Touring Yosemite

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
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19th Century Art and Literature of Yosemite:
A Historical Overview

In 1848 gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada foothills, starting the California stampede of Argonauts. By the 1850s, miners roamed over the northern Sierra seeking their fortune and unwittingly witnessing natural wonders like the Sierra big trees.

At the same time, in the Central Sierra, a verdant valley seven miles long, hemmed in with sheer granite cliffs several thousand feet high, and adorned with waterfalls tumbling over its walls, was to become a magnet for artists, photographers, and everyday tourists.

The Valley was named in 1851, when a volunteer militia, the Mariposa Battalion, led by James D. Savage, pursued an Indian tribe into their mountain stronghold. This spectacular rocky chasm had been rumored about, and occasionally visited by miners and hunters, but the Battalion knew nothing about the place. The weary militiamen paid little attention to the scenery as they rode their horses beneath the towering cliffs searching for the denizens. On the evening of their valley discovery, while camped on the river-ribboned floor, Dr. Lafayette H. Bunnell, who appreciated the grandeur surrounding them, suggested that it be called “Yosemite,” in honor of the tribe they were trying to capture and drive out of its ancestral home.

The name “Yosemite” literally means “band of killers.” Neighboring tribes feared the renegade dwellers of the Valley, led by Chief Tenaya, and called them by this menacing name.

In the next few years, reports of the mysterious valley and allusions to a 1,000-foot high waterfall had appeared in Stockton and San Francisco newspapers, following Lt. Tredwell Moore’s military foray into Yosemite in 1852.

James Mason Hutchings (1820-1902), an English immigrant, excitedly read one of these articles, and in June 1855, he organized the first recorded tourist trip to Yosemite Valley. The purpose of the excursion was to gather information about the region, which was to be published in his proposed illustrated periodical, Hutchings’ California Magazine. To capture a pictorial
record of Valley scenes, Hutchings employed a young and talented artist, Thomas Almond Ayres, who made the first sketches of Yosemite Valley and its marvels during their epic visit. Starting in 1856 and continuing for five years, Hutchings wrote articles and published his magazine in San Francisco, promoting California’s splendor, especially the big trees and Yosemite Valley, to readers far beyond the borders of California.

In 1864, James Hutchings moved to Yosemite and took over a rough hotel in the Valley. Although it is John Muir who usually comes to mind when thinking of the history of the Yosemite Valley, Hutchings preceded Muir there by over a decade. Hutchings was directly responsible for the spread of printed material on Yosemite in conjunction with his hotel and tourism concessions in the Valley. He was one of California’s most important 19th-century publishers and a tireless entrepreneur who dedicated much of his life to preserving Yosemite.

Touring Yosemite includes Hutchings’s publications, touting Yosemite and nearby attractions.

During the years following Hutchings’s first published description of Yosemite Valley in 1855, both local and national interest for the Valley and the nearby Calaveras Big Tree Grove grew rapidly. The first descriptions of the natural wonders to reach the east were sketchy, but provocative. When these reports were augmented by personal observations of respected eastern journalists and editors, the outstanding scenic nature of the region achieved national acceptance. Popular writings by well-known publicists such as Horace Greeley, owner and editor of the New York Tribune, Samuel Bowles, editor and publisher of the Springfield Republican, and writers such as Thomas Starr King introduced readers to the marvels of the west and initiated support for the preservation of Yosemite Valley.

James Hutchings realized that a book-length description of California’s attractions could be a profitable venture. In 1860, he issued Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California, which drew heavily upon text and illustrations previously published in his Hutchings’ California Magazine. The book was reprinted several times and served as a guidebook for early Yosemite visitors.
and other Valley concessionaires, as well as rail and stage lines, competed for the Yosemite visitor trade. Consequently, the number of guidebooks and the volume of promotional literature on the Yosemite region and the big trees proliferated. "Ho! for Yosemite" became a favorite motto of the early tourists on their rough ride into Yosemite. The legion of sightseers, and the travel industry which served them, inspired many of the novels, poetry, and travelogues presented in this exhibit.

Scientific research in the High Sierra influenced significant Sierra Nevada and Yosemite literature. The California State Legislature established the California State Geological Survey in 1860 to collect data on the state's natural resources. During the 1860s and early 1870s, the survey group, directed by state geologist Josiah Dwight Whitney, explored and mapped the range while conducting the first scientific study of the central and southern High Sierra. Although the state legislature frequently failed to provide adequate funds for the survey and terminated it before its work was finished, the survey published a number of valuable monographs, as well as the first detailed maps of the central Sierra. In 1865, the survey published *Geology. Volume I. Report of Progress and Synopsis of the Field-work, from 1860 to 1864*, which contained the first extensive description of the central and southern High Sierra. *The Yosemite Book*, an elaborate volume illustrated with mounted photographic prints by Carleton Watkins, was published in 1868 in a limited edition of 250 copies. The following year the survey published *The Yosemite Guide Book*, essentially a cheaper version of *The Yosemite Book*, illustrated with engravings in place of photographs. Revised editions and pocket editions of *The Yosemite Guide Book* were printed in 1870 through 1874.

The first effort to conserve land in the Sierra Nevada occurred in 1864, when Congress granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California for use as a public park. This early effort at preservation provided the model for future federal legislation that established the national parks and forest reservations. Governor Frederick F. Low accepted the grant and appointed a group of commissioners to administer the park. Shortly thereafter, the Yosemite Commissioners were involved in a controversy concerning land claims within the grant. The commissioners commenced legal action to evict pre-emptors living in the
Valley. Foremost among the Yosemite residents was James Mason Hutchings, who led the settlers in a lengthy, unsuccessful effort to acquire titles to their lands and improvements. Many government reports and privately printed retorts appeared during this period and are represented in this exhibit. In the 1880s, the Commissioners again became embroiled in controversy, this time over alleged mismanagement of Yosemite Valley. Newspaper and magazine articles criticizing the Commissioners led to federal and state inquiries into the management of the grant. Public support grew for the establishment of a larger park under federal control, like Yellowstone, which Congress had set aside as a national park in 1872. On October 1, 1890, Congress passed and signed into law legislation creating Yosemite National Park (and enlarging Sequoia National Park that had been created several days earlier).

The establishment of these national parks began a lengthy period in Sierra Nevada history, during which the preservationists fought a series of battles over how the region, which was entirely within the public domain, was to be managed.

John Muir was foremost among those writers expounding this new awareness of preserving the natural wonders of the West. Upon his arrival in California in 1868, Muir immediately set out for the Sierra Nevada. For several years, he lived a semi-nomadic life, working occasionally as a sheepherder and then operating Hutchings's sawmill in Yosemite Valley. Meanwhile he wandered extensively throughout the Sierra, becoming something of a self-taught botanist and geologist. He developed personal views about the value of preserving wild areas in their natural state, and witnessed the ravages caused by unrestricted logging and grazing in the mountains. In the 1870s, he began writing newspaper and magazine articles, principally about the Sierra, but also about other wild places in the West. In 1889, Muir met Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of Century Magazine, and agreed to write a series of articles proposing the creation of a national park that would include the high country surrounding Yosemite Valley. Examples of his articles are displayed in this exhibit. The campaign succeeded with the above-mentioned creation of Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park. Muir's career as a spokesperson for preservation was just beginning. In 1892, he helped establish the Sierra Club, an organization dedicated
both to the enjoyment of mountain recreation and to the preservation of Sierra wild areas. To reach a wider audience, Muir wrote a series of books, including: Our National Parks, (1901); My First Summer in the Sierra, (1911); The Yosemite, (1912); and Travels in Alaska, (1915); often incorporating articles he had previously published in newspapers and magazines.

Touring Yosemite brings together books, photographs and ephemera that characterize early Yosemite history. The literature emphasizes the work of James Mason Hutchings, since he wrote more about the fabled Yosemite Valley than any other 19th century person. John Muir is well represented with articles and photographs, his first book, The Mountains of California (1894), and several other published items. Most of Muir’s major works were published in the 20th century.

The exhibit also provides a visual record of the period through advertising cards, promotional guides, and photographs representing Yosemite in the 19th century.

Several printed pieces and small guidebooks describing early Yosemite hotels and descriptive spots are also displayed, as they offer a glimpse of how Yosemite was advertised to the yet-unseeing public and prospective tourists. Often these ephemeral materials are known from only a few surviving samples, mostly lost to time.

The items displayed in this Honnold/Mudd Library retrospective represent the most comprehensive exhibit to date of pre-20th century art, literature, and ephemera dedicated to Yosemite and environs. Take your time, read the annotations, enjoy the historical significance of the many pieces, and try to visualize the Lure and Lore of Yosemite.

Denny Kruska

This is an exhibition of books, art, photographs, and ephemera from the private collection of Los Angeles author and bibliographer, Denny Kruska. Selected materials from Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library are also part of the display.
The following annotations are provided for some of the key items in *Touring Yosemite.*

**Thomas Almond Ayres (1818-1859)**

"The High Falls, 1855."

*Description:* Original drawing. Charcoal, graphite, and gouache on fine sandpaper, 12 x 17.75 inches.

The original drawing in the current exhibit is one of the extremely rare, surviving sketches made by Thomas Ayres from the 1855 Hutchings tourist trip to Yosemite. Following his historic visit to Yosemite Valley, Hutchings hastened back to San Francisco to give the world its first illustrations of the wonders of the Valley. Concurrently, the thirteen views Ayres sketched while on this Yosemite trip were exhibited at McNulty's Hall in Sacramento and he became an artistic sensation.


**George Holbrook Baker (1827-1906)**

"South Dome, Liberty Cap & Nevada Fall, Yosemite." Ca. 1873.

*Description:* Lithograph, 14 x 18 inches. Shows La Casa Nevada managed by Emily and Albert Snow. The mountain chalet burned down several years later.

Born in East Medway, Massachusetts, George Baker became known for his sketch-art abilities and lithography. His grandfather was the first bell caster in America. At age seventeen, he apprenticed to a commercial artist in New York City and then became a prize-winning student at the National Academy of Design. In 1849, picking up on this gold rush excitement, he, and several friends traveled to Mexico to mine for gold but returned home with empty pockets. Back in San Francisco, his lithograph "Port Of San Francisco 1849" was printed.

Later he ran Baker's Express, which brought mail to the gold miners, and he sketched as he traveled. In Sacramento, he went into the mercantile business and continued sketching and making woodcut views of California. In 1862, a great flood in the Sacramento area caused him to return to San Francisco, where he worked until he died. In 1873 in Yosemite, he sketched scenes such as the ones exhibited here that became part of a Pacific Coast set of lithographs.

**James Monroe Buckley**


*Description:* 7.25 inches. [3], 6-40 pp. Frontispiece, 1 illustration. At head of front cover: "Young People's Half Hour Series."

Buckley and his party spent nearly three weeks of the summer of 1871 visiting
Yosemite Valley and the Calaveras and Mariposa groves. He was a keen observer and his descriptions of the Coulterville Trail and the pioneer hotels are quite entertaining.

Lafayette Houghton Bunnell

Discovery of the Yosemite, and the Indian War of 1851, which led to that event. By Lafayette Houghton Bunnell, M.D. Chicago: Fleming H. Revell, [1880].

Description: 7.75 inches. [4], 5–331 pp. 7 plates, 13 illustrations in text, 1 map. Printer's slug on copyright page reads: "Stereotyped and printed by the Chicago Legal News Company." A presentation copy has been noted inscribed by Bunnell: "Presented by the Author, Aug. 9th, 1880."

After a long trudge through pine forests and rocky country, the party of militia first viewed Yosemite Valley from Old Inspiration Point, located above today's Inspiration Point parking lot. Without much appreciation of the scenery, the wary group quickly set up the first-known Yosemite camp of white men at Bridalveil Meadow on March 25, 1851. Luckily, one member of the battalion, Lafayette Houghton Bunnell, was impressed enough by the grandeur of the scene to write a vivid eyewitness account of this first Yosemite expedition, which he later published in this book. The next day, the militia left the Valley and returned to their camp near Wawona. Multiple accounts in the San Francisco Daily Alta California newspaper during the spring of 1851 discussed these skirmishes between the Yosemite Indians and the white men, but little if any information was printed about the natural wonders of the Valley itself.

California. State Geologist (Josiah Dwight Whitney)

The Yosemite book a description of the Yosemite Valley and the adjacent region of the Sierra Nevada, and of the big trees of California, illustrated by maps and photographs. Published by Authority of the Legislature. New York: Julius Bien, 1868.


The act of the California legislature, approved April 2, 1866, provided the legislative framework to survey Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove and to explore the adjacent region for the purpose of preparing a "full description and accurate statistical report" to be published "in connection with the reports of the Geological Survey." The proposed publication was described by Whitney in Report of the Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, for the Years 1866–7 (San Francisco: Towne and Bacon, 1868), p. 5: "The work will consist of text, maps, and photographic and other illustrations, and two editions will be issued—one without photographs, the other with them. One will be called the "Yosemite Guide Book," the other the "Yosemite Gift Book."" The "Yosemite Gift Book" was intended "to be as elegant a volume as has ever been published in this country." On November 26, 1868, Whitney wrote to William H. Brewer: "I have received the first printed sheets of the Yosemite Book. Even the University Press people are obliged to
admit that they never saw anything to beat it." The first copies of the completed book were delivered early in 1869. The Yosemite Book provides an extensive description of the Yosemite Valley, the surrounding High Sierra from the head of the Tuolumne River to the head of the San Joaquin River, and the big tree groves. The text was based largely upon a field survey made by King and Gardner in 1866 (unsatisfactory according to Whitney) that was completed in 1867 by Hoffmann. Carleton E. Watkins made most of the twenty-eight photographic images illustrating the work in Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove in 1866. W. Harris, who accompanied Hoffmann to the head of the Tuolumne in 1867, made four images. The limitation on the number of copies of this work is explained in a note on page 13: "As only a small number of prints could be obtained from the photographic artist, the number of copies of the illustrated volume, or the present 'Yosemite Book', which could be issued was necessarily limited to 250; another edition, without photographs, but with the maps, and intended to serve as a guide-book to the Yosemite Valley and its surroundings, will appear shortly after the issuing of this volume. It will be called 'The Yosemite Guide-Book.'" The guidebook was published in the fall of 1869. The Yosemite Book is one of the major contributions to Sierra Nevada literature.

California. State Geologist (Josiah Dwight Whitney)

[First edition, first printing]:
The Yosemite guide-book; A description of the Yosemite Valley and the adjacent region of the Sierra Nevada, and of the big trees of California, illustrated by maps and engravings. [Sacramento]: Published by Authority of the Legislature, 1869.

Description: 9.12 inches. [viii], [9]—155 pp. 8 plates. 20 illustrations in text, 2 maps (in front and rear pockets). At head of title: "Geological Survey of California. J. D. Whitney, State Geologist." Notes: (1) Single sheet, printed on recto only, headed "Supplementary Notice. [From the San Francisco Bulletin of May 28, 1869.""]" inserted facing page 48. (2) The two maps are identical to those issued with The Yosemite Book, except the "Map of the Yosemite Valley" is not tinted.

The most influential publications of the California Geological Survey were the series of Yosemite guidebooks published between 1869 and 1874. These publications were intended to serve as tourist guides to the Yosemite region and various groves of giant sequoia. There were two printings of the first edition of the guidebook. For the most part, the text follows that of the earlier The Yosemite Book. In a "prefatory note" dated "May 1, 1869," Whitney remarks "some verbal changes have been made, and a few pages added." The photographs used to illustrate The Yosemite Book were replaced with engravings selected from those used in Geology, Volume I. Later editions were smaller "pocket editions," published through 1874.


Description: 8 inches. 174 pp. Illustrated with 5 plates from photographs; color woodcut plate of California poppies; wood engravings in the text. Original white cloth lettered in gilt, decorated with golden orange poppies with green stems on the front cover and spine.

A very rare and early California children's book, this is the first novel set in
the Fresno area. It is also a Yosemite item, describing a tour taken there by the youngsters, and depicted by an engraving of a carriage proceeding through a hollowed-out sequoia, and a picture of a “Sylvan Lodge,” in Wawona.

**Cosmopolitan Bath House**


*Description:* Single sheet. 5.25 x 6.25 inches. Folded to make four panels. Caption title.

Advertisement for the Cosmopolitan Bath House and Reading Rooms and the new “walk or promenade built from Leidig’s and Black’s hotels.” Includes a table of mileages to various points from Stockton and within the Yosemite Valley. John C. Smith built the Cosmopolitan Bathhouse and Saloon and opened it in 1871. Known as a spot where visitors could get an excellent bath of hot or cold water at any hour of the day, the Cosmopolitan was furnished extravagantly with billiard tables, full-length mirrors, bathtubs, and a fully-stocked bar. The Cosmopolitan attracted many travelers who appreciated its unexpected comforts. Wealthy individuals from the northeastern United States, Californians, and a large number of foreigners made up the majority of visitors.

**E. S. Denison**

E. S. Denison’s Yosemite views. Sam Miller, Agent. 2 New Mont’g. St. San Francisco. [San Francisco: Lith. H. S. Crocker & Co.], n.d. [ca. 1880–1881].


All but two of the views are of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. E. Wyttenbach made the lithographs, most based on photographs taken by George Fiske. Some of the illustrations were redrawn and published in N. W. Griswold’s *Beauty of California* in 1853.

**D. J. Foley & S. J. Harris**


The first issue of a newspaper that went through various formats and editorial changes. Provides up-to-date news about the happenings in the Valley.

**Norman W. Griswold**


*Description:* 9 inches. [54] pp. 28 colored plates on 14 leaves. Color lithographed wrappers, covers one and four have big tree scenes, covers two and three are imprinted with advertisements for the Kalliodont Manufacturing Company. Intended as a local advertising vehicle and tourist souvenir.
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The text is composed of advertisements for California businesses and descriptions of the state’s scenic attractions, including Yosemite Valley and the big trees of the Mariposa and Calaveras groves.

William Hammond Hall


Description: 8.25 inches. [5], 6–30 pp. Note: Also appended to the 1885–1886 biennial report of the Yosemite Commissioners.

Of the many problems faced by the Yosemite Commissioners, none proved to be more trying than the management of the Valley floor. For assistance in determining future policy, the commissioners engaged California’s State Engineer to conduct a survey of the grant.

John Shertzer Hittell


Description: 7.25 inches. [9], 10–59, [iii] (advertisements) pp. 20 plates with mounted photographic prints, 1 map.

The first separate tourist guide to Yosemite Valley. The guide offers little original material — it makes liberal use of descriptions of the Yosemite region by J. D. Whitney and early tourist accounts by Samuel Bowles, Horace Greeley, and Thomas Starr King. The book is noteworthy for its tipped-in illustrations, which are photographic prints (greatly reduced) of images made by Eadward J. Muybridge. In the Preface, Hittell wrote: “This book is published to supply the want [to recall the tourists’ trip to Yosemite]. It is small so that it can be used as a guidebook; it is cheap so as to be within the reach of all; it is illustrated so that the reader can see the mirror held up to nature; and the illustrations are photographs, because no engravings can do justice to the scenes.” The book is known in less than 30 copies.

[Thomas] Houseworth

[Florence (“Floy”) Hutchings at the age of ten], ca. 1873. Photograph. San Francisco.

Not too long after James and Elvira Hutchings settled into the drafty, primitive Yosemite Hotel, on August 23, 1864, the couple’s daughter Florence (nicknamed Floy) was born. She was the first non-Indian to be born in Yosemite. The theatrical Floy grew up in Yosemite as a rough-and-tumble tomboy. She wore men’s clothing, smoked tobacco, and climbed mountains whenever she had the chance. The eighteen year-old Florence died on September 26, 1881, supposedly after being struck by a falling rock on the Ledge Trail. In 1895, Mt. Florence (12,561 feet), a prominent peak near the Cathedral Range in Yosemite National Park, was named for Floy; it is visible from Glacier Point and Sentinel Dome.
James Mason Hutchings (1820–1902)

In 1855, an unknown English emigrant created a sensation when he published the first views of Yosemite Valley to reach the outside world. In the early 1860s, this hardy adventurer and entrepreneur also took on the challenge of managing one of the first hotels in the Valley. This singular personage was to become Yosemite’s most prolific author and the leading advocate for the Valley’s tourists; he would devote his life and considerable energies to shaping the future of this sublime wilderness. As noted in the introductory remarks, despite popular misconceptions, the “discoverer” and first promoter of Yosemite Valley was not, after all, John Muir, the celebrated mountaineer and preservationist. He was, instead, James Mason Hutchings, who took up residence in that spectacular locale a full decade before Muir first visited the Valley. The history of Yosemite in the late nineteenth century is intimately linked with Hutchings’s life, with the lives of his family, with his pioneering publications, with his quarrels over naming and conserving the Valley, and, eventually, with even his sudden and shocking death.

James Mason Hutchings

Hutchings’ panoramic scenes in California. The Yo-Hamite Falls.

Printed at top of lithograph: “Hutchings’ Panoramic Scenes in California.” Printed below illustration: “Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1855 by James M. Hutchings, in the Clerk’s Office of the U.S. District office for the Northern District of California. Sketched from Nature by T.A. Ayres.” Printed lower center: “Printed by Britton & Rey. On stone by Kuchel & Dresel, 146 Clay St., S.F.; The Yo-Hamite Falls, this magnificent scene is situated in the Yo-Hamite Valley, near the source of the Middle Fork of the River Merced, Mariposa County, California. It is the highest waterfall in the world— rushing over the precipice, at one bold leap it falls 1,300 feet, & the whole leap height [sic] from valley is 2,300 feet.”

Description: Lithograph, measuring 25.5 x 20.25 inches. Not all copies have the attached upper, blank margin, measuring 3.5 x 20.25 inches, above the words “Hutchings’ Panoramic Scenes in California.”

Hutchings wrote that after the Mariposa Battalion returned to its headquarters on the South Fork of the Merced River in 1851 they had little to say about the “unspeakable grandeur of the Yo Semite.” Hutchings noted, “in the interest of history, although a few brief paragraphs in the newspapers of the day chronicling the success of the Indian expedition, merely alluded to a little Valley where a waterfall had been seen that was estimated to be 1,000 feet high. That was all they had to say about Yo Semite.” It was then that Hutchings made his intent to visit and sketch the rumored falls, which he accomplished in July 1855.

Following his historic visit to Yosemite Valley, armed with the first drawings ever made of Yosemite by Thomas Ayres, Hutchings hastened back to San Francisco to give the world its first illustrations of the wonders of the Valley. One of Ayres’s original drawings is featured in this exhibit.

Upon their return to the city, Hutchings commissioned Ayres to redraw the artist’s original charcoal and pencil sketch of Yosemite Falls. Hutchings hired local lithographers Kuchel and Dresel to transfer
the image to stone and engaged the printing firm of Joseph Britton and Jacques Rey, known as Britton and Rey, to reproduce it. Entitled The Yo-Hamite Falls, the lithograph illustrates the rough-hewn scultured cliffs surrounding the graceful cataract. In the lower third of the image, the park-like Valley floor, studded with oak and pine, stretches toward the viewer.

As the first image of Yosemite produced for public consumption, Ayres's The Yo-Hamite Falls lithograph deserves some attention. It depicts upper and lower Yosemite Falls from a slightly elevated position, with sparsely forested meadows occupying the foreground. The vertical lines of the falls and mountains are balanced by horizontal lines—the escarpment dividing the upper falls from the lower (and bisecting the image itself), the trees aligned at the base of the falls, and the Merced River, which cuts across the meadows. In the foreground, horses graze in the meadows while a group of visitors surrounds a campfire, one of whom portrays Ayres sketching. The Indian guides can clearly be seen standing in the group. Ayres manages to capture admirably the immense scale of Yosemite Valley. To publish his stunning lithographs, Hutchings employed the standard lithographic process used by the San Francisco printers of the day.

James Mason Hutchings

Mammoth California holiday pictorial for Christmas and New Years. San Francisco: Published by Hutchings and Rosenfield, n.d. [1857].

Description: Single sheet, 27 x 41 inches, folded once to make 4 pages.

A souvenir sheet, issued in newspaper format illustrated with “upwards of one hundred first class engravings,” including four views of Yosemite Valley and six views of the Calaveras Grove.

James Mason Hutchings

The Yo-Semite almanac adapted to California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah, 1867. [San Francisco: Alta California General Printing House], Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1866.

Description: 7.25 inches, [1], 2-60 pages, 15 illustrations, tables, 2 maps, cover-tide reads: "Hutchings' Yo-Semite Almanac for the Whole Pacific Coast for 1867."

Some descriptive text on Yosemite appears in the almanac as well as a "Table of Altitudes at Yo-Semite Valley" on page 13.

James Mason Hutchings

The Yo Semite Valley, High Sierra, big trees, etc. What they are, where they are, how to see them, things convenient to have, routes to take, cost of the trip, etc. By J. M. Hutchings. San Francisco: Alta California Book and Job Printing Establishment, 1873.
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Description: 5.5 inches, [3], 4-12 pages, cover-title.

After his expulsion from Yosemite Valley in 1875, Hutchings resided in San Francisco until he was appointed Yosemite Guardian in 1880. While in San Francisco, Hutchings continued to operate his tourist agency and offered his services as a guide to the Yosemite region. This small booklet, which appears to be the first separate guide to the Yosemite area prepared by Hutchings, promotes his agency, guide service, and livery.

James Mason Hutchings


Description: 8.5 inches, [iv], xii, 13-496 pages, 28 (or 29) inserted plates, 123 illustrations in text, 3 maps.

In the Heart of the Sierras was Hutchings's most ambitious literary undertaking. It covers more fully than other works of the period, every aspect of the Yosemite Valley and big trees that could be considered of general interest to visitors. The work is an important primary source for information on the early human history of the region.

Samuel Kneeland


Description: 10.4 inches, [iii-iv], v, [vi-viii], ix, [x], xi-xii, 13-71 pp. Note: Preliminaries are incorrectly numbered in all editions. There is no leaf preceding first blank which precedes half title leaf (pages v-vi). The only numbered preliminaries in the second and third editions are pages xi-xii. 10 plates with mounted photographic prints.

Kneeland, a professor of zoology and physiology and secretary of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from its founding in 1865 until 1878, produced one of the better early guidebooks to the Yosemite region. It is an especially attractive book due to the inclusion of an excellent series of mounted photographic images.

Leidig's Hotel


Description: Trade card. 5 x 3 inches. 1 illustration. Printed on both sides. Verso is "Table of Altitudes at Yo Semite Valley."

Trade card issued by the hotel with Mrs. Leidig as proprietress.

Zenas Leonard

Narrative of the adventures of Zenas Leonard, a native of Clearfield County, Pa.
who spent five years in trapping for furs, trading with the Indians, &c., &c., of the Rocky Mountains: Written by Himself. Clearfield, Pa: The Raftman's Journal, 1908.

Description: 9.12 inches. [i]–iv, [1], 2–87, [88] (blank) pp. Printed in double columns.

The fur-trapper Joseph Rutherford Walker and his expedition have long been hailed as the first white men to set eyes on Yosemite Valley in 1833. The clerk of the expedition, Zenas Leonard, recorded the route and daily events of Walker's trip to California, later published as Narrative of the adventures of Zenas Leonard, a native of Clearfield County, Pa, who spent five years in trapping for furs, trading with the Indians, &c., &c., of the Rocky Mountains: Written by Himself. Clearfield, Pa: Printed and published by D.W. Moore, 1839.

The route across the Sierra leading to this point of discovery has been a subject of debate over the years. A careful reading of the Leonard journal with regard to the miles traveled between dates, and the scenes recorded, make it highly unlikely that on his western descent from the mountains Walker ever saw, or was even near, Yosemite Valley. All of these proposed routes taking Walker to a view of Yosemite Valley, and to the Merced or Tuolumne Groves of the Sequoiadendron, have been developed since his late 19th century tombstone epitaph credited him as discoverer of Yosemite. Backtracking from that discovery point has led to the unproven routes. These proposed routes all lead to an impossibly too distant (in miles per day) starting point south of where Walker left the Humboldt River.

The actual Walker route will be revealed in the soon-to-be published A Way Across the Mountain: The 1833 Sierra Crossing of Joseph R. Walker by Scott Stine. Stine's book dispels the romantic notion that Walker peered down upon Yosemite. By reconstructing the expedition's route and personally walking more than 300 miles, Stine concluded that Walker had actually trekked dozens of miles north of Yosemite Valley.

The Walker party left California by a more southerly route by passing through what is now called Walker Pass. The expedition reached Bonneville's camp on Bear River in July 1834. Leonard remained in association with Bonneville until the summer of 1835, returning to Independence with him in August of 1835, and reaching his old home in the fall of 1835. It was in Clearfield that he wrote the account of his travels which was published in part in a Clearfield newspaper, Pioneer & Banner, and Democratic Free Press, in 1835 and 1836.

The facsimile printing of the exceedingly rare original 1839 edition [known in about 20 copies] is shown in this exhibit. The Raftman's Journal printed this even rarer edition in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, in 1908.

John Erastus Lester

Description: 10 inches. [ii], [3], 4–40 pp.

This paper was read before the Rhode Island Historical Society on December 17, 1872, and was published by Lester, a prominent Providence lawyer, at the request of friends.

Dioclesian Lewis

Description: 7.25 inches. [ii], [3], 4–416 pp. 30 plates.

In the 1870s, Lewis, an early proponent of woman's rights, temperance, and physical education, spent three years traveling in
California during which he made several extended visits to the Yosemite region. This account of his Sierra excursions, directed to young readers, condensed the narrative into a single year 1876.

George G. Mackenzie


*Description:* 7.75 inches. [ii] (advertisements), [5], 6–98, [iii] (advertisements) pp. 20 illustrations, 1 map. Note: Lewis Stornoway was MacKenzie's pseudonym.

A guide to the Yosemite region describing routes to the Valley, its principal scenic points, the Yosemite High Sierra, and the Tuolumne, Merced, Mariposa, and Calaveras big tree groves.

John Muir

Beginning in 1874, a series of articles by Muir entitled “Studies in the Sierra” launched his successful career as a writer of nature and conservation. All in all, he published 300 articles and 10 major books that recounted his travels, expounded his naturalist philosophy, and invited everyone to “Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.” He is remembered as America’s most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. Several of his articles, books and photographs are represented in the exhibit.


*Description:* 7.5 inches. [xvi], [1], 2–381 pp. Frontispiece, 51 illustrations, 2 maps.

For his first book, Muir selected and carefully revised articles that had appeared between 1875 and 1882 in several magazines and a newspaper. A new essay on the Sierra Nevada prefaced these selections, which represented much of his finest writing of the period, providing an introduction to the detailed sketches that followed and a framework for his selections. The result was an enduring Sierra Nevada classic. Yosemite is a recurrent theme throughout his book.

George W. Pine

Two wonders of the world. Yo-semite, mammoth trees, and bird's eye view of California. By George W. Pine, author of "Beyond the West." Herkimer, N.Y. 1873.

*Description:* 6 inches. [5], 6–78 pp. 7 plates.

A modestly produced guide to the scenic features of the Yosemite Valley and the Calaveras Grove. The last thirty pages contain a general description of California. The plates are crude woodcut views of the Yosemite Valley and the big trees. According to the author, the guide was issued at the request of friends, “to furnish a cheap, comprehensive description of two wonders, truly of the world, which would come within the means of every reader.” The text follows that of Pine's Beyond the West (Utica, N.Y.: T. J. Griffiths, 1870) with slight enlargement. This separate book printing is known from 5 surviving copies.

Charles Dorman Robinson

The Wawona Hotel. An illustrated sketch of the sights and scenes around the Mariposa Big Trees Station. By Chas. D. Robinson. With eight sketches upon stone by the author. N.p., n.d. [San Francisco? 1882?]
An illustrated description of the scenic features of the Wawona area of Yosemite National Park, including Wawona Falls (now Lower Chilnualna Falls), the view from Signal Mountain, and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. Charles Dorman Robinson (1847–1913) first visited Yosemite in 1880. He was enthralled by the region’s grandeur and for ten years maintained a summer studio in Yosemite Valley.

Ernest Seyd

California and its resources. A work for the merchant, the capitalist, and the emigrant. By Ernest Seyd. London: Truber and Co., 60, Paternoster Row, 1858.

Description: 8.5 inches. [iv], 168, [i] (advertisement) pp. 22 illustrations on 18 inserted plates, 2 folding maps.

One of the best early surveys of the natural resources of California, with brief references to the big trees and Yosemite Valley appearing on pages 119–120. Two hand-tinted lithograph plates are views of Yosemite Valley and two others depict scenes in the Calaveras Grove. The two Yosemite views, “The Yo–Hamite Falls” and “The Yo–Hamite Valley,” were derived from sketches made by Thomas A. Ayres in 1855 (published in Hutchings' California Magazine for July 1856). These illustrations appear to be the first views of Yosemite Valley to be published in a book.

[Alice I. Van Schaack]

A familiar letter from a daughter to her mother, describing a few days spent at the big trees and the Yosemite. Chicago: Horton & Leonard, Printers, 1871.

Description: 9.12 inches. [3], 4–21 pp. 1 folding plate, 2 illustrations.

The letter, dated “San Francisco, August, 1871,” provided a chatty account of a ten-day trip to the Calaveras Grove and Yosemite Valley.

Therese Yelverton (Maria Theresa Longworth)


Description: 7.5 inches. [iv], 296 pp.

A sentimental and melodramatic novel that provided an authentic portrayal of John Muir. During her stay in Yosemite, the author was often in the company of Muir, who acted as her guide.

Carleton Watkins

North Dome, 3,633 feet, Yosemite, Cal., ca. 1862, mammoth plate photograph.

This photograph was used as plate XIII, in the 1868 printing of The Yosemite Book by Josiah D. Whitney.

Carleton Watkins traveled West in the 1850s in search of gold. Gold eluded him, however, he became famous for his photographs of Yosemite, the Mariposa Big Trees, and other natural wonders, mainly in California. He visited the Valley and Big Trees areas several times, the first trip being in 1861. Watkins was the main photographer for the California Geological Survey in 1864–65. Survey members eventually named the
peak above Mirror Lake, Mount Watkins, in his honor. He was also well known for his "mammoth" camera. It was, when extended, three feet long and thirty inches wide and could produce a negative as large as 20 x 24 inches. He also carried a stereo view camera. These cameras, as well as tripods, glass plates, portable darkroom, etc., weighed as much as 2,000 pounds and had to be transported by mule. Ralph Waldo Emerson decided that Watkins's photographs of the Grizzly Giant "made the tree possible," for these photographs provided evidence of its existence. He lost his studio in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and died in 1916.

*El Capitan, dans la Vallée du Yosemite*, ca. 1876. Drawing by J. Moynet, after a photograph by M. M. Lévy et Cie. PC.
Touring Yosemite

Brief Yosemite Chronology (1851–1902)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Fray Pedro Font looks across the great valley and sees “una gran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sierra nevada” (a great, snowy range), which he notes on his map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1820</td>
<td>James Mason Hutchings is born in Towcester, Northamptonshire,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>England, on Feb. 10.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td>Captain Joseph Walker’s party of trappers, on the way from Salt Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City to Monterey, California, crosses the Sierra and notes the Sierra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>big trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>John Muir is born on April 21 in Dunbar, Scotland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1848</td>
<td>On Jan. 24, James Marshall discovers gold on the American River,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>setting the stage for the Gold Rush to California in 1849.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Mining begins along the Tuolumne and Merced rivers. William Penn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abrams and U. N. Reamer enter the Yosemite Valley while on the track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of a bear from their camp near Savage’s Trading Post on the Merced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1849</td>
<td>Hutchings arrives in California and purchases a “mining hole.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>California is admitted to the Union. Mariposa County is established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Screech discovers Hetch Hetchy Valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>First official recorded visit of white men to Yosemite Valley. Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of the Mariposa Battalion, under Major Savage, camp at Bridalveil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meadow on March 25. Second expedition of the Mariposa Battalion,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>under Captain John Boling, enters the Valley on May 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Eight prospectors from Coarsegold enter the Valley on May 2. Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>are killed in an Indian attack near Bridalveil Meadow. This party saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Detachment of the Second U.S. Infantry under Lieutenant Tredwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moore enters Yosemite in June on a punitive expedition. Several</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indians are killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>James Capen Adams, grizzly bear hunter, establishes his camp about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>twenty to thirty miles northwest of Yosemite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>San Francisco Herald prints an account of the Yosemite Valley and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Falls on Dec. 2. James Mason Hutchings reads this article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and plans his 1855 visit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1853 Chief Tenaya and his band of Yosemite Indians return to Yosemite, where many are killed by Mono Indians whose horses they had stolen. Indian troubles cease.

1855 First building in the Valley—a shack built by Lafayette Bunnell and a party of surveyors interested in water rights.

July 1855 Hutchings organizes the first party of sightseers to enter Yosemite Valley. Artist Thomas A. Ayres accompanies the party, sketching the Valley and falls.

Sept. 1855 Hutchings publishes Ayres’s lithograph *The Yo-Hanite Falls*.

1855–56 The Mann brothers (Clark and Milton) build a horse toll trail from the South Fork of the Merced River to Yosemite Valley.

1857 Galen Clark settles on the South Fork of the Merced River at Clark’s Station (now Wawona). Clark and Milton Mann note the Mariposa Grove, described to them by a hunter named Ogg (Hogg).

1857 Buck Beardsley and Gus Hite erect a canvas-covered house in Yosemite Valley.

1858 Stephen A. Cunningham completes the new “Lower Hotel” on the site of the primitive structure of 1856. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Neal operate it.

1859 James C. Lamon locates the first preemption claim at the upper end of the Valley, plants an orchard, and builds the first log cabin.

1859 In May, Hutchings accompanies Charles Leander Weed to the Valley with bulky photograph equipment. Weed makes the first photographs of Yosemite.

1860 Hutchings publishes first edition of *Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California*.

1861 Carleton E. Watkins makes photographs, using mammoth plates, of Yosemite.

1862 Artist Thomas Hill visits Yosemite.

1863 California State Geological Survey begins a survey of the Yosemite region; Josiah Dwight Whitney is Chief, and William H. Brewer is in charge of fieldwork.

1863 Photographer Charles Leander Weed returns to Yosemite to make mammoth plates for stereopticon view purveyors, Lawrence and Houseworth.
Bill introduced in the U.S. Senate by John Connness of California (enacted, and approved June 30 by President Lincoln) grants the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California “to be held for public use, resort and recreation.” Governor Low appoints eight Commissioners; Frederick Law Olmsted is the first Chairman.

Total of 147 Yosemite visitors, and from 1855–64, the total was 653.

Hutchings, his wife Elvira, her sister Lucy, and his mother-in-law Florantha Sproat move into the Upper Hotel in Yosemite, renaming it Hutchings House.

Florence (“Floy”) Hutchings, born on Aug. 23, the first white child born in Yosemite,

Whitney Survey publishes Geology, vol. 1, with extensive data on Yosemite.

Galen Clark is appointed Guardian of Yosemite Valley.

Eadweard J. Muybridge photographs Yosemite.


John Muir first visits Yosemite.

George F. Leidig builds a hotel near the Lower Hotel.

William Hutchings (“Willie”) is born in Yosemite.

Joseph LeConte camps in the Valley with the University Excursion Party.

The writer Therese Yelverton spends the summer in Yosemite; she later writes Zanita: A Tale of the Yo-semite (1872).

J. C. Smith opens his Cosmopolitan Bathhouse and Saloon.

Yosemite Valley sawmill is completed; John Muir works there until July 1871.

Ralph Waldo Emerson visits Muir in Yosemite.

Great earthquake of March 26 is witnessed by John Muir in Yosemite; the Sierra rises more than a dozen feet.

U.S. Supreme Court decides against Hutchings’s Yosemite Valley preemption claims.

Wagon roads enter Yosemite Valley. Coulterville Road is completed June 18; Big Oak Flat Road, July 17.
1874 Claims of Yosemite settlers—Hutchings, Lamon, Black, and Folsom—finally quieted by the state’s payment of $55,000. California legislature gives Hutchings $24,000 to compensate him for the Yosemite Valley land. Commissioners now control business concessions.

May 1875 James Lamon, pioneer of Yosemite, dies; he is buried in the Valley cemetery.

1875 Wawona Road to Yosemite Valley is completed.

Oct. 1875 First ascent of Half Dome by George C. Anderson.

Fall 1875 Hutchings and his family are evicted from Yosemite.

1878 Tunnel is cut through the Dead Giant tree in Tuolumne Grove.

1879 Sunday School Union Chapel Association builds the Yosemite Chapel.

1880 First edition of Lafayette H. Bunnell’s *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*.

1880 Management of the state grant changes hands, and a new Board of Yosemite Commissioners is created. Hutchings becomes Guardian of Yosemite and moves his family into the former family cabin near Yosemite Falls.


1882 Construction of Great Sierra Wagon Road (Tioga Road) begins.

1884 Hutchings, ousted from Yosemite by the Board of Commissioners, returns to San Francisco.

1886 Business establishments and sole proprietors in Yosemite at this time include: Barnard’s, Cook’s, and Leidig’s hotels; Thomas Hill’s and Charles D. Robinson’s art studios; Fiske’s and Fagersteen’s photographic studios; Sinning’s wood cabinet shop; Coffman and Kenney’s livery; Nathan B. (“Pike”) Phillips, guide; A. Harris, produce; Mrs. Harris, bread; Mrs. Glynn, who sells bread and pies and keeps a few boarders.

1886 All private trails and roads in the Valley are purchased and made available to the public at no cost.

1886 Hutchings’s *In the Heart of the Sierras* is published.

1887 Stoneman House is completed at a cost of $40,000, appropriated by the State. J.J. Cook is the proprietor.
1889  Galen Clark again becomes Guardian of Yosemite Valley.
1891  U.S. Army administers Yosemite National Park at the request of the Secretary of the Interior. Captain A. E. Wood of the Fourth Cavalry serves as the first Acting Superintendent, stationed at Wawona.
1892  The Sierra Club is organized and incorporated June 17, with John Muir as President.
1899  Mr. and Mrs. David A. Curry establish Camp Curry.
1890  October 1, 1890, an act of Congress creates Yosemite National Park.
Oct. 1902  On Oct. 31, Hutchings is killed on Big Oak Flat Road when a horse shies, throwing him from the carriage. He is buried in the Yosemite Valley cemetery next to his daughter Florence ("Floy") and his second wife, Augusta Sweetland Hutchings.
Touring Yosemite catalog
was designed by Betty Adair and printed by
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