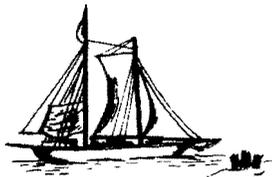


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NUMBER 1

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - CALIFORNIA - 1850-52

Annotations by Robert Bonta

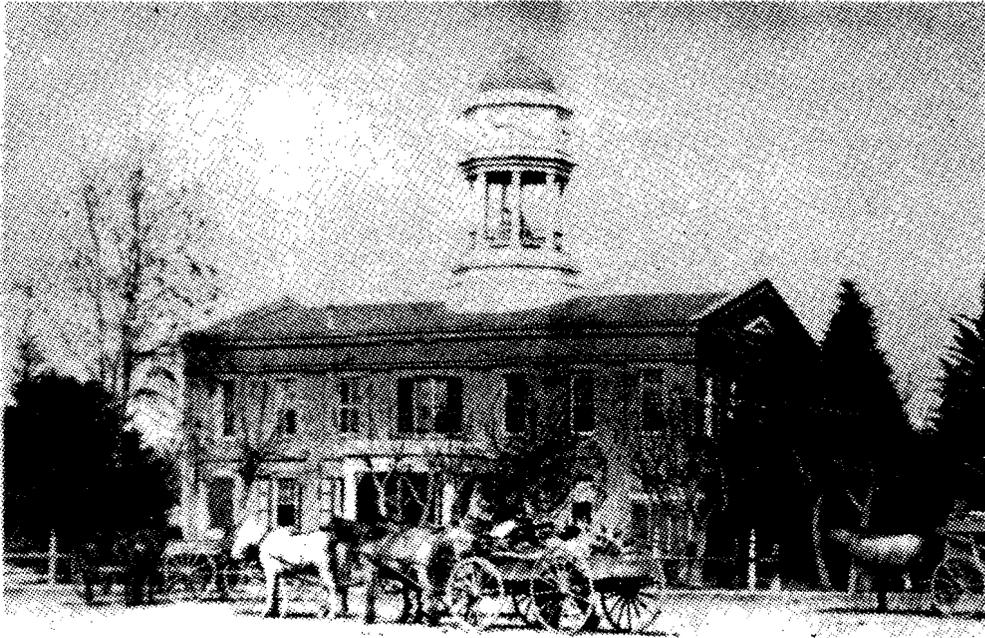
(Continued from the October-December 1981 Issue)



ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, COURTHOUSE SQUARE. This photograph was taken during the flooding of downtown Stockton in the winter of 1861-62. The entire square as well as the intersection of Hunter (foreground left) and Main (foreground right) streets lay under water. The fire bell, purchased in April of 1859, is barely visible in the tower below the two round clock circles.

The clock, with its four faces, was installed in the fall of 1868 (after this photo was taken). When the courthouse was torn down to make way for the huge 1890's structure the bell and the clock were installed on the top of the Hunter Street Engine House (on Hunter between Main and Market streets, north of the old city library).

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Another view of the original courthouse, this one taken in drier weather than the preceding photograph, from Hunter Plaza. Taken circa 1870

360

Court of Sessions Civil Matters

Monday June 14th 1852

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 J. K. Shafer, Associate Justice
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

An order having been made on the tenth day of June (instant) as follows:

That a tax of fifty dollars (\$50) be assessed in this County yearly upon all ferries or toll bridges when the annual amount of receipts shall be under two thousand dollars;

And the same having been omitted to be entered,

It is therefore entered nunc pro tunc.

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters

Tuesday June 15th 1852

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 B. G. Weir, Associate
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions

Criminal [Civil] Matters

Wednesday June 16th 1852

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 J. K. Shafer, Associate
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

360-1 Court of Sessions Civil Matters

Thursday June 17th 1852

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Wm. A. Root, Judge
 B. G. Weir, Associate
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters

Friday June 18th 1852

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 J. K. Shafer, Associate
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until [tomorrow] morning ten o'clock.

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Judging from the size of its surrounding trees, this photograph was probably taken in the winter of 1874 when Stockton was covered by an unusual four inches of snow. This particular view of the original

courthouse was taken from the Odd Fellows Hall, looking northeast toward the Courthouse Square. The Hall was located on the southeast corner of Hunter and Main streets.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Saturday June 19th A.D. 1852
 Court met pursuant to adjournment.
 Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 J. K. Shafer, Associate
 Benj. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned
 until Monday morning ten o'clock.

Monday June 21st 1852
 Court met pursuant to adjournment.
 Present: Hon. W. A. Root, Judge
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned
 until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Tuesday June 22d 1852
 Court met pursuant to adjournment.
 Present: Hon. Wm. A Root, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Associate
 Benj. G. Weir Justices
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

361 It is ordered by the Court that Samuel
 Langdon be allowed the sum of fifty
 dollars (\$50) for medical services
 rendered to a prisoner.

362 It is ordered by the Court that E. A.
 Thompson & Co. be allowed the sum of
 thirty-three dollars for chairs furnished
 for the Court room.

363 It is ordered by the Court that Justice
 J. K. Shafer be allowed the sum of forty
 dollars for fees in criminal cases.

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364 It is ordered that R. P. Ashe, Sheriff, be allowed the sum of three hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty cents for board of prisoners.

365 It is ordered by the Court that R. P. Ashe, Sheriff, be allowed the sum of one hundred and three dollars and seventy cents for making arrests and attendance upon Courts.

366 It is ordered by the Court that A. H. Brooks be allowed the sum of one hundred dollars for services rendered in equalizing the assessment for the year 1851.

367 It is ordered by the Court that Justice B. G. Weir be allowed the sum of thirty-nine dollars for fees in criminal cases.

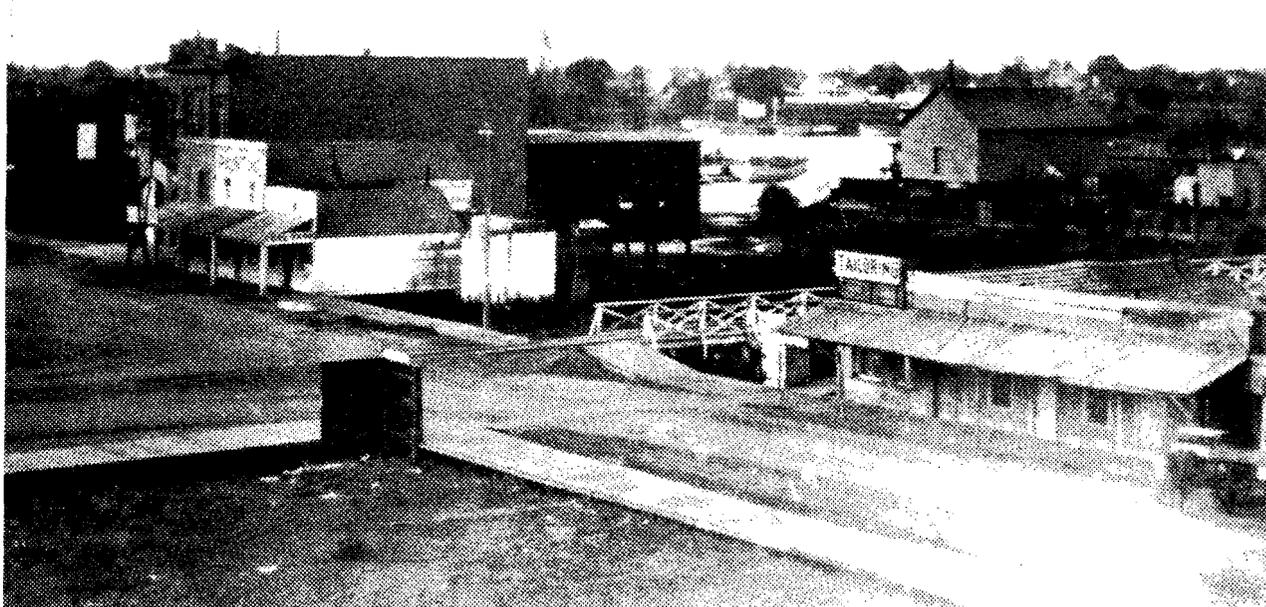
368 It is ordered by the Court that A. C.

WEBER ENGINE HOUSE. Stockton's first fire engine had originally been acquired by Captain Weber before the city's organization in 1850. It was housed in the Captain's barn on the peninsula (near the site of his original family home). Following incorporation the city purchased the equipment from Weber and it was moved in early 1851 to a small frame building erected on a bridge then crossing Stockton Slough (Channel) midway between El Dorado and Hunter streets. The Weber Engine House, shown above, was erected in

1863 at 25 East Channel Street between El Dorado and Center streets (north side). This was considered the city's first permanent fire house, and it was manned by the Weber Engine Company No. 1. The fire "engine" in the foreground, nicknamed "Old Betsy," not only fought fires, but was also used to pump flood waters out of downtown building basements. It is now located permanently at the Haggin Museum in Victory Park.



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NORTHWEST CORNER, EL DORADO AND CHANNEL STREETS. The street running from left to right in the foreground is Channel Street. Note the horse-drawn street car bridge work on El Dorado just north of Channel. The tallest building in this view (left center) is the Weber Engine House shown in the previous photograph. The water in the background was known as Lindsay's Channel and extended eastward from McLeod's Lake to about Hunter Street. East of Hunter it was called Miner Slough. In the distance is the

general site of the present Civic Auditorium and the park area lying between the city hall and the central library. The fire house and all existing buildings, including the well-known Busalacchi Fish Market on its west side, were torn down in 1963 after the entire block (bounded by El Dorado and Center, Channel and Miner) had been purchased by the state. It now contains the state building with its adjoining parking lot.

Bradford, County Clerk, be allowed the sum of three hundred and twenty-two dollars for attendance upon [the] courts.

369 It is ordered by the Court that John MacNish be allowed the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars for rent of Court room and offices.

370 It is ordered by the Court that Baker and Hickman be allowed the sum of twenty-one dollars on account of chairs purchased for [the] courts.

371 It is ordered by the Court that John Herron be allowed the sum of ten dollars for services as interpreter in criminal cases.

372 It is ordered by the Court that George Franks be allowed the sum of twenty dollars for services as interpreter in

criminal cases.

373 It is ordered by the Court that E. J. Sanders be allowed the sum of fifty dollars for bringing a prisoner from Sacramento City.

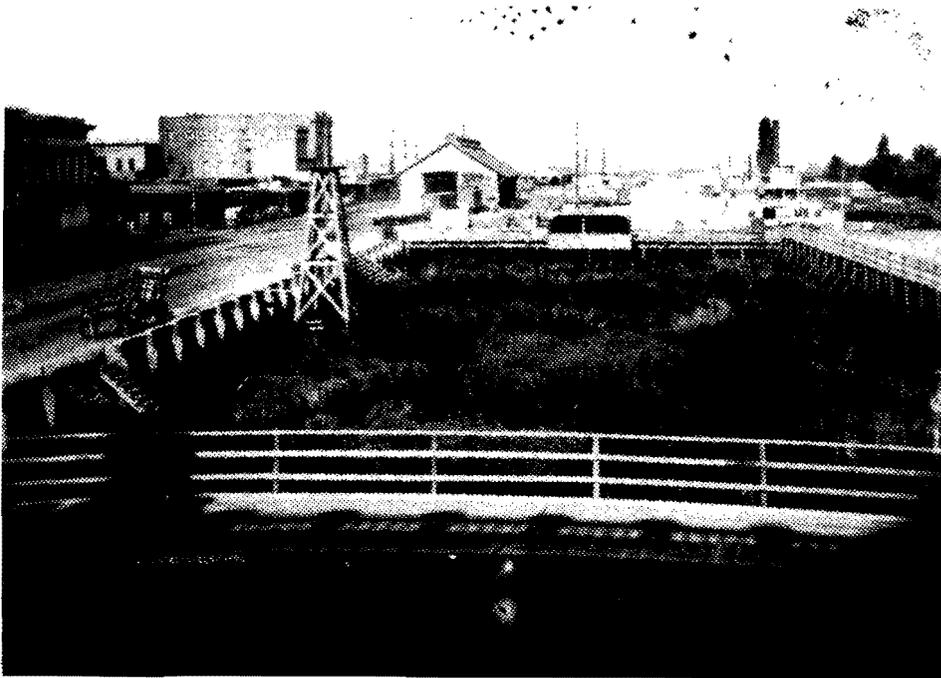
374 It is ordered by the Court that A. Leitch & Co. be allowed the sum of fifty-four dollars for shackling prisoners.

375 It is ordered by the Court that the County jailor be allowed the sum of three hundred dollars for his services ending [the] twenty-first day of June, 1852.

376 It is ordered by the Court that Ed Canavan be allowed the sum of sixty-four dollars for shackling prisoners.

377 Upon the petition of James E. Nuttman who is appointed "Census Agent" under an act passed by the Legislature of this

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SITE OF THE HOTEL STOCKTON CIRCA 1890. This small block, bounded today by Weber, (street on the left-south-side of the photograph), El Dorado, Bridge Place, and Hunter (foreground) streets, was often referred to locally as the "Weber Hole." Stockton

Channel ended at El Dorado Street (still does) but because this block lay relatively low, winter rain water drained into it. It was a downtown eyesore for many years.

State Entitled "An act to enumerate the inhabitants of the State of California"-- wherein he prays the Court to fix his compensation;

It is considered by the Court that he be allowed the sum of sixteen dollars for each day he may be actually employed in taking the enumeration required in said act.

James E. Nuttman, a twenty-two-year-old native of New Jersey, arrived in California in March of 1847 by way of Stevenson's New York Volunteers. He had enlisted in Company B, under the command of a Lieutenant Thomas E. Ketchum--later a long-time resident of Stockton and a brigadier general in the California National Guard. The company sailed from New York on board the **Thomas H. Perkins** and arrived in the sleepy village of San Francisco. After being engaged for some time on active duty in La Paz (Baja California) Nuttman returned with his company to Monterey, where all were discharged in October of 1848.

It is not known where Nuttman may have

gone upon his discharge from the regiment, but like so many others of this group, he may have spent some time in the Mother Lode before drifting back down into the mushrooming supply towns. In any case, the first indication of his residence in Stockton was the appearance of a paid political advertisement appearing in the March 16, 1850, issue of the **STOCKTON TIMES** in which he announced his candidacy for the office of sheriff. R. P. Ashe subsequently won the April 3rd election in a four-way race.

In June of 1850 his name appears as a member of a committee seeking a method for providing the unincorporated town of Stockton with fire protection. This group recommended a public subscription to finance the purchase of a "fire engine" and hose and the organization of a body of one hundred men to serve as volunteer fire fighters.

Such a group was in fact immediately organized, with Nuttman being named Stockton's first fire chief. A fire engine was finally purchased six months later. The first major fire to occur after the organization of the fire department occurred on May 6, 1851, while the chief and a number of his trained

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men were on a visit to San Francisco to observe the damage resulting from a huge fire just two days earlier. The engine and the hoses were taken out but were abandoned when the equipment was trapped between two burning buildings. When Chief Nuttman and his men returned they found the hoses destroyed, their engine badly damaged, and the business district of the young city lying in ashes--to the tune of \$1,500,000 in losses.

Nuttman served as fire chief (or chief engineer) from 1850 to the middle of 1853. In the fall of that year he moved to San Francisco where he joined the fire department and rose to the rank of chief. After several years he returned to New York, where he died many years later.

By the provisions of the census act, approved May 4, 1852, the governor of the state appointed the census taker for each county and that person was made responsible to his own Court of Sessions (or Board of Supervisors in those counties which were under that form of government). The act went into effect thirty days after its approval and all reports had to be returned to the secretary of state by the first of November. This meant that the count had to be taken between June 4 and November 1st.

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)



Hotel Stockton, seen here from the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square. The hotel was constructed by the Stockton Investment Company at a cost of \$500,000 and was opened on April 10, 1910. The building contains reinforced concrete walls and boasted of having the city's first private bathroom

facilities for its guests. Still a beautiful building despite its age, it has for years now housed the county's welfare department. This block is the site of "Weber's Hole" in the previous photograph. The streets shown are Hunter and Weber.

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NORTH BANK, MCLEOD'S LAKE. Sailing ships, loaded with tanning bark (used in processing cow hides into leather) from Mendocino County, lie at anchor along the east end of the old Steamboat Levee (north bank of McLeod's Lake). Present Civic Auditorium site (Fremont, Center, Oak, and Commerce

streets) lies in the background. This body of water, now completely filled in, was named for Alexander McLeod, leader of the Hudson Bay Company's French-Canadian fur trappers who annually trekked south out of the Oregon Country as far as Stockton and French Camp in search of furs.

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