

## Synopsis of the New of 1882

As printed in the St. Helena Star  
Reported by Mariam Hansen

Coutolenc Brothers purchased the Star Market from Garner and Bacon.

John York and William McCormick started a new butcher shop and began delivery by wagon (miniature shops—sides and quarters of meat hung within. Inside the rear door was a cutting board. The butcher drove from house to house among the farms and the wife would choose her meat.)

Memorial Day was celebrated in a large way, with a parade to the cemetery in the afternoon, an oration by M.M. Estee and ceremonies in the evening at Ink's Hall.

John Tychson stated that in 1864, when he lived with John Lewelling, one man owned all of the hill land back of Lewelling's, Bourn's, Woodward's and Scheffler's on Sulphur Springs Avenue. This man was anxious to sell 800 acres at \$1 per acre.

In June John H. Wheeler was married to Frances Jones in Chico.

John Tychson sold to Albert Schropfer, a San Francisco architect [who designed the Rhine House and Villa Miravalle], thirty acres of land. The purchaser intended to build a home and otherwise improve the property [known as "Rockland"].

The spirit of the Wild West appeared to have survived in Napa. Ex-sheriff John Zollner shot a man as the latter emerged from a saloon, and a few weeks later Dr. Stillwagon shot a man named Garcia on the street. Both were acquitted.

The Fourth of July was celebrated at Crane Park [then near the corner of El Bonita Avenue and Main Street] by the fire men. In the morning there was the customary parade, followed by an oration by

Samuel Shortridge [later US senator 1921-33], which was published in the Star and



filled six columns. After some music Henry McPike [Candidate for Congress and later US Attorney] delivered the second oration. During his talk a thirty eight gun salute was fired from a cannon at the corner of Main Street and Sulphur Springs Avenue by Civil War veterans James Lawson and Fred Dickinson. After 20 shots, the cannon went off prematurely just as Dickinson was withdrawing the ramrod after loading it. The discharge carried away his right hand and his forearm to the elbow. To add to the excitement a fire was discovered in John McPike's field across the road. With great effort the fire was extinguished. The fire started from a burning stump at the lower end of the field, but did not have any connection to the festivities. In the evening there was a ball at the Odd Fellows Hall and supper was served at Tonolla's St. Helena Hotel.

Fred Dickinson had been a carpenter, but was unable to continue in his trade due to the loss of his arm. He purchased a tobacco and notion store in the odd Fellows Hall.

Charles Krug established a gas plant to illuminate his winery—it was a one hundred jet plant.

In July Abraham Goodman defied the Sunday closing law-he



was acquitted by a jury after only ten minutes deliberation.

Twenty citizens met at the Winegrowers Hall to organize a bank and 52 subscribed for stock.

Subsequently stock for \$100,000 was subscribed and the bank was organized as the Bank of St. Helena.

Officers were President Seneca Ewer and Cashier C.B. Hastings.

The Napa City Water Company was organized to supply that city with water.

Louis Pellet purchased a mount and joined the small group of pioneer cyclists.

A resident of Berryessa Valley killed a rattlesnake almost seven feet long and as thick as a man's arm. The sixteen rattles were brought to the Star office. It was the largest rattler ever seen here.

The public school opened for the fall term with Samuel M. Shortridge as principal. Two new rooms, making six in all, had been added during vacation. [These two rooms were saved when the school house was demolished in 1901 and served for many years as the Catholic Hall—later Thrifty Manor]. A new bell as also added.

The new St. Helena Academy opened in the building which had been moved from the corner of Adams Street and Allyn Avenue. [It was the high school from 1882 to 1897.] Rev. Lowell Rogers conducted the institution.

Addison Philpott, formerly of St. Helena and recently appointed to the San Francisco Police Department, was the tallest man on the force—six feet, three inches in his stocking feet.

John Steckter was reported ill with a malady that puzzled the doctors.

John Carey and Miss Alice Montgomery were married on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Bieber, recently from Europe and a cousin of the Beringers, assumed the position of bookkeeper at Beringer Brothers Winery.

In October the Rural Health Retreat [later St. Helena Hospital] began operating as a sanitarium.

Frank Hoffman started to learn the trade of painter with James Rutledge.

Rev. Lewis Elgin and wife of Missouri visited their son W.A. Elgin. Rev Elgin occupied the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church one Sunday while here.

At the November election, 270 [men's] votes were polled; contrasting with 241 in the last election. The Democrats elected George Stoneman as governor; E.E. Johnson,



assemblyman; Bennett James, sheriff; J.L. Shearer, superintendent of schools; Edgar Haun, coroner; William W. Lyman, supervisor; and James McGee, constable. The Republicans elected Frank Coombs, district attorney; N.L. Nielsen, clerk; C.B. Arnold, treasurer; John Kean, assessor; W.A. Pierce, surveyor; and W.A. Elgin (also endorsed by the Democrats) as justice of the peace.

The parents of R.E. Wood, the photographer, celebrated their golden wedding.

The Bank of St. Helena purchased the old Van Tassel Hotel building from Mrs. Emily Van Tassel and fitted up half as banking quarters.

Henry Steinacher arrived in St. Helena and purchased the Ulrich Barber Shop.

Joseph R. Kettlewell and son fitted their new store room as a shoe store for J.R. Kettlewell's son Joe.

Owen Wade and Mrs. Margaret Ely were married in the latter's home, northeast corner of Main Street and Fulton Lane. On return from their wedding trip they were serenaded by the band.

A second town band, the Silver Cornets, was organized. It was composed of Harvey Lewelling, Adolph and Robert Bussenius, George and Richard Rammers, Charles Logan, Leon Lazarus, Charles Head and Professor Myers.

Jules Millet, a nephew of Charles Crochat, arrived from France less than three months ago. He was shot and killed at the Franco-Swiss Winery in Conn Valley by Louis Murbach, a vineyard and cellar worker.

Murbach had been caught in the theft of some photographs from the wagon of a photographer. Owner Fred Metzner confronted him and gave him a severe punching. Fearing to attack Metzner, Murbach took his revenge on his inoffending fellow worker.

In December E.W. Woodward and Company started dividing subdividing and selling 250 acres of the Lyman Ranch—the part lying this side of the Bale Mill and extending east to the Napa River.

Major J.S. Hay started publication of the bi-weekly Times, a newspaper of Democratic persuasion.

I.S. and E.W. Brown purchased Will Chiles' hardware business.

Eddie Butler, 24 year old son of C.H. Butler of Pine Station [Zinfandel Lane], was found dead on the floor of his cabin, a pistol lying at his side. It appearing to be a case of suicide, the coroner's jury brought in a verdict as such. The father was not satisfied and employed two San Francisco detectives to investigate the case. Two Chinese, who had quarreled with the deceased over delayed payment of wages, were suspected and arrested. One of them was convicted and sentenced to 22 years in San Quentin.

Miss Dixie Chiles was tendered a surprise party by more than fifty friends.

The first ice cream parlor in town was started by W.C. Ward.

Eli Philpott, brother of Ad Philpott, was killed by bandits near Tombstone, Arizona. The stage he was driving was held up.

In mid January a cold north wind persisted for several days. One night it developed into a gale and blew down several signs, which broke windows. A tall eucalyptus tree in front of Creamer's shop fell over and a Chinese wash house was blown off its foundation.

Major J.S. Hay, editor of the Times, purchased the Field property at Pine Station [Milat Winery today].

The St. Helena Water Company, to provide for increased demand for water, lengthened the York Creek dam 35 feet and raised it 10 feet.

Thomas P. Money of Oakville purchased one half interest in the XLCR Market.

F. W. Kroeber and family came from Idaho and purchased sixteen acres on Spring Street. Recorded price was \$8,000 [Now Holy Cross Cemetery and part of St. Helena Cemetery.]

Colonel Byron O. Carr resigned his post as supervising inspector of steamboats in Cleveland. He came to St. Helena and purchased property on Inglewood Avenue to build a two story home and install a water system.

An increased demand for storage required the second addition to the St. Helena Bonded Warehouse on Church Street, bringing capacity to 100,000 gallons.

The Websterian Debating Club, a men's organization, was founded. At the first meeting, Samuel Shortridge and Will F. Vann won a debate over W.A. Mackinder and Fred Loeber.

Reports came that there was a great exodus from Germany. One of the reasons given was the fear of a great European war. People were fleeing from the calamities of war, as well as from conscription into the military. Another reason was the lack of markets for the country's products.

Captain Oliver Smith and Miss Eva Ely were married at the home of the bride's mother.

A large group of men, called together by ringing of the auction bell along the streets, gathered at the Palace Hotel and held a rousing anti-Chinese meeting. Resolutions were passed asking Congress to act on a pending bill to restrict Chinese immigration to the Pacific Coast.

Roller skating was revived and a number of young people met weekly at E.M. York's new cellar on Lodi Lane.

A sporting club was organized and held weekly contests at shooting glass balls. Tom Vann was the first prize winner.

John Weinberger, a prominent and highly respected viticulturalist, was shot twice and instantly killed by a former employee at the Lodi train station. William Gau had sent a bogus telegram asking Weinberger to meet a wine buyer at the station. As he walked along looking for the buyer, Gau killed him and then committed suicide. The funeral was the largest ever held here. When the funeral procession turned into the cemetery, the line still extended far up Main Street.

At the town election in April 239 votes were cast, resulting in the election of trustees [councilmen] Phil Stockton, William York, Owen Wade, George Gluyas and J.C. Potter. Leopold Lazerus was elected treasurer and John Allison as marshal.

Theron Ink built a new livery stable on lower Main Street.

Emil Zange and wife went on a visit to their old home in Germany. They were serenaded by the band before they departed.

Graduates from the public school were Grant Elgin, Maggie Fountain (valedictorian), Maud Clock, Ida Fulton, Katie Hoffman, Carrie McGeorge, Bertha Shepardon and Fannie Stone. Exercises were held in the Presbyterian Church. Teachers were M.A. Morford, principal; Miss Alice Jones, Mrs. Carrie Alden and Mrs. S.A. Stowell, assistants.

E. P. Palmer purchased from Mrs. Maye Alstrom 131 acres of land on the westerly edge of town.

A two story addition with fifty foot frontage was built on August Tonolla's St. Helena Hotel.

The Puget Sound Lumber Company occupied quarters at the corner of Pope and Main Streets recently vacated by Theron Ink's stable [today the site of 76 Gas Station].

Oak Avenue, to this time not a very impressive street, and to considerable extent lined with back yards of Main street homes and stores, was graded. Many regrets were expressed at the loss of a beautiful oak tree that stood at the corner of Oak Avenue and Adams Street.

George A. Riggins called his enlarged drug store the Wonderful Drug Store and it was known by that name for many years.

The town purchased from Thomas Sheehan a lot on Oak Avenue as a location for a town hall and fire house [today St. Helena Catholic School].

Cay Heymann and Mrs. Mary Pauritch, a sister of Mrs. Jacob Beringer, were married. Upon their return from their wedding journey the couple were serenaded by the band.

Mrs. Taplin purchased the milk business of Mr. Sargent.

The members of the Turn Verein German Club held their second annual picnic at Lyman's Grove. Among the game winners was Theresa Kennelly, who won a race for girls.

In May Rudolph Lemme and Miss Alice McPike were married in San Francisco.

Benjamin Haire, a Civil War veteran and old time resident who came to town in 1863, died. His widow and three children survive him.

With the improvement of Oak Avenue, some of the Main Street homes were moved back to face Oak.

W.A. Elgin [1326 Oak-still there] was the first. Another was the house built by Hiram Dixon in 1855, now part of the Behrens home. Also the George Beach home, now Knipschild's.

A killing frost in mid May severely damaged the grape vines in many sections.