

The Sierran

— A Publication of the Sierra County Historical Society —

A Look at the Busch-Heringlake (aka Wells Fargo Express) Building in Sierra City

By Fran Burgard



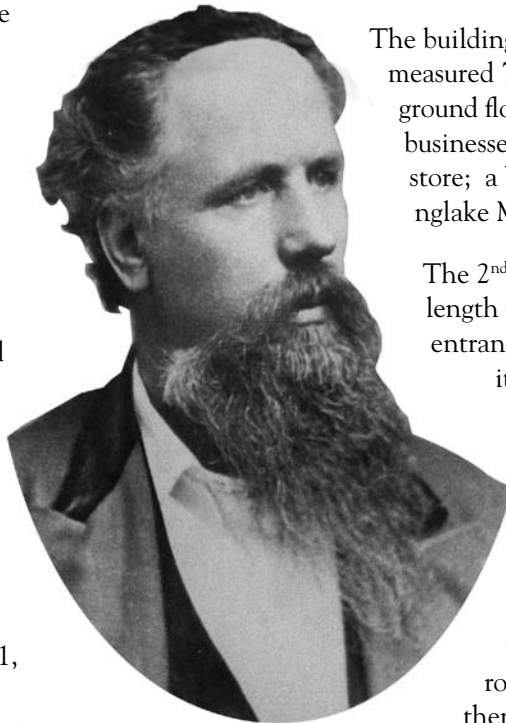
The 2008 attractive brochure invites visitors to come and enjoy the Patton Place Guest House—"an ideal retreat for small groups or a family vacation." While there, guests—who are housed in lovely furnished rooms on the 2nd floor—can browse the *Sierra City Fine Arts Collection* on the 1st floor, AND learn a little of the history of this beautiful brick building "located in the heart of downtown Sierra City."

It is indeed a fascinating history and the people that made it happen are even more fascinating.

The cornerstone for the Busch Building (as it was first called) was laid by the E. Clampus Vitus Society in a grand and impressive ceremony on the 4th of July, 1871. Construction continued during 1871, directed and paid for by Augustus Christopher Busch. Upon completion of the building, the Society (sometimes referred to as the "historical, fun society") grandly, and a little in jest, gave it the address of 1001 Main St. This was an auspicious address for a building which most people, at that time, considered to be in the middle of nowhere.

A.C. Busch built his building of bricks made from clay brought down from "the Cups," an area on the Buttes above the present Transfer Station. These bricks were formed in a brickyard right below the construction site

between the present Hwy 49 and the No. Yuba River called Busch's Flat. This area is now called "the Flats" and is home for Sierra City's "Park."



Augustus Busch

The building cost \$16,000 in 1871 money, measured 73' x 36', and had three stories. The ground floor was commercial and held four businesses: a Clampers (E.Clampus Vitus) store; a Wells Fargo Office; the Busch - Heringlake Mercantile; and a Meat Market.

The 2nd floor was residential- It had a full length porch which formed a roof for the entrances to the businesses below. At first it was the home of A.C. Busch and his wife, Kate, and their adopted son Charles; and then a home for Charles, his wife Inez and their ten children—three girls and seven boys.

The 3rd story had a spring dance floor. It was used as a community room for meetings and dances, and there are reports that Busch allowed it to be used a few times as a roller skating rink—with much enjoyment for the skaters.

When Charles and Inez lived there in the first half of the twentieth century, it was a gathering place for the neighborhood young people. Old time Sierra City residents remember playing basketball up there!

The Busch Building was touted as **one of the finest** buildings in Sierra County. It surely was **the largest and most**

Busch-Heringlake (Continued on Page 3) —

— THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY —



The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds an annual meeting, publishes a newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive THE SIERRAN, and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour. If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join us!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Sierra County Historical Society is open to any interested person, business or organization. Members need not be residents of Sierra County. Dues are due and payable each January for the calendar year.

Membership categories are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL	\$20.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	\$25.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	\$35.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
LIFE (per individual)	\$250.00

Please send dues to the Membership Chair:
Suzi Schoensee, PO Box 54, Sattley, CA 96124

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address:
Kentucky Mine Museum
PO Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125 (530) 862-1310

Officers and Executive Board of The Sierra County Historical Society

President: Bud Buczkowske, Alleghany

Vice President: Joleen Torri, Sattley

Secretary: Lisa Mann, Goodyear's Bar

Treasurer: Bill Copren, Sattley

Board members in addition to those previously mentioned are Maren Scholberg, Sierraville; Suzi Schoensee, Sattley; Sherrie Allen, Alleghany; Mary Nourse, Sierra City; and Judy Lawrence, Sattley.

Our Museum Director is Virginia Lutes.

If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to contact any board member.



Sierra County Historical Society Notice of Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 14, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

BRING YOUR PICNIC LUNCH AND A CHAIR

We will provide beverage and desert

LOCATION:

Loganville Visitor's Center Parking lot
Highway 49 between Sierra City and Downieville

Park there, across from Loganville Campground. A shuttle will take you to **LAGOMARSINO CABIN** for the lunch and meeting.

If you need further directions, please call President Bud at (530) 287-3287.

We look forward to seeing our membership and their guests at this day of sharing history and visiting with friends!

New Members This Year

A number of new memberships were gained this year, we thank all of you and hope that you will be with us for many years to come, in fact are all members aware that you can purchase a lifetime individual membership for only \$250.00? This would save you having to remember to renew each year, and would save our membership chairperson the time and cost of sending out renewal notices. Give it some thought.

Busch-Heringlake (Continued from Page 1) —

important building in Sierra City. Housing a Wells Fargo Express Office brought a lot of important activity to the area. Wells Fargo transported millions of dollars in gold from the mines of California and it is said no sender had any loss. A.C. Busch was the first agent for Wells Fargo when they opened an office in his building in 1871 and remained in that position well into the 1880's. The safe he used for Wells Fargo transactions is still on the first floor of the building. The building served as the stage-coach stop for years.

Upon the building's completion in 1871, Augustus Busch opened the General Merchandise Store with his partner C.A. Heringlake on the ground floor. An ad stated that the **A.C. Busch - C.A. Heringlake Grocery Firm** dealt in: Groceries, Provisions, Crockery, Hardware, Wines, Liquors, Cigars, Tobacco, Stationery, etc.

Augustus Christopher Busch was a very energetic, intelligent man. He was born in Hanover, Germany in 1836,

and came to New York in 1850. He lived there for four years and then traveled to San Francisco in 1854. The lure of gold sent him to Downieville where he mined for over 10 years. In 1859 he was the first miner to use a rubber belt on the river. In 1863 he bought an interest in the Gold Bluff quartz mine.

About this time he met C.A. Heringlake. The two of them worked together in many business pursuits. Heringlake was born in Westphalia, Germany in 1827. He learned the bakery and confectionary trade from the age of 14 and worked at it until he emigrated to the U.S. in 1855. He settled in Dayton, OH for three years where he also worked as a baker. Then he came to San Francisco and on to Downieville in 1862. He kept working as a baker for at least a year until he met Busch and had then several business dealings with him.

Heringlake, in 1865, bought an interest in the Gold Bluff quartz mine, just as Bush had done. It is also reported that

Busch-Heringlake (Continued on Page 4) —

The Busch-Heringlake building circa 1900. The man on the second story balcony is Augustus Busch. Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Mine Museum.

Busch-Heringlake (Continued from Page 3) —

they both went together to buy a “Sierra City Ranch” but it is unclear just where this was located. In 1866, Busch purchased property in Sierra City owned by S.N. Wilcox. Wilcox had built a hotel on this property in 1861. In 1863, this hotel was owned and run by Sam Williamson. But after Busch’s purchase he and Heringlake operated that hotel together in Sierra City, until Busch constructed his building across the street in 1871. Then they ran the BUSCH & HERINGLAKE Grocery Firm on the ground floor of the new building as mentioned above. Records show that Heringlake married Busch’s sister, Augusta Wilhemina Busch in 1888. She died in 1889, and after this there is no record of his activities.

A.C. Busch, however, remained active in Sierra County history. He not only was the Agent for Wells Fargo, he served as the Postmaster for Sierra City from 1866 to at least 1882. He was also the Agent for Western Union Telegraph—and conducted their business affairs in his building. In addition to this he was a Sheriff in Sierra County from 1892 - 1902. And as if this wasn’t enough, Busch was Supervisor in 1882 and 1883. Reports show he had an interest in the Young America Mine and that he was one of California’s wealthiest men in the 1870’s and 80’s.

He married Kate Campbell of Sierra City in 1871. There is a story about Kate using a freshly cut poplar branch as a whip when she drove her buggy one day. When she finished her drive, she stuck the branch in the ground to the east of the Busch Building—and there it grew. It grew into a tree higher than the building. It can be seen in a

drawing done by Isobel Morrill in 1947.

For many years the Busches were childless. Then, when influenza all but wiped out the Winstead family in the Sierra Valley, they adopted the 6 month old baby, Charles, the only survivor. They raised him as their only child and sent him to Germany for his University education. A.C. Busch died in 1905; his wife died in 1908.



Charles & Inez Winstead, CA 1909. Charles holding baby Charles, Lelia standing in front, Aida behind her.

When Charles grew up and married, he and his wife, Inez lived in the Busch-Heringlake (Wells Fargo) Building his adopted father had built. There they raised their ten children- three older girls and then seven boys. As a young man back in Sierra City, Charles decided to use his Winstead name instead of his Busch name. Some thought this was because “Busch” was a very German name and there was a lot of animosity in America toward the Germans during the 1st World War. Others said he changed his name back to “Winstead” because he felt there were too many families named “Busch.” He became very active in the Sierra City community as his father had been. He served as Postmaster for many years, and also as Sheriff from 1930 - 1931.

Pictures show activities in the Busch Heringlake building through the turn of the century and on into the ‘20’s and ‘30’s. The Meat Market did a thriving business. And for awhile, the Winstead Family operated a very popular hand cranked Ice Cream Parlor on the ground floor.

Inez was a very energetic, remarkable woman. When Charles had a stroke and died while he was Sheriff in 1931, she took over his position for a few months until

Busch-Heringlake (Continued on Page 5) —

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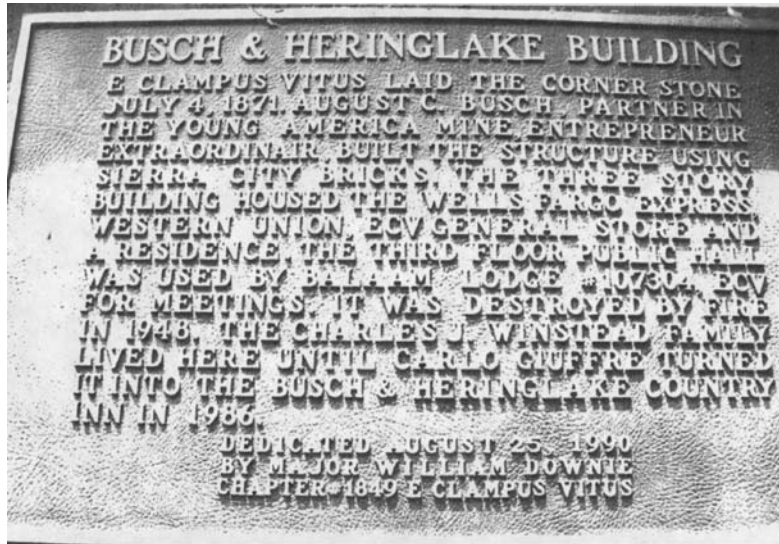
the county was able to find a replacement.

One of the younger Winstead sons, Don, married Dorothy Quisenberry of Modesto in 1946. Dorothy remembers many good times with her mother-in-law, Inez. She also remembers having fun on the porch outside the 2nd floor residence. It seems that many travelers through Sierra City would stop and take pictures of that building. So she and the other brothers and sisters and friends would walk out the wonderful French doors of the residence onto the 2nd story porch and pose for the photographers.

In October, 1948, it is reported that either electrical problems in the adjacent Buckhorn Club or a careless employee there started a fire. This fire burned the Buckhorn Club to the ground. It also sent flames into the Busch Heringlake Building completely destroying the 2nd floor deck and the 3rd floor community hall. All that was left was a blackened brick shell and a skeleton of the poplar tree.

The Winsteads restored the 2nd floor residence without the porch and didn't rebuild the 3rd floor. Inez Winstead continued to live there until her death in 1972. Her family sold the building in 1986 to Carlo Giuffre who added a bathroom for each bedroom and turned it into a bed and breakfast inn and pizza restaurant. He decided to call it "Busch and Heringlake" because that was the name painted over the door when it was opened in 1871 and that was the name that was there in the original paint, almost intact, when he bought it. Since his restoration, the building looks absolutely original on the outside. Even the poplar tree has regrown as shown in Phil Pollard's drawing in the late 1980's. And on the inside, it is as original as modern plumbing and electricity will allow.

In 1990, E. Clampus Vitus validated the restoration by creating and installing a plaque giving a brief history of the building.



E. Clampus Vitus plaque giving a brief history of the building, 1990.

In the early '90's Carlo married a girl from the Bay Area. When commuting became too difficult he listed his building for sale. In 2003, Jan Patton purchased it and is still the owner and manager. Her "Patton Place Guest House" welcomes guests overnight or for the week to the wonderful rooms on the 2nd floor, and Sierra County residents and visitors alike into the Sierra City Fine Arts Collection on the ground floor. It is worth a trip to Sierra City to see it.

And by the way, the poplar tree on the East side is still growing up through its dead branches. In 1954, Don and Dorothy Winstead built a house on the lot just east of the Busch-Heringlake Building. Dorothy and her family still maintain it and spend vacation time in it. There they can keep their eyes on the wonderful Building built by

their ancestors and watch the tree grow.

Sources of information used in writing this article:

Fariss and Smith, **History of Lassen, Plumas & Sierra Counties**, 1882

The James Sinnot Book on Downieville
1990 article from **Sacramento Bee**

Phone conversation w/ Babe Lewis (owner of Buckhorn in the '40's)

Interview w/ Jan Patton

Interview w/ Dorothy Winstead, who still spends time in the home she and her husband, Don, built next to the Busch Heringlake building.

Virginia Lutes, curator at the Kentucky Mine and Museum, and Maren Scholberg, Board Member of the Sierra Co. Historical Society, did the research to find the articles which contained most of the information in the above paper.

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Anne Eldred Retires After 10 Year's Service Kentucky Mine Museum Curator

When hired in 1998 to be curator at the Kentucky Mine Museum, Anne Eldred set out to learn about gold. She read everything she could find on gold. It became obvious that the job was more educating the public about gold and how Kentucky Mine fit into the history of gold in the Northern Mines than building more displays in the Museum. She learned to delineate the difference between hard-rock gold and placer gold, how the facility was used in the processing of hard-rock gold, and explained hydraulic mining on the tours she led twice a day. The facility was open 5 months a year. Anne also was in charge of paying the bills and, until recent years, running the concert series with lots of help from great committees in Sierra City, Downieville and Sierraville.

Anne reminisced, "I found working at Kentucky Mine was wild, wonderful, trying and entertaining: bears pushing dumpsters around the parking lot, bears eating everything stored under concert stage four hours before a concert, snakes appearing almost anyplace on the property, especially rattlesnakes. Last year a rattlesnake got into the

mine tunnel and I called Tim Beals. He arrived with a .22 and a ski pole and proceeded to scare out the snake which tried to escape through the wall, but Tim was too quick and he shot it between the eyes. The other critters that made life interesting at the Mine were Kingsnakes, salamanders, skunks, lizards, millipedes, deer, coyotes, foxes, mice, bats, violin spiders and black widow spiders.

Anne misses talking to people about history and listening to their stories and recommending books to people. The in-museum treasure hunts with children and their parents will also be missed. Anne enjoyed working with Lauri Unland and Toni Strine, and faithful volunteers James Connolly and Maren

Scholberg. I will always remember with fondness the other faithful volunteers, especially Maren Scholberg.

Currently, Anne is involved in some "cool" archaeological excavations in Sierra Valley. She's enjoying being "in the field", but will be missed by those who worked with her, as well as visitors to the museum. We wish Anne well in her future endeavors.



Anne screens soil removed in the digging process at a Sierra Valley archaeological site.

Archaeological Research Project Going On In Sierra Valley

As part of her thesis work to earn her masters degree from the anthropology department at University of Nevada Reno, Judy Lawrence and her dig crew have been working in Sierra Valley throughout the summer. Her research project focus is on finding evidence of hot rock cooking features around the southern end of the valley. These cooking features were used by Native American people to process food resources such as pine nuts and camas bulbs. Look for more about this project in the next Sierran.



Judy and Cody working the dig.

Kentucky Mine Museum Notes



This is my first update as Curator of the Kentucky Mine Museum in Sierra City, so I will start by introducing myself. I am Virginia Lutes, from Sierraville. My name is familiar to many of you since I have been involved with the Historical Society for a number of years, and served on the Board of Directors and as Secretary. Also, my name has been involved with this publication, most recently concerning the article on the Downieville 1937 Flood. I am a lifelong Sierra County resident and I love the work at the Kentucky.

Anne Eldred, our former Curator was very helpful with training and has continued to be available to answer the many questions from someone new to the job.

Lisa Copren has been hired to fill-in and she has taken to task with great enthusiasm. Toni Stine is still our caretaker and all around handy person. She and her son Dustin keep a sharp eye on the Park, and Toni coordinates maintenance needs with Sierra County.

Volunteers have been great! Bill Copren, James Connolly, Mary and Hunter Davey, Fran Burgard, Larry Lutes, Marilyn Stone, and Andy Ponta (who assisted with a special tour for part of the Loeffler family). Each has used their own expertise to make our visitors feel comfortable and informed. Someone who spent a previous season filling in at the museum, Evelyn Whisman has been helpful and supportive. Evelyn has helped with suggestions for the museum and accessioning. We greatly value our volunteers, if you are interested please contact the museum next spring, no special training is required, only your enthusiasm.

The museum continues to quest to obtain artifacts and photos for our collection. Added this year:

A hand forged open end wrench for the Kentucky Mill and a hand made small water wheel from Steve Ostrom from Sierra City

Two Sierra County Precinct Registers, from 1934 and 1936, donated by Joleen Torri from Sattley

Four photographs from the Calpine Airstrip donated by Dave Nervino

Booklet from the Sattley Sesquicentennial donated by Bill Copren who also donated a printer for the office computer

Two color photographs of the Kentucky Mine stamp mill and trestle taken in 1964, donated by Michael Hennessy

Reproduced black and white photos of Sierra County from George Baker

Thank you to all of the above for your donations, keep them coming folks!

A goal is to complete accessioning and to develop finding aids so that our membership and visitors can readily access our archived material. It is my sincere hope that you will consider submitting your family history as it relates to Sierra County to be include in our research file area. Photos, documents, mementos etc. are always welcome. It is surprising how many families have visited this season with deep roots in Sierra County. A few of the names are Busch, Avignone, Perryman, Palmer, Morrison, Copren, Loeffler, Keyes, and Siacchio. It is such a pleasure to hear their stories. Would it not be a wonderful gift to give your future generations a place to visit that tells your history?

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be your Curator.

Virginia Lutes

Sierra County Historical Society Memorial Fund



The Sierra County Historical Society continues to accept memorial donations. The Memorial Fund was set up in 1990, with the intention of generating enough for an endowment fund that could support the Kentucky Mine Museum from the earnings. We have not yet met that goal, but the Fund is still growing. Contribu-

tions are always welcome. Please consider Sierra County Historical Society for a memorial for your family or friends. Your donation is noted in our Memorial book at the Kentucky Museum, and at certain levels of contributions plaques are placed on our Memory wall.

Music at the Mine

Eight music events were held this season at the Kentucky Mine Museum Amphitheatre for the 2008 series. The lovely setting is always a terrific place to attend a concert, and this year Sierra County rebuilt the stage, something that has been a need for a few years now. We appreciate the time and skills that brought about this improvement.

Once again, volunteer Bob Morales from “The Old Sierra City Hotel” organized the entertainment, he deserves recognition for the many hours of planning, organizing, and seeing through each event. Bib really works hard to see that these events go smoothly, Thank You Bob! Bob’s wife Kathy also gives a lot of energy to the events, as well as faithful volunteers Cora and Fritz.

Karen Killebrew again was hired to do the online promotion and advertising. The online ticket sales went quite well using paypal. Board member and our Historical Society Vice President Joleen Torri worked behind the scenes as always. We received a generous donation that allowed us to continue the Music at the Mines, you know who you are, and thank you so much for the support.

In Memoriam



William Herbert Long **March 13, 1932 - June 27, 2008**

Bill was known to this Historical Society, having been a long term member, as well as serving on the Sierra County Historical Society Board and as officer and president.

“A lover of history” defines Bill. He made a dashing sight dressed in his historical outfit, complete with top hat and bow tie.

When Bill moved to Sierra County, he became very involved in numerous organizations, and was a determined and hard working individual. He at times drove others to do volunteer deeds they may not otherwise have been willing to take on, but they did and much was accomplished.

As well as being a driving force in the Historical Society, Bill also took on the push to have Sierra County re-enter the State Fair County Exhibits that lead to “Best of Show” in 1995.

