



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

Winter 2017

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,
It was lovely to see so many of you at the annual member's meeting in January. Many thanks to Ron Womack for his fascinating talk. It was a wonderful way to start off the year.

The New Year brings forth a few changes to our BMA Board of Directors. First, I would like to thank David Quivey for his time serving on the board. He has been a great supporter of the Bidwell Mansion and we are sad to see him leave. Kathy Lanpheir, our president these last two years and vice president Cathie Momber, will be stepping down from their roles. Both have been wonderful leaders and tireless advocates for BMA. Thankfully they are not leaving the board entirely! Stepping into the role of vice president is Elizabeth Quivey, whose unique talents and ideas are invaluable. We are also happy to welcome our newest board member Tadd Brothers.

I am delighted and honored to serve as your new president. There are so many dedicated and remarkable people who make up our board, volunteers, members, supporters, and State Parks—I look forward to working, learning, and having fun with you all. I'm excited about this year as we continue to engage the community and support the Bidwell Mansion. Some of you may know me as the singer in the parlor during Christmas, or the vignette secretary who argued with the cook at John's birthday party. In a nutshell, I'm a 4th generation Chicoan and a Chico State graduate. By day, I work at the University in the area of fundraising and annual fund development. By night, I'm a historical costumer, embroiderer, and needle tatting enthusiast. Loving all things history I'm quite proud to be on the BMA board, and support the preservation and tradition of our local treasure.

Thank you all—it's going to be a great year!

– Adrienne Glatz, BMA Board President

Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Bidwell Mansion Association was held on Sunday, January 29th. Tadd Brothers was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board. The president's gavel was handed over to the new president, Adrienne Glatz. Other officers are Elizabeth Quivey vice-president; Dana Brumley, treasurer; and Nancy Leek, secretary.

Dana gave a treasurer's report in which she highlighted the contributions of the BMA, which include:

- Bidwell Mansion kept open on Fridays during the summer
- New holiday décor purchased
- BMA supported school tours and education
- BMA was active in community outreach
- Positive growth in fund-raising

Our guest speaker, Ron Womack, enthralled the audience with his talk "Gone With the Slickens," in which he explained hydraulic mining and the environmental devastation that brought about conflict in Butte County between farmers and hydraulic miners. This historic struggle forms the background of ANCHR's new book *The Road to Cherokee*, an novel of life in 19th century Butte County. The book is available in the General's Store.



Hydraulic mining at the Spring Valley Mine in Cherokee.

The Story of So-Wil-Len-No Avenue



Have you ever wondered why the street that runs next to Bidwell Mansion is called So-Wil-Len-No Avenue? This unusual name has a story behind it, a story about Annie Bidwell and the Indians of the Chico Rancheria.

So-Wil-Len-No Avenue runs between Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park and Big Chico Creek, from The Esplanade to Arcadian Avenue. Before the expansion of the Chico State campus it ran as far as Warner Avenue. Sometimes it is spelled without the hyphens, as Sowil-lenno Avenue.

The avenue was named by Annie Bidwell for her dear friend, Maggie Lafonso. Maggie's Indian name, according to Annie's notebook, was So-wil-len-no. The notebook, which is in the Bancroft Library, lists several Mechoopda words and names and their English equivalents. Maggie Lafonso was the daughter of Amanda and Holai Lafonso, the Mechoopda rancheria chief. Annie seems to have known that Amanda was the daughter of John Bidwell. Maggie was therefore John Bidwell's granddaughter and someone to whom Annie gave particular attention and care.

Maggie is frequently mentioned in Annie Bidwell's diary. She had a lovely singing voice and often sang in the Mechoopda church. She worked together with Annie in establishing the church, teaching Sunday School and leading worship services. Annie relied on her as a liaison with the Indians on the rancheria and as a co-worker in Christian good works.

On December 21, 1907 Maggie, aged 25, married Joseph Mitchell, an Indian from Colusa. Annie recorded the event in her diary:

Sat., December 21. Maggie Lafonso married this Evg. Maggie notified me of her intended marriage at 6 this P.M. Invited me to marry her, but I told her it would be illegal. She then said she wished Mr. White if I could not. Young Head took Mr. White & I to village in his automobile to see if they had a license, "yes".

At 6 P.M. Mr. White & I were at Maggie's mother's, where she was married to Mr. Mitchell in parlor. Present: Santa & Amanda Wilson & family. Billy Preacher, Pablo, Hayce, Martha (brides-maid) & others of family. Maggie & Martha dressed in white. Mr. Mitchell & Maggie represented in reverent attitude, at prayer, the figures in the Angelus. I spoke of it to Mr. White who said he had seen it.

Sadly, Maggie Lafonso Mitchell passed away after childbirth in 1909. Annie, who had visited her frequently in her illness, was overwhelmed with sorrow at the death of her "beloved Maggie," and memorialized her in the name of the avenue that ran alongside Bidwell Mansion.



Maggie and Joe Mitchell

**THE
GENERAL'S STORE
Book Department**

Stop by and check out our Book Department. Our newest title is ***The Road to Cherokee*** written in 1947 by Mary King and published by ANCHR (Association of Northern California Historical Research).

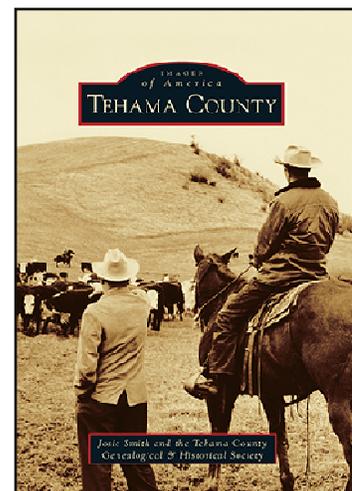
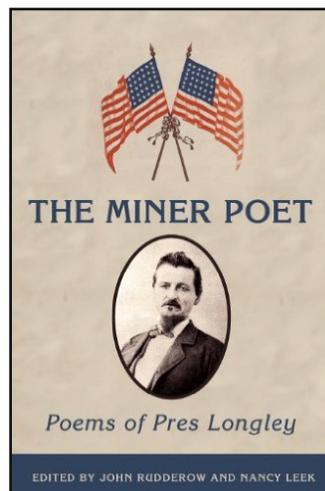
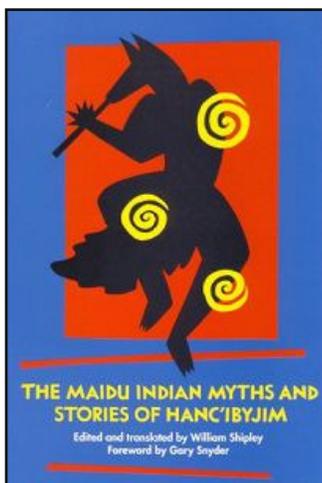
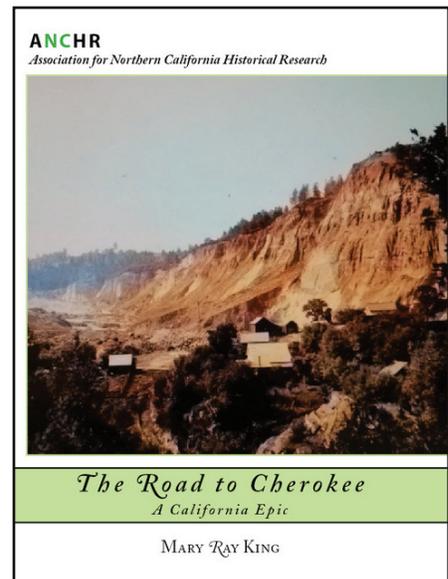


From Arcadia and History Press:
*Chico: Life and Times of a City of Fortune
 Tehama County
 Building of the Oroville Dam
 Big Meadows and Lake Almanor*

From Heyday Publications:
*Maidu Indian Myths and Stories
 The Mountains of California* by John Muir
The First Summer in the Sierra by John Muir
Stickeen by John Muir

Currently on discount: 25% off the following books:
*Inland Island: the Sutter Buttes
 The Miner Poet: Poems of Pres Longley
 Trail Posts: A Literary Exploration of California State Parks
 Sacramento: Homage to a River*

**The General's Store is open Saturday,
 Sunday, and Monday 11 to 5.**



Besides our many books on local history, particularly on John and Annie Bidwell, we have many souvenir and gift items. *Remember to ask for your 10% member's discount.*

**New Board Member
Tadd Brothers**



Tadd Brothers grew up in Chico and attended his first Bidwell Mansion tour in the 3rd Grade. Aside from the six years that Tadd served in the Navy working as an Engineering Laboratory Technician in the Nuclear Power Program, Tadd has been a lifelong Chico resident. He enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing and spending time with his wife and two daughters.

After graduating from Chico State, Tadd spent over ten years at a large accounting firm specializing in personal and business taxation. In 2015, he left the large firm life and opened his tax and accounting practice. While predominately specializing in tax, Tadd consults with clients both locally and abroad.

Being from Chico, it is honor for Tadd to serve the local community. He is active member of The Rotary Club of Chico and serves on the board of directors for Youth for Change. With an interest in our local history, Tadd is proud to be part of an organization which helps tell the story of our founding family and the cornerstone of Chico, the Bidwell Mansion.

**Bidwell Mansion Association
Board of Directors**

Adrienne Glatz, President
Elizabeth Quivey, Vice. President
Dana Brumley, Treasurer
Nancy Leek, Secretary
Kathy Lanpheir
Bonnie Hilbert
Cathie Momber
Nancy Overton
Bob Persons
Gloria Veith
Tadd Brothers



UPCOMING EVENTS

Annie's Tea Party

Enjoy tea and delicacies
and music

inside Bidwell Mansion

Saturday, June 24th, 2017

Watch for further information on Facebook,
at bidwellmansionassociation.com
and in the next newsletter.



Christmas with the Bidwells



Guests enjoyed dramatic vignettes and music performed by Nick Anderson, Denise Van Patten, Kathryn Aarons, Alexandra Hilsee, Nancy Leek and Adrienne Glatz.

Go to www.bidwellmansionassociation.com to see more holiday photos and the newsletter in color!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017

It is time again to renew your membership to the Bidwell Mansion Association. Your contributions have been extremely important to the educational programs at Bidwell Mansion SHP.

We welcome our new members, and are looking forward to your participation and hope you continue as members into the future.

We would also like to thank our members who participated in the Annie B's Community Drive and the many members who generously made donations to Bidwell Mansion Association throughout the years.

THANK YOU!



Mrs. Bidwell invites you to renew your membership in the Bidwell Mansion Association!

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

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

Keep in touch with the BMA

BMA website:
www.bidwellmansionassociation.com

E-mail:
info.bidwellmansionassociation@gmail.com

BMSHP website:
bidwellmansionpark.com/

Goldfields: A blog about Life and History in Northern California
<https://goldfieldsbooks.com/>

