: Home for Christmas** returned this year after a two-year hiatus. On December 2nd, we appreciated seeing so many guests enjoying the Museum and celebrating the season. Whether you sponsored **Trees & Traditions**, donated in-kind prizes or services, attended the event, or volunteered to make it all happen, we were so grateful and humbled to see the community support for the work that we do at the Museum. With the fantastic support from you all through this event and through your annual memberships, we look forward to bringing another great year of exhibits and educational programming to the Yuba-Sutter community!

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Museum!

Maley Berom

Molly Bloom Sutter County Museum Director and Curator

Editor Update from Sharyl Simmons

Until my recent retirement, I was the Assistant Curator at the Museum. This year marks significant anniversaries for me: 20 years working at the Museum and 30 years co-editing the *Bulletin*.

My first co-editor, Linda Leone, was my sister and a long-standing Board Member of the Sutter County Historical Society. Through some kind of mesmerism ability that only older sisters possess, she asked me to help with one issue back in 1992. She had strong powers of coercion, er, persuasion because I'm still working on the *Bulletin* one issue at a time.

After my sister passed away, I asked Phyllis Smith to help, and she came aboard as co-editor in the Fall of 2000. We've been churning out issues ever since and I'm happy to say that we will continue working on the *Bulletin* in the foreseeable future.

We are always soliciting articles for the *Bulletin*. If you have any ideas for articles or have composed an article regarding local history, we're ready to take a look at it any time. We are happy to help get any article ready for publication in the *Bulletin*.

As you can see, as the *Bulletin* goes, things are not changing. I'm still organizing and editing the content, and Phyllis is still applying her sharp editor's eyes to grammar, spelling, and general cohesiveness of the articles. We're still begging for contributions and ideas for articles. There really are some things that remain the same.

General John A. Sutter's Gun

By Sharyl Simmons

One of our main attractions at the Museum is a rampart gun that was owned by John Sutter, whose Mexican land grant extended from Sacramento as far north as present-day Sutter County. In the northernmost part of this land grant he built Hock Farm, the building of which was overseen by another early pioneer, John Bidwell. The house burned down in 1865 after which Sutter departed the region, and the land was leased prior to selling it.

The Barr family in Yuba City donated a flintlock rampart gun previously owned by John A. Sutter to the museum in 1992 after it had been in the possession of the family for nearly 100 years. The gun was manufactured in England in 1770, is 74" long, and weighs 38 pounds. It was used at Sutter's Hock Farm prior to 1865. D. J. Kertchen, Sr., who leased Hock Farm after Sutter left the area, received the gun as a gift from one of Sutter's sons. Following exhibition at the mid-winter fair in 1893 in San Francisco, the gun was presented to a local physician, Dr. J. H. Barr, and remained in his family until it was donated to the museum in 1992. Today it resides in the Agricultural Wing of the museum.

We are lucky to have documentation regarding ownership of the gun in the form of a notarized affidavit supplied to Dr. Barr by David J. Kertchen, Jr. in 1898. It is this document that transforms an antique firearm into Sutter County history.

General John A Sutter's Gun. This gun being a most val- family until uable historical relie, its when depon family until the year 1895, when deponent presented at. authensticity is fereby presto DA J. H. BAAR 1. S. Sour chem affidavit ID J KERTCHEM OF MARYSVILLE SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS BOTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.P. 1898. the s. that with swices attack. it marked & moors 1770 g. W. Marney. NOTARY PUBLIC. YUBA G. CAL. nel. and. inacing the properties it is one of the the guns YAC . at ranch on the 2. 12 miles. South. of Marys-Cal. nown as Hock FAGM, the said gun year 18 70 The. the b mente father . D. & Kertik Sa who in that year, Hock Farm- steen is a present of general Sutters Jose that the in the possession of deponents

AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY.

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"David J. Kertchen of Marysville, California, being duly sworn deposes and says that the large gun with swivel attachment marked Moore 1770 on barrel and lock was originally the property of General John A. Sutter and that it is one of the guns that was mounted for defense and used for several years prior to 1865 in the fort at General Sutter's ranch on the Feather River 12 miles south of Marysville, Cal. Known as Hock Farm, that the said gun became in the year 1870 the property of the deponent's father, D. J. Kertchen, Sr. who in that year, being the lessee of the Hock Farm received the said gun as a present from the son of General Sutter that the said gun remained in the possession of deponent's family until the year 1895 when deponent presented it to Dr. J. H. Barr. (Signed) David J. Kertchen.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of September A. D. 1898, G. W. Harney, Notary Public, Yuba Co. Cal."



BENNY LYNCH WITH THE RAMPART GUN.

A Letter from Washington

Dorothy Dean volunteered in World War I to do her part. She wanted to go overseas to help, but she had to settle for a job in Washington, D. C. where she worked in an office for the War Department. Her letters are a combination of her experiences in Washington and interest in what is happening back home. This is one of the many letters she sent home to her mother, Edwina Dean.



DOROTHY DEAN.

35 W ST. NW WN. D.C. MARCH 3, 1919

My dear Ma:

I have just a few moments to scratch you a note. If I don't do it now I don't know when I'll have another chance. I have so much to tell you. The past weeks has been full of extra things and this week promises to be just as full.

To-night Houtzie and I are invited to a shower for one of the girls who expects to be married soon. She is from Portland, Oregon. She leaves for home the fifteenth of March. We are going dressed in our best. Do you know what that means for me? My party dress of course.

Tuesday night Houtzie wanted me to go to a dance given by her department. I was afraid to risk going to a dance. I would have a splendid chance to be a gorgeous wallflower and that isn't my idea of having a good time. She has no way to go so it's up to me to take her. She has a man to bring her home. Seems to me he is a poor excuse of a man or he would come for her. Well that is as it is.

I'm surely glad you write to me on Sunday from force of habit. That habit brings me a letter every Monday. This morning I hardly looked for a letter as you had written me two last week. I was happily surprised with two letters this morning. One from you and one from Charley. He is still at the Letterman Hospital in San Francisco. Poor kid, he is so tired of the army. He says it's lonesome enough at the hospital. He asked me not to be surprised to hear that he was in the pen. If he didn't get his discharge pretty soon, he expected to be there. This is a very awkward sentence. It is my very own. I mean that he intimated he be breaking rules to get some freedom.

He didn't write his folks for some time that he was in Frisco. He expected to get home soon and he wanted to surprise them.

Warren is still in Germany. He doesn't expect to be sent home for some time to come. He is in the regular army – in the first division, Ebernhahn Germany.

I am to meet Houtzie at the peach monument in front of the Capitol at five P.M. We are going to visit Congress before it adjourns. It adjourns to-night at mid-night supposedly, but if they do not finish their business by that time the clock will be turned back so it will be twelve when they adjourn.

We went through the Capitol yesterday with a guide. He explained everything to us. It was very interesting. He took us into the President's private office where he signs bills and things.

Lincoln was the first President to use the office. Last Sunday week we visited the house where Lincoln died on Tenth Street across from the old Ford Theater.

I've seen most of Washington now. I've also seen the President and Mrs. Wilson. I'll try to finish this sometime.

MARCH 5, 1919

Houtzie was expecting some friends over this evening. It has been raining hard all evening so it isn't likely they'll come.

A cousin of Mr. Richard's is visiting here. He is a fine man, an Englishman. About forty. He has traveled a great deal; when he reaches his home in England he will have completed his journey around the world.

He said this evening that his house is "under my 'at." He brought out the 'at so distinctly yet unconsciously it seemed amusing.

I guess May will not care about riding with Ralph any more. That must have been quite a shock to her. Of course, I can see how funny it must have seemed to Ralph.

So Ralph did get excited about the type written letter. I though of him while I was having a "devil of a time."

I must tell you about seeing the President. It was the day of the Parade. Pennsylvania Avenue was closed by half past twelve. About ten minutes to one the President's car passed down the street accompanied by his secret service men on motorcycles. Shortly afterward Mrs. Wilson returned alone in the car. I saw her plainly. She is buxom, dark and fine appearing, very pleasant looking.

Later the President came marching up the Avenue at the head of the parade, accompanied by his cabinet. He doffed his hat and smiled. He looked older than I expected he would. His hair is iron gray.

The parade was splendid. The most striking part to me was the gold star on the white banner dedicated to the boys who were "left behind." Behind the banner born on a convoy wagon which was drawn by four horses was a bier of flowers. The bier was draped in black. Following the bier came a mounted soldier leading a riderless horse in black trapping. Was sweetly, solemnly sad.

There were soldiers, sailors, marines, yeowomen, marinettes, canteen workers, troops of cavalry, Army trucks, pontoon bridges, two wee baby tanks and everything. The tanks seemed uncanny, crawling along with no visible controlling power.

The most satisfying thought for me was the fact that I'd seen the President and Mrs. Wilson at last.

Well Ma, I'm planning to go to New York the middle of April. I'm going with a Miss Martin who was born in Marysville. I knew her for some little time before I learned the above mentioned important fact.

They have surely had a flood. Poor little Sutter County always gets the worst of the deal. Do you suppose it will put an end to the by-pass project? There will be something doing in little old Sutter if it doesn't. They'll have some Bolshevism to contend with if they press it too far.

I'm glad you sent me the papers about it.

I suspect you are enjoying your new house. It's about the nicest little plaything you've ever had. Those screen porches sound good to me. I hope you have a sink with running water. It's too bad Tom Curfew has the wanderlust so badly.

Mrs. Huntington wrote that Sam Basford is looking for a place to buy. He expects to marry soon. He hardly knows what to do, he hates to takes the chance. Mrs. Huntington hardly made it clear which chance it was that he was afraid to risk.

Well Ma, I'm hoping to buy a leather aviator coat. I suppose it will cost a young fortune but I've set my heart on one. Do you know what that means? I have an idea.

I received another letter from Charley. He expected his discharge last Tuesday. So you may see him coming in most any day now.

It is getting late Ma and I'm so sleepy. I'll have a lot to tell you when I come home. It takes so long to write things.

I'll close for this time,

With love, Dorothy

P.S. That was truly a sweet bouquet Emma passed to send me. When did you see her? That was worth more than I have to spend on bouquets at present.

Oh Ma I'd love one of your fruit salads about now and cake. I'd like to be in the old Buttes this spring.

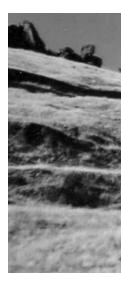
D.D.



FRESNO SCRAPER IN ACTION.







The Big Barn

By Charles Etcheverry

The Big Barn is located at 6888 Pennington Rd, Live Oak, California. It sits on a steep hillside, faces north, and overlooks thousands of acres of hills and valleys. It is situated below the northeast flank of North Butte located in the Sutter Buttes.

Site preparation began in the mid-1920s on the then-Forderhase farm. A Fresno scraper pulled by two horses cut into and leveled the hillside. It was built to take advantage of gravity in its capacity to process grains for feed.

Construction began in the late 1920s. Completion was in the early 1930s. The barn is 11,475 square feet and made of pine, concrete, and galvanized sheeting. It was built completely by hand with every board cut and fitted with precision. Sixteen-year-old Jack Raco kept the tools sharp. The barn stands strong today after 90+ years.

From the top level the grain was deposited onto the second level, which consisted of four separate holding bins according to the variety of grain. These bins fed the third level, where the grain was ground by tractor power. Or the grain descended to the fourth level, which also had four bins to keep the grain separate for distribution to either sacks, wagons, or trucks to be fed to various animals.

Charles and Mary Etcheverry bought the ranch in 1945. It is still owned by the Etcheverry family with Charles and Tami Etcheverry in residence.



EAST SIDE OF THE BARN. SURROUNDED BY OPEN LAND AND THE SUTTER BUTTES, PHOTOGRAPHS DO NOT GIVE AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF THE SIZE OF THE BARN.

A Brief History of the Origins of Yuba City

By Earl Ramey at the request of Shirley Schnabel

Margit Sands recently passed on this letter Earl Ramey wrote in response to a request from Shirley Dean Schnabel, her mother.

Earl Ramey was a long-time teacher at Marysville High School, teaching both history and math. His interest in local history resulted in his book, *The Beginnings of Marysville*, to be published by the California Historical Society in 1936. At some point, he began indexing all the material at the Packard Library and engaged his students in the task. Recently the Rotary Club had the index card file digitized, and it can be accessed on the Yuba County Library website: www.yuba.org/departments/library/historical_ resources.php

Shirley,

I wrote these pages partially from memory. It is really a rehash of what I have written in other articles. Use any part of it which will serve your purpose or merely use it as a sort of suggestion of what might be written.

Earl

Yuba City was one of several results of a historical contest which was conducted in 1849 and 1850. The contest was the location of a supply depot for the gold diggings on the Yuba and Feather Rivers. Two factors determined this contest – navigable water and land access to the mines.

The summer of 1849 was a dry one and the rivers were low, especially the Yuba. So the first towns to be formed in the spring of 1849 were Vernon, Nicolaus, Kearny, and Fremont, located well down on the Feather.

Nevertheless a group of speculators decided to risk locating a town higher on the Feather. They also wanted a position high on the bank to avoid overflows. The place which satisfied these requirements was on the west bank of the Feather opposite the mouth of the Yuba, the site of the village of the Yubu Indians.

There were six or eight of the interested speculators at first but only three of them stayed with the project. These were Sam Brannan, Pierson Reading, and Henry Cheever. They took in John Sutter as a partner because he had the land. These four established a town which they called Yuba City on land which Sutter deeded to himself and the other three. This partnership was formed in July 1849. At this time the nearest competition was Nicolaus.

The site of the town of Yuba City was to begin opposite the mouth of the Yuba and run four miles downstream. Naturally they did not visualize



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a town four miles long, but they were preparing to move downstream if the Feather began to get too low. Also the river front was the only useful part of any town for business.

The first preliminary survey was made by Joseph Ruth in September. He started at a point which was to be the north edge of the town – a point on the bank of the Feather opposite the mouth of the Yuba. He ran a street down the riverbank which he called Water Street. From the same point he ran a street westward and called it A Street. Water Street was really First Street, so he ran streets parallel to Water and named them Second, Third, etc. going westward. The streets parallel to A were named B, C, D, etc. going southward.

The first settlers or residents of the new town, other than the Indians, were two young men who set up a store or trading post. One was Talman Rolfe, a printer by trade, who was working on the *Star* in San Francisco when gold was discovered. The gold rush set in the *Star* ceased publication and Rolfe, after some months in the mines, was working in Brannan's store in Sacramento. The other young man was David Cheever, a brother of one of the proprietors, Henry Cheever, who had first arrived in California as supercargo of a shipment of merchandise from the States. These two became acquainted and formed a partnership to conduct a store in Yuba City.

Rolfe and Cheever came up the rivers in their whale boat loaded with supplies in September 1849. They brought canvas and a few planks with which to make a store. They had secured title to lots number 3 and 4 in block 2 on which they erected the first house of the town. They used poles from the river bottom for a frame over which they stretched the canvas. With the planks they made a door, a counter, and shelves.

The present county office buildings are on the west half of the west half of this block 2. The lots 3 and 4 are east of the office building but are now partially covered by the levee. They chose this location because it was planned to establish a ferry across the Feather between the foot of B Street on the Yuba City site and the mouth of the Yuba on the Nye's Ranch side. The ferry was established as planned early in 1850. Also in 1850 the first hotel was erected at the corner of Water and B Streets. So this location really became the center of town.

Reading was the only one of the four proprietors who, in the beginning, took an active interest in the town. The partners made him their agent with power to sell and convey lots. The only deeds dated in 1849 are those by which each of the owners took individual title to certain blocks of lots. Not until the spring of 1850 were any lots sold to speculators and prospective



PIERSON B. READING.

residents or business operators.

According to reports from travelers, which were published in the Sacramento papers, a number of overland immigrants and miners down for the winter built temporary shacks back from the river. They used poles and clapboards which they split from the native timber they found growing. These were really squatters, but with no intentions of gaining title. The proprietors were tolerant of their industry because it gave an appearance of settlement.

The winter of 1849-50 was a wet one. Sacramento City was nearly terminated by the overflow from the Sacramento and American Rivers. With the high water, steamboats could come farther up the Feather and even a short way up the Yuba. And with the steamboats came several new towns to compete with Yuba City. Kearny on the Bear, near the present location of Wheatland, took new life with the Continued on page 24

Cartes de Visite - Photographs to be Shared By Sharyl Simmons

One of the most common forms of photography during the 19th century were the *Cartes* de Visite, small photographs that could be printed cheaply and easily mailed to family and friends.





DR. JAMES BARR.

Most women were pictured in a ³/₄ pose with eyes following the direction the head had been turned to illustrate a gentle expression.

There was a problem with the clothing showing up in photos looking the wrong color. Green, yellow, orange, and red appeared dark, and light blue appeared white. This remained a problem until the 1890s when lenses improved. Some photographers would submit dressing suggestions to prospective clients to get the best results.

Head shots in the form of vignetted heads appeared in the early 1860s, but the pictures were small. As lenses were improved, the images got bigger and took up more of the *carte*. By the mid-1870s, the portrait could nearly fill the print area without a problem. (Another way to date photos.)

In 1851, Louis Dodero invented the *Carte de Visite*, but the technique was patented by Andre-Adolphe-Eugene Disderi in 1854 and popularized by him. A thin paper albumen print about $2^n \ge 3\frac{1}{2}^n$ would be mounted on thicker paper measuring $2\frac{1}{2}^n \ge 4^n$, which was a popular size for visiting cards at that time. Many prints could be produced on a single plate, which made them economical.

"Gems" were small tin types placed in decorated card frames of the "carte" size. There would be decoration around the picture or multiple pictures on a carte. Diamond Cameo portraits were introduced in 1864 and would show four small portraits of an individual on a card in a diamond pattern. The smaller portrait photos with the blurred edges are called "vignetted photos."

Some *cartes* were copied from old photographs – some were plagiarized, and some were done to save damaged photos. The damaged area could be filtered or edited out of the *carte*. When a copy of a daguerreotype¹ was done, the lighting would have to come from the side – to light it straight on would produce a negative image.

Photographs were staged to show women as modest, pure, and demure and men as strong and dignified through various poses. Most poses were sitting or standing with a hand resting on something so the person could steady themselves, as exposure time for photographs was much longer than today. Many photos showed the subject holding something or clasping hands - another way to keep their hands from moving. Neck clamps were used at times, and the stands holding the clamps were more easily hidden by women's skirts than in photos of men or children.



ELIZA BOYD BICKLEY, L. J. STINSON PHOTOGRAPHER, Studio in Marysville from 1862-1873.

¹ First widely available photograph type used in the 1840s-1850s.

Colored *cartes* were hand tinted – sometimes on production lines with many hands adding color to a single photo. The photographer or assistant would make notes on the color of clothing, eyes, hair, etc. to aid in accuracy.

Post-mortem photographs were done with the subject posed to appear as if sleeping. Sometimes the subject would have a small bouquet in their hand. Many of these were pictures of children – probably the only photograph of the child that was taken. Funeral and grave photos were common as well – as a remembrance and also a way to show those who couldn't attend the care taken with the deceased.



IDENTIFIED AS "GRANDFATHER & GRANDMOTHER BURRIS."



FUNERAL IMAGE, ENNO NESEMANN PHOTOGRAPHER, STUDIO IN MARYSVILLE FROM 1883-1900.

Couples posed in rather set ways. Engaged couples posed with no contact, but the woman's hand might be held so that the engagement ring was exposed. Married couples were usually photographed with the man sitting and the woman standing with her hand on his shoulder. By the late 1880s, this was the standard pose for married or engaged couples. (The man sitting erased the height difference and made focusing easier for the photographer.)

With photography, for the first time, full-figure poses became attainable to the average family. Prior to photography – and even more so with inexpensive photography like the *cartes* – a person would have to be very wealthy to be able to afford a fullfigure painting.



IDENTIFIED AS "LIZZIE" BICKLEY (SCHUSSLER), "MAGGIE" SPEAR (BURGESS), "JAMIE" BOYD (WILSON), L. J. STINSON PHOTOGRAPHER, STUDIO IN MARYSVILLE FROM 1862-1873.

The Addie Taylor Saga

By Carol Withington

Although it was generally believed that slavery was banned in California by the Compromise of 1850, one can research the newspapers during that time period to find items describing slaves for sale, cases involving enslavement, or advertisements offering rewards for runaways such as the one that appeared in 1852 in the *San Francisco Herald*. A \$100 reward was offered for a "runaway from Mrs. Elizabeth Ware in the month of October, 1850, from Marysville." A description of Hagar was given along with the fact that she had changed her name to Mary. The reward was increased to \$150 if she was located in any other county "with her delivery in the hands of the sheriff of San Francisco."

In another example, some slaveholders hid their slaves in remote areas such as the case of Addie Taylor, who worked as a sheepherder in the Yuba County community of Hansonville, which was first settled in 1851 by James H. Hanson, for whom the town was named.

Although it is unknown when Addie Taylor first arrived, Hansonville, located 28 miles from Marysville, once boasted of a population of a thousand residents. A quartz ledge was found in 1851, and a number of miners worked along Honcut Creek. Serving this thriving community were seven stores, each with a bar; eight hotels; and a bowling alley. A private school was established in 1853, and a permanent schoolhouse built in 1854 that was also used by the Methodists for religious services.

Hansonville would eventually endure a major fire and flood along with the loss of many established stamp mills. By 1860, the last store remaining closed down. It appears that prior to this time, the life of enslaved Addie Taylor took on an amazing turn of events – thanks to a man named Robert Anthony.

Anthony came to Sacramento from St. Louis, Missouri between 1849-1852, traveling by ox team with his owner. Anthony worked in the mines for two years to pay for his freedom. It is said he worked by day for his master and by night for himself. With the money he saved, Anthony was able to eventually purchase two quartz mills and is credited as owning the first quartz mill in California. Both of his mills were located at Horncutt (Honcut) between Yuba and Dry Creeks. One mill was worked by horses, the other by water.

THE RESCUE

Anthony later moved his mills to Browns Valley, which was once the scene of the most extensive quartz mining operations in Yuba County. While working at the mills, he learned about Addie and her enslavement in Hansonville. It must have impressed him because, as the story goes, one day Anthony drove by wagon to where Addie Taylor lived and asked her if she did not wish her freedom. "Yes," was her reply, and Anthony then requested Addie to get into his wagon, and they drove a great distance to Colusa, where he was now a resident. It appears that a mine tunnel had earlier collapsed and crippled him so that Anthony was no longer involved with the quartz mills.

Many years later, Delilah Beasley, author of the *Negro Trail Blazers of California*, interviewed Robert Anthony in a "poor" farm in Marysville. Regarding his life following the rescue, he marked that he and Addie were married and the marriage was witnessed by Allen Pinkard and Thomas Scott, both natives of Colusa. Sadly, he added that "he had an only son, who worked on one of the Hearst newspapers, but who had forgotten his old father."



VIRGINIA BEECROFT.

Virginia Beecroft Illustrator, Reporter, Publisher

By David Hurd

The *Sutter City Enterprise* newspaper was the unabashed promoter of Sutter City in the years of its boom between 1888 and 1892. The paper had several owners and editors during its short existence. Some of the articles were copied and printed by other newspapers, but most of the stories appeared only in the *Enterprise*. The last owner and editor of the *Sutter City Enterprise* was Margaret Beecroft. She was a talented painter, sketch artist, printer, author, journalist, and correspondent. As a newspaper correspondent, she signed her work with the nom de plume "Vierge." One of her sons, Frank "Gus" Beecroft, went on to work for years at the *Marysville Daily Appeal* and other newspapers in Northern California as a printer and editor.

Virginia made her first notable appearance in a newspaper column as a sketch artist and painter. On September 9, 1873, Virginia was mentioned in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article, this time for her painting of the S. S. Oriflamme, commissioned by Ben Holladay.

Margaret Virginia Webb Beecroft was the last owner, publisher, and editor of The *Sutter City Enterprise* newspaper. The paper was published weekly from April of 1888 to July of 1892. Virginia bought the newspaper from Peter D. Gardemeyer, the master planner and promoter of Sutter City during its boom from December 1887 to July 1891. Virginia Beecroft purchased the newspaper in February 1889 and, with her son, Frank Augustus "Gus" Beecroft as the manager, operated the newspaper until its final edition in July of 1892. By the time Virginia took over the *Enterprise*, she had lived in California for 30 years and had been a correspondent for newspapers and journals in California and Oregon for at least 17 of those years. Virginia's pen name was "Vierge." Virginia Beecroft's contributions as a newspaper woman in the Victorian Age should not go without recognition.

Margaret Virginia Webb was

born on April 4, 1837, in Unity, Maine. She was the second-born child of Mercy Susan Hotsdon Webb and Alfred Whitney Webb. Her father was a carpenter, lumber surveyor, and compositor¹ in Unity and Bangor, Maine. The Webbs had eight children, five daughters and three sons. Virginia learned typesetting from her father at an early age and had a talent for sketching, painting, and writing. In December of 1859 at the age of 22, she boarded the steamship Baltic on her way to California to marry a merchant she had known in Bangor. Virginia arrived in San Francisco by way of Panama aboard the S. S. Cortes on December 26th and a day later married John T. Beecroft. The Beecrofts went to live in the small mining village of Mormon Island. What remains of Mormon Island is now under the waters of the Folsom Lake reservoir in most years. John was part owner of the Beecroft & Small Grocery and Provisions Store in Mormon Island. In October of 1860, Virginia's first child, Norval Douglas, was born. Norval died of diphtheria in November of 1865. In February of 1866, Virginia gave birth to Harry "Hal" Lucien.

In the last week of December of 1867, there was a catastrophic storm in Northern California. Three months before the storm, John Beecroft sold his interest in the grocery store to his partner Isaac Small. Soon after the storm the Beecrofts moved to San Francisco where they lived with Virginia's parents, who had moved from Bangor to San Francisco around 1860. Alfred Webb, Virginia's father, worked as a compositor at the Commercial Printing Office in San Francisco in 1863. The Beecroft's third son, Frank Augustus "Gus," was born in May of 1868. In February of 1871, Agnes Virginia, "Vinnie," the Beecroft's last child and only daughter, was born. The same year, John Beecroft became the foreman of the Halley & Loy's Sash & Door Co. in Chico. The family moved to Chico and lived there until 1873, when they moved back to San Francisco. John T. Beecroft was

¹ A person who arranged type for printing.

listed in the San Francisco directory of 1873 as being a lumber surveyor, as was his father-in-law, Alfred Webb.

Virginia made her first notable appearance in a newspaper column as a sketch artist and painter. On September 9, 1873, Virginia was mentioned in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article, this time for her painting of the *S. S. Oriflamme*, commissioned by Ben Holladay. Holladay was known as "The Stagecoach King." He owned the Overland Stage Line and was a part owner of the California and Oregon Steamship Line. The *S. S. Oriflamme* belonged to that steamship line. The *S. S. Oriflamme* was one of the ships that Capt. Francis Connor piloted. He was the husband of Virginia's older sister, Emilie.

In January of 1874, Virginia's journalistic abilities were on display in the Chico newspaper, *Northern Enterprise*.² Virginia was their San Francisco correspondent writing under the pen name "Vierge." It may have been Virginia's first correspondence using her "Vierge" byline. Vierge's "Letter from San Francisco" articles from that time on were often seen in the *Northern Enterprise* newspaper. Vierge's articles generally filled a column and a half in the newspaper and documented the happenings in and around San Francisco. She had a particular writing style that was often flowery and sometimes poetic. Her columns regularly appeared in California and Oregon newspapers over the following years. Virginia's husband, John T. Beecroft, died in San Fransico of heart disease on January 25, 1878 at the age of 52. He left Virginia with property, buildings, and a dwelling in Mormon Island. After her husband's death, Virginia's correspondence output increased and her reputation grew.

In 1880, Virginia married Hosea Wallace Atwell. Atwell was a well-known journalist working under the pen name "Bill Dadd the Scribe." Virginia and Wallace probably knew each other for several years before their marriage. He covered the Modoc War of 1873 for the *Sacramento Record*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *New York Herald*, and *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. Atwell also lectured as an author, pundit, and poet. He owned and edited the *Marysville Defender* in 1873 and was the *Chico Enterprise* editor in 1879.

In October of 1880, the newly married Atwells attempted to publish a weekly journal called *The Hastate* in Folsom. The journal lasted a few short months and ceased to publish in January of 1881. The same year, Wallace started working as a correspondent for several Stockton newspapers, among them the *Stockton Independent, Stockton Mail*, and *Stockton Herald*. Virginia and her children lived in Stockton while Wallace traveled throughout the state as a reporter. In April of 1883, Wallace was bedriden with "inflammation of the bowels." This malady plagued him for the rest of his life.

In June of 1883, Wallace went to Arizona to start a newspaper and

² Later the *Chico Enterprise*.

document the Indian War and the actions of General Crook and his men. Wallace returned to Stockton a month later, being unable to find General Crook or to establish a newspaper. For the next few years, Wallace traveled all over California as a correspondent and editor of newspapers, journals, and magazines. In 1886, Virginia became fed up with "Bill Dadd's" ramblings and filed for divorce. It did not help that in some of Wallace's published articles he described himself as enjoying the company of other women.

When the divorce announcement appeared in print, Wallace was in Tulare City lying ill with an attack of peritonitis. Wallace had just completed the *The Sunset Route and Tourists Guide*, a railroad journal describing the places on the railroad line between New Orleans and San Francisco. He had surgery to treat his peritonitis and while recovering in the El Capitan Hotel in Merced, died on February 18, 1888 at the age of 57.

Virginia remained in Stockton untill early 1889. Her daughter Vinnie was a senior in high school and her boys, Hal and Gus, worked in the printing business.



SUTTER ENTERPRISE BANNER.

In Feburary of 1889, Virginia bought *The Sutter City Enterprise* newspaper and moved her family to Sutter City. In 1890, Virginia started two other newspapers, the *Lincoln Report* and the *Meridian Times*. Her son Hal Beecroft managed the *Lincoln Report*. Sadly, Virginia's daughter, Vinnie, reported to be a refined young woman with artistic talent, died of "congestion of the brain"³ in Sutter City in October of 1890 at age 19.

Frank "Gus" Beecroft married Minnie Erke in September of 1891 in Sutter City at the Gardemeyer mansion.

Virginia's health began deteriorating soon after her daughter's death. In the following years, she suffered from bouts of ill health from which she tried to escape by sojourning in Redondo Beach in Southern California.

On September 9, 1892, Virginia announced that she would be starting a newspaper in Bangor, California, called the *New Era* using the *Sutter City*

³ Probably a cerebral hemorrhage.

Enterpise offices as the printing facility. I found no evidence that the Bangor *New Era* newspaper was ever published.

Virginia's health seriously deteriorated in mid to late September. After weeks of illness, Virginia passed away at her sister Emilie's residence in San Francisco on November 18, 1892. Virginia was 55 years old. She was buried near her daughter's resting place in the San Francisco Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Harry L. "Hal" Beecroft, Virginia's oldest son, died in Auburn on

Feburary 26, 1928. He was the editor of many newspapers in Northern California over the years. Hal's last newspaper was the *Newcastle Gazette.*

Gus

Beecroft's last newpaper was Marysville's *Appeal-Democrat*, where he worked as an editor and board director. He passed away in Sutter City on December 7, 1937.

Virginia Beecroft and her family left an imprint on Sutter and the surrounding counties. *Editor's Note:* This is a sample of the articles Virginia Beecroft submitted to the Chico Weekly Enterprise. The tone was newsy and light. In this letter, she gives examples of how Christmas was celebrated by several levels of society in San Francisco, the tremendous interest in spiritualism in 19th century America, and social events on the horizon.

Letter From San Francisco San Francisco, Dec. 29, 1873 (Printed in the *Chico Weekly Enterprise* on January 9, 1874)

EDITOR ENTERRPISE: - Before the Christmas chimes die out, let me wish you a "merry Christmas" and also a "Happy New Year," even while I listen for the wild bells and tame ones too, to ring the old year out and the new year in. Yes, a "Happy New Year" full of success and prosperity and many happy returns for the Enterprise is a welcome visitor to our fireside, and tells us weekly how fares those whose hands we were wont to clasp in friendship and good will in the days gone by; and I fain would spend a moment in a quiet chat with some of those whom my memory dwells upon with pleasures. Christmas Day with the good people of the Bay City was sandwiched with a multiple of festivities, some for charity, some for church purposes and Sabbath schools, and by far the greater number for the sole purpose of having a right jolly time. The most notable, and by far the most fashionable affair, was the annual festival of the First Unitarian Society.

SANTA CLAUS.

At Union Hall, Howard Street, the children of the Sunday school congregated in the afternoon, when games and dances were the order, after which they had a bountiful repast. Immediately after, Santa Claus, dressed in fur, bounded into the room cracking a huge whip and jingling his bells. Then he proceeded to the loaded Christmas tree and distributed the gifts, which, I doubt not, made each heart happy for a time. At the Unitarian Church on Geary Street was held a meeting of the Society of Christian work, which gathered together some one hundred poor children, who attend the free sewing school of that Society, which provided for them a grand holiday dinner of turkey, cake and ice cream, also a Christmas tree, from which Santa Claus took a gift for each little one there, and they went to their several homes with hearts and pockets full to overflowing. This society is entire unsectarian, and finds its mission among all nationalities and creeds. They give instruction in sewing, each child retaining the garment which she has been able to make; also, in personal cleanliness and morality to the poor little girls of the city who come under their notice.

The First Universalist Society festival came off on the 22nd and was for the benefit of the Sunday school. It was a very enjoyable affair and large attended. The principal features were a snow scene, egg-tree (a novelty in parts), and a Santa Claus, who came down the chimney. This society has but recently formed itself and holds its meetings in Pacific Hall, Bush Street. Now, dear Enterprise, if you are not weary of these general pleasures, let me tell you of a Christmas dinner and tree to which your humble correspondent was invited. The dinner (a Christmas dinner is always the same is it not? - the never-failing turkey and traditional plum pudding), as got up in the most approved style, and was excellent to the last degree, our hostess' cook was even surpassing himself to do his mistress honor. At half-past three the children, old and young, were marshaled into the back parlor, when the windows were darkened, the gas turned on, and a grand sight presented itself in a bright green tree (which, by the way, came all the way from Oregon by sea), which glittered and bowed beneath the multitude of toys and useful presents for the little ones. No Santa Claus was to be seen however, and the children thought perhaps, he had forgotten to fulfil his promise to them; when the music struck up, the folding

doors opened, closed again, and the old fellow himself came in, dancing around the tree, and making extravagant bows to the company. The appointments seemed to meet his approbation, for he expressed his satisfaction to his hostess, and proceeded to fulfil his mission, by first pulling several letters from his pocket which were supposed to have been received by him from the parents of the little ones. As they happened to be all letters from good children's parents, old Santa did not experience any pain in being obliged to slight any little ones. There were dolls of wax, rubber and China, wagons, whips, shoes, scarfs, hats and handkerchiefs, gloves, pincushions, bon-bons, neckties, and candy canes, figs, nuts and raisins, work-baskets, gold rings, thimbles and dressing gowns - indeed all the useful, agreeable and sweet things one would wish to have on his or her Christmas tree.





The last article was taken from the green branches and old Santa was peering around to see that nothing was left, when our hostess walked up to him and thanked him for his great kindness in contributing so much to the pleasure of the afternoon. He shook hands with the little ones, telling them to be good and he would return again next year; then bowing to the older ones, the doors slid apart and Santa Claus in his grotesque garb departed, and went back to the real and actual, from which he stepped for the hour to delight the littles, from whose minds it would be cruel to tear away the fair belief in his actual existence. So passed merry Christmas in one of the many homes in this fair city, and the unusually pleasant weather caused everybody to wear a smiling face. The toy shops and stores are crowded with eager and jolly throng, all bent on enjoying the holidays to the fullest extent.

There are lots of enjoyable events to come off in the early days of the new year, chief of which is a grand calico ball of the Ladies' United Aid Society at Union Hall, on the 8th proxime, which promises to be one of the most picturesque affairs ever witnessed in the city. At the California Theater the Orientals have a *bat masque* on the evening of the 29th proximo. Deliciously scented satin tickets are issued and the event promises to be a grand success.

I noticed in the *Sunday Chronicle* an article related to Miss Collins, the "stigmata" girl, and that she has been discovered making the marks upon her hands, which created so much comment in the papers and among private persons last Spring. There a great portion of the intelligent community who believed it all a hoax, and late events go far to prove that their convictions were right. It seems that Miss Collins was sent to Mount St. Joseph, to the Sisters of Charity, and placed under the charge of Dr. Phorbone, one of our leading physicians, and also placed under close espionage. This scrutiny revealed the fact that she produced the "stigmata" by picking her hands and feet with her nails. Since this development, she has vanished and her concealment is unknown to all save the Archbishop, who declines to give any light on the subject.

The *Chronicle*, which sees and hears everything, has been hobnobbing with Foster,¹ the medium, who is sojourning at the Grand. The reporter tells various things in relation to what he sees and hears, and also tells, as he subsequently becomes enlightened, how the red letters upon the hand are produced. But it is not clear to my mind why "W.M." might not have appeared on the wrist as well as "B.T." It is said that Foster was once at some lecture or gathering and immediately in front sat two young ladies. He wrote upon a card and passed it to them, stating that they were thinking upon such a subject, which proved to be a fact in each case. I have not had the pleasures of beholding the gentleman, but understand that his rooms are crowded with visitors.

The Art Association is open on Pine Street, below Montgomery, and lovers of the good and beautiful in statuary and painting congregate there day and evening. At the California the Naiad Queen delights crowded houses, and everyone who wants to enjoy a good laugh goes to the Alhambra.

I think you must be weary, for the night is coming on, the fire is gone out, and I am cold; therefore, good night, and good bye, and will it please you to sometime have another evening with

Vierge

Charles B. Foster, a visiting spiritualist who did readings in San Francisco at the Grand Hotel, charged \$5.00 a person for a sitting. The initials refer to a method Foster used to convince his clients that he was in contact with the spirit world. After speaking to someone and learning who they were seeking, he would surreptitiously mark his hand with their initials with a hard, blunt pencil. It would not leave a mark until he dramatically rubbed the area briskly and the increased blood flow would make the letters stand out.

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June 2022 - October 2022

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attempt to clear a channel. Then came Plumas City and Eliza on the east bank of the Feather to be followed by Marysville and Linda on the Yuba. Even more of a threat to Yuba City were the paper towns of Fredonia, Yatestown, and Veazie farther up the Feather. The winner of the contest would be the one town which would remain the "Head of Navigation." And the contest would be finally decided during the summer of 1850, which brought an extreme test.

By July 1850 the Yuba was too low to allow steamboats to leave the Feather, so it appeared that Linda and Marysville were eliminated, as was Kearny. The prospect for Yuba City was bright. But by August the Feather began dropping at a daily rate which numbered its days. Soon Nicolaus gleefully proclaimed itself the "Head" until the water became so low that Vernon was the Head. Supplies and passengers were brought to Marysville and Yuba City by wagon from Vernon. Marysville and Yuba City were far behind in the race, but they were neck and neck. The deciding factor was the location on the Feather. Marysville on the side nearer the diggings had a slight advantage, and when navigable water came again in November, it got the trade and Yuba City remained in an embryonic stage.



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