



THE CLAMPUS VITUS®

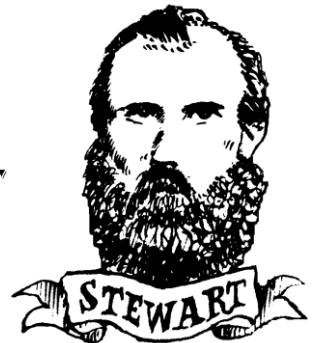
CHAPTER TEN

WM. BULL MEEK – WM. MORRIS STEWART

FATHERS OF THE NORTHERN MINES

"Orphans bless us, and the widow's heart is glad"

HEWGAG-MONITOR



Original art by
Joel Borstad

"All the news that fits"

Volume 40, No. 2

Nevada City, California

Oct, 2024

Gone To The Golden Hills

It is with great sadness that I report the following brothers have passed on to the Golden Hills

XNGH Jeffro Winge
Vince Giuntini
Alan Morford

As I pass through life, may I always be humble; may I never take myself seriously; may I always appreciate a little of the ridiculous; may I always be a two-fisted Clamper when the bottle passes my way and if

I imbibe and can't hold it like a man, then may I always be able to pass it to the next brother; may I never forget the stout-hearted

men who settled a great western wilderness and the heritage we have today.

May I never fail to appreciate a bit of western lore.

2024 Fall Party Scott Flat Lake

NGH Ryan "Batman" Schuyler and his merry band of chapter officers invite you to our big Fall Overnighter Doins's October 4th-6th at the super secret bat cave location. Scott Flat Lake is just 5 miles outside of Nevada city (Find the Old 5 Mile House & turn right, or if coming south turn left) drive a couple more miles to the gate. Proper ECV signage should be present.

This will also be a memorial for our Friend, Brother and Funkle XNGH Jeffro Winge The prices for this traditional event are only \$75 Advance Reservation and \$80 at the Doins. PBCs are \$110, advance prepay is helpful. New this year is a \$40 half off option for you to just come and hang out with brothers and shop hawker row. Slippery and Meal rub not included in this price. You can prepay at www.ecv10.com/fall-doins. You can also find an option to prepay for an artfully crafted, top quality shirt of the day that will only be available in limited quantities on the day of the event.

This event is an overnighter, The gate will be monitored and no early camping at the doins site. The park has said all early camping will be at the other entrance. Friday morning when officers for Chapter arrive, You may register and pay to enter doins. **All the usual NO-NOs apply, including very serious admonitions from the Grand Council about illicit drugs and guns. Only members of ECV in good standing allowed. Have your traveling card with you. Leave your dogs, bad attitudes, eggs and fireworks at home. No RV hookups at this site. Oh!! Did we mention.... LEAVE YOUR DOGS AT HOME. THEY ARE NOT WELCOME!**

Saturday dinner, late night pick me up and Sunday Breakfast will be served by the esteemed Clamp Chef Boogie. Official Big and Little Slippery time is from 10:10 AM to 5:10 PM. Bring some \$\$\$ to buy into our big, badass Raffle after dinner. The Raffle master has been scouring the back alleys to get the best stuff for you to take a chance on. Turn your PBCs over to our esteemed 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 they will be given special treatment (wink, wink)! Get them there before 10:00 am for best results.**

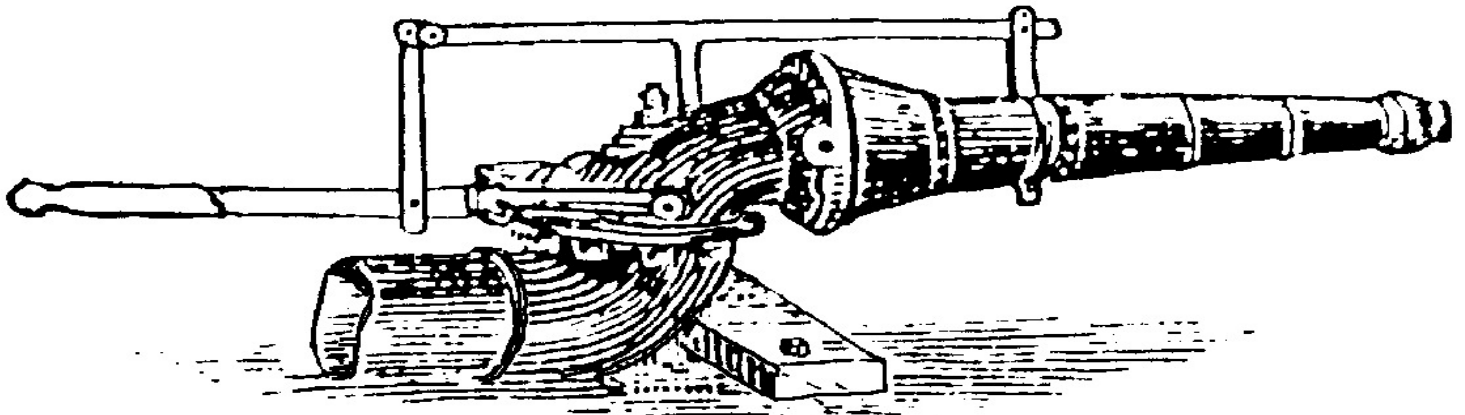
Send paperwork and Gold Dust to the Chapter Ten Gold Dust Receiver at the address below:

ECV 10

P.O. Box 405

Nevada City, CA 95959

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



A Short History of E Clampus Vitus

The Naming of a Chapter, (part 3)
Appeared May, 1988

William Morris Stewart

The second namesake of Chapter 10, William Morris Stewart, led a completely different life than that of William Bull Meek. whose life was highlighted the past two installments of this history of ECV.

Much of the information in this section comes from old E Clampus Vitus broadsides and newspaper clippings. In addition, dates and events in William Morris Stewart's life are taken from the book *Gold and Silver Colossus - William Morris Stewart and his Southern Bride*, by Ruth Hermann, mentioned as Mrs. Victor Hermann in the section about the Stewart Mansion.

The most notable state and national figure to ever emerge from Nevada County, William Morris Stewart rose to the highest levels of local, state and federal government positions. He attended college (Yale), and was at times a teacher, miner, lawyer and a statesman.

Born in a log house at Galen, New York on August 9, 1825, Bill Stewart grew up in what would be considered today as extreme poverty. Living on a farm, he learned the virtues of hard work and although poor, he was able to earn some money by early business ventures involving the hunting of raccoons. He was an able student, and craved an education so much that, when informed by his father at the age of 14 that he had completed enough schooling and must from then on work entirely on the farm, he left home to make his own way in the world.

Clearing land and doing other hard work enabled Bill to earn enough money to live and see to his schooling. Exceptionally gifted in mathematics, he eventually became a teacher and saved enough money to allow him to enroll at Yale University in the fall of 1848.

Bill's university days were numbered, however, as word of the gold strike in California reached him. In early January, 1850, he boarded a ship for California, via the Isthmus of Panama. Crossing the Isthmus on foot, he joined the throng of people on a dangerously overloaded boat from Panama to San Francisco, and arrived there on April 7, 1850.

With only a quarter to his name after a disastrous bout with a crooked gambler, Bill worked unloading boats to earn enough money for passage to Sacramento. Water from the flood of January, 1850 had just receded as he arrived there and he tried his hand mining on the American River. The water was too high and he returned to Sacramento just in time to become seriously ill with Panama Fever. Somehow, he was able to continue his travels up to Marysville where he was so weak that he could barely climb to the top of the bank, and his possessions were carried up and placed by his side. Upon hearing of several men near him loading supplies for a trip to Deer Creek, he pleaded to be taken there. Nearly dead from the fever, he was deposited by a spring in a ravine near Deer Creek and lay there for 8 days before the fever broke, and he was able to scramble to the settlement.

Spending the summer mining in an area known as "Coyote Diggings," he and a partner, Dr. Merrick, were able to earn about \$7000 each. Prospecting in other locations after that led him to establish a camp he called "Eureka," which was somewhat fruitful for him, but he had a poor winter and left the area. Eureka was later to become known as Graniteville.

Bill had an unusual ability to cause people to see his way in disputed matters, not only because of his stature, which was large, but by his education. He became a lawyer almost by accident. Among his various ventures in those days was the construction of a channel known as the Grizzly Ditch, to bring badly needed water down 45 miles from the Sierra through Cherokee Corral and North San Juan. It was during a dispute over his plan to put water into a natural stream and then take the same amount out at a lower point, that he became embroiled in legal matters and began to "read" the law. He was already known as a man able to settle disputes among other miners, but at age 26, in 1852, he became associated in the law office of John R. McConnell, who was then the District Attorney. In November, 1852, William Morris Stewart was, on the same day, admitted to the bar and appointed to replace McConnell as District Attorney for Nevada County.

His early style was unique. Being unskilled in the law, he would argue in such harsh language that the opponent would become enraged, leaving Bill the opportunity to engage him in personal combat. Bill would then receive the treatment from the court that he desired; that of a fine and imprisonment overnight in the jail. Using the jail time for study, he would then be prepared for next day's court and could carry the day. This happened three times and Bill became competent enough to hold his own after that. As Nevada County District Attorney, he became the West's first "Gang Buster" prosecutor by breaking up the gang which robbed the stages and freight wagons plying the route between Placerville and Virginia City.

In the spring of 1854, William Morris Stewart and Niles Searls, a close friend, became partners in a law office located on Broad Street in Davis' brick building. Niles would later become Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. This proved to be a short-lived partnership, for on June 7, 1854, Governor Bigler appointed William Morris Stewart to become the fifth Attorney General of the State of California, to temporarily fill that position while John R. McConnell, who held the office, went on a six month trip. Both McConnell and Stewart had won election to their respective offices in the summer of 1853.

While Attorney General, Stewart formed a successful partnership with the Honorable Henry Stuart Foote, ex-governor of Mississippi, and two other lawyers. At this time, Bill met Foote's daughter, Annie. They were married on the 31st of May, 1855, in the bride's father's home in Clinton, Alameda County. On the same day, Bill paid out all his cash (over \$5000), to make good on a friend's debt that he had co-signed.

Moving his new bride to Nevada City, Bill stepped again into a well-paying partnership with McConnell, and extended his law practice to Downieville. Stewart provided his wife with a companion and cook, Olivia, and Annie's father found her a young Indian girl from a desperate family, and arranged for the girl to live and work in the Stewart household.

In 1855-56, Stewart built, in Nevada City, an exact replica of his wife's birthplace, which was in Clinton, Mississippi. Moving in on July 18, 1856, the couple escaped the disastrous fire which consumed most of Nevada City the next day. The fire, across Deer Creek Canyon from Stewart's house, was clearly visible from the upper front balcony verandah, and Annie watched fearfully, for Bill had gone to provide any assistance he could. It was in the aftermath of this fire that Bill Stewart and J. R. McConnell established a law office in the brick building at 34 Broad Street, which had partially escaped the fire. This building still stands today, known as the Kidd - Knox Building.

(Plaqued by Chapter Ten on May 3, 1980)

Located on Zion Street in Nevada City, the antebellum mansion was the site of several plaque dedications by the Clampers in the area. On September 20, 1959, William Morris Stewart Chapter placed a plaque on the home in a ceremony aided by Nevada County Superior Judge Vernon Stoll. Miss Judith Chaffee of Oakland, owner of the home, was present. Later, the house underwent restoration in 1964 by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hermann. On March 7, 1964, another plaque was placed at the home, this time in conjunction with the State of Nevada Centennial Commission, which also had much interest in William Morris Stewart, as you will see in our next installment.

This will bring to a close this installment of the life of William Morris Stewart, but we have just barely touched the surface of this remarkable man's life.

The Naming of a Chapter, (part 4)

Appeared October, 1988

In our last installment of this short history of E Clampus, we covered the early life of one of the namesakes of Chapter 10, William Morris Stewart. His contributions to the early mining history of Nevada County and his law career had made him wealthy and provided him with the ability to hold high public office. Also mentioned was the State of Nevada's interest in helping to celebrate the placement of a plaque on the Stewart Mansion in Nevada City. It was in Nevada Territory that William Morris Stewart was to begin a career which would elevate him to national prominence.

On July 1, 1859, newspaper reports in Nevada City told of the results of an assay of ore brought from Nevada Territory to James Ott's Assay Office. Bill Stewart almost immediately went to Nevada on mule back and decided to investigate further, being so interested in mining.

Mining in Nevada County had come to a near stand-still because the ill-fated gold rush fiasco in British Columbia in 1857-58 had taken 20,000 men from California, and the county's easily acquired placer gold was getting harder and harder to find. Another 20,000 California men would cross the Sierras in 1860-61 in search of the Silver Bonanza in the region to become known as Virginia City.

Bill Stewart returned and remained in Downieville for the winter of 1859, getting his law affairs in order. His partner, Harry Thornton Jr. would remain to run the successful practice. In March 1860, leaving Annie with the children (second daughter Anna having been born in 1859), Bill left Downieville and made his way to Genoa, opening a law office in a rented two-story log house that had been Nevada's first permanent dwelling. Bill's fame as a lawyer in California stood him well, for many claims disputes and much mayhem resulted from the scramble for riches in the Comstock.

In May, 1860, Bill rode his mule to Virginia City, in time to witness the formation of a retaliatory expedition against the Indians who had attacked the Pony Express post at Williams Station.

In July, Bill returned to Downieville to retrieve his family. They camped in Virginia City, where Bill had been practicing law. In late 1860 they moved to a new cut stone house in Carson City that had been built for them. Bill became the council member for Carson City in the newly formed Nevada Territorial Government, which was the equivalent of a state senator. He was also instrumental in getting the seat of government to reside in Carson City, as opposed to those who would have had Virginia City hold that honor.

During the next few years, business in Virginia City had become so good for Bill that in 1863 he moved his family into a new \$30,000 mansion on a steep hillside overlooking that bustling community. He sold his stone house in Carson City to James W. Nye, the new Governor of the Territory, and it became the first Governor's mansion.

When the newly formed Nevada State Legislature met in 1864, Bill was elected U.S. Senator, along with Gov. Nye, and his national political career began.

On Feb. 1, 1865, Bill was sworn into office and the next morning he called on President Lincoln. Two and a half months later, Bill and his old friend Niles Searls would be among the last to talk to President Lincoln, just as he was mounting a carriage to take his wife to Ford's Theater, where he would be fatally shot.

After tangling with an imperfect President Andrew Johnson, Bill was re-elected in 1869, and set about to formulate the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which stated that the right to vote could not be abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

In 1875, after living somewhat lavishly among Washington D.C. society circles, and now with a third daughter, Bill found his financial resources unable to keep up and he decided not to run again for the Senate, but to return to Nevada. Between 1875 and 1887, Bill accumulated another fortune with his mining interests in the Panamint Valley and his law practice.

In 1885, William Morris Stewart was appointed by the most Puissant Sovereign Grand Lodge of E Clampus Vitus to establish a State Grand Encampment in Nevada. Between 1885 and 1887 he promoted the Nevada Clamper movement.

In 1899, Bill was again elected U.S. Senator from Nevada. By now, his hair and long beard white, and because of his long-held views on the production and uses of silver for money, he was known as the Silver Senator.

Bill was one of the U.S. members of the Arbitration Board of the World Court at The Hague, Netherlands, in 1902 when his wife Annie was killed in an auto accident in Alameda.

Bill remarried in 1903, and finished his term as U.S. Senator, whereupon he found himself in a now familiar situation; not enough money. He went to Bullfrog, near Rhyolite, Nevada, and opened another law office in that rich mining region. By 1908 he had acquired his third fortune, although it was admittedly smaller than his other two.

In 1908, at age 83, Bill's business in Bullfrog had declined with the slowing down of mining there and he shuttled from his interests in Washington, D.C., and those in Bullfrog often.

But on April 23, 1909, at age 84, William Morris Stewart died in Washington, D.C., his third fortune gone, leaving many creditors who picked over his small estate.

Bill's ashes were buried by Annie's in San Francisco, but in 1937, the decree was made to clear, by 1940, the section in which their remains were located at Laurel Hill Cemetery. At that time no known descendant in the U.S. could be located, so the remains were removed, along with thousands of other pioneers, to Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma. The vast number of tombstones was cast aside unceremoniously. Since then, their remains have rested in the "Laurel Hill mound" marked only with a small concrete block stamped with the number "351."

Coming Events 2024 CY 6029

Sept 7th- Family Picnic @ western gateway Park 10:10 AM

Sep 15th - Constitution Day Parade @ Nevada City. 2pm

Oct 4th-6th E.C.V, Fall Doins at Scott Flat Lake

Interested in becoming a Director? Come to the Rough And Ready Grange in Rough & Ready on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 PM.



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

First Class Mail

Chapter email: ecvten@gmail.com

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 fall party
63rd Fall Initiation and Doin's on Sat., Oct 5th, 2024
At Scotts Flat Lake in Grass Valley

NGH Ryan "Batman" Schuyler and his merry band of chapter officers invite you to our big Fall Overnighter Doin's October 4th-6th. Scott Flat Lake is just 5 miles outside of Nevada city (Find the Old 5 Mile House & turn right, or if coming south turn left) drive a couple more miles to the gate. Proper ECV signage should be present.

The prices for this traditional event are only \$75 Advance Reservation and \$80 at the Doins. PBCs are \$110. New this year is a \$40 half off option for you to just come and hang out with brothers and shop hawker row. Slippery and Meal rub not included in this price. You can prepay at www.ecv10.com/fall-doins. There, you can also find an option to prepay for an artfully crafted, top quality shirt of the day that will only be available in limited quantities on the day of the event.

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Send paperwork and Gold Dust to the Chapter Ten Gold Dust Receiver at the address below:

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

If paying for more than 1 person, Make a copy of the liability form for each person. Everyone must fill out the Liability Consent Form.

**For more info about PayPal, go to:
<http://ecv10.com/fall-doins>**

Don't forget to feed the Sick Jackass if you can't 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 in by Thursday Oct 3rd, 2024! Make checks payable to ECV 10.

Here's my (our) Advance Reservation gold dust for our Annual Fall doin's
Advance Reservation Price. \$75 for each ECV. (\$80 on site!) \$110 for each PBC. \$40 for camp and visit

Clamper's Name _____ Chapter Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (_____) _____ email _____

Clamper's Name _____ Chapter Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (_____) _____ email _____

NEW!! Make your reservations on line with PayPal! Go to ecv10.com/fall-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 FORM AND INITIAL AND SIGN WHERE INDICATED.

THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS®

Agreement and Release from Liability



1. I, _____ 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 referred to as "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 all risks of injury or 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.

Releasor _____
(Signature Required)

Date OCT 5th 2024

Address _____

Check here if this is a new address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am an XNGH or NGH of Chap. _____

Email _____

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

Phone _____

I would prefer to receive the newsletter via email.



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

