



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

buttecountyhistoricalsociety.org visit us on facebook buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

The Research Corner

by Nancy Brower



Have you ever wondered how your grandparents and great-grandparents filled their leisure hours? Sure, chores generally took longer without today's electronic conveniences. Also, many of them spent far more than today's standard eight hours per day at their paying jobs. However, as the saying goes "all work and no play makes Jack/Jill a dull boy/girl."

One of the most significant free time activities was participation in fraternal and civic organizations. Even a brief glance at the newspapers of the late 1800s and the first half of the 1900s reveals a multitude of articles regarding the activities of fraternal organizations, including the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, Modern Woodmen of America, the Elks, and the Eagles. However, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Civic organizations such as the Monday Club, Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West, garden clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary International, Soroptimist, and business associations also vied for the personal time of their members. Card clubs, particularly for playing bridge, were also very popular.



Native Daughters of the Golden West dinner honoring Florence Danforth Boyle as State President

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**Joining the Butte County
 Historical Society**

BCHS is primarily supported by memberships and donations from the people and the friends of Butte County and receives no direct government funding. Membership in BCBS is open to all.

Members receive:

- Slickens (monthly newsletter)
- The Diggin's (quarterly publication)
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- Early notice of BCBS programs and activities

BCBS PROPERTIES

Ehmann Home
 1480 Lincoln, Oroville
 Saturdays — 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 530-533-5316

Museum - Archives
 Corner of Spencer and Baldwin
 Oroville
 530-533-9418

Museum
 Friday from 9 am - Noon
 Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm

Archives
 Thursday and Friday
 9 am - Noon

Oregon City School
 2100 Oregon Gulch Road
 Oregon City, CA
 Saturday & Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm
 530-533-1849

Bangor Church
 5730 LaPorte Road, Bangor, CA
 Noon to 2 pm on 1st & 3rd Saturday
 Closed: Dec., Jan., Jul. and Aug.
 530-679-2112

BCBS Membership Application

Check one:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$40) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family (\$35) | |

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Mail with your check to: BCBS, P. O. Box 2195, Oroville, CA 95965

And the winner is.....



Claudia Lang, curator for the Colman Museum in Butte Creek Canyon, won one of the quilts in this year's opportunity drawing. Hers was the first name drawn. The winner of the second quilt is Doug Patterson of Forest Ranch.

Thanks to every one who participated this year. We appreciate your support of BCHS and our mission.

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues for 2021. If you aren't sure, check your Slickens mailing label for your expiration date.




In Memoriam
Ken Gardner
Jim Jessee

The BCHS Mission
is to preserve Butte County's rich and varied history, making it engaging and meaningful for all.

Board Meets at the Ehmann Home the 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm

2020 Officers
President - Kent Fowler
Vice President - Dale Wangberg
Secretary - Sandy Brodrick
Treasurer - Dorothy Lindsay

Board Members at Large
Margorie Daley
Dixie Hargrove
Tim Jones
Larry Mauch
Phil Ravert
Larry Tracy

Publications Staff
Diggin's - Nancy Brower
Slickens - Dale Wangberg

Museum Director - Lucy Sperlin
Ehmann Home - Alberta Tracy

Welcome!

New Members:

Caroline Denicke - Mill Valley
Amanda Gurr - Palermo
Darlene Bouma - Castro Valley
Linda Kennedy - Susanville
Teri Tata - Oroville

Remember!

If you have research needs please don't hesitate to call us, email us or contact us through Facebook. The Archives are not open to the public, but several volunteers are able to access the collection and they are ready and willing to assist you!

Phone: 530-533-9418
Email: buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

The Research Corner

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In addition to providing enjoyable hours of socializing, these organizations were important to businessmen who cemented many a lucrative deal through these personal associations. It is rare to read an obituary which doesn't mention membership in one or often-times more fraternal or civic organizations. Judge Lott's obituary devotes significant space to his deep connection to the Order of the Knights Templar, a Masonic group, which conducted his funeral services. Indeed, fraternal organizations frequently were responsible for conducting services for the deceased. The connection to other members of a group often had somewhat unexpected benefits. As a ten or eleven year old my great-great grandfather escaped a beating for teaching a slave to read because both his father and the irate slave owner were Masons.

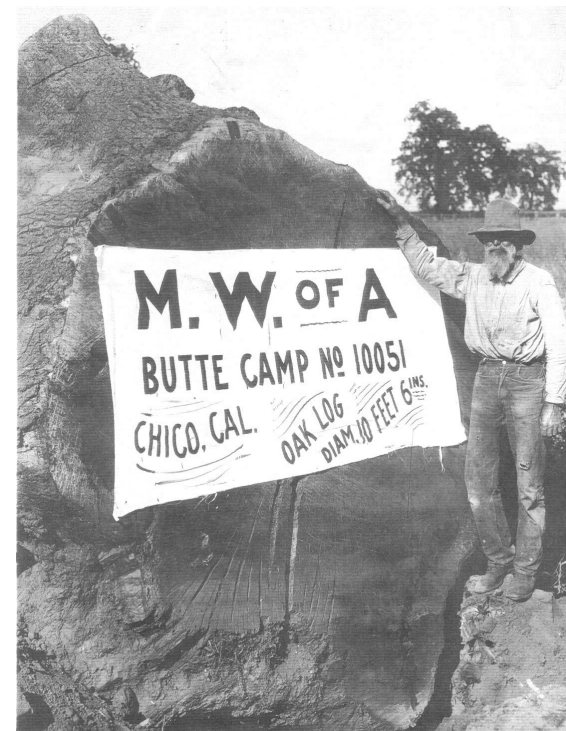
There were some quirky, non-traditional organizations as well. While doing newspaper research, I stumbled across a series of articles published around 1908-1912 about the Sons of Rest and the Rabbits. Both groups met on the courthouse grounds in Oroville. The Sons of Rest discussed a wide range of topics "political, economic,



IOOF lodge in Biggs

social, moral and immoral." Whereas the Rabbits conducted "disputative, argumentable and socratic" gatherings.

The fraternal organizations maintain membership records. Often times their members transferred from an earlier place of residence. In fact, records often include birth dates and other information of interest to genealogists and family historians. At the very least, newspaper articles detailing the activities of fraternal and civic organizations help to bring both individuals and the community alive to the researcher.



An early Butte County settler poses next to a Modern Woodmen of America banner. Circa 1900