



ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM

FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

www.angelscamp.gov

Recognition Ceremony

Native Sons of the Golden West
Placerville Parlor #9



Barney Noel at the podium

A huge wholehearted thank you goes out to the Native Sons of the Golden West, Placerville Parlor #9 and the NSGW Historical Preservation Fund for their continuing support of the Angels Camp Museum. They have loaned us their beautifully restored, Downey & Sons #512 custom built stagecoach for display in the Carriage House and created the signage displayed around the stagecoach. Most recently, NSGW granted us the funds to create twelve interpretive signs for many of the outdoor items on display around the Museum grounds. These outdoor signs were dedicated to Millard Smallin, who was a longstanding and loyal curator of the Native Sons' museum artifacts.

The Native Sons of the Golden West is a fraternal and charitable service organization whose members are native born Californians. NSGW was established in 1875, by General A.M. Winn, a native to Virginia. It is said that General Winn was so impressed with the spirit and perseverance of the "forty-niners," that he wanted to create a monument to mark and perpetuate the discovery of gold and that would not perish in the course of time. Local Parlors are located throughout the state beginning with San Francisco as Parlor #1.

By 1889, Placerville Parlor #9 was instrumental in creating the first monument in honor of James Marshall. From then on they have placed monuments at pony express relay stations, stagecoach stops, and numerous historical locations, like Bullion Bend (a famous stagecoach robbery). They purchased the Pioneer cemetery, where they had buried James Marshall in 1885, and have helped to restore a schoolhouse in Coloma. These are just the Parlor #9 projects, other Parlors do similar services in their areas as well.

In 2000, the NSGW recognized the need for establishing a Historical Preservation Fund. This 501(c)3 organization allows for tax deductible contributions to be made with the monies redirected to help others preserve their archives as well as their own materials. Their continuing support endorses our efforts to inspire understanding of the gold country history of Angels Camp and the Mother Lode region.



Mayor Wes Kulm, Dave Allen, Barney Noel and Bob Petithomme

The Thermometer Rises

With the help of our generous donors we are getting closer to our goal. Thank you!

As you well know, the carriages and wagons in this building are invaluable. It is imperative that we help preserve them for future generations by providing a stable climate controlled environment that won't harm the wood and rust the metal of these beloved artifacts.

In addition, your support will go towards improving the Carriage House as the Museum's only venue space for hosting lectures. We want you to be comfortable too!

New air conditioning and heating will help improve the overall visitor experience at the Angels Camp Museum.

Save Our Past,

Invest In Our Future



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President's Message

by Karen Strand

The museum is moving forward with many new projects. The museum staff is developing new education programs including Living History Days, Tree Trek and Trivia programs and summer ART Camps for Kids. Many school groups have booked tours for the spring. Because the community requested and we listened, the museum is now open on Wednesdays during the spring and summer.

We are planning to unveil the new *Medicine in the Gold Rush* exhibit this summer. Thanks again to the many people who have donated artifacts and information to this exhibit. More information is forthcoming.

We are more than halfway to our goal to install a new heating and air conditioning unit in the Carriage House. The temperature control will help preserve the carriages and wagons of the past to be enjoyed in the future. If you would like to donate, please refer to the form as the end of this newsletter.

A recognition ceremony for the 12 new interpretive signs donated by the Native Sons of the Golden West was on March 6. This was followed by a lecture by Barney Noel from the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West. Thank you to the Native Sons of the Golden West for their donation.



We are very proud of our museum. Please plan to visit soon!

DEDICATED STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



It's 48 degrees outside, but nothing can stop the lure of gold panning! Staff member Jim Miller demonstrates the technique with a visiting family; not shown is staff member Chuck Schneider with another family. These men deserve praise for keeping their hands in freezing cold water in order to teach our visitors the fundamentals of gold panning, and doing it with smiles on their faces!

Meet Docent Joe Oliveira: In fall of 2014, Joe joined the museum team of volunteers who interpret the museum and its artifacts for our visitors. Docents go through formal training and must practice giving tours prior to leading tours on their own.

Joe is a San Francisco native and an AT&T manager who retired up here in Calaveras County two years ago. He served in the Marine Corps during Vietnam. He has a general interest in history and the old West, and likes showing guests the various exhibits. He particularly enjoys taking children's groups and car clubs around, and considers being a docent a great way to give back to his new community.

Joe and his wife, Linda, live in Greenhorn Creek, in Angels Camp; they have four children and six grandchildren. In January of this year, Joe was appointed to the Angels Camp Museum Commission by the City Council.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Contact the Museum for more information.
Help to keep our history alive.

Upcoming Events

LECTURE

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016

Reception 1:30pm, Lecture 2:00pm

Q&A with Jumping Frog Jubilee Jockeys

By the Kitchell Family

LIVING HISTORY DAYS

April 9th & May 14th

Docents bring to life the Artisan Exhibits

Carpenter's Shop, Print Shop, Historic Textile Shop

TREE TREK & TRIVIA

April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

1:00 - 2:00pm, \$10

Learn about our California native and not so native but local trees.

ART CAMP for KIDS

June 10th & 24th

8:00am - 1:00pm

Ages 9-12, \$20

Just a reminder.... Be sure to visit the CALAVERAS COUNTY FAIR: May 19th - 22nd

WHAT IS IT?

Small Iron Retort

(tells the story of small time mining in an era of giant companies)



At the Angels Camp Museum, a curiously shaped iron object has been known to catch the visitor's glance as they peruse the jumble of mining artifacts in the Barn. Unless visitors are mining historians or enlightened by a docent, they may not grasp the magnitude of this interesting object's story. This simple, small metal vessel is an original 19th century retort. Designed to distill mercury from amalgam (gold and mercury combined) using heat, it's a miniature version of the industrial retorts common to large scale quartz mining throughout Calaveras County.

During the California Gold Rush, the convenience of a local source for mercury in San Jose made its use all the more attractive and affordable. Miners once poured mercury in their gold pans, rockers, long toms, sluice boxes and eventually on amalgamating plates in stamp mills so that nothing golden could escape.

Mercury's affinity for gold has been known since ancient times. What wasn't known was the element's toxicity. But the once common use of mercury to capture gold is part of the legacy we inherited from our Gold Rush ancestors, and that story awaits you at the Museum.



SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. cards, are being replaced by "*Shares powered by eScrip*", after April 1st.

In order to continue supporting the Angels Camp Museum, or any other programs that you support with a S.H.A.R.E.S. card, you must get signed up online (you can sign up for three), with eScrip. If you signed up for the Angels Food/Sierra Hills Market eScrip card you can use your existing account and add the SaveMart program.

Go to <http://escrip.com/shares/> and follow the directions to register.

*By using your **S.H.A.R.E.S.** cards the Museum received **\$180** for a three month time period.*

All proceeds received from S.H.A.R.E.S. and Community Cards are used to fund museum exhibits and projects.

Thank You!

ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM

FOUNDATION

*Save Our Past,
Invest In Our Future*

The Museum Foundation launched its initiative for this fiscal year to raise a total of \$25,000 to provide air conditioning and heating for the Carriage House.

As you well know, the carriages and wagons in this building are invaluable. It is imperative that we help preserve them for future generations by providing a stable climate controlled environment that won't harm the wood and rust the metal of these beloved artifacts.

In addition, your support will go towards improving the Carriage House as the Museum's only venue space for hosting lectures. We want you to be comfortable too!

New air conditioning and heating will help improve the overall visitor experience at the Angels Camp Museum.

The Museum Foundation asks for your help in reaching this goal.

*****CUT HERE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

TOTAL PAID \$ _____ Cash Check Credit Card

Card Information: Visa Mastercard

Card# _____ CRV _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please Make Check Payable to Angels Camp Museum Foundation and Mail To:

Angels Camp Museum Foundation, P.O. Box 1385, Angels Camp, CA 95222

Angels Camp Museum Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.