

Member of California Conference of Historical Societies

Sierra County Historical Society

Volume XIX, No. 1

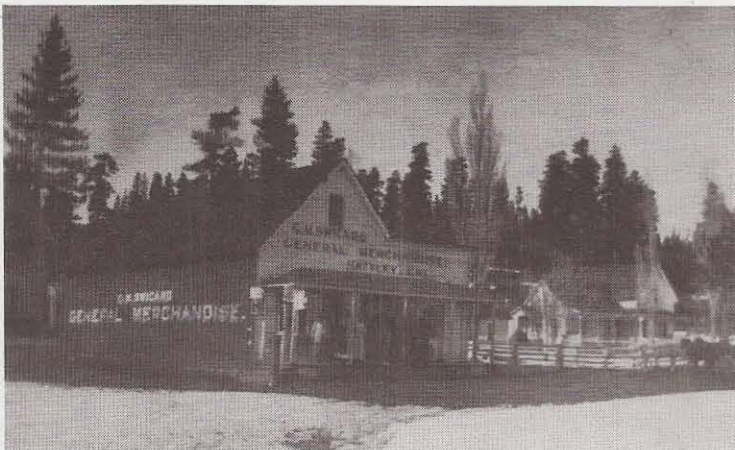
Spring 1991

SATTLE PIONEERS

By Freda Turner

Sattley, one of the smallest towns in Sierra County, is unique in still having the direct descendants of two of the families who originally pre-empted and homesteaded land in this community, some of whom are living on these properties today; namely, the TURNERS and the CHURCHES. This historical sketch will only mention those descendants whose "roots" are presently in Sattley.

MERRICK TURNER (1830-1859) came west from Whitefield, Maine, in 1853, mining in the Downieville area for a time and then settling in Sierra Valley in 1857. He baled and sold grass hay to mining companies in Virginia City, Nevada. He, unfortunately, lost his life while operating a homemade baler on what is now known as the Turner Ranch.



Sattley store circa 1920. Built by Ezra Church in early 1870's. The town was then called Church's Corner. (Courtesy Fred Turner)

MERRICK TURNER's twin sister, CALISTA TURNER-HALE, also died young in Maine, survived by one daughter HARRIET HALE-CAMPBELL, who came west as a teenager to join her father GEORGE HALE. Their great-great-granddaughter SUSAN SCHOENSEE, a speech therapist for the Sierra County Schools, is a Sattley resident with her husband JOHN RINGWALD and their two sons ANDREW and ANTHONY.

THE STRANG RANCH AND FAMILY

Nathaniel Strang, great grandfather of Authur M. (Artie) Strang, was one of the first white settlers of Sierra Valley. Nathaniel's ancestors had come to America from England before the Revolutionary War. The family was divided in their loyalty when the war started for two of the four sons moved to Prince Edward Island off the coast of New Brunswick, Canada. They were Tories. Nathaniel was born there and he and his wife, Elizabeth Skirman, raised their 10 children on the Island until the youngest, Jared, was 10 years old. At that time, 1847, the family moved to West Duxbury, Mass.

In mid 1850s, his wife deceased and his family grown, Nathaniel came to California to the gold mines. In 1856 he came into Sierra Valley and settled on land down by the creek on the present Strang ranch. In 1857, Nathaniel's son, Jared, came via the Isthmus Canal to the gold mines around Downieville. He didn't do very well at mining so the next year he came into the Valley and joined his father. For a while, Jared ran a pack train, hauling the meadow hay, which was cut by scythe and baled into 150 lb. bales, to the mining camps. On a pack trip to Virginia City, Jared, years later, told of seeing only one log cabin where Reno is now and that was on the site of the present Riverside Hotel. He also said that it was so dry that year that he walked across the Truckee River without getting his feet wet.

Jared took up a quarter section of land for a homestead next to his father's land and they went into the cattle business. In 1867, Nathaniel sold his interest to Jared and returned to Massachusetts where he remained.

In 1865 Jared was married to Eleanor Mickey of Illinois and they had four children, two sons and two daughters, one of whom died at a very early age. In 1880 after Eleanor had died, Jared married Mrs. Lula Carrier Robbins of Maine, a widow with one son. To this marriage was born Arthur E. in 1881 and Elmer.

From 1860 to 1890 the ranch was a cattle ranch. Jared went broke several times, but managed to keep going. He bought and sold cattle, travelling all over the western states looking for good cattle to buy. Around 1875 and for a number of years, Jared took Valley cattle at \$2.00 a head into a winter range east

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of Doyle. This range went as far east as Winnemucca, as far north as Surprise Valley above Alturas and as far south as Steamboat Springs on the road to Carson City. Indians were hired to help with the drives. There were no fences in the Valley at that time and all stock ran on a common range. In the spring, they rounded up the cattle and drove them back into the Valley. Jared was a member of two different cattle firms: Rowland, Flint, Hainten & Strang, and Strang & Humphrey. Both were big cattle dealers handling from five to ten thousand head annually.

In 1891 Jared began to operate a dairy with 75 cows. In 1902 Jared's sons, Arthur and Elmer, took over the ranch and added a creamery. This partnership was dissolved in 1912. In 1922 the ranching expanded to include the raising of chickens with about 500 hens. In 1932, Arthur E. and son Artie began a butcher business which continued until 1939. The depression of the 30's was hard on all the cattle ranchers. In February 1929, Arthur E. sold a carload of steers in south San Francisco for \$12.75 a 100 lb. — the highest price for any cattle sold since 1918. By November of that year, he could not get four cents for the same steers. But the ranch pulled through all the hard times.

Jared had built a homestead cabin on his land by the creek. The shiplap siding for that cabin had been made in New England and shipped around Cape Horn, up to Marysville. Jared packed it over the hill on his pack mules. He added to that cabin to make the family home. In 1880 the house including cabin was moved to the present site. In the early 1900's a house at the Fletcher Saw Mill, a mile from the Strang house, was moved and added to the Strang house. In 1945, Arthur E. added to and remodeled the structure to become the house as it is today. At that time, Arthur E. tore down the preemption cabin and burned it, a sad fact for Artie who felt that it was an historic building.

Through the years more acres were added to the original homestead. In 1875, the ranch contained 420 acres. In 1927, Arthur E. bought 450 acres from Mrs. Emma Nichols; in 1938, he added 360 acres of cut-over land from the Davies-Johnson Lumber Co.; in 1950, 640 acres were purchased from Mason & Hager Lumber Co. This too was cut-over land which Arthur E. received first option to buy when he let the logging operation go over his land for no charge. In recent years, Artie has marketed several thousand Christmas trees from the areas which had earlier been logged.

The present ranch contains 1936 acres. In 1970, Arthur M. (Artie) Strang was honored with a presentation by the State Chamber of Commerce with a 100 year plaque and medallion designating the Strang ranch as a member of the 100-Year Club of California.

Arthur E. married Lydia Stewart in 1902. The Stewarts came from Missouri. According to Artie's history, Lydia's grandfather was a Benjamin Mays who owned a plantation with 150 slaves in Maysville, Missouri. He married a descendant of a Mr. Barnett who had been an aide-de-camp of Lafayette. Benjamin Mays, although a slave owner, joined the Union Army during the Civil War. On his return to his plantation at the end of the war, he found nothing left of his home. Everything was gone, just as portrayed in *Gone With The Wind*, and he was broke. Benjamin's daughter, Emma, married Louis J. Stewart who was from Kentucky. They came

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, is affiliated with the Loyalton Museum, holds quarterly meetings, publishes a newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of society activities, receive the newsletter 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!

OFFICERS and STAFF

President	Lincoln Madsen
Vice President	Rita Bradley
Recording Secretary	Georgene Copren
Treasurer and Membership Chairman ...	Maren Scholberg
Editors	Leonard Berardi and Karen Donaldson

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be a potluck on May 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sierra City Community Hall. Guest speakers will be Mel and Marcella Ponta of Goodyear's Bar. This will include the slide presentation of the Bell Alexander oral history project. We will schedule the annual work party at this meeting.

Georgene Copren, Recording Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

As of August, 1990, there are 117 paid members of the Sierra County Historical Society. We thank each one for their support. The membership funds are used primarily for the publication of our semi-annual Bulletin, "The Sierran."

Under a new policy, membership due notices will be sent out in January as a reminder.

Categories are as follows:

SENIOR	\$ 5.00
INDIVIDUAL	10.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	15.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	25.00
SUSTAINING	50.00
LIFE (per individual)	100.00

Dues are to be sent to the Treasurer and Membership Chairman:

Mrs. Maren Scholberg
P.O. Box 141
Sierraville, CA 96126



KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM NEWS

With each passing year it seems the "off season" is getting more and more busy. No crowds of tourists but lots of activity.

Note the article from the Mountain Messenger of November 8, 1990 with the headline 'Kentucky Mine Receives Award'. Our copy of the plaque will be on display in the museum. What an honor!

A great deal of time has been spent organizing the upcoming concert series. See accompanying article from the Mountain Messenger of March 14. We are pleased with the program and hope others will be as well.

Unfortunately, a local fellow found himself with 160 hours of community service to perform for Sierra County. Fortunately for us, he was assigned to the Kentucky Mine. So much has been accomplished! Underneath the present snow the grounds have never looked better. There will be no struggling with huge piles of oak leaves and pine needles in the picnic area this year. A new fire hydrant has been installed with an underground shut-off which replaces the old one that had a habit of freezing. This man has been a much appreciated one man work party.

Another article of note (we seem to be in the paper a lot lately) from the Mountain Messenger of March 14 sums up the events at the Miner's Foundry in Nevada City. The slide show appears to be of interest to schools in the surrounding area. We may go on the road yet.

There are several projects in the works which include a video production of Sierra County to feature the museum, stamp mill and segments of the concert performances as well as other summer activities and the underrated winter sports. In addition we are looking at video taping oral histories of local citizens for posterity. Will write more as things develop.

I am looking forward to the Historical Society meeting on May 5th. There is no work party scheduled so that everyone can relax, enjoy the good company and food and the interesting program planned by Mel and Marcell's Ponta. I urge you all to come — bring a friend! We can make arrangements at the meeting for the annual clean-up party if anyone has a few hours they can contribute before the opening on May 25th. See you there.

With a note of sadness I acknowledge the passing of two friends. I am including the obituary of a dedicated volunteer and loyal supporter, Amy Bowman, written by her nephew Milton Gottardi. Amy was a passionate contributor to those causes she believed in and it was our good fortune to be one of those causes. She will surely be missed. Henry Tschopp was a devoted historian who loved Sierra County and supported the Historical Society since its founding. Included in this issue is an obituary written by his daughter, Frances Brett.

CONCERT SERIES

SIERRA CITY - The Kentucky Mine Concert Series has announced the schedule for the 1991 programs.

Once again the Series will be presenting nine shows on each Friday evening during July and August.

Returning to the Amphitheatre in the pines will be favorites *The String Beings* appearing August 16, and the *Eldos* on August 9.

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west to San Francisco, then to Sierra Valley. Their house was between the present Lauren Johnson and Oneta Roscoe houses. The house later burned. Arthur died in 1963; Lydia in 1965.

Two sons and a daughter were born to Arthur and Lydia: Arthur M. (Artie) in 1903; Jared and Marian. Jared died of a bone infection in 1930; Marian Rollins still lives on the ranch. Arthur M. married Erma Alexander in 1935. Erma came to Loyalton from Nebraska in 1934 to work in the hospital as a nurse. They had one daughter, Judy, now Mrs. Herman Coonrod of Sattley and one son, Jared (Jerry) who now lives in Sacramento. There are three granddaughters: Michele Trombley of Sparks, Nevada; Melinda Elizondo of Reno, Nevada; Wendy Pipkins of the U.S. Army stationed in Germany. One grandson, Revin Coonrod, lives at the home in Sattley.

Erma died in 1982 and at that time, Artie retired from active ranching. Since 1960 when Artie and Erma had attended the National Cattlemen's Association in Denver, Colorado, and where Red Angus cattle were shown, Artie favored that breed. He still owns approximately 200 head of Red Angus and pastures another 140 head of cattle by the month. He has a manager who helps with the work of the ranch.

The material for this article came from an interview with Arthur M. Strang by Maren Scholberg plus information from *History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties* by Fariss & Smith and *Sierra Valley, Jewel of the Sierras* by James J. Sinnott. February 1991.

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The youngest brother HARTWELL FRANKLIN TURNER ("H.F."), a school teacher who had sailed to California through the Magellan Straits in 1853, was given up as lost when the trip was delayed by the doldrum winds in the straits. At first he lived and mined in the Downieville area, living on a small ranch four miles west of Sierra City (later known as the Fournier Ranch) with his widowed brother-in-law GEORGE HALE.

Following MERRICK TURNER's death, H.F. Turner moved to the ranch in Sierra Valley where he was joined by GEORGE HALE. In 1862 HALE married RACHEL STREET and sold his interest in the ranch to the oldest brother HENRY KENNEDY TURNER ("H.K."). Then HALE moved to a ranch later owned by EZRA EDWIN CHURCH, presently known as the DARGIE Ranch.

HENRY KENNEDY TURNER (1828-1903) was the last brother to come to California. He was an attorney, having been educated at Bowdin College in Maine. He, too, mined in the Downieville area for a time; then he taught school in Nevada County and practiced law in Downieville.

After he moved to the TURNER Ranch, he and his brother H.F. Turner entered into other fields of endeavor; e.g., brick making, road building and sawmilling. In 1871 they were instrumental in completing the first wagon road from Sierra Valley to Downieville. In 1882 H.K. Turner built a fireproof brick vault in Downieville for the county records. This vault was used years later by his only son FRANKLIN HURD TURNER ("F.H.") (1869-1961), who after being involved in ranching, sawmilling, storekeeping, and serving as Superintendent of Schools, became County Clerk, Auditor and Recorder of Sierra County from 1930-1949, resigning on his 80th birthday.

H.K. TURNER and his wife OTTIE GILBERT-TURNER also had two daughters, MARY CALISTA TURNER-MILLER and LOTTIE TURNER.

H.K. TURNER became known as the Honorable HENRY K. TURNER, as he represented Sierra County in the California State Assembly in Sacramento one term and in the Senate four terms. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention, elected on a non-partisan ticket.

H.F. TURNER married AGNES GALLOWAY (1853-1885), daughter of Judge JAMES S. GALLOWAY (1819-1895) and RACHEL DAUGHTERY-GALLOWAY, who had come to California in a covered wagon in 1849. AGNES was born in San Francisco and was the first baby of pioneer parentage to be brought to Downieville. H.F. and AGNES TURNER were the parents of HARRY A., JAMES, THOMAS K. and DAISY TURNER-PARKER-MILER, all raised on the TURNER Ranch.

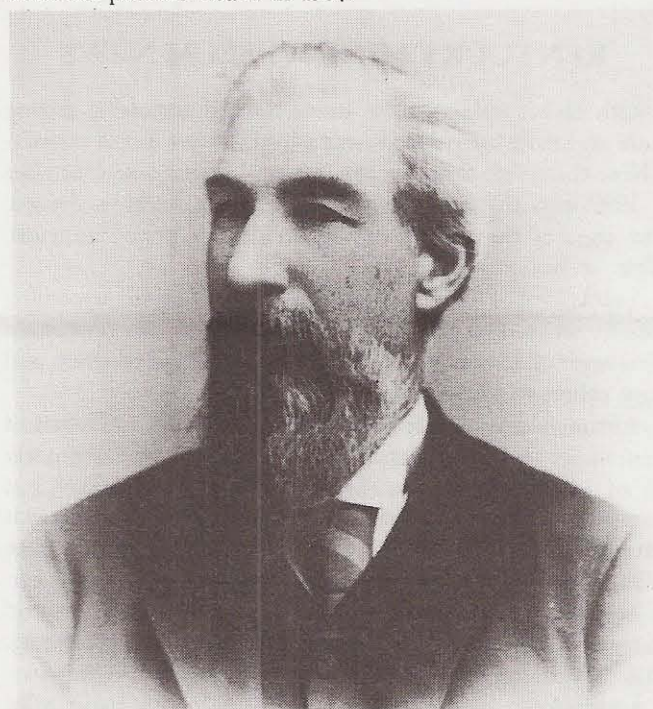
In addition to ranching, three generations of TURNERS built and operated several sawmills. There were two mills owned by the second generation brothers, HARRY, JAMES and THOMAS, and their first cousin F.H. TURNER. These were the TURNER Mill, located at the west end of the ranch, and the Sunset Mill, approximately three miles north of the ranch. (Remains of both mills stood until the forest fire of 1924, which devastated the forest and many properties in the area.)

In 1940 THOMAS K. TURNER and sons, GEORGE, JAMES T., EDWARD and FRANK, and his nephew GENE TURNER, built and operated the last TURNER Mill at the junction of Highways 49 and 89. This mill was in operation

until 1948, during which time the younger men all served in the armed forces in World War II. ELIZABETH TURNER, their only sister, in their absence spent summers working at the mill while she was on vacation from teaching school in San Carlos, California.

Like the grandfather, H.F. TURNER, EDWARD TURNER (1918-1980) became a teacher and school principal in Fremont, California, and on retiring returned to Sattley and remodeled and restored the Alpine School building, where he had attended in the primary grades. His widow DOLORES TURNER and their son EDWARD now spend vacations there and maintain the property.

HARRY TURNER ("H.A.") (1872-1937) purchased the TURNER Ranch from his cousin F.H. TURNER in 1919, selling his interest in a sawmill at Sloat, California, and moving his family to Sattley, where he and his wife NEVA BROWN-TURNER lived and raised their three sons, EARL H. (1908-1985), FRANK R. (1911-), and GENE (1915-1990), until the parents' death in 1937.



Honorable H.K. Turner (1828-1903). Four term California State Senator. (Courtesy Freda Turner)

H.A. TURNER and his sons ran a dairy ranch and supplied Sierra City, Downieville, Goodyears Bar and the Packer Lake area with milk products from 1932-1941. He also purchased the purebred Herefords, which later his son FRANK R. and grandson RUSSELL TURNER developed into a large herd for the sale of breeding stock. H.A. TURNER was community-minded and served as school trustee for both the local Alpine School District and the Sierra-Plumas School District.

Of the third generation, FRANK R. TURNER was the only son to continue to live at the ranch, buying his brothers' interests in 1949. His only son RUSSELL and BARBARA TURNER are the parents of KEVIN J., BRUCE R. and JANET TURNER-REYNOLDS. Of these three, only KEVIN lives in Sattley, the father of FALLON and MERRICK TURNER.

Presently, although RUSSELL and KEVIN TURNER are the fourth and fifth generation owning and managing the TURNER Ranch, it must be noted that there is now a sixth generation son, MERRICK TURNER, age five, the namesake of the original pioneer-owner MERRICK TURNER.

RUSSELL TURNER was instrumental in having the TURNER Ranch enrolled in California's One-Hundred Year Club (1857-1957), the same span of years as the Sacramento Bee.

ISSAC SATTLEY CHURCH (1829-1914) was born in Ferrisburg, Vermont, and while studying to be an engineer, decide to come to California in search of gold. He sailed from New York Harbor April 13, 1850, on a side-wheeler, the "Cherokee." He and his companions crossed the Isthmus of Panama on foot, and becoming ill, he had to be smuggled onto the side-wheeler "S.S. Oregon," as the sick were not allowed to board ship for fear of spreading a disease. Out to sea he recovered and reportedly attributed his illness to seasickness. They docked in San Francisco on May 20, 1850.

His first steady employment was in mining at Nelson's Point, in what was later to be known as Plumas County. There he labored for \$10 a day and was able to stake out claims of his own, which averaged about one ounce of gold per day.

In 1851 he came to Downieville, where he entered into a partnership with a young pioneer from Missouri, FRANK ROWLAND, who another decade later married ISSAC's youngest sister, MARY SOPHIA CHURCH (1843-1936). CHURCH and ROWLAND operated a pack train carrying supplies muleback from Marysville through Downieville to Virginia City, Nevada.

In 1858 ISSAC CHURCH as joined by a younger brother, ABRAM, and their father, ERZA BLISS CHURCH (1800-1887). The father remained in the Marysville area for a time while his sons homesteaded in Sierra Valley, in a community to become known as "CHURCH's Corner."

Following the tragic deaths, in one year, of five of his siblings in Vermont, ISSAC CHURCH returned to Ferrisburg in 1859. There he married SARAH ELLEN GEER and returned to California with his bride, his mother HARRIET SATTLEY CHURCH, his youngest brother EZRA EDWIN CHURCH, and his sister MARY SOPHIA. The family reportedly stayed with the father in the Marysville area at first; however, his bride SARAH ELLEN came to Sierra Valley with ISSAC on muleback.

Their first child, FRANCIS SATTLEY CHURCH ("Frank") (1861-1929), was the first baby born to pioneer parents in Sierra Valley. During the next 14 years there were six more children; namely, CHARLES G., MARY P., CHARLOTTE A., ALBERT B., ROXIE E. (LYDIA), and HARRIET CHURCH. Their mother died in 1882, leaving ISSAC to raise the four younger children. Mary had already married WILLIAM McNAIR and the older boys were "on their own."

In addition to ranching, ISSAC CHURCH owned an inn just east of Sattley, on the road to Sierraville, which was some distance north of the present road. He was also a partner in a sawmill operation located between Sierra Valley and Gold lake. Both were destroyed by fire. Later he built a home on what is now the CHURCH Ranch.



Ezra Edwin Church (1847-1896) who built the Sattley store. (Courtesy Freda Turner)

ISSAC CHURCH was responsible for establishing the first schoolhouse near his property and naming it the Alpine School. ABRAM CURCH's son, OBADIAH CHURCH, was one of the first teachers instructing many of the second generation CHURCHES and TURNERS. Later, one of the second generation students, MARY CALISTA TURNER-MILLER, daughter of H.K. TURNER, also taught at this school.

A store was built at "CHURCH's Corner" by EZRA EDWIN CHURCH (1847-1896) in the 1870's, which still stands. In 1884 application was made for a U.S. Post Office, and since the name "CHURCH's Corner" was already in use, it was decided to honor the oldest citizen in the community, HARRIET SATTLEY CHURCH (1806-1891), by choosing her maiden name. Thus, "CHURCH's Corner" became known as Sattley.

EZRA EDWIN CHURCH became the first postmaster. His daughter, JENNIE CHURCH-COPREN (1883-1978), was reportedly born in the building that is now the Sattley General Store. Her grandson, WILLIAM COPREN III, is now assessor of Sierra County and makes his home in Sattley.

One of several other owners of the Sattley General Store was F.H. TURNER, son of H.K. TURNER, in the 1920's, and WILLARD CHURCH, oldest son of FRANK CHURCH, in the 1930's.

A fifth generation family is the great-grandson of CHARLES G. CHURCH, LESLIE DAVIS, who makes his home in Sattley with his wife CAROL and their four children, MICHELLE, STACEY, BEN and KIMBERLY.

ISSAC CHURCH's youngest son, ALBERT (1870-1961), purchased his father's ranch at Sattley in 1906; and in 1908 he married EDNA HAMLIN of Sierraville, who was teaching at the Alpine School. It seems that they met while she was boarding at the home of "UNCLE ISSAC and AUNT RACHEL CHURCH." ISSAC CHURCH had married GEORGE HALE's widow, RACHEL STREET-HALE, who happened to be EDNA HAMLIN's maternal aunt.

MINUTES OF THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society began their October 21, 1990 meeting with a very interesting speech by Artie Strang about two individuals, Newman and Dyson, and their arguments as to whether Sierra Valley was a wet-land or not.

A letter from CalTrans wondered if there was any significant archeological sites on Highway 89 where they are widening the road. No one present knew of any.

We have 120 paid members, 14 life members, 1 sustaining member, 2 business members and 8 family memberships. The Kentucky Mine Summer Concert Series netted \$900.00 + 1/3 of the ticket sales for the museum. The museum has \$4,430.36 in the checking account which is \$1,741.75 greater than last year. The museum had 1,655 visitors and 1,728 tours in 1990.

It was decided that the museum buy the sound system for the concerts at the amphitheatre instead of renting it.

Some people want to lease the mine. It was taken under consideration. Opening the mine portal was also considered.

It was decided to repair the apartment stairs and close in the porch with the 1991 grant funding.

All officers were asked to stay in office by the nominating committee. All accepted.

The next meeting will be a potluck on May 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sierra City Community Hall. Guest speakers will be Mel and Marcella Ponta of Goodyear's Bar. This will include the slide presentation of the Belle Alexander oral history project. We will schedule the annual work party at this meeting.

Georgene Copren, Recording Secretary

HORSE RACING IN SIERRA VALLEY

As early as the 1860's, there were horse races held at two race tracks in Sierra Valley: one at Summit (east of Chilcoot) and one in Sierraville. The earliest races were not between thoroughbreds but only between the speedier of the existing saddle horses. Some of these received special training and were kept mainly for racing. A Sierra County Jockey Club was organized in the summer of 1868 and its main purpose was to support horse racing.

Dave Newman was one of the early settlers of Sierra Valley. He took up property and settled around what we now call Newman Point. He gave up running his dairy in the 1880's and started raising trotting horses. He plotted out a race track around the knoll by the present Mello ranch and with a stop watch, he would time his horses around the track. One of his horses, named Robert L., was the fastest and according to Authur M. Strang, this horse for years held the world's record for the fifth mile in a five mile race. Mr. Newman later sold all his race horses except for Robert L.

Joe Dyson, whose ranch in the 1870's was at the junction of the present Dyson Lane and Highway 49 between Loyaltan and Vinton, raised beef cattle. He started raising thoroughbred race horses and became known throughout the state for his fine horses for they were frequent winners. His daughter,

Mattie, was his jockey. She was one of the finest lady riders winning many races for her father. Arthur Strang recalls having seen Dyson and his daughter Mattie at a Fourth of July celebration at Campbell Hot Springs. He described Joe Dyson as a short, heavy-set man with an exceptionally loud laugh – quite a character. Mattie was wearing a leather divided skirt, carried her jockey stick and "stomped around there as if she owned the world!" Her small daughter was with her.

Mr. Strang told the following story. Joe Dyson had a mare called Alkali Edna with him at the celebration. A gentleman named Ed Dory was trying to get bets on a race, telling how fast Alkali Edna could run. A widow named Lizzie McKenzie of Randolph was at the celebration and she took up the bet. She had a bay buggy named Randolph – a thoroughbred. The race was arranged on the road leading to Campbell Hot Springs. Mattie Dyson rode Alkali Edna. Well, it didn't turn out to be much of a race for Randolph came in far ahead!

There was quite a debate in Sierraville about whether they wanted to put in a good water system or whether they wanted to build a fair grounds with a race track. The people that wanted a fair grounds won out. It was put in just west of the lane that runs into the present Wilson ranch, west of Ellis Smith's property. This was in 1868. They built a grandstand and sheds for the horses and had one track in front of the grandstand running east and west while the larger oval race track ran north and south down towards the Wilson ranch. Mr. Strang says he can still see remnants of that track.

In 1887 an association named the Sierra Valley Stock and Agricultural Association was organized in Sierraville. In 1888 they built a new race track and it was in use that summer. It was 56 feet wide. In 1890 a larger capacity pump was installed to keep the track sprinkled down.

In one of the first races on the track, "Capt. Jack," a horse belonging to Laz Levy, won the trotting race; "Overland Pat," owned by Dave Newman, won the running race of one-half mile; "Gypsy Queen," owned by Charles Fisher, won the trotting race for single buggy horses. Through the next ten years, numerous District Fairs, Independence Day celebrations and races were held at the grounds.

The fair grounds were closed about the turn of the century. A man from Truckee bought the land where the fair grounds once stood and he raised chickens there. He used the old horse shed for chicken coops and he made some kind of living quarters for himself under the grandstand. Thus ended the era of Fairs and horse racing in Sierraville.

Information from an interview with Authur M. Strang by Maren Scholberg and from *Sierra Valley, Jewel of the Sierras* by James J. Sinnott, February 1991.

Note: We are in need of more volunteers to draw from. Please contact me at the museum if you have any free time and like working with the public. This can be a lot of fun as well as gratifying to support our worthy cause.



AMY CATHERINE WESTALL BOWMAN
January 3, 1916 - March 15, 1991

By her request, no services are scheduled for Ms. Amy Catherine (Westall) Bowman who died on March 15, 1991, at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. In June of '90, Ms. Bowman hosted a celebration of the one hundreth birthday of the Westall Family Home in Loganville, Sierra County, the home in which Ms. Bowman was born. Her grandparents, Alfred and Susan Westall, arrived in Sierra County in 1861. Her parents, Edward and Amy Westall, raised a family of seven children in the family home in Loganville. Her grandchildren are fifth generation Westalls in Sierra County.

She attended elementary schools in Loganville and Loyalton, CA, and graduated from Loyalton High School in 1932. She received her B.S. and secondary teaching credential from U.C. Berkeley in 1935. During her long teaching career in Sierra County she taught in Forest City, Alleghany and Downieville High Schools.

In 1943 she married Walter Bowman. Two children, Barbara Bowman Marshall and Robert Bowman were born of this union. She and her husband operated Loganville Cabins for many years.

She was active in the Sierra County Democratic Party, in the Sierra County Historical Society and in many civic activities.

She is survived by her son, Robert Bowman, five grandchildren, Suzi and Molly Marshall, and Sara, Cayleb and Joey Brown Bowman, by her sister, Gladys Fowler of Loyalton and her brother, Sidney Westall of Woodland, and numerous neices and nephews.

Friends who wish may make a contribution to the Barbara Marshall Memorial Scholarship, c/o Placer Savings Bank, Downieville, CA or a charity of their choice.

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**JOIN THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY! SEND \$10. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES TO P.O. BOX 260, SIERRA CITY, CA 96125.**  
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KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND

Since the official beginning of the memorial in 1990 the fund has grown considerably with donations from the following people in memory of Henry Tschopp.

John and Katherine Gibson

Mrs. Frank Montgomery

Mrs. Hugo Correll

William W. Haley

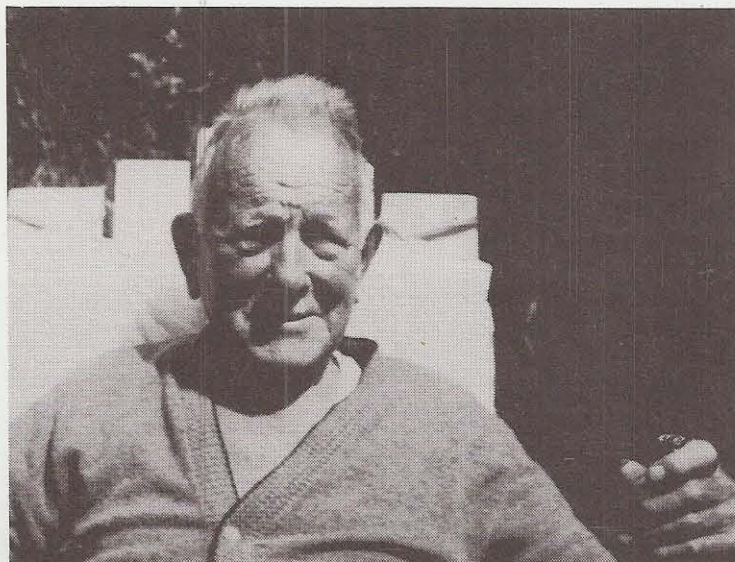
Sophie Tschopp

Frances Brett

There is a possibility of a matching grant from the IBM Corporation thanks to John and Katherine Gibson. A plaque will be installed for Henry this spring.

A donation has been received of Mrs. David White in memory of Olive Berger Murray (daughter of Theo Berger). Mrs. White is the daughter of John Berger and granddaughter of Theo Berger.

At present, Charles K. Smith has made a donation in the name of Amy Bowman. A plaque will be installed in the near future.



HENRY TSCHOPP
May 25, 1904 - October 23, 1990

Henry was always fond of the mountains and made his first visit to Sierra County via Model T Ford in the late 1920s.

The area reminded him of Switzerland, his native country, so after his marriage to Sophie Seiler in 1936 they purchased property in Sierra City from the Devine family. They built Yuba River Inn which was to become a popular summer resort operated by Sophie and Henry until they sold same in 1981.

He was an avid reader, especially fond of early California gold mining days, which encouraged him to explore the abandoned mines in the area. One of his greatest pleasures was driving friends and guests throughout the countryside to share his knowledge of the area. Artifacts and equipment from these explorations were presented to the Kentucky Mine Museum.

A supporter of the Sierra County Historical Society since its founding, Henry's cheerful smile and attitude are missed by family and friends.

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ALBERT and EDNA CHURCH raised a family of two, GORDON K. (1908-1975) and FRED A. L. CHURCH (1919-) at Sattley. They purchased adjacent ranches in the community; namely, the KEEFE and BEATON ranches, increasing their acreage to approximately 1,000 acres. Over time, ALBERT and GORDON CHURCH dairied and raised beef cattle. ALBERT served as a school trustee in the Alpine School District and was also a director of the Sierra Valley Bank, then in Loyalton, California.

In 1950 GORDON and his wife EVELYN GIER became owners of the ranch. Three of their five children live in Sattley. They are WAYNE and wife DOLORES; ROBERT and wife LORRAIN, and daughters WENDY and AMANDA; and, DALE CHURCH. GORDON's eldest son RANDALL and his wife PATRICIA ("Pat") live and teach school in Westwood; and GORDON's daughter CAROLYN CHURCH-FERGUSON, also a teacher, resides in Dixon with her husband JAMES FERGUSON and daughters MELISSA and ASHLEY. GORDON combined ranching and logging until his untimely death in 1975.

RANDALL and PAT CHURCH have two children, JENNIFER, age 18, and DANIEL ("Dan"), age 16, who is the only fifth generation grandson of ISSAC CHURCH to carry the name. He will one day receive the Family Bible, which has been passed to the eldest son of each generation since the 17th century, carrying the genealogical records of the CHURCH family.

The historical tapestry of Sattley was more tightly woven when, after neighboring for 80 years, two third-generation descendants FRANK R. TURNER and FRED A. L. CHURCH were married October 15, 1939. They established their home on the TURNER Ranch, and four children were born to their union: RUSSELL ALBERT, SHARON LORRAINE (KAMBER), EDNA KAY (DEVORE), and GAYNELL GRACE (GLEASON). In addition, there are now ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of whom consider the TURNER Ranch at Sattley to be "home."

KENTUCKY MINE RECEIVES AWARD

SIERRA CITY-An award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) was presented to Museum Curator Karen Donaldson and President of the Sierra County Historical Society Linc Madsen.

The award, presented during the Board of Supervisors meeting by Chairman Jerry McCaffrey was in recognition of the Museum and Park and the achievements accomplished.

McCaffrey mentioned that since the park was initiated in 1974 it has been the subject of numerous articles in the media and travel journals. He complimented the museum and its artifacts, the tours provided and the interpretation of the local mining history and the summer concert series as examples of the success and popularity of the park.

McCaffrey continued, "over the 16 year operational and maintenance history provided through the County Historical Society has without exception afforded an exemplary effort by

a group of dedicated and hard-working individuals. This certainly includes the Curator and caretaker (Donaldson).

Many safety improvements were recently completed at the amphitheater, asphalt walkways were constructed to the upper portion of the park, protection and weatherization of the mill buildings were completed. The Board has allocated an additional \$20,000 to perform additional improvements in the 1991 construction season.

A copy of the plaque was presented to Madsen and Donaldson and the original will hang in the courthouse.

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KENTUCKY MINE GOES ON THE ROAD

SIERRA CITY-The Kentucky Mine Park and Museum was featured February 27, as the subject of an ongoing monthly 'fireside gala' held at the Miner's Foundry Cultural Center in Nevada City, and aptly entitled "All About the Kentucky Mine."

Museum Curator Karen Donaldson was the guest speaker and presented a slide show depicting the park, museum and a tour of the stamp mill. The presentation was well received and Donaldson was asked to repeat the showing to the Nevada County Historical Society meeting at the Miner's Foundry the following evening.

February 27th marked the official opening of an exhibit on loan to the Miner's Foundry from the Sierra County Historical Society. The display consists primarily of portraits of Major William Downie and his family in elaborate gilt frames.

The Downie collection is located in the Old Stone Hall and the eight total pieces will be on loan for a limited time.

Rogers' Picture Framing of Nevada City generously donated time and materials to restore the frames and hang the exhibit, including a beautifully framed print of the 'Old Kentucky' by George Mathis.

Local artist Jacques Rickard of Sierra City was commissioned to do a piece in calligraphy illustrating the origins of the Kentucky Mine, its development as a park and its current status as the 1990 recipient of the National Association of Counties Achievement Award. Rickard did the labels for the display.

Two banners used to announce the Kentucky Mine Concert Series are hung with the exhibit and visitors will be certain to notice as everything is attractively displayed.

Sam Girdler, Chairman of the Historic Committee at the Miner's Foundry, was instrumental in getting the participation of the Kentucky Mine Museum and the event serves as an occasion of great pride for Sierra County.

Donaldson was honored with an appointment to the Miner's Foundry Historic Committee. The Miner's Foundry is located at 325 Spring Street in Nevada City and open most weekday mornings, phone 265-5040 for information.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1851 HANGING OF JUANITA IN DOWNEVILLE:

I am working on a book that will deal, in part, with the 1851 hanging of Juanita in Downieville. I have collected approximately 100 accounts of the event. These accounts span the period from 1851 to 1990.

I would appreciate hearing from any present or former resident of Sierra County who may have information about "Juanita," members of the court who tried her, or witnesses to the event. I would, indeed, appreciate any advice, stories, and general information about the hanging or Downieville in the early 1850s.

Three aspects of the event, in particular, perplex me.

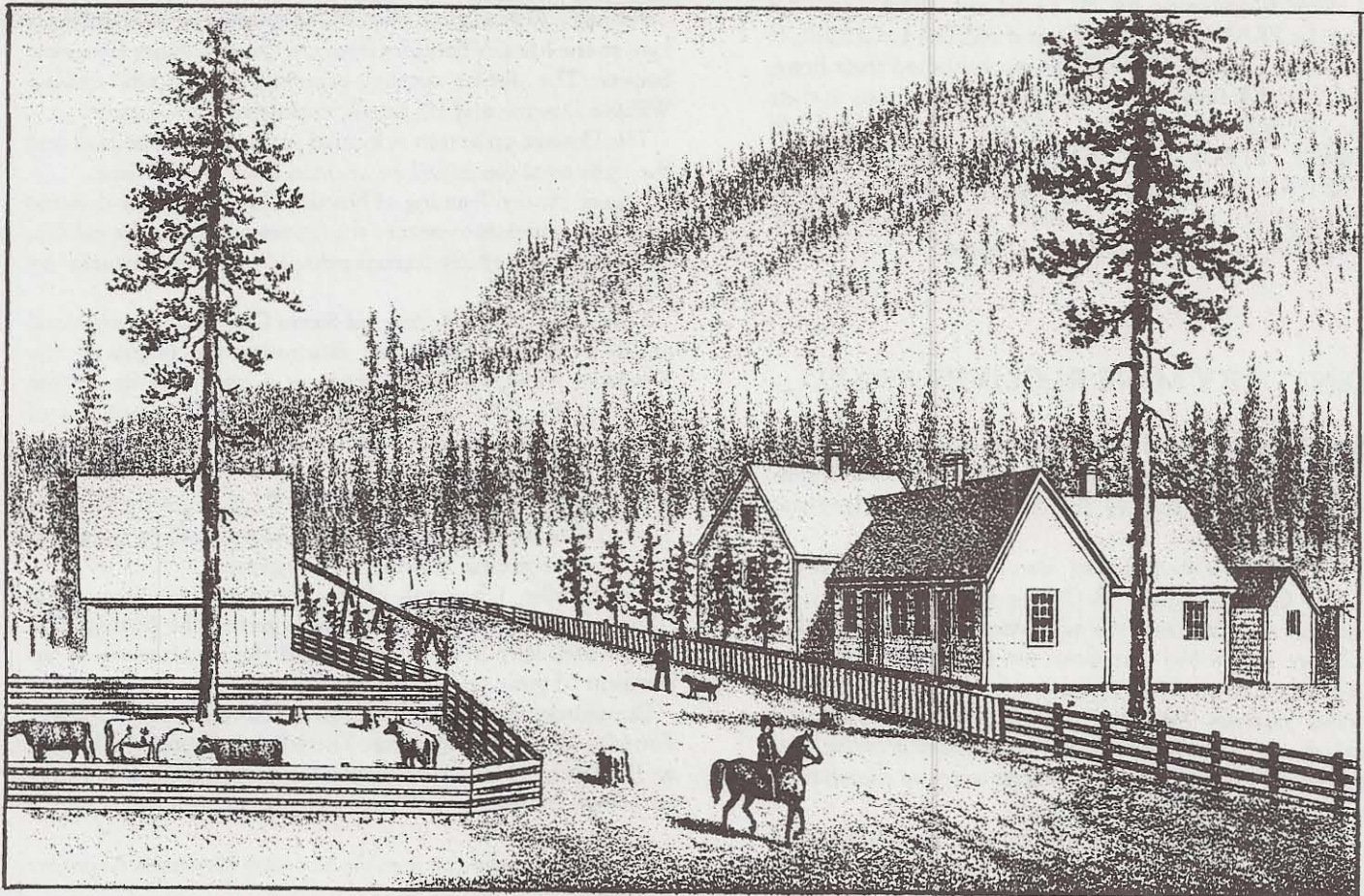
First: I have read in numerous places that a James Galloway had been elected justice of the peace for the town prior to July 1851. However, I can find no record of his whereabouts on July 4 and 5, 1851, nor any record of his response to the hanging.

Second: I can find no record of a coroner's inquest into the death of either Cannon or Juanita. Downieville at the time was part of Yuba County, and my initial inquiries there have not produced any leads. Does anyone have any advice as to where (and how) I might uncover such a report?

Third: I have found no mention of either Juanita's (or Josefa's) or Jose's last name. Has anyone any such information that states or suggests what they were?

In closing let me thank you for your assistance. I enjoyed my brief visit to Downieville last summer immensely. It was, in particular, a delight to tour the County Historical Society, and to meet so many thoughtful and pleasant people in Downieville and Sierra City.

Best Regards,
David A. Johnson
Professor of History
Department of History
Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207-0751



RESIDENCE OF JARED STRANG, SIERRA VALLEY, SIERRA CO. CAL.