

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

1333 Butte House Road

P. O. Box 1555

Yuba City, CA 95991

\$1.00

# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XIII, NO. 2

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

APRIL, 1974



Thomas Frye and his stallion, Picadore, 1890

In this issue – The Frye Family of Sutter County  
by  
Gladys Frye Estep

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XIII, No. 2

April, 1974

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SUTTERANA

SUTTER MILL CANES -- Beautiful walking sticks continue to be manufactured out of the frame work of the Sutter Mill, at which point the gold was first discovered. The Empire Argus tells of one from the head block of the mill, of fine polish, mounted with an octagon head of gold beautifully engraved with heavy scroll work and weighing nearly six ounces. In the top is a piece of gold bearing quartz highly polished. It is to be presented by a Californian to a New Yorker.

From the Sacramento Union of December 13, 1854

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Copies of the HISTORY OF SUTTER COUNTY, published by Thompson and West, 1879, and reprinted by Howell and North, 1974, may be purchased at the Museum, 114 Carriage Square, Yuba City, for \$22.50 plus tax.

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The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. The annual membership dues include receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. Your remittance should be sent to Mrs. Wanda Rankin, Treasurer, 805 Orange Street, Yuba City. To insure delivery of your NEWS BULLETIN please notify the Treasurer of any change of address.

#### THE SPRING MEETING

The annual dinner meeting of the Society will take place at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, in the Yuba. City Women's clubhouse.

The after-dinner program will feature a showing by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Demmer of Gridley, of their collections of antique handmade quilts, with Mrs. Demmer as narrator.

Reservations for the dinner are to be made by April 12. Cost per plate will be \$4.00 payable at the door.

A special committee headed by Mrs. Geraldine Hall, Yuba City, phone 673-1008, will include the following to take reservations: Sutter -- Mrs. Betty Epperson, 755-0490; Meridian -- Mrs. Walter Ettl, 696-2458; Live Oak -- Mrs. George Briick, 695-2566; Nicolaus -- Mrs. Thomas Mulvany, 656-2430; Yuba City-Marysville -- Mrs. Starr Poole, 673-7049; Mrs. William Jones, 673-3401; Mrs. R.A. Schnabel, 673-7566; Mrs. William Dawson, 743-7706.

The many loyal members of the Society who gather together to collate the NEWS BULLETIN at each issue will be recognized and thanked for their services.

#### HIGH SCHOOL GRADS TAKE POINTS

Yuba and Sutter county boys took a prominent part in the dual track and field meet which took place between Stanford and California universities last Saturday, as Grover Bedeau of Marysville took first place in the shot put with forty-four feet six and one-half inches, and George Bihlman of Live Oak took second place in the same event. Both youths are enrolled at Stanford.

Bedeau and Bihlman are graduates of the local high school, Bihlman being a member of the class of '13. Stanford won the meet.

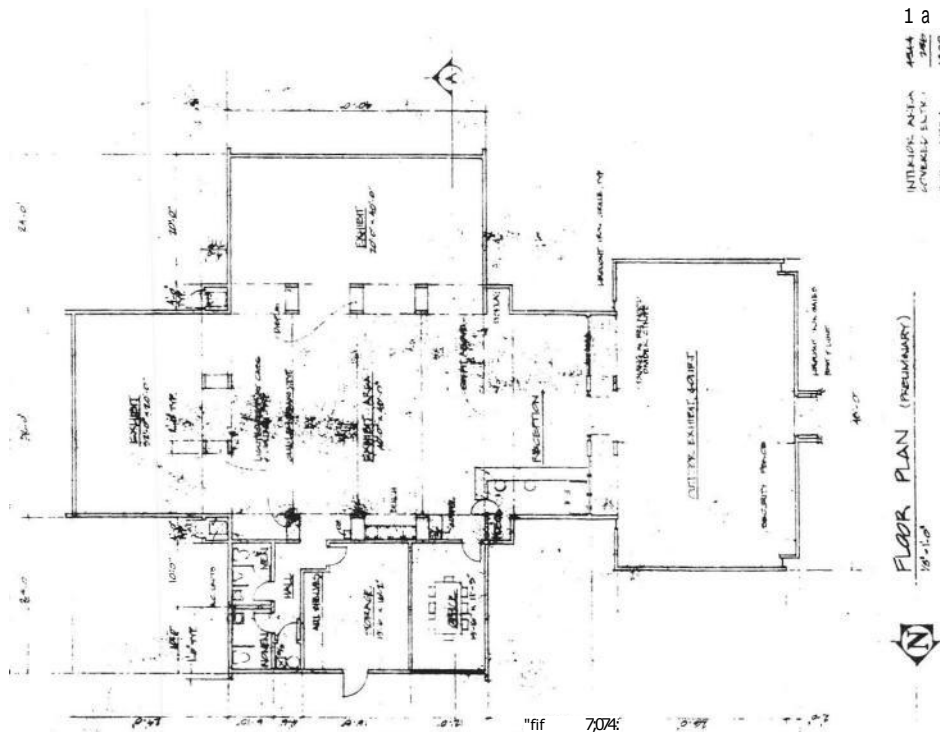
Marysville Appeal, April 21, 1914, p. 5 Editor's Note:

Leo Wadsworth of Sutter High placed 2nd in the 100 yd. dash in this meet. He was attending California.

# WITH YOUR HELP our MEMORIAL MUSEUM TO BE



Exterior  
Tentative Floor Plan  
as of 2-4-74



Enthusiasm mounts as more and more begin to understand the efforts being made in developing our Memorial Park and Museum.

Continuing list of donors to Memorial Park:

John & Irminna Palmer	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Howard & Norma Harter	in memory of Carl Rubel
Bob & Gayle Barkhouse	in honor of Howard & Norma Harter
Mr. & Mrs. Burwell W. Ullrey	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Burwell L. Ullrey	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Savage	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Schnabel	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Starr Poole	in memory of Richard H. Hodges
Maude K. Roberts	in memory of Don Ohleyer
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Meyer	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Acord	in memory of Edwina Dean
Barbara & Randolph E. Schnabel	in memory of Edwina Dean
Helen & Caswell Mills	in memory of Edwina Dean
Bill & Wanda Rankin	in memory of Edwina Dean
Erma & Howard Mayfield	in memory of Edwina Dean
Bogue Jr. Womens' Country Club	
Alice & William Dawson	in memory of Edwina Dean
Dorothy Hodges	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lamon	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ullrey	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Mark	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sterchi	in memory of Edwina Dean
Tierra Buena Farm Bureau	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. B. E. Epperson	in memory of Edwina Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Epperson	in memory of Edwina Dean
Bob & Gayle Barkhouse	in honor of Howard & Norma Harter

Y.C.H.S. Graduates of '38, '39, '40 and '41	in memory of J. Wilson McRae
Howard & Norma Harter	in memory of J. Wilson McRae
Norman F. & Loadel Piner	in memory of J. Wilson McRae
John & Irminna Palmer	in memory of J. Wilson McRae
Past Presidents Association #5	
Native Daughters of the Golden West	in memory of Albert W. Coupe
Leo & Virginia Wadsworth	in memory of the William Marsh Wadsworth Family
Leo & Virginia Wadsworth	in memory of Gus Beecroft Family
Dr. Albert Shumate	
R. A. Schnabel	in memory of Ruth Wible
Norman & Loadel Piner	in memory of Fred Dahlgren
Richard Tofft	
Callie Allison	in memory of Edwina Dean
Callie Allison	in memory of Kenneth Bryan
Bev and Betty Epperson	in memory of Bertha Betty
Howard & Norma Harter	in memory of Thomas L. Nelson
Florence Arritt	in memory of Joyce Whiteman

\* \* \* \* \*

By the time this Bulletin reaches you the third Arbor Day planting will have taken place - March 7th - just two years from the date of the formal Dedication of the Park to Sutter County.

\* \* \* \* \*

In addition to the original Donors to the Memorial Museum Trust Fund gifts have now been received from:

Wilford L. & Georgia Williams

Gladys & Reginald Estep	in memory of Hiram Thomas and
Ulysses and Ruth Frye	Wilhelmina Frye
Eugene and Janet Lonon	
Thomas and Eileen Frye	in memory of Timothy Jarvis Frye

Edward R. Davis

in memory of Jabez Griffith  
Davis & Addee Robinett Davis

Mrs. Albert J. Krull

in memory of Debbie Lynn Beymer

\* \* \* \* \*

All gifts are, and will continue to be greatly appreciated as well as needed to develop the park as well as to build the Museum.

Pride in our community -- in our heritage, will thus be commemorated in a tangible manner for the benefit of future generations.

Life passes so quickly! We all cherish the hope that we may not soon be forgotten. Before it is too late write a life sketch of your family or loved one (with pictures) that it may be included in the special book presently exhibited at the library and eventually in the Museum as a permanent lasting record.

The NEWS BULLETIN is not copyrighted. Use of the material is invited unless copyrighted by others. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

An index and file of all of the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library and in the Marysville City Library.

THE FRYE FAMILY OF SUTTER COUNTY

by

GLADYS FRYE ESTEP

Five generations of the Frye family have lived and thrived in Sutter County. Fryes have farmed the land, built their homes, attended the schools and supported the activities of their communities with zeal and energy.

The patriarch of the clan was Alexander Christian Frye. He came to California by way of Panama as a soldier in the Mexican War. After an honorable discharge from the army, he settled in Sutter County on the West side of the Sutter Buttes.

Details of Alexander Christian Frye's life prior to settling in California are scant. His older sister, Margaret Frey English, gave a lengthy account of the family history to a St. Louis paper upon the occasion of her ninety-first birthday. The family was of Germanic origin and German was their native tongue. They were natives of Alsace, which in 1830 was a province of France.

My grandfather was born in 1826, and sometime between that date and 1830, my great-grandmother Frye died. She left eight young children and a grief-stricken husband. My great-grandfather distraught by the death of his wife and by the political turmoil of the period decided to emigrate to the United States. He sold his property, converting it to gold and silver which he carried in a strong box and sailed with his eight children to America in the year 1830.

The family name has been spelled in three different ways during the last one hundred and fifty years. My great-aunt





Alexander Christian Frye  
1826-1904



Thomas Frye and Wilhelmina Koeneman  
Their Wedding Picture  
January 23, 1895

Margaret spelled her maiden name Frey, which was the German spelling. My grandfather, Alexander Christian spelled his surname, Fry, upon the deed to a plot in the Meridian cemetery, dated October, 1888. My father, Thomas, spelled his name Frye upon his marriage license in 1895. He explained to me that his sister Margaret persuaded the family to add the letter e to Frye. She thought it was more elegant.

The family landed at New Orleans and continued their travels to Louisville, Kentucky, where the father was taken seriously ill and died. The children continued by riverboat to St. Louis, then a pioneer village where they were taken into different homes. Great Aunt Margaret remembered standing on the levee holding her small brother in her arms. Alex Frye was born in 1826 so he would have been four years old at the time of his arrival in St. Louis. In the confusion of arriving, waiting at the wharf and parcelling the children out to different families, their iron box with the family fortune disappeared.

Upon settling in Sutter County, Grandfather Frye became a farmer and boat builder. There is still one of his boats in the possession of Ulysses Frye of Sutter.

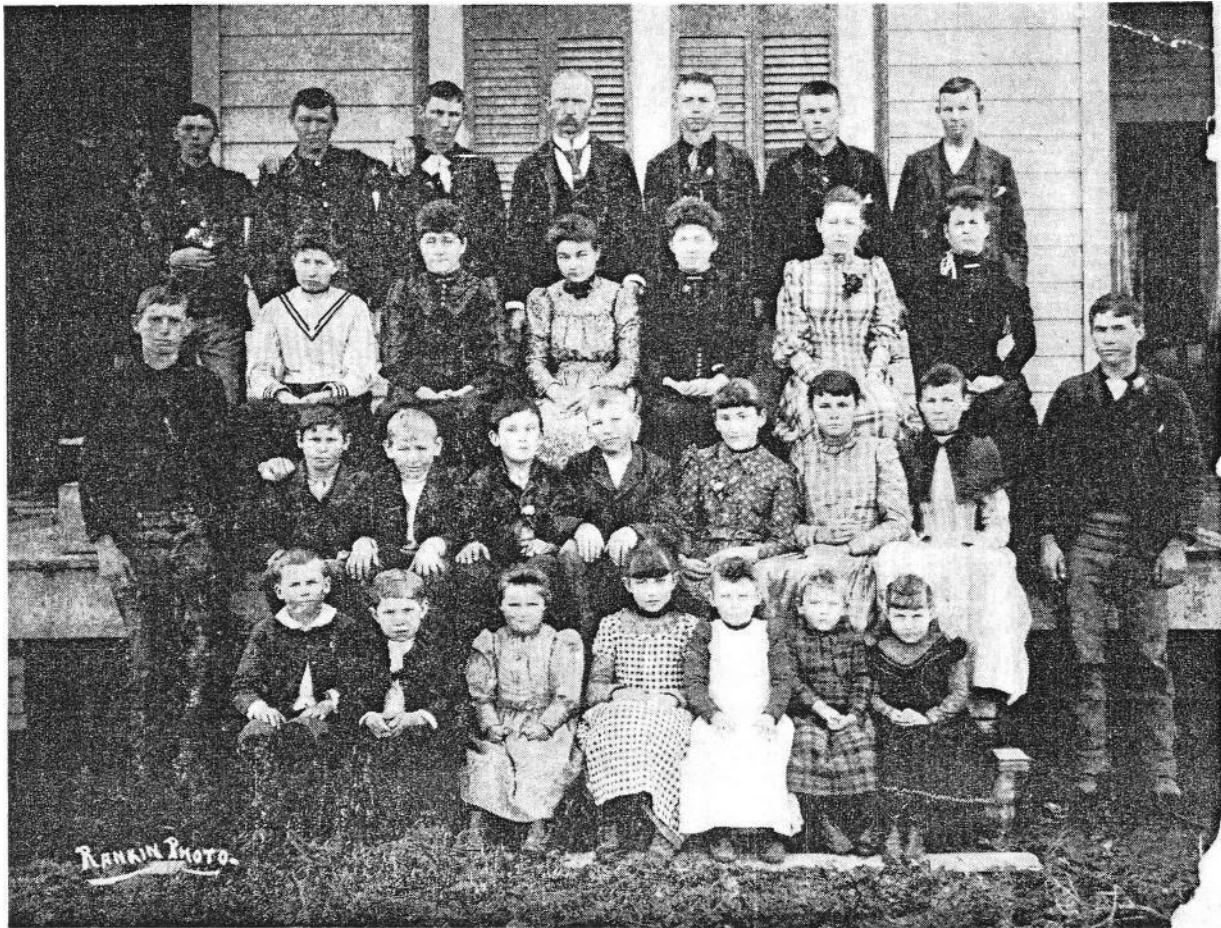
During the year of 1861, feelings about the Civil War ran high so a group of patriotic citizens conceived the idea of raising the American flag at the highest point in the Sacramento Valley which was at the top of South Butte. A seventy-five foot flag pole and a large flag of bunting was ordered from San Francisco and brought up the Sacramento River, landing at Kent. About forty men waited to transport the flag to the Buttes.

Christian Frye was among the twelve men listed by name who carried the pole in three sections to the top of the steep hill. On the morning of July 4, 1861, OLD GLORY was raised to the top of the flagpole.

Christian Frye was married to Mariah Ann Frederichs on July 4, 1865. He gave his bride a belt buckle made of California gold which is an heirloom in the possession of Hope Graves Lame. Our Grandmother Frye had come with her family, the Abner Frederichs, by covered wagon over the Oregon trail from Ottumwa, Iowa, in the 1850's. They settled in Sutter County at Lomo, where they lived until 1876 and then moved to Bangor where the men of the family were engaged in mining.

Christian and Mariah Frye were the parents of six sons and one daughter. Alexander Oliver born 1866, Margaret Ann born 1867, Hiram Thomas born 1870, Charles Eugene born 1873, Joseph Walter born 1874, Claude Horace born 1878 and Theodore Augustus born 1882. The three oldest children were born at their home near West Butte. The family then moved to property near Long Bridge on Butte Slough which is still owned by a member of the family, Gerald A. Frye, a great grandson.

Zan, Margaret, and Thomas went to school at the first little red schoolhouse at Butte Slough built in 1868. The property for this school was donated by a Mr. Levi Schultzenburger who also donated the land for the present standing Slough Schoolhouse. This newer building opened in 1888 with Mr. J. H. Ray as teacher and celebrated its last day of school on June 6, 1962 with Mrs. Allison Huston as teacher. The picture showing four Frye brothers and Minnie Koeneman Frye as pupils was taken in 1890. Mr.



SLOUGH SCHOOL NEAR LONG BRIDGE, 1890

Top row (left to right): Charles Frye, son of Ina Wood, Joe Frye, Teacher J.C. Rae,  
Waldo Nall, Unknown, Fred Stohlman  
Second row from top: Claude Frye, Augusta Nau, Edith Nall, Mabel Wood, Lana Nau,  
Landerman Stohlman, Wilhelmina Koenemann Frye, Minnie Stohlman Nall  
Third row from top: Theodore Frye, Unknown, Charles Summy, Henry Stohlman,  
Myra Summy, Unknown, Carrie Stohlman, Otto Nau  
Bottom row: Louis Stohlman, Frank Nau, Jessie Summy, Elfreda Nau, Clara Stohlman,  
Lillie Stohlman, Cordie Nau

Schultzenburger was a bachelor and a public spirited citizen who instigated the founding of the I.O.O.F. No. 212 Lodge in Meridian and willed it his estate upon his death.

Mariah Ann Frye died on September 20, 1888 at the early age of forty-six. The youngest son Theodore was only six years old. The mother of the family was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Meridian. Among our grandfather's papers is a receipt for eight dollars, the cost of the cemetery plot. Margaret, the only daughter, assumed the duties of housekeeper for her father and six brothers until her marriage to Albert Graves of Pennington in 1893.

This family of six boys grew up very close to nature. They were all excellent marksmen, fond of hunting wild ducks, geese and game in abundance at their very back door. They Probably indulged in some wild pranks for lack of any of our present day amusements. My father told of the dirty trick they played on the poor Chinese. These Chinese coolies had come from their work in the mines to build the stone walls which still surround many of the large ranches in the Buttes. They lived in camps near their work. According to my father, it was good sport to sneak up on an unwary Chinese and cut off his long que of black hair. Another time a dead skunk was deposited in a big black iron kettle of rice which the Chinese had cooked.

Four of the Frye sons, Zan, Charles, Joe and Thede, were musicians and played several musical instruments. The violin was their favorite. Joe was very skilled at making fine violins. He had a delicate skill working with wood as well as musical ability.

They all played their fiddles for dances in the old hall at West Butte or in the schoolhouse. A letter in Aunt Margaret's scrapbook recalls Zan Frye and Calvin Ely playing their fiddles while Margaret Frye and Albert Graves danced and won the prize waltz.

Zan Frye first worked on a ranch in his early manhood. Then he moved to Marysville where he drove a bus for the Western Hotel. He went into partnership with W. Ward and operated the Grotto Saloon in a building on D Street which he owned. During prohibition, he bought a prune orchard in Sutter County. He was married to the beautiful Agnes Lunsford and they had one daughter Nadine, now deceased. Alexander Oliver Frye died of pneumonia on November 13, 1922 at the age of fifty-six.

Margaret Ann Frye married Albert Graves, the son of a pioneer, in 1893. They lived on a large sheep and grain ranch which is now the Brady estate near Pennington. Three children were born, Margaret Hope born in 1895, now Mrs. Hope Lane of Yuba City. A second daughter, Alberta Aileen, was born in 1896 and was killed in an automobile accident in 1935. The only son, Verne Frye, was born in 1899 and died of pneumonia in 1917 while a Freshman at the University of California. The Graves family resided in Sutter City while their children attended the Sutter High School. Later they moved to Almond Street in Yuba City. Aunt Margaret was a fine seamstress, skilled in arts and crafts, and loved her garden. She wrote with a fine Spencerian hand. She died in 1951 at the age of eighty-four.

Charles Frye remained a farmer in Sutter County all of his long life. He married a native of Germany, Katherine Rohrbach,

and they had one son, Lloyd.

Joseph married a Sutter County girl, Ida McMillan, and they had a son Arthur. The young family was living in a small house near his father when tragedy struck. The house burned and the wife died in the flames. Joseph was able to save the baby Arthur. He later moved to Chico where he had a furniture store. He passed away in 1948 in Colusa.

Claude was married to a local girl, Rose Perry. They were the parents of six children, Virgil, Cecil, Harvey, Willard, Margaret and Delmar. Cecil and Willard are now deceased. Claude was a farmer and they lived first in Grandpa Frye's home in District Seventy and later on the West slope of the Buttes on Butte Slough. Later they moved to a home in Sutter City. Claude died in 1927 of a self-inflicted gun wound following a domestic triangle.

The youngest son, called Thede, married Adah Knaggs and they were the parents of a son Richard. After farming for a number of years in this locality, he moved to Southern California where he was interested in real estate.

I have purposely left for last in this large family the career of Hiram Thomas Frye. Pictures at the time of his courting and marriage show a handsome fellow with curly auburn hair, hazel eyes and a smart moustache. He owned a dashing stallion named Picadore which he drove in a high-wheeled cart. He married Wilhelmina Koeneman on January 23, 1895 in the Methodist Parsonage in Sutter City. The ceremony was performed by Reverend Kinsey. It was flood time in the district around Butte Slough

and the couple traveled by row boat to get to dry land on the way to Sutter. The honeymoon was spent in Marysville.

Wilhelmina or Minnie as she was called, had come to California from St. Louis on the Southern Pacific in 1890. She was a young girl, aged seventeen and made her home with her oldest sister Mary, Mrs. Chris Meier. Minnie had gone to a church school which was taught in German at her hometown in Nashville, Illinois. So while living with her sister, she attended the Butte Slough school which was just across the road from the Meier homestead. My mother recounted that young men outnumbered the girls so any new girl was very popular at the dances and parties.

My parents first lived in a small home near Mawson Bridge in District Seventy where Ulysses Elmo was born on November 6, 1895. A second son, Gerald William, was delivered on May 22, 1897.

By the turn of the century, 1900, through hard work and scrimping, a tract of twenty-eight acres near Long Bridge on Butte Slough was bought. A fine six-room house with large screen porches and a two-story tankhouse were built of redwood lumber. The house was built high off the ground as a precaution against flooding which was common in the district.

I was born on December 1, 1901, and named Gladys Wilhelmina after my mother. All of us five children were delivered at home by country doctors. Dr. Addington of Sutter was my doctor. Dr. E. V. Jacobs of Meridian delivered my two younger brothers. Thomas Emmet was born on May 17, 1906 and Ray Alexander on March 7, 1910.



In the summer of 1904, Thomas and Wilhelmina planned their first real vacation by taking their three children to St. Louis to attend the Exposition celebrating the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. It was our first opportunity to meet and visit our mother's relatives in St. Louis and Nashville, Illinois. We traveled by train the southern route through New Orleans. Misfortune struck with the serious illness of Grandfather Frye, causing our father to make a hurried return home.


Christian Frye had been granted a government pension of twelve dollars per month as a veteran of the Mexican War in Company A, 16th Regiment, United States Infantry, in April, 1903. At the time of his death, two of these warrants for thirty-six dollars each were uncashed and are still in the family's possession. Alexander Christian Frye died on August 4, 1904. He was buried beside his wife in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Meridian. The pall bearers included names well known in the Meridian area: Ira Hall, Boyd Taylor, O.P. Burnett, Lon Summy, Peter Nau and Chris Meier.

All of us children attended the Slough School, where our parents had gone, until 1914 when we moved to the Butte ranch near Sutter. We had over a mile to walk rain or shine. I remember slogging along in the deep adobe mud which would ball up on our shoes and galoshes. Arriving at school, we scraped off the mud and sat around the pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room to dry out and warm up. This was hard on our chilblains and head colds which we had every winter.

I look back with great respect to the quality of instruction we received in this one-room schoolhouse. My first grade teacher was Miss Myrna Pottle of Nuestro. Then Alvin Weis and Anna Tarke Shields were my teachers during the following six years at Slough.

Former payments covering any portion of the same time to be deducted.

No. 18072 MEXICAN WAR SURVIVOR. Increase



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Department of the Interior,  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

It is hereby certified That in conformity with the laws of the United States,

Christian Fry  
late a Private Company A 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment United States Infantry  
is entitled to a pension at the rate of Twelve dollars per  
month, to commence on the Third day of March  
one thousand nine hundred and Three.

Given at the Department of the Interior, this Twenty-First  
day of April, one thousand nine  
hundred and Three.

Edwin M. Hitchcock  
Secretary of the Interior.

Examined and countersigned.

[Signature]  
Commissioner of Pensions.

Section forty-seven hundred and forty-five, title fifty-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States, has been amended to read as follows:

SEC. 4745. Any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer of any right, claim, or interest in any pension which has been, or may hereafter be granted, shall be void and of no effect, and any person who shall pledge, or receive as a pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment or transfer of any right, claim, or interest in any pension, or pension certificate, which has been, or may hereafter be granted or issued, or who shall hold the same as collateral security for any debt, or promise, or upon any pretext of such security, or promise, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars and the cost of the prosecution; and any person who shall retain the certificate of a pensioner and refuse to surrender the same upon the demand of the Commissioner of Pensions, or a United States pension agent, or any other person authorized by the Commissioner of Pensions, or the pensioner, to receive the same, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars and the costs of the prosecution.

Approved February 28, 1883.

MEXICAN WAR.

Cert. No. 18072  
Christian Fry  
Pensioner.

Quarterly payments to be made  
by the U. S. pension agent at  
San Francisco  
Cal

NOTE.—No sale or transfer of any kind, of the whole or any part of the pension payable by virtue of this certificate is of any legal or binding force against either the pensioner or the United States.

[Signature]  
Clerk.

Two holidays of the year which I remember with special delight, were the Fourth of July and Christmas. Our father celebrated every Fourth of July by rising about 4:00 in the morning and setting off a heavy blast of dynamite or black powder from his anvil shop. This could be heard for miles around and sounded like a sonic boom. Our cousins in the Albert Graves family often came from Pennington to spend the day. We froze a large freezer of ice cream, had fried chicken and angel food cake.

Our Christmas celebrations were simple, but happy. Our father cut a native tree or branch. We children made the decorations, paper cutouts, strings of cranberries and popcorn. Real candles in tin holders lighted the tree. We each received one present. Our mother often sat up at night making our gifts. Usually we had a turkey at our Christmas dinner.

To operate a farm before the development of modern machinery required prodigious labor and many skills. My father had many natural talents. He understood all phases of general farming, raising crops, dairying, cattle and hog raising. When he needed a bean cutter, he invented one. I can remember how beans were first harvested by tramping them out of the hulls on a large canvas sheet. Thomas Frye built a harvester to improve on this method. He was able to repair his farm machinery. He had a complete blacksmith shop with a forge. Here the horses were shod. If a new barn was needed, my father could sit down with his old grammar school arithmetic book and figure out how many board feet of lumber to order. He was an excellent shot and

New Year 1930  
Meridian, Calif.

Dear Wilhelmina: —

Many years have come and gone since the time you spent with us at the old home. Do you remember the many evenings we spent there with music and singing? Yourself & Minnie and I; and whoever else might be there and wished to join with us.

More evenings than not, some pie came in to spend the evening there. We spent many pleasant evenings.

I believe that was the most enjoyable period in my life I recall. These times often I remember you as being a part of it all.

Our home was a quiet & pleasant home and I loved it all.

Especially I loved the music and singing. I loved to play the violin and

I never tired of it, if it was an hour or so at home, or a whole evening at a dance or a party. The time sped by all too quickly.

I have not played for thirty years. The years went by my hands and fingers became so stiff and awkward I had to give it up.

Life is like that - Minnie, as we travel our life's highway we have to give up, one by one, the things we love the most. Why? I don't know

"When time, who steals our cares away,  
Will steal our pleasures, too;

But memories of the past return,  
And half our joys renew."

I hope, Minnie, as you read these lines that they bring to you some pleasant memories of the past.

Sincerely  
G. Will Summy

Happy New Year

hunted wild ducks for the market in San Francisco. At night he reloaded his brass shells for hunting the next morning. It was fascinating to watch him measure out the gun powder and shot and tamp it in the shells with a paper wad.

On our home place, we had a family orchard, a vegetable garden, pasture for a cow, hogs and chickens. There were six or eight horses which were used for farm work and a team to pull the surrey, buggy or spring wagon. Our father rented land in the Sutter By-Pass where the main field crop was beans.

To cultivate the beans, hired farm labor was needed during planting and harvesting seasons. There was an Indian camp on the levee bordering the Frye and O'Connor properties. Sam Shidan lived there with his daughters Emma and May. May was married to Jess Berryessa and they had two children, Rafaella and Sam, who went to our school. Both Indians, Sam and Jess, worked for my father. The camp was finally broken up by Mr. O'Connor's son when the Indians went on a drunken brawl. Mr. O'Connor threw many of the Indians' possessions into the Slough including their beautiful handmade baskets. Several of these baskets were fished out of the Slough water by my brothers and are still in the possession of the family.

The most exciting time of the year was hog butchering week in early winter. The whole family got into the act. Seven hogs were shot by my father and the animals were then doused in a huge black iron kettle of boiling water. They were strung up on a scaffold and the bristles and hair scraped off. The animals were left hanging over night to chill. Then they were dressed and ready for cutting up.

It required skill to cut the porkers into hams, shoulders, bacon, back strap, tenderloin, chops, ribs and sausage meat. The hams, bacon, shoulders and stuffed sausages were smoked over a wood fire in the smokehouse. Spare ribs were salted in brine. The tongues, tails, and feet were pickled. My father ate the brains with scrambled eggs as a delicacy for breakfast. The rest of the family ate the liver. My mother made a delicious head cheese which was sliced for sandwiches in our school lunches.

Each of us had a part according to our strength and ability. Ray remembers that at the age of four he helped cut the lard in small pieces for rendering. While the lard was being made in the big iron kettle, Emmet and Ray would tie a string to a piece of pork tenderloin, drop it into the boiling fat and cook a succulent morsel. The leavings from the lard rendering with the addition of lye was made into a soft yellow soap used in the laundry.

My inelegant task was to scrape and wash the intestines to make tubes for stuffing the sausages. The sausage meat was ground and seasoned with spices by our mother. It was quite exciting to watch the sausage go through the stuffer and come out in long link sausages. Needless to say, there were no worries about meat shortages.

Partly because of the frequent floods in the district and also in a move to expand farming operations, Thomas Frye bought a 1200 acre ranch three miles west of Sutter City in 1912. This property had formerly been called "PINCH GUT" probably because of its location squeezed between the hills. There is a valley surrounded on three sides by hills, with a narrow passage between the hills going through to the Pass at the foot of South Butte.

There had been a previous house built on the crest of a hill overlooking the valley. Full-grown orange, lemon and olive trees as well as an immense fig tree and an oleander tree were growing in the yard in 1912. These trees are still alive and in production in 1974. They are under the constant care of Ulysses who keeps them pruned and irrigated during the hot summers. A new two-story frame house with five bedrooms was built. A wire fence on a concrete retaining wall, surrounds the yard. The date 1915 was carved in the steps.

Farming operations included the raising of beef and dairy cattle, hogs and grain as well as the raising of the beans in District Seventy. A camp with a cookhouse was maintained for the hired labor. A Chinese cook took care of the camp kitchen, and between seasons cooked in our home. I have a vivid memory of my father paying the hired hands with a handful of twenty-dollar gold pieces.

Many outbuildings were needed for the running of the ranch. There was a large barn for the horses, another barn for the dairy and a shed to hold hay stored for the winter. There was a shed to hold wood for the fireplace and cookstove, a smokehouse for the meat, a small house for the cream separator, the washing machine and the Delco Lighting plant. The granary was used to store barley and corn, as well as serving for a machine shop with the forge, anvil and tools. There was a three-car garage and another building to house the harvester and tractors. The hired labor had a bunkhouse.

We five children transferred to the schools in Sutter City. La Verne Freeman was my eighth grade teacher and principal at

Brittan Grammar School. L. P. Farris, Gardiner Spring and Leo Wadsworth were principals of Sutter High School during the years my brothers and I were pupils at the school. All three of these men attended a reunion held at the new high school in 1972. Mr. Farris was over ninety years of age at the time of this visit. Sutter High School has always had excellent scholastic standing. I graduated as Valedictorian in the class of 1919 and went on to the University of California, graduating from there with a B.A. degree in 1923. This reminds me that my class at U.C. Berkeley will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year.

In the fall of 1920, tragedy struck our family. My father and all my brothers were avid hunters. It was deer season and my father took Emmet, then fourteen, hunting in the Coast Range Mountains. Emmet had already killed his first deer and he had been trained by our dad to exercise care in using a rifle. In some unexplained way, Emmet moved from his position behind his father into the range of fire and was shot in the right arm. His father applied a tourniquet to stop bleeding, got Emmet by horseback and car to the nearest doctor, and then to a hospital in San Francisco. Gangrene set in and it was necessary to amputate the arm at the shoulder. We have been very proud of the way Emmet has overcome this handicap. He continues to be an excellent shot using only his left arm. He has carried on a full life of farming. He refinishes antiques and does oil painting as hobbies.

In June of 1923, my mother and I took the train for a visit to St. Louis, Missouri. It was my present for graduation from the University of California. Again we had bad news that my



father was ill and we returned home at once. A small lump on his jaw was found to be malignant. For the next year and a half, there were many trips to a hospital in San Francisco for surgery, X-Ray, and radium treatments. My father was only fifty-four and he had everything to live for. His struggle to get well was a study in true grit but it was a losing battle.

We had our father's funeral in the living room of our home on November 3, 1924. Hiram Thomas Frye was buried in the family plot in Sutter City. At this time, our mother Wilhelmina showed the courage and strength of a true pioneer woman. She continued to live on at the ranch and rear her two younger sons, Emmet and Ray. Her home and family were her main interests in life, but she had a real love for the Sutter Women's Club and the Community Church.

After all five children were grown and married, it was a real struggle to get our mother to move from the ranch to Yuba City. A pleasant house on Almond Street, next door to Margaret and Albert Graves was purchased about 1940. Our mother continued to live here until her death, but she always considered the ranch her real home. She had great pleasure in our family gatherings at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, surrounded by her five children, their spouses and her grandchildren. Wilhelmina Frye passed away on December 28, 1960 at the age of eight-seven and was buried in the family plot at Sutter City.

Thomas and Wilhelmina Frye are survived by their five children, thirteen grandchildren and thirty-one great grandchildren. All five children are married and living in Sutter County. All four sons were farmers of extensive acreages and

their land is now being farmed by their descendants.

In 1916, Ulysses and Gerald Frye formed a partnership called Frye Brothers which was to continue as a working combination for forty-two years. They started by leasing 1000 acres from Ennis Brown and Company in the Tule Basin. By 1920, this land had been reclaimed by building the By-Pass levees and was farmed in row crops; beans, corn, sugar beets, and later rice.

The brothers branched out into orcharding in 1919 when they bought a tract of 69 acres on the Colusa Highway from the Yuba Dairy. They increased this plot by buying the Elmer subdivision in the same area. These were not good years for orchardists so in 1941, the land was sold to Harter Packing Company except for two one-and-a-half acre plots where their houses were located.

There followed thirty years of expansion in farming and developing land in Sutter County:

- 1920 - Bought 28 acres of old home place in District Seventy from their father, Thomas Frye.
- 1938 - Purchased 340 acres of Tom White estate from the bankrupt Decker Jewett Bank.
- 1939 - Acquired 400 acres of the Burmood estate.
- 1940 - Bought 153 acres from California Lands which was part of the Tom White estate.
- 1942 - Added 246 acres from Sutter Butte Land Company.
- 1943 - 87 acres from Mr. Patterson. 48 acres from Mr. Weir.
- 1948 - State of California sold them 735 acres extending from Long Bridge to Franklin Road in the By-Pass area.
- 1951 - Cecil Straub and Zumwalt sold them a tract of 318 acres called the Wadsworth Place.

In 1940, there was a disastrous flood in the district. It carried away the camp buildings and inundated all the farm machinery in mud and water. Josephine Warehouse stood in eighteen feet of water. There was four feet of water in the Tarke Warehouse where Frye Brothers had 40,000 sacks of barley stored.

After the flood, Frye Brothers built a warehouse near the railroad station at Sutter City. This plant is now known as Westlands Floods. It packages beans, lentils, popcorn and split peas. During the peak of production, the warehouse held as many as 200,000 sacks of beans, rice, barley and corn. During World War II, Frye Brothers were the largest producers of lima beans in the world, tuning out 57,000 sacks of limas to help with the food supply.

By 1958, it was time for Ulysses and Gerald Frye to think of easing up on their workload. The partnership was dissolved and the land divided in half. Thomas Frye and Eugene Lonon are incorporated and farm the land which was Ulysses' share. Gerald A. Frye and his sister Kathrine's husband, Robert Bryant, now own and operate the Gerald W. Frye interests.

Ulysses Frye was married to Ruth Wheeler at Oceano on April 10, 1923. He built a Spanish style stucco home for his bride at 3665 Colusa Highway. They still reside in this house after fifty years of marriage. Their oldest son Wheeler lives in Sacramento where he is employed in a state office. Their second son Thomas has a beautiful home on El Margarita Road where he lives with his wife Eileen and two daughters, Jennifer and Cynthia. The daughter Janet is married to Eugene Lonon and

they live on Ohleyer Road with their two children, Mary and Michael.

Although Ulysses is supposed to be retired, he checks daily on how the crops are doing. He cannot keep his fingers out of the soil and is an ardent gardener, raising a large vegetable garden. He plants flowers like row crops. His specialty is chrysanthemums, cultivating seventy-five varieties and growing around twelve hundred plants in an open field. It is a beautiful sight in autumn to see them all in bloom. They furnish decorations for many weddings, churches and parties. He has been a trustee of District 1660 for the last forty-three years and was a director of the Bank of America on Plumas Street for thirty years.

Gerald William Frye was wed to Miss Elda Lange of St. Louis on May 15, 1926. He, too, built a two-story home at 3493 Colusa Highway where they are still living. Their daughter Kathrine is married to Robert Bryant and they live in a rambling house across the road on Colusa Highway. They have four children, Debra, Craig, Kathleen, and Thomas Michael. The family loves horses and Debra and Kathleen have won many beautiful trophies for their skill in riding.

Their son Gerald August Frye married Carmen Irwin. They have two sons and two daughters, namely, Gerald W., Holly, Shawn, and Raven. This family lives in an adobe house on Colusa Highway which is approached by an avenue of pistachio trees, which is a sight of flaming beauty in the autumn of the year.

After graduation from the University of California at Berkeley in 1923, I taught in the Sutter High School for seven years. On the last day of school on June 12, 1925, I was

married to Reginald Conger Estep. Reg started teaching in the Yuba City High School in September of that year and continued until retirement on June 6, 1963. We have one daughter Diane, born in 1931, and married to David Sterling Mason III of Ione, California. They have four children, David Reginald, Stephanie, Thomas and Scott.

The Estep home is at 1000 Orange Street, in Maple Park, Yuba City. During World War II, I returned to teaching usually on a part-time basis and served in Live Oak, Marysville and Yuba City High schools before retiring. Many interests through the years have kept me very busy. I have been a member and officer of Camp Fire Girls, Yuba City Women's Club, Eastern Star and the Republican Women's Club. Antique collecting, flower arranging, and bridge are my main hobbies. Reg and I have traveled extensively. We have driven across the United States several times and five times to Mexico City. By ship and plane we have gone around the world, to South America, Europe, the Orient and Hawaii.

Emmet Frye was married to Frieda Enid Ziegenmeyer on October 1, 1933 at Sutter. Their family consists of three daughters, Sally, Sandra and Suzanne. Only the youngest daughter Suzanne now lives in Sutter County. They have resided on the northeast corner of Township and Lincoln roads since May, 1934. They had a Jersey dairy and raised peaches, walnuts, rice and grain on a 184 acre farm. They sold a thirty-four acre peach orchard and bought 160 acres of rice land on O'Banion road from the Thomas Frye estate. All their land is now being farmed by their daughter Suzanne and her husband, Leonard Reynolds.

Frieda operates an antique shop in her home and sells cut flowers. She grows acres of gladiola which are a beautiful sight when in bloom. Emmet helps collect antiques especially old guns and primitives. He refinishes and repairs some items of furniture. Hunting and fishing are his true loves and he does not have time to do that as much as he would like.

Our youngest brother Ray was married to Miss Lena Yank on June 11, 1939. During that year, he purchased the Harry Onstott property of 118 acres in Sutter City. On the place was a two-story stucco house built in 1922 and the farm was planted to Thompson seedless grapes. When seedless grapes became a money-losing crop, the land was replanted to almonds and alfalfa.

Ray and Lena have three daughters and a son, Elizabeth Ann, Carol Rae, John Raymond and Harriett Jeanne. Their home has always been a center of hospitality. For many years they had open house on New Year's day for the entire family. A table to seat as many as fifty people would be set to extend from the large dining room through the hallway into the living room. At the time of the Yuba City flood in 1955, their home was a haven to all who came, with coffee, warm beds and a good breakfast for all. Many barbecue and picnic suppers have been held on their spacious front lawn by clubs and organizations as well as private groups.

Ray was a charter member and former chief of the Sutter Volunteer Fire Department. He is also a charter member of the Sutter Lion's Club. The windows of the sun room of their home are lined with hundreds of bottles from Ray's collection. This

room is a veritable museum housing a collection of coal oil lamps, every kind of sadirons covering one hundred years of ironing, and primitives of every kind.

We have been a busy family and we have enjoyed many blessings. Good health was our heritage from our parents. We loved the beauty and fertility of the land and the seasons. We cherish the friendship and hospitality of many wonderful people in Sutter County.

It has been a satisfaction to watch my nieces and nephews carry on the work and traditions of my generation. Our youngest generation shows great promise. Some of these young people are just at the threshold of adulthood. Because of them, I have undertaken this account of the family, hoping they will read it with pride.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to my cousins, Hope Graves Lamme and Johanna Meier, for lending me their mother's scrapbook kept by my late aunts, Margaret Frye Graves and Mary Meier. I want to thank my sister-in-law, Ella Frye for typing this article.

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Marysville Appeal, October 1, 1863

California Northern Railroad --

Mr. Binney has put a gang of hands at work moving the temporary track leading to the steamboat landing and laying it down on the permanent grade, thus straightening the road from the depot to the Feather river and putting it in permanent running order.

## GLEANINGS

Marysville Evening Democrat, February 26, 1915

A Fine Lemon Tree - T. F. Frye of Sutter City has a record bearing lemon tree, from which he picked and sold this season 2800 lemons, which at 15 cents per dozen brought him over \$30. The lemons were of uniform size and excellent quality; the tree is about thirty feet high with a spread of twenty-five feet. It was necessary to build trellises under the branches to support the load of fruit.

Marysville Evening Democrat, February 12, 1915

Bridge Tested - The long bridge over Butte Slough which was recently completed by Blake Bros. & Co. has undergone a thorough test of its permanency in the recent high water. It is stated that the water in the slough was 15 inches higher than it has ever been before and the bridge still remains intact. The water is two feet deep on the old grade on the other end of the bridge, but the structure itself was not harmed. The Supervisors built this for a permanent bridge and this test perhaps proves that they have the desired structure.

Marysville Evening Democrat, February 17, 1915

Feeling that the cost of living ought not to be increased, many food producers are generously selling bread for the same price by cutting down the size of the loaf. (This is a cynical comment on the sharp rise of prices after World War I began. There was much protest in the United States by persons who could not understand why the war in Europe should affect prices of commodities produced at home.)