

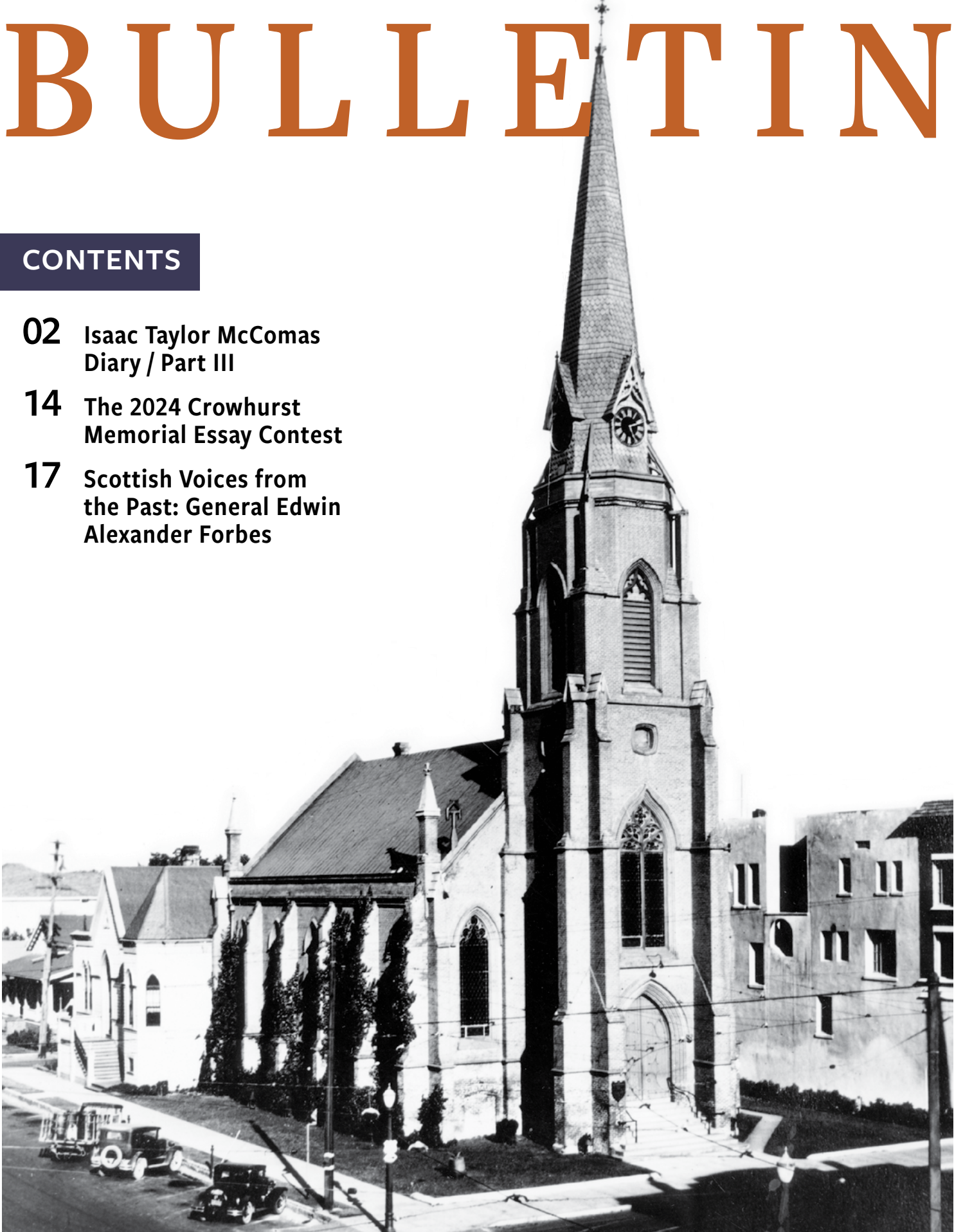
SUTTER
COUNTY
MUSEUM

FALL
2024

BULLETIN

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ON THE COVER:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH C. 1936. THIS IS THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MARYSVILLE, BUILT AFTER THE FIRST BURNED DOWN. BUILT IN MARYSVILLE IN 1860, IT WAS IN USE UNTIL 1950 WHEN STRONG WINDS DAMAGED THE STEEPLE, AND IT WAS TAKEN DOWN. ISAAC TAYLOR MCCOMAS DID THE BRICK WORK ON THE 1860 CHURCH.

Sutter County Museum Staff

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Visit the Museum

1333 Butte House Road
Yuba City, California 95993
530.822.7141

www.suttercountymuseum.org



Our Mission

The Sutter County Museum shares local stories to strengthen community bonds, to inspire celebration of our diverse cultural heritage, and to demonstrate how understanding the past prepares us for the future.

About the Bulletin

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Sutter County Museum Association. This fiscal year, the Association is publishing three editions due to the financial ramifications of the pandemic. Editors are Sharyl Simmons and Phyllis Smith. Renewal of annual membership provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin**.

Museum Association

The Association is a 501(c)(3) organization that fundraises and supports the operation of the Museum.

Applications to join are available on the Museum's website. If you are interested in history and want to do something meaningful for our community, please consider applying! New applicants to the Association are approved by a vote of the full Association. Members serve for 4-year terms.

Association Members:

Phyllis Smith, President
Barbara Hankins, Vice President
Babs Cotter, Secretary
Amber Milner, Treasurer

Carol Bordeaux	Tony Kurlan
Manny Cardoza	Debbie Reid
Marika Garcia	Margit Sands
Eric Gruenthal	Sharyl Simmons
Scott Hankins	Chuck Smith
Wade Kirchner	

Events

- Tickets are on sale now for **Trees & Traditions** on Friday, December 6th from 6:00-9:00pm. Join us for the Museum's annual fundraiser featuring festive food & drinks, local music, and, of course, holiday trees and traditions. Tickets are on sale now at the Museum, by phone at 530-822-7141, or online at suttercountymuseum.org/events.

If you cannot attend the event, please consider a donation to the Sutter County Museum Association, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



Trees & Traditions

WINTER WONDERLAND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2024
6:00-9:00 PM

To Purchase Tickets

Visit us at:
1333 Butte House Road
Yuba City, CA 95993

Call us at:
530-822-7141

Buy online at:
suttercountymuseum.org/events

Tickets cost \$50 per person



COLONEL GEORGE J. ILES.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY ILES.

Exhibits

- *From Barbers' Row to Beale Air Force Base: Black History in Yuba-Sutter* is now open! This exhibit concludes a two-year project to research, develop, and install a permanent exhibit on local Black History under the guidance of Humanities Advisor Gwen Ford and many community partners and volunteers. This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit calhum.org. If you missed the opening reception, we hope you will visit and check out the new exhibit!
- Stay tuned for information about 2025 exhibits! We will look forward to hosting an exhibition supporting mental health awareness in partnership with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health; *iPleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los barrios y las grandes ligas*, a Smithsonian exhibit about Latino baseball; and more!

Isaac Taylor McComas Diary

Part III: 1859 – 1860

Edited and Annotated by Sharyl Simmons

The diary continues with big changes in Isaac McComas' life. He returns to the east to visit family and marry Sarah "Sallie" Slicer in Maryland. Much of 1859 is taken up with travel, but when he returns to Marysville, he's back to work quickly. After his marriage, his diary entries become very brief and almost entirely about business. His comment regarding the election in 1860 is one line and no mention of either candidate or what the election of Abraham Lincoln might mean for his home state of Maryland. He's still a sober man and now focused on providing for his family.

1859

Jan. 1, 1859

Today has been quite a day, very lively among the young folks of Marysville making calls etc. I was obliged to keep quiet on account of biles¹ and sore finger. I resigned my office as Treasurer of Yuba Lodge² on account of going home and getting ready to leave for home. I am getting my business so arranged so I can leave for the Atlantic states by the fifteenth.

Jan. 15, 1859

I started for San Francisco and arrived about 10 o'clock. A very pleasant trip. I stopped at Sacramento at the Watchcheer³ Hotel.

Jan. 17, 1859

Mr. Armer⁴ and I went to see the steamboat Sophie.⁵ McLean launched it and it was very pretty. I bought my ticket in the second-class cabin through to New Orleans for \$180.00 on the Lenora.

Jan. 20, 1859

We moved in the Lenora at eleven o'clock with 287 passengers all told. We found it a little rough and a good many got seasick.

Jan. 21, 1859

Out to sea but in sight of land. Distance from San Francisco 234 miles. All on board pretty well. Distance last run in 24 hours – 479 miles.

Jan. 23, 1859

We came in sight of land and Seare and Nativadred Islands.⁶ A man in the storage⁷ died and was thrown overboard. He died from the effects of hard

¹ Not certain what he means by biles. Could be boils.

² Yuba Lodge No. 5, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

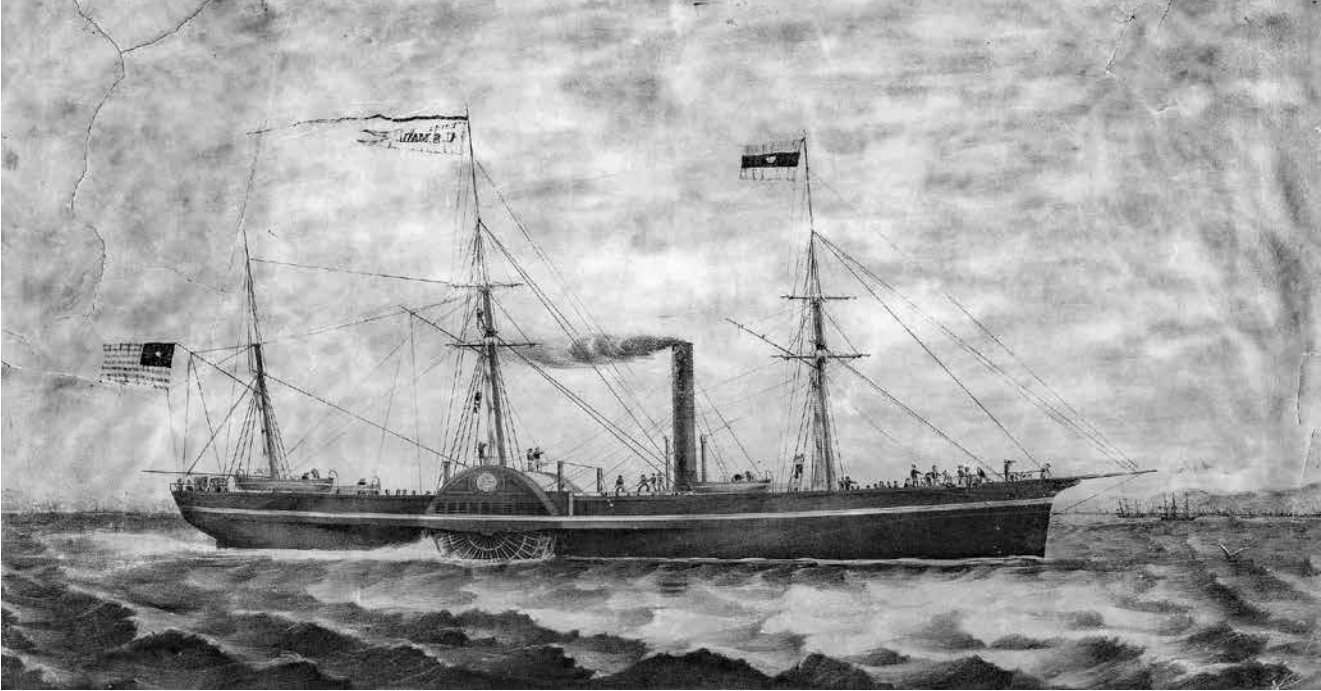
³ What Cheer House owned and operated by S. M. & C. H. Bailey and located at the corner of K and Water Streets.

⁴ Max Armer, proprietor of City Bakery on Virgin Alley between 1st & 2nd Streets. He was born in Germany.

⁵ The Sophie McLean was launched on January 18, 1859 to run the San Francisco-San Jose route. She blew up in the dock while getting up steam in October 1865.

⁶ Isla de Cedros and Isla Natividad off the headlands of Baja California.

⁷ Most likely steerage.



PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP OREGON.

drink. We got in to the Apalleco⁸ and went aboard the Oregon⁹ for Vantosa.¹⁰ The distance from San Francisco 1808 miles. It was very dark in the harbor.

Jan. 29, 1859

Arrived at Vantosa. The Mexican harbor is very poor. Started in the stage for Smith Rancho – distance 45 miles.

Jan. 30, 1859

Started this morning on horseback for Lerubian, distance 31 miles. One stage came over with us with 15 passengers.

Feb. 2, 1859¹¹

At Suchil on the Cartzicalco¹² River where we take the steamer. The steamer came up and we started at 2. We all had sport shooting at alligators. We then started for Manatition¹³ arriving there about noon. 93 miles from Luchil a Quaker city we are now in. We started for New Orleans and crossed the bar at 3 o'clock 20 miles from Manatition. Distance from

Cartzicalco 231 miles. William Cooper first officer and I have been very seasick.

Feb. 6, 1859

Arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River at day light and New Orleans at 4 in the afternoon. Distance from San Francisco 2970 miles.



NEW ORLEANS, 1857.

⁸ Acapulco.

⁹ The Oregon was the second Pacific Mail & Steamship Co. vessel. It was in service from 1848 to 1861.

¹⁰ La Ventosa in the state of Oaxaca.

¹¹ I have not been able to figure out many of the locations he mentions. He's a creative speller in English, and Spanish is no different.

¹² Coatzacoalcos River.

¹³ Probably Minatitlán, state of Vera Cruz.

Feb. 7, 1859

In New Orleans I stopped at the Charles Hotel.¹⁴ We bought our tickets for Carso¹⁵ on the John Warner¹⁶ to start tomorrow afternoon. I spent the day walking around about the city and find it to be a very large city.

Feb. 8, 1859

We started at dark in a heavy thunderstorm. The lightning struck a ship by our side. On the ninth we passed Bayton Rouge,¹⁷ a pretty little city with the State Capital building very large and pretty.

Feb. 10, 1859

We passed Natches¹⁸ this afternoon but I was asleep and did not see it. It has about 15,000 inhabitants.

Feb. 11, 1859

We arrived at Vicksburg¹⁹ at 1:00, 400 miles from New Orleans.

Feb. 13, 1859

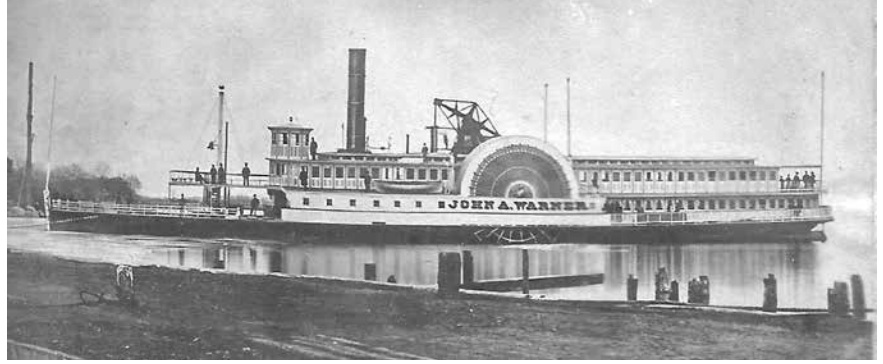
We arrived at Napalean Ark River.²⁰

Feb. 14, 1859

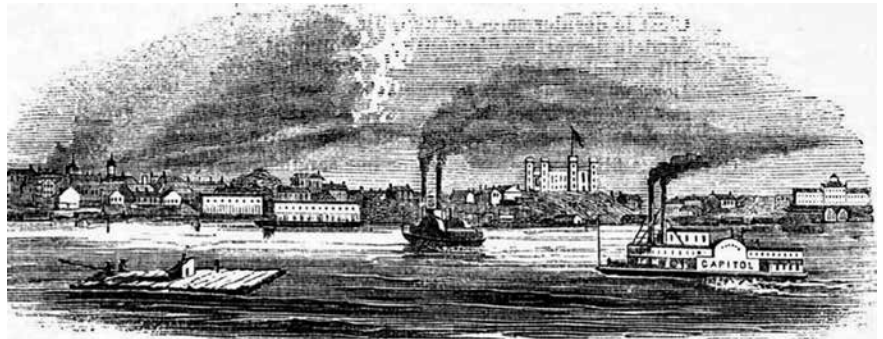
We arrived in Memphis²¹ about dark.

Feb. 15, 1859

Cario.²² Ice was floating in the river.



STEAMSHIP JOHN WARNER.



ETCHING FROM 1860 OF BATON ROUGE AS VIEWED FROM THE MISSISSIPPI. THE CAPITOL IS THE CENTER BUILDING THAT LOOKS LIKE A CASTLE.



CAIRO, ILLINOIS, WHERE THE MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVERS MEET.

¹⁴ Probably the second iteration of the St. Charles Hotel. Fire destroyed the original in 1851 and this version in 1894. The third version was demolished in 1974.

¹⁵ Cairo, Illinois.

¹⁶ The *John Warner* was a sidewheel packet steamer built in 1856. While in the service of the United States Quartermasters Department during the Civil War, it was shelled and sunk on the Red River by a Confederate battery in 1864. No lives were lost.

¹⁷ Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

¹⁸ Natchez, Mississippi.

¹⁹ Vicksburg, Mississippi.

²⁰ Napoleon was a river port in Arkansas at the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers.

²¹ Memphis, Tennessee.

²² Cairo, Illinois.

Feb. 18, 1859

Traveled all night and arrived at the terminus of the road Illinois and Central R. R. at Duneleith²³ opposite Dubuque, crossed the river in a sleigh on ice and, with a little trouble, found where my sister lived.

Feb. 23, 1859

I traveled all night and got in Chicago a little before daybreak then to Cleveland and put up at the Johnson House.²⁴

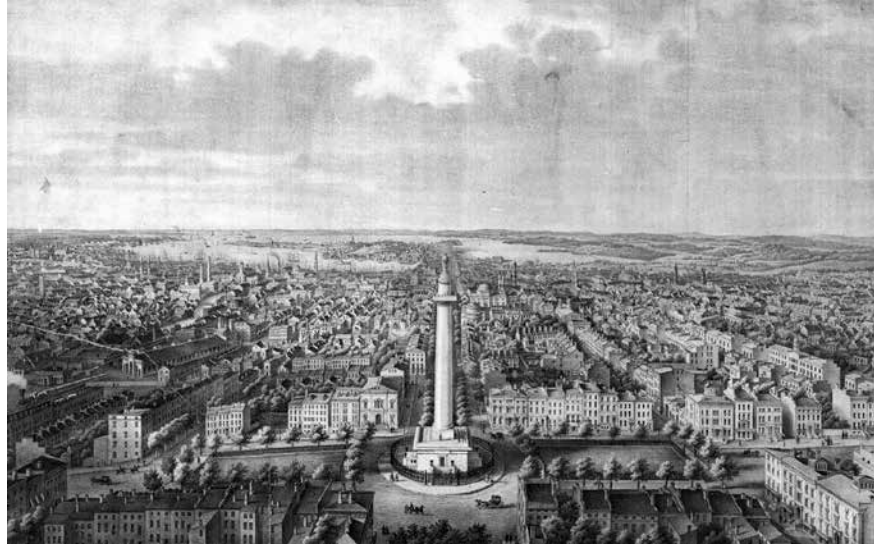
Feb. 25, 1859

We traveled all night and got in Baltimore²⁵ at 5 in the evening.

Feb. 26, 1859

Stayed at the Hotel overnight and then saw my family who were well.

Editor's Note: McComas spent several months in Maryland visiting family. His descendant who sent us the diaries edited out everything that didn't relate to Marysville. We pick up his journal on May 16, 1859. During his time in Maryland, he courted Sarah "Sallie" Slicer, and they married on May 17, 1859 just prior to returning to Marysville.



BALTIMORE VIEW FROM THE NORTH.

May 16, 1859

And now I expect to marry Sallie Slicer²⁶ and return back to Marysville.

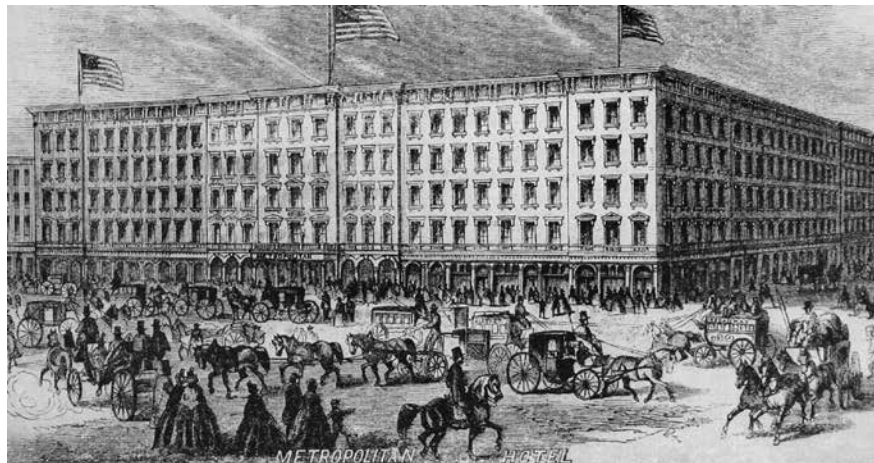
May 17, 1859

My wife, Sallie Slicer, and I were married today in the morning at seven-thirty at Sallie's mother's house and we started for Philadelphia at nine-

thirty arriving there at 3 in the afternoon. We stopped at M. Caliborns an acquaintance of the Slicer family.

May 18, 1859

We started for New York at eleven-thirty and arrived there at three-thirty stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.²⁷



METROPOLITAN HOTEL LOCATED ON BROADWAY IN NEW YORK CITY.

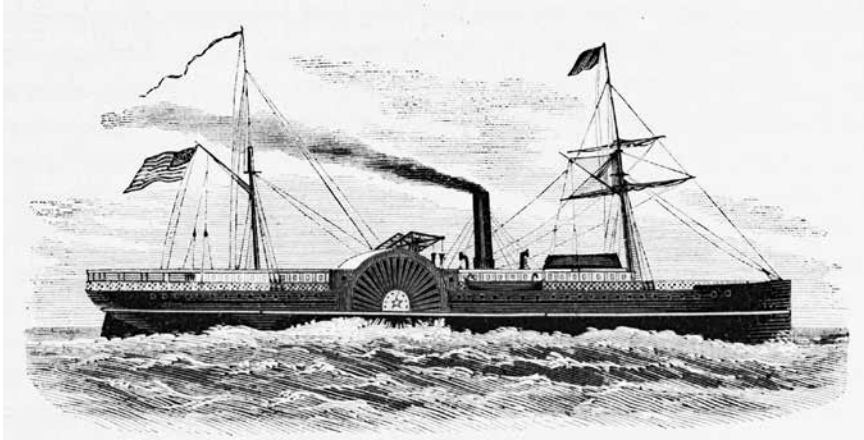
²³ Dunleith Township, Illinois.

²⁴ Probably the Johnson House Hotel built by Levi Johnson, shipbuilder and real-estate entrepreneur, in 1852.

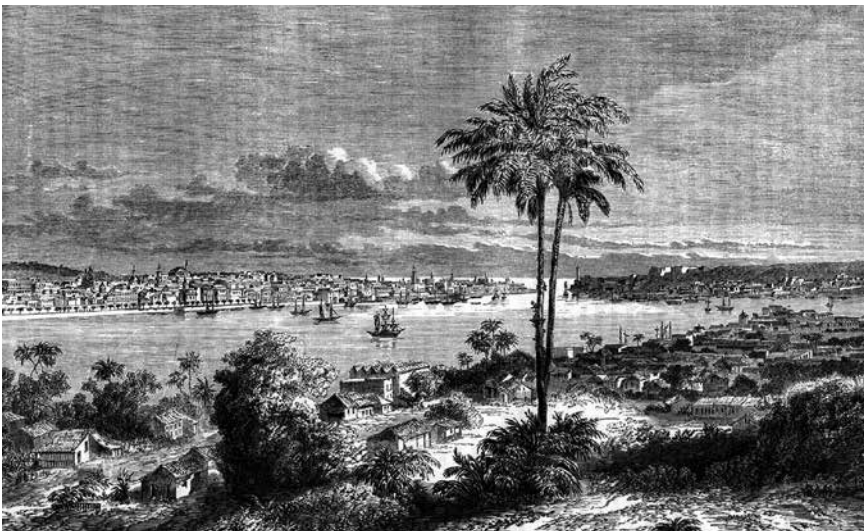
²⁵ Baltimore, Maryland.

²⁶ Sallie's given name was Sarah, but it seems everyone called her Sallie.

²⁷ The Metropolitan Hotel in Manhattan, New York City. Located on Broadway, it opened in 1852 and was demolished in 1895.



STAR OF THE WEST.



HAVANA, CUBA C. 1859.



ASPINWALL, NEW GRANADA, NOW COLÓN, PANAMA. THIS WAS THE ATLANTIC TERMINUS OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD.

May 20, 1859

Very rainy as we left the hotel about twelve-thirty for the California steamer (*Star of the West*).²⁸

May 23, 1859

Sallie has not got seasick yet and she is getting along remarkably well. Our ship is very crowded, a small ship 600 in all.

May 26, 1859

We went into Havana this morning at daybreak to take in coal while New Orleans passengers, fifty of them, came aboard. We stayed there about 8 hours.

May 27, 1859

We have been in sight of Cuba all day. Most of the lady passengers and Sarah are seasick. We passed the Island of Providence this morning.

May 31, 1859

Arrived in Aspinwall at 9 and took the cars for Panama²⁹ and arrived there before dark. We then took the little steamer *Tobago*³⁰ and that took us to the Golden Gate.

June 3, 1859

We are getting along very well with exception of our sleeping arrangements of which we are very much disappointed.

June 5, 1859

We have been entering the Gulf of Therenteper.³¹ Sarah is unwell.

²⁸ A steamship built for Cornelius Vanderbilt and launched in 1852. By 1859 she was on the New York-to-Aspinwall service for the U. S. Mail Steamship Company. Aspinwall is now known as Colón, Panama and was the Atlantic terminus for the Panama Railroad.

²⁹ The Panama railroad was finished in 1855. It started in Aspinwall (Colón) on the Atlantic and ended at Panama City on the Pacific.

³⁰ A small steamer owned by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

³¹ Gulf of Tehuantepec.

I hope she will feel better. On the 6th we arrived at Acapertcia³² this morning and took on coal and detained there six hours.

June 8, 1859

We passed Mausanella³³ and put off 4 passengers. Now on Gulf of Calif.

June 10, 1859

We passed Capt St. Lucas³⁴ this morning.

June 15, 1859

Arrived in Sacramento this morning. We took a walk through the town and got our breakfast. After taking a stage, we arrived safe and sound in Marysville in the middle of the morning. I found all my friends very well and glad to see me. We intend stopping at the U. S. Hotel until we get our room ready at our house on D St. where we intend boarding with Mrs. Sherman. I found everything on

my return in our business all right, but I found some trouble with some notes that I endorsed that I had to pay. I did some work at Mr. William's³⁵ Mill.

June 18, 1859

Dorsey who I brought with me from Baltimore will stay and work with me. Dorsey worked with me on C St. at Mr. Filders. O. H. Peirson³⁶ is about to fail and I will take the stable for a note I signed with him taking over a buggy.



SACRAMENTO CITY C. 1857.

³² Probably Acapulco, Mexico.

³³ Possibly Manzanillo (Coloma) or Mazatlán (Sinaloa).

³⁴ Cabo San Lucas (Baja California Sur).

³⁵ W. L. Williams of Williams, Fennie & Co., a Marysville Flour Mill at the corner of 2nd & F Streets.

³⁶ Peirson was a Marysville pioneer. He had several businesses and was an auctioneer. He auctioned the contents of his house before leaving town. He later shows up in Carson City, Utah (later Nevada after the Utah Territory was divided) and by 1861 was the Commissioner of Deeds there.

June 22, 1859

We started a kitchen for Mr. Weascott³⁷ but had to stop work on account of the heat – 110 degrees. Sarah and Dorsey are unwell on account of the heat.

June 27, 1859

I have obliged to pay \$1,400 for the notes I signed since I came back. I'm building a bath house back of my house which is quite an addition for me.

July 5, 1859

We commenced a little job for Col. Tompkins³⁸ today at his office on D.

July 7, 1859

We did some work for Judge Bliss at his residence out of town at a place on the Feather River. He is now our District Judge. I also did a little job today for Mr. Reynolds the banker.

We sold a few thousand brick to go to the water works for \$8.00 a thousand delivered and 3,000 to go Rabbit Creek³⁹ for \$11.00 a thousand. I did some work today for the California Stage Co.⁴⁰ at their stable.

July 30, 1859

We stopped molding brick for the season. We made eight hundred

thousand this year. Two hundred thousand more than last year.

Aug. 3, 1859

We started a job for J. C. Fall at his house⁴¹ and a meat house. I figured up John Keller's⁴² house and a house for Mrs. Baker.

We sold 15 thousand bricks at \$7.00 per thousand to go to Bear Creek.⁴³ We have made since I have been in the brick business 4 million 6 hundred thousand brick and of that number 50 thousand were pressed brick. I sold six thousand bricks to a man out by the Buttes for \$8.00 per thousand. We are all well except Sallie's home sickness.

Aug. 12, 1859

We started a job for Mr. Brett⁴⁴ and Sanderson⁴⁵ on First Street the lower plaza. I commenced a job for Mr. J. C. Fall at his store and repaired two stories for Sanderson and Brett. We got a job today for the county to build a two-story privy at the hospital.⁴⁶ We gave in our bid for the sewer on B Street.

Aug. 27, 1859

We worked on getting the bids for the brick work on the Presbyterian Church which will be let next Monday.

Aug. 29, 1859

The bids for the brick work and excavation for the Presbyterian Church was given and let this morning. We got the contract for \$5,836.00. We are going to make brick again. We will have 30,000 molded brick to make for the church. We gave our bonds to J. C. Fall, Kincade, and Wm. C. Halley.

Sept. 2, 1859

We commenced suit on the Water Works Co. for the balance of the money they owe us. The town is quite lively now during the fair.

Sept. 5, 1859

Worked all day at the hospital. We got several prizes and awards for the best brick in the fair.

Oct. 12, 1859

I got a Parsonage to build for the Methodist Church @ \$13,000 thousand.

Oct. 15, 1859

I finished on C St. and collected \$2,200.00 on the Church. We paid our taxes amounting to \$700.00.

Oct. 20, 1859

We started the Parsonage alongside the church. It is 20 x 50 feet and one story high. The water co. filled our tanks for the first time.

³⁷ Nelson Westcoat, City Surveyor who lived on 8th Street between F and G, originally from Iowa.

³⁸ Schuyler C. Tompkins, Conveyancer & Notary Public. His office was on D Street, and his residence was on Cortez Square. He served in various public offices including Assessor and Alderman.

³⁹ LaPorte, California.

⁴⁰ Located at 2nd & B Streets in Marysville.

⁴¹ Located on 7th Street between G & H Streets.

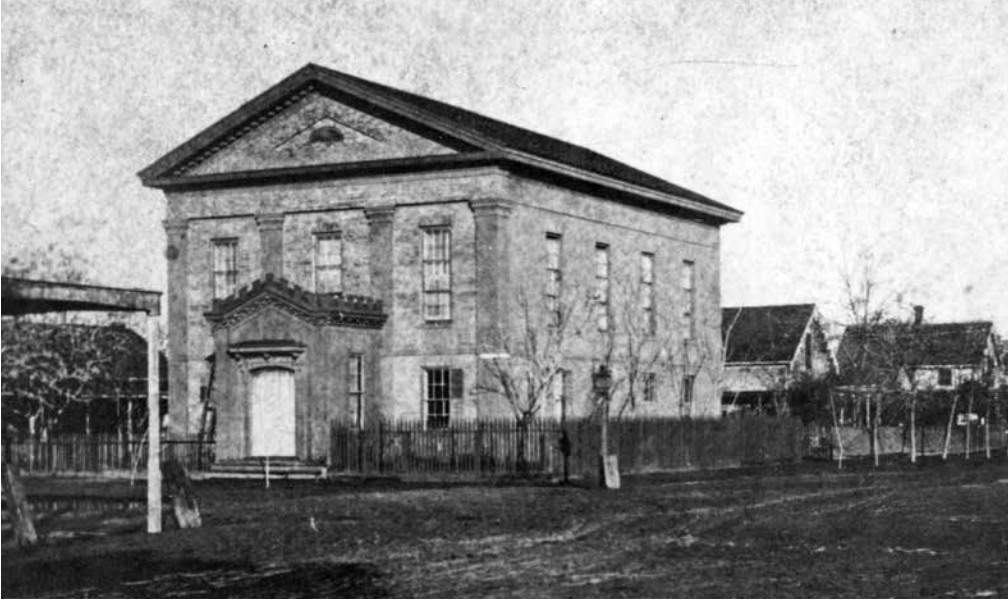
⁴² John W. Keller, a plasterer, who lived on California Alley between 6th & 7th Streets.

⁴³ Known today as Bear River.

⁴⁴ Possibly John R. Brett.

⁴⁵ Possibly R. A. Sanderson.

⁴⁶ Yuba County Hospital built in 1856 on 17th Street between H & I Streets.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
4TH & E STREETS, MARYSVILLE.

Nov. 12, 1859

We are now working on the Church Tower and have finished the brick work on the Tower.

Dec. 2, 1859

We received our second payment on the Church today it came to \$2,250.00.

Dec. 5, 1859

The stable for O. H. Peirson that I had a mortgage on was sold today for \$2,050.00. I lose \$300.00.⁴⁷ I worked on the Church Tower today. The floor joist that the bell rests on was put in this evening.

Dec. 27, 1859

I put the cornice on the tower. The tower is 83 feet high.

Dec. 31, 1859

Weather pleasant and the last day of the year. It finds me a married man of 7 months and 14 days. So far for a married life I have enjoyed myself very much. I am back at my old boarding place on D St. We pay \$20.00 per week and furnish our own room. We did a very good business. We made 11 hundred thousand bricks, and I built one of the finest churches in this place or out of San Francisco. We are all very well except Dorsey. He is quite unwell.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH C. 1936. THIS IS THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MARYSVILLE, BUILT AFTER THE FIRST BURNED DOWN. BUILT IN MARYSVILLE IN 1860, IT WAS IN USE UNTIL 1950 WHEN STRONG WINDS DAMAGED THE STEEPLE, AND IT WAS TAKEN DOWN. MCCOMAS DID THE BRICK WORK ON THE 1860 CHURCH.

⁴⁷ McComas held the mortgage on the livery stable and when it was sold, probably at auction, it brought in less than he was owed.

Editor's Note: The diary entries are sparse and shorter this year. It is probably a combination of more work and being married. He appears less involved in community activities that used to fill his evenings and is settling down as a married man. Nearly all the entries concern work.

1860

Jan. 4, 1860

Our Rev. Mr. Rhees Baptist minister preached for us in the courthouse today. I settled up with Mr. Bolinger's house we built which he will be using as a shooting gallery.⁴⁸

Jan. 20, 1860

I worked at Judge Bliss and at the graveyard and in the jail later.

Feb. 21, 1860

The big livery stable on D St. burnt down with several other homes.⁴⁹

Feb. 23, 1860

I have made arrangements to build me a house on the corner of 5 and D St.

Feb. 24, 1860

I got some work to build a stable or repair Mr. Eckerts or try to repair what was burnt. He says it will be a dirty job but will pay very well.

Feb. 28, 1860

Great excitement at the Washoe mines. They are all going to get rich.⁵⁰

Mar. 4, 1860

Election today for city officers. It was very quiet.

Mar. 23, 1860

I finished the brick on my privy today plus the roof.

Apr. 1, 1860

Sallie gave birth to a child⁵¹ half past ten last night. Dr. McLane, Mrs. Sherman, and Mrs. Donald were all present.⁵² I went to work for Mesers Thale Co.⁵³

Apr. 17, 1860

The front wall that fell this morning with 2 painters. One man was badly hurt.⁵⁴ We finished the stable. Another job to do for Reynolds the banker.

Apr. 23, 1860

I commenced a job for Mr. G.

Reynolds on High St. for Warren Engine Co.

May 3, 1860

I bought a horse today for \$125.00 hooked him up but he wouldn't go.

May 8, 1860

Issac Green took my new horse back. He is driving her now in the stage and she is doing well there. We built a vault at the graveyard for Mr. Fall and it is for his wife and child. I had water brought into my house on 5th St.

May 1860⁵⁵

I started early this morning and rode as far as Mrs. Cox on Georgetown Road to find my horse that was stolen and stopped at night at a hotel on the road at Johnson's Crossing on the Bear River. It rained all day, and I got wet. I started down the river this morning, got my dinner at Nicolaus, rode around until about six, returned by Crabtree and heard and got nothing.

June 11, 1860

We signed the contract to build a four-story addition to the St. Nicholas Hotel.⁵⁶

⁴⁸ There is a heavily advertised shooting gallery at 3rd & D Streets in 1860 with a proprietor of J. E. Brophy. A well-fitted bar was attached to the establishment.

⁴⁹ Fixtures in the brick stable were lost, but the horses, harnesses, and carriages were saved. Also lost was the home of Henry Kerns, Mrs. Hartshorn's millinery establishment, tailor Thomas Taylor's inventory and sewing machines, Mr. Thomas' shoemaker shop, and Charles Covillaud's frame building.

⁵⁰ The discovery of silver ore near Virginia City, Nevada, which was then part of the Utah Territory, led to a "silver rush." This was the first major discovery of silver ore in the United States.

⁵¹ A daughter, Ella Frazier McComas.

⁵² Another indication that McComas' diary was becoming business only. This is the first mention that they were expecting a baby and then back to the next job.

⁵³ I can't identify who this might be.

⁵⁴ A. Seavy, a painter and paper hanger, and his journeyman assistant named Sherburne, were painting the awning over the sidewalk fronting the carriage house of George & Wood's Stable on Maiden Lane when the front wall of the building collapsed. Sherburne was buried under rubble and severely injured with a broken leg.

⁵⁵ No date given.

⁵⁶ On 3rd at D Street, owned or managed by M. C. Duffey.



ODD FELLOWS HALL, MARYSVILLE C. 1940. OVER THE YEARS, VARIOUS STORES WERE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, AND OFFICES WERE LOCATED ON THE SECOND. THE THIRD FLOOR WAS WHERE THE ODD FELLOWS MET.

June 17, 1860

We finished up the foundation of the St. Nicholas Hotel and went back on the Italian job. We put in our bid on the Odd Fellows Hall this morning but it was not let today.

The Odd Fellows Hall⁵⁷ was awarded to us for \$6250.00. We have a very good job.⁵⁸

June 27, 1860

I started my house on the corner of F and 5th Streets⁵⁹ it is 21 x 30 ft. And 1 story with cellar. Judge Bliss failed to pay us. He owes us \$2,200.00.

July 4, 1860

I bought a yoke of oxen for \$140.00.

July 27, 1860

The Odd Fellows laid the corner stone at noon today and had a very good procession. All went well and quite a crowd attended.

Aug. 4, 1860

We got pay out on the hall today \$750.00. They all seem satisfied with the work. The State Reform School was let today, Steel got it.⁶⁰

Aug. 16, 1860

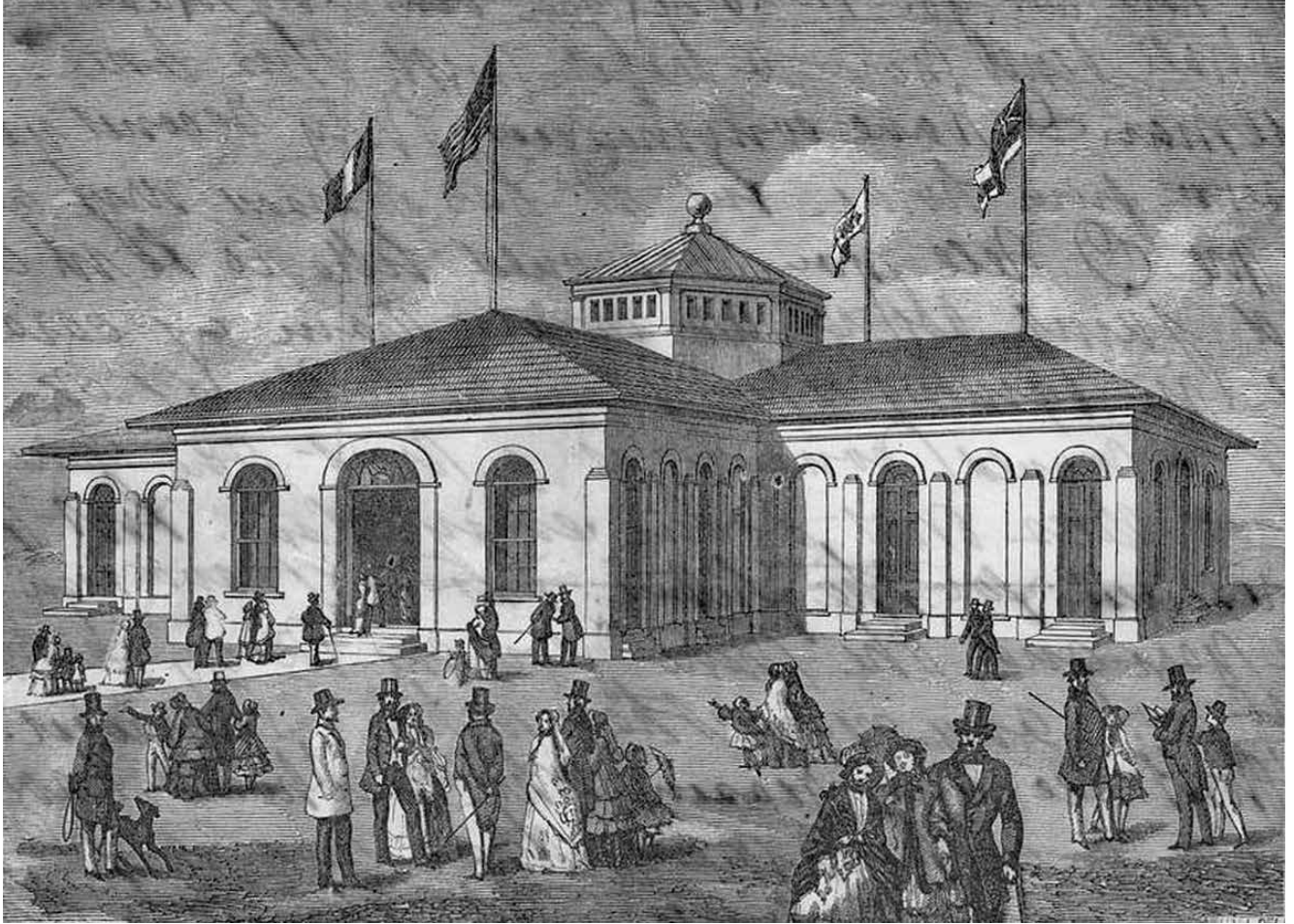
We moved into our new house on F and 5th St. and ate our supper there. We are now fixed up very nice. The first and second story of the Odd Fellows Hall is finished, and we commenced on the third story. We also put down oil cloth.

⁵⁷ Located on the northeast corner of D & 3rd Streets. There was a photography studio in the building from about 1860 until the late 1930s, and much of the Museum's photo collection comes from various photographers working out of that building.

⁵⁸ This entry was on a separate line with no date given.

⁵⁹ Previously, McComas described it as being at 5th & D Streets.

⁶⁰ John Steel, Contractor and Builder with an office over Wells, Fargo & Co.



PAVILLION AT FAIRGROUNDS CONSTRUCTED BY ISAAC MCCOMAS IN 1858. IT WAS IMPROVED AND STILL IN USE IN 1860.

Sept. 1, 1860

We are all at work on the Hall and got a payment of \$1,400.00 today.

Sept. 3, 1860

The fair starts tomorrow and we will put in some of our brick.

Sept. 7, 1860

Most of our hands stopped today to go to the cattle show at the fair.

Sept. 19, 1860

We find it so hard to get tenders. They won't go that high.

Sept. 24, 1860

We topped out the Odd Fellows Hall today and two stores on D and 4th.

Sept. 29, 1860

We built a privy at the Hall and a privy at the store near the water works. We got a large job yesterday for Hudson, Keller, and Smith.

Oct. 12, 1860

Father Slattery was buried today.⁶¹ The new Presbyterian Church was

⁶¹ The Reverend Father Daniel L. Slattery, a beloved local clergyman, contracted typhoid fever when in San Francisco preaching a sermon at the laying of the cornerstone of a new hospital built by the Sisters of Charity. He died in their care in Sacramento and was brought back to Marysville to be mourned by

dedicated today. I was there morning and evening.

Oct. 19, 1860

Glazier's job was let today and Howell and Cook got it. We could not bid on it because of a scarcity of brick. We let the rubbing down of the front of the Hall to Watson for \$255.00. We can't find lime. It's very scarce.

Oct. 25, 1860

Commenced John Wright's⁶² house today on E next to Watkins.

Oct. 27, 1860

The Republicans gave a very large Torch Light procession this evening.

Oct. 29, 1860

We got the kiln ready and got fire in it this evening. It is the last we will make this season. It is the sixth kiln we've made this season.

Oct. 30, 1860

The Town Clock is now finished and in the Presbyterian Church steeple.

Nov. 6, 1860

Election Day for the President.⁶³ We expect to start at the new Market House soon. It is on the corner of Maiden Lane and 3rd St. I sold my ox team to Sherman for \$400.00. He does our hauling for \$1.00 per thousand.

Nov. 15, 1860

The Market House⁶⁴ building on 3rd is 85 by 60 with partition walls in the cellar. We will have to give up some of our work we are so busy. We had a sing

at our house tonight. I got my exempt certificate⁶⁵ today. I have served five years in the Marysville Fire Department.

Nov. 24, 1860

The Feather Bridge fell down today with two teams on it. No one was hurt very much.⁶⁶ We finished our contract at the Odd Fellows Hall today.

Dec. 10, 1860

We are still working on the second story of the Market House. Judge Bliss decided in favor of the Free Party⁶⁷ today and they are rejoicing.

Dec. 22, 1860

We were topping out the Market House this morning when a high wind at 4 o'clock blew the whole thing down – that's while we were putting it up. It was all finished but the fire walls. It caused a loss of \$4,000.00. We will have a lawsuit for sure.

Dec. 24, 1860

The Market House job is not settled but soon I expect.

Christmas Day, 1860

Very disagreeable. I don't see much Christmas. I got the turkey to pick and like to do it. Not sure about what may happen about the Market House.⁶⁸

End of 1860

family, friends, and parishioners before being buried in a vault under the tower at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He was 29 years old and had immigrated from Ireland.

⁶² Proprietor of Wholesale Hardware Merchants on 1st Street between D & High Streets.

⁶³ This is the only mention of the national election with no indication of which candidate he favored. He was originally from Maryland, a slave state that did not secede from the Union. In the past, McComas did not hesitate working for Black employers, including church building, and while in Marysville, he had attended services at that church.

⁶⁴ A building erected next to the Odd Fellows Hall on 3rd Street. It was to be divided into stalls for meat, vegetables, etc. The paper reports a fire and high wind damaged the building, but McComas does not mention a fire.

⁶⁵ Because of his service on a fire brigade for five years, McComas was exempted from serving on a jury or being drafted in peacetime.

⁶⁶ About 11:00 a.m. on November 24th, the two center portions of the Feather River bridge connecting Yuba City and Marysville collapsed with no warning. Somehow, neither man nor beast sustained serious injury as two wagons and teams collapsed into the river.

⁶⁷ Probably Free Soil party.

⁶⁸ It's clear that McComas ended the year worried about his business and reputation as a mason.

The 2024 Crowhurst Memorial Essay Contest

PROMPT:

Your Favorite Small Unincorporated Town in Sutter County:
Location, history, and outstanding landmark.

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

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

This year, we are printing two entries, the first by Juana Amezcua, this year's winner, who wrote about West Butte. The second-place entry is by Harkirat Kaur Batth, who wrote about Pleasant Grove.

FIRST PLACE
Juana Amezcua
LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL

BEAUTY IN OUR BACKYARD

There are so many unincorporated areas in our county but my favorite, after research, has to be the West Butte area. My mom works doing housekeeping in the duck clubs around the area. I learned to drive around West Butte and took pictures of the old schoolhouse for my photography projects. Recently I learned about the Noyesburg cemetery, another landmark in the area. After being there so many times, this will be my first time putting the significance of West Butte into words.

Driving through the mountains here you can't help but think about nature and enjoy the scenery. It may not be the most exciting place, but it's worth a trip for a relaxing drive in the summer, feeling the breeze and sun. Your worries just disappear if you allow yourself to take it in and enjoy. The long winding road is nostalgic to me, but anyone who enjoys nature would see the appeal. Here you get to be outdoors without being in the wild; whether it's for a jog, bike ride, or drive.

It's exciting to spot nature in a place so close to home; here

we get to see vultures, falcons, rabbits, even farm animals! When I was young my mom would show us pictures she stopped to take of deer crossing the road in front of her or tell us part of the drive was stinky because of a mysterious skunk probably hidden in the brush. The farm animals here in West Butte don't look sad like the ones you see on the side of the highway and they add to the laid-back atmosphere of the area. You can stop by to see the cows or sheep grazing in the grass on the mountains.

The old schoolhouse is a known landmark in the area; seeing it makes it clear just how much society has changed since when the school was in use. As we know, the California Gold Rush in the 1840s caused thousands of people to move to our state; this change led to the need for this school. The building that stands today was built in 1909 after the original, dating back to the 1860s, was burned in a fire. 160 years ago, children went to school in the original one room schoolhouse. Cars weren't invented when this school was built and now we drive

by and see graffiti over the white boards of the current building. It's fascinating to try and think of how people were living, and without seeing this landmark it would have never crossed my mind.

We also can't forget about the Noyesburg Cemetery which is from the same era as the schoolhouse. Online you can find a transcribed list of all the burials with the names, dates of birth and death, along with any message left on the tombstones. What I found interesting about this cemetery was that there are both natives of Prussia, a German empire in the 1870s, and natives of West Butte. This really puts into perspective what is meant when you hear people from all over the world rushed to California in search of gold and opportunity. People immigrated from all over and new generations started here in these mountains. It's truly amazing to think about.

While the West Butte area can be overlooked there truly is so much history and beauty that we do not realize is so near. This area is worth learning about so we can value our little piece of history.

SECOND PLACE Harkirat Kaur Batth RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASANT GROVE

It seems as though we never expect to find fundamental pieces of history in places that surround us. I, at least, have never expected this. However, fascinating history always surrounds us, no matter where we are. From the smallest towns to the largest cities, there are so many stories to be heard. One such place that I have realized to be full of rich history is Pleasant Grove, California.

Pleasant Grove is an unincorporated community within Sutter County, meaning that they do not have their own local government and therefore rely on the county for services. The history of Pleasant Grove is very interesting and varied. According to an article called “The History of Pleasant Grove” by Phydalia Murphy Wagner, published in the *Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin* from April 1973, “In 1861 I. S. Ingraham put up a blacksmith shop about one mile south of the site where the town was later built. He sold his property to Charles Bishop in 1865. Bishop kept a grocery store and saloon for two or three years and then moved north at which location the town soon developed. Here he built a little store which burned in 1870 but which was rebuilt nearby and operated by R. B. Pierce. The present Calvin James

home is near the site of the first blacksmith shop.” And here starts the history of Pleasant Grove.

One of the first things that caught my attention as I was researching Pleasant Grove was how the town once was called “Gouge Eye.” I thought this truly peculiar as “Gouge Eye” seems a far cry from “Pleasant Grove,” but the story behind this name is actually rather funny. There was a man who did not like Bishop much at all, and it is because of him that this was Pleasant Grove’s former name. According to an issue of *The Sutter County Farmer* published on November 7, 1890, “The man, Laws by name, did not have much love for the storekeeper and conceived the idea that he would hurt his trade by talking about him, and so often indulged in his favorite remark ‘that anyone trading at Bishop’s would be gouge-eyed’ that it became a by-word for everyone for miles around.” It is rather interesting that a grudge can be so strong as to create the name of a whole town.

However, the history of Pleasant Grove did not end with this grudge. While it was still often referred to as Gouge Eye, the town started to officially be called “Pleasant Grove Creek,” which was later shortened to simply

Pleasant Grove. Slowly but surely, the town expanded, with a post office, schools, a fire station, even the West Pacific Railroad line close by! Agriculture has always been a part of Pleasant Grove, and one of the largest early ranches in California that spanned over 2000 acres (called the Spanish Ranch) was located here. Part of this ranchland is now used for the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, which is one of the oldest cemeteries in Sutter County.

As I stated before, history is all around us. It is made out of all human interactions that have ever occurred, and those events that occurred well before humans came to be on the planet. No story of the past is not part of the history of humankind today, for it is all ever-so-important. Because of this, I hope that many more can take as much wonder out of learning the history of Pleasant Grove, as well as our world as a whole, as I have. After all, as David McCullough, an American historian, once said, “History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

Scottish Voices From The Past: General Edwin Alexander Forbes

By Carol Withington

THE INHERITANCE

The genealogy of the Forbes family can be traced to the Scottish Highlands, where, for many generations, the male ancestors became soldiers in the Gordon Highland regiment of the British army. As an adjutant of this regiment, John Forbes, grandfather of Edwin Forbes, was involved in numerous engagements, among them the Battle of Waterloo.

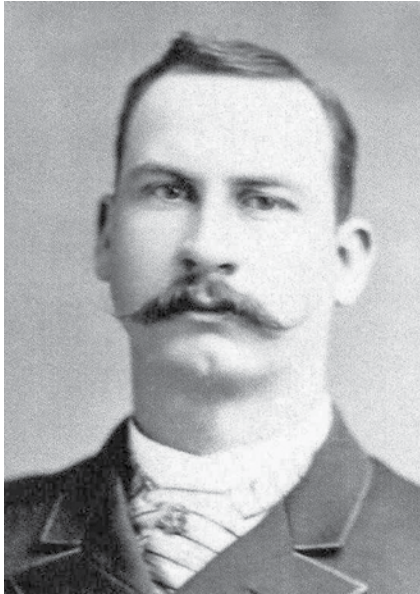
After a service of 21 years in the Gordon Highland regiment, John resigned his commission and emigrated to Canada, where he served as an adjutant of the East Canadian Militia. John lived to be well over 90 years old. Upon his death, his descendants inherited “mental endowment,” strength, and for some, military expertise. Some of John’s sons were employed in various professions, while others learned trades to support their families. One such son settled in California.

THE CALIFORNIA BEGINNING

Alexander Robert Forbes was born in Scotland on January 1, 1826. His family eventually moved to Nova Scotia, Canada, where he grew to manhood. At the age of 25, Alexander decided that California would be his destination. Sometime after his arrival, he married Catharine Kraker, a native of Germany. Initially, Alexander followed the blacksmith’s trade along with gold mining. The couple settled in the Sierra County community of Brandy City, which was founded as a placer mining¹ camp in the early 1850s. By 1854, Brandy City was home to 100-150 residents. It was formerly known as Strychnine City and was situated seven miles west of Goodyears Bar.

On July 20, 1860, the Forbes couple welcomed their first child – Edwin Alexander. Seven years later, the family moved to Oregon House Valley in Yuba County, settling on a farm. Over the years, Alexander raised livestock and grew grain on the farm. The family grew. Sons William,

¹ Placer mining is the practice of mining in stream beds and separating heavy minerals like gold from sand and gravel using water.



EDWIN A. FORBES AS A YOUNG MAN.

Clarence, and Gordon were added to the family along with daughters Emma, Katie, and Carrie.

From the time of his arrival in 1851 until his death in 1897 at the age of 71, Alexander Robert Forbes was always interested in the growth and progress of California. He was known as a “public-spirited” citizen and progressive farmer. Son Edwin certainly benefited during his years growing up in Oregon House, as it is now commonly known.

THE EARLY YEARS

Even at the age of seven, Edwin assisted in growing grain and helped his father in the blacksmith’s shop. It is said that Edwin loved to ride over the ranges after stock. As he grew older, he reportedly developed a “fine physique” and “robust constitution.” However, Edwin’s education was never neglected during these years. He regularly attended classes, and by the time he was 18, Edwin was qualified to receive a teacher’s certificate.

For three years, Edwin taught in Yuba County, where he saved enough money to help defray expenses while attending the University of California to study law. During the next three years, he either taught school, clerked in a law office, or worked in the harvest fields to help finance his education. With perseverance, Edwin completed his law course and graduated from Hastings College of Law in May 1884. Edwin also took part in military affairs prior to graduation. He joined Company C, 8th Regiment, California National Guard in 1882, where he received a commission as captain. His grandfather’s legacy lived on.

THE PROSPEROUS YEARS

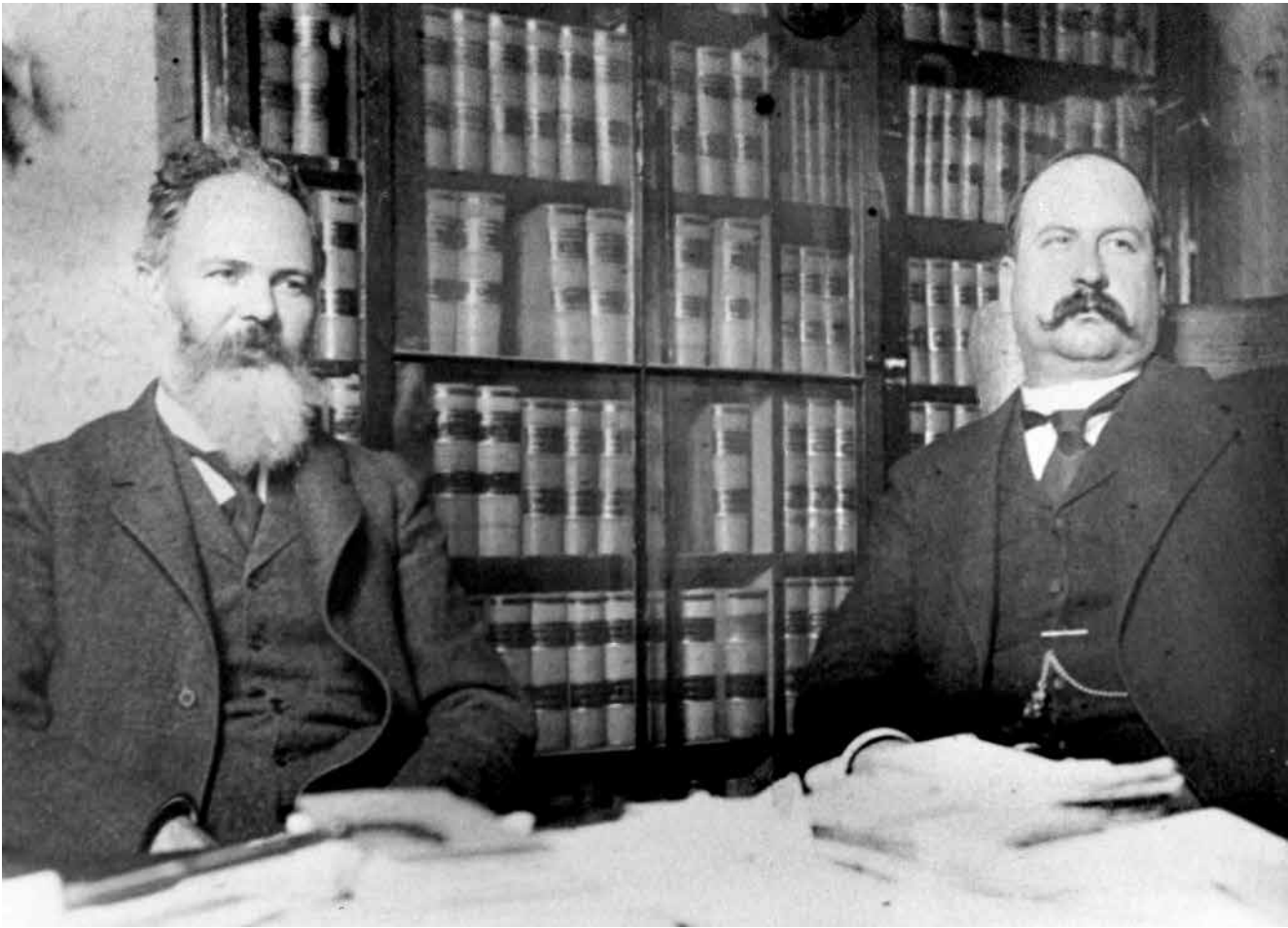
Following his graduation, Edwin arrived in Marysville and opened a law office. A few months later, he was nominated for district attorney



FORBES HOUSE, D STREET, MARYSVILLE.

of Yuba County and in November won the election, filling that position until 1892 – a total of four terms. Edwin married the former Elizabeth Jane Yore, and the couple eventually moved into what is commonly called the Forbes House. This Italianate Revival residence with its beautiful staircase, fireplace, and courtyard was built in 1854 a few years before Edwin’s birth. It is still a point of interest in Marysville.

Early on, Edwin formed a partnership with Wallace Dinsmore under the firm name of Forbes & Dinsmore. Their worked varied, with cases that included corporation, probate, and criminal law.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) WALLACE DINSMORE AND EDWIN A. FORBES IN THEIR LAW OFFICE. THEY WERE CLASSMATES AT HASTINGS LAW COLLEGE.

In addition, Edwin was the captain of the Marysville Company and had the reputation of being a “crack shot.” He proved this in 1895 by breaking the world record for target shooting in a competition with 50 men. Edwin was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd California National Guard in 1896. With his regiment, he volunteered in the Spanish-American War. Three years later, Edwin was mustered out of service. However, he continued as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 8th Regiment of the National Guard.



In January 1905, the partnership of Forbes & Dinsmore was dissolved. Retired from general practice, Edwin continued to work on other pursuits. He purchased the *Marysville Appeal*. He also owned a stock ranch of 5,000 acres in Yuba County and was the principal owner of the Marysville & Yuba City Street Railroad.

Among his many endeavors, Edwin was active in various local organizations. He was a member of the Corinthian Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons; Woodmen of the World; Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Benevolent Protective Order of Elks; and the Marysville Parlor, Native Sons of the Golden West. Edwin also played a leading role in politics where, at one time, he chaired the Republican State Convention in Sacramento.

THE ADVANCEMENTS

In 1910, accompanied by his wife, son Floyd, and daughter Hazel, Edwin toured the world, studying various military systems. It is doubtful that his family found this memorable. One can only hope that they made plans to visit museums, historical monuments, art galleries, and musical productions with some shopping along the way. However, one prominent person appeared impressed with this tour – California Governor Hiram Johnson.

The following year, Edwin was appointed by the Governor to serve as the Adjutant General of California. Over the next four years, Edwin became known as the “Father” of the California Cadet Corps, having originated the idea of providing military training to young men in high schools. In addition, Edwin achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the California National Guard. And then, the unthinkable occurred. General Edwin Alexander Forbes died at the age of 55 on June 18, 1915. Newspapers throughout the state quickly gathered information regarding this remarkable individual.

THE LAST ORDER GIVEN

According to the June 24th edition of the *Hanford Sentinel*, Forbes died at the home of his son Floyd in San Francisco. He had been ill with kidney issues for the last ten months. With his diagnosis of Bright’s Disease, he wished to be near a kidney specialist. While on his deathbed, Forbes remained focused on his beloved National Guard and even issued orders.

EDWIN A. FORBES IN UNIFORM.

Perhaps the quote by Governor Johnson best sums up General Forbes' military accomplishments, as printed in the *Weaverville Weekly Trinity Journal* when he said:

“[Forbes] commanded the California National Guard at a time when it was disorganized and little recognized. He developed a guard of the highest efficiency and a citizen ‘soldiery’ in California second to that of no other State.”

Grandfather Forbes would be pleased.



ADJUTANT GENERAL, CALIFORNIA CADET CORPS.

SOURCES

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Trinity Journal, June 26, 1915

Puzzling



- CROWHURST
- JUANA
- HARKIRAT
- FORBES
- SCOTLAND
- LAWYER
- CADET
- GENERAL
- RAILROAD
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The Museum is a partnership between Sutter County and the Sutter County Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Association supports all of the public programming aspects of the Museum, including educational programs, fundraising events, temporary exhibits, updates to permanent exhibits, and the Museum Gift Shop. Donations made to the Association are tax deductible.

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In Special Memory of Dr. Jane Singh



DR. JANE SINGH.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. SINGH'S FAMILY.

We want to acknowledge the passing earlier this year of Dr. Jane Singh (1940-2024). Dr. Singh was an accomplished scholar and lecturer in the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies program at UC Berkeley. She dedicated her life's work to researching South Asian American identity, gender, and diaspora and completed groundbreaking research that enhanced the understanding of South Asian immigration and identity in the United States.

Dr. Singh was the last surviving child of Punjabi pioneers Nand Kaur (1906-1995) and Puna Singh (c. 1885-1974). Nand Kaur and Puna Singh were one of the earliest Punjabi couples in Yuba City, arriving in 1924. Puna Singh purchased a dairy farm on Township Road, and Nand Kaur became fluent in English, loved reading, and enjoyed Gadar poetry. They raised their seven children in Sutter County and instilled in them a love of education. You can learn more about their family story in *California's Pioneering Punjabis* by Lea Terhune or online through UC Davis' Punjabi and Sikh Diaspora Digital Archive at punjabidiaspora.ucdavis.edu.

Thank you to the family of Nand Kaur and Puna Singh for honoring their memory with a generous donation to support the Sutter County Museum's mission of sharing local stories and celebrating the diverse cultural heritage of the region. Our thoughts are with Dr. Singh's many family members, friends, and admirers as we remember her legacy in supporting education and lifelong learning.

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