

BULLETIN



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ON THE COVER:

STUDIO PORTRAIT, C. 1900.

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 Sutter County Museum

 suttercountymuseum

Our Mission

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

About the Bulletin

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

Museum Association

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

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

Current Association Members:

Phyllis Smith, President

Barbara Hankins, Vice President

Babs Cotter, Secretary

Amber Milner, Treasurer

Carol Bordeaux

Tony Kurlan

Manny Cardoza

Debbie Reid

Marika Garcia

Margit Sands

Eric Gruenthal

Sukh Sidhu

Scott Hankins

Sharyl Simmons

Wade Kirchner

Chuck Smith

Exhibits

■ ***Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women*** has been extended by popular demand through April 28th!

- Illuminating the hardships, joys, and lives of female pioneers, ***Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women*** features 30 first-person accounts collected from women who traveled by land or sea to settle throughout California prior to 1854. Over 800 handwritten accounts from The Association of Pioneer Women of California were preserved and compiled in a single ledger, which is the starting point for this traveling exhibition. These personal memories, quotes, and photographs will be showcased along with local objects from the Sutter County Museum collection representing the area's pioneers.
- Traveling exhibition ***Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women*** is the product of a partnership between the Society of California Pioneers and Exhibit Envoy.

■ Our next temporary exhibition will feature Sutter Health's Children's Bereavement Program. Guest curator Ada Terry-Aina will showcase art created by 41 students in a variety of art bereavement groups within the community. The exhibition will highlight the resources for children who are suffering from the loss of a loved one and the beautiful and meaningful art projects that help them express themselves.

■ The **Black History of Yuba-Sutter** permanent exhibit is scheduled to be installed this summer. Stay tuned for more exciting updates!



HER SIDE OF THE STORY EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY AT THE SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM.

Events

You can look forward to many engaging educational programs at the Sutter County Museum this year.

- **Sutter County Museum Speaker Series** takes place on the third Thursday of most months and features experts on a variety of topics. Topics this year may include Black history in Yuba-Sutter, local flood history and preparation, and native California plants.
- **Fun Fridays in the Garden** on Friday mornings from June 14th-July 26th from 9:00-10:00am. Free open play for kids of all ages! Come water the plants, cook in the mud kitchen, and enjoy special art, nature, and sensory activities.

Visit our website at www.suttercountymuseum.org/events for the most up-to-date program schedule!



SPEAKER SERIES: THREE-THOUSAND YEARS OF LAND AND PEOPLE: AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF YUBA-SUTTER WITH DAVID RUBIALES.

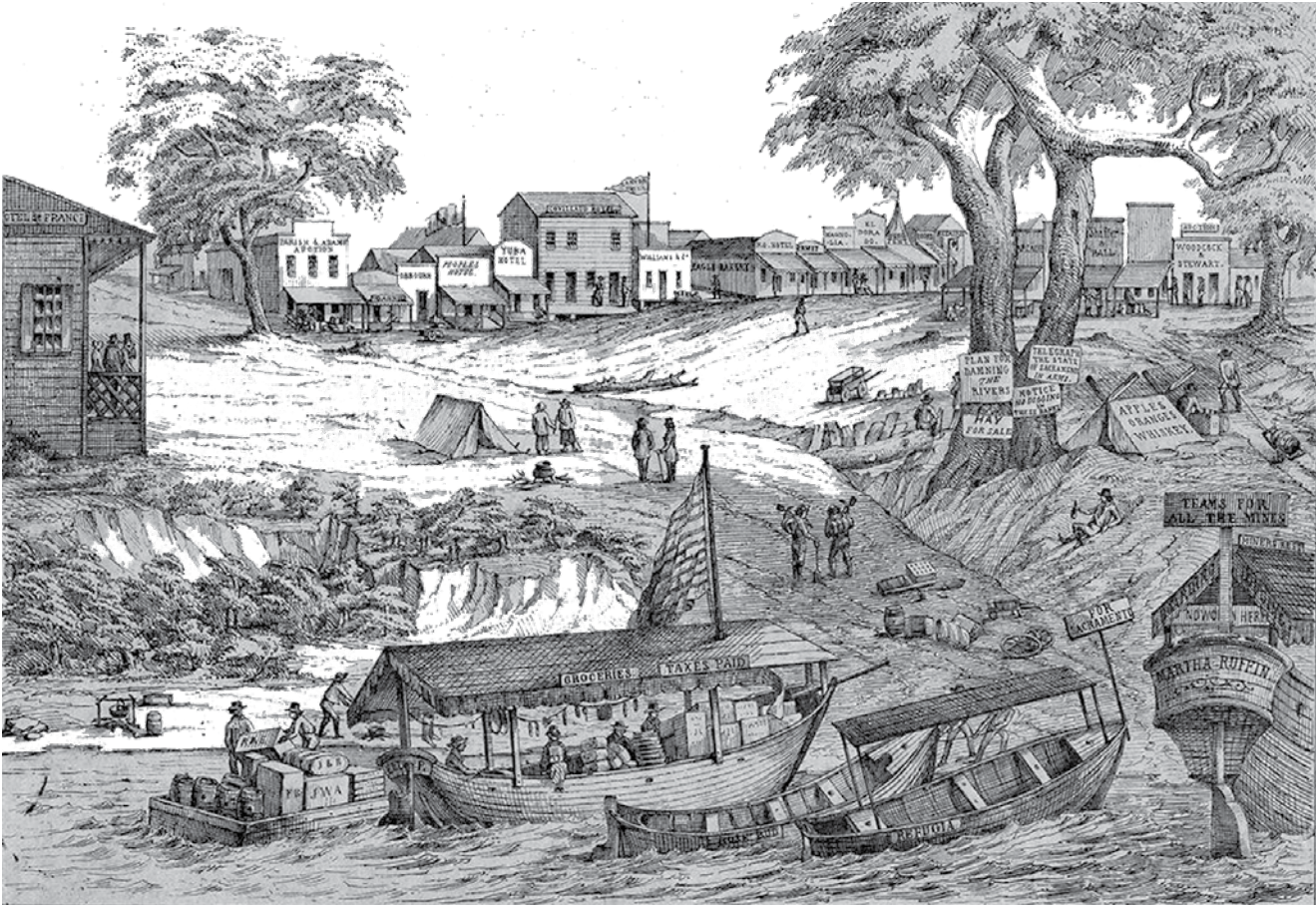
Isaac Taylor McComas Diary

Among the finds in the Sutter County Museum is a transcription of a diary of Isaac Taylor McComas sent to the area by his great-grandson, C. W. Robb. McComas lived most of his life in Maryland, but in 1854, he came to California in search of gold.

Isaac McComas was born in Hartford County, Maryland in 1828. He and his brothers, Jacob and James, were apprenticed as bricklayers, and on January 1, 1854, he started a diary that he continued until he died at age 94. Arriving in the gold fields in early April via Marysville, he tried his hand at mining in the Downieville region and quickly returned to Marysville. He found employment as a master mason the day he arrived back in Marysville and continued working as a mason and brickmaker for the next 11 years. In 1859, he returned to Maryland to marry his sweetheart, Sallie Slicer, and they traveled back to Marysville where they welcomed three of their six children.

His diary presents a look at life in Marysville when it was the gateway to the northern mines. Most, if not all, travelers into the mountains to the northern mines passed through Marysville, and it flourished as a community as brick-and-mortar buildings replaced the very flammable wooden and canvas buildings that made up the town in the early days. His focus is on his business, but he was also engaged in his new community, and his observations give us a first-person look into the early days of Marysville.

The diary contents have been edited to make for easier reading. A special thank you to Vickie Tudor for her help identifying people in the diary.



PUBLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, THIS LITHOGRAPH ENTITLED VIEW OF THE PLAZA MARYSVILLE ALT. CALIFORNIA SHOWS BOATS MOVING SUPPLIES AND PEOPLE VIA THE YUBA RIVER.

1854

Feb. 13, 1854

I took the steamer (John Patter) from New York at 5 o'clock and had to sleep on the floor and no accidents occurred.

Mar. 2, 1854

From New York 1980 miles. Arrived in Aspinwall,¹ took the stage to Obispo, arrived in Panama and stayed at the Louisiana Hotel for \$3.00 per day.

Apr. 2, 1854

Arrived in San Francisco then to Stockton and a stage to Marysville, arriving at night 150 miles from San Francisco stopping at night at the United States Hotel and starting in the morning for Foster Bar² by stage.

May 15, 1854

Left for Downieville on the Yuba River on mule back arriving in Downieville at 4 o'clock. Went four miles further up the river to

Forest Flats in Sierra County.

May 16, 1854

We³ were loaned tools to prospect for gold. We walked 3 or 4 miles up the river but did not find a claim.

May 22, 1854

Tried to get a claim on Jim Crow Canyon.⁴ Very mountainous and covered with long pines. Mining for gold is too hard a work for me. Mined all day but found very little gold. Decided to call it quits.

¹ Now Colón, Panama. The sizeable United States immigrant community called it Aspinwall after Henry William Aspinwall, who directed the construction of a railroad across the isthmus. The Spanish-speaking population called it Colón.

² Was about four miles east of Camptonville. It is now inundated by Bullards Bar Reservoir.

³ It is unclear who he was traveling with, but all during his time mining, he uses "we" rather than "I." Few men traveled alone into the gold fields.

⁴ Now Crow Canyon.

May 29, 1854

Started for Marysville on foot and only have enough money to get us something to eat. After coming up the mountain we passed Foster Bar and met Indians. They looked very suspicious and I was afraid of them.

May 30, 1854

Arrived in Marysville at 2 o'clock and got work at my trade with Mr. Leverick⁵ and at present stopping at the Bee Home Hotel paying \$10 per week.

June 1, 1854

Went to church, there being only one church in Marysville and three denominations – Presbyterians, Baptist, and Methodists.

June 6, 1854

Dust very bad, the streets are planked or poorly paved. They haul water from the river in hog heads and from a few wells.

June 7, 1854

My job as a bricklayer is very good, but it's very hot here and unhealthy. I took a room with B. Shakespeare on C Street.

June 8, 1854

I deposited \$1 hundred in Adams Co. Express and Banking Office,⁶ no interest. A fire broke out two blocks from where I live in a Chinese house on the corner of 2nd and Virginia Ave.⁷ 200 homes burned and the house I was living in. I moved into the Oriental Hotel.⁸

Aug. 5, 1854

Worked all day and week and finished the Western Hotel making 34½ days making \$8.00 per day.

Aug. 10, 1854

Went to work on the corner of Lee & 3rd. Deposited \$300 with Adams Co.

Aug. 15, 1854

Mr. Isaac (a carpenter) and I went to the Feather River and had a good time swimming and a bath. The Indians were encamped on a little island in the river.

Aug. 21, 1854

Went to Old Bulls concert held in church. It was very interesting.

Sept. 12, 1854

Worked all day for a week @ \$10.00 per week as a carpenter and brick layer. Visited Yuba Lodge, only one in Marysville.

⁵ Mr. McComas is a creative speller, so we are unsure of the name.

⁶ Located at High Street and the Plaza, they advertised a fire-proof building.

⁷ Virginia Avenue is now Elm Street. Five city blocks were destroyed, and damage was estimated at \$250,000.

⁸ Located at 2nd & High Street, established in 1853.

Oct. 10, 1854

We got news in town of one of the steamers that went out on the first of the month got wrecked and a great many lives were lost.⁹ The cornerstone was laid yesterday for the City Hall. It was built of brick and will cost eighteen thousand dollars. Two carpenters built our house today on C St. in two days. They were paid \$6.00 per day – the finished cost was \$137.38.

⁹ Probably the *Yankee Blade*, which left San Francisco for Panama on September 30, 1854 and struck a reef at Point Arquella (about 15 miles above Point Conception) on October 1st. There were approximately 800 passengers, and the official report estimated 30 lives lost. The steamer carried \$163,000 in gold, which was lost. Another steamer, *The Goliath*, took on nearly 600 survivors, and others were stranded on the beach until rescued. Crewmembers looted the *Yankee Blade* for private property and supplies.



MARYSVILLE CITY HALL. THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE BRICK BUILDING WAS LAID ON OCTOBER 9, 1854.

Oct. 20, 1854

My birthday, I am 26 years old. I joined the Yuba Lodge¹⁰ today.

Dec. 20, 1854

I went to work for Smith and Lowders on the corner of 1st and High St.

1855

In Marysville ranching on C St. with C. Shephard, G. Crowell, and I. G. Bowen in a small house belonging to us.

Jan. 13, 1855

I went to San Francisco with Smith and Lowders. They are going home in the steam ship Lorona. I got done about ten o'clock and went to Sacramento on the Enterprise.¹¹

Jan. 16, 1855

I started back for Marysville in the Gov. Dana and got up all safe and well to Marysville about 4 o'clock.

Commenced work this morning for Mr. Raymers¹² on First Street on a row of houses running from High St. to D St. Building them about four feet higher with pressed brick fronts. Had a Bull Fight today in this place.

Jan. 31, 1855

Went to a temperance meeting

held in the church.

Feb. 8, 1855

Josiah Bowen started yesterday for the prairie digging¹³ in the mountains.

Feb. 17, 1855

I went to a meeting held in City Hall for the purpose of starting a Library Association. Finished Mr. Raymers' job on first street and went to work for Thomas Seward on High St. In the evening I took the 2nd and 3rd degree. Bought a pair of boots and gave \$4.50.

Mar. 5, 1855

Election day for Mayor, Marshall and Alderman and school commissioners. Messers Jas. Allen – Mayor, Anderson, and all the rest on the same ticket were elected. (My choice). The rain brought the river very high into the stores on First St. about 3 feet below high-water mark. The large steam boats came up.

Mar. 10, 1855

The Temple of Honor turned out today and in the evening a Bible was presented to them by the Daughters of Temperance at the church.

Mar. 17, 1855

Worked half day and finished our front on the Plaza and High St.

Mar. 23, 1855

Had a lot on B St. offered to me – 40 by 40 – for \$450.00 but decided not to take it. Mr. Shepherd and I walked out to the Middle Ferry.¹⁴

Apr. 2, 1855

Supervisors were elected today for the County of Yuba and in the evening I saw James Allen – (mayor) elect sworn in office with the City Council.

Apr. 16, 1855

I received the first paper of the Christian Advocate published in San Francisco, price \$5.00. In the evening I went to Union Hall on D St. – the reading room. I loaned Robinson and Steward \$282.00 on their note @ 3%.

May 1, 1855

The public school gave a celebration today about a mile from Marysville. The children all turned out. I went to the reading room. Another Bull Fight tonight by the Mexicans. I went with Mr. Paine¹⁵ seeing about a job on D St. on the site of the old U. S. Hotel which has just been taken down.

May 25, 1855

At work as a foreman for Mr. Paine working seven bricklayers, C. W. Shephard, Smith, B. F. Shakespeare, Lamull Rent, James Moor, and D. White.

¹⁰ Probably the Yuba Lodge No. 39, F. & A. M. established in Marysville in 1853.

¹¹ As a reaction to high freight prices set by the California Steam Navigation Company, Marysville merchants formed the Citizen's Steam Navigation Company and ran their steamer, *The Enterprise*, at a reasonable rate. They later had a second steamer, *Queen City*, but found they were no match for the price war that ensued. The Citizen's Steam Navigation Company signed a contract to turn over their steamers to the larger company in late 1855.

¹² This may be McComas' spelling of Ramirez. José M. Ramirez was one of the founders of Marysville and built the "Castle," a Gothic Revival house at 220 5th St. in 1851.

¹³ Possibly related to Prairie City, on the American River in the Sierra Nevada foothills near present-day Folsom.

¹⁴ Crossing the Yuba River, also known as Simpson's Ferry.

¹⁵ Sumner Paine, a mason and brickmaker, worked in Marysville from 1852 until 1859 when he settled at East Butte to farm and raise livestock. He later moved to Meridian and built a brick house in 1872 that still stands.

May 28, 1855

Commenced today to take my dinner at the Oriental Hotel.

June 1, 1855

Just as hot today as yesterday – 106 in the shade. Two men gave out. I felt very weak in the afternoon but stood it out. I set the first iron column today on the U. S. Hotel on D St. I also set all front columns later.

June 29, 1855

I am now foreman on two large jobs on 1 St. and D St. Commenced the Oceanette Hotel working at three buildings. Evening went to prayer meet.

July 3, 1855

Worked all day putting in the arches on Mr. Raymers' houses on 1st St. Promised to give \$15.00 to the Methodist Church. Commenced two houses on D St close to 3rd. One for a colored family – Tompkins and one for Mr. Graft. I am now foreman for Mr. Paine. Sold my watch to one of the workers at the Oriental Hotel for \$30.00. Worked all day in the heat. J. D. Mathews and I took a box in the post office (#172) at \$2.50 per quarter.

Aug. 24, 1855

Attended a meeting of the Eureka Engine Co. No. 1 and received my

card of membership.¹⁶ The Rev. Bibbs delivered a temperance speech in front of Murry's Hotel. A very able speech. A large Dutchman got up to speak in opposition but was laughed down. Bought a lot on C St. between 6 and 7th St. from Mr. Swezy for \$250.

Sept. 5, 1855

Today is election day for Governor. Went to prayer meeting.

Sept. 7, 1855

Walled up a little grave out at the graveyard for Mr. Brum.

Sept. 18, 1855

Started a house for Mr. Raymers

¹⁶ The fire department company was organized in August 1853.



U. S. HOTEL ON D STREET.



GRAVE SITES
OF ROBERT
BUCHANAN AND
HIS SON, FINGAL.

in the rear of his cottage on C St.

Sept. 20, 1855

Started the front for Mr. Brunager on D St. Visited Yuba Order and received the password. John Deardorff, Mr. Paine, and I agreed to take a lot on the corner of D and 7th St. from Mr. Parker. 80 feet on D and 160 feet deep for \$2,000.00.

Sept. 25, 1855

Mr. Fuller paid me \$60 that I loaned him last December 25th.

Oct. 5, 1855

Commenced some work for Mrs. Minerva Buchanan in the graveyard at the grave of her husband and child. Mr. Buchanan¹⁷ died last spring in Marysville.

Oct. 6, 1855

Worked all day out in the graveyard. We found a little child buried in a cigar box on the grave that we were at work on.

Oct. 10, 1855

Started the front on D St. close to the Empire block and moved in the new hotel. We had a little party at the Engine House given by the ladies.

Oct. 18, 1855

Started a house for Mr. Haus and for Mr. D. Miller on the corner of 7th. Paid my taxes - \$14.25 city

¹⁷ Robert Bloomer Buchanan, 11/21/1821 - 6/10/1855. He served as Sheriff and at one time held large amounts of land including some purchased from the proprietors of the Nye Ranch. Robert and his wife, Minerva, had two children, Fingal Henry Buchanan (11/21/1852 - 11/2/1853) and Minerva California Buchanan Goodman (1856-1928).

taxes. We separated our lots between us today on the corner of 7th and D St. 80 feet on D running back to High St. I ran the corner lot up to \$766.00 and Mr. Lowery bid \$25 more and got it. I then took the next 40 feet on D St. which stood me \$400.00.

Oct. 24, 1855

Went to the encampment this evening, four men enlisted. We then walked to the graveyard and started a Bible class. I was chosen on the committee of investigation on the Court House by Mr. Bockius¹⁸ to investigate the brick work. The committee met and requested favorable after some consideration and debate on Mr. Miller's part. Had my deed drawn up today for a lot on D St. close to 7th. I paid \$491.62. Bought a watch from Mr. Ball for \$150.00.

Oct. 25, 1855

I am very anxious to go to the mines, but I am too busy to go.

Dec. 1, 1855

We topped out Mr. Paine's two houses on 7th Street this evening. We fitted up the room at the Methodist Church to meet for the young people.

Dec. 7, 1855

Settled up with Rivers today on the balance of \$244.00 paid for my watch and gave \$30 toward the parsonage and \$5.00 to help finish it and \$15 to the pastor. I washed out 25 pairs of socks.

Dec. 12, 1855

Worked all day at Col. Rowes building on the corner of 3rd and D St. in the place of B. Smith who is up in the mountains. The building is 80 feet.

Dec. 29, 1855

B. Smith and I went a gunning and shot 2 ducks and 4 rabbits. We did not work this week on account of it being too cold.

1856

Jan. 1856

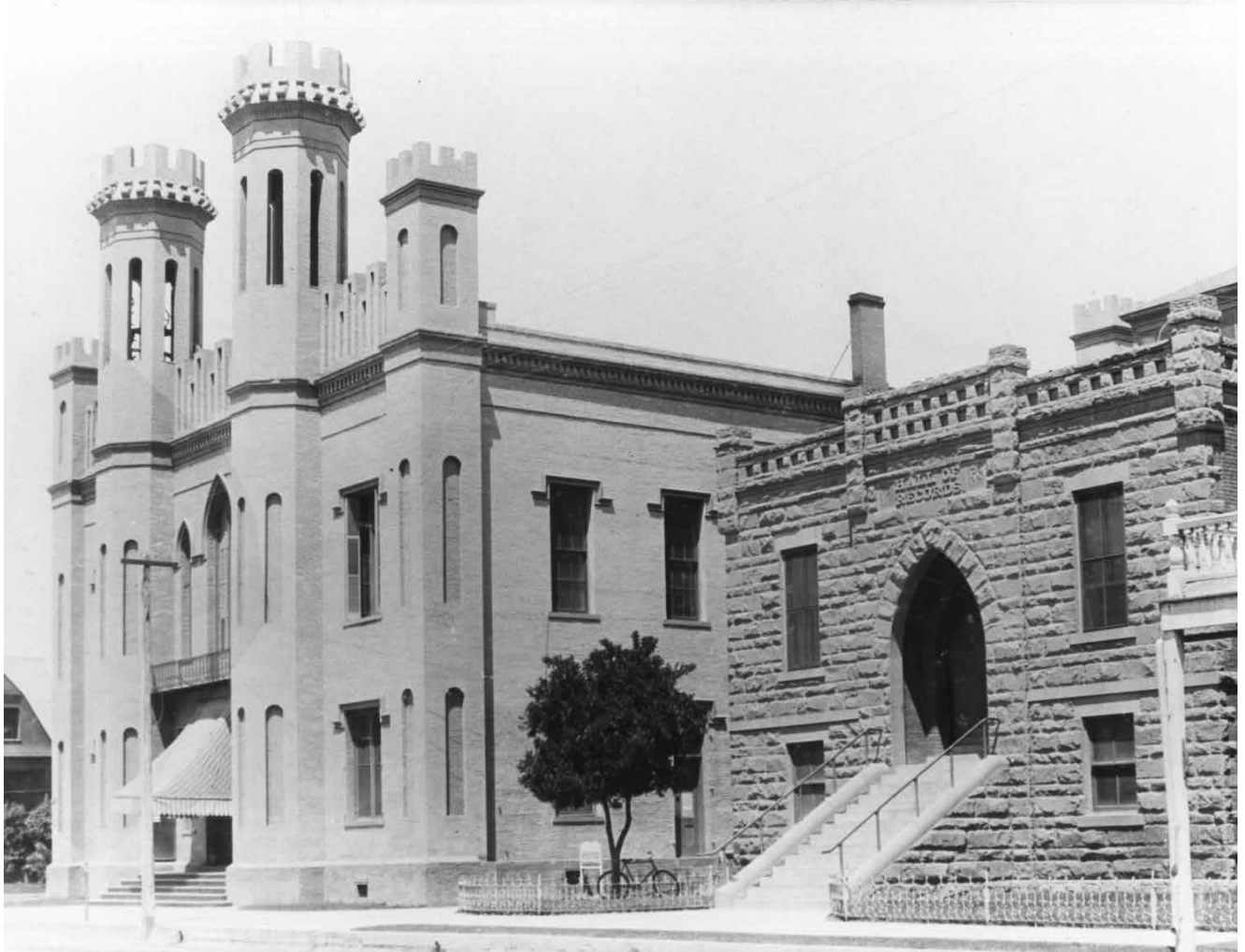
Very cold, freezing quite hard. I am ranching at our cabin by myself. I am now foreman for Mr. Paine. I finished Mr. Judson's house today and measured the walls. He has 80,000 bricks in his house. I promised Mr. Grant to let him have my lot on C St. for \$275.00. He agreed to take it.

Jan. 14, 1856

Sold my lot today for \$300.00 and received the money. I loaned \$150.00 at 2% per month. Went to a concert given by Mr. Hamilton and others for the benefit of Briggs and Wallsworth.¹⁹

¹⁸ Charles George Bockius was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Yuba County.

¹⁹ Local ministers.



YUBA COUNTY COURTHOUSE & HALL OF RECORDS, CORNER OF D & 6TH STREETS.

Jan. 30, 1856

The streets this time of year are very muddy. Did some jobbing at the Court House. I went gunning with Joshua and killed 14 ducks and 3 hares. Our military company Yuba Guards won out today, they had a ball at night.

Feb. 26, 1856

We bought a lot to make bricks on, it is on D St. at the corner of 4th St. It was block #14 for \$350.00. It is 80 by 160 feet. Went to American Party²⁰ meeting. We got a job today on D St. to do for Mr. Shafer that will take a day. We will use 30,000

bricks. We bought old brick to do it with and we agreed to pay back new brick in the spring.

Mar. 1, 1856

I finished at Deardorff and commenced to clean a lot of old brick we bought. We have 4 men working for us at the yard, one as a cook and one as an apprentice boy. We finished up the basement of Mr. Shafer's house. I agreed to take a lot from Mr. Raymers on D St. We found that the clay in the yard is not deep enough for us to make brick on. I did a little job for Mr. Sampson.

²⁰ More commonly known as the Know Nothing Party. They ran Millard Fillmore for President in 1856.

Mar. 15, 1856

I planted a fig tree on my lot on D and gave \$1.00 for it. We commenced to get ready to build 2 cisterns for Judge Fields²¹ at his new house on D St. We find the material and the lay of the brick for \$32.00 per thousand.

Mar. 17, 1856

Today is election day for Marysville. We commenced the two cisterns. I had quite a talk with Mrs. Van Dyke on Spiritualism.

Mar. 25, 1856

We pay for brick \$13.00 per thousand and cement \$9.00 per barrel and \$32.00 a thousand for laying it.

Apr. 3, 1856

Worked all day in the well, we struck water at 14 feet and got the pump in. We also worked in the brick yard making 18 thousand brick a day. We sorted 3 grates for Shakespeare on D St.

Apr. 25, 1856

I had to appear before a private court to give my testimony about some work done for Mr. Raymers while I was foreman for Mr. Paine.

Apr. 26, 1856

I set a marble mantel piece and grate for Mr. Hudson. Mr. Moxley paid me \$50.00. Worked on High Street for Mr. Jacob Gingell. He is

good pay.

May 14, 1856

McDonald and I went to Oroville to see about building a court house.

May 28, 1856

Now that I finished Cap. Wells basement he is back in business. I got a little house to build for Mr. Bockius on C St. at his livery stable.

May 30, 1856

We are burning a kiln with about 280,000 brick we set afire Wednesday. I got 12 cord of wood of \$5.50 per cord. I started a little house for Backing on C Ct. I subscribed for the San Francisco Evening Bulletin at 33½ cents per wk.

June 7, 1856

I went to Oroville to try and get a Court House to build. Bought a load of hay for \$20.00 per ton. We got the contract to build the Jail House.

June 24, 1856

The Spaniards have been riding all day about town. I went to Sherwood's²² funeral, the man that was killed on the stage. I went in a carriage.

July 10, 1856

I started the jail house today and commenced a house for Mr. Fall.²³ He has a store back of his house.

²¹ Stephen J. Fields, first alcalde of Marysville, Associate Justice and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Abraham Lincoln appointed him to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1863 where he served until 1897.

²² Ezra K. Sherwood, age 25, died on the Sacramento stage while sitting on the outside seat behind the driver. He ducked to miss a branch, but he was struck on the neck and killed instantly with a broken neck.

²³ John C. Fall, a prosperous merchant in Marysville. The Fall-Cheim house on 7th & G Streets was completed in early 1855, and it is not clear if he was working on the mansion or another building.

Bought a frock²⁴ today for \$16.00.

Aug. 22, 1856

I commenced a privy at the jail house today. We got a large stable to build on the corner of 4th and D St. Also a back building to build for Lawyer Padel and Mr. Magruder, a house. I measured.

Aug. 30, 1856

A Fillmore and Donaldson Club²⁵ was started tonight and I joined in.

Sept. 5, 1856

Started a house for Mr. Fall, corner of 2nd and E St. We had a very large fire, about 40 houses

burnt.²⁶ They were the Italian's brick houses and out buildings, but they were all covered by insurance.

Sept. 13, 1856

We are building some houses for Mr. Thompson down where the fire was. I bought some furniture for my room on the corner of D and 7th Street.

Sept. 21, 1856

We went over to Yuba City and organized a sabbath school. Bro. Taylor officiated. I commenced a boiler to set for Cap. Wells and

Bailey at their water works and fire company. We started a large job for Mr. Lord²⁷ on 1st St. The front is to be iron shipped from the States. It is to be two stories.

Oct. 20, 1856

I did a job at the graveyard today for Dr. Rice. I built up a grave for his little daughter. We are getting the last kiln ready to burn. It has about two hundred thousand bricks in it.

Nov. 4, 1856

To-day is presidential election day. The people have been quite

²⁴ Probably a long coat or possibly a suit.

²⁵ Millard Fillmore and Andrew Donelson ran for the office of President and Vice-President on the American Party (also known as the Know Nothing Party) ticket in 1856. They finished third.

²⁶ The fire started in a stable on F Street between 1st & 2nd Streets causing \$145,000 damage. Two of the hand pumbers were lost when the ferry boat shuttling them sunk.

²⁷ Moses J. Lord, proprietor of Treadwell & Co. The building was 40' x 75', and the iron for the front of the store was shipped from Boston.



MARYSVILLE IN 1856.

noisy here today and a great deal of whiskey drinking. One man was shot, Paul Gafney, in the face and he is still living. I voted for Millard Fillmore for president.

Nov. 20, 1856

Thanksgiving I was busy but not too busy to pull taffy with my friends.

Nov. 21, 1856

After going to a party at Mrs. Pratt's I went to a colored church. They had a very good meeting. They appreciate so much of what we do for them.

Nov. 24, 1856

Today is my birthday and I am 28 years old. I am happy to find myself enjoying good health. In the evening I went to class meeting but for some reason I do not enjoy religion like I once did.

Nov. 28, 1856

Frost and frozen last night. The mountains are white with snow which fell a few days ago. I finished the 1st story of Mr. Humphreyville's house today.

Nov. 29, 1856

Worked all day at Humphreyville. I am very tired and weary.

Dec. 10, 1856

B. F. Shakespeare is starting for the States in the morning at first light. I bought a pair of gold specs²⁸ for Grandmother to send by him.

Dec. 13, 1856

We commenced to top Mr. Fall's building on the corner of Maiden Lane and Second Street. I finished a grave at the old grave yard about in the center of the walk. I paved Mr. Mathews' pavement. I turned

two yoke of my oxen out to a ranch.

Dec. 25, 1856, Christmas Day

Had a prayer in the morning and at night. I went to the Catholic Church at eleven at night.

Dec. 31, 1856

The last day of the year finds me enjoying excellent health and living on D St. close to seventh at \$7.00 a week board. A fire last night in three places almost burned me out but I survived.

More of the diary will be shared in future issues of the Bulletin.

²⁸ Eyeglasses.



Black History Project Photographs

As a part of the Yuba-Sutter Black History project, we are looking to identify people in photographs from the Sutter County Museum collection. Like many museums, we have photos in our collection of people who have not yet been identified. If you have information about the people seen in any of these photos, it could help us put names to more members of our community. Please email us any information at info@suttercountymuseum.org or call 530-822-7141. Thank you!



GROUP OF MEN WITH HUNTING DOGS AND FOX. PHOTOGRAPHER CLARA SHELDON SMITH, MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA.



TWO PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS OF A WOMAN.



STUDIO PORTRAIT, C. 1900.



STUDENTS AT MERIDIAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.



The Yuba-Sutter Black History project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit calhum.org.

MAP
OF THE
CITY CEMETERY
MARYSVILLE, CALIF.

1924

MAYOR
H. Stone
COUNCILMEN
J. C. Baldwin
C. J. Becker
W. A. Kynoch
J. W. Watson



CHINESE CEMETERY



MAP OF MARYSVILLE CITY CEMETERY SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES IN 1924.

“Handwriting could be quite different in the 19th century, and individual scribes had their quirks when writing cursive.”

The Marysville City Cemetery was established in 1850, one of the oldest city-owned cemeteries west of the Mississippi. The cemetery is on Highway 70, north of Marysville High School. There have been an estimated 10,000 burials, although there aren't that many headstones or other markers to identify where people are buried.

Initially, records of burials were noted by the city sexton, Ebenezer Hamilton. When he left the post in 1870, he took the records with him because he said the city refused to pay him, and those records are presumed lost.

The large record book that exists today is housed in Marysville City Hall, with records of burials from 1870 to 1942. The following information is available for most burials: date of burial, name, age, gender, marital status, race or color, place of birth, place of death, cause of death, attending physician, and place of burial. Some entries also have a date of death. Some are missing pieces of information – for example, 612 entries have “No record” as a cause of death.

I ran into many difficulties while transcribing the information. The

book weighs 38.2 pounds, and I had to heft it out of its cupboard and onto a nearby desk, then put it back at the end of my session. Also, it appears the entries were copied from a previous book, increasing the opportunity for errors. Handwriting could be quite different in the 19th century, and individual scribes had their quirks when writing cursive. For example, some writers create a series of “bumps” to indicate the letters M, N, R, and U. Sometimes a dot over the letter would indicate a bump was actually an I. In addition, the recorders did not have a medical background but were copying medical terms written by a doctor, so some of the causes of death were quite creative.

I enlisted the help of Sharyl Simmons, as I couldn't complete the final stages of the work alone. We spent the last year proofreading my entries, with Sharyl reading each item from the book aloud while I compared it to what I had typed. I was actually pleased when we found an error because it meant I was paying attention – the work could sometimes be a bit mind-numbing. Vickie Tudor, Marysville City Cemetery Commission Chair and an active member of Friends for the Preservation of Yuba

County History, provided expert advice and conducted additional research to confirm some of the sketchy information.

There were many causes of death that are unfamiliar to us or are archaic. Sometimes the cause of death appeared to just be a string of unrelated letters. To retain the information as recorded in the original book, I listed the stated cause of death. However, Sharyl and I reviewed each cause of death, and I added a column with the corrected spelling and the modern term for a disease. For example, the most common cause of death was tuberculosis – 861 people died of TB. But it wasn't always called that – nineteenth-century names for TB include consumption and phthisis pulmonalis.

There are terms used in the cemetery records that seem insensitive to us. Once a racial minority reached significant numbers, areas of the cemetery were staked out as separate sections. There is a Chinese section, a Colored section and a Japanese section. There is a babies' section as well as a Pauper's (or Potter's) Field for those where the City bore the expense of burial. Other sections

are for Firemen and Masons. And, of course, there are family plots where extended members of families were laid to rest.

There is also a Jewish Cemetery within the larger cemetery's fence that is not owned by the City of Marysville but by the Jewish Community. This record includes 31 burials in that cemetery.

There are records of people buried in the cemetery who died elsewhere but were transported back to Marysville for burial, and records of people who died and were buried in Marysville but then were transported elsewhere for re-burial. When Sierra View Cemetery in Olivehurst opened in 1928, some people were moved there from the Marysville City Cemetery.

The Catholic Cemetery is across Highway 70 from the City Cemetery and is owned by St. Joseph's Parish. Unfortunately, most of those records are missing. Sharyl and I found some information about burials at the Catholic Cemetery in a cupboard in City Hall, and we were able to include information on nearly 900 of those burials in the spreadsheet.

If this story were over, I would

find this to be a bittersweet ending. While I wanted to get this information digitized so it can be shared widely, I enjoyed the effort and I would miss the work if I didn't know there is more to do – analysis of the data. I have big plans for how to learn more about the people buried in the cemetery – Where did they come from? How old were they? – and to look for patterns in the data.

And to top it off, I have since discovered what may turn out to be at least some of the missing early records. Stay tuned!

If you are interested in accessing the burial records, the Excel spreadsheet is available at <https://www.marysville.ca.us/city-cemetery>.

Early Suffragists in Yuba County

By Sharyl Simmons

In 1911, Clara Shortridge Foltz drafted a suffrage amendment to the state constitution which said, "Women citizens of this state who comply with election laws and are twenty-one years old shall be entitled to vote in all elections." Nearly identical language was used in the amendment voted upon and on October 10, 1911, and California became the sixth state where women could vote equally with men,¹ nine years before the 19th Amendment enfranchised women nationally.

It was not just professional women who registered to vote. As noted in the article, bankers, county workers, secretaries, teachers, housewives, merchants, and spinsters seized the opportunity to make their voices count.

*Women registering to vote in early 1912 created quite a buzz locally. Newspapers in Marysville joked that women would not register because it meant women would have to state their "true age," and the old canard about women lying about their age was alive and well back then. Once women began to turn out to register, the **Marysville Appeal** took note and listed the first women to register and followed the story for several days.*

¹ Native American women could not vote until the passage of the Indian Citizen Act of 1924.



PHEBE DUNNING RIDEOUT.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL

January 3, 1912

NOT TEMPTED BY NEW LAW ONLY ONE WOMAN REGISTERS UNDER RECENT ENACTMENT

Only just one woman braved the county clerk's office yesterday to take advantage of the new registration law passed by the last legislature which absolves the fair sex from telling their really, truly ages when they have their name placed upon the great register. It was Miss Emily Matti who is a school teacher of Yuba County. All that she had to do was to declare she was more than 21 years of age and she could do that gracefully. She registered as a Republican.

The new law went into effect yesterday and it practically forces a new registration for all the primaries and other general elections which may occur in 1912.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL

January 5, 1912

In an interview with County Clerk J. F. Eastman yesterday regarding new registration, he said it is the law that new registration must commence on every even numbered year of voters who intend voting at any general election during the ensuing two years.

As to municipal elections, he says that the old register may be used. All registrations made previous to Jan. 1,

1912, are void except for the purpose of municipal elections.

Eastman agrees with the county clerk of Butte that the law exempting women from telling their ages when registering will not go into effect for ninety days, and that in the meantime the suffragettes will have to 'fess up.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL

January 9, 1912

County Clerk J. F. Eastman stated yesterday that it would be necessary to register before Jan. 20 for the city primary election to be held Feb. 21. Any person registering after that date will not be entitled to vote at the city primary.

If you are on the great register of last year (excludes all women) you will not have to register again, or if you have registered since Jan. 1 it will not be necessary to register.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL

January 11, 1912

YUBA WOMEN NOT ASHAMED OF AGE Many Set Good Example by Registering - No Affiliation With Prohibition Party

That the women of Yuba are taking an interest in the political affairs of the state and are not ashamed to tell their ages is attested by the number who are daily applying to the county clerk to have their names placed on the great register.

It is notable that since the first of the year not one woman who has registered has declared affiliation with Prohibition or Socialist parties. They are all affiliated with either the Democratic or Republican parties.

Mrs. Phebe M. Rideout, president of the Rideout Bank and the Northern California Savings Bank, is among those who have taken advantage of the right of women to vote.

It is expected that when the women become interested in the approaching city election and learn that they must be on the register before January 20 in order to vote

at the municipal primaries there will be a rush at the county clerk's office.

Here are some of the most recent registrations of women who declare their determination of setting a good example to their sisters:

Phebe M. Rideout, native of Missouri, banker, Republican party.

Jennie B. Salas, native of Russia, housewife, Democratic party.

Lottie B. Greely, native of California, housewife, Republican party.

Delia Frances Harrison, native of Ireland, housekeeper, Democratic party.

May Cameron Bevan, native of Missouri, Deputy County Assessor, Republican party.

Phoebe Jeans Bevans, native of California, stenographer, Republican party.

Emily C. Matti, native of California, teacher, Republican party.

May Miller Swanck, native of California, housewife, Democratic party.

Daisy May Hedges, native of California, housewife, Republican party.

Alice Brown Norman, native of California, housekeeper, Democratic party.

Kate Russell, native of California, housewife, Republican party.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL January 12, 1912

The following day, the Marysville Appeal reported that 19 more women registered to vote, despite the jokes about revealing their age.

Josephine Engel, native of Canada, housewife, Republican.

Nellie Louise Eastman, native of California, housewife, Republican.

May Walsh Bowen, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Emma Hapgood, native of Ohio, retired capitalist, Progressive Republicans.

Anne W. Parks, native of Ohio, retired, Republican.

Cornelia Mck. Stanwood, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Jeanette Powell, native of California, spinster, Republican.

Alvina E. Gunning, native of California, Deputy County Recorder, Democratic.

Florence Nye Whitwell, native of New York, retired, Republican.

Jennie M. Northington, native of Kentucky, housewife, Republican.

Amanda Caine, native of California, housewife, Democratic.

Effie Louisa Lewis, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Lotta Irwin Gluckman, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Mary Ann Swain, native of Ohio, housekeeper, Republican.

Margaret Thornton Swain, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Helen Greely Waste, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Clara Sheldon Smith, native of California, merchant, Democratic.

Bertha McCoy, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Anna Richardson, native of California, housewife, Republican.

MARYSVILLE APPEAL January 13, 1912

The Republican and Democratic parties each gained five new adherents yesterday, there being five of each party registering during the day. The following are those who registered yesterday:

Nellie Rainey Boulton, native of Ohio, housewife, Democratic.

Ellen Scott Manwell, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Lizzie Catherine Niesen, native of New York, housewife, Democratic.

Ella Stratton, native of Michigan, housekeeper, Democratic.

Mary Reynolds, native of Pennsylvania, seamstress, Republican.

Hannah Caroline Carden, native of Ireland, housewife, Republican.

Jane Pierson, native of Ireland, housewife, Democratic.

Maude Johnson, native of California, housewife, Republican.

Nancy Medora Brothhood, native

of California, housewife, Republican.

Catalina B. Vance, native of California, housewife, Democratic.

APPEAL-DEMOCRAT January 15, 1912

WOMEN ARE BEGINNING TO REGISTER

At last the ladies of Yuba county are beginning to register. Every day now the county clerk's office is visited by anxious squads of femininity who are registering despite the fact that they are forced to give their ages under the new law. Evidently the ladies prefer to register in squads for established custom is for several to appear at the county clerk's office at the same time. For the past few days the ladies are gaining on the sterner sex in matters of registration and if the men don't also show renewed life there is a possibility of the women voters outnumbering the men.

While men may have enjoyed the jokes about age, women realized this was an opportunity to make their voices and opinions count when it came to the powers that governed their lives. Some of these women might not call themselves suffragists, but by taking control of their political lives and making women's voices heard in the political arena, they all took a step toward equality.

SOURCES

Appeal-Democrat

Marysville Appeal

Wikipedia

Memorials & Gifts

September 30, 2023 - February 29, 2024

In Memory of **Harban Bains**

Barbara C. Ward

In Memory of **Stan Christopherson**

M. E. Anderson
Tom Barkhouse
Ronald Chan
Marilyn Kirby
Nadine Mitchum
Alfred & Gail Montna
Mary Riley
Sharyl Simmons
Lillian Steele
Jolyne Williams

In Memory of **Dorothy Coats**

Barbara C. Ward

In Memory of **David Crawford**

Jeanette Christopherson
Sharyl Simmons

In Memory of **Gene Erfle**

Sharyl Simmons
Phyllis Smith

In Memory of **Ed Haraughty**

Sharyl Simmons

In Memory of **Ethel Harmon**

David & Olivia Rai

In Memory of **Roy Hatamiya**

Marysville Japanese American
Citizens League

In Memory of **Joan Madden-Gallo**

Jan Madden Perry

In Memory of **Rick Magenheimer**

R. James Staas

In Memory of **Brenda & Joe Morehead**

Lee Roy & Sarah Pryor

In Memory of **Loadel Piner**

Diane Alexander
Mary Awbrey
Ruth Bowman
Connie Cary
Janet Day
Lee & Bob Jones

Jan Madden Perry
Steve Richardson &
Doris Jane Miller
Kate Van Eckhardt
Joan Young

In Memory of **Edward Steele**

Jeanette Christopherson
Nadine Mitchum

In Memory of **Jenny Wyckoff**

R. James Staas

Community Garden Donation

Julie Stark

Outright Gifts

Anonymous
Noydena Brix
Connie Cary
Dianna Ceballos
Jean & Mike DeBorde
Kathy Goodnight
Mike Griffin
Libby Haraughty
Jennifer Harris
Allen & Kathe Herr
Diane Hilbert
Steve & Marie Kroeger
Brett & Kelly Meyer
Suzanne & William Nakashima
Randolph & Barbara Schnabel
Joan Young
Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way

Patio Pavers

County of Sutter
Allen & Kathe Herr
Peach Bowl Lions Club

Public Program Donation

Early Risers Kiwanis Club of
Yuba City
Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Research Request Donation

Patricia Swan
Stuart Swiedler

Trees & Traditions

Sponsorships, Donations, & In-Kind Gifts

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Appeal-Democrat
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Linda Baker
Manny Cardoza
City of Yuba City
Colusa Rice Company
Babs Cotter
Drake's Guide Service
Dutch Bros. Coffee
Ron & Susan Eggleston
Evan's Furniture Galleries
Marika Garcia &
Christopher Holmes
Eric Gruenthal
Scott & Barbara Hankins
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Sacramento at Fire Mountain
J & J Custom Framing
Patty & Steve Justus
Lois Licari
LunaLei Wellness
Marysville Japanese American
Citizens League
Amber & Zachary Milner
Oakland Athletics
Papé Machinery
Pearl Guys
Poole's Jewelers
PureJoy Yoga
Recology Yuba-Sutter
Debra & Mike Reid
Rotary Club of Yuba City
Margit Sands
San Francisco Giants
Charles Smith &
Linda Plummer
Phyllis Smith
Sutter Orchard Supply
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
Whit Taylor - Edward Jones

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September 30, 2023 - February 29, 2024

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Ann Chellis
Ann & Michael Chesini
Lesley Clarkson
Nance Contreras
David & Sandy Davini
Teresa Day
Michael Dockrey
Craig Dress
Teeann Duncan
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Bob Laycock
Jill Frausto
David & Judi Freiler
Carmen Frye
Mary Ann & John Frye
Marika Garcia &
Christopher Holmes
Kathy Goodnight
Joanne Goodsell
Jennifer Graf
Jessica Graf
Eric Gruenthal
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John Heenan
Kimberly Heisch
Allen & Kathe Herr
John & Linda Houston
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Debra & Ned Lemenager
Scott Leone
Randie & Doug Marr
Meriam Library
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Coleen & Mike Morris
Suzanne & William Nakashima

Thea & Carl Norum
Inger Price
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Linden Reynolds
Gary Ries
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Margit Sands
John & Judy Schnabel
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Ruth Mikkelsen
Tyrone Shaeffer
Sharyl Simmons
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Ryan & Jolene Sola
Virgil Sweetwood
Lynne Takahashi
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Puzzling

Q	V	R	U	N	U	A	W	I	L	A	G	N	I	F	F	A	X	F	L
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