

# *Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation*

October Newsletter, 2021

## **Miss Ida Belle Herman A True Sutter Creek Pioneer**



*Miss Ida Herman teacher and musician for 31 yrs*

**"Miss Herman", as she was known to her students at the Sutter Creek Grammar School, came from pioneering stock. Her parents, Franklin and Mary, were both born in Pennsylvania in 1830 and 1828 respectively. Both families moved to the Ohio frontier in the 1830's. There young Franklin grew to manhood and joined the army. After service in the Mexican War, Franklin returned to Ohio and married Mary Driesbach. They left Ohio in May of 1853 with Franklin elected Captain of a large wagon train bound for Golden California.**



**They followed the route that took them through Fort Laramie, Wyoming; Salt Lake City, Utah; through Nevada (which was then still part of Utah Territory) until landing in Shasta City, California. Here Ida's brother, William, was born in November of 1853. In January of 1854, the family followed their Ohio friends to the tiny new hamlet of Sutter's or as we know it, Sutter Creek. Franklin and his friend Wheeler Rice began a blacksmithing business in the new town and prospered. It was here on January 15, 1862 that Ida Belle Herman began a lifetime in Sutter Creek.**

**The 1870 census lists little Ida - then 8 years old - as "at home" and "in school". She would have attended the town's first grammar school, then located at the top of Anna Street near Woodworth Street. That school was destroyed by arson in 1870. She would have also witnessed construction of the new two-story red brick grammar school that would become her "home", vocation, and love for over half her lifetime. Her attendance and "deportment" is recorded in a school journal dating to 1875 - probably her last year in grammar school. Also, the empty column to the right with the notation of "no wood" indicates school was closed that day for lack of heat!**

AND DEPARTMENT—MONTHLY SUMMARY. *Occ*

*Aella Vance*

NAMES.	M. T. W. T. F.					M. T. W. T. F.					M. T. W. T. F.									
	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26
<i>Maggi Grady</i>	/			/	/	-		1/2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	-				
<i>Maggi Dugan</i>	/	/					1/2	/	/	/	1/2									
<i>Sarah Feehan</i>	/	/					1/2	1/2												
<i>Kellie Turner</i>	1/2	/			/	-		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	-	/				
<i>Ida Herman</i>	/	/			/		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
<i>Aunie Collins</i>	/	/			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
<i>Dora Hunter</i>	/	/			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	

In 1876, the Herman family moved from their home on Main Street to a house on Spanish Street built in 1859 by "Pop" Woods. Ida was to live out the rest of her life in that house. She records her father and brother as following "the trade of the god of fire and of the arts of forging and smelting". Her mother contributed to the family income as a "wonderful seamstress".



**After completing her education, Ida entered the teaching profession in approximately 1880-1881. For the next 31 years she taught the children of Sutter Creek not only the 3 R's, but instilled in them a love of music, teaching choir and piano. All in all, Miss Ida Belle Herman spent about 46 years at the big two-story red brick grammar school as either a student or teacher.**

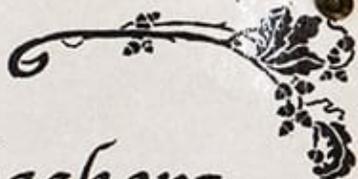
## 1872 Rules for Teachers

- Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
- Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
- Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
- Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
- Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
- Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
- The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.
- You may ride in a buggy with a man, if the man is your father or your brother.

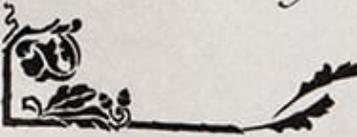


# 1915

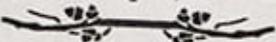
## Rules for Teachers



1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.



Cabell County West Virginia, Board of Education



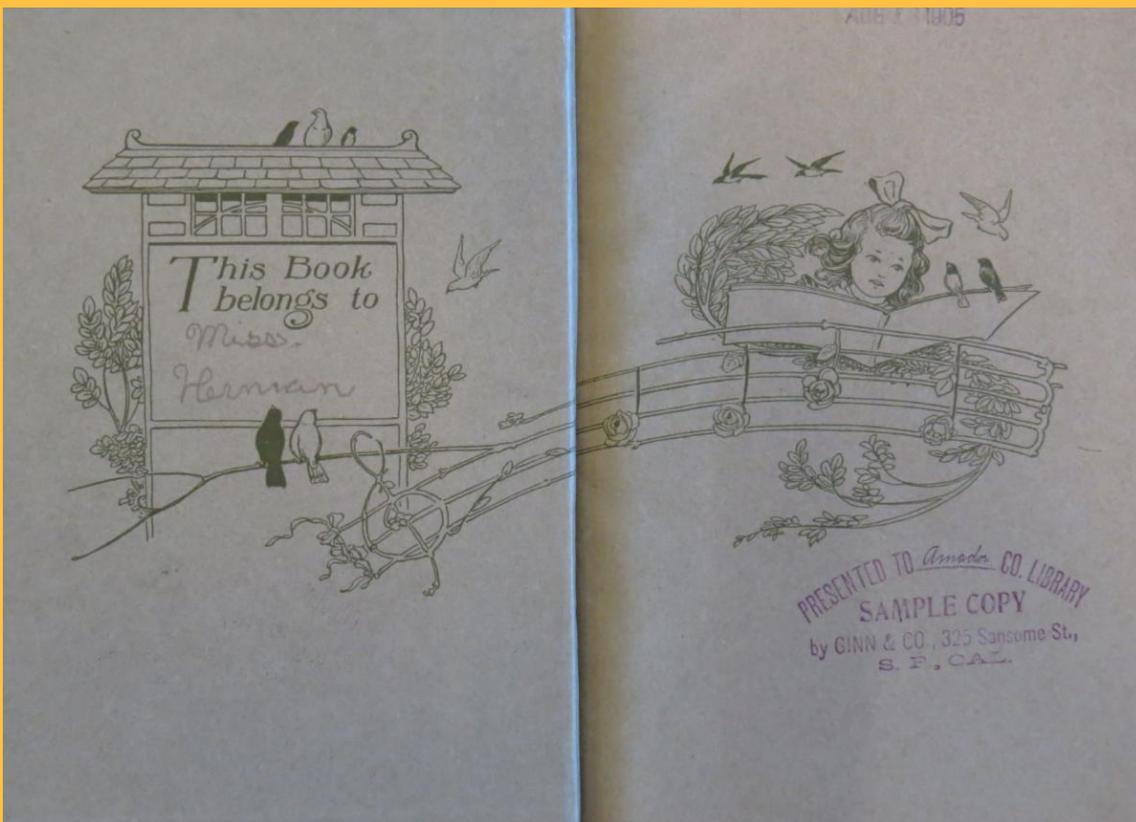
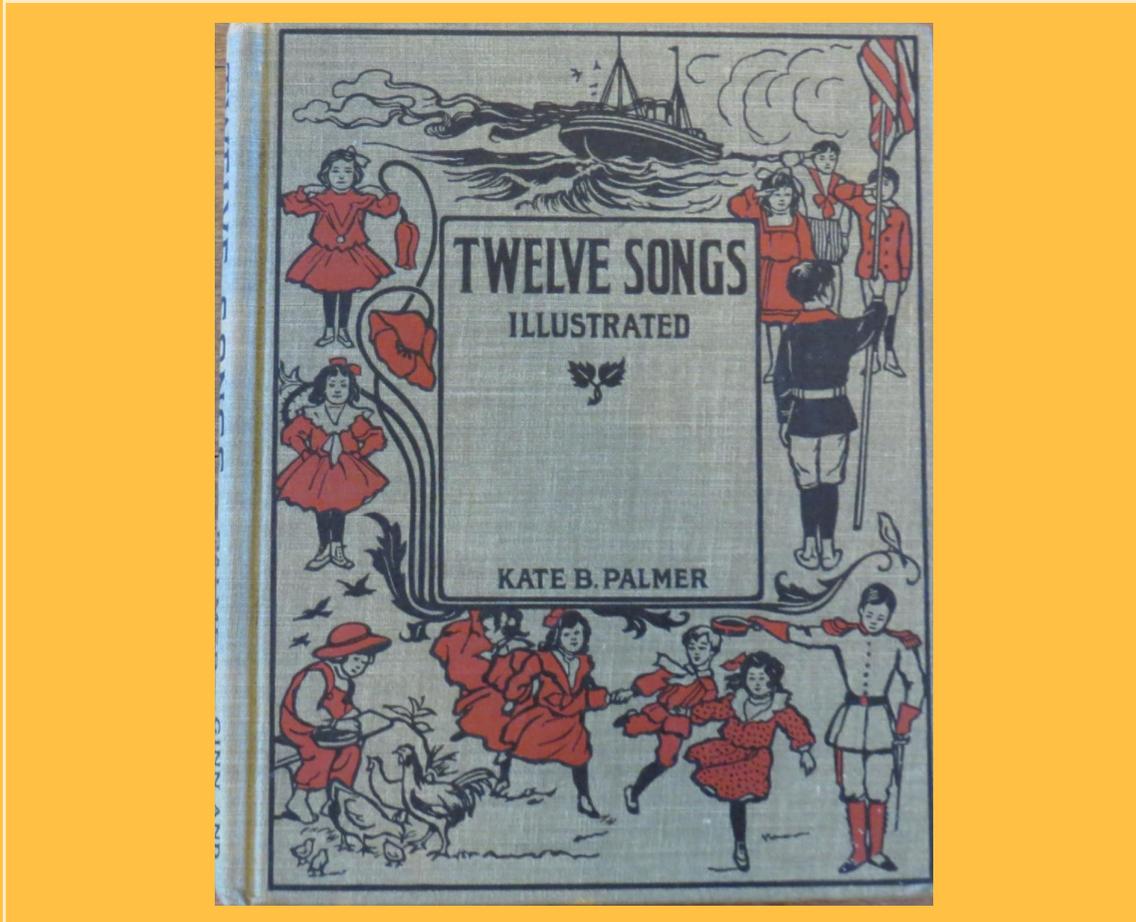
Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum



Ida never married and had no children. She cared for her family until only she was left alone. She retired from school teaching in about 1912-1913 and continued giving piano lessons from the family home Spanish Street. In an article she wrote in 1927, Ida says " I have resided all my lifetime in this little burg and sincerely hope that I have proven to neither be a wildcat nor a humbug". She remembers early Sutter Creek as a place where people had a "kindness of heart, uprightness, patriotism, and Christian character".

According to her obituary in the Amador Dispatch of Friday, July 8, 1938, Miss Herman was the director of the Catholic choir. She

also served as organist for the Sutter Creek Catholic and Episcopal churches for over half a century. Her obvious love of music must have given her life a real focus and purpose as an active member of the community she loved.



After a brief illness, Miss Herman died of a stroke at the age of 76 on July 5, 1938. She was laid to rest in the family plot in the

Sutter Creek Odd Fellows Cemetery in the company of her father, mother, and brother. She was a founding Charter Member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West Amapola Parlor #80. Her funeral was attended by the entire congregation. In Sutter Creek, Miss Herman, a school and music teacher, was surely missed.



## Save the Date - November 30, 2021

*SCCBF will be participating in Amador #Giving Tuesday this year on November 30. Your financial support is essential to our continued successes. Please consider adding us to your annual charitable giving program.*

**AMADOR**  
**GI**  **ING**  
**TUESDAY**

# DONATE TODAY

Do you know someone who would like to receive our monthly newsletter? Send contact information to [info@sccbf.org](mailto:info@sccbf.org) to be added to our distribution list.

*Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A gift to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. (Donations to SCCBF are received through the Amador Community Foundation.)*

SCCBF (a Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) fiscally sponsored by Amador Community Foundation | PO Box 24, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

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