

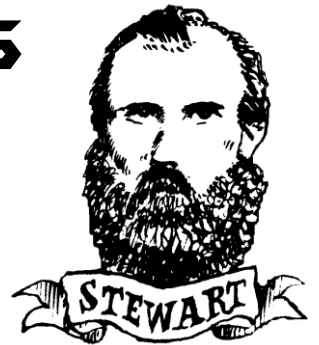


Original art by
Joel Borstad

E CLAMPUS VITUS

CHAPTER TEN

Wm. Bull Meek - Wm. Morris Stewart
" Fathers of the Northern Mines"



HEWGAG-MONITOR

" All the news that fits"

Volume 40, No. 2
May, 2024

Nevada City, California

Newsletter by XNGH Testicle

2024 Spring Party @ Hammon Grove May 4th

May The 4th be with you as NGH Ryan Batman Schuyler and his officers invite you to celebrate another year of chapter 10 clamping.

Seemingly Decorum is expressly advertised as we would like to be able to use as needed. All the usual NO-NOs apply, including very serious admonitions from the Grand Council about illicit drugs and guns. Leave your dogs, bad attitudes, eggs and fireworks at home. Fires will be allowed in designated fire pits only! Oh!! Did we mention.... LEAVE YOUR DOGS AT HOME. THEY ARE NOT WELCOME!

Check out the Hawkers new swag while your at it

Turn your PBCs over to our Crack(ed) Initiation Team led by the hangman Nathan Redeye Jones upon arrival, but no later than 10:10 AM. Once turned over to us, clean and sober, LEAVE THEM TO US. PBCs will receive a short history lesson on ECV and WBM/WMS Chapter Ten. The Initiation will leave them tired and dirty, but all will survive to Clamp another day! **Candle light Initiation candidates welcome and they will be given special treatment (wink, wink)! Get them there before 10:00 am for best results.**

Prices for this year are set at \$50 prepay and \$60 day of for Redshirts and \$ 100 for PBC/Retread

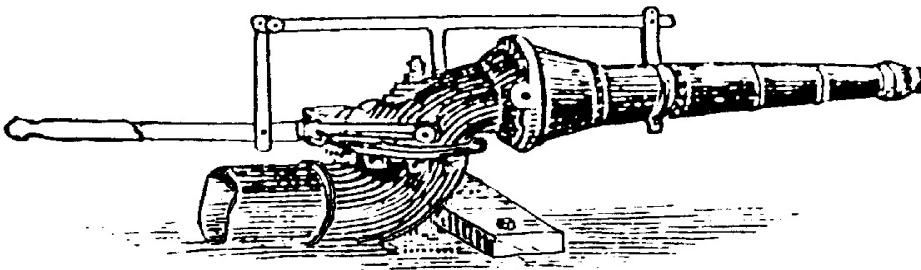
Save \$5 and buy your shirt in advance for \$20. \$25 at doins. Make your purchase by 10:10 pm on April 23rd to guarantee size (otherwise you will get a random size)

Send paperwork to the Chapter 10 Gold Dust receiver at the address below:

**E Clampus Vitus 10
P.O. Box 405
Nevada City, CA. 95959**

or go to ecv10.com for PayPal info and to print application paperwork beforehand.

Thank you to everyone that attended the Sweethearts ball. We had many more people than expected which is both good and bad. More people means more money, but it also means more food is needed. We plan for a few extra to show up, but not the amount that showed up this time. We ended up running out of some food as a result. Some of the work crew didn't get food. We wont turn you away at the door next year, but we will have meal tickets for those who register in advance. Registered guests will be able to get food first. The option to pay at the door is still available if needed, just let us know first so we can count you on the list for food ordering.



Meetings take place at 7:30 now at the Rough & Ready Grange.

14550 Rough and Ready Hwy.
Rough And ready, CA 95975

HEWGAG-MONITOR
P.O. box 405
Nevada City, CA. 95959



First Class Mail

Coming Events 2024 CY 6029

May 3-5 - Spring Doins - Hammon Grove
June 8th - Humbug day - Malakoff Diggins
July 4th - 4th of July Parade - Nevada City
September 15th - Constitution Day Parade - Nevada City
October 4-6- Fall Doins - Scotts Flat
Stay tuned for Family Picnic news

Everything else in between is still unknown. Stay tuned to ecv10.com
for up to date-ish information

Interested in becoming a Director? Come to the Rough And Ready
Grange on the last Friday of the month at 7 PM.



The Naming of a Chapter of ECV.

William Bull Meek

Chapters of E Clampus Vitus identify themselves with historic names of people, places or events from their areas. Chapter 10 has two men's names. William Bull Meek and William Morris Stewart, both honored for their contributions to the area, make for an unwieldy Chapter name. The late Chapter 10 XNGH Herb Gerrish, once advised the still-forming Truckee Area Chapter to choose a short name, as he always hated to type "William Bull Meek - William Morris Stewart, Chapter Number Ten," because it took so long, and he wasn't the most proficient of typists, anyway.

Just who was William Bull Meek?

A 1956 clipping from The Sacramento Bee is one source for this information. Additional material is added from the memoirs of Marguerite Vineyard and Jeanette Heintzen Lawrence, Yuba County residents who knew Billy well.

A native granite marker on the main street of Camptonville, dedicated on May 6, 1956, just 20 years after his death, honors this freight and stagecoach driver whose name was chosen for part of our chapter name. Billy Meek was born on December 25, 1858, at the Empire ranch six miles north of Downieville to Mr. and Mrs. John Meek, who had come west with the gold rush and settled at Empire Ranch in Sierra County. Bill Meek's father, John, was a native of Canada. His father removed the family to Indian Valley when Billy was a tot, where John operated a general merchandise store. The young family soon moved again, this time to Camptonville, where another store was soon in operation.

In 1870, at age 13, William Bull Meek started driving a freight wagon over the route which became known as the Henness Pass Road. Billy hauled supplies into the teeming placer camps along the Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers.

The wagons he brought through the mountains were never halted or robbed, although the road was infested with bandits and cutthroats. Wagons and stages were robbed and murders were committed on the average of once a week. It was believed he led a charmed life, but later, after he had retired from his days as a teamster, it was revealed that he was befriended by Madam Romargi (*Bee spelling*) or Ramari (*Marguerite Vineyard's spelling*), operator of the infamous Nevada House. She warned highwaymen that the pink-cheeked youth was not to be molested.

But it was not only Madam Romargi who helped Meek, as he was a brave young man in his own right. A few years before his death, Meek told how he, as a teenager, had swaggered up to the bar and ordered drinks for the toughest and most murderous groups in Northern California.

Jeanette Heintzen Lawrence, whose father was the first banker north of Sacramento in the 1850's, recalls his skill and bravery this way:

"No one ever handled a six-horse team and stage with greater skill. He could turn the heavy, awkward coach on the proverbial "dime" with the ease of a dancer. He was known as a safe if seemingly daring driver. He never whipped his team but spoke with gentleness and authority excepting once when he struck them sharply and often. Bill was taking a load of gun or blasting powder to a mine at Indian Hill and came upon a fiercely burning forest fire. There he was, on a narrow road through the fire, canyon beneath, six horses and a load of powder. This time he swirled the long whip over their stretching backs, and got out of them all that they ever had in them. Smoke blurred his eyes, the heat leaped in blinding terrifying menace, but Bill drove through, though the sparks flew over him and his load like fireflies. With horses trembling and lathered, his face black from smoke, he pulled up at the mine with 'Well, there she is.'"

Bill Meek once recalled a seemingly unbelievable story, if, as indicated, he was a 13 year old boy:

"I was the agent (*he probably means driver*) for the Wells Fargo Company's express for many years. Good gold producing mines were operated at Downieville, Forest City, Alleghany and Sierra City, the best producers being the Sierra Butte and Bald Mountain mines at Sierra City. Many times approximately \$30,000 to \$150,000 was held over night, safely handled, to continue the journey next day. On one occasion O'Neil (*an infamous bandit of the area*) and several of his gang were suspected of being on the lookout to perform banditry. An especially large amount of gold was on hand that night. The night watchman took us into his confidence, and all precautions were taken and well carried out. If I remember correctly it was Thanksgiving night, 1870. The Public School Building was set on fire. Doubtless the fire was set by the O'Neil gang thinking that as is usual, everybody would rush to the scene. No one deserted his post of guard. The local fire brigade attended to the fire, but was unable to save the building. The gold bricks went on their way, if not rejoicing, but at least those in charge of them rejoiced."

In our last installment, Jeannette Heintzen Lawrence's tale of Meek's skill at handling his team and of his episode with the forest fire was related. Mrs. Lawrence added another story about William Bull Meek, which we retell here. It concerns her memories of Bill Meek's kindness.

"I had ridden horseback all night from Brown's Valley Ranch where we lived to reach my brother who was dangerously ill in Forest (*City*). I had reached Camptonville about 5 am on the coldest, dullest, sky-gray morning prefacing a snow storm; not expecting that anyone knew of the illness or the trip. There stood Bill Meek waving me to the store porch where a fresh horse stood waiting to take me the remaining 16 miles and also food and hot coffee. The saddle was changed while I stood on the porch and drank the strong coffee, and if I choked a little it was not altogether the coffee. That was the Bill Meek that I knew. How he knew I never found out, but his act of thoughtful kindness stands out like a shining gem in my memory."

Recalling more of Marguerite's stories of Bill Meek, we continue with more of his "run-ins" with road agents. She quotes Meek as saying:

"I was approaching Brandy City with my first load of groceries when the bandit, O'Neil and his Spanish companion overtook me. They elected to ride with me to town, where O'Neil said they were not known. How mistaken he was! When they deliberately rode their horses into the store, Jones, the storekeeper was waiting for them, gun in hand. 'Get out!' he said, firing as he spoke. They 'got' out in a hurry. My evil companions got me in wrong. I was questioned why I was with them. I explained as well as I could. My youth served me. I was cautioned by a number of the old-timers to avoid evil companionship in the future. Shortly afterward I met O'Neil and his friend in Forest City. Some cleverness on my part was needed to explain the question as to how Jones knew they were coming. Finally, they too, decided I was too young to be a double-crosser. How they figured I could have sent word in advance of their coming, I did not know."

Bill Meek spent time as a cattle wrangler one time, as also recalled by Marguerite Vineyard:

"My saddle horse Topsy was probably one reason why our town butcher asked me to go to Oregon, purchase a drove of cattle for him and help drive them home to Camptonville. Boy-like I rejoiced at the opportunity to see what was then the outside world. Besides, here were huge adventures waiting for me. I rigged myself with an immense sombrero and all the trappings that go with it. I was gone three months and sold cattle at various towns on the way home as I had been instructed to do. The cattle made their own living from the rich pasturage along the way. We periodically went among them to feed them the salt they craved. One morning we found the entire band gone. We tracked them back toward Oregon, but did not overtake them until we reached the summit. None was missing. By way of digression, it was here that Topsy won a race and \$50 for me. Was I a proud boy -- proud of Topsy and proud of being the owner of that swift little piece of horseflesh! The next day we started on our three days journey home with the cattle. I felt very worldly-wise for many months after that journey to the distant land of Oregon. Even the old men of the town had never traveled so far."

As for his education, Bill Meek had the high school courses usual for that time. The family decided to send Jason, Bill's older brother, to college in Canada, and Bill, 3 years younger, would stay in Camptonville and help run the family business. Bill also had several successful businesses of his own over the years, and was involved in the Yuba County government. William Bull Meek and John Martin owned and operated the Yuba Development Co., operating the Slate Range mill, and cutting all the lumber that originally built the P.G. & E. Colgate power house. They hauled the lumber with a large number of teams and a steam wagon. He met with misfortunes, the town having been destroyed by fire twice, the second time in 1908, but he rebuilt with two large concrete buildings. In his less hectic days, Bill Meek served as county assessor for Yuba County, and was a justice of the peace in the community and held the position of Master of Gravel Range Lodge No. 59 of the Masons for 28 years. With his father, John R. Meek (*deceased on August 25, 1902*); he operated the family mercantile business, which was in operation for well over 100 years in Camptonville. After Bill Meek's death on Thursday, January 23, 1936, the business was operated by Acton Cleveland who, like his illustrious grandfather, was judge of the Camptonville Judicial District Court. Judge Cleveland was also active in Masonic activities and was secretary of the lodge for over 30 years. He was also the first Noble Grand Humbug of the William Bull Meek Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, a predecessor of our current chapter.

William Bull Meek was truly a remarkable man, one who could tell a story with the best of them. Some of his descendants still live in the Camptonville area. Bill Meek had 2 daughters, Lottie Meek Cleveland and Virginia Meek Lord. His grandchildren included Acton Cleveland and John Lord.

Bill Meek wrote no memoirs, but if he had, they would have to be MUST reading for anyone interested in the history of Nevada and Yuba counties.

Next time, this short history of E Clampus Vitus will begin an examination of the life and times of William Morris Stewart, the other namesake of our chapter.

WILLIAM BULL MEEK - WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART CHAPTER TEN, E CLAMPUS VITUS®

Noble Grand Humbug Ryan Schuyler and the Board of Directors

are pleased to announce our Spring party.

Sat., May 4th , 2024

At Hammon Grove in Browns Valley

NGH Ryan Schuyler will be Hosting the party for all Redshirts in good standing.

DFDK firecrotch will be Checking cards and making sure our PBC's are 21 and over.

Please bring your Poor Blind Candidate SOBER and turn over to our

Hangman Nathan "Redeye" Jones no later Than 10:10AM on Saturday.

Clamp chef Boogie will be cooking some burnt crisp Bovine and some other vitesticles that are sure to settle your tape worms.

Libations will be flowing thanks to XNGH "Noodle" his Menstrual Mary's are a morning favorite. If you haven't earned your "Redwings" come visit the two Bill's Bar.

The prices for this annual Rite of Spring are \$50 prepay and \$60 day of for redshirts. PBCs / Retreads are \$100

Shirts available for pre order at \$20. Make your purchase by 11:59 on April 30th to guarantee size (otherwise you will get a random size)

All the usual NO-NOs apply, including very serious admonitions from the Grand Council about illicit drugs and guns.

Leave your dogs, bad attitudes, eggs and fireworks at home. Fires will be allowed in designated fire pits only!!

All Official Chapter Hawkers are welcome, but check in with XNGH/GNR Kyle Ball or NGH Ryan Schuyler

Turn your PBCs over to our Crack(ed) Initiation Team upon arrival, but no later than 10:10 AM. Once turned over to us, clean and sober, LEAVE THEM TO US. PBCs will receive a short history lesson on ECV and WBM/WMS Chapter Ten. The Initiation will leave them tired and dirty, but all will survive to Clamp another day! **Candle light Initiation candidates welcome and will be given special treatment. They must wear a white shirt and a sacrificial necktie.**

Fill out the bottom of this page and make a copy of the back side of it for the Liability Consent Form. Everyone must fill out the Liability Consent Form.

**For more info about PayPal, go to:
ecv10.com/spring-doins**

ECV 10
P.O. Box 405
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Dont forget to feed the Sick Jackass if you cant make it! It costs big bucks to get this out to you! \$5 will buy a lot of Jackass food! We regularly remove addresses from our mailing list for non -participation.

Get your reservations to the Recorder by Thursday, May, 2, 2024! Make checks payable to ECV 10.

Here's my (our) Advance Reservation gold dust for our Annual Spring One Day doin's! Rites of Spring.. tra..la!

Advance Reservation Prices.....\$50 for each Redshirt. \$100 each PBC. \$20 shirt

Clamper's Name _____ Chapter _____ Shirt _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

email _____

Clamper's Name _____ Chapter _____ Shirt _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

email _____

**NEW!! Make your reservations on line with PayPal! Go to ecv10.com/spring-doins for details!
For PBC Applications and more info, go to ecv10.com and explore a bit.**

(Copy the back side of this sheet for each person. Everyone must fill out the release form!)

EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THIS ENTIRE FORM AND INITIAL AND SIGN WHERE INDICATED.

THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS®

Agreement and Release from Liability

1. I, _____ (print your name here) acknowledge that I voluntarily request to accompany the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus® for the purposes of raising funds for constructing and/or dedicating various plaques and/or monuments to major and lesser events of Western history, especially Nevada and Yuba Counties.

2. I AM AWARE THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS® SOMETIMES OCCUR IN THE WILDERNESS, AND THAT DRIVING FROM MY POINT OF DEPARTURE TO SAID MEETING (HEREINAFTER CLAMPSITE) MY PARTICIPATION IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT SAID CLAMPSITE AND DRIVING BACK TO MY POINT OF DEPARTURE ARE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES. I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGER INVOLVED, AND HEREBY AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF INJURY AND DEATH, AND VERIFY THIS STATEMENT BY PLACING MY INITIALS BELOW.

_____ **INITIAL HERE**

3. As consideration for being permitted by the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus® to participate in these activities, I hereby agree that I, my assignees, heirs, distributes, guardians, and legal representatives will not make a claim against, sue, or attach the property of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus® or any of its officers or members for injury or damage resulting from negligence or other acts, howsoever caused, and by any member, agent, or officer as a result of my participation in or travel to and from the CLAMPSITE. I hereby release the Ancient and Honorable of E Clampus Vitus® and any of its officers or members from all action, claims or demands that I, my assignees, heirs, distributes, guardians, and legal representatives now have or may have for injury or damage resulting from my above-described participation at the CLAMPSITE.

_____ **INITIAL HERE**

KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY EXECUTION

4. I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS®, ITS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Executed at _____Hammon Grove_____ (City), _____California_____ on the _____4th_____ Day of _____May_____, _____2024_____

Releasor _____
(Signature required)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

PBC's name (if any) _____

PBC must be Twenty One (21) Years or Older.
(Please include this form and a completed PBC application for each PBC.)

**William Bull Meek – William Morris Stewart Chapter Ten
Ancient and Honorable Order of
E Clampus Vitus® Ch 10
P. O. Box 405
Nevada City, CA 95959**

Check here if this is a new address

I am an XNGH or NGH of Chap. _____

I am interested in becoming an Associate member of Chapter Ten.

Year I joined Chapter 10 _____

My original sponsor was _____

Clampers please note
SPONSOR AGREES TO TURN PBC OVER TO HOCO CREW ON TIME AND IN GOOD SHAPE, AND TO LEAVE ALL INITIATION ACTIVITIES IN THE HANDS OF THAT CREW.

CLAMPER _____

If you have moved or have not received a newsletter in a while – Update your damn address. We have had too many returns