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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:

☐ Individual	(\$40)	☐ Supporting	(\$60)
☐ Family	(\$50)	☐ Sustaining	(\$110)
☐ Senior	(\$35)	☐ Organization	(\$40)
☐ Senior Family	(\$45)		

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
Saturdays — 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
530-533-9418

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

Museum
Open Fridays 9 am to noon and
Saturdays 11 am to 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

BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

buttecountyhistory.com visit us on Facebook buttehistory@sbcglobal.net

While shopping at the Mile Long Yard Sale, be sure to check out our

Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Sale
A Fundraiser for Butte County Historical Society

September 5, 2026 8am - 1pm

Inside the Ehmann Home,
Air conditioned and plenty of parking

1480 Lincoln St. Oroville

**Fiber Arts Collectibles: New and Used Fabric, Sewing Tools,
Antique Sewing Machines, Patterns, Antique Quilts, Yarns , Lace, Linens**

Craft Items: Beads, Ribbons Scrapbooking Supplies, Stamps

Books Collector's Plates Bottles and Glassware Artwork



Some Window Work Begins

Some much needed attention is being given to upstairs windows on the south west corner of the Ehmann Home. These windows have been taking the brunt of winter storms and summer sun for decades.

At left, Marilyn Clark Silva is shown inspecting the first of the windows removed as the work begins. Marilyn is volunteering her time and expertise to assist in this phase of the project which is scheduled to be completed by the end of Summer.

Picture of the Month

Summers are hot and dry in Butte County and before our roads were properly paved, dust was a real problem. The cure for that was the water wagon, providing dust control and as you can see in the picture to the right, an opportunity for the local kids to cool off.

According to the information in our records, the young man chasing the water wagon through the streets of Chico in the summer of 1915 is Vern Baker, about 10 years old at the time this was taken.

This picture is part of our archival collection of over 12,000 photographic images.



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,
1408 Lincoln St. in Oroville on the 2nd
Wednesday at 7 pm.

2026 Officers

President - Larry Mauch
Vice President - Daniel Ballard
Vice President, Finance - Open
Secretary - Lucy Sperlin
Treasurer - Open

Board Members at Large

Marjorie Daley
Dale Wangberg
Sandy Brodrick

Publications Staff

Diggin's - Nancy Brower
Slickens - Dale Wangberg

Welcome!

New Members:

Marilyn Clark Silva & Joe Millea - Oroville

Carlie Ravert - Oroville

Donna Keith - Oroville

Bobbie Scott - Oroville

Upcoming BCHS Events

September 5:
Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Sale Fund-raiser at the Ehmann Home.

October 17
Presentation by Lee Dummel

November 21
General Membership Meeting and Program TBA

December 12
Holiday Open House

More activities are in the planning stage. Watch for announcements in the September Slickens



The BCHS Board of Directors and the Olive Festival Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers for making the 2026 Olive Festival a tremendous success. Many hours of hard work went in to the planning and implementation of this event. Thank you all. We couldn't make it work without you!



Peggie Adamson

Nancy Brower

Daniel Ballard

Connie Curry

Bern Endres

Aedan Gifford

Ellie Gifford

Marisa Gifford

Owen Gifford

Joseph Gray

Dixie Hargrove

Dorothy Lindsay

Larry Mauch

Treva Mauch

Tanya Murillo

P.J. Shepard

Belinda Stevens

Marci Trimlett

Dale Wangberg

Lori Wangberg

Dorothy Welton



Coming in September!

The Oregon California Trails Association national convention is coming to Butte County during the week of September 14-18. The convention will be headquartered in Chico at the Hotel Katerina. Activities will include a special opening ceremony and a keynote address by Greg Jackson, author of the recently published book *Been There, Done That*.

Speaker sessions on Tuesday and Friday will offer information on many aspects of the people and places of our region in the early days of emigration to the western U.S.

Bus trips offered during the week are scheduled to tour Lassen Rancho (Vina, Tehama County) Johnson's Ranch (Wheatland, Yuba County) and various areas of interest in some of the early mining districts of Butte County.

Though this is not an official BCHS event, we will be participating and we encourage our members to look at what is being offered. It promises to be a fun, interesting and educational event. For more information, visit OCTA's website at <https://octa-trails.org/octa-events/2026-octa-convention/>





Digital Extra
July/August 2026



Flag Day BBQ at Oregon City School



The BBQ Crew
L-R Teddy Talaga, Mara Talaga, James Stevens,
Dian Leckenby, Ty Thompson

It Was A Beautiful Day For a BBQ!

On Saturday, June 14th, members of the Butte County Historical Society and the Cherokee Volunteer Fire Department held a fundraising BBQ in honor of Flag Day. Burgers, Dogs and a variety of side dishes were on the menu, along with a wide array of cold drinks. Admission was by donation and the proceeds were divided evenly between the two organizations.

A big thanks to the volunteers who made it happen and thanks to all who came out to support us!

A Tribute to Our Fallen Heroes

David Eugene Moak

Birth: 16 July 1921 Chico, Butte County, California

Death: 15 Jun 1945 (aged 23) Okinawa, Japan

Son of

James Roosevelt Dunscomb Moak and Lucy Antoinette Roberts Moak

Chico E-R, 06-08-1949

Military Services On Schedule for Sgt. David Moak

Word has been received that the body of Gunnery Sergeant David E. Moak, United States Marine Corps, will arrive in Chico Friday afternoon. The remains were shipped from Okinawa aboard the Army Transport Sinnet.

Sergeant Moak was born in Chico July 16, 1921, and lived here until after his graduation from High School in 1940. Prior to his enlistment in the Marine Corps, September 14, 1942, he was employed with the Western Auto Supply Company in Richmond. He was a member of the First Christian Church both here and in Richmond.

His overseas service began October 23, 1943. He saw duty in the Eastern new Guinea operation, including Cape Gloucester; the Bismarck Archipelago operation; Peleliu, Palau Is. operation; and the Okinawa, Ryukuy Islands operation where he was killed June 15, 1945.

In addition to campaign medals, he was awarded the purple heart and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He was the son of Mrs. Lucy A. Moak, now of Sacramento, and the late James R. D. Moak. Other survivors include two brothers, James and Harold E. Moak, both of Sacramento, and one sister, Mrs. Helen Phillips of Chico. Military services are being arranged by the Brusie Funeral Home and will be conducted Saturday at 11 a. m. Interment will be in the family plot at the Chico Cemetery.

The Last Battle of the Pacific Islands

The Battle for Okinawa lasted 82 harrowing days and is considered one of the most merciless of the war with American casualties reaching a staggering 49,151, of which 12,520 were killed or missing.

The objective was to secure the island, thus removing the last barrier standing between U.S. forces and Imperial Japan.

David Eugene Moak was killed just one week before the fighting was declared over on June 22, 1945

Sargeant David Moak



Lonny Shelton & David Moak



David Moak with Machine Gun



My father, Lonnie Shelton, always remembered his friend David Moak. It bothered him a great deal that he was lost after so much fighting and so late in the campaign at Okinawa. I know my father had also participated in the 1st Marine Division campaigns at Cape Gloucester in late 1943 and at Peleliu in 1944, I believe David Moak also participated in those campaigns. It is my understanding that David was a machine gunner in their company. My father told me that "Moak" had been helping to load a wounded Marine onto a tank or armored vehicle on a ridge at the southern part of Okinawa to be evacuated, when he ("Moak") got hit by a sniper himself. My dad said after he heard that "Moak" had been hit, he ran up to the area and they were already evacuating him at that point. He said he heard that David died the next day he thought on a hospital ship.

The above photos and narrative were provided by Jerry Shelton. The photos are believed to have been taken on the Island of Pavuvu, prior to the invasion of Okinawa