



THE CLAMPUS VITUS®

CHAPTER TEN

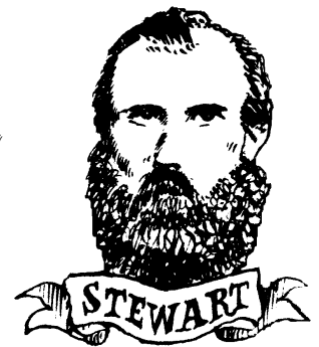
WM. BULL MEEK – WM. MORRIS STEWART

FATHERS OF THE NORTHERN MINES

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

HEWGAG-MONITOR

"All the news that fits"



Original art by
Joel Borstad

Volume 39, No. 2
2023

Nevada City, California

Oct,

By: XNGH Testicle

6th Annual Family Picnic

Aug. 20 @ Western Gateway Park in Penn Valley.

Down at the lower camp sites by the creek.

Family and Non Clamper event!

(Great event for Respectful PBC's)

Come check it out.

Also we would love for people to bring a game like lawn darts, tug o war, yard Jenga, cornhole, or anything else that is family friendly.

The creek should be flowing for you to take a refreshing dip and cool off.

Burgers will be supplied but this is a pot luck style picnic. We ask for you to bring the following based off of last name.

A-G: Side Dish (beans, scalloped potatoes, cooked vegs, casseroles, etc.)

H-M: Salads (potato, macaroni, fruit, ambrosia, cole slaw, etc.)

N-T: Desserts (pies, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, etc.)

U-Z: Misc Items (chips, dips, crackers, meat/veg/cheese tray, etc.)

2023 Fall Party Scott Flat Lake

NGH Mike Antrobus and his rag tag band of chapter officers invite you to our big Fall Overnighter Doin's October 6th-8th. Scott Flat Lake is just 5 miles outside of Nevada city (Find the Wheelhouse & 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 \$65 pre pay and \$70 at the Doins. PBCs are \$100, You can prepay at www.ecv10.com/fall-doins. There, you can also find and 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. 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 snack 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 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 they will be given special treatment (wink, wink)! Get them there before 10:00 am for best results.**

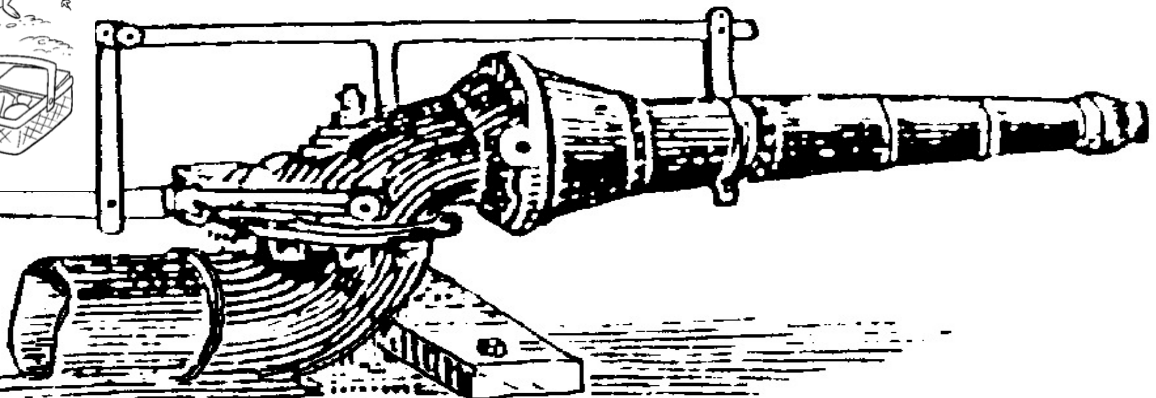
Send paperwork and Gold Dust to the Chapter Ten Gold Dust Receiver at the address below:

GDR XNGH Mark Sellards

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

What's it all about? Appeared February, 1986

Information here has been gleaned from work by Duff Chapman XSNHG, Carl Briggs XSNHG, and newspaper stories by Bob Wyckoff XNGH Chap. 10.

Chapter 10 is a direct descendant of the reforming of E Clampus Vitus by a group of history buffs in the early 30s. In May of 1932, on their first annual pilgrimage to the Gold Country, the group came to Camptonville, and was regaled with stories of the old days by William Bull Meek, an old-time Clamper and retired teamster and stage coach driver. But this is a story to come later in another issue of this rag. For now, let us go back even further.

On Jan. 24, 1848, James W. Marshall, an employee of John A. Sutter, discovered gold in the tail race of a mill he was building to produce lumber for Sutter. News spread slowly in those days, and gold had been seen in California earlier, but news of Marshall's discovery loosed a tide of humanity bound for California. Since most people could not get to California in less than 5 months, few were able to arrive in 1848.

1849, however, would prove to be the beginning of the Gold Rush. Among those leaving for California in Jan. 1849, was a 49 year-old man from Will County (*near Joliet*), Illinois. Joe Zumwalt, not as young as many of the gold-seekers, but still full of the stuff of which pioneers are made, came west to seek his fortune.

While passing through Bowling Green (*Pike County*), Missouri, Joe and his partner C.W. Wright stopped at a newspaper office to inquire of the condition of the road to California. While there, they picked up some copies of the ritual of "Eclampus Vitus." Some 8 months after leaving Illinois, the party reached the Diggins in Sept. 1849. Settling his family in Sacramento, Joe and others returned to the Diggins, traveling extensively from one location to another, as in those days, news of a rich strike sent placer miners scurrying to that location to try their luck.

Evidence shows that Joe Zumwalt visited Camptonville, Downieville, Sierra City, Hangtown and many other locations. He tried to start Chapters of E Clampus Vitus in some of these places, but due to the restlessness of the miners, no success was attained.

As the Placer mining became harder, and the focus of the search for gold turned from the rivers and streams to the quartz outcroppings from which the gold came, individuals were less able to finance the working of a mine. Partnerships were formed, companies became employers and many men worked for others, rather than trying their luck on their own.

Working conditions were miserable, hours were long and pay short. Benefits? Who heard of those? A man injured or unable to work because of sickness was no use to a company, and he was let go.

The miners did have some spare time and soon, in 1851, at Mokelumne Hill, Chapter 1001 of E Clampus Vitus was formed. Perhaps it was the more stationary population, but this time the idea took. Soon, Chapters were springing up all along the Mother Lode. What did they do? Well, Brothers, you will have to wait till next time as space is limited here for the present.

The Early Chapters Appeared May, 1986

In our last issue, we covered the beginning of E Clampus Vitus. We now continue with the series, focusing this time on the Chapter functions of the old days.

Keep in mind, Brothers, the working conditions of the old times. Many hours spent in cold water, physically hard, and for many, dangerous and isolated labor. Free time, what there was of it, was spent obtaining the barest of necessities for life. Food was high priced; liquor was of poor quality and expensive. Homes were cold and drafty, clothes were wet and ill-fitting. (*As an example, right and left boots were not readily available, only generic boots for either foot.*)

As for other necessities, women were few and far between and in some cases, expensive also. Besides, who would really like to have much to do with a "girl" named "Big-nosed Kate" who was probably 20 or so years older than you, and was known to carry obnoxious little bugs to share with her "friends?"

For a somewhat glamorized account of life in the mining country, see the movie *Paint Your Wagon*.

To provide mutual aid and companionship, the miners flocked to join the various Chapters of E Clampus Vitus. Each community of any size probably had one, and it is certain the larger ones all did, as we can read of the various Lodge meetings in old newspapers. The mobility and ingenuity of the miners was evident in some of the names of the Chapters.

Rather than hold semi-annual meetings as we do now, the early Clampers held meetings whenever a sucker or two showed up. A pot and pan salesman had no chance of selling anything if he wasn't a Clamper. In January, 1886, a touring actor, Lord Sholto Douglas from England, son of the Marquis of Queensbury, was once to appear in Marysville. He declined the off hand invitation to join the Clampers and was greeted by a virtually empty house on opening night. Reconsidering, he was "taken in" to the Clampers. His account of his initiation is hilarious, and most feel, an accurate description of the irreverent and lusty entertainment enjoyed by the miners. Although the Brothers cleaned his pockets and drank on the money till it was gone, his initiation was a financial godsend to him, as he was greeted by standing-room only crowds and recouped his money over and over. The building he was initiated in still stands in Marysville and does business as the Silver Dollar Saloon, on First Street. Two plaques grace the front of this original building, one commemorating the Lord Sholto Douglas incident and another, more recently dedicated,

refers to New Mecklenburg, original site of settlement in the area.

More than fun and entertainment, the early Chapters took care of their own in other ways. If a Brother was down on his luck, or suffered a loss of equipment or supplies, he was able to "weather the storm" with help from E Clampus Vitus. Later, miners with families were aided, especially the "widows and orphans" of miners killed or injured.

As to the paraphernalia and rituals of the Order, the various Chapters used the basic ideas in the "Ritual of E clampus Vitus:" brought to California by old Joe Zumwalt. Records are scanty as many of the meetings were conducted without benefit of literate record keepers, and besides, many times no one was able to remember what had happened at the meeting.

Much of what we know of the old days is due to the memory of one old man named Adam Lee Moore. Upon hearing of the reforming of E Clampus Vitus by some history minded Californians in the 1930's, he contacted them and related the Ritual and other facts as he remembered them. (*He was the last Humbug of his Chapter in the declining days of E Clampus Vitus in the 1870's.*)

The Re-founders Appeared October, 1986

This edition of the short history of E Clampus Vitus concerns itself with the rebirth of the order after a general decline which corresponded with the decrease in gold mining activities and the settling down of the sometimes raucous lifestyle of the early mining camps as they became towns and cities. The time was the late 1920s. Some of the old 49ers were still alive and their families were scattered all over California. Almost all had turned to other occupations, although gold would be mined in places through the 1940s on a commercial basis. An appreciation for the life and times of the Gold Rush was still held by many and history books were being prepared, using the diaries and memories of those who had "seen the elephant." Somewhere along this time, it occurred to Carl I. Wheat and Leon O. Whitsell, Bay area residents and men of high C.Q. (Californiosity Quotient), that the fine old institution of E Clampus Vitus had fallen upon evil days. While traveling in the old mining camps, Wheat had come upon references to the Clampers. In the spring of 1930, he and Whitsell had decided to do something about this lamentable state of affairs. Cornering G. Ezra Dane on the road from Columbia down to Parrot's Ferry, and getting an agreement from him to do the dirty work necessary for this great revival, plans were undertaken for a rebirth of the order. There was not a lot of information on the E Clampus Vitus of old. It seems that the minutes of the meetings were not always taken, and many times the members could not remember what occurred at the meetings, conditions that sometimes happen even today. A few months later, in the year of 1931, in a lunchroom in Yerba Buena, E Clampus Vitus was reborn. Still not knowing very much about the old Order, Carl Wheat was most gratified to

receive a telephone call from an old-timer, Adam Lee Moore. Moore, having read of the revival attempts in the Mountain Messenger in Downieville, and who was the last NGH of the Sierra City Lodge, had called to help the young fellows out with information about the days of old.

Charter members of E Clampus Vitus, Redivivus were: Adam Lee Moore, Carl I. Wheat, Francis P. Farquhar, Edgar B. Jessup, Ernest A. Wiltsee, Leon O. Whitsell, George D. Lyman, Thomas Norris, Douglas S. Watson, James D. Stewart, Edwin Grabhorn, Charles P. Cutten, Jesse M. Whited, Lee L. Stopple, Frederick C. Clift, William T. McSorley, Henry R. Wagner, Phil T. Hanna, G. Ezra Dane, William Bull Meek, John McSorley and George N. Napoleon.

It was decided to meet at least twice a year, once to honor the anniversary of the discovery of gold by James Marshall, and another time during a Pilgrimage to the Diggins. During the first Pilgrimage, on the rainy night of May 2, 1932, in Camptonville, William Bull Meek and Adam Lee Moore regaled the group with tales of the early days. Chapter 10 celebrated the 50th anniversary of this event on May 2, 1982, with a spring meeting and initiation in Camptonville, causing a much-coveted Badge of the Day to be struck, with only those given on the day to have a red ribbon attached.

The second Pilgrimage was to the Southern Diggins and during each of the meetings, new members would be initiated, more of the old day's lore would be retold, and new friends would become old friends. It was during this Pilgrimage that Adam Lee Moore tried to interest the members in his latest gold mining venture. But, unable to locate the claim, the Brothers demurred, thereby saving themselves much money.

Soon, a new Hall of Comparative Ovations opened in Los Angeles, and the Order later spread back into the Gold Country from which it sprang, with chapters in Deer Creek Dry Diggins (the area around Nevada City), North San Juan, Hangtown (the area around Placerville), and others, including Auburn, Downieville and Sacramento.

Adam Lee Moore **Appeared February 1987**

Last time, this short history of ECV went back to the early 30s to describe the refounding of the Order. Most Clampers think that the Order had died and was buried by that time, and not much had taken place, E Clampus Vitus-wise, since the late 1880s or 90s. Attempts of modern historians to follow the Clampers on their journey in California history seem to be frustrated by a paucity of information, save the occasional reference in the old newspapers of Lodge Meetings.

Clamper Dave Dunlop, of Yuba City, has done considerable research along these lines and has recently presented to the Editor of your very own Hewgag-Monitor the manuscript of a paper he delivered to the Sutter County Historical Society. Clamper Dunlop has graciously given

permission for us to use this material freely for this series of articles.

Briefly, E Clampus Vitus was very much alive and kicking, having been officially incorporated by a group of businessmen in Marysville in 1915, even to the extent of issuing Charters to new ECV Chapters in Oroville and Chico in 1916. XNGH Francis Rakow has in his possession a picture of a very large (1000 or so) gathering of Clampers in Oroville in 1916. Our next installment of this series will go into this era of Clamperdom more fully.

But, we digress. As promised last time, this article will concern itself with Adam Lee Moore, the link of the old E Clampus with the new, and his recollections of the life and times of Clampers in the Sierra City area.

G. Ezra Dane, of whom we heard last time, wrote a sketch of Adam Lee Moore. We borrow from it freely here:

Adam Lee Moore was born May 5, 1847 at Rahway, New Jersey. In 1862, aged 15, he shipped out on a whaler from New London and spent the winter of '62-'63 frozen in at Hudson Bay. His youthful wanderings ended in 1867 when he landed in San Francisco and went up to Sierra County in search of gold. Arriving at Downieville, he was cordially (and thoroughly) "taken in" by the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, rollicking burlesque brotherhood of the gold rush days. From Downieville, he pushed on to Sierra City, which became his home and the base of his mining activities for many years. There, in 1879, he married Jennie Larrieu and there they raised their children. But he always had time for transaction of the important monkey business with which the Clampers concerned themselves. Transferring his allegiance to the Sierra City Chapter, "Balaam Lodge No. 107,304," he filled the honorable office of Royal Patrix and finally rose to the supreme dignity of Noble Grand Humbug, which he occupied until the roisterous order faded and died with the free and easy spirit of the gold Rush days that had fostered its existence.

Mr. Moore and his family moved to San Francisco and there, years later, he was surprised to learn that a group of choice spirits had revived the old order of ECV as a vehicle for pursuing their common interest in California history. He made himself known to them as the last surviving Noble Grand Humbug of the old dispensation and was acclaimed the Grand Clampatriarch of the new one.

On Wednesday, May 5, 1937, in San Francisco, the Bay City Clampers met to honor Clampatriarch Moore on the occasion of his 90th birthday, and presented him with a curiously carved staff in token of their affection and of his supreme authority. From some of his writings of his reminiscences of E Clampus Vitus, we can learn of the boisterous and thorough initiations to which new members were subjected. Of his own initiation he writes:

"I answered the usual questions in the anteroom, the portals were thrown open, and I was conducted to the coffin where they placed my hand on the skeleton and took the blindfold off

of my eyes, and there I took the obligation; they then elevated me, for I had said that I believed in the elevation of man; and I took it in good part and with the exception of the brand enjoyed the evening, for they made it short for me as there were two more that night. One of the two got smart and would be tough, so what they did to him I do not think he will ever forget; they rode him over the rocky roads to Dublin till he begged them to quit. This is done with a wheelbarrow with a large wet sponge in it. The candidate is seated, while the by-laws are read to him; then there is a ladder on the floor, rungs down, and the wheelbarrow is run over it, a man at each handle, the C.P. on one side and the C.M. on the other, to see that the candidate is seated comfortably. Then they elevated him, first with the tackle, and then in the canvas, and they sure threw him up. At last he said, 'Boys, if you will quit I treat,' so they passed the Staff of Relief. It was about four o'clock in the morning, and we kept it up till after breakfast, and we kept singing our closing ode, We'll take a drink with you, dear Brother."

Adam Lee Moore writes of the initiation of a famous writer:

"(Another) meeting I attended was of Sierra Valley Lodge, 'The Badger.' They were the roughest order in my time. They always said, 'Throw wide the portals and let the S.B. enter.' The night I was there Ned Buntline attended and we sure had a time, as he was smart - having traveled a great deal. He was the writer at that time of most of the dime novels. They asked him a lot of questions and he had an answer for every one. They asked him, 'In your travels did you ever meet any of the persons known as C.S.?' and he answered right away, 'Not till I came in this hall.' Well the boys were just delighted with him, and there was very little rough stuff, and when they sang the closing ode it was, You'll take a drink with us, dear Brother."

Adam Lee Moore was truly a remarkable man, not only for his memory and his desire to see that ECV got restarted off on the right foot, but for his longevity. Adam died on November 13, 1946; just 6 months shy of his 100th birthday. Next time, this series will delve more into the Initiation rites and practices of the Old Order, and look more closely into the Marysville group of 1915, including some cryptic references to Wm. Bull Meek, namesake of our Chapter. Other information has come into the hands of your editor from Campbell Johnson, Camptonville resident and ramrod of attempts to get a history center established there. Much of this information concerns Wm. Bull Meek and his early days as a teamster. Stay tuned, and if you have anything to add or would like to comment on, please write the Hewgag-Monitor. We also solicit any historical matter, which can be incorporated into this series of articles. Chapter 10's Board of Directors is considering the publication of an XPBCs guidebook, which would be given (or sold at a ridiculously low price) to new members of the Chapter.

Coming Events 2023 CY 6028

Aug 20th - Family Picnic @ western gateway Park 10:10 AM

Sep 17th - Constitution Day Parade @ Nevada City. 2pm

Oct 6th , 7th , 8th E.C.V, Fall Doins at Scott Flat Lake

Nov 3rd - 6th Tri Skin +1 doins @ Suckers Flat, Smartsville

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



Chapter email: ecvtan@gmail.com

First Class Mail

William Bull Meek - William Morris Stewart Chapter Ten, E Clampus Vitus®

Noble Grand Humbug Mike Antrobus and the Board of Directors

are pleased to announce our fall party
62nd Fall Initiation and Doin's on Sat., Oct 7th, 2023
At Scotts Flat Lake in Grass Valley

NGH Mike Antrobus and his rag tag band of chapter officers invite you to our big Fall Overnighter Doin's October 6th-8th. Scott Flat Lake is just 5 miles outside of Nevada city (Find the Wheelhouse & turn right, or if coming south turn left) drive a couple more miles to the gate. Proper ECV signage should be present.

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

GDR XNGH Mark Sellards
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 Wednesday Oct 4th, 2023! Make checks payable to ECV 10.

Here's my (our) Advance Reservation gold dust for our Annual Fall doin's
Advance Reservation Prices.....\$65 for each ECV. (\$70 On site!) \$100 for each PBC. Free camping!

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, distributees, 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, distributees, 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 _____ 2023

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**

