

# *Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation*

March Newsletter, 2022

## **FOUND!**

### **New Information "Popped Up"**

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*Miss Ida Herman teacher and musician for 31 yrs*

You may recall our October, 2021, newsletter titled “Miss Ida Belle Herman – A True Sutter Creek Pioneer”. To recap, some small light was shed on Miss Ida’s life entirely spent in her hometown of Sutter Creek. She was born here in 1862, and as a child attended school at the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School built in 1870-71. Miss Ida reminisces, in an article written by her for the Woman’s Club history published in 1927, that her father, Franklin, moved his family from his mining claim on

**“Humbug or Wildcat” Hill into Sutter Creek in 1876. In that year, the family purchased and moved into a house on Spanish Street built in 1859 by a man called “Pop” Woods. Research for that article had shown the site of that house today to be a vacant lot. A photograph of that lot was included in the newsletter.**

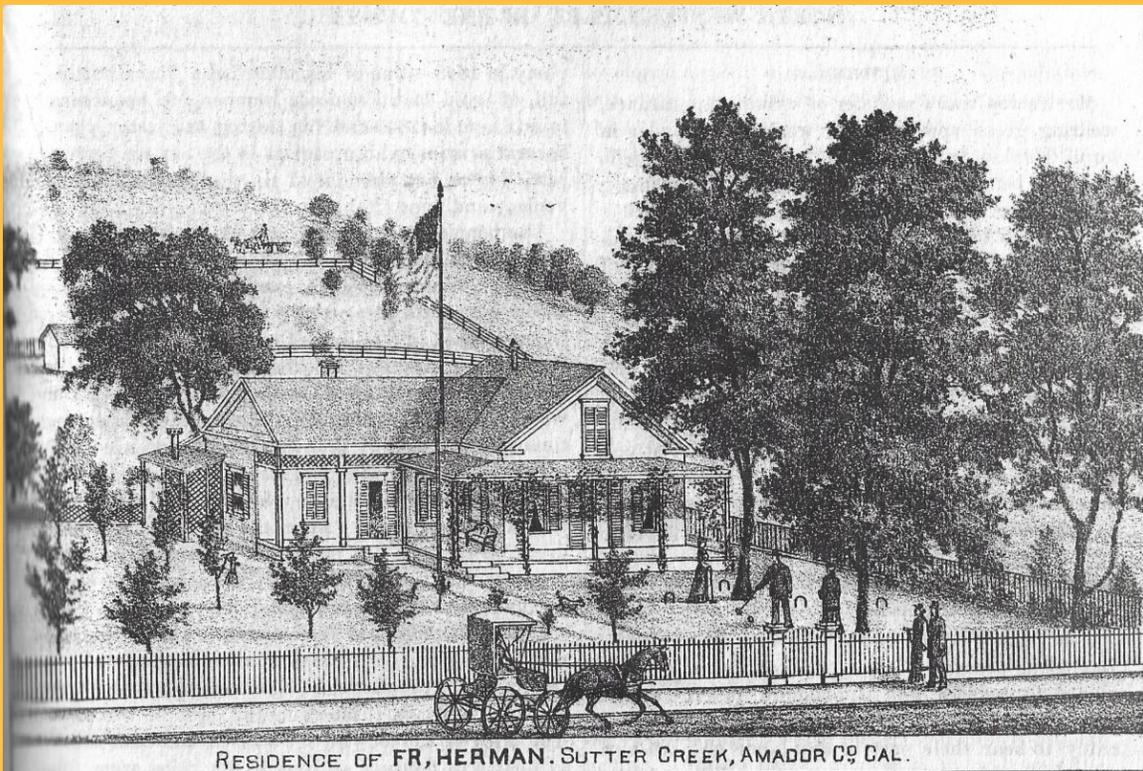


*This vacant lot was thought to be the site of Miss Ida's Home.*

**Thankfully, that is NOT the case! While doing some online research, a photograph popped up which looked vaguely familiar.**



Upon clicking the photograph, a caption appeared calling it “The Herman House”. Too good to be true! Without a thought, like “Maybe I should call first”, I jumped into the truck and raced (while never exceeding the speed limit) into town. There it is! Not quite the same as the drawing in J.D. Mason’s 1881 landmark “History of Amador County, California”, but certainly recognizable as the same house occupied by the Herman family.



*Drawing from Mason's 1881 Amador County History.*

**I could hardly believe it. With some cautious optimism, after all these folks didn't know a stranger would be dropping in, I rang the doorbell. After stammering out some sort of explanation as to my unexpectedly showing up on their porch, I was immediately put at ease and welcomed by Jerry and Elene Cook.**

**Their beautiful home has been lovingly restored and carefully updated by Bob and Wendy Woolrich. The Woolrich's had an appreciation for local historic houses. That really shows in the house the Herman family loved so much.**





*The original Herman house being restored by Bob and Wendy Woolrich.*



*The Herman (Cook) House today.*

**Jerry and Elene Cook are also interested in local history and I enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon discussing their house's architectural details as well as the Herman Family's connection. Today, the original house still retains the beautiful**

wide pine plank floors showing old nail scars where rooms had been divided. Back in the 1870's, renting sleeping spaces to miners and bachelors was a popular way of supplementing a family's income.



There is no way of knowing what all has transpired in the 163 years since its' construction, but the Herman family certainly

occupies a large part of the history of Sutter Creek, the old grammar school, and the lovely old house on Spanish Street. Jerry and Elene Cook are loving stewards of this history and most gracious hosts.



As I left the Cook's and their historic jewel, I swear I could hear Miss Ida giving a piano lesson and scolding, "No, no, it's the key of C!"

## Flag Raising

This video (<https://youtu.be/oSCn7fW54Dc>) was developed by the Amador High School digital team of Seth Harlan and Nolan McMahan

A new flag, aluminum flagpole, and installation came in the form of a donation to the school and SCCBF from long-time Amador County resident Mary Lou D'Agostini.

We would like to thank everyone who was on hand for our Flag Raising and Tour of the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School.

The event was held on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School in observance of its 150<sup>th</sup>

anniversary.

Flag Raising Service Presented By:  
American Legion Post 108;  
Cub Scout Pack 63;  
and Jake Guidi Singing the National Anthem



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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.

The Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School is rich in Gold Rush history. This beautiful building is California's second oldest two-story brick schoolhouse. The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has restored the first and second floor making it a wonderful rental for any occasion. There are four rooms within the Historic Grammar School that can be rented.

Contact the City of Sutter Creek for information on rates and availability - (209) 267-5647 ext. 230 or email [info@cityofsuttercreek.org](mailto:info@cityofsuttercreek.org)

*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.)*

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