

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 165TH YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Autumn Edition



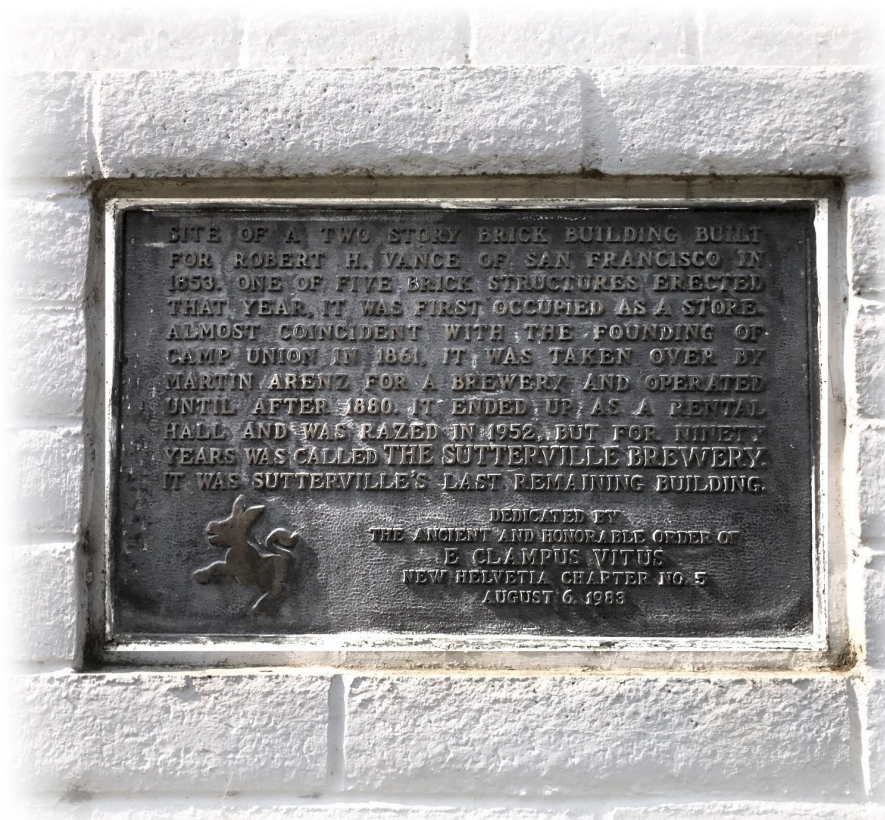
President's Message

Martin Arenz:
Immigrant, Brewer &
Sacramento Pioneer

September 23
Annual Picnic at
Heringer Estates

September 27
Lecture at
Sutter's Fort:
California's First
Governor

Pioneers Assist
Crocker Acquisition



Sutterville Brewery
Commemorative Marker

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



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IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Newton

Cover Image: Plaque at 1250 Sutterville Road, Sacramento, commemorating the location of the Sutterville Brewery. The text reads:

Site of a two story brick building built for Robert H. Vance of San Francisco in 1853. One of five brick structures erected that year, it was first occupied as a store. Almost coincident with the founding of Camp Union in 1861, it was taken over by Martin Arenz for a brewery and operated until after 1880. It ended up as a rental hall and was razed in 1952, but for ninety years was called THE SUTTERVILLE BREWERY. It was Sutterville's last remaining building.

Dedicated by the Ancient and Honorable Order of
E CLAMPUS VITUS
New Helvetia Chapter No 5
August 6, 1988

Photo by Michael Shepard

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter TM

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President's Message

Greetings Pioneers,

Summer tends to be a slow season for the Sacramento Pioneer Association. This summer, however, is an exception. During our annual dinner meeting in March of this year, we announced that the Association hired new bookkeeper Barbara Newton to help manage our organization's administrative duties. Sadly, a fatal automobile accident took Ms. Newton's life on June 17. She was only fifty-two years old.

Past-President Steve Huffman, having done much of the leg-work hiring Ms. Newton, accepted the task of seeking a replacement bookkeeper. Steve completed his assignment with speed and efficiency. I am pleased to report that the Pioneers hired Shelley Ford on July 16. Mrs. Ford has extensive bookkeeping experience with non-profit organizations having worked with the California State Library Foundation for twenty-three years. The Sacramento Pioneer Association will start its new fiscal year in October with confidence that this year's books are in order. Welcome aboard, Shelley!

Financially, the Sacramento Pioneer Association is in solid shape. Pioneer Hall remains fully leased by tenants misfit and Kicx. Investments are performing well and membership is strong. An important part of the mission of our organization is to collect preserve and share pioneer history. This is sometimes achieved by contributions made to other historically relevant non-profit organizations, which also helps to maintain our own tax exempt status. The Association is fortunate to have been able to make a recent \$10,000 contribution to the Crocker Art Museum in support of its acquisition of a set of truly exquisite Victorian-era cabinetry pieces belonging to California pioneer and silver magnate James C. Flood. Next time you visit the Crocker's California collection, take special notice of this permanent display.

The Sacramento Pioneer Association annual picnic on Sunday, September 23, at Heringer Estates Vineyards & Winery in Clarksburg, is fast approaching. Thank you events chair Karun Yee and committee members Debbie Elliot, Pete Heringer

and Julia Schaw for all their work preparing this anticipated event. Invitations have been mailed.

Later that week, on Thursday, September 27, at Sutter's Fort, author Gregory Nokes will discuss his new book about California's first governor titled *The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett* presented in cooperation by Friends of Sutter's Fort and the Sacramento Pioneer Association. For tickets, please call the Friends of Sutter's Fort office at (916) 323-7627.

On behalf of the board of directors, we look forward to seeing you at upcoming Pioneer events!

Michael Shepard, President

PIONEER APPAREL

A large assortment of
shirts, hats, aprons, bags, etc.,
all finely embroidered
with the
Sacramento Pioneer
Association
emblem, may be procured
by visiting

[http://www.companycasuals.com/
Sacramentopioneer/start.jsp](http://www.companycasuals.com/Sacramentopioneer/start.jsp)



Martin Arenz: Immigrant, Brewer & Sacramento Pioneer

By Michael Shepard

James McClatchy, President of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, called to order the organization's regular monthly meeting on Saturday evening of May 29, 1869, at its newly dedicated hall on 7th Street, between J and K Streets. Business at hand included the acknowledgement of new applicants to the Association. Among the candidates was Martin Arenz, an immigrant from Prussia who arrived in California on September 26, 1849, thus qualifying his membership in Sacramento's pioneer society. The following month, during the Pioneer's meeting on June 26, 1869, the board of directors announced its approval of memberships including that of Mr. Martin Arenz. This was a significant summer in Sacramento for the Prussian immigrant pioneer, because he also became a citizen of the United States on August 27, 1869.

Little is known about Arenz's first decade in California; whether he saw success as a gold miner, or when exactly he gave up pick and shovel to settle in Sacramento. The earliest available documentation pertaining to Mr. Arenz has to do with his involvement with Sacramento's German community. The Turnverein, a traditional German athletic and social club with roots dating back to 1811, formed in Sacramento on June 2, 1854. Martin Arenz became an active member in 1857 according to Turnverein records.

When the 100th birth anniversary of renowned German poet Friedrich Schiller occurred on November 10, 1859, members of the Sacramento Turnverein organized a grand ball at their hall at 10th and K Streets to commemorate the event that would be celebrated by Germans around the world. As a German, a Turner and a self-professed admirer of the beloved poet, Mr. Arenz attended Sacramento's Schillerfest, which promised "Overture, Music, Oration, Singing, Declamation! To conclude with a Grand Ball." In fact, Arenz was among the organizers of the event. Among the early records ascribed to Martin Arenz is a commemorative book published in Philadelphia in 1859 titled *Schiller Album*, which includes the names of subscribers to official Schiller centennial-anniversary events in cities throughout North America. The name of Mr. Arenz is copied below, in old German script, exactly as it appears in that book:

Herr M. Arenz, Sacramento.

Just days after the Schillerfest, a *Sacramento Daily Union* article dated November 14, 1859, named Mr.

Arenz among the charter members of the Sacramento Hussars, a city cavalry-militia, mostly, if not entirely, composed of German immigrants. Other notable Sacramento Hussars mentioned include Frank Ebner of Ebner's Hotel and August Heilbron. By 1861, Arenz rose to the rank of brevet second lieutenant.

The Sacramento Directory for the Years 1861 and 1862 records Martin Arenz as proprietor of the Indian Queen Saloon at No. 56 3rd Street. Endeavoring to increase business opportunity, Arenz purchased a 62' x 62' two-story brick building in Sutterville, a few miles below Sacramento City, where he started the Sutterville Brewery.

In October of 1861, a U. S. army training facility known as Camp Union relocated to Sutterville from its prior position on the Yolo side of the Sacramento River. On the evening of December 12, 1861, a group of spirited soldiers marched from their camp up the hill to the brewery. The following article from the December 14, 1861, edition of the *Sacramento Daily Union* reports what transpired:

ROW AT SUTTERVILLE - We learn that a disturbance occurred on Thursday evening between a party of soldiers from Camp Union, and some workmen at the new brewery on the hill between Sutterville and the Camp. Our information is, that about a dozen soldiers, some of them intoxicated, came to the brewery, demanding beer, and on being refused, became turbulent, and began to break things. Three or four workmen then attacked them with brickbats, and drove them off with considerable damage. The soldiers were returning to the attack, when a portion of the guard was sent out from the camp and arrested them. During the melee the proprietor of the brewery fired a pistol at the soldiers, but missed his aim.

Martin married Miss Kate Keiser in the spring of 1862. Their first-born was actually born at the Sutterville Brewery according to the June 9, 1863, edition of the *Union*. Martin and Kate had six children, four of whom lived to adulthood.

The Sutterville Brewery appeared to be a successful business. Mr. Arenz regularly paid taxes assessed monthly according to records dated December 1863 to December 1866. According to the assessor, the brewery produced year round anywhere from twenty-one to forty-two barrels of lager per month depending on the season. In 1867, however, Martin Arenz, as well as other Sacramento Brewers, apparently crafted a scheme to avoid paying *all* taxes owed. The *Sacramento Daily Union*, on May 29, 1861, printed the following article:

Seizure of Lager. — Not a slight commotion was caused yesterday among those directly and indirectly concerned in the sale and consumption of lager by the

seizure on the part of the proper revenue officers of lager beer wagons while the drivers were in the act of delivering the article to their customers. The parties held responsible for evasion of the law are P. Scheld, G. Ochs, J. Oschner, J. Gruhler, and M. Arentz (*sic*) of the Sutterville brewery. The offense charged is that the parties concerned did not properly cancel the stamps in the manner required by the Revenue law, but so contrived matters as to make one stamp answer the purpose of many, thereby depriving Uncle Sam of his just and lawful dues. The requirement is that the stamp shall be put on the bung of each cask, with the initials of the manufacturer, date of sale, etc., but it was evaded by putting it, in some cases, on one side, and in other instances in a different manner, the practice being equivalent to not stamping at all. The penalties for the offenses are pretty heavy, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, in accordance with the extent of the violations. We learn that bonds were given in the several cases. During the excitement consequent on the seizure the Revenue Collector was asked, probably by some one who was anxious about his lager, whether the seizure would not raise the price of the article? His comforting reply was, "No, it will cheapen it." "Bully for you," was the rejoinder.

In 1867, Arenz sold the Sutterville Brewery and returned to Sacramento where he embarked upon a new business venture. The former brewer established the Capital Malt-House on the corner of 12th and I Streets. As early as May 21, 1868, advertisements began to run in the *Union*:

CAPITAL MALT-HOUSE, CORNER TWELFTH AND I STS. Country Brewers, and those who have not the necessary conveniences for preparing their own Malt, will find it to their advantage to buy their supply from me, as I, having had long experience in this branch of business, have got all the Modern Improvements in my New Malt-house, and can sell it cheaper than Brewers can prepare it themselves. M. ARENZ. - All orders promptly filled.

Later in 1868, Arenz converted the Capital Malt-House into the Capital Brewery, which was open for business early in 1869. Perhaps as a promotional strategy, Mr. Arenz sent a barrel of his lager to the *Union* on January 15, 1869. The following day, the newspaper editor printed a statement of gratitude:

THANKS. — Martin Arenz, of the Capital Brewery, on I street, near Twelfth, a new institution, sent to this office yesterday a keg of excellent beer, as a sample of the working of his establishment.

That same year, Martin sold an interest in the Capital Brewery to fellow German immigrant Louis Nicolaus.

The 1890 biographical sketch of Mr. Nicolaus, as it appears in *An Illustrated History of Sacramento County, California* by renowned historian and Sacramento Pioneer Association member Winfield J. Davis informs that Mr. Nicolaus "bought an interest in the brewery at Twelfth and I streets, in October, 1869, from Martin Arenz, and remained in partnership with him until 1873, when Wendel Kerth bought the interest of Mr. Arenz." Of special note, Louis Nicolaus and Wendel Kerth are direct ancestors of Sacramento Pioneer Association past-President Wendel Flint.

Martin's brewing days ended with the sale of the Capital Brewery, but he satisfied Sacramento's thirsty citizens in other ways. Martin's Saloon on I street became a popular neighborhood watering hole during the 1870s. Mr. Arenz became successor to A. Lewick & Co., Importers and Wholesale Dealers in Foreign Wines and Liquors in 1875. Financial troubles of an unknown nature led Martin Arenz to declare bankruptcy in 1876.

The Sacramento Pioneer Association elected seventy-one-year-old Martin Arenz to its board of directors in 1898 at a time when the number of pioneers in Sacramento began to noticeably dwindle. In fact, the *Union* reported after the organization's annual meeting on August 26, 1899, that "the society has lost eight members who have passed away during the past fiscal year, five of them since January 1st. It is to be hoped that the coming year proves much more kind to them."

Martin Arenz died in January, 1903, and is buried in the Sacramento Pioneer Association's Pioneer Grove in the Old City Cemetery. His biography is the second to appear within the Association's publication *Gone to Rest*. The entry is brief, comprising only two paragraphs, which read:

Martin Arenz

b. December 26, 1827; d. January 26, 1903. Martin Arenz, a merchant, emigrated from New York and arrived in San Francisco on September 26, 1849. He was recommended for membership in the Sacramento Pioneer Association by John S. Miller, George A. Putnam and Asa P. Andrews.

From the *Union*, January 28, 1903: "In this city died January 26th, Martin Arenz, husband of Catherine Arenz, and father of J. W. and M. P. Arenz, Mrs. H. H. Heiser and Mrs. O. L. Heiser, a native of Germany, aged 76 years and 1 month. Friends can view the remains at his late residence 530 Seventh street from 10 AM today to time of funeral. Interment private.

Arenz, Plot 100, Pioneer Grove



Crocker Art Museum Acquires “Bonanza King’s” Historic Victorian Era Cabinetry with Help from Pioneers

By Bill Schaw

The Crocker Art Museum was recently provided with a unique opportunity to acquire a grand cabinet and elaborate fireplace surround made between 1876 and 1878 for what was then James Claire Flood’s newly built mansion in Menlo Park. Made by Pottier and Stymus, the “Flood Room” cabinetry is considered among the finest examples of its type in the United States—and among the best preserved.

Called Linden Towers, Flood’s Italianate mansion was made possible by the fortune Flood amassed through silver mining. He was one of four men in the “Bonanza Firm,” a business partnership that dealt in silver-mining shares and controlled and ran Comstock mines, most notably the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company.

To decorate Linden Towers, Flood commissioned the prestigious New York design and cabinetmaking firm of Auguste Pottier and William Stymus, which executed some of 19th-century America’s top interiors, including decorations for the White House Cabinet Room under President Ulysses S. Grant. They provided the “Flood Room” cabinetry now at the Crocker.

Linden Towers was dismantled in 1934 but fortunately the Pottier and Stymus furnishings were sold to a prominent San Francisco attorney, Walter Linforth, for

his nearby home. Linforth added a room to his home to showcase these pieces and they have been there ever since. Then recently the current owner of the Linforth home decided to sell the property and offered the Pottier and Stymus furniture to the Crocker as a gift.

The Crocker became responsible for bringing this furniture to Sacramento and installing it, the cost of which, given its complexity and scale, was estimated at over \$100,000 including packing, shipping, readying the gallery and floor, and then installing the furniture and other elements. The museum launched a fund raising effort to off-set some of these costs and approached the Sacramento Pioneer Association to ask if we could help based on our interest in preserving historical material and on enhancing Sacramento’s historical interest. The board agreed to provide \$10,000 toward the goal and, as a result, the SPA is recognized as a donor in the exhibit’s public documentation.

These historic pieces are now installed in the Crocker’s early California gallery in the context of California paintings from the 1870s and 1880s, which together are both spectacular and unparalleled. This installation will soon be open to the public and is a wonderful thing not just for the Crocker, but also for Sacramento and for California.

Was Governor Burnett A Sacramento Pioneer?

Peter Hardeman Burnett, first Governor of California elected under American rule, is the subject of author Gregory Nokes new book, *The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett*. In light of Mr. Nokes’s upcoming author presentation on September 27th at Sutter’s Fort, one might wonder if this pioneer governor were a member of the Sacramento Pioneer Association. Truth is, Governor Burnett did not join the ranks of the Pioneers, nor was he made an honorary member. Nevertheless, the Sacramento Pioneers in 1875 intended to invite ex-Governor Burnett to their grand banquet to celebrate California’s quarter-centennial anniversary of statehood to be held on September 9 of that year. Included in a list of toasts prepared for the banquet, with the name of the person intended to respond to each, the eighth toast honors the executive chair of California with an opportunity to deliver a response extended to the Honorable P. H. Burnett. It is not known if the ex-governor intended to attend, because the banquet was cancelled due to the “sudden and very dangerous illness of John Tingman, Esq., Secretary of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers” just days before the banquet. Subsequently, Mr. Tingman’s funeral was held on October 29, 1875.

A *Sacramento Daily Union* article, dated April 2, 1878, reports the San Francisco funeral of railroad magnate Mark Hopkins. The journalist includes the name of P. H. Burnett among the Sacramento Pioneer Association members in attendance. Your editor suggests, however, that the initials of Mr. Burnett in the aforementioned article are likely a typographical error and should read P. W. Burnett in reference to Philetus Watson Burnett, who was, in fact, a member of our Association. Our organization holds no claim to the ex-governor.

Crocker Art Museum Unveiling, August 14, 2018



Pioneer Brian Witherell shares the history of the Flood cabinetry with guests at the Crocker Art Museum's unveiling reception.



Clockwise from top left: Pioneers Thom Gilbert, Brian Witherell, Michael Shepard, Bill Schaw, Jim Phillips, Janet Conover, Burnett Miller, Karun Yee, Fitz Miller



Sacramento Pioneer Association
23rd Annual Picnic
Sunday, September 23, 2018
3 pm to 6pm
at
Heringer Estates Vineyards & Winery
37375 Netherlands Rd.
Clarksburg, CA 95612

Enjoy open-flame grilled tacos by Chando's
Heringer Estates award-winning wines
the smooth bossa nova sound of Felipe Ferraz
and more!

Members \$50, Non-Members \$60
Child (under 16) \$25

For more information, please call
(916) 447-7411




FRIENDS OF SUTTER'S FORT  *and*  **Present**

Guest Speaker
GREGORY NOKES
Author of
The Troubled Life of PETER BURNETT

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7PM
at Sutter's Fort
2701 L Street, Sacramento

\$8 Admission for members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.
Tickets must be reserved in advance by calling (916) 323-7627





Sacramento Pioneer Association
1731 Howe Ave, Box 639
Sacramento, CA 95825-2209

Sacramento Pioneer Association Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, September 9 | 168th Anniversary of California Admission (no event planned) |
| Sunday, September 23 | Annual Picnic at Heringer Estates Vineyards & Winery |
| Thursday, September 27 | Gregory Nokes lecture at Sutter's Fort |
| December | Annual Holiday Party (to be announced) |

2018