

Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County

THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM of Sutter County is located in Yuba City, California. One of our main attractions is a flintlock rampart gun once owned by John A. Sutter, whose Mexican land grant extended as far north as present-day Sutter County. In the northernmost part of this land grant, he built Hock Farm, the building of which was overseen by another early pioneer, John Bidwell. The house burned down in 1865, after which Sutter departed the region and the land was leased and later sold.

The Barr family of Yuba City donated the gun to the museum in 1992 after it had been in their possession for nearly one hundred years. The gun was manufactured in England in 1770, is seventy-four inches long, and weighs thirty-eight pounds. It was used at Sutter's Hock Farm prior to 1865. David J. Kertchen Sr., who leased Hock Farm after Sutter left the area, received the gun as a gift from one of Sutter's sons. Following its exhibition at the midwinter fair in San Francisco in 1893, the gun was presented to a local physician, Dr. J. H. Barr, and remained in his family until it was donated to the museum. Today it resides in the agricultural wing of the museum.

We are lucky to have documentation regarding ownership of the gun, in the form of a notarized affidavit supplied to Dr. Barr by David J. Kertchen Jr. in 1898. It is this document that transforms an antique firearm into Sutter County history.

General John A Sutter's Gun

This gun being a most valuable historical relic, its authenticity is hereby preserved by the following affidavit

DAVID J KERTCHEN OF MARYSVILLE CALIFORNIA, being duly sworn deposes and says that the large gun with swivel attachment marked MOORE 1770 on barrel and lock was originally the property of General John A Sutter and that it is one of the guns that was mounted for defense and used for several years prior to 1868 in the fort at General Sutter's ranch on the Feather River 12 miles south of Marysville, Cal. known as Hock Farm, that the said gun became in the year 1870 the property of deponents father, D. J. Kertchen Sr. who in that year, being the lessee of Hock Farm, received said gun as a present from the son of General Sutter, that the said gun remained in the possession of deponents

family until the year 1895 when deponent presented it to DR J. H. BARR

David J. Kertchen

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 30TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 1898.

G. W. Harney,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
YUBA CO. CAL.



Full text of affidavit: "David J. Kertchen of Marysville, California, being duly sworn deposes and says that the large gun with swivel attachment marked Moore 1770 on barrel and lock was originally the property of General John A. Sutter and that it is one of the guns that was mounted for defense and used for several years prior to 1868 in the fort at General Sutter's ranch on the Feather River 12 miles south of Marysville, Cal. known as Hock Farm, that the said gun became in the year 1870 the property of the deponents father, D. J. Kertchen, Sr. who in that year, being the lessee of the Hock Farm received the said gun as a present from the son of General Sutter [and] that the said gun remained in the possession of deponents family until the year 1895 when deponent presented it to Dr. J. H. Barr. (Signed) David J. Kertchen. Subscribed and sworn before me this 30th day of September A.D. 1898, G. W. Harney, Notary Public, Yuba Co. Cal."



A YUBA COUNTY SPORTSMAN

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B. J. Lynch