



THE AMADORIAN

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President's Corner -

Museum Chair Judy Jebian recently submitted the Amador County Museum Report for 2013 to the Board of Supervisors at their March 25th meeting. Highlights from the report show that we had over 850 visitors between June 17th and the end of the year. Donations to the Museum and fees from the Mine Model Tours generated more than \$2500. During the last year over 1900 volunteer hours were logged by ACHS members. Many thanks to all who contributed to this effort, I believe the Board of Supervisors and county staff were impressed with what was accomplished. Also at the Board meeting the ACHS was given permission to place some of the items from the Rabb-Collins Estate, that were given to the Amador County Museum by Alethya Rabb-Collins, into the Museum. What a long ,strange trip it has been for those items. A copy of the report can be read on page 14.

One of the projects that we have been working on is replacement of the sewer line from the Museum grounds down to Main Street. This was also discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting and the Board has indicated that they will cover the cost of this project up to \$10K. I still don't know if I heard them right, but everyone else from the ACHS who was there concurred that is what was said. We have tried to build some credibility as an organization in our dealings with the County and this seems to indicate that we have done so. Thanks to our Board of Supervisors.

(Continued)

Remembering the One Room Schoolhouse

Believe it or not, there are still a few one-room schoolhouses in California and other rural communities across the United States. According to the National Center for Education Statistics a century ago there were over 200,000 one-room schoolhouses in the United States. Now, that number has dwindled down to around 335 in 2006 and only about a dozen operating in California. Several locals in Amador County recall their own personal experience or one of their relatives' growing up and attending school with their siblings or neighbors.

*Turn the page and enjoy a trip down memory lane with historian Larry Cenotto,
an excerpt from
Logan's Alley
Amador County Yesterdays in Picture and Prose
Volume IV*

Shenandoah Valley's School House¹

Our Shenandoah valley honors its past as residents Saturday – many descended from valley pioneers – gather for the dedication of the mounted bell from the former Williams or Shenandoah valley school, now community center.

This event and another recently at Willow Springs remind us how generations of Amador youth were taught – and taught well – in mostly one-room, framed structures that the community often “raised” themselves.

It would probably astound many, especially ex-urbanites, to learn that at one time the county was divided into 44 primary-grade school districts and most of those districts survived until after the second world war.

The plaque to be unveiled tells us the clubhouse as school was built in 1879. A Dispatch correspondent that April reported “a fine new school with 65 pupils.” With school built, the Williams district trustees bought for \$50 the two acre site from Oliver Ball on what is now the Shenandoah Schoolhouse road.

Also, that August 1, the men of the farming community walked or took horse or buggy to the poll – at the old schoolhouse – and approved taxing themselves \$300 to help pay for or furnish the new school. What you see today, with some refinements, is the school erected and bell installed by the community in 1879 and a smaller school the district built in the mid-1930s when enrollment dwindled to 12.

Who were these people in 1879 who populated what we call Shenandoah valley? Fortunately, in the archives is an 1878 countywide assessment book, which record tells us, among other

things, who lived there, and how many acres they owned.

But the roll doesn't list *anyone* as living in Shenandoah valley. The late Elsie Dixon, along with Clyde Berriman the valley's chief historians-chronicles, said in her study that the first mention she found to Shenandoah was 1880. This writer discovered two references to the name in the late 1870s, but otherwise the area was known as the Williams district. In fact, the school was called Williams until 1916.

In 1878 about 40 families, with acreage ranging from 27 to 360, lived in the Williams' district. Its heart, of course, was the schoolhouse, because trustees and citizens always tried to keep the school at or near the district's geographic center to equalize the walk for all.

The families building the school were R. Brown, H.H. Bell, J.P. and O. Ball, G.W. Davis, R.M. Dillon, A.J. Crain, J. and W. J. Cruson, J.A. Courier, F. Celio, J.J. and J.E. Davis, R. M. Dillon, A. Espret, B.F. Farmer, C.C. Forbes, J. Harrell, H.H. Horton, W.W. Moore, W. McKenzie, W. McCarthy, S. B. Newman, F. M. Proctor.

Also, T.J., J.A. and T. Rickey, W. Rhodes, Rouff and Baughmann, J.C. Stewart, J. Sharp, P. Shumaker, V. Sawyer, B. Satchwell, Mrs. M and J.S. Upton, C.J. and Mrs. M. Votaw, G.W. and J.D. Williams, W. Wessel, A. Wilson. Note the Williams above. That family's patronymic named the school and district.

In 1853 from Mississippi came John and Mary Isaacs Williams and 10 children! John M. Jameson of Virginia had preceded him but had four less children. Hence, when the Williams, Jamesons and other pioneer families established the first school, they named it or it soon became Williams. In time, the whole area, centered about the school, became the Williams district.

But the Jamesons got some consolation because its patriarch is credited with naming the val-

ley Shenandoah (or Shan-i-dor in local vernacular) after the immortal valley in Virginia.²

The district's school was private for its first years. That is, no public district had been formed to levy taxes, so families with children paid so much a child per day and took turns boarding the itinerant teachers.

Those practices ended in 1859 when township six, centered about Fiddletown, got only its second school district. Before 1859, the whole area easterly of Big Indian creek and northerly of Dry creek was in the Fiddletown school district.

II³

The dedication last week of the Shenandoah (nee Williams) school bell (and, indirectly, the school itself) focused the writer's attention and, (maybe) ...yours on this area called Shenandoah valley.

And he inadvertently overlooked the centennial anniversary of Forrest parlor, NDGW, which anniversary was reason for the dedication. Congratulations, ladies. You've learned that the general area bounded by Big Indian creek, the Cosumnes river, and the forks of Dry creek was also known as the Williams district from its early days. But it had other names and identities before that.

Whereas today Plymouth is the largest community and trading center in or near Shenandoah valley, yesterday it was Fiddletown. Neither, however, seems to be part of the valley. Hence, the area has been a community of family farms without a town center since its earliest days.

When the counties were organized by 1849-50 State Legislature, the valley found itself in El Dorado county whose southerly boundary was Dry Creek. That's why some of Ione valley as well as Buckeye, Carbondale, Irish Hill, Forest Home, Willow Springs, and Fiddletown and Fiddler's flat – if they were separate places – were in El Dorado.

While in El Dorado, the area southerly of the Cosumnes was called the Cosumnes district and probably the whole tract was in that county's seventh township.

It therefore had at least one justice of the peace and one constable, perhaps more because of its size, officiating in either Fiddletown or Yeomet.⁴ In those days, Plymouth didn't exist, but villages called Pokerville and or Puckerville existed downstream on Little Indian Creek nearer to Finn's Sugar Loaf, that distinctive hill westerly of town.

Another name for the Shenandoah area in the 1850s was the Jameson tract, after John McKnight Jameson, either the area's first or first permanent settler. In 1852, when the El Dorado assessor found him, he had a ranch, a pioneer sawmill, a general provisions store and a liquor supply. The latter took a license.

Historian J.D. Mason in the late 1881 Amador history supplied yet another name for the area north of Dry Creek, the Seawell addition, after William M. Seawell, assemblyman from Amador in 1857. The honor seems misapplied. Most of the territory south of the river had been placed in Amador in 1855 before he took office. More likely it should have been called the Norman addition, after William B. Norman, the county's state senator from 1855 to 1857, the three years the legislature adjusted the boundary line.

In 1855, the legislature and governor chaptered law which gave Amador and took from El Dorado almost all land south of the Cosumnes. Instead of using the Cosumnes as a natural boundary, however, the law drew an air-line from the southwesterly corner of El Dorado to the mouth of the river's south fork, thereby leaving land north of it but still south of the river in El Dorado.

In 1856 and '57, the legislature adjusted the line further, giving Amador its present land and boundary.

In the mid-1850s, then, with such changes, we understand why both Amador and El Dorado officials found the boundary a puzzlement, and why some citizens may have been assessed and taxed by both counties.

Perhaps Jameson tract folk celebrated inclusion in Amador in 1855 when they built a log cabin and established a private school in it on “the Upper Ball place” or Davis-Dowan property today. Trustees moved that school more than once to center it in the district before the new school was built at its present site in 1879.

Shenandoah schoolhouse, according to Mary Davis Cowan – whose mother was a longtime teacher there – closed in 1955 and its few pupils were transferred to Plymouth.

But the old school echoes the first community enterprise by the settlers in the Jameson tract in 1855, and its present use and dedication shows there’s more to the town-less community than premium varietal grapes, boutique wineries, tasting rooms and select prunes.

The first settlers arrived there almost 150 years ago, and many descendants still call *Shan-idor* valley home and the clubhouse their community’s center.

*Buena Vista School House*⁵

The historic, one-room, Buena Vista school will be preserved and restored. Yet, probably only its neighbors know it still stands. Newer locals may not realize today’s residence was once a school. As it sits off the Buena Vista-Ione Road, a quarter mile past village center, it’s easily missed if you drive by.

Since it’s been a residence for many years, and the original floor plan has additions, who would know? But still? Would a house have a substantial,

old metal flag pole in front? Maybe it isn’t the original flag pole but it just may be the original school.

Its owners since 1992 have been Jake and Marjorie Strohm of Jackson. They bought it, says Jake, because “it’s my alma mater. I didn’t want to see it torn down. It should be preserved and restored. If the area develops like I think, it might be a good area museum.”

That schoolhouse, in many ways, has been part of the social and educational lives of Strohm and other old time Jackson valley families for maybe 80 years!

Generations of Buena Vista youngsters were taught there. But a recent renter left it in such shambles that county health, Jake said, recommended razing it. The Strohms demurred. Having visited there, I can attest that the two-and-a-half acre site is being cleaned; and in time so will the inside.

While researching, I phoned Nora Phillips. I first met Nora back in the 1960s when I attended and reported on the intrigue in the old Jackson Valley irrigation district. Nora, when did the old school close? She remembers transferring in 1936 to Ione grammar school and thought that was Buena Vista’s last year. It wasn’t.

The Amador County archives have just one register kept by a Buena Vista teacher – the 1936-37 year kept by teacher Joy Gordon. She taught about a dozen pupils in first, second, fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. A 13-year old eighth grader that year was John Strohm. Another rich source in the archives is a register of all teachers for all schools between the 1870s and 1940. That register names Buena Vista teachers through 1940. Probably about then trustees closed the school or unionized it with Ione grammar.

Another uncertainty is the school’s age. Is it the first school raised in about 1858 for those early Jackson valley or Buena Vista rancho children? With wings, covered porch, and probably new sid-

ing, today's old frame building only resembles in size and shape known school photos. After a superficial exterior inspection, I could see not tell-tale architectural feature to attest to its approximate age – until I looked atop the old back door.

There surely was a traditional Greek revival entablature or decoration atop its frame. Such decoration was used here from 1850s to 1880s. If the old school had ever burned down, and a new one built, it is unlikely such feature would be added to a new building. But until some old-timer tells us or we find fact in the paper we can only hope it is the original schoolhouse.⁷

We can be more certain about when the first school was built in Buena Vista, even if that one isn't there anymore. The Buena Vista district and school were the fourth within the second township in the 1850s. It followed Ione, Union, and Jackson valley. In 1858 supervisors approved the Buena Vista district, taking "that part of (Ione) district lying easterly and southerly of ditches known as Buena Vista and Chaney..." County superintendent H.H. Reese (Rhees?) named trustees.

The site of the new school lay in Andres Pico's despised *Arroyo Seco*, Mexican land grant. But in '58 and '59 its legitimacy and boundaries were still being contested as Pico's and government surveyors "floated" the huge grant's boundaries. It's easterly line roamed far upcountry before retracting to the valley.

Meantime, it's south and north lines remained set as they already included gold mines around Sutter Creek. Hence, we're uncertain whether a non-grant owner claimed the property and gave or sold it to the new district; or whether the grant itself gave or sold it. If the former, the district may have had to negotiate with grant owners after they got the grant's patent in 1865. Besides being atop the moveable *Arroyo Seco*, the new district claimed other distinction; its first trustees.

One was historian Jesse Dimon Mason. He and wife Elizabeth Willaims bought 280 acres in

1857 in the valley after several years in Volcano. They wanted to plant vineyards and orchards, as well as raise a family. Thus, they witnessed the struggle between settlers and the claimants to grant lands. Though the Masons left the valley in 1877, he returned in 1880-1881 as editor and chief writer of publisher Thompson and West's Amador county history.

We often call it, in short, "Mason's history." With that educated and literate gentleman among first trustees was diarist Peter Y. Cool, a Methodist-Episcopal minister, who lived in the valley for a time in the 1850s. He had gained early fame as one of the owners of this county's first gold mine, the Spring hill in Amador City, otherwise known as the minister's claim. Yet another trustee was early settler, John Kite.

In his history, Mason, wrote that in Buena Vista "a school house was built in 1857, which was also used as a church. Cyrus James taught the first school in 1858." If built in '57 and used as school in '58, the building may have been used by Parson Cool for Methodist-Episcopal sermons even before any ABCs.

In any case, in '57, parents or trustees located a knoll on the Ione road. They hired carpenters to build a school, with ship-lap siding, a porch which once flanked the building on at least three sides, a wood shed to store split logs (and whip bad boys?) and two out houses. They also dug a well. Inside, desks for up to 30, then or later two small anterooms for more private sessions. A big wood stove stood in the back.

By 1866, when the area applied for a post office, it had "40 families" and who can say how many children ages 6 to 17 were educated in the grammar-primary school. What stands there may be the old school well disguised.

II⁸

At least three clues, since last we convened here, made the writer doubt that the old residence

still standing in Buena Vista was the original grammar school erected in about 1858.

One clue was not finding any architectural trace of an 1858 style except some trip over the back door. A second clue appeared when Jake Strohm, who owns the old school now, loaned me school photographs taken sometime between say 1880 and 1900. Not only the photo's type or format but also the photographer. Sutterley, gave its approximate time away. In those images, further, the school seemed awfully new for being thirty to forty years old! Moreover, the people and pupils photographed were dressed in Sunday best.

And clue three, serendipitously found while researching another subject? In an 1894 issue of the *Ledger* while researching French garden I spotted in supervisor minutes, the clincher: Buena Vista special school bus fund! Then I knew that a new Buena Vista school had been build about then. At home, in notes abstracted over the years from newspapers, I found that in going through a July, 1894, issues of the *Ledger* I noted, "Buena Vista, new school." Now, for the first time in any of our lifetimes, we now know when the Strohm rental/old school was built.

In the 6 July 1894 *Ledger* you'll find this item: "New School – The Buena Vista School District some time ago levied a special tax... (and) has about completed a fine schoolhouse costing about \$1,000. John Riley was the contractor, itself a guarantee that the work was first class. Citizens can be proud of their brand new school. It's a 24X10-foot classroom (the 10-foot dimension surely is wrong) with two anterooms in front. Redwood rustic studded and finished on the inside with matched redwood." With such materials, no wonder it stands mostly whole today, about 106 years later.

Having found answer to that question, let's look at Buena Vista in 1858 and determine which families needed a school. We'll use the 1860 census for township two. That's as close as we can get. There were two families who could have provided enough children to start a district and a school, the Rickeys and the Kites.

William and Eliza Rickey moved down to Jackson valley by 1859, but I guess in '58. They had seven children and David, 15, Frank, 11, Francis, 10, Josephine, 9, and Matilda, 7 would have been school age in 1858. John and Angelina Kite, earlier settlers, had Liberty Ann, 7, and George, 6. Other pupils could have been William and Hannah Thompson's Hannah, 9, the Sollar's Clara, 7, and in the Moses Hill household, John 17, and Johnathan Ringer, 14. Also Samuel Williams and wife's J.C. 12; and Calvin and Nancy Dillian's John 7.

There were probably more but that Rickey clan – he the brother of Ione founder Thomas Rickey – had enough to warrant a school. In 1860 Jesse⁹ and Elizabeth Mason had two children not of school age. No doubt Mason supported formation of the district and school. In further research I've been unable to determine from whom the district acquired the two-and-a-half-acre school site.

But one can speculate. By looking closely at the 1866 county map one can see that Jesse Mason's ranch went northerly of the road we call the Jackson Valley road today. Hence the school site could have easily been within Mason's land, near its boundary.

If Mason didn't provide the land, the Kite family may well have. Circa 1858 Kite's land bordered Mason's along some of that northerly boundary. Having children ready for school, he could easily have donated it also. After looking carefully I could find no transaction showing the district acquiring the property from Pico or anyone else. It appears that Charles Stone, who owned a major part of the former Buena Vista rancho, already had obtained Pico's title in 1857, and that title went with his sales to Kite and Mason. Until facts emerge, let's hold Mason or Kite gave the district the land.

A rare piece of Buena Vista ephemera at the Amador County archives is a copy of a district report in 1882, giving the district's condition between 1 July 1881 and June 30, 1882. Starting with a balance of \$456, the district got \$647.22 from the state, and thus needed no tax. For their teacher Buena Vista paid \$557.20 for seven months or \$70.60 a month,

suggesting a man taught, as women usually were paid less. The district budgeted \$640 to support an 8-month school the following year. Assets? No library but \$50 worth of books and a school valued at \$1,000. How could the district teach only seven months? Because the political code then required only that “a free school be maintained six months.”

What is most memorable in the 1930s when John and Jake Strohm, Norma Dufrene Phillips, Margaret Flagg Boring, Edward and Frank Ringer, Lucille, Eleanor and Ennis Oliver, and Jack Fancher, among others, attended? Putting up the flag and pledging allegiance; bobbing for apples in a real big tub; Fancher riding his horse to school and tethering it somewhere on the grounds; and lots of activities.

In 1935 electricity replaced kerosene lights and lamps. It came because Delta placer gold company was “dredging” Jackson creek tailing on the “Horton place” and needed power. So downtown and the school got it, too.

Buena Vista school, just one of the 44 at one time. Each has a wondrous story.

The Milligan School Reunion¹⁰

For the old Jackson union high school district, before unification, 1964 was a watershed year. In forming Jackson unified school district, two country elementary school districts, Milligan and Aetna, were absorbed. Those small, rural, one-school districts watched their student bodies bused that fall to the “big city” elementary school in Jackson. For one district, Milligan – it was more poignant. That was its centennial year! A second-grader in 1964 at Milligan was Carolyn Fregulia.

Some months ago Campbell suggested the society meet at the old Milligan school. After *yada yada* and a month’s mulling, the idea evolved into a Mulligan reunion with Campbell and society president Costa assuming the brunt of the organizational work.

Never expected in their or the society’s most sanguine moments was a turnout and complete triumph like Saturday’s (May 23). Costa estimated that over 200 persons attended and few, if any went home disappointed.

By email, Mike and Carlene Pardini, whose mother attended the school in the 1930s, “thanked the society for an old-fashioned gathering... not found often in today’s world.” Reunionists like them from near and far shared memories, photographs, anecdotes. A half dozen or so former pupils reminisced about school days at the little Milligan school on Clinton road.

The society provided hot dogs and hamburgers; attendees brought potluck. Evelyn Cuneo and family allowed access to the grounds and the old school building. Society president Costa spoke on the history of the school, its namesake, and the ghost burgs called Hoodville or Slabtown and Iowa flat.

Exurbanites, be advised that Amador county, not that long ago, had over two score elementary school districts! Indeed. Most, like Milligan, had wooden, one-room schools and a solitary teacher who taught grades one to eight.

Milligan is probably a typical case. In 1864, farming parents including James and Julia Milligan in the Slabtown or Hoosville-Secret-Iowa flat area- near Butte mountain – wanted their own school. The closest, Clinton, formed in 1857, was three-and-a-half to four miles away. Back then, if enough pupils lived over two miles from school parents petitioned for a new one.

In an award-winning school essay written in 1898 and printed in the *Dispatch*, Lizzie Crawford wrote that in 1864, Milligan, a prominent citizen and resident, “realized the necessity of mental improvement for the youth.”

In his talk, historian Costa said that Mr. Milligan and neighbor Stephen Smallfield¹² argued before county supervisors the care for a new district. That body had to vote yea or nay. After all, the new district would take pupils and taxes from Clinton.

“Clinton district is very large,” the petitioners asserted. “The families within the proposed district are subjected to great inconvenience and unnecessary expense for school purposes.” Signing that plea were men named C.M. Petty, L. Shellborn, Smallfield, S.B. Barr, A Osborn, E Rundle, C Hilliard, G Garibaldi and Milligan.

Milligan, a Kentuckian, arrived in this part of Calaveras circa 1852 and was soon partner with Barr and William H.R. Thomas in an ill-fated, Jackson hotel venture. The 2-story *Tremont house*, in the hanging tree’s afternoon shade, rose in late ’52 or early ’53. It stood until the 1862 fire, but Milligan et al sold out well before.

Nonetheless, Milligan and wife, the former Mrs. Washbarn (Washburn?), married in ’54 settled on a ranch near Slabtown or Hoodville. More specifically, said an August, 1857 Ledger correspondent, the ranch lay “on both sides of the road about a half mile south of the village.” I conclude that Milligan’s ranch in ’57 was either in or near the “new” camp of Iowa Flat. “Flat?” Perhaps an ironic or imagined flat amid steep slopes, located at the northern base of Butte mountain, which “boasted two hotels.”

More importantly – for our purposes here – the schoolhouse raised in 1864 was not where Milligan is now, but in Iowa Flat, on Milligan’ farm or ranch. As at least two of its pupils were his and Julia’s children, district trustees had more than one reason for naming the school after them.

Until research more extensive than Costa and the writer have done, you won’t learn why the school was moved and when. In her 1898 essay, Miss Crawford wrote that the school then was one 20 by 36-foot room which already had been moved to “a low hill over-looking Slabtown creek,” or today’s site.

Still, legends or rumors abound that the first school burned down and parents rebuilt it nearer the population center of the district; or (2) that original school burned and rose again on the same site, only to be removed later; or (3) less energy and expense were expended by scrapping the first and building another elsewhere.

John Podesto, in a taped interview sometime before 1964, said the first Milligan teacher was Alice Northrup, born and raised in Butte city. She was succeeded by Alice Sorn and Francis Turner.

Thus, in 1998, we learn from an essay written by a school girl a century before that Milligan’s one-room school stood where it does now. And in 1964, when it was unified and closed, the school district had existed 100 years.

1. *A Look Back*, 75 July 5³³9, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*
2. Yet another source tells us the valley acquired its name during the civil war as Yankees derisively called it such because it sheltered so many southern-sympathizing settlers.
3. *A Look Back*, ¹ Aug 5³³9, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*
4. The village is mentioned in previous volumes. It was a riverside village at the bridge crossing the Cosumnes, upstream from today’s highway 49 crossing.
5. *A Look Back*, 59 November 6444, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*
6. About that anon.
7. Photos provided by Jake and Majorie Strohn tell us that the present residence is the second school, built circa 1890s. That’s why it looks so new in the Sutterley photo (Logan’s Alley, Volume IV, Page 159)
8. *A Look Back*, 66 Nov. 6444, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*
9. The editor and chief writer of our Amador County history published in 1881 by Thompson and West of Oakland
10. *A Look Back*, 69 May 5³³2, *Amador Ledger Dispatch*
11. Then she was Carolyn Fregulia Campbell, the hard-working manager of the Kennedy mine foundation, and a director of the county historical society.
12. Thanks to descendant, Jim Smallfield, we have some excellent local memorabilia in the Amador archives.

ACHS Lifetime Members

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Sutter Creek Promotions Committee
Volcano Community Services District
*Benefactor

ACHS 2014

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Board Meetings are at 148 Main St. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.—Members and friends invited to attend!

Volunteers Needed

The Amador County Historical Society is actively recruiting willing and capable individuals to volunteer at the Amador County Museum, the Mine Model Exhibit, and the office on Main Street. Those interested in spending one or two hours per month to help your organizations, please call Judy Jebian at (209) 257-0332 or the ACHS Office at (209) 257-1485.

Thank you!

President's Corner (continued)

The Jones Family, as I wrote about previously in a President's Report, donated monies for the construction of new gun cabinets. These cabinets were built by Justin Agustin, who also built the cabinets for The Native American Room, and were delivered and installed by Justin and Butch on March 24th. Keith Sweet has been busy painting the cabinets as well as the upstairs hallway and when they are completed we will plan a dedication and thank you ceremony for the Jones Family.

Lastly, I would like to tell our membership about the increased roll that the ACHS has taken in our co ownership (with the RRCHS) of the Amador County Railroad. The ACHS has voiced its desire to help the City of Ione pursue the creation of a Railpark in the area where the Ione Depot now sits, on iron beams it was moved with. A couple of the short term goals are trying to acquire the #10 Baldwin engine, the last engine to run between Ione and Martell and to help put a foundation under the Depot. Local engineering firm Weatherby-Reynolds-Fritson is working with the City of Ione on the Engineered plans for the foundation and local cement contractor Leonard Williams has offered to spearhead the project. To complete this project will take \$25-\$30K and toward that end the ACHS has opened up an account at the Ione branch of the American River Bank and deposited a \$2K donation to go towards the building materials needed to construct the foundation. All members who are able, are encouraged to support this fund.

A special "way to go" to Judy Jebian who donated 350 plus hours at the Museum last year.

Phillip Giurlani

Hidden Treasures

In an effort to preserve this history of one room schoolhouses, the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS) has devoted an exhibit of a classroom setting at the Amador County Museum. The exhibit currently consists of two wooden desks, some school books and papers, maps, flags and class pictures. We are always looking to enhance our exhibits and would welcome those hidden treasures from the community to help illustrate this period of time and way of life.

ACHS board member and volunteer, Ed Arata recently put together illustrations as seen on page 12 from his family that is now part of the exhibit.

ANNUAL REPORT - 2013 AMADOR COUNTY MUSEUM

The Amador County Museum was reopened to the public on June 17, 2013 after over 5 years of closure due to a leaking roof and other needed repairs resulting from the roof's replacement.

The Amador County Historical Society secured a management agreement with the County in January 2013 and started making the necessary repairs as well as conducting and producing a digitized/photographic inventory of the collection housed inside the museum.

Seismic reinforcement of the perimeter walls, drywall & painting water damaged interior walls, painting exterior window frames and shutters, and refurbishing all of the exhibits were all taking place more or less simultaneously in order that the museum might be reopened in celebration of the county's 159th birthday in June. We succeeded and participated in the grand celebration of the Vista View park dedication, the reopening of the city of Jackson's Wheels park, and the reopening of the county's museum on the same weekend. It was a wonderful achievement for everyone who had a part in making those events so successful.

The Amador County Museum has been held open to the public by volunteers on Fri., Sat., and Sun. from 11-3 since its reopening and the Mining Model Exhibit is also open with special tours at 12 and 1:00 on those same days. Both buildings can also be made available to group tours by appointment; we want the history of Amador County to be made available and enjoyed by as many visitors as possible.

Since beginning the management of the museum in January, ACHS volunteers have logged over 1900 hours of work and have received over 850 visitors from near and far - Sutter Creek to Moscow. Donations in the main building and fees for the mining model tour have yielded over \$2,500. Comments have been very complimentary and the people who volunteer at the museum have been extremely gratified.

Looking toward the future, we have several big and costly projects that we want to undertake. For example, we want to expand our collections to include agriculture artifacts, and we recognize the importance of conducting a comprehensive inventory of all of the buildings as well as the sundry mining artifacts throughout the grounds. Signage for those artifacts is also needed. Another project that is sorely needed is a good, ADA compliant bathroom so that we can get rid of the unsightly portable facility that is located in the parking lot. We are currently engaged in restoring the sewer line so that the non-compliant bathroom inside the museum can be used by staff at least.

With so many needs and wishes to be organized and prioritized, we have much work for the foreseeable future. It is a worthy cause particularly since the history of this county is so central to the history of our great state of California. Thank you for your continued support of ACHS in this very important effort to enhance the experience of visitors to the Amador County Museum.

Submitted by Judy Jebian, Chair, ACHS Museum Committee

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
JACKSON, AMADOR COUNTY CAL.
SABRA R. GREENHALGH,
Superintendent

SCHEDULE OF CREDITS FOR DIPLOMAS IN AMADOR COUNTY

Name of Applicant *Edward Arata*
Date *June 19, 1923*

NAME OF STUDY	Standard	Required
United Arithmetic	14	170
Written Arithmetic	144	80
Grammar	144	75
Geography	144	75
U. S. History	144	75
Penmanship	14	75
Book Keeping	14	75
Latin	144	75
Composition	144	75
Reading	14	75
Spelling	144	75
Science	14	75
Other	144	75
Total	1444	775
Average		775



A Message from the People of California

DEAR YOUNG CITIZEN:

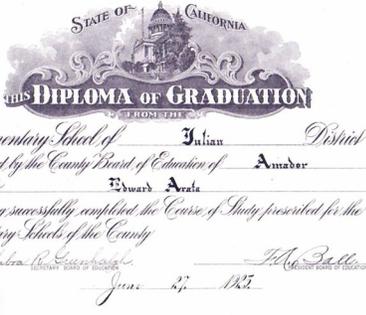
Today when you receive this diploma of graduation, I want you to realize that a hand is reaching out to you from the Great Capitol at Sacramento, to give you aid and help you well, imagine also a voice, strong and resonant—the voice of the people of California, saying to you in this moment of joy—"Well done, good young citizen. You deserve our praise and congratulations and gladly do we give them. Go forth upon the great lap of your country, carrying with you this diploma as evidence that you have reached the first milestone on the road to success. And may your heart pulse strong with hope throughout your journey in the land which the poet calls the Land of the Heart's Desire."

Success—what a wonderful word it is! It represents what all men and women have talked and striven for since the beginning. And you are an aspirant—you also are working to gain success. And as I would not want you to encounter the future, the words on this diploma do not mean that you are educated. They mean that you have mastered certain tools of knowledge like reading, writing, arithmetic, history and geography. These tools will be of little value to you unless you use them. The best way to employ them for the next few years is to study at the high school when you may take a course that will fit you for the work you want to do. Use well in further study those tools you have mastered and you will become educated. It will be worth all the effort you put into the tools. California allows you to continue your study and offers you all the advantages of the high school without money and without loss.

In the name of the people of California, I express this warmest hope—that you continue your studies and thus take under your favored parent the Land of Heart's Desire.

Sincerely yours,
Will Clifford
Governor of California

At the Court,
Sacramento, California



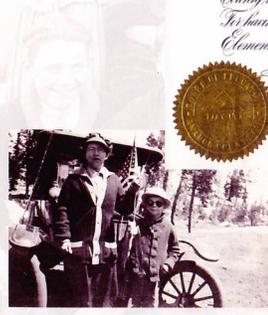
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

THIS DIPLOMA OF GRADUATION

FROM THE
Elementary School of Julian District
is awarded by the County Board of Education of *Amador*
County to
Edward Arata
For having successfully completed the Course of Study prescribed for the
Elementary Schools of the County

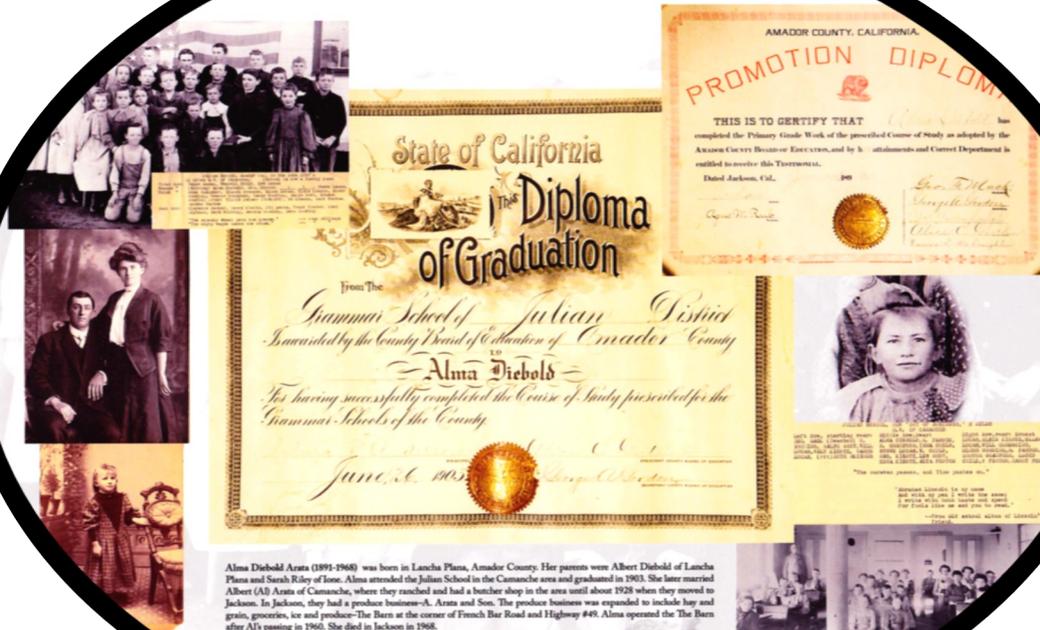
Sabra R. Greenhalgh
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

M. C. Beattie
JUN 19 1923



Albert Edward (Ed) Arata (1909-1964) was born in Camanche, Calaveras County. His parents were Albert (Al) Araza and Alma Diebold Arata. Ed attended the Julian School (Amador County) in the Camanche area and graduated the 8th grade in 1923. He started High School at Calaveras High School in San Andreas where as a student he drove the school bus from the Camanche area to San Andreas. Since his family were ranchers, he spent many summers in the Sierra in the cow camps where he learned to fish. His parents moved to Jackson about 1928 where he attended Jackson High School and graduated in 1929. He worked with his father Al at the produce business—Al Arata & Son. He later became a mechanic and worked at various jobs in Amador County before joining the U.S. Navy during WWII at age 33.

Left and Below: Graduation certificates for Alma Diebold Arata (Ed Arata's grandmother), and A. Edward Arata (Ed Arata's father) when they graduated from the Julian School near Camanche at various times. Alma would be 1903 and Edward would be 1923.



Alma Diebold Arata (1891-1968) was born in Lancha Plaza, Amador County. Her parents were Albert Diebold of Lancha Plaza and Sarah Riley of Esos. Alma attended the Julian School in the Camanche area and graduated in 1903. She later married Albert (Al) Arata of Camanche, where they ranched and had a butcher shop in the area until about 1928 when they moved to Jackson. In Jackson, they had a produce business—A. Arata and Son. The produce business was expanded to include hay and grain, groceries, ice and produce—The Barn at the corner of French Bar Road and Highway #49. Alma operated the The Barn after Al's passing in 1966. She died in Jackson in 1968.

UPCOMING SALE AT THE MUSEUM

Spring Has Sprung ~ It's Time to Clean Up Your ***ACT!***

Antiques
Collectibles
Treasures

Donate Now - Sale at the Museum in September

Bring - tax deductible items to the Amador County Museum at 225 Church St. in Jackson any Fri, Sat, or Sun. from 11am—3pm or call July Jebian at 209-257-0332 for pickup or for other arrangements.

Thank You!!!



Kennedy Mine Model Tours

Tours of the Kennedy Mine Model are on-going every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the building adjacent to the museum... come on down, bring your friends, see how the “Hardrock Miners” brought the gold up from more than a mile from under the earth.

See the headframe, the Stamp Mill and the Wheel in action with mechanized motors...it is like a little show lasting about 45 minutes, with live narration and tape presentation.

Tours are at noon and 1:00 p.m. or by appointment any day or time (subject to docent availability). Group tours, schools and organizations welcome! Located at 225 Church Street, Jackson Mine Model building in parking lot next to museum.

For more information, call the Amador County Historical Society at 209-257-1485.

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 at right and mail along with the appropriate dues to the Amador County Historical Society, P.O. Box 761, Jackson, Calif.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ **Email** _____

Please check one of the following:

Membership

ANNUAL

- Individual \$20.00
- Family (2 or more) \$30.00
- Students \$15.00

LIFETIME

- Family (2 or more) \$400.00
- Benefactor \$1,000.00 and up
- Patron \$500.00—\$999.00
- Associate \$250.00—\$499.00
- Other _____

For information on how to arrange an estate or trust gift to the Society please contact our office at (209) 257-1485

The Amadorian

A Quarterly Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

Amador County Historical Society
P.O. Box 761
Jackson, California 95642

Inside This Issue

- ◆ *Featured Story—An excerpt from Logan's Alley*
 - ◇ *One-room Schoolhouses: Shenandoah Valley's School House; Buena Vista School House and Milligan School Reunion*
- ◆ *President's Corner*
- ◆ *Annual Report on the Amador County Museum*