



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Upcoming Events

**Yard Sale Fundraiser: Saturday, August 31**  
**8 am to 2 pm. At the Ehmann Home**  
**1480 Lincoln Street in Oroville**

Join us on Saturday, August 31, as we hold a Yard Sale fundraiser for BCBS. We have lots of cool stuff that has been donated, and we can assure you there will be something there to interest you.

As in the past, this event is held in conjunction with the Mile Long Yard Sale in downtown Oroville. Be sure to visit us and support us in our mission to preserve Butte County History!

If you have items to donate please contact us at (530)-533-9418



### Inside This Issue

PAGE 1  
 Yard Sale  
 Alvin Coffey program  
 Quilts!

PAGE 2  
 Ehmann Family Visit  
 New Book!  
 New Members  
 In Memoriam  
 Save the Date

PAGE 3  
 Olive Festival Thanks  
 Research Corner

PAGE 4  
 BCBS Information  
 Membership Application

### Joining the Butte County Historical Society

BCBS 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 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: BCBS, P. O. Box 2195, Oroville, CA 95965

### BCBS PROPERTIES

**Ehmann Home**  
 1480 Lincoln, Oroville  
 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm  
 530-533-9418

**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

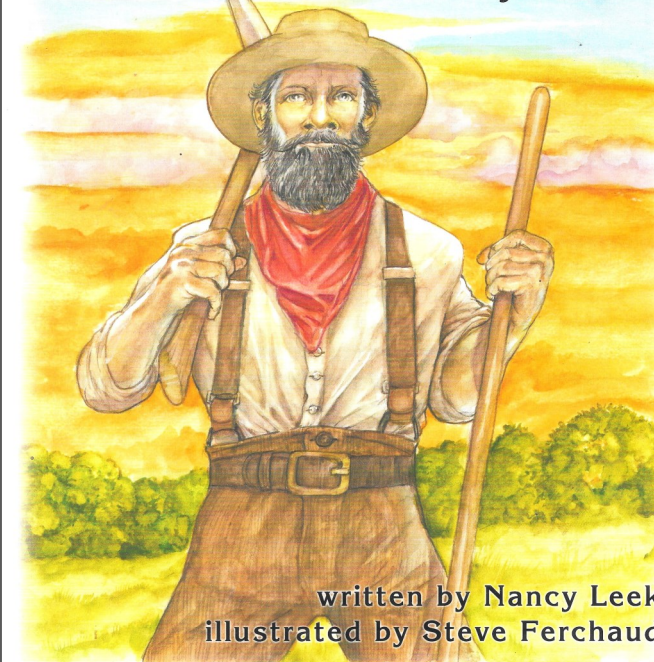
**Oregon City School**  
 2100 Oregon Gulch Road  
 Oregon City, CA

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

## ALVIN COFFEY

The True Story of  
 an African American Forty-Niner



written by Nancy Leek  
 illustrated by Steve Ferchaud

Please Join us at the BCBS Museum on September 21, 2024 at 1 pm as Nancy Leek shares the story of the subject of her most recent publication.

**Alvin Coffey: The True Story of an African American Forty-Niner** is a picture book biography of one man, born into slavery, who came to California in 1849 seeking something more precious than gold. Mining gold by day and mending boots by night, Alvin never gave up working toward his goal – freedom for himself and his family.

Refreshments will be available at this event.



*Don't forget to send in your quilt tickets!*







We were honored to have descendants of Freda Ehmann attend the 2024 Olive Festival

Shown here at the entrance to the Ehmann home are David Rose and Catherine Rose (Freda's gg granddaughter) and Michelle Maxfield and Doug Maxfield (Freda's gg grandson).

**The BCCHS 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

**2024 Officers**

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

**Board Members at Large**

- Marjorie Daley
- Peggie Adamson
- Daniel Ballard

**Past President**

Kent Fowler

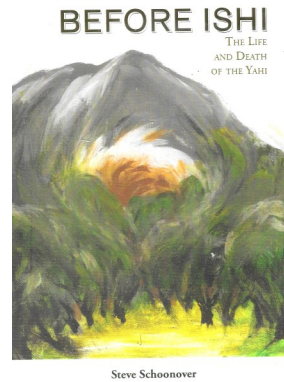
**Publications Staff**

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

**A New Publication in our Museum Store!**

***Before Ishi: The Life and Death of the Yahi***

In this book Steve Schoonover provides a fresh perspective of the Yahi Tribe and the harsh territory in Northern California that they called home in the pre-contact era. The post contact conflicts between these natives and the Euro-American settlers is re-visited to correct some errors in dates, places and conflicting accounts. If you are a fan of Northern California and Native American history, you will enjoy this book.



**Welcome!**

**New Members**

Michaelyn Weaver-Forell - Redding

**In Memoriam:**

**Ida Wangberg  
Vic Briggs  
Roxie Kolbuke**

**Save the Date !**

*August 31: Yard Sale*

*September 21: The Story of Alvin Coffey with Nancy Leek*

*October 19: Dr. John Rivers*

*November 16: Mark Karr*

*December: Holiday Open House*

**The Olive Festival Committee thanks all those who supported this year's event. Thanks to all the vendors, volunteers, raffle sponsors and members who participated in the 2024 Butte County Olive Festival**

**2024 Event Sponsors**

- BCOE- Butte County Office of Education
- Bell Carter Foods Lindsay Olives
- The Olive Pit
- Ben's Toilet Rentals
- Recology
- Native Sons of the Golden West *Argonaut Parlor 8*
- Mooretown Rancheria/ Feather Falls Casino
- DAX-IT Recovery Services
- Unforgettable Bridal Boutique
- Auraville Collective Healing Arts Festival
- Hilltop Treasures and More



**2024 Raffle Sponsors**

- All Olive Festival Vendors
- Bell Carter Foods Lindsay Olives
- Home Depot Oroville
- Feather Falls Casino
- Sohnrey Family Foods
- Hodge's Family Nursery
- Edward Jones Natalie Williams
- Lundberg Family Farms
- Lake Oroville Garden Club

**The Research Corner** *By Nancy Brower*



Have you heard of zucca melon? It is an amazingly versatile fruit. During its popularity, thousands of tons of zucca in the shape of balls or small dice were shipped from Oroville. The zucca is known primarily for the fact that it has no flavor of its own. However, it can be colored or flavored to imitate a wide variety of fruits, such as maraschino cherries, watermelon balls, and fruit cake mix. In fact, the cherries that were in the fruit cocktail of the 1950s and 1960s were actually a zucca melon product. Baron Francesco Forzano brought seed to California in the late 1920s looking for the right conditions to grow the melons. He found the perfect location in Oroville, where the fruit grew rapidly to 40-70 pounds. The first company to process the melons was Cala-Fru Products Ltd. For many years they used the Ehmann Olive Company plant as their production site. The packing season was July through October and employed between 25 and 50 workers. The melons were hand peeled, and the globes were scooped out by hand. The smaller pieces were diced by a specially made machine. Mosse Uchida built a plant in Palermo around 1935, which operated at least until the 1970s. His company was California Zucca Melon Products. In a 1965 interview Uchida indicated that zucca was more profitable than growing rice. Over the years the zucca products were shipped to the Bay Area and as far away as the East Coast. At some point zuccas were also grown in British Columbia. The archives has received two requests for information on zucca melon from that area, one in the past month and the other back in 2015. I find it fascinating that such a little-known product was so lucrative and widely used, even if people didn't know that they were eating it. I located numerous newspaper accounts of local zucca production in both the *Oroville Mercury-Register* and the *Sacramento Bee*.