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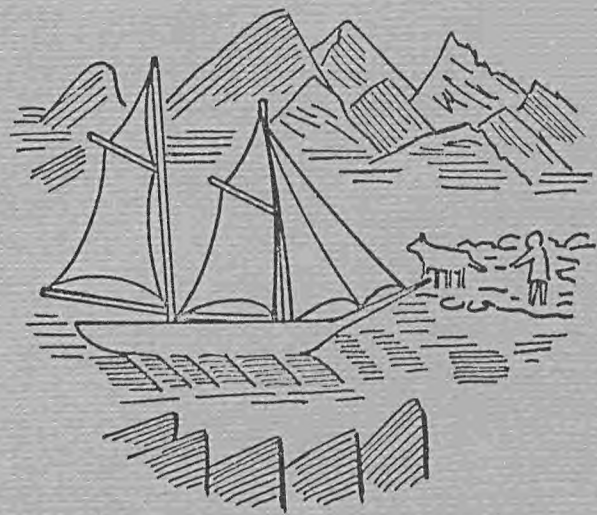
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XI, NO. 3

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

JULY, 1972



THE SEAL OF SUTTER COUNTY ADOPTED JULY 9, 1880

A ship afloat, plains and mountains in the background surrounded by the words "Board of Supervisors, Sutter County California."

Courtesy of Geraldine Hall, Clerk-Recorder

ANNOUNCEMENT

With the acceptance by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors of a gift from Howard H. and Norma Harter of 4.76 acres of land at Onstott Freeway and Butte House Road, as location for a Memorial Museum Park to honor Sutter County pioneers and servicemen, the Sutter County Historical Society has instituted a special fund for development of the property.

The fund is being accumulated in trust, at the Bank of America, Branch No. 152, Colusa Avenue, Yuba City. It is designated as the "Sutter County Historical Society Memorial Museum Park Fund." It has been suggested that a county-owned museum building be erected at the park site, when feasible.

Donations to the fund will provide for planting and caring for trees in a "Living Memorial" grove. The first such trees were put in place at an Arbor Day program, held last March 7 at the site.

Donations may be entered at the bank, either in person or by mail, designated for this special development fund, and listed, if desired, in the name of a specific family or person.

Address mail to:

Sutter County Historical Society Memorial Park Fund
Bank of America, Branch No. 152
777 Colusa Avenue
Yuba City, California 95991

If a specific family or person is to be honored by the donor to the memorial fund, this information should accompany the donation.

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.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XI, No. 3

July, 1972

EDITORIAL STAFF

James Barr

Earl Ramey

Jessica Bird

Irminna Palmer

William Dawson

Helen Schepman

Winifred Greene

Avis Strawhun

Typist - Peggy Schnabel

SUTTERANA

Hock Farm - The **editor** of the Marysville Herald in his comments on a recent visit to the venerable host of Hock Farm, thus describes the present appearance of this "garden spot" of California:

"He rambled with us through his spacious vineyard, densely covered with luxurious vines, from which a bounteous vintage will soon be yielded. He showed us his flower garden - one grand wilderness of floral beauty - and descanted with the enthusiasm of a romantic arborist upon the thrifty promise of his fruit trees. There were plantations of the peach, the apricot, the nectarine, the orange, the lemon, the fig, the pomegranate, the apple, the cherry, the plum and all else that fills the schedule of Pomona's treasures."

From the Sacramento Union, June 16, 1854.

The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. The annual membership dues includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. Your remittance should be sent to Mrs. Wanda Rankin, Treasurer, 805 Orange Street, Yuba City, California. To insure delivery of your NEWS BULLETIN please notify the Treasurer of any change of address.

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* * * * *

* THE SUMMER MEETING *

* The third quarterly membership meeting for 1972 will be held *

* at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 18, in the assembly room at the Sutter *

* County Library in Yuba City. *

* The speaker will be Douglass E. Goss of Yuba City, who will *

* present a talk on "Trails to California". The narrative will be *

* illustrated with slides. Mr. Goss is an engineer with the *

* Pacific Gas and Electric Company in Marysville. *

* * * * *

TALLMAN H. ROLFE
Yuba City's Pioneer Storekeeper

by

Earl Ramey

We might paraphrase one of Will Rogers' witticisms in introducing our subject. Will sometimes apologized for the fact that his ancestors had not come over in the Mayflower but would hasten to add that they had met the boat. So, we shall have to admit that Rolfe was not a Forty-niner, but he was a member of the reception committee who welcomed the Forty-niners, having arrived in California well ahead of them.

Tallman H. Rolfe was born in Maine on September 7, 1824. When he was quite young his family joined the westward movement to the Mississippi Valley where he grew up in Illinois. His parents "bound him out" to a printer when he was sixteen years of age. He was an apt apprentice and learned his trade well. His employer encouraged him to read and study with the result that he became not only quite literate but also generally well informed. By the time he had finished his apprenticeship and had

qualified as a journeyman compositor he had become dissatisfied with the trade, and his interest turned to law. He was allowed to read and study in the office of an attorney and was well along towards qualifying for the Bar when he became restless again. This restless nature was to dominate his entire career.

In the spring of 1845, at the age of twenty, he bought an interest in an ox train and set out overland for Oregon. At that time there was more interest in Oregon than in California because Oregon was claimed as United States territory and offered more inducement to the immigrant than Mexican California.

When he arrived in Oregon in the fall of 1845, there was little industry other than land development. He took up a claim in the Willamette Valley as others were doing, but pioneer farming could hardly satisfy his nature. He found some employment as a printer on the small territorial paper but not enough to engage him. In the spring of 1847 he joined an overland party for California. He arrived in San Francisco during the summer where he readily found a position as a printer on Sam Brannan's new paper, the California Star. He worked on the Star nearly a year.

In explaining the suspension of the Star in June, 1848 it is usually assumed that it was the unanimous rush to the gold diggings which ended the demand for a newspaper. However, publication stopped when Rolfe and the other printer gave notice that they were leaving for the mines on June 14.¹

Rolfe and four partners purchased a whaleboat in San Francisco in which craft, equipped with oars and sail, they expected to reach the diggings. They found that they could not go up the American river far

enough to reach the mines on that stream. They continued up the Sacramento and into the Feather hoping to get near the newly discovered bars on the Yuba. When they reached the mouth of the Yuba at Cordua's ranch, they learned about the discovery at Bidwell Bar. They abandoned their boat and proceeded on foot up the Feather. Rolfe withdrew from the partnership. He became acquainted with John Bidwell at the Bar where he mined individually with fair success.

After winter rains and high water ended his mining on the Feather he went back to Sacramento where he worked as a clerk in Brannan's store until the summer of 1849. There he became acquainted with David Cheever who had just arrived by sea from the East with a stock of merchandise.² The new town of Yuba City was being promoted on paper. Rolfe and Cheever formed a partnership to operate a store in the new town.³ They secured a whaleboat with which to transport their stock and equipment up the Sacramento and Feather and made the first trip in August before the town was finally surveyed and staked out. After erecting a temporary store house of poles and canvas, Cheever remained to attend the store while Rolfe went back to Sacramento with the boat to secure more stock.

The fact that Rolfe was working for Brannan at the time he and Cheever formed their partnership has caused some writers to assume that the store in Yuba City was the property of Brannan. There is no direct evidence for this assumption. Rather, the facts that Cheever brought merchandise from the East, that Rolfe and Cheever had a deed for the lots on which their store was located and that Rolfe had some capital earned in the mines would serve as evidence that these partners were independent. Brannan, who was doing both retail and wholesale business at Sacramento,

very probably sold them some supplies for gold and possibly on credit.⁴

While Rolfe was back in Sacramento during September of 1849 he became acquainted with a young man who was to become a closer friend and partner than even Cheever. This was George Pierson who came overland to California in the summer of 1849. They met in Brannan's store. Rolfe was preparing for the second trip to Yuba City with a boatload of supplies and invited Pierson to go along. When they arrived at the mouth of the Feather they were overtaken by the small steamer Linda which had been brought around the Horn and assembled in Sacramento. It was the first steamboat to enter the Feather river.

The captain and pilot of the Linda knew nothing of the Feather. Rolfe had made two trips before -- one in 1848 and the second in August, 1849. It was agreed that the whaleboat be lashed to the bow of the Linda, and in exchange for the hitch-hike Rolfe was to pilot the Linda through the snag-ridden channel of the Feather as far as Yuba City. The Linda continued on up the Yuba a few miles above Cordua's ranch and later gave its name to the town and township which names yet exist.⁵

Rolfe was no more satisfied to keep store than he had been to work as printer or lawyer. While Cheever kept the store, Rolfe attended to outside duties and entered into a separate partnership with Pierson. He and Pierson were kindred souls; both were opportunists ready for any diversion. They served as agents for the proprietors of Yuba City authorized to sell lots and give title. They also acted as agents for the several steamboats which had begun to operate after December, 1849. They, with a third partner, Joseph Ruth the surveyor, established and conducted a ten-pin alley.⁶

Rolfe and Pierson established the first ferry across the Feather between Yuba City and Cordua's or Nye's ranch as it was then known. The proprietors of Yuba City had declared their intentions to erect a free bridge to attract the trade from up the Yuba. Evidently the two partners believed that the proprietors were serious in the promise to furnish the bridge and that their ferry would soon have no value because they sold it to Woods and Baylis for a small sum. These new owners and their successors reaped a handsome profit before a toll bridge was finally established.

In the fall of 1849 Rolfe got the idea that he and Cheever could expand their business with a branch store. Many immigrants were arriving in California by way of Lassen's cut-off and were coming down the west bank of the Feather. Some of them learned that they could cross the Feather several miles above Yuba City and go east over the plain to strike the Yuba near the diggings without coming down to the mouth of the Yuba.

Rolfe and Pierson went up the Feather with the store's ox team and wagon loaded with supplies and a tent. Pierson was to keep the branch store in the tent. By stretching matters a little we could claim this to be the first chain store system north of Sacramento. Rolfe drove the wagon while Pierson went ahead on foot scouting a trail and a likely place for the store. When Pierson was some distance ahead he met several Indians who crowded around him indicating that they wanted to examine the rifle he was carrying. He became very uneasy not knowing how to handle the Indians or what to expect from them. Soon Rolfe came up with the wagon and comprehended the situation. He "commenced to lay about them his long ox whip" and the Indians moved on.

At a place known as Turner's Ranch was a crossing which was being used by travelers. Here Rolfe left Pierson in the tent with the stock of goods. As they expected, the immigrants needed supplies and were eager to buy, but very few had money with which to pay. Pierson soon sold out his stock on credit with nothing to show for it but a list of names of debtors and amounts owed. Rolfe laughed off the venture remarking that they would just charge it up to profit and loss -- mostly loss. How Cheever relished this peculiar business we were not told.

It was just as well that Rolfe found interests outside of the partnership with Cheever because the store in Yuba City did not thrive. During the winter of 1849-50 Marysville became the trading place for the Yuba miners simply because it was a little more accessible. The trips to Sacramento with the whaleboat were no longer necessary. The several steamboats, the Linda, the Lawrence and others brought up supplies. After they sold their ferry Rolfe and Pierson gave their attention to selling lots for the proprietors and serving as agents for the steamers. They acquired title to many lots in Yuba City, some jointly and some individually, which lots were probably earned as commission on sales they were negotiating for the proprietors. Rolfe also acquired lots jointly with Cheever. But this work as agent was not enough to use up their time and energy.

After Sutter County was created by the Legislature in January, 1850, elections for county offices were called for April. Rolfe and Pierson entered the political field while Cheever took care of the store. George Pierson had already been appointed recorder for the district by

the territorial administration and he was elected to continue as county recorder.⁷ Rolfe took advantage of the opportunity to use some of his legal training. He was a successful candidate for associate justice of the Court of Sessions. This body had both legislative and judicial functions. Some years later it ceased to exercise judicial authority and became known as a board of supervisors.⁸

When the Court of Sessions for Sutter County convened at Oro on June 10, 1850, T. H. Rolfe was present as associate justice. The august Court failed to find hospitable quarters at Oro and moved to Nicolaus. At the next meeting on August 12 Rolfe was present and continued to attend meetings on August 22, November 12 and November 18. But when the Court met for the term of February 1851, Rolfe was absent. At the session of June 1851, he had been replaced by A. G. Caldwell and his ex-officio duties as justice of the peace had been taken over by William F. Nelson.⁹

One of the first cases to come before the Court in the June 1850 session was the application of Woods and Baylis for a franchise to operate the ferry which Rolfe and Pierson had sold to them. Rolfe stepped down from the bench to testify as a witness on behalf of the applicants and then resumed his position on the Court which granted the franchise. Conflict of interest was not a serious problem in 1850.¹⁰

Rolfe's absence from the Court of Sessions after November, 1850 is easily explained. He was getting restless. On December 23, 1850 the Sacramento Index began publication. The proprietors were T. H. Rolfe and two other "practical printers" and two editorial partners. The paper was committed to the support of the Whig Party.

The following illustration is the first entry in the Minutes of the Court of Sessions of Sutter County.

"The first county seat (designated by the legislature) was Oro, which was a noble city of broad streets, imposing buildings and splendid public squares -- on paper, but in fact a tract of land fronting on the south bank of Bear Creek, and distant about two miles from the then and present site of the good old town of Nicolaus."

(Page 30, Thompson and West, History of Sutter County, 1879)

The Court met here on June 10, 1850, but found no adequate housing for the county government. Then began a sojourn of six years to find a permanent seat. By order of the Court the county government moved to Nicolaus. The next move was to Auburn. But when Placer County was formed in 1851, Auburn went with it and Vernon became the seat. However, by 1852 Vernon had nearly ceased to be an urban community; so the government came back to Nicolaus. In 1854 a county-wide election was held to choose a seat. Yuba City was winner, but this election was contested by the partisans of Nicolaus and other sections of the county. Yuba City became "acting seat" until 1856 when a second election made it the permanent county seat.

Tallman H. Rolfe's signature may be seen as one of the three judges.

The illustration is through the courtesy of Geraldine Hall, Clerk-Recorder of Sutter County.

State of California }
Sutter County } f

Court of Sessions, for Criminal Business,
June Term, begun and holden at
Oro this 10th day of June A.D. 1857.

Present, The Hon G. N. Mott, Chief Judge

~ ~ ~ P. W. Thomas Associate J.
J. B. Reardon J. N. Roepe }

Clk.

The Court having been duly organized,
among other Proceedings, the following were
had to wit,

Upon it appearing to the Court, that there
was not proper and necessary accommodations
and Buildings at Oro, the County Seat for
the holding of the Court and for the offices
of the several County Officers who are
by law required to keep their Offices
open; it was ordered that, for the
future and until said Buildings can
be procured at the County Seat, the
Courts and the County Officers shall
be held and kept open at Nicolais,
being the most nearest place where such buildings could
and the Clerk of said Court was ordered
to give notice of the above order.

There being no more Business before
the Court to day, it was adjourned to
meet to morrow at Nicolais, at 11 o'clock
A.M.

G. N. Mott
Philip A. Thomas
J. H. Rolfe.

During the year of 1850 Rolfe liquidated nearly all of his holdings in Yuba City. He and Cheever divided their joint property and he and Pierson did the same. The store of Rolfe and Cheever was closed out. Later the sheriff liquidated his individual equity in town lots by selling them for taxes. A large fraction of Yuba City was so transferred from owners who acquired title from the founders to obscure owners who followed.

Rolfe's venture into the newspaper field was short lived in Sacramento. The Index failed to gain support. The last issue was dated March 17, 1851. The vigilance movement was developing. A gambler shot and killed a man in Sacramento and a mob hanged the gambler. The Index condemned the mob action and lost popular favor.¹¹

After the failure of the Index Rolfe worked as printer on both of the other Sacramento papers - The Placer Times and The Times Transcript. Then in July, 1851 he moved to Nevada City.

At this point we must note the sources of the greater portion of the information contained in this article. A younger brother of Tallman, I. G. Rolfe, came to California in 1850 and located at Nevada City in May of 1851. These two brothers became part owners of the Nevada Democrat and later of the Daily Gazette.

In 1880 when the publishers, Thompson and West, were preparing their History of Nevada County, they asked I. G. Rolfe to give them a biographical sketch of his brother Tallman who was deceased by that time. Naturally, I. G. Rolfe could supply the intimate family history and Tallman's personal experiences excepting those of the Sutter County period about which Tallman evidently had not told him much.

George Pierson left Sutter County about the same time that Rolfe left. He became interested in quartz mining in Yuba County for a while and by 1880 was engaged in silver mining in Utah. I. G. Rolfe wrote to him asking for information about their Sutter County affairs. Pierson responded with a long letter recalling their experiences. I. G. Rolfe gave this letter to Thompson and West for their reference. It became one of the many documents accumulated by these publishers.

After Thompson and West ceased publishing, their papers were acquired by the Huntington Library. The Library gathered those papers which relate to Yuba and Sutter Counties and put them on film. This reel of film can be read in the Sutter County Library and in the Marysville City Library. The letter from Pierson, from which much information in this article is taken, is Document No. 81. The biographical sketch of Tallman H. Rolfe is found on pages 228 and 229 of the History of Nevada County by Thompson and West, 1880.

The biography of Tallman Rolfe after 1851 is properly a part of the history of Nevada County, and we must not presume to treat it at length in our News Bulletin. He and his brother were prominent citizens of the county for the next twenty years. Tallman was active in three fields.

After working a short time in Nevada City as printer, he and his partner, Ewer, turned to mining. A news item in the Nevada column of a Sacramento paper states "Messrs. Ewer and Rolfe are putting up on their lead on Deer Creek the smaller machine brought out by Mr. J. A. Collins, which drew the premium at the fair in New York. Their lead is above the ordinary richness."¹²

The publishers of Bean's History and Directory in 1867 commissioned Rolfe to write the section giving the history and origin of hydraulic mining in California. His account is yet quoted today as an authority.¹³ His interest in mining caused him to spend three years in Nevada territory after the silver strike.

Rolfe retained his interest in legal procedure and continued the judiciary practice he had begun in Sutter County. In 1853 he was elected justice of the peace for Nevada Township and in 1871 was re-elected to the same office.

His main interest was journalism and politics. As has been stated above, with his brother and other partners, he published the Nevada Democrat for ten years and later in 1866 he conducted the Daily Gazette for two years.

Rolfe was regarded as a pioneer printer and journalist of California. Evidence of this fact appeared in 1859 when Samuel Brannan advertised for information which might lead to the whereabouts of the press which he had brought to California on the Brooklyn in 1846, and on which the California Star had been printed. It seems incredible that an object as large as a printing press could be lost thirteen years.

Rolfe responded in a letter to the Sacramento Union giving clues to the location of the press. He stated that the last time he had seen it was in July of 1851 when he left Sacramento for Nevada City, and he gave the location where he had seen it. He was also able to account for its being in Sacramento after being discarded in San Francisco. Furthermore, he was able to guess where it had been taken from Sacramento after 1851. These clues led to its discovery in a foundry at Sutter Creek where parts of it had already been recycled.¹⁴

Rolfe's political development is typical of the period. He began as a regular Democrat, but moved to the Broderick-Douglas wing in the late 1850's. Then during the Civil War he joined the Union coalition but moved on to Republican ranks after the war.

In 1872 Rolfe suffered a serious attack of pneumonia from which he never recovered. He went to southern California seeking a milder climate and died in San Bernardino. In Pioneer Cemetery in San Bernardino the monument over his grave reads:

TALLMAN H. ROLFE
Born Oxford County Maine September 7, 1824¹⁵
Died San Bernardino November 18, 1872¹⁵

Rolfe's biography written by his contemporaries, ends with this eulogy:

"He was upright and honest in all of his transactions, and although often the victim of those who took advantage of his confiding nature, he retained till the last a pleasant view of life. Skeptical and with slight hope of a future existence his life was an exemplification of the Golden Rule."

Tallman Rolfe never married and left no direct descendants.

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1. Edward C. Kemble, A History of California Newspapers 1846-1858, p. 79, Edited by Helen Bretnor, 1962.
2. John H. Eagleston, An Early California Voyage, p. 26.
3. Sacramento Placer Times, August 25, 1849.
4. Book A of Deeds, p. 6, Sutter County.
5. Thompson and West, History of Yuba County, p. 108.
6. Deeds B, p. 37, Sutter County.
7. Deeds A, p. 20, Sutter County.
8. Thompson and West, History of Sutter County, p. 31.
9. Minute Book, Court of Sessions, Sutter County, June 10, 1850 - December 10, 1853, pp. 1-51.
10. Ibid, p. 25.
11. Kemble, op. cit., p. 145.
12. Sacramento Union, July 16, 1853.
13. Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County 1867, p. 62.
14. Sacramento Union, November 25, 28, December 2, 1859.
15. Film containing Records of Cemeteries in California. Daughters of the American Revolution, 1934. Reel One, Volume 2.

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OVERLAND
TOURS.

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Five Thousand Miles of Main Tours,

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DESCRIPTIVE—ILLUSTRATED.

BY GEO. A. CROFUTT

AUTHOR OF OVERLAND AND COLORADO DESCRIPTIVE TOURISTS' BOOKS.

H. J. SMITH & CO., PUBLISHERS,

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1889.

SOLD WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BY

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ELI S. DENISON, General News Agent, Oakland Pier, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, California, and Portland, Oregon; comprising the entire Southern Pacific Co.'s Pacific system.

RAILROAD NEWS CO., General News Agents, Chicago, Kansas City, and Los Angeles, California; comprising the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, "Burlington," and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific complete systems.

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THE TOWNS OF YUBA AND SUTTER COUNTIES AS DESCRIBED IN CROFUTT'S
TOURIST GUIDE, PUBLISHED IN THE EDITION DATED 1889

Compiled by Robert L. Ryan

The title page reproduced here is from only one of the many tour guides published after the completion of the transcontinental railroad. The excerpts that follow describe the Yuba and Sutter Counties area as of that date for the tourist traveling on the Southern Pacific enroute to Portland, Oregon.

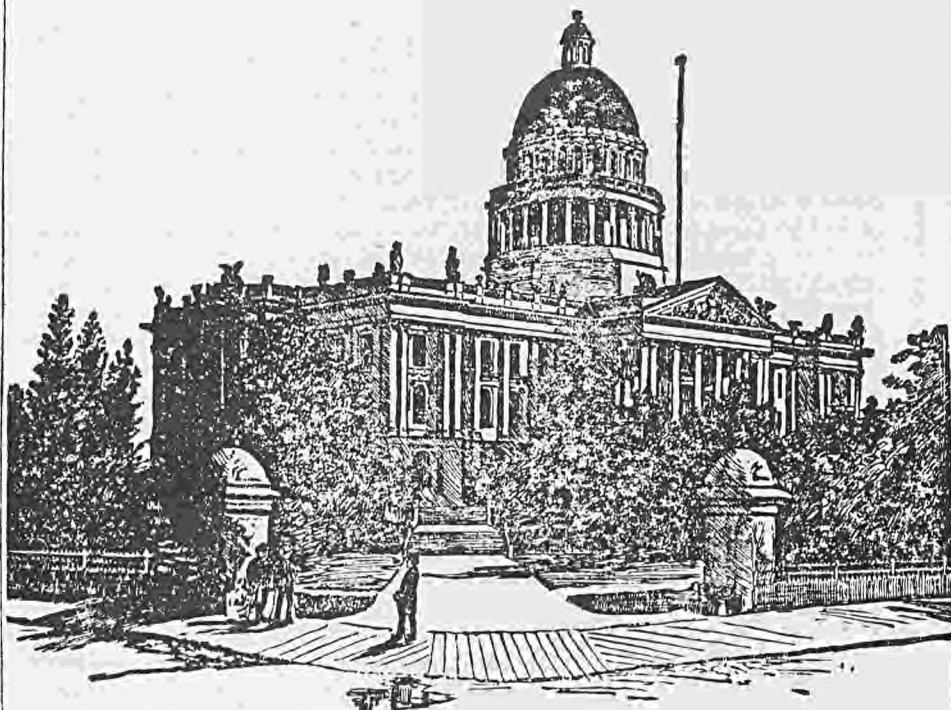
The various tourist guides give the historian a picture of the towns and the countryside as viewed by the author or his agents, as they existed as of the date of publication. One of the first guide books appears to have been issued in San Francisco entitled "Great Transcontinental Tourist Guide." Then J. C. Fergusson edited "The Alta California, Pacific Coast and Transcontinental Railroad Guide." This edition was published in San Francisco by the Fred Mac Crellish & Co.

The first Crofutt guide was dated September 1, 1869 and then was revised annually. In 1878 the name was changed from "Transcontinental Tourist" to "New Overland Tourist and Pacific Coast Guide". In 1883 the name was changed again, as shown on the reproduction to "Crofutt's Overland Tours" and the description that follows is taken from the seventh edition published under that name.

Henry T. William's guide, published in 1879, must have had the longest name he could think of - "The Pacific Tourist, William's Illustrated Guide to Pacific Railroads, California and Pleasure Resorts Across the Continent". A later revised edition was titled "William's Pacific Coast Tourist, A Complete Travel Guide to the Union and Central Pacific Railroads".

The co-authors and publishers, Adams and Bishop, issued a guide in 1884 with the all inclusive title, "Adams and Bishop's Illustrated Transcontinental Guide to Travel, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean". Several revised editions were published, but the contents were later absorbed and made a part of "William's Pacific Tour Guide".

Another interesting development that came along with the many and varied tour guides, to whet the interest of the eastern citizen in the "Far West", was the rapid improvement of the camera, and the ability to produce stereopticon pictures. To keep up with the demand for pictures it is estimated that more than one thousand photographers produced millions of views, from San Francisco to Salt Lake, and of course, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yo Semite Valley (the spelling in Crofutt's).



STATE CAPITOL OF CALIFORNIA.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO PORTLAND.

From San Francisco to Portland, Oregon, it is 768 miles. The usual route is via Sacramento and Marysville, keeping on the *East* side of the Sacramento river from Sacramento City to Tehama, 125 miles. Another route keeps on the *West* side of the Sacramento river to Tehama, where the two lines meet. The last named route will be found under ANNEX 12.

Leaving San Francisco, we *follow back* on the Overland Route via Benicia and Sacramento to JUNCTION (18 miles East of the city of Sacramento) and then turn *North*, to the *left*, leaving the Overland track, to the *right*.

From the Junction we are whirled along lively in and out among the foot-hills and groves of live oaks, where sheep are wont to graze, crossing Auburn ravine in six miles and in four miles come to the village of LINCOLN, a manufacturing point for sewer pipe and pottery. Then pass an old Turkey ranche, and a fac-simile of a New England farm, only the rocks are more uniform in size, cross Coon Creek, and are at

Sheridan—[18 miles from Junction]. This is a small village situated on an open plain where most of the lands are used for grazing. Crossing the Bear, which has broad sand covered bottoms from the "slickings" coming down from the mines, we roll along into

Wheatland—[Two miles; pop., 1,000]. A place very properly named, as it is situated in one great wheat-field, with stores, churches, schools, banks and many fine buildings, a flouring-mill, a weekly newspaper—the *Graphic*—and an enterprising class of farmers. The lands are nearly all under cultivation—mostly cereals, but fruit is becoming an industry of importance.

Continuing along through fine fields we drop down onto the bottom lands of the Yuba river. On each side of the Yuba, are high, broad dikes, which extend up and down as far as you can see, thrown up

to keep the river from overflowing its banks, to the damage of the surrounding country. The river bottom here is a mile in width, covered with oaks and willows, across which the road is built on high trestles. Crossing over, we soon reach the city of

Marysville—[Pop., 5,500; from Sacramento, 52 miles]. The seat of Yuba county, situated on the North bank of Yuba river. It was first settled in 1849, and named in honor of the only white woman within its limits, Mrs. Mary Covilland. The town is built of brick, the streets wide, and laid out at right angles. The chief beauty of Marysville consists in the shrubbery which ornaments the town, though there are many elegant public buildings and private residences in the city. Scarcely will you find a dwelling that is not surrounded with a forest of fruit trees, including orange and shade trees, or embowered in a mass of vines and flowers. The city is on a level plain, 12 miles from the foot-hills, and protected from the spring floods of the Yuba by a dyke or high embankment. The city supports two daily papers, the *Appeal* and *Democrat*, has several good hotels, chief of which are the United States and Western. There are two seminaries, four public and numerous private schools; also seven churches. The city is lighted with electricity and gas, and supplied with water from an artesian well 300 feet deep, from which it is elevated by steam power to a reservoir, and thence conducted all over the city. It has quite a number of manufactories, including three iron foundries and machine shops, woolen mills, flour mills, etc. Agriculture, fruit culture and stock-raising are now the principal source of wealth of the county.

Saw-mills are numerous in the county, as immense quantities of lumber are shipped from Marysville. Canals and ditches for mining and irrigation are quite numerous. One is 150 miles in length and cost, with its branches, \$500,000.

In "ye olden times," light draft steamboats run regularly between Sacramento and Marysville via Feather river, but their glory departed with the arrival of the railroad. The vitality of Marysville is something wonderful. It has been visited by a score of conflagrations and inundated half a dozen times, but still it flourished. The river-bed has gradually risen about it, from the placer mining above, but the indefatigable citizens have built levees all around their town, raising foot after foot, until today the place is safe.

The climate of Yuba county is like that of all the valley districts—dry and hot in the summer and wet in the winter. There really is no winter in the Eastern acceptance of the term. All through the months known as autumn and winter the fields on those rich deltas and foot-hills are busy, bustling scenes, with plows, harrows and seed-sowers. Cattle graze on the new vegetation, the groves are vocal with the songs of birds that remain here the whole year.

Stages leave Marysville for Colusa, 29 miles West; Downieville, 67 miles Northeast; North San Juan, 38 miles; Grass Valley, 35 miles; La Porte, 65 miles. Fare, about 10 cents per mile.

The Northern California railroad, from Marysville to Oroville, 26 miles, run regular passenger trains each way daily, usually connecting with the Southern. The line runs to the Eastward of the Feather river through Honcut. The town of

Yuba City—Is situated about one mile West of Marysville, on the East bank of the Feather river just above its junction with the Yuba. It contains a population of about 700, has a large fruit cannery, and many of the modern improvements. Sutter County is altogether an agricultural county, and in many respects it is a pioneer county in agriculture. Allgeier made his settlement there in the spring of 1842, but the county was named in honor of General John A. Sutter, its first settler, who, in 1849, had been living for several years upon his estate, known as Hock Farm, on the West bank of the Feather river, then called the Rio de Los

Plumas. It was in Gen. Sutter's millrace, at Coloma, El Dorado County, Jan. 10th, 1848, that the first gold was discovered in California. General Sutter was widely and favorably known, having received with much hospitality at his trading post, known as "Sutter's Fort," many of the immigrants of 1849-50. It was at Hock Farm that the first farming was done in Sutter county. There General Sutter had a large garden and vineyard. He also planted a number of fruit trees of various kinds, including quite a large grove of fig trees. At that time almost the whole area between the Feather and Sacramento rivers was in wild oats and made famous grazing land for cattle. Now the bulk of it is in wheat and orchards. Oranges and lemons grow about Yuba City, prolific fig trees grow along the rivers. Apples have been a good crop since 1845. An era of vine planting has set in, almond orchards are quite numerous in the Northern part of the county, and the prunes, plums, apricots and peaches of Sutter are among the best the market affords.

THE BUTTES—called the "Marysville Buttes," are a noted landmark to the Westward about ten miles. They consist of a series of peaks that rise from the crest of an isolated mountain range, which stands bold and clear among the plains, 1,000 feet in height. From appearances, one would be led to suppose that this ridge crossed the valley at one time, when this was an inland sea; and when the waters escaped from the lower valley, those confined above cut a portion of the ridge down level with the plain, and escaping, left a beautiful valley above.

From the summits of their bald peaks a fine view can be had of a great portion of the Sacramento Valley, including **MOUNT SHASTA**, away to the Northward, 196 miles distant. It is covered with perpetual snow, and is the head and source of the Sacramento river. To the Northwest, in the Coast Range, can be distinctly seen **Mts. LINN, ST. JOHN and RIPLEY**. On the South, **Mt. DIABLO** in the Contra Costa range, while on the East, from North to South, is the long range of the Sierra Nevadas, as far as the eye can reach.

Leaving Marysville, one mile North, we cross the track of the Oroville railroad, pass several cemeteries on the right, also a race track; then, bear away to the left—Northwest—and cross the Feather river on a long trestle bridge. Along this river live oaks and sycamore trees abound by the million.

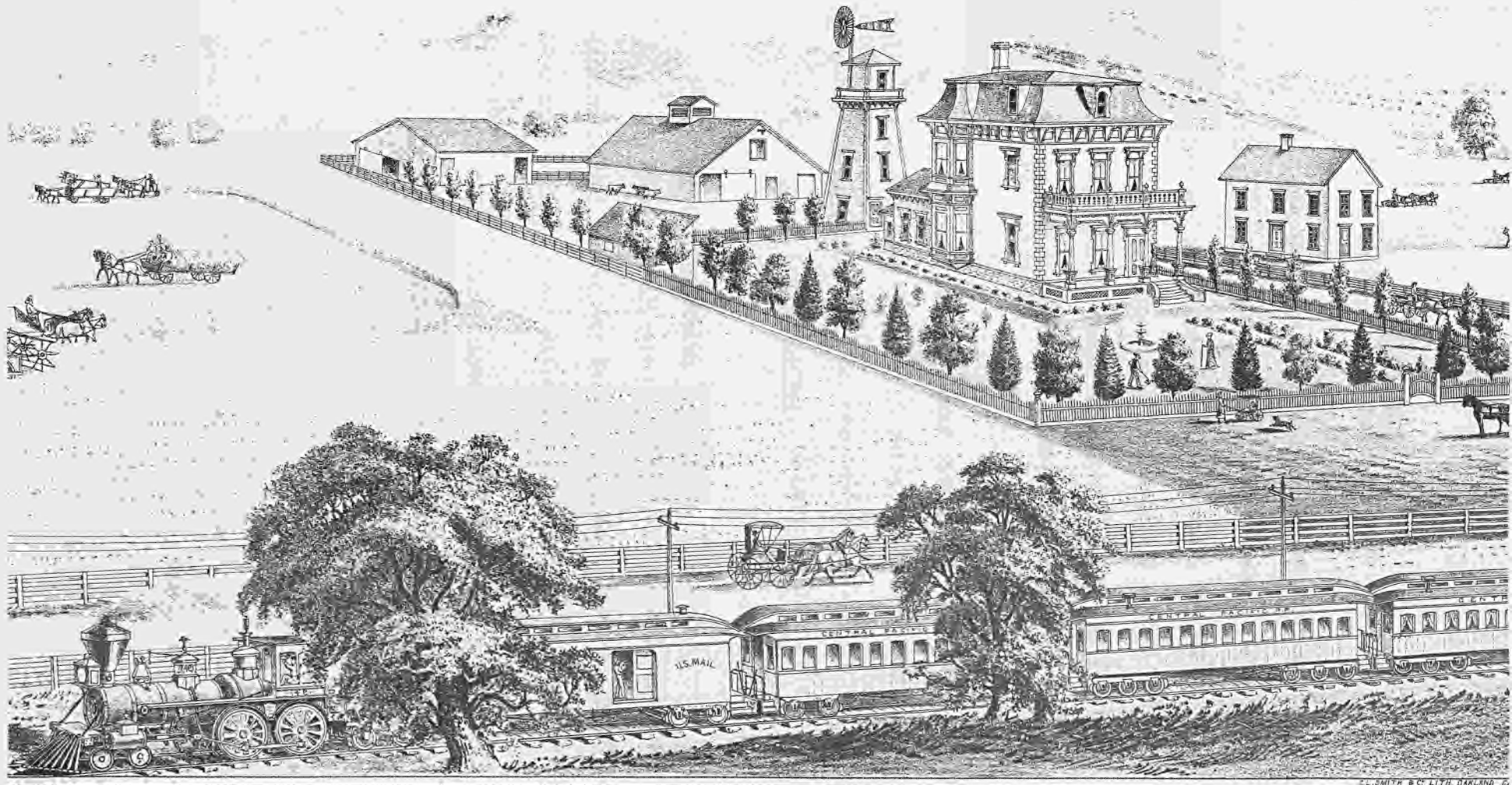
Live Oak—[11 miles; pop., 400]. Situated in the midst of some thousands of acres of young live oaks and Manzanita shrubs, as well as fine wheat fields.

A pool of Marysville citizens has recently purchased 320 acres near this place, with the design of gradually converting it into an immense orchard. Bartlett pears will be set out on a portion of the place this season and the remainder of the land prepared to be planted in other fruit trees next year. This is an illustration of the steady change in this neighborhood from grain-growing to fruit-growing. Peach and apricot orchards along the Feather river net \$100 per acre in the fourth year from planting.

Passing along with the broad valley of the Sacramento on the left, which stretches away as far as the eye can reach, and the Feather River Valley on the right, beyond which are the lofty Sierras, we reach

Gridley—[Seven miles]. This is another small town in the midst of immense wheat fields. Here are large warehouses, flour mill, several stores, and a few fine private residences. The station was named for a Mr. Gridley, maybe a brother of "Old Bob," who one time a tract of 35,000 acres adjoining the station, the portion of which was worked by farmers on a division of crops. Live oaks abound in this section of country.

Biggs—[Three miles]. Is surrounded by wheat and some fruit. This place was named for Mr. George Biggs, who like Mr. Gridley, is possessed of nearly 30,000 acres of these wheat lands, much of which yields from 45 to 60 bushels to the acre.



RANCH OF **BERG BROTHERS**. RESIDENCE OF **HERMAN** AND **FREDERICK BERG**. 2000 ACRES,
SUE IRBS OF YUBA CITY, SUTTER CO. CAL.

CLEANINGS
Gathered by Winifred Greene

The Court of Sessions (predecessor of the Board of Supervisors) at a meeting in Nicolaus adopted a county seal. "The device represents a man in the act of shooting a grizzly bear, mountains in the background and the following words are inscribed around the margin of the seal, viz. 'The County Court of Sutter County, California'".

Minutes of the Court of Sessions, August 22, 1850.

The Feather, Yuba and Bear rivers are quite low and about as clear as spring water. This is owing to the stoppage of hydraulic mining, by injunction by ice, snow and courts.

The Sutter County Farmer, January 10, 1890.

Teachers Examination

The Board of Education of Sutter County will meet for the examination of applicants for Teachers Certificates, Tuesday, March 4, 1890 at 9 o'clock a.m. All applicants must be on hand promptly at 9 o'clock.

G. B. Lyman, Secretary

The Sutter County Farmer, February 28, 1890.

Treasurer's Notice

I hereby give notice that I will visit the different Townships and Bars in this County in from ten to fifteen days from this date, for the purpose of collecting taxes. All persons who have been assessed will please be ready with the amount of their taxes.

Levi Taylor, Treasurer
County of Yuba

Marysville Herald, September 24, 1850