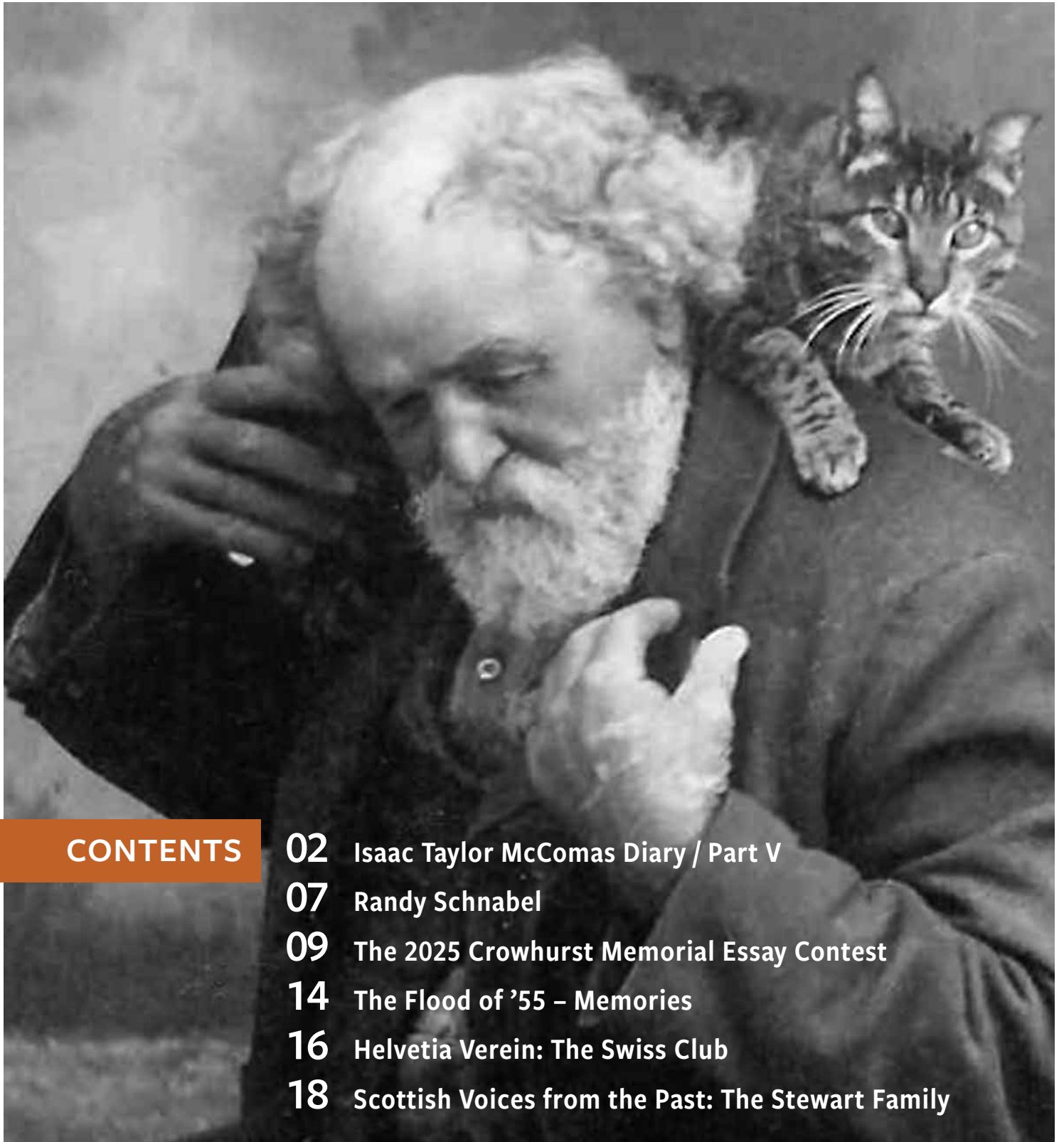


BULLETIN



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ON THE COVER:

CHARLES EDWARD STEWART (1838 – 1911).

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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 by the Sutter County Museum Association. This year, the Association is publishing three editions. 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 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.

Association Members:

Debbie Reid, President

Barbara Hankins, Vice President

Marika García, Secretary

Amber Milner, Treasurer

Manny Cardoza

Babs Cotter

Eric Gruenthal

Scott Hankins

Wade Kirchner

Tony Kurlan

Sandra Muñoz

Margit Sands

Sharyl Simmons

Phyllis Smith

Exhibits

01

■ *Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tết Festival* is on display through August 9th! Step into the magic of *Voyage to Vietnam*— a fun, hands-on adventure perfect for kids and families! Explore the sights, sounds, and traditions of one of Vietnam’s most exciting holidays. Try on a giant lion dance mask, shop at the play marketplace, and create your very own fireworks display. Come celebrate Vietnamese culture and experience the joy of the Tết Festival together!

■ *Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tết Festival* was created and is circulated by Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose. This traveling exhibition was made possible by local support from the Sutter County Children & Families Commission and Sutter County Museum Association.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCM STAFF.

VISITORS EXPLORING THE MUSEUM’S NEW EXHIBIT ON THE GOLD RUSH & WESTWARD EXPANSION.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION.

VOYAGE TO VIETNAM: CELEBRATING THE TẾT FESTIVAL ON DISPLAY AT THE SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM.

■ In case you missed it, this year is the Sutter County Museum’s 50th Anniversary! In honor of this exciting milestone, in April, we were proud to open our new permanent exhibits on Yuba-Sutter Floods, the Nisenan, and the Gold Rush & Westward Expansion. The exhibits include interactive elements for hands-on learning for children, families, and all community members to enjoy!

■ This project is funded by a grant of over \$380,000 from the Specified General Fund for the Museum Grant Program under the California Cultural & Historical Endowment. Additional generous support was provided by the City of Yuba City, the Sutter County Museum Association, and the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.

Isaac Taylor McComas Diary

Part V: 1863

Edited and Annotated by Sharyl Simmons

Isaac McComas was very busy in 1863. We are left wondering about what happened in the last quarter of the year, as he makes only four entries from September to January. At some point during the gap in his diary, he was hired to work on the Masonic Hall on E Street. As with other years of his diary, there are no references to what is happening with his family in Maryland and only one comment about the family in Marysville. The Civil War raged on in the east and appeared prominently in local newspapers, but McComas didn't mention it. He closes the year with a quick look back and satisfaction with what he achieved.

1863

Jan. 9, 1863

I went to a railroad¹ meeting at the City Hall. I went up to Browns Valley to see about setting a boiler for Mr. Harris² at a quartz mill.

Jan. 14, 1863

I worked at the Queen City Mills³ all day and done some work for the California Stage Company. Then I started a job for Charley Stokes⁴ putting another story on his house on C Street.

Jan. 30, 1863

I worked for Mr. Ellis⁵ at the Col. Ranson place building paving.

1 The discussion was of a possible railroad connection to Oregon. The meetings were to drum up interest in the endeavor.

2 Possibly H. Harris, who had the Marysville Pioneer Assay Office at the corner of 2nd & E Streets. Later in 1863, it appears that he had the Anglo Saxon or English Quartz Mining Co. in Browns Valley and was successfully sued with the property auctioned off to pay the debt. Still later in the year, he appears to have skipped town after bouncing a \$200 check.

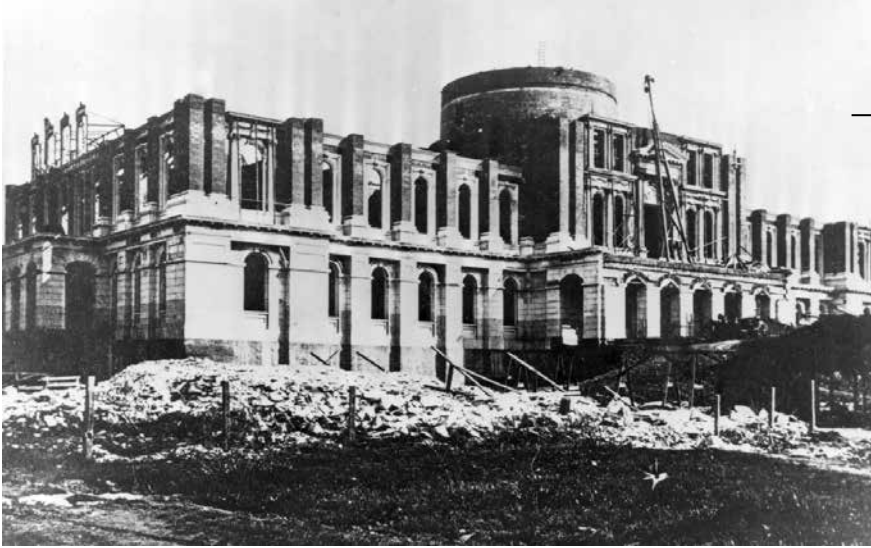
3 Early in its history, Marysville was occasionally referred to as the Queen City. The Queen City Mill was located on west side of High Street between 1st & 2nd Streets. It was owned by Soule, Bordwell & Company. Atemas Goodnough "A. G." Soule was a local doctor who was the county physician in 1861 in charge of the pest house – a site where patients with infectious diseases were housed.

4 W. C. Stokes, a native of England, with partner A. N. Shields, built and operated the United States Hotel on the corner of C & 3rd Streets. Stokes owned a house on C Street, which he rented. He and his family lived on 4th Street between A & B Streets. The second story on the C Street house was mentioned in the newspaper as an indication of the prosperity of Marysville.

5 William Turner Ellis, Sr., a merchant whose store was at the corner of 1st & D Streets and home at 8th & D Streets.

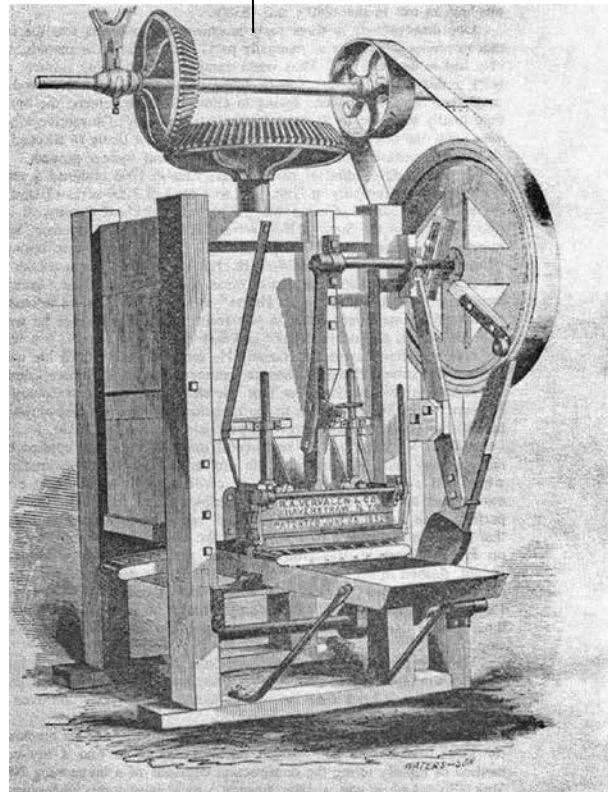


WILLIAM TURNER ELLIS, SR., CIRCA 1860.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIES BY W. T. ELLIS, JR.



STATE CAPITOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, CIRCA 1867. WHEN MCCOMAS SAW IT IN 1863, THEY WERE STILL WORKING ON THE FOUNDATION.

THIS BRICK MAKING MACHINE IS FROM THE 1850S BUT COULD BE SIMILAR TO WHAT MCCOMAS WAS LOOKING FOR. PRIOR TO THIS SORT OF MACHINE, BRICKS WERE MADE BY HAND OUT OF SOFTER CLAY THAT COULD LOSE ITS SHAPE WHEN IT WAS TURNED OUT.



Feb. 2, 1863

Worked for Mr. Ellis on D St. We started a job for Shaffer Company.⁶

Feb. 23, 1863

We commenced some curbing for Dr. Rice⁷ on corner of 4th and E Sts.

Mar. 8, 1863

I built a brick culvert in front of my house on 5th and started some work for Jacob Gingell.⁸ I did some work at the Queen City mill.

Apr. 2, 1863

I started for San Francisco this morning at 7. The boat arrived in Sacramento at 11. I spent 3 hours at the State Capital Foundation⁹ and arrived at the Bay about 10. I find San Francisco is improving very rapidly and that with the finest kind of houses. I walked about most of all day and found a good many old friends. I went in the morning to see a new brick making machine but the man had none on hand.

⁶ Probably W. C. Shaffer of Shaffer, Warren & Stoneburger, who were dealers in stoves, tin, copper, crockery, willow ware, and other home furnishings at the corner of 4th & D Streets.

⁷ Dr. D. W. C. Rice of Rice & Coffin, wholesale and retail druggists. He was also a practicing physician. The business was on the east side of D St. near 1st St., and he lived on the north side of 4th St. between D & E Streets.

⁸ Jacob Gingell, a native of England, came to California for the gold. He was a stage driver for the Montgomery & Johnson stage working the Long Bar to Marysville route. He followed that up with a livery stable in Marysville on Second Street opposite the Western Hotel and started a mule train business moving supplies up to the mines. He invested in real estate and owned a building on the Ellis block and built a row of one-story brick cottages on the south side of 4th Street.

⁹ Construction on the Capitol took 14 years. The 1861-62 flood set construction back nearly a year, and there was trouble replacing construction materials. Although construction began in 1860, by 1863, McComas was correct in describing that only the foundation was in place.



SAN FRANCISCO IN 1863, LOOKING DOWN CALIFORNIA STREET BETWEEN GRANT AND STOCKTON STREETS.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Apr. 5, 1863

William Gable and I took a walk before church and came across Mr. Armer¹⁰ and spent the balance of the day with him.

Apr. 6, 1863

I got my likeness made on cards¹¹ and started for home in the afternoon. I had to sit up all night could not get a birth the boat was so full.

Apr. 7, 1863

I got my breakfast in Sacramento and took the cars for Lincoln by way of Folsom¹² and then by stage arriving in Marysville half past one.

Apr. 25, 1863

I am not working on account of no lime¹³ in town.

May 2, 1863

I put a bid in for raising the county jail. At 2 o'clock we met the supervisors and made them a proposition that we would give \$500.00 in greenbacks a piece or its equivalent in gold. They considered on it until evening but refused but still said they would take \$400.00.

May 6, 1863

We had 2 or 3 meetings with the supervisors and finally settled

it all by the following, paying McDermitt, Eckard, Davis, Shaffer, Johnson, and McComas \$400.00 each and Bennitt \$300.00.¹⁴

May 9, 1863

We paid in our money today to the county and I feel very glad that I have it off my mind. I took a job for Grey raising a story on the jail. I got \$440.00 for it. At a meeting last night at the Board of Delegates. I was elected treasurer of the Cemetery Fund.¹⁵

May 20, 1863

I worked all day at the Sherman store. I have rented it to the city

10 Possibly Max Armer, an early Marysville merchant. He owned the City Bakery on Virgin Alley between 1st & 2nd Streets before moving to San Francisco.

11 This was most likely a carte de visite, a small format photograph about the size of a formal visiting card. They were relatively inexpensive and easy to give to friends and send home to family.

12 This leg between Sacramento and Folsom on the Sacramento Valley Railroad. From Folsom to Lincoln, he rode the California Central Railroad that terminated in Lincoln.

13 Lime was essential in making mortar.

14 The job consisted of adding another story to the county jail to include six new cells and an ante-room that could be used by juries for deliberation.

15 This could refer to a role in the Odd Fellows' as one of their functions was to act as an insurance policy for the burial

for an engine house¹⁶ and I am now fixing it up for that purpose. In the evening Steward¹⁷ came by and we settled up most of our business.

May 23, 1863

We put the new fire engine in the new fire house. She is a beauty.

May 25, 1863

I took a contract today for the San Francisco Loan Society making a water closet at the Post Office¹⁸ at \$115.00.

May 27, 1863

Our Sunday School concert¹⁹ came off today. We had a very full house, and it all went off very well. Sallie sang quite a number of times, and we made about one hundred dollars. Our attendance has improved immensely.

June 6, 1863

Worked all day on the jail house job and collected the balance that was due me from the San Francisco Loan Society. I traded my horse for fine stock at Hambold at the rate of 200 dollars to Frank Coal.

June 16, 1863

Worked at the State Reform School with some men to build a cellar and fix the chimney. I have a fine bunch of men with me. I am doing it all for \$555.00. I worked today on A St. at the engine house.

July 11, 1863

F. L. Craft wants me to buy him out in the brick business. I do not know what to do about it. Times are very hard. I worked some at the Market House.²⁰

July 18, 1863

I bought F. L. Craft²¹ out today in the brick yard with an unburnt kiln on hand of 368,800 brick for \$1,300.00. I did a job at the hospital.

July 23, 1863

John Eaton's eldest son²² got killed today on the stage coming down from Virginia City. Today I took the third degree in the Masons tonight.

July 30, 1863

Today has been a very exciting day for the Democrats, they had a barbecue out on the race track and speakers all day and a torch light procession and fireworks.²³

Aug. 10, 1863

I did some work for Mr. Haworth²⁴ building a curb at his residence on the corner of 6th and C Sts. I worked today on D

of members, both locally and returning members who died out of town for burial.

16 In June 1863, the Pacific Engine Company #3 was authorized to serve the 4th Ward. In 1851, the city was divided into four wards with the fourth being all the city east of C Street. They were given the old Yuba Engine Company's engine and awarded \$500 for a new hose carriage and bell for the engine. That month, McComas received his first month's rent of \$20.00 for the engine house.

17 Possibly John L. Steward, a local businessman.

18 East side of D Street between 3rd & 4th Streets.

19 Given by the Sabbath School associated with the Baptist Church at the corner of E & 8th Streets to raise money to buy books for the children. Sallie is McComas' wife.

20 Located on the north side of 3rd Street between C & D Streets.

21 Just over a week later, Craft, a contractor and mason, lost a span of horses, which he had been offered \$550 for, in a fire at a building he rented at 5th & A Streets. The fire was described as so sudden and rapid that neighbors could not save the horses.

22 Henry Eaton, age 23, was on his way home by stage from Virginia City. Near Neal's Station at the foot of the eastern slope of the Sierra, the stage came across a load of lumber left on the track after a wagon broke down. In attempting to avoid the hazard, the driver went too near the edge of the bank of the Truckee River, which collapsed and capsized the coach. Eaton fell into the river and drowned. He was the only one injured in the accident. John Eaton, his father, was a local merchant.

23 The Democratic Convention of Yuba County met July 29th at the Democratic Club Room. The public celebration was held the next day at Marysville Park. I am not sure of the location of this park except that it was separate from the fairgrounds.

24 James Haworth, President of the California Stage Company.



CONSTRUCTED LONG AFTER MCCOMAS RETURNED TO MARYLAND, THE PACKARD LIBRARY WAS FUNDED BY FORMER MARYSVILLE MERCHANT JOHN Q. PACKARD. THE SANDSTONE USED IN THE BUILDING CAME FROM SANTA CRUZ AND WAS SHIPPED TO SAN FRANCISCO ON HIS RAILROAD TO BE DRESSED AND SHIPPED TO MARYSVILLE. IT IS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

Street for Mr. Packard²⁵ and Woodruff.²⁶

Sept. 12, 1863

I commenced the brick work of the cistern on Third & E Streets.²⁷

Oct. 24, 1863

I am still trying to get a gang together to make a kiln but I have not been successful.

Nov. 10, 1863

The boys worked all day on the Jacob smoke house. I have been very unwell for over a week. I am getting ready to work at the Masonic Hall.

Nov. 21, 1863

I collected 400 dollars for the work of the jail today.

Dec. 31, 1863

We made all preparations today for the laying of the corner stone of the Masonic Hall tomorrow. I got the first payment on the Masonic Hall today, 75% on what I have done. It amounts to \$1,025.55. All has gone along very well about the Hall and I feel very satisfied with my past year's work I have no cause to regret what I have done. I bought this yard²⁸ including 400,000 brick unburnt for \$1,300. Thus ends 1863.

End of 1863

²⁵ John Quackenbos Packard, local businessman and investor who had amassed a fortune of over \$25,000,000 when he died in 1908. He and his partner, Colonel Woodruff, had a store and invested in local properties. Packard donated the funds for the Packard Library at the corner of 4th & C Streets.

²⁶ Colonel Edwards Woodruff, who ran a successful business in Marysville. He, as well as Packard, acquired fortunes investing in mines in Utah.

²⁷ *Editor's note:* My mother worked on the second floor of the Odd Fellow's building in the 1960s and 70s. The office faced D Street, and she came home one evening and talked about the city opening the intersection at 3rd & D Streets and seeing a huge brick hole lined with bricks. I wonder now if this was one of McComas' brick cisterns that he built during his time in Marysville.

²⁸ The one from L. F. Craft in July.

Randy Schnabel

Randolph Schnabel was born at Newcastle, Placer County on March 22, 1913. If he had been born in 1850 in the same location, he would have been born in Sutter County since there was no Placer County until 1851 when it was created from parts of both Sacramento and Sutter Counties. For a short period in 1851, the Sutter County seat was located in Auburn, just a few miles east of Newcastle.

Randy lived the major portion of his life in Sutter County since he moved here with his parents when he was a young child. He was an advocate for preserving the history of Sutter County as exemplified by his involvement with the Sutter County Historical Society and the Sutter County Museum.

He attended both elementary and high school in Yuba City. He then attended Chico State College, now called California State University, Chico, where he received his degree. There are still people in this area who remember Mr. Schnabel as one of their teachers because of his teaching at the Yuba Elementary School¹ and his years of teaching at Marysville High School.

Randy's career as an educator also took him to the town of Princeton in Colusa County where he was principal of the elementary school from 1937-1939. He next accepted a position as a teacher at Portola High School. He was at Portola when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. He left the school midyear to join the United States Navy and was on active duty in the Navy from 1942 until 1946. He left the Navy with the rank of lieutenant.

Randy continued to serve in the United States Naval Reserve for many years after World War II ended. In fact, his military identification card lists "indefinite" in the space reserved for indicating his end of service. After the war, he returned to Sutter County and began teaching at Marysville High School. He was also the Student Activities Director.

Not long after his return to this area, Randy became the commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Group in this area for several years. He was the commander when the 1955 flood took place, and he organized members of the reserve to assist in a variety of ways to help flood victims. A number of Naval Reserve members were involved in rescue efforts in the County.

Back in his first year of teaching in Yuba City, Randy met an attractive young lady named Shirley Dean who was also teaching at the school. They became very well acquainted and married in June of 1936. They

¹ Now Bridge Street School.



RANDY SCHNABEL, AGE 2.
PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



RANDY SCHNABEL AS A YOUNG MAN.
PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



NAVAL CAREER. PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION



SCHNABEL FAMILY (SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: SHIRLEY AND MARGIT; BACK LEFT TO RIGHT: RANDY, JOHN, AND RANDOPH).
PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

and representatives, supporting the interests of both groups. His knowledge, friendliness, and judgment of people along with his reputation for being honest and fair made him very successful in this line of work. He continued in this position for about 20 years.

Randy and Shirley supported the Middle Mountain Foundation, whose mission is to preserve and provide education about the Sutter Buttes. By allowing supervised hikes to originate from the Dean Ranch, the family has continued to support the Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes and the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust nonprofits.

Randy was a Charter Member of the Sutter County Historical Society, which formed in 1954, and he served on the Board of the organization for nearly the entirety of its existence. He was also a participating member of the group that formed the Sutter County Museum and served on its Commission for many years. Both Randy and Shirley were tremendous supporters of the Museum.

To honor their parents, Randy (1913-2008) and Shirley (1913-2011), the Schnabel family donated funds to create the patio and garden area between the Museum and Ettl Hall.

eventually were the parents of two sons, Randolph and John, and a daughter, Margit (Sands).²

Even though he was a teacher, it was somewhat predicable that he would maintain an interest in farming and/or ranching since his father and grandfather were actively involved in agriculture. The fact that his wife, Shirley, was born into a ranching family meant they both spent a lot of time on the ranch.

After Randy retired from teaching at Marysville High School, he became a field representative in this area for Richmond Chase Canning Corporation. This company became a part of the California Cannery and Growers group referred to as Cal Can. This job required his being the middleman between the company and the various growers



RANDY SCHNABEL AND IDA DOTY AT THE ORIGINAL MUSEUM AT CARRIAGE SQUARE CIRCA 1970. BOTH RANDY AND IDA WERE VITAL TO THE FOUNDING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHICH LED TO THE FOUNDING OF THE SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM.

PHOTO FROM SCM COLLECTION

² A member of the Museum Association.

THE 2025

Crowhurst Memorial Essay Contest

PROMPT: Write an entry for the Sutter County Visitors Guide promoting a local event or location.

The Crowhurst Memorial Scholarship Award was established in 1979 in memory of Estelle Peirano Crowhurst, who was known for her column The Diary of a Housewife. The column was published weekly in the Independent Herald, a Yuba City newspaper. The award also honors Estelle's son, Thomas J. Crowhurst, who wrote The Sutter Notes, a column for the Appeal-Democrat, and contributed to the sports pages.

The scholarship is awarded to a talented high school student. Written in journalistic style, winning entries are fact-based and focus on local issues and concerns. The Sutter County Museum is proud to participate in the essay contest and print winning essays in the Bulletin. Students interested in a career in journalism are encouraged to participate in this scholarship opportunity.

There were twelve entries this year, and we are printing three top-scoring entries. The first is by Cameron Kersting, this year's winner, who wrote about the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. The second entry printed is by Taylor Bogle, who wrote about the Yuba-Sutter Fair. Third, we have Zaina C. Betancourt, who wrote about the Sutter Buttes.

FIRST PLACE CAMERON KERSTING YUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

SUTTER COUNTY VISITORS GUIDE: THE SUTTER THEATER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Since the 1950s, the tall marquee of the Sutter Movie Theater has been an iconic part of the skyline of Plumas Street in Yuba City. Over the long run of its business, the movie house was redesigned several times, beginning as a 916-seat, single-screen theater, with the layout of the building eventually evolving to accommodate three separate auditoriums. The Sutter Movie Theater closed in 2006, but a group of dedicated community members created the Sutter Performing Arts Association, an organization committed to restoring the theater and turning it into a state-of-the-art performing arts venue for the community. By 2021, Phase I of restoration was nearly complete, and the project and SPAA was adopted by Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture, the official arts agency for the region.

The renamed Sutter Theater Center for the Arts includes the Clark Family Theater – a black box used for various events, including live performances by local bands and theatre companies – and the Art Box Gallery – an art gallery hosting frequent events highlighting local artists across mediums. The final phase in restoration involves converting the remaining movie auditorium into a large, traditional, proscenium-style theater space.

This building has a rich history that has updated seamlessly into the modern era; the building standing today is the same as the one that opened in 1950. The previously exterior ticket booth has become part of the new, extended lobby space. The recognizable insets on the building's Church Street side now serve as giant canvases for five beautiful murals by local artists. The original projection booth for the rear theater has been converted to a multi-use area, repurposed depending on the needs of the current events held in other areas of the building.

The Sutter Theater Center for the Arts is a thriving

part of the Yuba-Sutter community, and its growing, evolving nature has been part of the project since its construction. Though it has changed much in 75 years, elements of the past still exist, showcasing the longstanding dedication to the arts and media in the area. Organizations such as Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture continue to provide community members with opportunities to explore and interact with local art through facilities like the Sutter Theater, sparking thoughtful discussion about art and passing on the legacy of the unique cultures of the area.

Growing up in Yuba City and being involved in theatre and the arts, the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts is extremely important to me for many reasons. Above all, its renovation has proven that there are people in this community who are as dedicated as I am to sharing the arts with everyone, of all ages. Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture has many programs that specifically cater to children and young adults. My experience with Center Stage Productions (YSAC's youth theatre program) has given me a place to meet new people and create beautiful and powerful productions through collaboration and communication. Initiatives such as this one are vital to continue supporting the next generation in our community, not just the aspiring artists; performing and visual arts are so important to all people, from every background, as they allow for expression, interpretation, and understanding of new ideas. What was once the Sutter Movie Theater has developed into an artistic oasis, a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. I cannot wait to see this building evolve in the future, to reach a wider audience, tell more stories, and continue supporting the culture and community of Yuba City.



SECOND PLACE

TAYLOR BOGLE

YUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

VISITOR’S GUIDE TO THE YUBA-SUTTER FAIR

If you’re looking for a fun and exciting way to spend your summer, the Yuba-Sutter Fair is the place to be. Located in Yuba City, California, this annual fair is one of the best events of the year. It’s been a local tradition for over 100 years and brings together people from all over the area for a weekend full of food, rides, games, and entertainment. As someone who’s been going to the Yuba-Sutter Fair for years, I can say that it’s my favorite event of the year, and I can’t wait to share why you should check it out!

A Little About the Fair

The Yuba-Sutter Fair is held every summer, usually in late June or early July, at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. It’s a pretty big deal around here, and for good reason. It’s the perfect place to get a taste of what makes this area so special – mainly agriculture, community spirit, and fun. This fair brings together people from Yuba and Sutter Counties to celebrate everything from farming to family activities, and it’s a must-see for anyone looking to have a blast.

Things to Do at the Fair

There’s no shortage of things to do at the Yuba-Sutter Fair, so you’ll definitely want to plan ahead to make sure you don’t miss out on anything!

Carnival Rides and Games

One of the best parts of the fair is the carnival. If you’re into thrills, you’ll love the roller coasters, Ferris wheel, and all the other exciting rides. There are also tons of carnival games where you can try your luck at winning prizes like giant stuffed animals or neon-colored toys. The atmosphere is always super fun and energetic, and it’s hard not to get caught up in the excitement.

Agricultural Exhibits

Another cool thing about the Yuba-Sutter Fair is the agricultural exhibits. Since this area has a strong farming background, the fair does a great job of showcasing local produce, livestock, and farming technology. You can check out everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to adorable animals like cows, pigs, and chickens. It’s actually kind of cool to see how much work goes into raising these animals and growing the crops. Plus, the 4-H and FFA kids who participate are super proud to show off their hard work on showmanship day as well as the auction.

Fair Food

Of course, no fair would be complete without amazing food! The Yuba-Sutter Fair has all the classic fair foods you could ever want. From cotton candy and funnel cakes to corn dogs and turkey legs – there’s something for everyone. One of my personal favorites is a refreshing lemonade.

Live Entertainment

The live entertainment at the fair is also something you won’t want to miss. There are always bands and musical performances happening, and they cover a variety of genres, from country to pop. It’s nice to just chill out and enjoy some good tunes. Plus, they often have performances by local

talent, which makes the whole thing feel even more special.

Why You Should Go

The best part about the Yuba-Sutter Fair isn’t just the rides or the food – it’s the sense of community. Everyone who goes to the fair seems to be having a good time, and it’s easy to strike up a conversation with someone, whether you’re chatting while waiting for a ride or sitting in the bleachers watching a show. It’s one of those events where you can really feel like you’re a part of something bigger, and the local pride is palpable. It’s also a great chance to spend quality time with friends and family and make lasting memories together.



Conclusion

The Yuba-Sutter Fair is an awesome way to spend a day or two with friends and family and it’s an experience that really captures the heart of the Yuba-Sutter region. Whether you’re into rides, food, farming, or just having fun, there’s something for everyone to enjoy. If you’ve never been before, I highly recommend checking it out – it’s a great way to kick off summer and experience all the cool things that make this area so special. So, grab your tickets, bring your friends, and get ready for an unforgettable time at the Yuba-Sutter Fair!

THIRD PLACE

ZAINA C. BETANCOURT

FAITH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

THE SMALLEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN THE WORLD

“The smallest mountain range in the world.” One could assume something with this title wouldn’t hold much weight, but to the members of the Sutter County community and me, the smallest mountain range in the world has

the most prominent place in our hearts. Filled with an abundance of natural history and cultural significance, this is a destination you do not want to miss out on.

The Sutter Buttes mountain range holds great spiritual importance

for the Native American people of this area. In a 2024 CBS News interview, Michael Hubbartt, the president of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust, described it as a “great big, huge outdoor cathedral, that’s where you went

to pray, that's where you went to connect with your creator." This special connection emphasizes the deep historical ties between the Indigenous communities and this land.

The mountain range also holds remarkable natural beauty with its creeks and rolling grassy hills filled with wildlife, including cattle, sheep, and birds. Walking along the trails snaking through the area is a beautifully grounding experience as you immerse yourself in the peaceful ambiance the setting brings. There is also a long road winding along the entire range, which many members of the community use regularly for leisurely rides to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Hubbartt also acts as a hiking tour guide of the Sutter Buttes and encourages others to join, saying, "you have no idea the depth, or the complexity, or the natural beauty, and it'll just amaze you" (Maldonado 2019).

The historical significance of this land begins with the name, "Sutter Buttes." These mountains were named after John Sutter, a Swiss pioneer known for owning Sutter's Mill, where the California Gold Rush began. The name unfortunately brings a negative association due to Sutter's unfair treatment of the Maidu Native Americans. The Sutter County Museum in Yuba City features an entire exhibit dedicated to this aspect of his past and the Sutter Buttes, established to remedy the sour history of John Sutter. The museum is an extraordinary

way to learn about local stories, including those of the Native Americans and Sutter, fostering understanding of the past. The museum also acknowledges that it is located on the traditional land of the Nisenan people and recognizes the history of land theft, enslavement, and genocide they endured.

There is even current discussion [in the community] surrounding changing the name of the Sutter Buttes to "Sacred Buttes," in honor of the Native Americans who lived on the land, as well as their families who still do. The intent for this name change is to appropriately reflect the deep spiritual meaning the land holds for these families.

Along with this history, the Sutter Buttes also hold a unique geological origin that makes the mountains even more fascinating. The mountain range is the remnants of several volcanic dome eruptions that occurred about 1.4 to 1.6 million years ago. These domes formed when magma pushed upward through the sediments of the Sacramento Valley and stacked on itself rather than flowing away.

When visiting the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding area, it's beneficial to consider the rich and complex history of the region, including the long-standing presence and significance of Indigenous cultures. It is my belief that this is what makes this mountain range so special for the community. It serves as a monument to the area's history

and those who paved the way for us to be here. Your visit to the Sutter Buttes provides an opportunity to learn more about this history and the current discussions surrounding the future of the Sutter Buttes' identity. This visit is one you will never forget, nor regret!

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The Flood of '55 – Memories

By Vern Hill

A wedding well-remembered 70 years hence was set for December 22, 1955.



MASTER SERGEANT HARLEY "TED" ALLEN.
PHOTO COURTESY OF VERN HILL.

It was in the spring of 1955 when Phyllis Jean Allen accepted Vern Hill's proposal. They were both Yuba College students. Vern was a Navy veteran, and Phyllis' father, an Army Master Sergeant, was posted at Beale Air Force Base to do runway construction. Vern felt obligated to ask Phyllis' father for permission to wed her and spoke to him soon after. The Sergeant reminded Vern that they had not known each other very long and that Sgt. Allen was due to go on TDY¹ to Alaska for six months. There could be no wedding at this time. However, if they still felt the same after six months, he would approve the marriage. Vern smiled and said, "Well, come hell or high water, we're getting married when you return."

Six months later, Sgt. Allen's battalion was aboard ship and a day late due to the long storm that had been blowing for more than a week. They were supposed to dock in San Francisco on December 21st, but now it might be the 22nd... the day of the wedding.

Meanwhile, Vern and Phyllis' sister Pat were at the Marysville Baptist Church outside in the rain building a raised walkway between the church and the reception hall.

On the 22nd, Sgt. Allen's ship arrived mid-morning, and he had permission to disembark ahead of his battalion and somehow got a vehicle and headed to Olivehurst, arriving late in the afternoon. He changed out of his heavy winter clothing into the suit that his wife, Kate, had laid out for him. He headed for the church but found that the D Street Bridge was closed off due to high water and a raging current. He headed for Nicolaus and crossed the river there, arriving in time to walk his youngest daughter down the aisle.

Following the reception, the newlyweds slipped away to have supper at The Rib restaurant in Yuba City at the corner of Highway 99 and Highway 20. They were toasted by the only other table of customers and then went to their apartment in Marysville.

¹ Temporary Duty.

Early the next morning, they were awakened by Vern's best man, Chuck Jordan, who said that Marysville school buses were being moved to Tierra Buena School and since the two of them were school bus drivers, would Vern like to come and help?

When the last of the buses were moved, they were told that each driver was to keep his bus and move it to Yuba City and report to the Yuba City evacuation center to provide them with any assistance they needed. Vern, Phyllis, and Joe Bandy, another driver, moved to Vern's aunt's home at 758 Chestnut Street in Yuba City. Phyllis' family and close friends began to gather there. They then decided to move to a family home out on Township Road, but before they got there the radio announced Yuba City was to commence evacuation. They continued on to Williams and were invited to a ranch for early Christmas.

Meanwhile, the bus drivers were told to drive up and down streets that were still dry and offer rides to anyone who needed one and take them to Sutter High School. By the time Vern returned to Yuba City for a second run,

2 Amphibious vehicle.

Bridge Street was covered with a foot of water. Vern made another trip to Sutter where they filled his fuel tank and fed him. He stretched out on the back seat and went to sleep. Hours later he was awakened, but groggy, and told he needed to go to a place and pick up some ducks and take them to Colusa Hospital. When he reached Highway 20, he saw an Army DUKW² full of county hospital patients.

Vern drove back to Yuba City and was stopped at the intersection of Highway 99 and Highway 20, which is where the flood water ended. Several people were sitting in a small boat, so he went over to talk with them, and they were taking messages to be broadcast over KAGR radio. He sent a message to his new family saying he would meet his spouse at their apartment on Christmas Day, not realizing he addressed this note to Phyllis Allen.

Several days later, he met with Sgt. Allen and was told the following, "Well son, you have had your high water so now you can have hell the rest of your life!"



VERN & PHYLLIS HILL, DECEMBER 22, 1955.
PHOTO COURTESY OF VERN HILL.

Vern Hill
born January 28, 1928
at Creston, Montana.

Phyllis Jean Allen Hill
born March 5, 1936
at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Children:
Karen, Karl, Julie, and Diana,
all born in California.

Helvetia Verein: The Swiss Club

By Gabi Wackerli

The southern part of Sutter County was populated by Swiss immigrants who established dairies in and around Nicolaus. As their numbers grew in the region, a Swiss Club formed in Sacramento, which pulled in many Sutter County residents as members. Today, the Sacramento Helvetia Verein holds its meetings at the Sacramento Turn Verein German-American Cultural Center on J Street in Sacramento. The following article, first published in their publication Mitteilungen¹, is reproduced here courtesy of the author.

Since May 1, 1926, the *Sacramento Helvetia Verein* has served as an impressive testimony to the virtues of benevolence and camaraderie to all Swiss in this valley. To this day, we uphold our mission statement:

To cultivate friendship among its members and maintain and strengthen Swiss heritage, the Verein will hold festivities of patriotic and social character.

Our rich history in this region begins in the mid-19th century with considerable emigration from Switzerland to the Americas due to poor economic conditions in Western Europe. California was the favorite destination of the Swiss. Once established here, the novelty of the new surroundings began to wear thin. Hard work and loneliness needed to be compensated by some fun and companionship. Thus, a band of Swiss nationals laid the foundation of this Swiss fraternity. Swiss immigrants Johann Schärer (canton² Aargau), Albert Bürgi (canton Aargau), and Karl Schiller (canton Schwyz) set out to sign up 30 other Swiss compatriots, holding the first meeting on March 13, 1892, at the Ebner Hotel in Sacramento.

One of the main purposes consisted of disbursement of sick and death benefits, which came as a welcome necessity due to lack of insurance at that time. At one point, the idea of changing the name to the *Swiss Benevolent Society* was soundly defeated as the members preferred to be “Helvetians” rather than Swiss (per the minutes of the meeting). Of course, entertainment was another reason for the fraternity, which led to dances, picnics, and traditional Swiss activities (Schwingfests).

For leisure time, the fun-loving Swiss formed a singing group and rifle club. With so much happening, a committee was appointed in 1928 to find a picnic place. They moved fast, accepting an attractive offer from the Mary Brothers Ranch, some six miles up the Sacramento River, calling it “Helvetia Park.” Unfortunately, the cost to support the park combined with a drop in membership resulted in the park being sold.

1 Mitteilungen is pronounced “Mee-tay-loong-en.”

2 Switzerland currently is made up of cantons, or states, forming a confederation. Originally composed of eight cantons established in 1353, today there are 26 cantons.



HELVETIA PARK, 1932. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Since that time, indoor activities have been held at the Sacramento Turn Verein, with outdoor activities held at Freeport Beach Lake Reserve, Freeport's Saint Joseph Catholic Church, and now Woodland's Nelson Grove.

This article would be remiss if it didn't mention the Sacramento Helvetia Frauen und Töchter Verein, which was born in the home of Katherina Wachter on May 11, 1922. Again, it was established for the purpose of rendering financial aid in sickness and death, but also to cultivate mutual sociability among the members and to preserve the culture and traditions of their homeland, Switzerland. By November 1926, the Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society (as it is more commonly known) moved their meetings to the Sacramento Turn Verein Hall. In December 2011, with a majority vote, then Presidents Kathy Omlin (SSLS)

and Ed Lambert (SHV) merged the two clubs into one under the name of the Sacramento *Helvetia Verein*.

Over the years our membership has enjoyed Masquerade Fall Dances, Christmas Parties, Metzgete³ Dinners, Fondue Parties, a Bowling League, participation in Sacramento's 1989 Sesquicentennial Celebrations, Swiss Day at the California State Fair, hikes to various California sites of interest, Swiss Language Classes, Swiss Jass⁴ Parties, Swiss National Day Celebrations, and Spring Picnics, as well as joint events with the Friends of Sutter's Fort historical organization.

An anniversary dinner dance is held every five years with the last event held on August 13, 2022 at The Pavilion at Haggin Oaks to celebrate our 130th Anniversary.

SHV is also excited to be part of the United Swiss Societies of

Northern California through which our club can participate in many more cultural activities.

SHV invites anyone of Swiss heritage and their families to join. As a member you are welcome to attend our monthly social meetings (first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.) and receive a seasonal newsletter and invitations to all Seasonal Annual events. All members can vote at the business meetings. For a calendar of events and membership application, please visit our website at www.sacramentoswiss.com.



HELVETIA IS A NATIONAL PERSONIFICATION OF SWITZERLAND.

Helvetia is to Switzerland what Marianne is to France and Lady Liberty is to the United States: the female personification of the country's soul and spirit. She is depicted as a tall and stately woman clad in flowing robes, a shield in her left hand, a spear in her right, and her hair plaited into a crown encircling her head together with a laurel wreath. Today, Helvetia's noble and graceful figure is etched into Swiss coins and postage stamps.

3 A metzgete (pronounced "mets-ge-te") dinner is a Swiss fall celebration with a menu of ripley (smoked pork chops) and blood sausages.

4 A Swiss card game, pronounced "yoss."



JOHN STEWART
(1785 – 1857)



JANET SMILIE STEWART
(1795 – 1874)

SCOTTISH VOICES FROM THE PAST: **THE STEWART FAMILY**

By Carol Withington

Situated in the eastern part of Scotland is the town of Dundee City. During the early 1800s, this community became one of the major industrial towns of Scotland, resulting in huge increases in population. People moved from rural areas to Dundee City to work in such industries as textile, shipbuilding, and whaling. Dundee City's population eventually grew from 26,000 in 1800 to 166,000 in 1840.

However, many working-class families ended up living in overcrowded slum areas with little or no sanitation. Without a regular income, many suffered from hunger and disease. Infant mortality rates were extremely high.

John Stewart could be considered one of the “lucky” ones. He was born in Dundee City on May 20, 1785, some years before the huge growth and all its difficulties occurred.

For a five-year term, John served in the Forfar and Kincardine Regiment Militia. He was discharged on December 1, 1807 at the age of 22. Described as 5 feet 7 ½ inches tall with black hair and a “fresh” complexion, John became a shoemaker by trade. In 1815, he married Annie Black in Dundee City. A daughter Annie was born on February 16, 1816. Sadly, within a year, John became a widower with a baby to raise by himself.

When his daughter Annie was four years old, John married Janet Smilie on June 20, 1820. Within a few years, and along with a growing family, it was time to make plans to come to America. So with their “worldly goods” and family Bibles, the Stewarts crossed the ocean around 1827 where they settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, located on the north side of Pittsburgh.

Founded in 1788, this small community consisted of mostly German, Scottish, and other European settlers who farmed and manufactured items such as glass and rope. It was ideal for the Stewarts, and they lived in this area for over twenty-five years. John eventually built a stone house for his family close to relatives who had also immigrated from Scotland.

In 1832, at the age of 16, Annie, John’s eldest, married James S. Stewart. The couple remained in Pennsylvania where they began their family. Their firstborn was Elizabeth, followed by brothers John Hudson, born in 1834; James, born in 1836; and Charles, born in 1838. Daughters Mary Ann and Flora were added during 1842 and 1844, respectively, followed by sons George B., born in 1846; and Edward, born in 1848. In 1849 and 1850, Jennett “Jennie” and Tassej joined the Stewart family. However, Agnes, born in 1852, died within a year.

WESTWARD BOUND

Learning of successful early emigration to Oregon which began in 1843, John and Janet were exposed to “Oregon Fever.” Annie and James did not share this “ailment” but had their eyes on settling in Northern California – namely, Sutter County. And so, in the spring of 1853, the long journey began.

The elder Stewart’s party included unmarried daughters Elizabeth, Agnes, and Helen and daughter Mary with her husband John Warner. John Stewart’s eldest daughter Annie and husband James arrived with their ten children ranging in ages from two to twenty years old.

According to diaries kept by Helen and Agnes, the party boarded the steamer *Artic* at Pittsburgh on April 1, 1853 and later were transferred to the *Honduras* for the trip up the Missouri River to St. Joseph on April 20. About two weeks later, the Stewarts began their journey across the plains, where they would experience separation from James and Annie, who had fallen behind because of their overly-heavy wagons. James and Annie would eventually take the Salt Lake Road, arriving in August in Salt Lake City, where they remained until May of 1854 before journeying to Northern California and settling in Sutter County.

John and his family would continue to Oregon on the wagon train along with the Warner family, enroute to Fall Creek. Elizabeth would later marry Fred Warner, and his brother Thomas would marry Agnes.

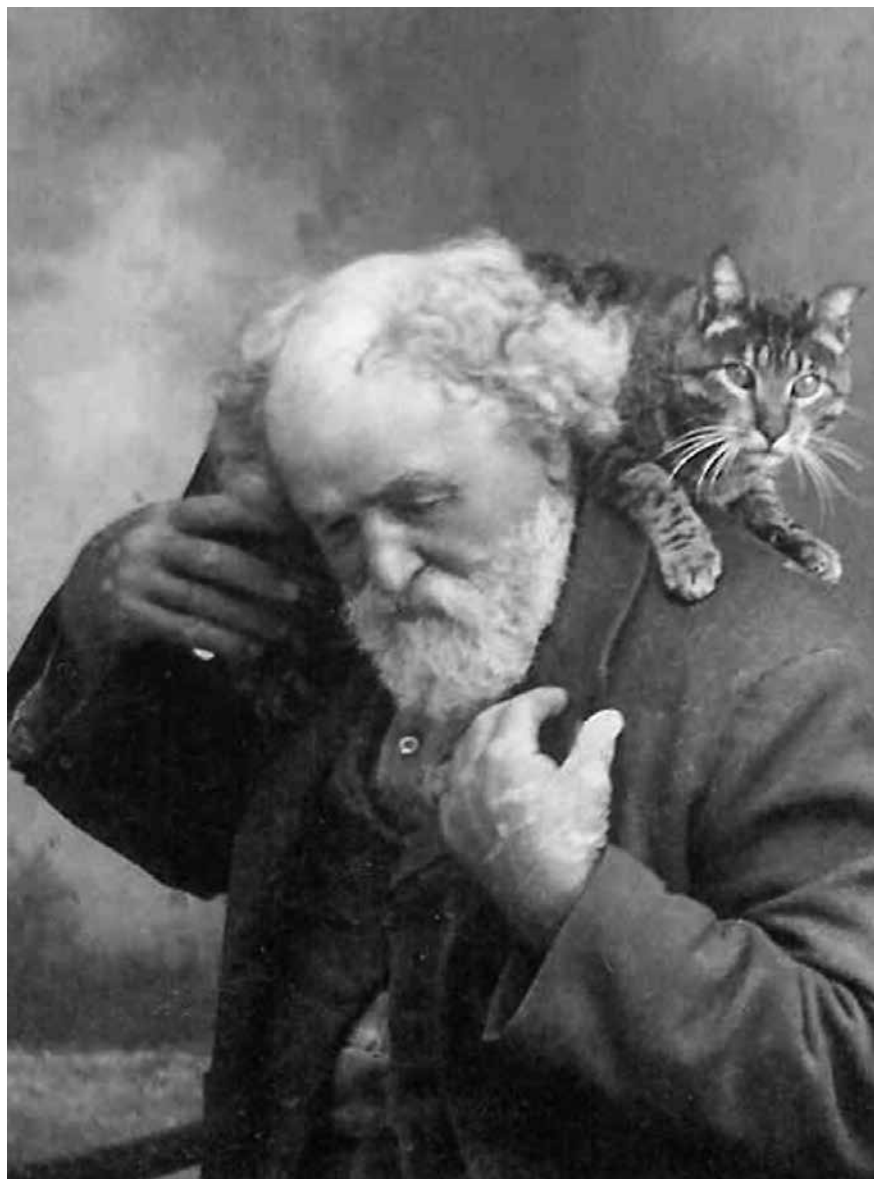
Both the Stewarts and Warners became a rich part of both Fall Creek and Oakridge, Oregon history. Sadly, John Stewart died within four years of his arrival. His wife and daughters and their families would remain in Oregon. And it is doubtful that their sister Annie ever saw them again.

SUTTER COUNTY YEARS

The Stewarts must have been pleased with the fertile soil and abundant waterways of Sutter County. It was a perfect combination for their farming pursuits. By 1855, they were settled on land known as the “Stewart Place” near Yuba City. In the meantime, another daughter was added to the family. They named her Annie after her mother and grandmother. It was not until 1860 that tragedy hit.



ANNIE STEWART WALTERS (1854 – 1936).



CHARLES EDWARD STEWART (1838 – 1911).

On May 10, 1860, their son James died of cholera at the age of 24. The 1860 cholera epidemic in Northern California was part of the third cholera pandemic, which had originated in India in the 19th century. Sadly, James’s brother George also died of cholera on November 5, 1860. He was only 14 years old. Annie gave birth to her last child, William Wallace, on October 11, almost a month before the death of George. She was well into her forties at that time. What strength and resilience she must have had to bury two sons and give birth to another, all within six months.

Ten years later, Annie lost her husband, James. They had been married for over three decades. Now she was left alone to raise young William and maintain the farm and property holdings. Fortunately, the oldest

son, John Hudson, had settled nearby. John was a farmer and raised stock on 240 acres of land located five miles southwest of Yuba City.

In 1875 he married Wilhelmina Doull, a native of Scotland. Four years later, the family consisted of two children – Annie, aged 2 ½ and Charles W., aged five months. Over the course of time, the Stewarts moved to Santa Rosa, where John died in 1913. He never forgot his long journey to Sutter County, however. He related his adventures in Thompson and West's History of Sutter County, and the same version was included in his obituary.

ANNIE PLAYS CUPID

In 1893, Annie converted her 480-acre farm, known as the Stewart District, into small holdings. Thirty acres were sold to a bachelor by the name of Charles Martin Spitzer for \$2,125. In addition, Annie also sold a lot to Emma C. Black, a widow with four daughters, who had come from Kansas around 1890.

Three years after his purchase, Charles built a two-story home, constructed from coast redwood and pine and fir, which was milled in Grass Valley. As this was quite a large house for one person, it appears Charles had another thought in mind. He married Emma Black in 1896, and the

home was completed just in time for the nuptials. No doubt Annie never knew she had played Cupid.

ANNIE STEWART'S FINAL REWARD

On August 6, 1904, Annie Stewart passed away at the age of 88 at the residence of her daughter, Mary Smith, near Yuba City.¹ This Scottish pioneer had lived in Sutter County for fifty years where she made many friends and was “dearly loved” for her qualities of character.

The area owed much to Annie, as she was able to subdivide her farm into small holdings upon which twenty-six families resided in 1904. The mother of thirteen children, only eight were surviving at the time of her death. They included sons John Hudson of Santa Rosa; Charles of Fresno; Edward of Sisson; and William of Pacific Grove; along with daughters Jennie Smith of Oakland; Tassey Stewart of Milton; and Annie Wagner of Butte County.

Annie was a member of Fidelia Chapter No. 56 O.E.S. (Order of the Eastern Star) and the First Presbyterian Church of Marysville, whose pastor conducted her services at her daughter's home. The Rev. Wilson performed the eulogy, and singing was provided by Mrs. F. W.

Hanson, Anita Cooley, and Allen Cooley. Annie was buried in the Yuba City Cemetery along with her husband and family members.

How can one best describe this remarkable Scottish lass? She definitely was Adventurous, Noble, Neighborly, Industrious, and Energetic. And this was Annie.

Resources:

Allegheny City History (<https://alleghenycity.org>)

Cholera Epidemic in Northern California (<https://wikipedia.org>)

Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com>)

History of Sutter County, Thompson & West Eds., 1879

“Oregon Pioneers of 1853,” *Lane County Historian*, August 1964

Registers of Deaths Sutter and Yuba Counties 1873-1905 (<https://roots-web.com>)

The Sutter County Farmer, May 9, 1913

Worth Keeping by Jacqueline Lowe, et. al., 1990

Yuba City History (<https://historic.on/CA/sutter-county>)

1 Her estate was valued at approximately \$32,000 in 1904, which is the equivalent of approximately \$1.2 million in 2025.

Puzzling



- ANNIE
- BRICKS
- BUTTES
- CAPITOL
- CISTERN
- COMMUNITY
- CONCERT
- DRIVER
- EXHIBIT
- FAIR
- ISAAC
- MUSEUM
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To honor and appreciate our volunteers year-round,
we'd like to recognize many who have newly reached milestones
of regular, ongoing service to the Museum this year.

FIVE YEARS (or more!)
Debbie Lemenager

TEN YEARS (or more!)
Tony Kurlan

They join our many other long-term volunteers in these service milestones.



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

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Basic*	\$35
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Bronze**	\$100
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*\$10 discount for Student/Senior/Military/Long Distance (200+ miles away)

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*** 20% discount for Non-profits

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February 2, 2025 - June 8, 2025

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Jeanette Christopherson

In Memory of **Stanley Christopherson**
Pat Ward-Vick

In Memory of **Cristal Collins**
Allen & Kathe Herr

In Memory of **John Heenan**
Audrey Breeding

In Memory of **Betty Tarke**
Ann & Michael Chesini

In Memory of **Carol Trexler**
Sharyl Simmons

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Family SOUP
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Girl Scouts
Leah's Pantry
Sutter County Children & Families Commission

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