

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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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 BCHS is open to all.

Members receive:

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

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

BCHS 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
 530-533-9418

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

The Research Corner

by Nancy Brower



Place Names: Mount Ida

Questions about the location or history of a place name are fairly frequent at the archives. Recently we were asked about the origin of the name Mount Ida, as the requester recently purchased property on Mount Ida Road and was curious as to its origin. The first common usage of the name was the Mount Ida Ranch in the Wyandotte area where in 1867 John C. Gray, an educator turned lawyer and judge, planted the first commercial olive grove in Butte County. I have no proof to support my theory, but I believe that the name was chosen in honor of Judge Gray's daughter Ida Bell. The name Mount Ida does not appear in any local newspapers before that time. The ranch encompassed 520 acres, with 165 of them planted in olives. Oranges were also a large crop for Gray. The Olive Products Company was incorporated in 1916, later changing its name to Mount Ida Packing Company.

The Mount Ida Mineral Water Company was established by Gray in 1909. The water was bottled and advertised as being served in restaurants as far away as the San Francisco Bay area. Apparently there were also accommodations where people stayed to drink the waters and improve their health. The newspapers printed several articles touting its efficacy in restoring its consumers to vitality.

According to Florence Danforth Boyle in *Old Days in Butte*, Mount Ida was important in the 1850s due to the fact that a branch of the Beckwourth Trail ran near it. Travelers coming down from the mountain areas passed through Mount Ida, Wyandotte, and Garden Ranch on their way to Oroville.

MT. IDA MINERAL WATER

ANALYSIS.

Silica.....	2.07	grs.
Potassium Sulphate.....	3.24	
Sodium Sulphate (Glauber's Salts).....	18.73	
Sodium Bicarbonate.....	1.12	
Sodium Chloride, Salt.....	8.52	
Lithia with Spectroscope.....	8.79	strong
Calcium Carbonate.....	2.57	
Calcium Sulphate, Gypsum.....	2.57	
Strontia, with Spectroscope.....	strong	
Magnesium Carbonate.....	2.85	
Iron Carbonate.....	70	
Manganese Carbonate.....	traces	
Boric Acid, with Spectroscope.....	strong	
Organic Matter.....	traces	
Total grains per gallon.....	49.00	
Free Carbonic acid gas per gallon 27.04		
Temperature.....	65°F	

A mildly chalybeate water, possessing also quite strong purgative as well as diuretic properties.

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E. HIGGINS,
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 Acting Director.
 M. E. JAFFA,
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 Analysts.

