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SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sacramento Branch
Genealogical Library

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. 2 No. 10

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

JULY 18, 1961



MARY AARON MUSEUM MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SUMMER MEETING
JULY 18, 1961
TUESDAY EVENING - 8 P.M.

PRESIDENT - MRS. FLORENCE ARRITT
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN - RANDOLPH SCHNABEL

PROGRAM
SPEAKER: Dr. R. Coke Wood
Professor of History
University of Pacific
TOPIC: California's Three Mothers
- with Colored Slides

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Agenda

We hope to continue to work on our goal "Sutter County Film" at our July 18th meeting.

Report on Board Meeting July 11th

Discussion on booth at the Fair

Committees -- Hostesses to serve at booth

Report of Ways and Means

Membership Drive at Fair

Membership for Organizations represented in our Society

A follow-up letter to groups to whom members have shown the film "San Francisco Earthquake."

Each member has a part to perform and by executing it, our goal will be realized.

The rich heritage of our county will be preserved for our children. A gift that is educational and beneficial which they will enjoy through the years, long after the wheels of progress have changed the old for the new.

This is a community project that the Sutter Co. Historical Society is trying to achieve. You will be glad you had a part in accomplishing it.

Please come and bring a friend interested in preserving the history of our county.

--Florence Arritt
President

MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 11, 1961

6 P.M.

Office of County
Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Gianella
Randolph Schnabel
Dr. Hugh Medford
Mrs. Bernice Gibson
James Barr
Mrs. Elmer Littlejohn
Mrs. Florence Arritt
William Greene
Mrs. Eleanor Reische
Burwell Ullrey
Earl Ramey
Mrs. Irmina Rudge
Mrs. Anita Laney

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:35 P.M. in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools. President Mrs. Florence Arritt presided.

Those present were as follows, James Barr, Jr., William A. Greene, Jr., Burwell Ullrey, Earl Ramey, Mrs. Florence Arritt and Mrs. Bernice Gibson.

Absent: Thomas Gianella, Randolph Schnabel, Dr. Hugh Medford, Mrs. Elmer Littlejohn, Mrs. Eleanor Reische, Mrs. Irmina Rudge and Mrs. Honora Laney.

Mrs. Arritt opened the meeting by reviewing the aims and goals for the biennium 1961 and 1962.

Time for holding Board meetings was discussed. By unanimous decision it was decided Board meetings will be held four times a year at least two weeks prior to the regular meetings and the proceedings of the Board of Directors will be published in the Bulletin.

Mrs. Arritt announced the appointment of the following committees:

Ways and Means Committee: Mrs. Florence G. Arritt, Nanne Brown, Anita Laney, W. A. Glenn, Jessica Bird, Maxine Dodge, Eleanor Reische.

Early Families: Mrs. Mary Poole, Chairman

Old Homes and Farms: Mrs. Honora Laney, Chairman

Schools: Mrs. Bernice Gibson

Rivers: Earl Ramey

Agriculture: William A. Greene

Churches: Mrs. Irmina Rudge

Roads: Burwell Ullrey

Old Building: James Barr

Museum Committee: Mrs. Elmer Littlejohn, Mrs. Maxine Dodge, Mrs. Chester Reische

Indians: Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Florence Arritt

Floods: Jessica Bird, Chairman

Hospitality: Mrs. Nanne Brown

Mr. Ramey suggested the Historical Society should have letterheads printed. It was moved by James Barr and seconded by William Greene that we design a letterhead and purchase one ream of paper. Motion carried.

A bill of \$5.95 for pictures in the Bulletin was presented for payment. Moved and carried the bill be paid.

An auditing committee was appointed. Those appointed to serve are: Mrs. W. A. Greene, Mrs. Starr Poole and Mr. W. A. Glenn.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned..

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice B. Gibson, Secretary

REPORT ON CONFERENCE
OF
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
COLUMBIA - 1961
by Bernice Gibson

Columbia, the Williamsburg of the West, was the setting for a most inspiring and informational conference of the California Historical Societies, June 22, 23 and 24.

The weather man did his best to pour on the heat but the white heat of enthusiasm by the delegates was not deterred by the weather.

Burr Beldon, President of the conference, opened the meeting at the stroke of 9 A.M. Friday morning, June 23rd, in the Fallon House

Theater. We were cordially welcomed to Columbia by Mr. Kerr of the Chamber of Commerce, Peggy Lever, Mayor of Columbia (in her official dress) and Dr. Rockwell Hunt, President Emeritus and recently declared by California legislature Mr. California.

The theme for the morning was "The Civil War Crisis and California: Three Local Aspects".

Joseph E. Doctor told us of the extreme feelings of the people in and around Visalia. Because of the close proximity of Fort Babbit and the many "rebels" in Visalia the town was rent asunder. Secession was not a foreign word.

Sima Baker, a teacher from Willows and member of Colusa County Historical Society gave a very interesting account of Civil War Sentiment Along the Upper Sacramento. Colusa County gave firm adherence to the Democratic Party. Such things as Copperhead Saloon and Constitutional Cocktails were common terms. Several noted officials were arrested for treason. Dorothy Cragen of Independence, Inyo County, gave a very touching account of the beginning and ending of Camp Independence. Pre-War Politics in California by Dorothy Firebaugh and California and the Civil War by Lee P. Kibby were two other very enlightening speeches which were excellent.

A conference in Columbia would not be complete without a presentation by Charles A. DeTurk, Chief California Division of Beaches and Parks. He spoke on "The Place of Historical Preservation and Interpretation in the Beaches and Parks Program".

The social aspects of the conference were not neglected. Thursday evening was devoted to a most delightful reception in the gardens of Dr. Robert E. Burns residence. During the evening we listened to Marie Rozier as she told us of the Lore of the Mi-Wok Indians and invited us to examine a display of baskets made by the Mi-Woks.

The banquet on Friday evening was held in The Columbia House with two hundred attending. President Burr presided.

Stage coach rides were enjoyed by many in spite of the temperature on Saturday morning. The writer of this article was fortunate enough to be on the stage with a newspaper photographer and participate in a real Western hold-up for the benefit of photography. Real exciting!!

Saturday morning we listened to four outstanding speeches Creating Historical Records: Oral History by Robert H. Becker, Assistant Director of The Bancroft Library, University of California, and The Oral History Project of the San Francisco Maritime Museum by Jack McNairn, San Francisco Maritime Museum.

One of the most unique and interesting talks was given by J. C. Tibbitts, President of Antique Bottle Collectors Association. The almanacs, Aires and Hosstetters, were the clues to many old bottles and their contents in early days. Much history was corked up in the patent medicine bottled found around the mines.

It is my hope we will be able to secure some of these speakers from time to time and the members of Sutter County Historical Society will hear some of these marvelous speeches.

CONTINUATION OF THE FOOTNOTE
TO THE BOGA GRANT
by Earl Ramey

This is a continuation of a footnote which appeared in this Bulletin for April 1960. As was explained then, the note refers to the main article on the Boga Grant which was in the issue of July 1958. The notes are based on the famous Larkin Papers being edited by George P. Hammond and published by the University of California Press. In the Bulletin of April 1960 we saw that Larkin was trying to get John A. Sutter to arrange for the building of a house on the Boga Grant in Sutter and Butte counties, which grant Larkin had just purchased from the original grantee, Charles Flugge. This portion of the footnote is based on letters which appear in volume seven of the Larkin Papers which volume came off the press in 1960. The several letters quoted here are on pages 56, 154, 167, 181, 189 and 259.

As was guessed, Captain Sutter did not attend to the building of the house as Larkin asked him to do. So in a letter to John Bidwell dated November 8, 1847 he wrote: "I did not suppose that Captain Sutter would have time to put up the house. I do not like to wait until next summer and wish you would have a log house put up this winter - one that will accomodate in common style a small family, expense say \$100 to \$150."

Bidwell wrote Larkin February 28, 1848 saying: "I.. hired men to go on and build a house on your Flugge Ranch... I saw John Williams and he informed me that he had made a bargain with you about building upon the same tract... and he said as I was already prepared to do the work and it would be very late next summer before he could commence an adobie house, he thought I had better go on and make the house you had authorized me to do. The men are still at work... I will sum up the costs and send you a bill of it by the first opportunity."

"The men whom I have employed to do this work are Mormons and will start for Salt Lake by the first of April--I would like therefore to settle with them before I can come down to Monterey..."

Later, May 15, Bidwell wrote Larkin from New Helvetia "Sometime since I wrote you concerning the house which I built on the Flugge ranch... The house cost me one hundred and thirty dollars just as it stands--without any doors. These were not put in when the house was made on account of there being no plank convenient and I was expecting Capt. Sutter's to have commenced operations much sooner. (He is probably referring to Sutter's saw mill at Coloma). Since then the gold fever runs so high that it is impossible to get anybody to work. The person whom you employ to occupy the place can soon complete the house... If you can authorize some person in San Francisco to pay me the sum of \$130 I shall be extremely glad."

A question raised before was why was Larkin so much concerned to have a house built. A partial answer was that he wanted a family occupying his claim because his grant from the Mexican government was given with a condition that he settle the land with families. But in one of his many letters he gives another reason.

Larkin had purchased the Jemeno Grant on the Sacramento River, now a part of Colusa County. He had sold a half interest in the rancho to a young naval officer named John Missroon who had been in California during the Mexican war. Larkin and his young partner had agreed to stock the ranch with cattle and locate a family there to care for the stock with the plan of selling the ranch later for a cash profit. But after Missroon went back to the eastern states he sent word to Larkin saying that he did not care to invest any more money in the land, preferring rather, to sell the land as it was taking whatever profit was possible. This plan did not please Larkin and he wrote Missroon March 20, 1848 as follows:

"..... Whoever gave you the advice not to settle the farm, which advice you regret you did not follow, did not say to you that it was of every consequence that the owner had his Rancho in active possession when the treaty between Mexico and the U.S. was signed.... To me it seems that the farm for a score of reasons must have white people and cattle on it, or in three years, we might find some squatters and the Indians working for others on some other farm..."

Here is another indication that Larkin was yet thinking as a Mexican Californian in contemplating the exploitation of the land. The Indians living on the land and representing a labor supply were as important as the soil.

There is another item of interest related to the Boga Grant in Sutter and Butte counties which is brought out in letters to and from Larkin. On March 3, 1848 there arrived from China a man named Charles V. Gillespie. He had lived for several years in China where he had conducted a mercantile and exporting business. But he wanted to settle permanently in California. He was a brother of the famous Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie who had played the romantic role of messenger bearing orders to Fremont during the months before the outbreak of the Mexican war. The Lieutenant had become acquainted with Larkin and had advised his brother to confer with and seek advice from Larkin before making any investments in California. The brother, Charles V., had brought a stock of merchandise expecting to resume a mercantile business; but upon finding too many merchants for the available trade he considered some kind of agricultural project. He wrote to Larkin on March 6 partially as follows:

"..... My attention is turning to the adjoining country and I have some idea of locating myself on a Rancho... I shall be pleased to learn if you have any real estate to dispose of either on sale or to improve on shares that, from what I have written, you think would meet my view and will be pleased to receive any information you possess which you think will interest me. One of my favorite projects is to introduce Chinese emigrants into this country and desire some encouragement. Any number of mechanics, agriculturalists and servants can be obtained. They would be willing to sell their services for a certain period to pay their passage across the Pacific. They would be valuable miners. The Chinese are a sober and industrious people, and if a large number could be introduced into California, landed property would increase in value fourfold ..."

Larkin answered in a letter of May 16 as follows:

"I do not think you can obtain at present the assistance of any old resident to commence farming operations on a large scale, first, from a want of funds, second, from knowing by experience or long observation, the impossibility of farming to advantage in California at present. I think China servants are good ones, yet only as mechanics can I see any employ in this country for them... Respecting lands for sale by me I have five leagues on Feather River opposite Cordua's Rancho; I gave a Mr. Flugge over a year ago \$2800. This land lays fifteen Spanish miles on the River bounded on the lower end by Capt. Sutter's land... on the back and upper ends by land belonging to government. The Rancho has two large Indian tribes perfectly tame and willing to work. Their fine appearance first caused me to visit them, which brought the land to my notice. I ask \$4000. in cash or that amount in goods that may suit me in price and quality...I would advise you not to give up your commercial business at present... I approve of investing funds in California lands...but think you had better not go on one to live yet...I am obliged to your brother for his recommendation. Our connexion in '46 and 1847 I cannot explain to you...his part in the affairs of California has been energetic. He was brave and shed his blood in more than one battle in Cala...."

When these letters were written by Gillespie and Larkin gold had been discovered three months before; but there is nothing in the letters to indicate that, even if they knew of the discovery, they were considering the gold rush as being of any importance in projecting a business. But given the turn which affairs took from June 1848 we now have to agree that Larkin's advice was lucky and timely.
