

THE AMADORIAN

A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

"Preserving the past and present for tomorrow"

Summer 2023 – Vol. 16, No. 2

President's Corner

Dear ACHS Members:

Halfway through the year! How does this happen? Luckily for me there is a great crew at the historical society, and they keep me on track...lots has been going on.

At the first Kiddie Parade in 50 years, we sponsored a float! It was fabulous with a model of the Museum and Nicky and friends dressed in period costume courtesy of Cathy McGowen and her crew. The



Left to right: Grace Mulford, Nicky Dawson, and Chloe Mulford ride the Amador County Museum float at the April 2023 Kiddies' Parade.

weather was perfect to get out and connect with friends and show off the Mine Model.

We have a lot more to keep us busy, including the annual Wine and Cheese Tasting event on

September 22nd featuring music by **Singing Steve Johnson** and guest speaker **Eugene Hart** who will be selling his books and telling us about the travails of the Donner Party. This is coming up quickly, so make sure you go online to purchase your tickets soon.

Other things to keep your eye on include a September membership work party (date to be determined). So, if you're a member (and if you're not, why not?) get out your work gloves and come enjoy a day of camaraderie and snacks while we make the museum grounds beautiful. I have found that it's fun to keep Amador County history alive, and it would be even more fun with YOU.

More to look forward to for library patrons...we are hoping to have an exhibit at the Amador County Library in Jackson later this year, and of course you can see the Kiddie Parade model in the window at the Amador County Fair in July! Lots to see and lots to do.

Thank you to all our loyal members and hoping to meet new members. Remember, if you have a group, the Museum at 225 Court Street will make tours available by appointment, so come see what we have! Call 209-295-7293 to arrange private tours.

Warmest regards,

Sue Duncan
ACHS President

Take your pick...

The annual June steak sandwich barbeque included a band this year, the "Baby Backs." Diners could sit at tables in the ACHS parking lot, near the band (below), or on the lawn at the museum (right).



Blast from the Past – What kinds of things do people do for the Fourth of July nowadays? Have a picnic, watch fireworks, hang out by the pool? Here’s a blast from the past about 4th of July 1852 from Larry Cenotto’s *Logan’s Alley*, Volume II.

The Fourth, 1852

The Fourth of July 1852, being on a Sunday, a glorious Calaveras County celebration was held on Monday the fifth, south of the river. Politicos and patriots and many miners, too, attended a nigh day-long fete at North Branch. That would be a mile or so north of present-day San Andreas on the east side of the north fork, Calaveras River.

Newspaper accounts tell us, "Awnings were erected, seats were provided, and a beautiful liberty pole, eighty feet high, (had been) raised." Press estimates of attendance, probably inflated as much then as now, reported 250.

"No sound of the pick and shovel was heard," an account said, "from the river, the gulches and ravines." Instead, the sounds were the orations by speaker of the day, S.P. Gorham, and others, who, in that era's quaint fashion, unabashedly expressed love and respect for their country and its ideals. Following dinner, the females were ushered off somewhere, the wines were served, and the toasts began.

These laudations included the "regular" variety, that is, those whose subject was July Fourth or something related. And then there were the "volunteer" toasts like C.A. Swift's: "To the ladies of California, may their numbers increase." Since men outnumbered women about 15 to 1 in the county at the time, Swift's pragmatic, if not wishful toast, seemed pertinent.

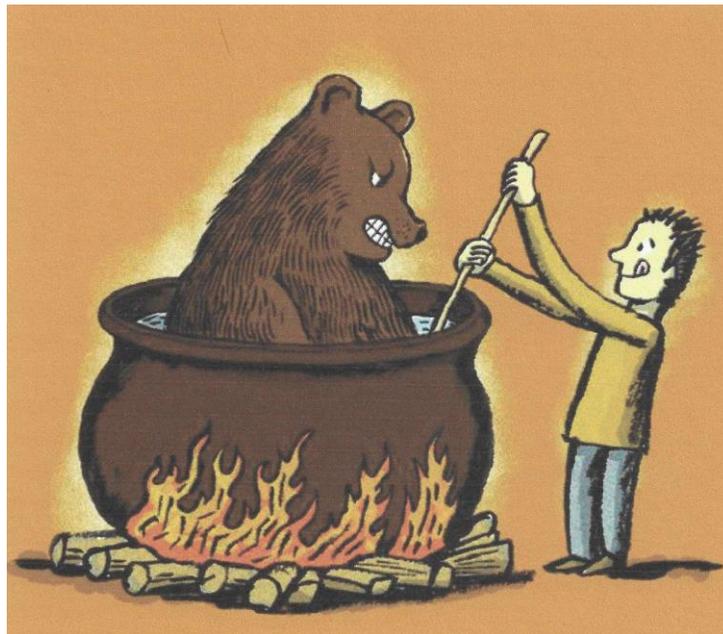
Perhaps an extra drink or two may have been quaffed to celebrate the recent recapture of the county's peripatetic seat of government for this side of the river and Mokelumne Hill. (cont'd, p. 3)

Meanwhile, north of the Mokelumne River, there were at least two celebrations, one at Big Bar and another at Lone Valley. *The Stockton Journal* (taking its news in the case from the *Calaveras Chronicle*) reported that about 200 persons attended the Big Bar ceremony. They heard the reading of The Declaration...and “very able speeches by Monsieurs Watkins and Gates.” A dinner was served there, too.

In Lone Valley, a “great many” assembled at “Q Ranch” near the junction of today’s Highway 104 and the Michigan Bar road. “Towards evening,” reported the Journal, “a very interesting and well-contested horse race came off.”

Citizens north of the Mokelumne may have been somewhat glum on this Fourth, so closely following the loss of the county seat and political power, but they had recently gained another economic boast. The long-awaited cut-off route from the Carson emigrant trail at Corral Flat to Volcano had just been completed. The emigration, which summers before had all streamed along the trail through El Dorado County, would start a Calaveras runoff soon. And wagons and people and animals to trade and money would reach Volcano, then follow the ridge to Jackson and Sutter Creek.

There was one other celebration that long ago Fourth. At Spruce Gulch, wherever that was, the miners there celebrated the Fourth by roasting whole for their holiday repast, a succulent grizzly bear.



1852 holiday repast, a succulent, local grizzly bear

Highlights of the Amador County Museum



The Amador County Museum, 225 Court Street in Jackson, California

When was the last time you visited the Amador County Museum? It is jam packed with historical information and relics of days gone past. If you haven't visited it in a while, you should take the time for a trip.

Below is an article posted in a website named "Only in Your State." It is posted in the Northern California section of the website under Attractions and Museums. It was posted on June 19, 2023, by **Kate Freeman**. What the article does not mention is the mechanically moving, to-scale model of the Kennedy Mine head frame, stamp mill and tailing wheels. It's worth the visit just to see the model.

"With an impressive Gold Rush history exhibit, this small-town museum in Northern California is a true hidden gem.

Amador County is known for its adorable, walkable towns and its wineries, but the county also has a treasure trove of Victorian-era gold rush artifacts in a little-known museum. The Amador County Museum, situated in the town of Jackson, houses extraordinary historical items from the gold rush era that will bring history to life for visitors. Unravel tales of the past when you step foot into this incredible Northern California museum.

Sitting in a stunning home constructed in 1859 by one of Jackson's earliest settlers, the museum immediately captivates with its classic Greek Revival architecture and enchanting surroundings. Adorned with beautiful gardens and towering cedar trees, the museum exudes an air of elegance and nostalgia that sets the stage for the historical treasures that lie within.

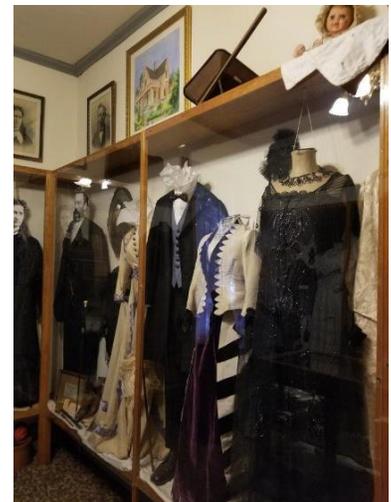
Amador County played a significant role in the California Gold Rush of the mid-19th century. The area witnessed a flurry of activity as gold seekers flocked to the foothills in hopes of striking it rich.

Managed by the dedicated team at the Amador County Historical Society, the Amador County Museum stands as a repository of artifacts and stories that narrate the region's rich heritage.

Step into the museum's "Gold Rush History" exhibit, where striking photographs, personal accounts, and authentic artifacts from miners paint a vivid picture of the era.

Immerse yourself in the opulent world of Victorian fashion at the "Dressed to the Nines" exhibit, showcasing exquisitely preserved clothing primarily worn by the wives and daughters of gold miners and early California residents. Wander through a meticulously recreated Victorian bedroom and parlor settings.

Plus, step into an old-fashioned schoolroom to see how education looked in the 1800s. There are many other exhibits from the gold rush era including a Native American exhibit and a Chinese American exhibit. (cont'd, p. 5)



1800s fashions which belonged to Amador County residents are on display in the Amador County Museum

www.amadorhistoricalsociety.com

Meticulously curated exhibits provide visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the area’s gold rush legacy. These displays seamlessly blend visual storytelling and informative signage to create an immersive experience that captivates visitors of all ages. After visiting the Amador County Museum, you can really get a sense of the bustling and vibrant place this area was during the Gold Rush.

Through collaborations with local historical societies, the museum constantly expands its collection, acquiring valuable artifacts and documents that shed light on the region’s past.



On display at the museum is a school room from the 1850s.

While the Amador County Museum may not be as widely recognized as larger institutions, it shines as a true hidden gem in Northern California. Its commitment to historical preservation and the quality of its exhibits make it a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and curious travelers alike. For museum hours and to see special events, visit the museum’s website at <https://www.amadorgov.org/departments/museum>.

The Amador County Museum will take visitors on a journey into Northern California’s past. As visitors wander through the museum, they are transported to a time when dreams of gold shaped the destiny of the land. The museum breathes life into the stories of pioneers, prospectors, Native Peoples, local business owners of the time and their families, ensuring that their stories are not forgotten.

The Amador County Museum is a hidden gem that offers visitors an immersive experience of the region’s captivating gold rush history. Whether you’re a history enthusiast or simply curious about the area’s past, a visit to the Amador county Museum promises to be a fun-filled afternoon of discovery, where you can gain a deeper appreciation for the stories that have shaped this remarkable corner of Northern California.”



An ever-expanding display of artifacts is on display at the county museum.

The two-story building is carefully curated by the Amador County Museum team.

www.amadorhistoricalsociety.com

ACHS Life Members

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Our list of donors is growing, making the new Livery Building Project possible. Listed are donors of \$500 or more:

Amador Community Foundation ~ Joe and Iris Aparicio ~ Evan Bass ~ Paul & Claudine Burnett ~ D.E. Collins ~ Marshall Cova ~ Jean Louise Dahl ~ Barry & Sue Duncan ~ Wayne Garibaldi ~ Phillip & Jenny Giurlani ~ Linda & David Gonzales ~ Larry & Jeana Hultquist ~ John James ~ Don & Judy Jebian ~ Richard & Pat Jones ~ Ron & Kris Katzakian ~ JoAnn Levy ~ Marla Lowe ~ Stan Lukowicz ~ Richard and Kathleen Lynch ~ Kim & Cathy McGowen ~ Atul Patel ~ Jeffrey & Hazel Powell ~ Beverly Smallfield ~ Charles Spinetta ~ Anders Stenstedt ~ Karen Vaira & Steve Gallant ~ Russell Van Voorhis ~ Violich Farms

Your generous donation will help build the New Livery Building which will replicate the California-style of rural agricultural buildings. Learn more at www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org



**WINE & CHEESE
TASTING**

8th Annual

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
AMADOR COUNTY MUSEUM 5:30PM - 8:30PM

TICKETS \$30 PER PERSON

LIVE MUSIC **Special Guest**
6-8pm **Speaker**

By Singing
Steve Johnson

**EUGENE
HART**
Speaking on the
Donner Party &
Hasting's Cutoff

RAFFLE



**Come early to visit
our Mine Model
& the Museum!**

**225 Church Street,
Jackson**

**Funds to be used for new Livery Building
Tickets available online at
amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org
or call 209-256-8124**

www.amadorhistoricalsociety.com

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*Board Meetings are held on the 3rd
Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
225 Church St., Jackson (Amador County
Museum).
Members and friends are invited to attend.*

ACHS Mission Statement

The society was formed for the purpose of identifying and preserving items of historical interest of Amador County for its residents and the general public and to educate and increase public awareness while at the same time enlisting public support for historical preservation in Amador County.

The Amador County Historical Society has also partnered with the Recreational Railroad Coalition Historical Society in owning and operating the Amador Central Railroad, a great part of the county's history.

*The Amadorian Editors:
Cathy McGowen,
Hazel & Jeffrey Powell*

About the Amador County Historical Society

The Amador County Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the research and preservation of Amador County heritage and history.

The organization brings together people from diverse backgrounds to work towards these goals. We invite all interested persons to attend our monthly meetings and encourage your suggestions and active participation in Society events and endeavors.

We also welcome guest articles for our newsletter. Unfortunately, due to limited space we can accept only those pertaining to local history. If you have any questions regarding ACHS please contact the office at (209) 257-1485.

If you would like to become a member of the Society, please fill in the membership form below and mail along with the appropriate dues to the Amador County Historical Society, P.O. Box 761, Jackson, CA 95642-0761

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check one of the following Memberships:

- ANNUAL** **Individual \$25.00** **Family (2 or more) \$40.00** **Students \$15.00**
- LIFETIME** **Family (2 or more) \$400.00** **SPONSOR** **Benefactor (\$1,000 up)**
 Patron (\$500 to \$999)
 Associate (\$250 to \$499)
 Other _____

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Jackson, CA 95642

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