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# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

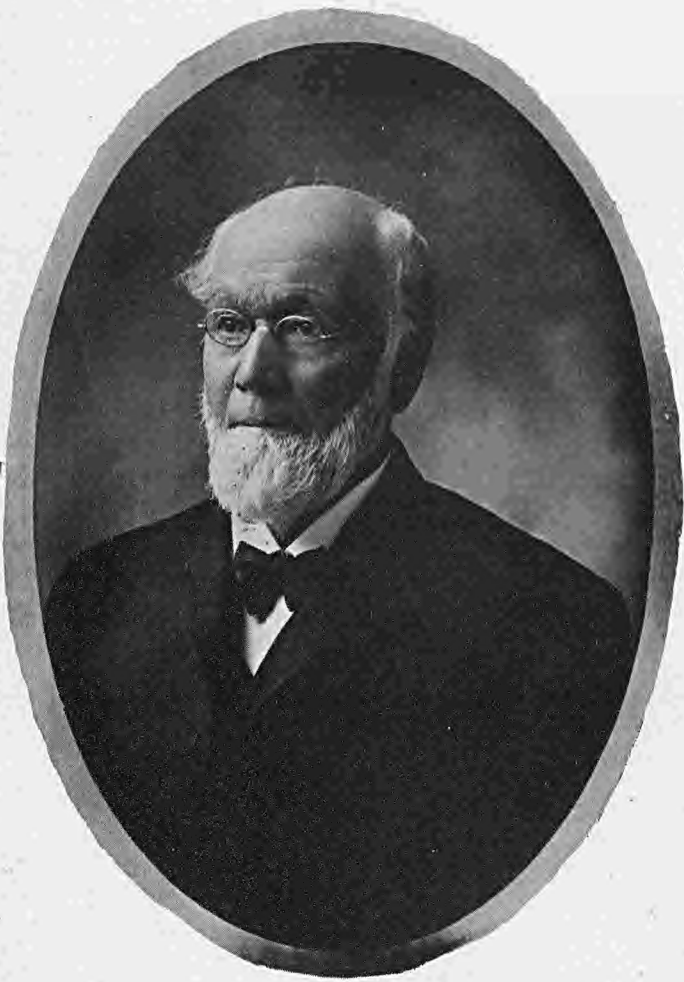
## NEWS BULLETIN

Sacramento Branch  
Genealogical Library

Vol. X, No. 4

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

October 1971



**WILLIAM MARSH WADSWORTH**  
1829 - 1908

**MARTHA JANE WADSWORTH**  
1846 - 1938

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. X, No. 4

October, 1971

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SUTTERANA

From Hock Farm - On Saturday a party of the Colusi tribe of Indians made a wanton and unprovoked attack upon the Hock Indians in the vicinity of Captain Sutter's. Two or three of the squaws of the latter were killed and a number of the men badly wounded. They instantly went to the Captain for counsel, and he advised them that as the assault of the Colusi Indians was entirely without provocation they ought to resent it. They accordingly organized a strong force and left on Monday in pursuit of their enemy whom they will overpower and thoroughly punish for their unjustifiable and heartless cruelty.

From the Sacramento Union, June 30, 1851

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The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. Annual membership dues of \$2.00 includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. Life membership is \$25.00. Your remittance should be sent to Lola Case, Treasurer, P. O. Box 1266, Yuba City, California 95991.

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 \* THE SOCIETY'S AUTUMN MEETING \*  
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 \* The final 1971 quarterly membership meeting of the Sutter \*  
 \* County Historical Society is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, \*  
 \* October 19, at the Walton Fire Department Hall, 211 South \*  
 \* Walton Avenue. The speaker will be Dale Garrison, history \*  
 \* instructor at Yuba City High School, who will discuss the \*  
 \* "Anti-Debris" battle of Sutter County farmers and others \*  
 \* against the clogging of the valley rivers by debris from \*  
 \* hydraulic mining of gold in the mountains. \*  
 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

NONAGENARIAN HONORED

Mrs. Minnie Wadsworth, 91, of Yuba City, has been enrolled among the special honorary members of the Sutter County Historical Society.

Mrs. Wadsworth was born in Sutter County May 29, 1880, a daughter of Eric and Elna (Anderson) Nelson. They came from their native Sweden to Chicago and thence by train in the 1870's to California, and obtained farm lands in Sutter County. In 1906 she married George M. Wadsworth, now deceased, a son of William and Martha Jane (Wynecoop) Wadsworth, pioneers who had crossed the plains in a covered wagon to California and settled on Sutter County lands.

\* \* \* \* \*

Any man or woman, native of Sutter County, who attains the age of 90 years, is eligible to receive the honorary membership in the Sutter County Historical Society. Present residence within the county is unnecessary. Anyone knowing of an eligible person may contact the Society, 114 Carriage Square, Yuba City 95991, giving full name, place and date of birth, parentage, present address and other facts concerning a nominee for membership in this special category.

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF A SUTTER COUNTY PIONEER  
WILLIAM MARSH WADSWORTH (1829 - 1908)

by

Leo A. Wadsworth

INTRODUCTION

The first settlers of record by the name of Wadsworth who came to this country were two brothers, William and Christopher. They came to the coast of Massachusetts on the ship "Lion" and landed near Boston on Sunday, September 16, 1632. The dates of their birth is not recorded, but it is known that William was older than Christopher by a few years.<sup>8\*</sup>

William settled in Cambridge in 1632 and became an influential citizen there. In 1636 he and his family moved to Hartford, Connecticut where he remained until his death in 1675. His descendants number many historically prominent persons.

Christopher and his family settled almost immediately in Duxbury, Massachusetts, which became the center of this branch of the Wadsworth family for many years. Christopher married Grace Cole and they had four children, two of which were Samuel and John. Samuel was the forefather of our subject, William Marsh, and John was the forefather of Zilpha Wadsworth Longfellow, the mother of the poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.<sup>8</sup>

William Marsh's ancestors lived in Massachusetts and Connecticut for four generations until Joseph Wadsworth settled in Orange County, New York.

During the four generation interval personages of special note at that time should be mentioned. Christopher's son, Samuel, was killed

\*Numbers pertain to references listed in bibliography.

while fighting Indians at Sudbury, Massachusetts in 1676. A monument stands at Green Hill, Sudbury, which is the tomb of Captain Samuel and his 28 fallen men. This monument was originally erected by Dr. Benjamin Wadsworth, President of Harvard University. He was Samuel's son.<sup>8</sup>

Then there was John Wadsworth, 1664-1734, representing the third generation from Christopher who lived in Milton, Massachusetts. He served as a member of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts for many years. He was quite well to do financially. History records him as a "wealthy man", leaving an estate valued at 7082 pounds. His son, also named Samuel, lived in Killingly, Connecticut. He was a Baptist minister of some renown, being among the first to strongly advocate separation of Church and State.<sup>8</sup>

John Caton Wadsworth, father of our William, representing the seventh generation from Christopher, migrated to Illinois in 1818 as a young unmarried man and settled in Morgan County. He worked there as a farm laborer and later secured and operated his own farm.<sup>2</sup> He married Ruth Bradbury and they had six children; namely, William Marsh, Jacob B., Eliza Ann, Harriet E., Annette and Patience.

In 1859 he disposed of his farm and left with his son, William, on William's second trip to California. He lived with William until his death in 1889. He is buried in the family plot in the Sutter Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM MARSH WADSWORTH - HIS LIFE

William Marsh Wadsworth was born on March 22, 1829 in Morgan County, Illinois. He worked on his father's farm and managed to attend school in the winter months during his childhood when farm operations were at a minimum.

Early in life he reflected a trait of the early Wadsworths. He strongly believed that a person should be rated for what he is and no more. Our memory goes back to our endeavor to get details of family experiences in his early life. He just was not interested.<sup>8</sup>

At the age of 24 he bought a third interest in a prairie schooner and five yoke of oxen in order to join the rush to California. It was a long, tedious trip across the plains, but finally in 1853 he arrived in Sierra County where he engaged in prospecting and mining near La Porte. He remained there until 1858.<sup>5</sup>

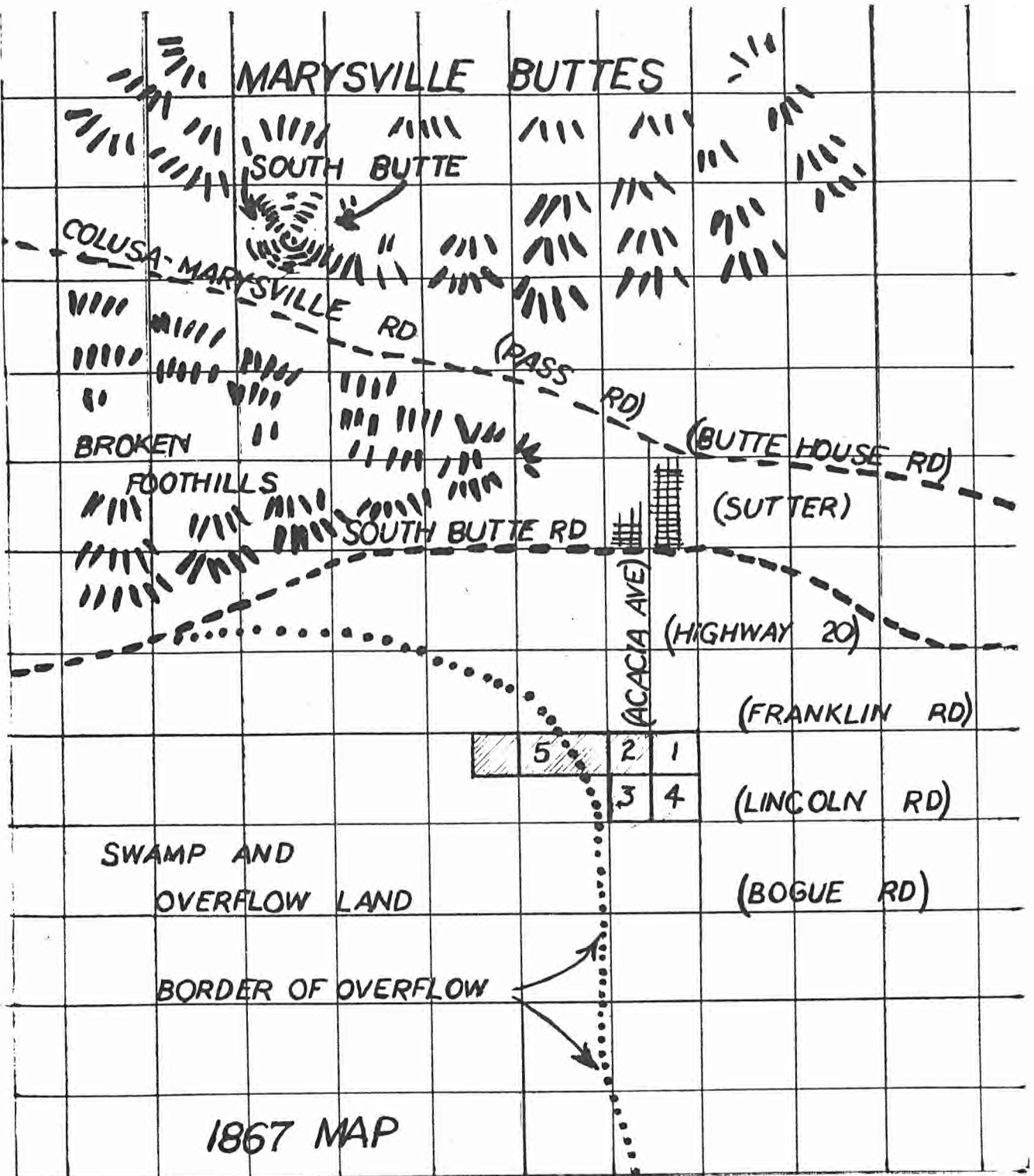
His real interest lay in farming, however, and although he was fairly successful in mining he decided to return to his Illinois home. He left California in September, 1858, by water and joined his family in Illinois. On March 3, 1859 he married Sarah M. Lovett.

He evidently liked California because on arriving in Illinois he immediately prepared to return. This time he purchased a complete outfit of his own and made up a party to again make the trip. Besides other families who joined the train he was accompanied by his bride, his father, John Caton, his brother, Jacob B., his step-mother, and a sister.<sup>1</sup>

Being a farmer at heart his objective this time was to farm in the fertile valley of northern California. On his arrival in the valley in 1859 he immediately purchased a squatter's claim which later became part of the Wadsworth ranch.

In this instance he traded some of his traveling equipment for a 160 acre tract which had been pre-empted by James W. Wood (see #1 on 1867 map) and at the same time filed on an adjacent quarter section in his own name (#2 on 1867 map). His father, John Caton, (see #3) and his





This is a sketch of a map which was filed in the Surveyor General's office in San Francisco on July 9, 1867. It has been reduced to the same scale as the 1948 map shown elsewhere in this report in order to better show development over the years. Notations in parenthesis indicate additions since 1867.

brother, Jacob B. (see #4) each filed on a quarter section, all in Section 28, twp 15 N, Rge 2 East, MDM. Finally in 1869 President Andrew Johnson issued a Patent to John C. and Jacob B. Wadsworth which gave them clear title to the land. William obtained a clear title to his parcel in 1873. This was authorized by President U. S. Grant.

In December, 1867 Warranty Deeds were executed which conveyed title of all of Section 28 to William for considerations ranging from \$300.00 to \$846.00 for each 160 acre tract.

In 1875 William secured title to an area totaling 480 acres (#5 on 1867 map) a large part of which was designated as swamp land and which was located adjacent to the ranch on the west. It had been owned by B. F. Parrish and was conveyed to William upon a cash payment of \$1725.00 and upon his assumption of a mortgage of \$4500.00. With this purchase William's holdings then amounted to 1120 acres.

This swamp land purchase which extended his holdings westward for one and one-fourth miles was flooded each winter by an overflow from the Sacramento River. It materially increased the value of the ranch for stock raising which had become its main activity.

The 1867 map shows interesting facts concerning this section of the county at that time. It will be noted that the road from Colusa to Marysville ran through the Butte pass and that the road later became the Pass Road and the Butte House Road. The first Post Office under the name of South Butte was established in 1871.<sup>4</sup> It was located at Butte House where the famed watering trough stands today. The Post Office of Sutter City was not established until the town of that name was founded in the early 1880's. Acacia Avenue which connected the Wadsworth holdings with

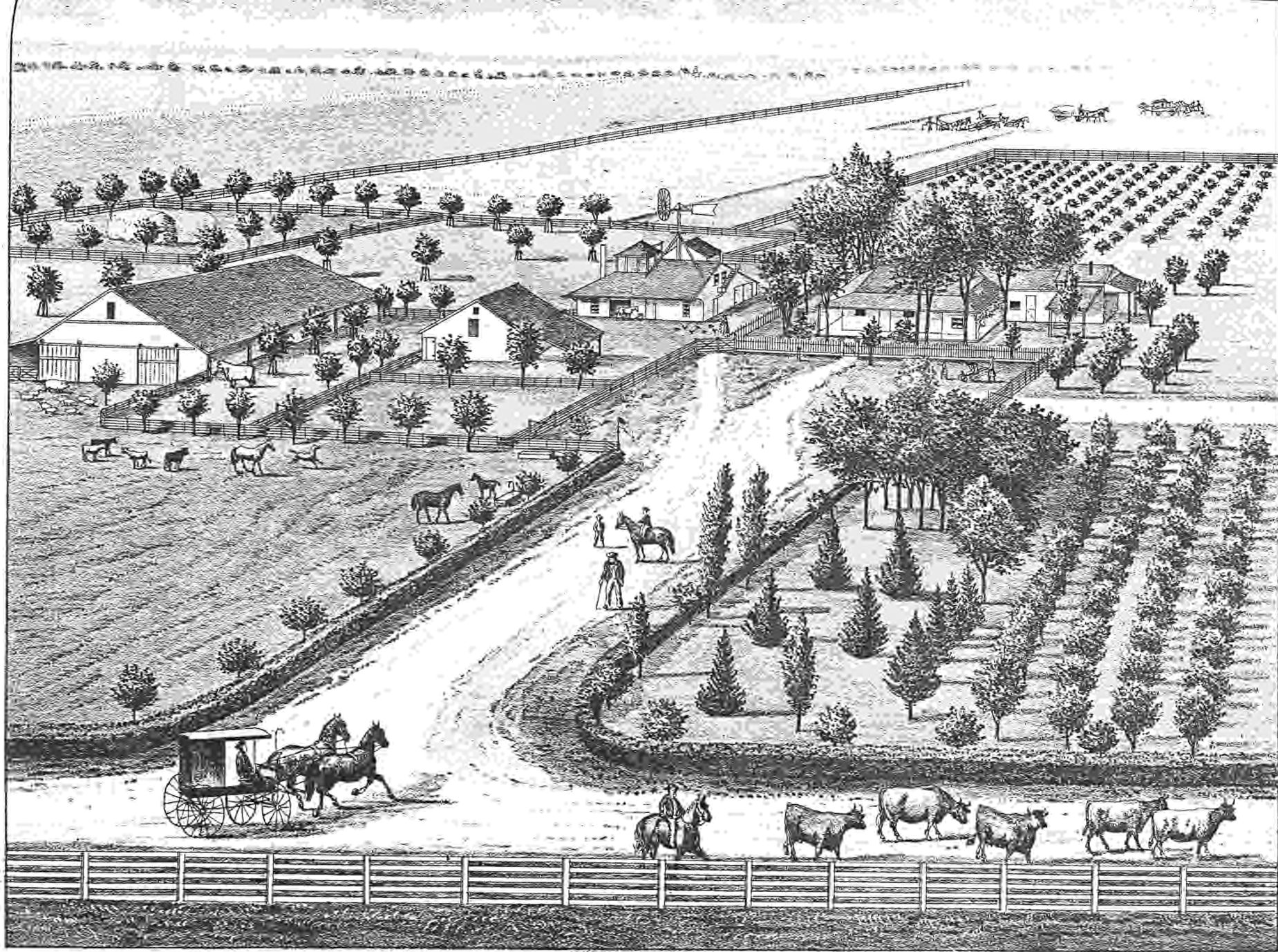


the area at the foot of the Buttes had not been surveyed in 1867 and did not become a reality until Sutter City was founded. In 1867 South Butte Road skirted the hills to the south of the Buttes and passed through what is now the south central part of Sutter.

William constructed the farm home and ranch headquarters on the west boundary of the former James W. Wood quarter section and the east boundary of his own claim thereby meeting residence requirements for both parcels. This location was later designated as the intersection of Franklin Road and Acacia Avenue.

A sketch of the ranch headquarters as of about 1875 is reproduced in this report. Looking south, Franklin Road is in the foreground and the main home where all the children were born is in the upper right area. The area to the left containing the barns and shop was on the claim purchased from James W. Wood while the area to the right was on the claim which was homesteaded by William. Just after the turn of the century the Edson Schuyler residence which had been constructed about one-half mile to the east was moved into the right foreground area.

Early in 1865 William's wife, Sarah, passed away. She was only 22 years old. The next year he married Martha Jane Wynecoop. She was also a native of Illinois and, as a young girl of about 15, was a member of the party he brought across the plains in 1859. Her father, William Wynecoop, and his family made up the Wynecoop unit. She used to tell about driving one of the teams. In later life she further revealed to her grandchildren details of their trip, especially as it related to the Indians. She had quite a frightening experience when one of her young wagon train friends



jokingly offered her to an Indian brave in trade for his horse. He accepted the trade and then they had difficulty convincing him that it was only a joke. He left in not too good humor and everyone feared that he had gone for additional Indian help. Luckily he did not return.

In their long life together William and Martha had eleven children, four of which died in infancy. The seven children surviving who make up the ninth generation of this branch of the Christopher Wadsworths in America are:

William Ulysses (Will) born March 7, 1867, died February 19, 1957;  
Edson Schuyler (Schuyler) born September 24, 1868, died June 2, 1949;  
Frank Alva (Frank) born October 28, 1871, died October 6, 1938;  
Minnie Elizabeth (Lizzie) born November 28, 1872, died January 2, 1958;  
Harriet Alice (Allie) born March 5, 1879, died August 1, 1960;  
George M. (George) born February 28, 1883, died December 29, 1958;  
Everett Longfellow (Everett) born January 8, 1889.

Until William's death in 1908, the older members of the family assisted in running the ranch until they were able to assume responsibilities of their own.

In 1906 William Ulysses returned to the ranch to assume management there. He had attended the Washington Grammar School and worked on the ranch until he was about 20 before he went out on his own. His activities included work in the Oregon grain fields and mule skinning in Texas. At the age of 24 he was made a State Marshall through the recommendation of George Ohleyer, manager of the Anti-Debris Association of the Sacramento Valley. His work was to control hydraulic mining which had been prohibited under certain conditions by State Legislation. He described his connection there as being a "spy" and had experiences in the hydraulic mining area which varied from getting acquainted with his future wife to having his



**THE WILLIAM MARSH WADSWORTH FAMILY - 1884**

**Standing: Will, Frank, Schuyler  
Seated: Allie, Gampie, Lizzie, Gammie, George  
Everett was born five years later**



life threatened by the manager of the Bloomfield Mine. He became quite prominent in the contempt of court action against the mine.<sup>7</sup>

Working with his younger brother, Schuyler, they obtained a patent (February 18, 1896) on a barb wire coiler which they designed and produced. Schuyler handled the California promotion and sales and Will went to Wichita, Kansas, where he promoted sales in that part of the country. Records do not show that the patent was very successful financially.

During the winter months both he and his brother, Schuyler, hunted ducks in the swamp area for the San Francisco market. The writer distinctly remembers accompanying his father, Schuyler, on some of these trips. He recalls getting up early in the morning and going to the tules in a cart for the morning hunt. After killing from 100 to 200 ducks they would return to clean and sack them for shipment by express from Yuba City to San Francisco. The business was quite lucrative as a supplement to the allowance of \$30.00 per month provided for work on the farm. Another "fringe benefit" was the use of the giblets which was favorably remembered by their children and the neighbors.

In 1897 Will had married Lucy Roberts, the daughter of John Henry and Lucinda Townsend Roberts, pioneers of Yuba and Sutter Counties. Will was a streetcar conductor in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake there. The earthquake and fire prompted his return to the ranch. He managed the ranch until 1915 when it was disposed of. He and his family then moved to Orland where he engaged in the hog business until he passed away in 1957.

Will and Lucy's four children are: Trusten Perry who married Doris May Lind. They reside in Berkeley, California; William Edward who married (1) Mabel Montgomery, (2) Helen Retzloff, and (3) Jessie Eldridge. He and Jessie reside in Orland, California; Madeline who married Hans Oliver Holt. They live in Orland; Juanita Lucile who married John M. Lind. They live in the Los Angeles area.

Schuyler had moved to Sutter some eight years before his father's death. While on the ranch he developed a special interest in sheep and finally purchased about 1700 acres east of the Buttes. With headquarters at the Fox place, he had ideal facilities of hill range and irrigated flat land.

Schuyler was more of a "home boy" than other members of the family and always remained in Sutter County where he pursued many of the responsibilities started by his father. For many years he served as County Supervisor, High School Trustee, member of the State Reclamation Board and was a Director of the California Wool Growers Association and California Ram Sale. He and his wife were active throughout their lives in the church which his father had helped build in 1888.

The family was always interested in community affairs. At one time Schuyler organized the Sutter Silver Band (see picture). It will be noted that a number of the Wadsworth family was included in this community project.

In 1890 he had married Lottie Belle Pease who lived about three miles west of Yuba City. She was the daughter of Charles H. and Rebecca Pease and had come to California with her parents at the age of seven.





### **SUTTER SILVER BAND**

**L to R, top row: E.S. Norton, Stanley McLean, Gim Harris, Chris Jacobs, Everett Wadsworth, Billy Hill, Schuyler Wadsworth and Norman Haynes.**

**Bottom Row: George Wadsworth, Clavin Ely, Leo Wadsworth, Charlie Fields, Warren Humphrey and Roland Hawley.**

**Active but not in picture: Fayne Hill, Julius Jacobs, and Nels Jacobs.**

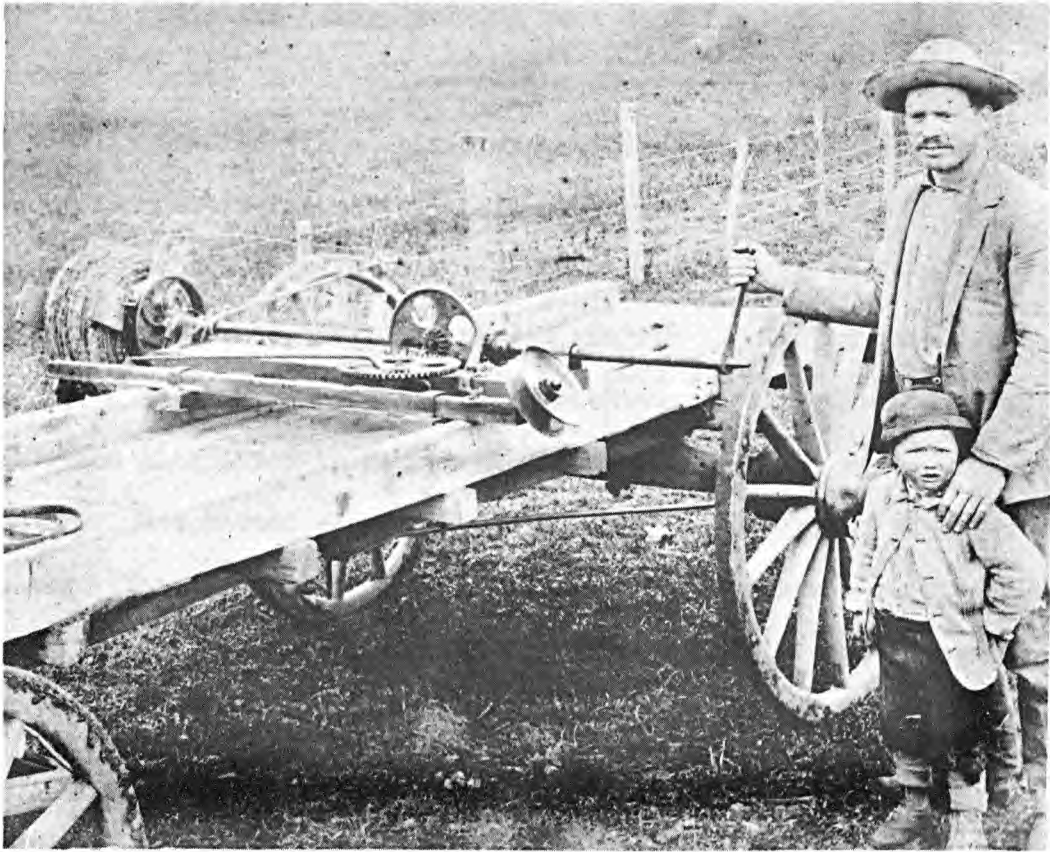
**William Marsh and Martha Jane  
Their wedding day  
1865**



Schuyler lived a full and active life until just before his death in June, 1949. His wife carried on the business with the help of her family until she passed away in January, 1960. The ranch is still operated by the family. Their two children are Leo Wadsworth, who married Virginia Beecroft, and Olive, who married Amele (Ben) Lemenager. They both live in Sutter.

Frank did not remain long at the ranch after he finished schooling and reached maturity. In 1896 he married Jessie Pearl Schlag who was the daughter of John and Josephine Schlag, early settlers in Sutter County. Frank became a butcher and meat cutter in San Jose and later switched his interest to Real Estate, obtaining his Brokers License in 1908. He was active and successful in Real Estate in the Sacramento area until 1927 when he planted some 1200 acres of rice near Williams. The venture resulted in a tragic loss due to an early storm. Entering semi-retirement he then lived with his son and his wife in Alameda until he passed away in 1938. His wife, known by her many friends as "Aunt Jessie", is now 96 years of age and has survived Frank by over thirty years. She makes her home with her son, Leonard, who with his wife, Caroline, live in Sutter.

Lizzie married Jacob Welter who had come to California from Michigan at the age of 22. After their marriage in 1889 they lived and worked on the ranch for a few years in the home he constructed just east of the ranch headquarters. They soon branched out on their own, however, and Jake became a successful farmer in eastern Sutter County. He farmed on land west and south of Yuba City and finally settled near Franklin Corners



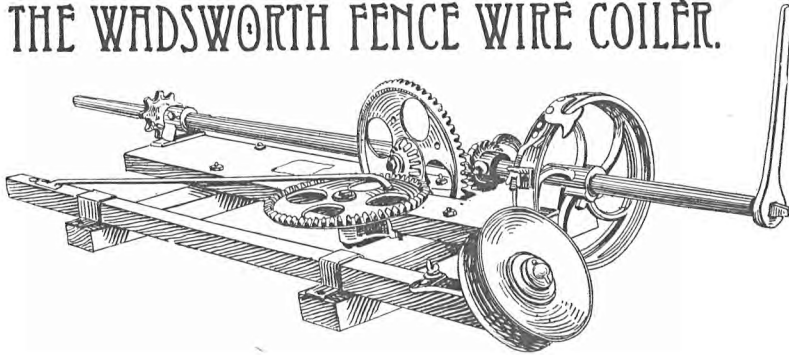
**Schuyler Wadsworth and son, Leo, demonstrating the patent wire coiler in 1896**

which became their home. With the help of his family he operated his farm on a part-time basis, working week days for White, Cooley and Cutts Hardware Company in Marysville making equipment for threshing machines. He finally devoted all of his time to the ranch and it became known as one of the better ranches of the area.

Jake passed away in 1947 and Lizzie disposed of their property. She lived in retirement until she passed away in 1958. They had four boys; namely: Willard W. who married Alta Stohlman. Willard passed away in 1963, and Alta lives in Sacramento; Frank Winfred who married Gertrude Barkley. She passed away in 1923 and in 1930 he married Margaret Harris Putman. They live west of Yuba City; Mancil Farris who married Evaline Parker. His second marriage was to Mildred Boyce. Mancil passed away in 1970; Preston Jacob who married Delma Davis.

Harriet Alice (Allie) Wadsworth was born on the ranch and attended school there as did the others of the family. Her older sister, Lizzie, was married when Allie was about ten years old. With Lizzie gone she became a valuable help to her mother until she was married and left the ranch in 1897. Her husband was Benjamin Getty Campbell who spent his childhood on the old Moore Getty Ranch which was situated in the Buttes northwest of Sutter. The ranch was operated by Ben's father who was a descendent of Moore Getty's who had settled on the ranch in 1859. Ben was 14 years old when his father passed away and much of the responsibility of running the ranch fell on his shoulders. The ranch, first owned by Moore Getty and later by Thomas Jefferson Moore, is currently owned by Howard Cull and his wife, Frances.

# THE WADSWORTH FENCE WIRE COILER.



PATENTED FEBRUARY 18, 1896.

NOTE.—For winding up barb wire when taking down or removing the fence, the power is derived from the wagon wheel, and the chain and sprocket is the same as is used on ordinary seeder.

W. U. WADSWORTH.

E. S. WADSWORTH.

## Improved Method of Handling Barb Wire.

IT IS LIGHT IN CONSTRUCTION, CAN BE OPERATED ON ANY ORDINARY WAGON, AND IS A GREAT MONEY SAVER IN THE WAY OF STRETCHING AND TIGHTENING WIRE ON THE FENCE AS WELL AS FOR RECOILING FROM THE WAGON WHEEL, AND THE CHAIN AND SPROCKET IS THE SAME AS IS USED ON ANY ORDINARY SEEDER.

WRITE FOR DESCRIPTIVE CIRCULARS AND TERMS.

Address,

**WADSWORTH BROS.,**  
SUTTER, CAL., or

**AGENTS WANTED.**

**W. U. WADSWORTH,**  
WICHITA, KANS.

County and State Rights for Sale.

Am prepared to put down or take up wire for any one who desires it here in Kansas.

Allie and Ben's marriage was quite a social affair being a part of a double wedding where also Will and Lucy Wadsworth, Allie's brother and sister-in-law, were married. The double ceremony and the reception were held at the ranch. Reverend E. A. Winning officiated being assisted by Reverend E. A. Pratt.

Ben and his wife farmed south of Yuba City until 1906 when they moved to Oakland. He became a building contractor and finally a building appraiser. He contracted to appraise for the cities of Marysville, Redwood City, San Mateo and for the counties of Alameda, Marin and San Diego. His son-in-law, Jack Guter, and his brother-in-law, Everett Wadsworth, were associated with him on these projects. He remained in the appraising business until his retirement.

Allie and Ben had five children; namely: Geneva (Neva) who married Jack J. Guter. They live in Chico; Stirling who married Estelle Clark. He passed away in 1950; Elwin who married Margery Garland; Helen who married Daniel C. Davis; and Betty who married Palmer Color.

Allie passed away in 1960 and Ben moved back to Oakland. He died in 1965 at the age of 92.

After spending his early life on the farm, George became interested in law enforcement. He was Deputy Sheriff of Calaveras County for 13 years, after serving as Constable in Tuolumne for a period of time. He married Minnie Nelson in 1906. She is the daughter of Eric and Elna Nelson, Sutter County pioneers. Minnie lives with her son, Shirwood in Marysville. She is 91 years old. They had one other son, Maynard who lives with his wife, Katherine in Orinda, California.



Everett, the only surviving member of William Marsh's immediate family, spent his boyhood on the ranch at the time just before it was sold. He and his brother George saw the ranch when it was at its peak of efficiency. They also saw its decline.

In 1915 Everett married Oma Mae Cox and while they were on their honeymoon the ranch was sold. They settled in Sacramento where he became associated with a Hardware and Equipment company. In 1925 he joined with Ben Campbell, his brother-in-law, in the Real Estate Appraising business. Following the depression he dealt in Real Estate in Berkeley and El Cerrito. He and Oma are living in retirement in Modesto at Neighborhood Manor. They had two children, Robert, who died as the result of an accident at the age of five, and Mae Oma, who married Gus Franzen. They live in Modesto.

With Will's return to the ranch in 1906 to assume management, the ranch prospered for a time. His father, whose health was failing, still gave valuable assistance in helping with management policies.

In addition to general farming and to take advantage of the excellent grazing land on the farm, they specialized in a substantial business as stock breeders and dealers, raising standard bred cattle, mules, horses, hogs and sheep. The acreage around the homestead was devoted to the cultivation of prunes, figs, and raisin grapes, while the remainder was devoted to hay and grain.<sup>5</sup>

During his life William Marsh took active leadership in the affairs of the Sutter Community. He was a respected citizen and in his later years became known by his many friends as "Campie Wadsworth".

In 1863 he became active in the Butte Mountain Rangers, an organization of some 65 Northern sympathizers dedicated to protect and hold the community against Southern sympathizers. Thomas Dean was the first Captain of the Rangers. William became Captain in 1864.<sup>4</sup>

In preparation for the July 4th celebration of that year about 20 Rangers under his leadership as Captain carried a 60 foot pole to the top of South Butte and installed it there as a flag pole. A large flag was unfurled there to the patriotic delight of a large crowd gathered at the foot of the Butte for the celebration. Eli Davis became Captain of the Rangers in 1865 and the organization was finally disbanded in 1866.

In line with the stated policies of the family in colonial and post-colonial days, William was a Prohibitionist. He was a leader, politically, in Sutter County being a member of the Sutter County Central Committee of the Prohibition Party. In 1904 he and his wife were elected delegates to and attended the National Prohibition Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.<sup>5</sup>

He liked to think that his efforts helped establish Sutter County as a "dry" area over the long period beginning early in the 1890's and ending with the repeal of prohibition by constitutional amendment in the 1930's.

William and Martha were both raised as Baptists, but they became active in the Methodist Church because their church was not represented locally. In the period of the early 1860's the family worshiped in meetings held in various places under the leadership of the Butte Circuit of the Methodist Church. Pastors of the Circuit had a great deal to do with the early religious history of the area. Among the pastors who served the Circuit following 1860 and previous to the building of the Sutter Methodist Church,

appear the names of C. A. Leaman, C. R. Baker, John Burnell, G. G. Walker, B. W. Rusk, H. J. Bland, William Gorden, A. C. Seafer, T. Chivers, A. R. Sherriff, H. Holbrook, A. R. Crawford, Elias Jacks, R. E. Wenk, T. B. Hopkins, and P. P. Hamilton. It should be noted that H. J. Bland was the brother of Henry Meade Bland, California's second Poet Laureate, who spent much of his life at "Saint's Rest" as he called the East Butte Ranch which later became a part of the Lang, Howard and Kinch ranches. Reverend P. P. Hamilton continued to live in Sutter and became the head of one of its pioneer families.

In those days "Camp Meetings" became a definite part of the religious activities of the average family. So it was with the Wadsworth's who regularly participated in meetings at Camp Bethel. The site of Camp Bethel, one of the largest of the old religious Camp Meetings of Northern California, was just east of the Buttes, and about four miles northeast of Sutter.<sup>6</sup> The land was leased to the Methodist Church for 99 years without cost. The donor, Gilbert Smith, of East Butte and Live Oak, stipulated its return to him if it ceased to be used for religious purposes. During the late 1880's meetings were discontinued and the land reverted back to later become the Kinch ranch.<sup>6</sup>

The need of a permanent sanctuary for religious worship was keenly felt by citizens of Sutter and the surrounding area. William became active in arranging for the purchase of a site and for the construction of the Sutter Methodist Church in 1888. He and his wife became faithful, active members. He served many years as Trustee.

The difficulty he had in childhood in attaining a formal education impressed on him the necessity of providing facilities for the basic education of his children and those of his neighbors. He gave the land from the farm for the location of the Washington Grammar School about one-half mile east of the farm headquarters. For some thirty years his children and grandchildren and those of his neighbors received their basic education there. During most of this time he served on the Board of Trustees.

In the changing society he recognized that there was a need of a high school education for the youth of that time and in 1892 Mrs. J. P. Smith, William Ellington, R. P. Tharp, George Says, Joseph Girdner, and William Wadsworth formed a committee which resulted in the formation of the Sutter Union High School District in 1893. With J. C. Ray as teacher-principal, the first class composed of Florence Davis, Hattie Wren, Maude Hawley, and William Hoffman, were graduated in 1896. William Wadsworth served as Trustee for a number of years.<sup>3</sup>

He remained active on the ranch up to a short time before his death which occurred on September 24, 1908. He is buried in the family plot in the Sutter Cemetery. Martha Jane did not attempt to operate the ranch after his death and lived there only a short time when she was welcomed by members of her family, especially her daughters, Allie Campbell and Lizzie Welter. She survived her husband by thirty years during which time she lived a full life making and renewing friendships. She was affectionately known by her many friends as "Gammie".

One of her close friends was Grandma Lucinda Roberts, William Ulysses' mother-in-law. When they were each over ninety years of age the family jokingly tell of their going shopping together in Oakland and how each sought to help the other across the street.

On her birthday, August 30, it became the custom each year to celebrate with her at a big out-of-doors gathering which was attended by her family and her many friends. On the occasion of her 92nd birthday the gathering was held at Del Paso Park near Sacramento. Those attending the festivities included most of her family and a wide circle of friends. A special table was set for the honored guest and her sons and daughters. It was centered with a birthday cake made and decorated by her daughter, Lizzie Welter. The cake was in the shape of the old home in which Gammie had raised her family. Less than four months later, December 28, 1938, she passed to her reward. She rests beside her husband in the Sutter Cemetery.

#### CONCLUSION

In 1913 the California Legislature created the Sutter Basin Project which had a profound effect on the Wadsworth ranch. This act resulted in the construction of the Sutter By-Pass which controlled the flooding of the pasture land of the ranch, converting what remained to excellent farmland.<sup>2</sup> To carry off water which fell on the upper side of the By-Pass, a complicated system of main and lateral canals was erected. The main canal, elevated to take water directly into the By-Pass by gravity, had its source just east of the Buttes on the Schuyler Wadsworth ranch and as it approached the By-Pass went directly through the site of William

Wadsworth's headquarters buildings. This resulted in their complete removal and the dividing of the ranch into isolated parcels.

The extent by which the Sutter By-Pass and the main canal divided the ranch is shown by the 1958 map of the area which is reproduced in this article. It will be noted that the canal runs diagonally through Section 28, the main portion of the ranch, and that the By-Pass itself removed completely a great portion of the flooded range land.

The canal officially known as the "Wadsworth Canal" was so named because of its connection with Wadsworth holdings, possibly because its source was on the Schuyler Wadsworth ranch east of the Buttes, but more probably because of its connection with the elimination of the William Wadsworth headquarters. With the ranch divided as it was, it became impractical to operate it on the same basis as before and in 1915 it was disposed of.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In writing this article we had assistance from many people. We wish to especially thank Earl Ramey for his valuable assistance with library sources and James H. Barr for searching records of ownership.

Much of the material for this report has been derived from members of the family. We especially thank the following for their reports: Trusten Wadsworth, son of Will; Ed Wadsworth, son of Will; Bruce Wadsworth, grandson of Will; Olive Lemenager, daughter of Schuyler; Leonard Wadsworth, son of Frank; Frank Winfred Welter, son of Lizzie Wadsworth Welter; Neva Guter, daughter of Allie Wadsworth Campbell; Maynard Wadsworth, son of George; Mae Franzen, daughter of Everett, and, of course, Everett himself.

We are especially indebted to William R. Dawson for his suggestions and criticisms and to my wife, Virginia, for her valuable suggestions as to content and form.

LEO A. WADSWORTH



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GLEANNINGS

Sutter County Farmer

January 13, 1886

Lots in the new town of Sutter City. Maps of this promising town in Sutter County can be seen at the office of the Immigration Bureau. Prices given and locations explained. Office, 120 Third Street, Marysville.

Woodmanse Windmill -is ahead-

August, 1888

We have sold hundreds of these windmills, and consider them the best. We have tried many kinds. Ask anybody their opinions who has one or who has put one up in place of those blown down.

White, Cooley and Cutts, Agents, Marysville, California.

Sutter City Street Improvements

February 22, 1889

John Rock, President of the California Nursery Company, was in Sutter City this week and sold \$3,000 worth of shade and ornamental trees which will be sufficient to set out along the sidewalks of all the streets. The college campus will also be planted with tropical plants, shrubs, and ornamental shade trees. Mr. Rock was well pleased with Sutter City and showed his appreciation by investing \$2,750 in lots. The building of cottages is increasing rapidly, and business is thriving.

Sutter County Farmer

October 19, 1889

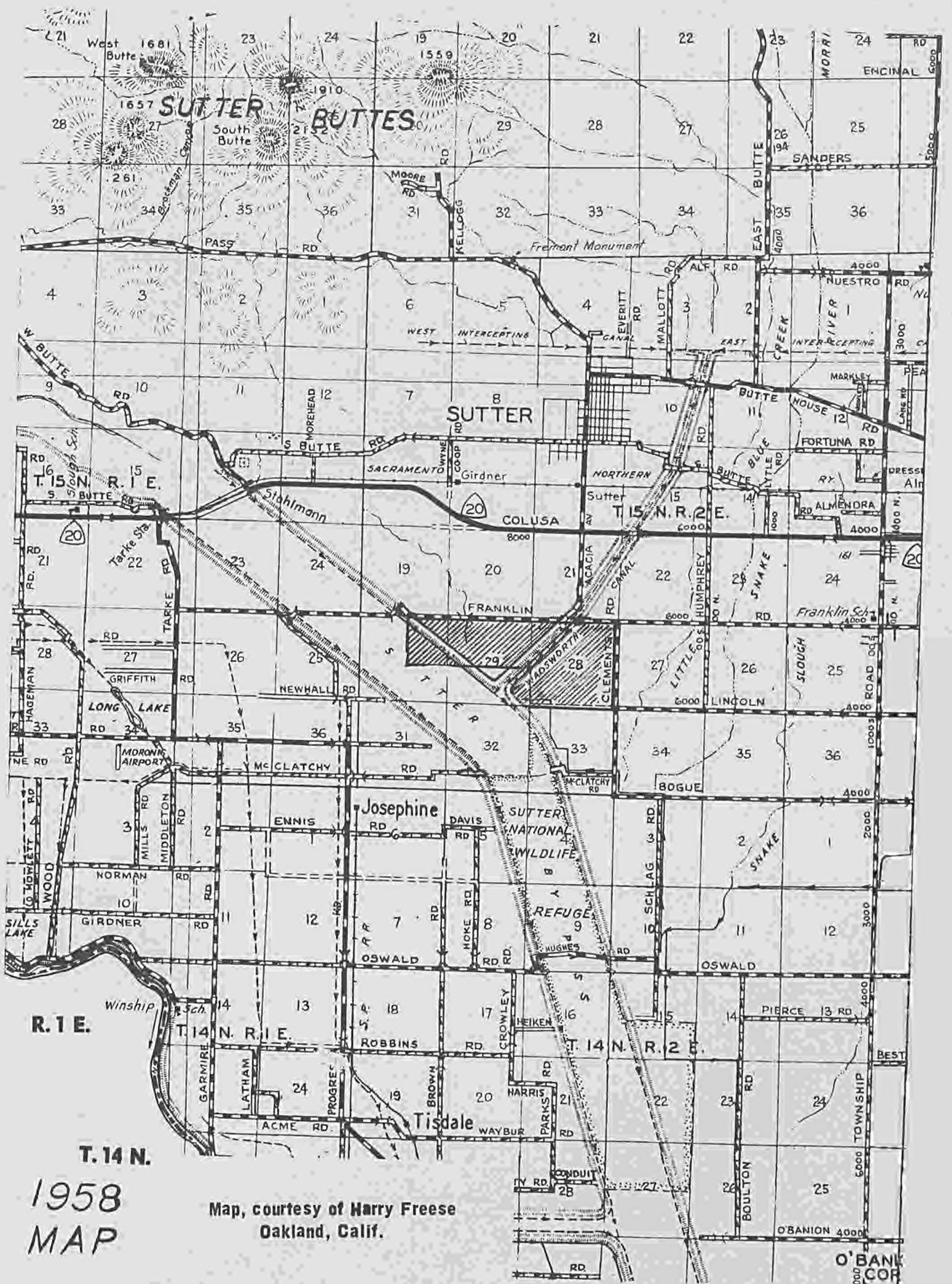
The Welter-Wadsworth wedding last week was one of the largest held in this county for some time. The young couple received many handsome and useful presents to adorn their cozy home, which the groom, unassisted,

has, by his thrift and industry, provided for his bride. By request, we publish below a complete list of the presents tendered them by their many well-wishing friends:

- Hanging Lamp, F. A. Wadsworth (brother of the bride);
- Kitchen Bureau, Mr. and Mrs. Dean and family;
- Silver Spoon Holder, Walter and Edith Davis;
- Glass Celery Dish, Everett Wadsworth (brother of the bride);
- Silver Pickle Castor, James Haynes and family;
- Gold Watch and Chain, Will Wadsworth (brother of the bride);
- Spool Rack, Mrs. S. McKinney;
- Collection Sea Moss, Miss S. Everett;
- Turkish Mat, J. G. Cohn and wife;
- Hall Rack and Rocking Chair, E. S. Wadsworth and wife (brother of the bride);
- Embroidered Silk Handkerchief and Dress Fan, Tom Wong;
- Double Set of Silver Knives, Forks, and Spoons, W. M. Wadsworth and wife (parents of the bride);
- Glass Cake Stand, C. H. Pease and Wife;
- Match Safe, Lester Moon;
- Music Rack and Easel, W. J. Hardy;
- Toilet Set, Mark Pease and wife;
- Set Silver Pie Knives and Plates, Fannie Epperson;
- Sugar Sifter, Lulu and Maggie Lisle;
- Lace Curtains, Lucy and Bessie Roberts.

(Due to lack of space the above is only a partial list.)

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



1958  
MAP

Map, courtesy of Harry Freese  
Oakland, Calif.

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