



THE MANSION

Our Mission:

The Bidwell Mansion Association is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Newsletter of the Bidwell Mansion Association

Fall 2017

Greetings and Happy Fall!

I'm excited to invite you to our annual **Christmas with the Bidwells** event on Friday, December 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the Mansion beautifully decorated for the holidays, and to support the work BMA does in conjunction with Bidwell Mansion SHP.

Enjoy vignettes and music in the Mansion, delicious treats, a silent auction, wine tasting, and holiday cheer. This is also the perfect way to renew your membership in the BMA. For current members, your ticket will renew your membership for the year. For non-members and guests, the ticket price includes a one-year membership—a total win-win!

For more information about the event and how to get tickets, check out the article in this newsletter or go to www.bidwellmansionassociation.com. I hope to see you there!

Don't forget to stop by the General's Store in the Visitor's Center for a bit of holiday shopping. It's stocked with unique gifts for everyone on your list. And definitely come explore the new and beautiful exhibit State Parks unveiled a few weeks ago. It's an amazing addition you won't want to miss!

Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and thank you so much for your support!

Adrienne Glatz,
BMA Board President



Christmas with the Bidwells

*Bidwell Mansion Association
Holiday Party*

**Friday, December 8, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park

Silent Auction - Live Music

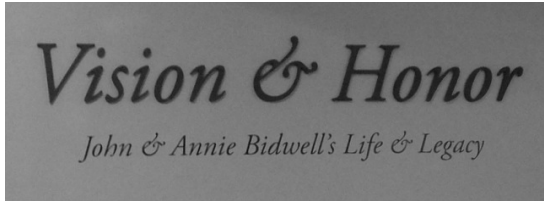
*Wine tasting with Almendra Winery and Distillery
and Bertagna Son-Kissed Vineyards*

Historic Vignettes - Holiday Cheer

**Tickets: \$30.00 per BMA member
\$35.00 per Guest - includes 1 year membership
RSVP to 513-1454**

Proceeds benefit education and interpretation at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park

To see this newsletter in full, glorious color, go to the BMA website at www.bidwellmansionassociation.com.



New Exhibit Welcomes Visitors to Bidwell Mansion SHP

A new and wonderful reason to revisit Chico's icon

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park has a beautiful new exhibit in the Visitors' Center. The old exhibits from the 1970s have been replaced by handsome new display cabinets, gleaming signage, and engaging audio-visual presentations.

The new exhibit has been two years in the planning, and for several months the space has been off-limits while the installation progressed. In this new exhibit, John and Annie have been brought to life through audio-visual displays. Viewers can follow Bidwell's 1841 journey across the continent and listen to his journal entries about sights along the way.

They can also listen to the Bidwells' courtship as John and Annie exchange love letters, thanks to the voice talents of Nick Anderson and Jenise Coon. John Bidwell himself takes you on a tour of Rancho Chico. Antique photographs are projected to show the beauties of northern California and the placement of buildings on Rancho Chico, while Bidwell describes his many experiences.

The Visitor's Center is free and is open on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 11-5, and during December it will also be open on Friday.



GENERAL'S STORE

The elves have been busy decorating and stocking the store with wonderful items for the Holidays.



We have **books** for adults and children, many by local authors, on subjects ranging from John and Annie Bidwell; Birds of Bidwell Park; Wildflowers of Table Mountain; John Muir, a longtime friend of the Bidwells; the Building of the Oroville Dam and more. We have more than 40 children's books.

Our **souvenirs** include magnets, patches, T-shirts, baseball caps, and a wide selection of colorful postcards depicting local landmarks. We also carry the Bidwell Mansion puzzle, **reproductions** of Bidwell cannery labels, aprons with the Bidwell brand, kitchen towels, wooden spoons and rolling pins created from fallen trees on the Bidwell Mansion grounds, and many more Bidwell

mementos. Children and adults love our historical **toys and craft items**, puppets, pencil sharpeners, and gold panning items. We also carry **Victorian-style** soaps, jewelry, scarves, evening bags, hat pins, umbrellas and **ornaments**.

The General's Store is located in the visitor center of Bidwell Mansion SHP and is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11 am to 5 pm. During December it will be open on Fridays too!

BMA members get a 10% discount.



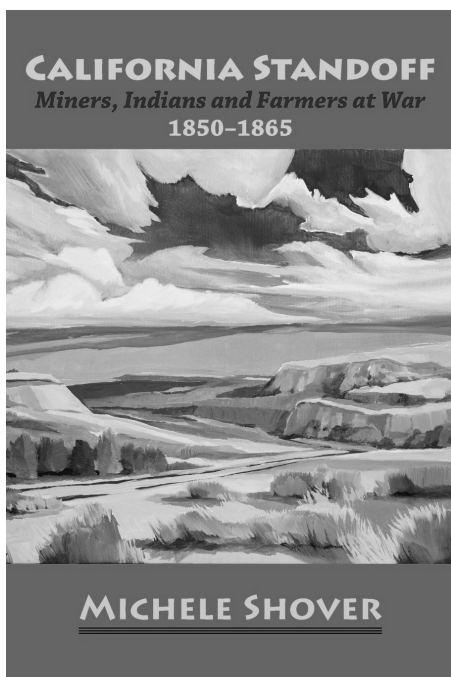
BMA Annual Meeting

Bidwell Mansion SHP Visitor's Center

Sunday, January 28, 2017 Reception 5:30 Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Michele Shover:

California Standoff: Miners, Indians, and Farmers at War, 1850-1865



Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Bidwell Mansion Association. After a brief business meeting, we will be privileged to hear author Michele Shover present her long-awaited history of conflicts in Butte and Tehama counties during the Gold Rush years, a story in which John Bidwell played a prominent role.

From the amazon.com synopsis: "Butte County mining camps and foothill farms were an active front in the California Indian wars. Using centuries-old tribal tactics, Butte Creeks, the Mountain Maidu tribelets' warriors, resisted settlers' seizures of their territories. Making a strategic shift, in 1857, they acquired bases in the neighboring Yahi's Deer Creek Canyon. They merged with renegades and Yahi fighters, called Mill Creeks, whose raids had terrified Maidu and Tehama County farmers through the mid-1850s. Meanwhile, quarrels between miners and farmers and with John Bidwell continued as Civil War loyalties undermined unity against the Indian raiders, now out of Deer Creek."

Michele's careful and thorough research clarifies a pivotal period in Northern California history. You won't want to miss this fascinating presentation. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Upcoming Holiday Events in Bidwell Mansion

Bidwell Mansion SHP will be open on Friday December 1, 8, 15, and 22, in addition to regular Saturday, Sunday, and Monday hours, 11-5.

Friday, Dec. 8: BMA Members Holiday Event. 6:00 to 8: P.M This event for BMA members will feature musical and dramatic reenactments in the Mansion, and wine-tasting, appetizers, and silent auction in the Visitors Center.

December 10, 2017: Beulah Rebekah Lodge No. 60, Chico Women's Club and Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park Holiday Open House. Performances on the hour from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm featuring The Wright Keys, Sounds of the Valley, Bella Voce Women's Choir, Gesundheit! and AME Church Choir. Tickets are required but are free to the public.

December 15 and 16, 2017: Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park special evening tours of all three floors of its mansion on December 16 and 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The mansion will be decorated in Victorian holiday style. Staff and volunteers dressed in period costumes will be available to answer questions or provide insight into the history of this special home. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$4.00 for youth under 12 years of age. Tickets will be available at the Bidwell Mansion SHP Visitor Center starting on Nov. 25th.



Bidwell Mansion Association
 P. O. Box 1303
 Chico, California 95927

**BE SURE TO VISIT THE NEW EXHIBIT
 IN THE VISITOR'S CENTER!**

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT 765
 CHICO CA

Join Today!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BIDWELL MANSION ASSOCIATION

Memberships are due each January. Please help us restore, preserve and interpret at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send Membership to:	Student/Retired:	\$10
BMA	Individual:	\$20
P.O. Box 1303	Family:	\$35
Chico, CA 95927	Sustaining:	\$50
	Patron:	\$75
	Life:	\$300

John Bidwell's Diary - December 1870

Fri. December 23: Little cloudy this morning but pleasant - heavy frost and freeze last night - H.W. Cleaveland left this morning for San Francisco - Annie shopping for Christmas presents

Sat. December 24: Sent turkeys to Fairbairn, A.B.s, Wilson, etc.-

Sun. December 25: Rev. Mr. F. preached in morning -Rev. Mr. Reese preached in evening—Weather loveliest - walked down to R.R. bridge & up along creek with Annie - Last night Dick O'Farrell mare stolen -

