

Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin

Vol. XLIII No. 4

Yuba City, California

September 2001



Captain Thomas Dean

*(Photo credit: Close-up taken from group photo,
Pioneer Society, located at Marysville City Hall.
Digitally restored by Don Burtis).*

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

John Reische, President

Constance Cary, Secretary

Audrey Breeding, Vice President

Dorothy Ettl, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Bonnie Ayers

Jack McLaughlin

Audrey Breeding

Steve Perry

Christy Carlos

Evelyn Quigg

Constance Cary

Marian Regli

Tom Crowhurst

John Reische

Dorothy Ettl

Randolph Schnabel

Bruce Harter

Sharyl Simmons

Helen Heenan

Phyllis Smith

Elaine Tarke

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Historical Society in Yuba City, California. Payment of annual membership dues provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin** and the Museum's **Muse News**. At the April 1987 Annual Dinner Meeting the membership voted to change the by-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 2001 dues are payable as of January 1, 2001.

Student (under 18)/ Senior Citizen/Library	\$ 15
Individual	\$ 20
Organizations/Clubs	\$ 30
Family	\$ 35
Business/Sponsor	\$ 100
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1000

President's Message

We all cherish special family and personal items that remind us of events, people and family history. Making it a point to preserve such items and pass them down from one generation to the next is a priority for most of us.

Extend your personal preservation interest to what we can do to ensure that our descendants are aware of the "what-when-where" of Sutter County. This is an objective of the Sutter County Historical Society and we are constantly seeking information, artifacts and documentation of Sutter County history that we feel should be preserved.

Many SCHS members were in attendance at the re-dedication of the Sutter County Hall of Records on July 17, 2001. We commend and thank the Board of Supervisors for their commitment to restoring and preserving this historic Sutter County building. If you have not yet visited this building, I recommend that you do so - you will find it restored to its original state and it is now preserved for another hundred years, as told in Steve Perry's article in the July 2001 Bulletin.

Our Hock Farm project is another example of the SCHS working to preserve a significant piece of Sutter County history (again, see the July 2001 Bulletin). We hope to complete this project within the coming year.

Our October meeting program will deal with preservation of Sutter County family histories. We have asked several descendants of the first white settlers of Sutter County to give a sketch of their ancestors who came to California to "start a new life and develop a new land."

Phyllis Smith is chairing our Sutter County Preservation Committee, and she is being assisted by a group of able volunteers. Committee members will be knocking on doors asking for permission to list sites in our preservation register - details of this project are in the article on page 17. Members and the general public are invited to join in and help with this project (contact Phyllis at 671-3261 for details).

You will be hearing a lot about preservation this year; our aim and goal is to alert Sutter County, Yuba City, and developers about areas/sites that should be preserved for future generations of residents of Sutter County.

Please join us at the October luncheon meeting in Nicolaus for more information about our preservation project. As a bonus, all luncheon attendees are invited to visit one of our historic sites, the Chandler House, following the meeting.

John V. Reische
President

Director's Report

An exciting new traveling exhibit comes to us this fall from the Oakland Museum. *Awakening from the California Dream: An Environmental History* will be up by September 28. An opening reception and program will take place on Friday, October 12, with the reception at 6:00 p.m. The program at 7 p.m. will feature the exhibit photographer Robert Dawson and exhibit curator Phil Mumma, who will speak about the creation of the project. The exhibit looks at the contrast between the natural California of the past and what the landscape has now become. It traces the evolution of the state's environment and looks ahead to its future.

A second program to accompany *Awakening from the California Dream* takes place on Thursday, October 18 when Bay Area environmental filmmaker Judith Irving will present *Partners on the Land*. Yuba Community College historian David Rubiales will participate in the program as well, to give a local perspective on environmental history.

Awakening from the California Dream will remain at the Museum through November 18. The exhibit travels to us through the auspices of the California Exhibition Resources Alliance, a program of the California Council for the Humanities, which also funded in part both accompanying programs.

All Museum and Historical Society members are invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Tea to honor our hardworking volunteers on Monday, October 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum. Our Museum Auxiliary members are the backbone of our institution, and we recognize their tremendous effort every year in October.

The Museum is kicking off a campaign to begin an endowment to ensure future programs, staffing, activities and acquisitions beyond the scope of the regular budget. Its purpose is to augment, not replace, county and private funding. Only the interest earned from the fund, not the principal, will be expended. Museum and Historical Society members received a mailing about the Acorn Campaign, the initial effort to raise funds for the endowment. Ask at the Museum about the many ways to make a contribution to the Community Memorial Museum Endowment Fund.

Two Christmas Ornament Workshops are scheduled for November. Everyone is invited to join in the fun on Wednesday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Museum. No special skills are needed to help create the ornaments for the large Christmas tree which is the centerpiece for the *Trees & Traditions* Christmas Gala fundraiser on December 15. Ornaments are sold off the tree starting at Christmas Open House, so they benefit the Museum in multiple ways.

We look forward to seeing all of you in the days ahead at the new exhibit, the programs, Christmas shopping in the packed-to-bursting Museum store, working on ornaments, helping to decorate the Museum on December 13, at *Trees & Traditions* and Christmas Open House and any other time you would like to come in. Use and enjoy your Museum!

Julie Stark
Director

From the Editors

Our main article this issue was written by a lifelong Sutter County resident, Don Burtis. Don is a well-known figure in the Historical Society, offering his services as guest speaker at meetings and as guide on the Bus Trip Around the Buttes.

Don was raised in the town of Sutter, attending Brittain and Sutter schools. He majored in music in college and was a member of the Glenn Gauche dance orchestra. He taught in area schools for forty years, starting at Yuba City Grammar School (now Bridge Street School) and serving in teaching or administrative positions at Gray Avenue, Robbins, Central Gaither and Tierra Buena schools. He retired as Vice Principal of Tierra Buena School in 1988.

Don loves to do research, and he has always had a interest in local history. Since his retirement he has volunteered at the Sutter County Library, and one of his primary tasks is research for patrons who ask the library for information.

Don also loves to write articles, and today we are all the beneficiaries of his interest. He went to school with members of the Dean family, knew about the Dean Ranch all his life, and that familiarity spawned the research that became this issue's feature article.

Don got his information from many sources, including family members' recollections, letters, diaries, newspaper articles, family records, and official documents

from schools, the Recorder's Office, and the Assessor's Office.

Throughout his article he references his sources and sometimes explains why there might be some unanswered questions or some discrepancies in information. For the history buff who likes to understand why the author thinks as he does, this is a welcome addition.

Don makes his home in Yuba City with his wife, Beryl. They have three children: Ken, of Davis; Eileen, of Porterville; and Colleen, of Live Oak; and four grandchildren.



Please join us next month at our luncheon in Nicolaus at the Hermann Sons' Hall. Our October meeting is usually a dinner, but members attending the April luncheon in Meridian showed such enthusiasm for a luncheon we thought we'd try it again. We will be served an authentic German meal of marinated roast pork - bring your appetite!

As a special treat, Greg Glosser has generously invited all who are interested to visit his home after the luncheon. Greg lives in the historic Chandler House in Pleasant Grove, and he and his house were featured at last October's dinner meeting.

Sharyl Simmons
Phyllis Smith

Memorials

In Memory of **Elmer Bartholomew**
Marian Regli

In Memory of **Mrs. Diana Chapman**
Marian Regli

In Memory of **Blanche Wolfe**
McAuslen Davis
Bob & Jean Heilmann

In Memory of **Marie Lenora Davis**
Jim & Julia Buckingham
Charles I. & Carrie Davis
Agnes Fizer
Thelma & Bud Hughes
Michael, James & Anita
Neubecker

In Memory of **Art DeWayne**
Everett and Liz Berry

In Memory of **Lee DeWitt**
Nancy M. Bristow
Dale and Alma Burtis
Robert and Christine Close
Neil and Thelma Cull
Meriel Davis
Deanna DeWitt
Esther Forsythe
Bob and Sandra Fremd
Ray Frye
Larry and Min Harris
Bruce and Gini Harter
Jeane Hauck
Dorothy Jang
Joe and Brenda Morehead
Mary S. O'Neal
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Pangle
Mr. and Mrs. George Post
John and Dorothea Reische
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
David and Gina Tarke
Richard & Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **Norma DeWitt**
Anna Belle Brown
Dale and Alma Burtis
Neil and Thelma Cull
Meriel Davis
Edna DeWitt and Family
Jane and Anson Dobson
Linda Fillhardt
Esther Fortna Forsythe
Dorothy Munger
Anita Neubecker
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Pangle
Louis and Betty Tarke
Richard & Elaine Tarke
Harry & Bernice Wilson
Mary S. O'Neal

In Memory of **Bev Epperson**
Tom and Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Ward Greene**
Tom and Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Tracy Howard**
Everett and Liz Berry

In Memory of **Loretta McClurg**
Joni Adams
Ruth E. Clark
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace
Danetta Washam

In Memory of **Louella Rowley**
Bob & Pauline Masera

In Memory of **Gail Squire**
Barry Lemenager
Hardy and Ardis McFarland



Society News

October Luncheon Meeting

Join us for our October meeting in the Hermann Sons' Hall in Nicolaus!

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2001

Time: Social 11:30 a.m.; luncheon served 12:00 noon

Location: Hermann Sons Lodge, Nicolaus

Meal: Marinated Roast Pork

Program: Starting a New Life and Developing a New Land: Sutter County Pioneers

Cost: \$12.00 per person

Bonus: Greg Glosser has invited all who are interested to visit his home, the historic Chandler House, following the luncheon.

Advance payment is required - please mail the registration form enclosed.
For information, call Phyllis Smith at 671-3261 or Dorothy Ettl at 673-3412.



Christmas Ornaments Going Fast!

The Society is excited to present the 2001 Christmas ornament. This year's model is a glass ball in light blue with a dark blue design of the 1901 Meridian Ferry. We are paying tribute on the hundredth anniversary of the ferry.

This is your chance to pass on a bit of Sutter County history. There are a limited number of ornaments and they will be available at the October luncheon. Ornaments are also available at the Museum, or you can call Dorothy Ettl at 673-3412. The ornaments are only \$8.00 each and display stands are \$2.50 each. They make wonderful gifts!



THE THOMAS DEAN STORY

A 49er and Sutter County Pioneer

by
Don Burtis

Thomas Dean, or Captain Dean, as he was most often addressed, was one of the early pioneers to make his way to California and ultimately settle in Sutter county. He was born in Virginia on December 17, 1831, the son of William and Isabella McKinney Dean. When he was a child he moved with his family to Ohio where he spent the rest of his youth. His parents both died when he was young and he then lived with his uncle who also was named Thomas Dean. He attended the public school during this time and when he was about 16 years of age, he engaged in steam-boating on the Mississippi River with his uncle. It was during the time he was working on the steam boats that gold was discovered in California. He became very interested in the possibility of participating in the gold rush that was taking place. It is well documented that Thomas Dean had an adventurous spirit and when he saw the opportunity to travel west and seek his fortune he took action. In 1849, at the age of 17, he officially became a gold rush "49er." He drove an ox team to California in the company of his uncle and located in the mining towns of Hangtown (later named Placerville) and Drytown, where he tried his hand at mining with moderate success. It had taken four months to reach California.

After a year of being a miner he decided he'd rather make his living working with horses. In 1851, he

moved to Marysville and, at about 19 years of age, became the proprietor of the Queen City Stable which was located at 97 Third Street. For about three years he owned and operated the livery stable with his partner, Eli Davis, another early pioneer who settled in Sutter County. When Davis decided he wanted to leave the livery stable business, Dean purchased his share and became the sole proprietor of the establishment. He continued to own and operate this business for a number of years.

It was recorded that in August of 1852, Thomas Dean and his uncle, under the name of Dean and Company, bought a piece of land in, in Sutter County, consisting of 640 acres. It was described as laying south of the Butte Mountains and bordering and joining the Tule lands. Two months later in October of 1852, Dean and Company sold part of this land and realized a \$700 profit. Shortly after this sale, Thos. Dean and his uncle took passage on a ship and sailed to Buena Ventura, which was located on the delta of the San Juan River in Colombia, South America.

I have no substantiated information as to the reason for their trip to Colombia. What is known is that the uncle Thomas Dean died on November 17, 1852 at Castillar Rapids on the San Juan River at a location 80 miles from the Bay of the Atlantic. He lies buried at the American Graveyard.

He was age 42 when he died. There is no verified information telling what young Thomas Dean did after the death of his uncle, but it can reasonably be assumed that he returned to Sutter County as soon as possible.

Thomas Dean gives us the answer as to when he recovered the property that had been sold, from the answers he provided when completing a series of questions on his application for his pension. It also confirms the year he returned to Ohio, when he got married, and when he returned to Sutter Co.

The application states he came back to California in 1856 and took his ranch back. One can only assume that he purchased the property back and made the necessary improvements and preparations for the time when his wife joined him. Following is a copy of Captain Dean's answers to the application questions:

"I have the honor to transmit answers to questions. I do not write with a pen. I have the rheumatism in my hands and at times cannot write at all. I am blind in one eye and dont see straight and often can not see to read. So my signature vary some. I was born in VA then my family moved to Ohio-----(words that I can't read). --I followed the river as boatman and went to public school in winter stopping with my uncle. My mother and father both being dead. In 49 came to Calif worked in Sutter mine until 51 when I came to Marysville. started stable and came out to tules took up ----- . and in 53 went back to Jeff Co., Ohio and married Hannah Hyndman came back to Cal in 56 took my ranch back and have lived - -miles west of Marysville in Sutter Co ever since raised a large family. I am

used up now." Thos Dean

An assumption I find easy to make is, that upon his return from Colombia, he put his affairs in order and soon started his return to Ohio. According to several biographical sources he returned by crossing the plains.

According to biographical records, he took up 640 acres of government land located three miles south of what is now Sutter City, on the edge of the "tules." On the land that was not tules he raised grain and hay and also had pasture available for horses.

(Tules are a type of bulrush plant that grows in marsh areas - as used above, it refers to the area covered with tules growing on overflow land located south of the Sutter Buttes in the low areas lying between the Feather and Sacramento Rivers.)

In the earlier land transactions by Dean and Company the land was transferred by deed and may very well have been located in the same general area as the government land to which Thomas Dean later received a U. S. Government Patent. The land description as stated above is basically impossible to locate other than in general area.

The general area of the present Dean Ranch lies south of Franklin Road. Traveling south on Acacia Street from Sutter City, crossing Highway 20, and continuing until you climb the west levee of the Wadsworth Canal, you reach the end of Acacia where it junctions with Franklin Road. Crossing the bridge over the canal and turning south again, a road on top of the levee will take you to the home that Captain Dean built. The owner of the ranch is

now Loretta Dean, who is a great granddaughter of Captain Dean.

Since this was government land on which he settled about 1851 or 1852, he filled out a pre-emption claim to the property. This was during a period of time when squatters had rights to property because they were simply occupying the land. A pre-emption claim was a more legal form of claiming ownership until a homestead claim could be processed. The government was not very fast in the processing of land patents. To illustrate how much time this could take, the Land Patent giving Captain Dean the "legal ownership" to this 640 acre claim was processed on April 16, 1874. Although he may not have had "legal title" to this property he claimed, he evidently had no problem with anyone trying to move in on him. Over time he added to his property on which he kept horses, cattle, sheep and hogs.

He became involved in the dairy business and every thing appeared to be going well but there was something lacking. He wanted a wife. It was in 1853 that he returned across the plains to Ohio, where he had spent his youth, and there married Miss Hannah Hyndman. They were both 22 years of age.

It is well-documented that Thomas and Hannah had nine children. Starting with their first child, they were:

Sophia Isabella Dean, born March 23, 1854; married Edward A. Noyes.

Ella Virginia Dean, born January 23, 1856; married Joe K. Prime.

Thomas Dean Jr., born August 24, 1857; married Kate Conger.

Mary Dean, born August 12, 1860;

died in 1898 age 37.

Annie Dean, born June 6, 1864; married John D. Stewart.

Edward Presbury Dean, born August 9, 1868; married Edwinna J. Schlagg.

Elizabeth Dean, born November 25, 1869; married J. D. Yeager.

Laura Dean, born August 31, 1872; died age 11.

Gertrude Dean, born December 24, 1874; died age 3.

The first three children were born in Ohio. The rest were all born in California.

At this point in writing the story of Captain Dean, a problem regarding part of the Dean family history presented itself.

Helen Langford, a great granddaughter of Sophia Hyndman, who was a sister of Hannah (Mrs. Thomas Dean), had family records indicating that her grandmother had accompanied her sister Hannah and her two children to California in 1858. They took a ship from New York to Panama, crossing the Isthmus on mules. A slicker posing as the ship's agent reportedly collected their cabin tickets so they had to go up the coast to California as steerage passengers.

Can you imagine crossing the Isthmus of Panama (jungle) on mules and traveling within the confinement of a sailing vessel with three small children? Hannah must have been a very determined lady, but fortunately her sister came to the rescue in deciding to visit California at this time.

According to the recollections of Captain Dean's son, Edward P. Dean, Thomas returned to California with Hannah in 1853, after they were married, by taking a sailing vessel around South America to San Francisco

and then up the Sacramento River to Sutter County. The problem was to find out when and how Hannah must have returned to Ohio and what the captain was doing during all the time she was there. A lot of guesswork did not reveal a real answer so the only recourse seemed to be to list the most realistic possibilities and let the reader think about what might have happened.

All of these possibilities were discarded when a distant cousin (Mrs. Jane Pinkerton) of Shirley Dean Schnabel made contact with her just before this article was to be printed with one "BIG FIND." She had found a copy of the pension application written out by Captain Dean when he applied for his Civil War pension.

The missing information is contained in this application which shows where he was from 1853 when he married until 1856 when he returned to California. This also supports the information that Hannah never came to California until 1858 when her sister came with her.

According to family records, the first man that Sophia, Hannah's sister, was introduced to in California was Eli Davis, a friend and former business partner of her brother-in-law Thomas Dean. Eli Davis was, to say the least, most favorably impressed, so much so that he made up his mind to make her his wife. He didn't have very far to travel to woo her since the Davis ranch bordered the Dean ranch just to the southwest. They were married September 4, 1860 and were the parents of eight children.

An insight into the life of Thomas Dean may be found in a journal he kept during part of the year 1861,

which is in the possession of the family. This record was written in a small book and had the label DAILY POCKET REMEMBRANCER for 1861. He had written "Thos. Dean's" above the label identifying it as his record.

Entries made each day describe the weather and tell of various activities in which he was involved. Topics included hunting and various chores and activities around the ranch. There were also entries about the level of the water in the tules.

It must be remembered that there were no levees anywhere at this time to control the flow of water and the tule area was in high water time like one large lake with possibly an island or two wherever a high area might be. It is recalled that this lake of water reached all the way to the Sacramento river and could be reached by boat.

Here are some typical but quite revealing entries from his diary:

Thursday, January 3, 1861

Very heavy fog in the morning - took an early start for the other side and got lost twice in the fog before I got to my blind.

This has been one of the poorest days for game I have had for a week and to make matters worse off my gum boots leaked and I had a confounded tooth ache most of the day. Shot 2 geese 2 mallard & 1 sprig tail.

Friday, January 4, 1861

Cloudy and rainy all day and quite a hard rain at that - did not go out hunting today as I had a tooth ache and a good wetting would not have helped much. Sat by the fire and read the papers most of the day.

Sunday, January 13, 1861

Clear with heavy north wind all day - had a good time going across this morning in the wind and a better one coming back as the waves ran pretty high and tossed my little boat around like a feather but she rides the waves beautifully and I crossed without taking in much water. Killed 14 big & three little. NOTE: (this likely refers to 14 geese and 3 ducks)

January, Thursday 17, 1861

Clear and pleasant after the sun got up a ways but quite cool in the morning as it rose considerable and there was plenty of ice in the tules opened up the stack and hauled two small loads of hay to feed the cows & horses.

January, Friday 25, 1861

Clear and pleasant had a bad tooth ache all last night so that I could not sleep and it kept on aching most of the day laid around the house all day and read the papers.

February, Wednesday 6, 1861

Clear and pleasant as Eliza and I went to town and game is scarce I did not hunt today but worked in the garden spading ground and setting out rubarb plants.

February, Saturday 16, 1861

Foggy in the morn but warm and pleasant the balance of the day. Took my boat and went up in the ranch and had a good hide and tolerable fair shooting in the morn. came in at noon and planted a few peas and cabbage seed. Shot 5 big and 4 little

February, Saturday 23, 1861

Cloudy and raining Got up Major horse and went in town and bought some fruit trees and garden seed Times appeared pretty dull in town still they are putting up some nice buildings. Had a very unpleasant ride home through the storm. Quit feeding the mules hay this morning.

February, Thursday 28, 1861

Clear and a little cool for the time of year made some garden set out some trees and tinker around the house all day. This is the last day according to our game laws that we can shoot mallards.

March, Monday 4, 1861

Clear and pleasant Went to town with Isaiah collected Moores Ranch bill bought some garden seed and checked 100 dolls to M Dean paid 3 dolls for sending it Times appear pretty brisk in town for the time of year I noticed a load of oat hay baled that had been shipped from below and was selling @ 12 dolls per ton which was very low.

March, Thursday 28, 1861

Cloudy with some rain threw up some ditch to keep the water out of the garden but it got the start of us and finally run over and around our embankment. Tules still rising

April, Sunday 7, 1861

Clear and pleasant with a south wind Rigged up the flat and took the family out on a sailing excursion. And we had a fine time sailing across the open water inside the ranch The water is about on a stand today

April, Tuesday 9, 1861

We have thrown up a long ridge in front of the house to keep the water from overflowing 5 or 6 acres of good pasture beyond. repaired the ditch some and got some mules as my pasture is short and they are taking them out. Water at its highest today

April, Monday 29, 1861

Clear and warm Went to town with the little wagon for a few articles newspapers found times pretty dull but looking up. The Surrender of Sumpter was all the talk a strong union feeling prevailing and going to sustain old abe.

May, Thursday 23, 1861

Cloudy and raining in the morn Potts and I took the team and went into town with the big wagon after some lumber found times pretty dull and everybody complaining got a late start and came out home

May, Friday 24, 1861

Clear and warm Potts and I make a trade for 14 head of cattle 6 cows and 3 calves and 5 yearlings for which I agree to give him 170 dolls and take my own time to pay it in.

December, Monday 9, 1861

Rained all last night put old (Sam?) in the express and Started for town got as far as Yuba City and could go no farther on acct of high water as the rivers were high as the were in 52 and the lower portion of Mville and Yuba City were under water and the rivers rising came back home and commenced preparing for high water

December, Wednesday 11, 1861

Clear and pleasant water raised pretty fast most of the day and commenced falling @ 9 oclock at night. found my milk cows on an island and mighty uneasy got them on high ground went down to davises and found him and his surrounded by water so he moved his family up here also his stock and he and I took my flat & boated hay out to the stock

The diary indicated that Captain Dean did a lot of hunting during the time of year when it was possible. He obviously shot more ducks and geese than his family would or could eat and sold the rest in town. During this era much of the food sold in both Yuba City and Marysville was grown in the area south of the Buttes.

It was on April 13, 1861 that the Union troops abandoned Fort Sumpter in South Carolina - it was April 29th, 1861, after a trip to town that Captain Dean recorded this incident in his diary. This is a good example of how fast national news got around. He was 29 years old at this time.

It is unfortunate that the Captain did not continue with his diary to record a well documented and interesting event he participated in. After the Civil War began, the Union sympathizers in Sutter County, and there were many, decided to put on a display showing their support for the Union cause. On July 4, 1861, Captain Dean played a leading role in raising an 80 foot flagpole on top of the highest peak in the Buttes. An 80 foot long pole had been shipped up the Sacramento river and was picked up near the town of Meridian and carried by wagon to a point on the Pass Road just below South Butte. The pole had

been cut into three sections in order to be hauled on the wagon and also to be carried to the top of the Butte by some 22 men. The pole was reassembled and raised to the sky while some 500 people, assembled at the base of the mountain, watched as a flag, which was made by the women of Sutter County, was raised to the top. It was recorded that 34 men fired a volley in a salute to the flag. In a large pavilion, erected below South Butte on the Pass Road, a patriotic program was presented. The program included the reading of the Declaration of Independence, singing, speeches, and prayers. Several men formed a guard to remain with the flag for several days to prevent the possibility of it being torn down by those who were in sympathy with the Southern Cause.

Captain Dean was involved in the organization of a cavalry company, named the Butte Mountain Rangers, formed for a home guard in the spring of 1864. This company was made up of men who lived in the vicinity of the Buttes. Each man furnished his own horse, and was armed with a sabre and a Colt revolver. The size of the company ranged from 75 to 100 men. Money was furnished by both the state and the county. With this money they built an armory located just west of the Butte House. The first year Thomas Dean was elected Captain. During the succeeding years two of his neighboring ranchers, Eli Davis and William Wadsworth, also served as Captain of the Rangers. The Rangers never saw any active duty. It was during this time and in this locality that he became known as "Captain Dean," the name he was called for the rest of his life. While he was actively involved

with the Rangers, he assumed much of the responsibility for their training. The Dean family is in the possession of his hand-written notes describing the various drills which he made in training this home guard cavalry unit. The notes specifically point out the locations and movement for each of the officers in relation to the men under their command. In 1866, the Great Civil War had ended and the need for such a group ceased to exist, so they disbanded.

Captain Dean left the Butte Mountain Rangers when he enlisted in the Union Army. He joined Company A, 1st Regiment of Cavalry on March 2, 1865 at age 33 and was mustered out with the company on May 22, 1866, as a First Lieutenant. This information is on record at the Office of the Adjutant General, State of California. He spent this term of service mostly in the Arizona Territory where he was in charge of his group.

During this period, Captain Dean, or rather First Lieutenant at this time, kept a short diary in which he recorded information about the movements of this unit. This diary provides a description of the conditions and some events of the 27 days that are recorded from March 29, 1866 through April 24, 1866, as they travel from Fort Whipple, Arizona to a Stage Station in Southern California near the Cucamongo Ranch. (his spelling)

Reference was made in the notes of April 22, that several of the fair sex were observed with all their Sunday fixings. Calendar confirmation shows that April 22, 1866 was in fact a Sunday.

If Captain Dean (First Lieutenant Dean at this time) kept a diary record

of his total service in the Union Army, it is unfortunate that the record of his first year of service is missing. The diary records a 27 day span of time and includes such items as: the number of miles the unit travels each day, a good description of this desert area they traverse, and the conditions and some hardships that confront them. There were times they had to send out scouts to hunt for water for both men and animals. In some cases they had to dig for water. There were times when the men had to help the mules pull wagons up steep inclines for several miles. It tells how certain problems were dealt with including procuring supplies for the unit. It tells of people they meet along the way. One interesting entry describes the great feeling First Lieutenant Dean had when crossing what must have been the Colorado River and setting foot back in California. This crossing was made in four trips aboard a very small ferry boat. If there were any recorded military actions in an earlier record, it is unfortunate we cannot include such information.

The primary involvement of Lieutenant Dean during his service in the Army had to do with the security of the settlers who lived in the Arizona Territory. The hostile Indians (Apaches) who were in the territory made it necessary for the U. S. Army to have troops in the area to provide for the safety of the settlers.

Here is an example of an entry made on a Sunday. Described below, it gives one the idea that observing the ladies in their Sunday garb must have been a delightful sight for the men to see.

April 22nd 1866 broke camp at 4 o'clock road descending and good travelling 5 miles from camp we came into a fine narrow valley which the road followed. passing several fine ranches and finally came into the San bardino valley passing quite a settlement and some fine farms. this is an old settlement and some of the Ranches are well fixed with fine orchards and vineyards. We observed several of the fair Sex as we passed the ranches with all their Sunday fixings on and to us who had not seen but few white ladies for some time looked remarkable well. The crops here looked fine. they irrigate here extensively encamped on the Santa Anna River grass good distance 23 miles

After being mustered out he returned to Sutter County to life on the ranch. His service in the U. S. Cavalry at this time made him a veteran of the Union Army, of which he was very proud. Even though this marked the end of his active military career, he was ever ready to support his country if they needed him. He continued to keep abreast of the times and was always ready to support the cause of the Union.

Another pioneer, whose parents had a land claim very near the Dean ranch, was George Wynecoop, and he also recorded his memories. He, like Captain Dean, loved horses and living so close they became acquainted. On occasion he would work for the Captain as well as other ranchers when he was just a youth. The average pay he received was about 50¢ a day. George worked at the Liberty Livery Stable in Marysville for the Captain during the early 1870's when he was around 15 -

16 years of age. His job included feeding the horses, cleaning the stables, and picking up and delivering animals. Captain Dean shared his knowledge about horses with George and trusted him even to help determine the value of an animal whenever there was a sale made.

NOTE: George Wynecoop

mentioned he worked for Captain Dean at the Liberty Livery Stable in Marysville. An earlier reference indicated the name of the stable was the Queen City Stable. So the unanswered question is - Was there only one stable with a name change or was it a different stable that the Captain owned?



(Photo credit: Kenneth G. Calhoun, originally published in Worth Keeping, 1990)

There was a need to improve the living conditions and construct a real house on the Dean ranch. It seems logical that Hannah would have greatly influenced getting this project underway. With a growing family, there was a real need for a larger house. No documented records or recorded memories are available to reveal what the first living quarters for the Dean family were like. According to records of the Dean family, Thomas Dean constructed the original home at the ranch in 1860. His son, Edward Dean, claimed that the original house constructed by his father had been put together with wooden pegs and had lasted well over the years.

This first house was later moved to higher ground to escape possible flooding as the waters would rise during the rainy season. More rooms were added to it after 1869 after the first seven children had been born. Since that time the house has remained pretty much the same.

The Dean home was located quite close to the "tule" area which could better be described as a lowland area where water overflowing from the rivers and sloughs and water draining from a higher elevation to a lower elevation would cover the ground. This would create a vast water covered area. It was called the Swamp Land or tules and could not be cultivated because of the swampy land conditions.

In the Spring of 1867, Captain Thomas Dean was again a front line supporter of establishing a cavalry unit to be held in readiness to go into the State Militia as soon as needed. A meeting was held at the Butte Mountain Rangers Armory on May 18,

1867 for two reasons. The first was to sign-up those who wished to join the cavalry unit and serve under Thomas Dean and the second was to auction off the Armory to the highest bidder. There were a number of citizens who signed up to serve in the cavalry and the Armory sale was not completed until October. The proceeds of \$774.25 were donated to the School Districts in which the Company was raised.

On November 9, 1867 the Sutter County Sentinel printed the following: Liberal Donation

The annexed receipt shows the generosity of the Company of "Butte Mountain Rangers," who have sold their armory building and donated the proceeds to the noble purpose of education.

This act of the "Rangers" is worthy of all commendation.

TREASURERS OFFICE, SUTTER COUNTY - Nov. 2d, 1867
Received of Messrs. Davis, Dean and Wadsworth, Committee of the Butte Mountain Rangers, \$774.25 for School Districts in which the Company was raised.

In August, 1867, a little over a year after being discharged from the Union Army, Captain Dean was very proud to receive the Union nomination to run for Sheriff of Sutter County. A news item ran in the Sutter County Paper in August, 1867 as follows:

"Capt. Thos. Dean is the Union nominee for Sheriff. Mr. Dean, it is well known, when our whole country was convulsed from center to circumference with the most fearful rebellion and war, threatened the dissolution of our glorious Union; with rebels in arms in the South, and Copperheads in the North, ready and

willing to aid them, Captain Dean volunteered his services in the army as First Lieutenant of a company from his own county, went into the thickest of Indian danger, and remained at his post till the rebellion was crushed. It is impossible that any lover of his country will vote against him and for a man closely leagued in soul and spirit with the rebellion."

Even though he was considered to be very well qualified he lost the election.

Edward P. Dean, born in 1868, one of the sons of Captain Dean, lived on the ranch his entire life of 98 years. As his older brothers and his sisters moved on he remained on the ranch and worked with his father until the Captain died. He provided a description of life on the farm with the following information:

He said, "My dad always had a rule that whenever we went to town (Marysville) we were to take enough farm products to pay for the things purchased in town, usually a few staples of sugar, flour, coffee, cabbage and lemons. It was an easy rule to keep, because, in addition to the produce from the ranch, we took ducks and geese, which were plentiful in the tules, to the markets. Father also had a fish net in the by-pass canal and for years I sold fish to the restaurants and fish markets in Marysville."

Edward Dean told how he and his father raised wheat and barley on the ranch, mostly as hay for their stock. They also cut the wild hay in the swamp during August, usually harvesting around 200 tons of it. The first harvester they used was an old stationary, which could make very fine hay. Later they had a harvester pulled

by mules and horses.

What grain was to be sold was usually pulled to the river by the team of horses or mules and loaded onto a boat. It could also be hauled to one of the two flour mills, one in Yuba City and one in Marysville.

He also mentioned how straw, a side product of harvesting grain, was used. "Besides being fed to the stock, the straw which we harvested made good beds and was used to fill straw ticks, which were topped by feather beds." The Deans milked their own cows while they had the dairy operation and even after the dairy ended. He told how his mother, Hannah Dean, made the butter from cream that was skimmed from pans of milk that had been set out for that purpose.

Captain Dean was a great supporter of the early one-room Washington School located on Franklin Road not too distant from his ranch home. This is where his children attended school. He served on the Washington School Board both as a member and president of the Board. All of the Dean children attended Washington School, a short piece down the road from the Dean Ranch. The school location was about a quarter mile east of the junction of Acacia and Franklin Road. The school house was built on property donated to the school district by William Wadsworth, a neighbor of the Deans.

Edward Dean told about the time when there were about five Dean children attending school at the same time. "We all rode on one horse and because I was one of the two boys, I would have to sit behind, hanging on tight to keep from sliding off. This was

only when the ground was wet or muddy, however. The rest of the time I walked."

On September 1, 1873, at the Prairie School House, a meeting of Government Land Owners In District No. 5 took place. Captain Dean was elected permanent chairman of a group consisting of these land owners.

A report recorded in the Sacramento Record dated November 1873 listed the large land owners in Sutter County. At this time it lists Thomas Dean as the owner of 1060 acres. His brother-in-law, Eli Davis, had 1148 acres.

In the latter part of his life Thomas Dean spent most of his time on the ranch, working with his son Edward, tending to the farm work, gardening, reading, doing some hunting and a lot of fishing in the waters that were nearby. His trips to town or even to Sutter City were infrequent. There was, however, one very important time when he never failed to travel into Sutter City. That was whenever an election was being held and he needed to vote. To Captain Dean, the right to vote was one of the most important things a person could have. He was never negligent in carrying out this duty. People in the area around the Buttes knew this to be a fact and the Sutter County Farmer even printed a single sentence item in November of 1904 relating to it as follows:

"Capt. Thomas Dean made his annual trip to Sutter City on election day."

It is interesting to note that Captain Dean died from an apparent stroke, while doing one of the things he most enjoyed. It happened on a Sunday morning, July 9, 1905, while he

was out fishing. He was alone at the time this happened and when he was found he was face down in the water. In 1905, whenever there was a concern as to the cause of death, the County Coroner was sent for and an inquest would be held. Coroner P. T. Rowe quickly called together a jury to inquire into the facts. The jury consisted of the following gentlemen: W. E. Humphrey (foreman), C. E. Moore, H. C. Epperson, Grant Davis, J. H. Lamme, C. C. Epperson, Geo. Forderhase, J. L. Welter. They brought in a verdict that death was from natural causes.

His funeral was conducted at his home by Rev. Eugene Burr of Sutter City and he was buried in the South Butte Cemetery. The pall bearers at his funeral consisted of Edward Dean and Thos. Dean Jr., sons; J. K. Prime, J. D. Stewart, and E. A. Noyes, sons-in-laws; and C. Noyes.

It is well-noted that Captain Dean was a strong abolitionist. He was a Republican. He was also a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. Even though he was a native Virginian, he was a staunch supporter of the Emancipation Proclamation. He was ardently patriotic, and an excellent horseman who kept young saddle horses in training for cavalry service should his country again need his services. In his later years he was a proud member of the Grand Army of the Republic and also of the Pioneer Society.

He lived a full life and died at the age of 73.

NOTE: Captain Dean was indeed proud to be a member of the Pioneer Society and because he was, he had his picture taken with this Group of

Pioneers which held its meetings or gatherings in Marysville. It was during this time period that a picture was taken of this group. A copy of this group picture is presently located at the Marysville City Hall. This may well be the only picture of the man that exists because none of his descendants have indicated they ever saw a picture of him.

The flood of 1955 flooded the Dean home which Thomas Dean built. The water was quite deep in the home, thus destroying any photos or records that may have been there. Thanks to the Marysville City Hall and the Pioneer Society for allowing us to see what the man looked like. Modern technology has allowed us to make a copy of Captain Dean from the group picture and present it as a single picture of him which we have used in this bulletin.

Some of the descendants of Thomas and Hannah Dean who might be familiar to some folks in this area are:

- Earl Otis Hill
- Necia Vagades Correll, her children Elton, Carol & Georgeann
- Glenister Haynes, his children James & David
- Edna Noyes Meyer, her son Donal Meyer
- Dorothy Dean Huntington, her children Miriam, William & Harry
- Ralph Dean, his children, Loretta, Oscar Arnold & Effie
- Edwinna Dean Park, her children Dianna & Dean
- Shirley Dean Schnabel, her children Randolph, John & Margit
- Ed Dean, his children John & Mary



Picnic in the Park

The Historical Society held its annual Picnic in the Park meeting on July 10 in the Howard Harter Memorial Park, behind the museum. The turnout was great and as usual, the food was stupendous.

Our guest speaker was County Supervisor Dennis Nelson. He described the refurbishment of the historical Hall of Records, built in 1891, detailing the trials of getting everything back to its original state. The building was rededicated the following week, and is now used as the meeting hall for the Board of Supervisors. Those meetings are on Tuesday evenings, open to the public, so if you haven't seen the revitalized Hall of Records, take the opportunity and go!

Many thanks to Dennis for his informative presentation.

Historical Preservation Committee

The Historical Preservation Committee has begun its work! Committee members are taking the first steps - identifying and cataloguing sites and buildings in Sutter County that may be worthy of official preservation. The committee members are: Audrey Breeding and Helen Heenan, Live Oak and surrounding areas; Sharyl Simmons, Dorothy Ettl and Marian Regli, Nicolaus and Pleasant Grove; and Steve Perry, Meridian and Sutter. Local architect Bob Mackensen and museum director Julie Stark are providing technical assistance and advice. If anyone would like to assist with the Yuba City area, please feel free to volunteer!

After identifying possible sites and buildings, the committee will review them to determine if some are just not worthy of being considered for preservation, perhaps because they are in such disrepair they can not be salvaged. The remaining sites will be sorted into the following five classifications of historical significance:

- California Historical Landmark
 - California Point of Historical Interest
 - California Register of Historical Resources
 - National Register of Historic Places
- The Sutter County Historical Society Registry is our own, subject to our own interpretation of what is historically significant. We may also ask the local government entities to honor our designation when considering zoning and development issues. Each of the state and federal classifications have specific criteria that must be met in order for a site to be included. The California Historical Landmarks are familiar to most people - in Sutter County our landmarks are Sutter's Hock Farm on Garden Highway and the site of the propagation of Thompson Seedless Grapes on Highway 20 east of Yuba City.

If you are interested in participating in this project, or just have information that may be useful to the committee, please call the committee chair, Phyllis Smith, at 671-3261.



Century Farms Are Not Forgotten!

For those of you interested in the Century Farms project, don't think it's been dropped! Because of the amount of work involved in the Historical Preservation effort, we will be starting our earnest efforts on Century Farms next year. We still want to hear from you about farms that meet the Century Farms criteria - farms that have been owned and operated continuously by the same family for at least one hundred years.

Preservation Myths

by

Bob Mackensen

A recurring myth associated with historic preservation is that the state or federal government will be able to tell you what you can or cannot do with a designated historic building. Actually, it is just the opposite. The protection of historic resources is a statutorily established policy of the federal or state government. The federal or state government, or any agency using even partial federal or state funding related to a project affecting your designated historic building, may not adversely affect your building without first being required by law to investigate, evaluate and adopt project alternatives that will avoid that adverse effect. If it is determined that an adverse effect is unavoidable, mitigation measures are required to offset that loss.

The local community, however, may establish rules regarding the historic properties within its jurisdiction, just as it establishes local rules associated with zoning, parking, burning, building heights and setbacks. Most of us are grateful that local ordinances prevent our neighbor from pulling down his house and erecting a fast-food restaurant. But these and other local ordinances (preservation ordinances included) are established by the community, with the community's input. They

are adopted, altered or abolished at the local level. Adjoining the San Juan Capistrano Mission is an historic district of small 19th century houses where even the exterior paint color is controlled. But this is the way the District's homeowners want it. They recognize that the great historic significance of this little district—and the value of the properties therein—is dependent on maintaining the 19th century charm of the buildings.

The local preservation community, working with the jurisdiction, is at liberty to craft precisely the latitude and the controls appropriate for its historic resources. Preservation ordinances are established to protect the very things that make these resources special; and to ensure that work associated with these resources is sympathetic to that special character. Historic buildings are a pivotal part of a community's cultural legacy, and we should all recognize our role as stewards of that legacy. Let's face it: few people go to Europe to look at the new buildings! And although California's buildings are young by European standards, we can claim what Europe cannot: a legacy of original buildings, erected on virgin soil. It's a unique legacy, one well worth protecting.

Puzzle Page



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



ACACIA
 COLOMBIA
 HISTORIC
 PANAMA
 SCHNABEL

BURTIS
 DREAM
 LUNCHEON
 PENSION
 SENTINEL

BUTTES
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 MERIDIAN
 PRESERVATION
 SUTTER

CAPTAINDEAN
 HANNAH
 MYTHS
 RANGERS
 VIRGINIA

CHRISTMAS
 HERMANNONS
 NICOLAUS
 REMEMBRANCER
 WADSWORTH



Coming Events

All events except the Historical Society luncheon take place at the Museum.

September

- 28 *Awakening from the California Dream: Environmental History*
Opens

October

- 6 **Historical Society luncheon. Hermann Sons' Hall, Nicolaus**
see inside for details
- 12 *Awakening from the California Dream: Environmental History*
Reception, 6:00 p.m.; Program, 7:00 p.m.
Phil Mumma, Oakland Museum, Bob Dawson, Photographer
- 18 Bay Area filmmaker Judy Irving
Dave Rubiales, Local Environment History

November

- 7 Christmas Ornament Workshop, 10:00 a.m.
- 18 *Awakening from the California Dream: Environmental History*
Ends
- 27 Christmas Ornament Workshop, 10:00 a.m.

December

- 13 Decorate for *Trees and Traditions*
- 15 *Trees and Traditions* Christmas Gala Fundraiser