



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$45) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$105) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family (\$40) | |

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

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

BCHS PROPERTIES

Ehmann Home
 1480 Lincoln, Oroville
 (Temporarily Closed)
 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
 Opening March 11th
 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

**2023 Museum Weekend
 and the
 Opening of the Butte County History Center**

Join us on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th and 26th as we re-open for the 2023 season with some new displays and an improved configuration for presentations and events. BCHS will be participating in the 4th Annual Butte County Museum Weekend hosted by Explore Butte County. As part of this event, we will be open 10 am to 4 pm both days, with free admission.



Our new Asian Culture display will include the six panel oriental screen shown on this page. The screen carvings depict scenes of heavenly life, village life and river people and is decorated with ivory, mother of pearl and hard stone.

Also new, a multi-panel chronology and interpretation of the Chinese pioneers in the Oroville area of Butte County will be on display. We hope to see you there!



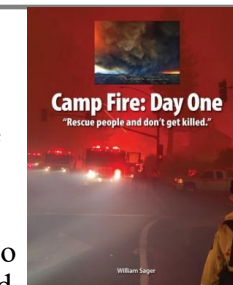
Top: Six panel Oriental screen at its former Ehmann Home location. It will soon be the centerpiece of a new Asian Culture display at the BCHS History Center

Bottom, left and right: Detail from the screen showing scenes of oriental life.

**Author Talk
 February 25th, 2:00 pm
 Butte County History Center
 1749 Spencer Avenue, Oroville**

Along with our other activities on February 25th, we will be hosting an author talk by William Sager, co-author of *Spillway Emergency* and most recently, author of *Camp Fire Day One: "Rescue people and don't get killed."* Mr. Sager will talk about writing the book, the back story and the emotional aspect of reliving the events of November 2018.

The talk begins at 2:00 pm.



To see a color copy of this newsletter online, visit our website at buttecountyhistory.com.

While you're there, check out our expanding resources for researchers of Butte County's fascinating history. (And our bookstore)

Wildflower Season is Coming Soon!

A Volunteer Opportunity

The abundant rains we have received this winter are sure to translate into an awesome wildflower season on Table Mountain as spring arrives. We will be opening the Oregon City School for tours on weekends, March 11th through April 23rd. We are looking for docents to assist on those weekends between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you are interested, give us a call at 530-533-9418, or email at:

buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

No special training or past experience is required, just bring your passion for local history!



Welcome!

New Members

Amy Evans — Chico

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

Board Meets at the Butte County History Center the
2nd Wednesday at 7 pm

2023 Officers

President - Larry Tracy
Vice President - Dale Wangberg
Vice President, Finance - Larry Mauch
Secretary - Sandy Brodrick
Treasurer - Janet Bertagna

Board Members at Large

Marjorie Daley
Dixie Hargrove
Lynsea Wells
Peggie Adamson
Daniel Ballard
Dorothy Lindsay

Past President

Kent Fowler

Publications Staff

Diggin's - Nancy Brower
Slickens - Dale Wangberg

Remember

Memberships expire on December 31st. Please check your mailing label to determine if you paid your dues for 2023. If not, you can mail them in, stop by the Archives on a Thursday or Friday morning, or pay through our website at:

buttecountyhistory.com

Thank you.

Save the Date !

**Butte County Museum Weekend and BCHS
Re-Opening: February 25&26**

**Presentation: Oroville's Two Chinatowns
March 18th.**

The Research Corner

By Nancy Brower



Starting work on a research question can feel like going down a rabbit hole. That was certainly the case recently when I was asked for a photo of Austin Darby, a lifelong resident of the Oroville area. The requestor, who lives out of state, had recently purchased three journals that were kept by Darby during his career as a forest ranger 1905-1909. The purchaser plans to scan the journals and eventually make them available on a public website, so he was hoping to obtain a photo of Darby and at least a small amount of personal information to augment the journals.

The first stop was PastPerfect, our collection catalog. It revealed that BCHS has several photos of the Darby family, including Austin and his wife Ruby (Hedge) Darby. From other cataloging records, it was apparent that the Darbys owned a store and that they were members of the El Medio Dance Club. The *Gold Mountain Record*, published by the Yuba-Feather Historical Association, contains information on the Darby family as Austin's grandparents located in the Rackerby area soon after they crossed the plains in 1852. Newspapers.com unearthed a wealth of information, including the fact that Austin Darby was the first ranger in the Merrimac District. From 1915-1925 Austin and Ruby Darby ran the Letterbox Hotel near Buck's Ranch in the summer months. In 1925 they opened their grocery store on Palermo Road, which they operated until 1951. Research doesn't uncover this volume of information for everyone, but the combination of several different sources in this case allowed the patron to create a fairly comprehensive biography of Austin Darby to go along with his journals. We've asked him to let us know when he has the journals online so that we can place a link on the BCHS webpage.



Photo believed to be Austin Darby, first Merrimac Forest Ranger. BCHS photo archives.

Coming Soon!

March 18th at 2 pm

Butte County History Center

1749 Spencer Avenue in Oroville

Oroville's Two Chinatowns and the Lava Beds

(A history from the 1850's to the 1940's)
Photo Chinese Temple circa 1938 before restoration



Help!

We are seeking volunteers for our mailing committee. If you have a few hours to spare each month, the work consists of folding newsletters and preparing them for bulk mail. Four times a year, our quarterly publication **Diggins** is stuffed in envelopes and included in the mailing. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, call Nancy at 530-533-9418.