

THE AMADORIAN

A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society

"Preserving the past and present for tomorrow"

Fall 2021/Winter 2022 – Vol. 14, No. 3

President's Corner

Dear ACHS Members:

It seems like we are finally back on track. Our first event, our Wine and Cheese, went very well. We had a great crowd of around 60, great speaker, music, raffle and silent auction and of course the wine, cheese and food. I was pleasantly surprised by the better-than-expected turnout. By the time you read this, our annual membership dinner will have happened. Hoping it will be as successful.

Planned for next August, we are now working with the Kennedy Mine and other groups on a 100th anniversary commemoration event of the Argonaut Mine disaster. This is still in the planning stages but promises to be a very historic and interesting event. We are also still working on the Amador History Passport which, disappointingly, was not ready for this summer but should be by next spring.

You will see information in this issue about Giving Tuesday coming up on November 30th. Every little bit helps and is tax deductible!

Have a great holiday season!

Best regards,

Cathy McGowen,
President
Amador County Historical Society

Save the Dates:

- ❖ **Sunday, November 7, 2021, 4 p.m.** - Annual Membership Meeting at Teresa's Restaurant
- ❖ **Tuesday, November 30, 2021 – Giving Day**



ACHS members and guests gather on the museum lawn during the September 17th Wine and Cheese Tasting event.



Gary Reinhoel speaks about the history of the railroad in Amador County at the September 17th event.



Gary Reinhoel and Pam Sharp confer while Rebecca Brown monitors bags holding raffle tickets.



Jeana Hultquist, Jenny Giurlani, Pam Harris, Danna Saunders, and Brian Ferdani greet and serve local wines at the September 17th ACHS event.

A Continuation of ACHS History:

AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1944 – 2017

Compiled by Judy Jebian, ACHS Secretary, 2011-2021

October 1944 – Founding of ACHS, organized by a few descendants of founding pioneer families, including its first President, **John Williams**, with the purpose to gather and preserve the county's rich gold rush history as preserved in artifacts, photos, historical documents, and ephemera of county history.

1945 – A goal was established to secure a historic building and to create a permanent Amador County Museum to house artifacts being donated by local citizens. While various buildings were researched and prices sought, ACHS members prevailed upon the Amador County Board of Supervisors to establish a museum fund for that purchase.

1947 – **George Brown**, son of founding father **Armstead C. Brown**, died, leaving the 1859 Brown home vacant. Following negotiations with the family trustee **Armstrong Askey**, the Brown home was purchased in December for \$12,000 and dedicated as a museum in February 1949, making it one of the oldest small museums in California.

SOCIETY PROJECTS

1949 - ACHS was appointed by Amador County to manage the new museum. Renovations commenced, and **Miss Mary McCaskey**, a teacher in Jackson, was appointed the first curator.

1950s - ACHS members carried out research and signage of Amador County's many historical landmarks, and a three-sided livery building was constructed to house donated wagons and carriages.

1960s - Members worked on preservation of the 21 Pioneer Cemeteries and recordation of headstone information.

1970s - A barn-like structure was built to house the 1/12 scale working models of the Kennedy Mine headframe, stamp mill and tailing wheels that the county purchased from **Robert Post**, son of **Elbridge Post**, master mechanic for the construction of the tailing wheels.

1976 - The Bi-Centennial Quilt Project was organized by ACHS President, **Henrietta Widmer**, and members produced two enormous 7 x 12 ft. quilts, each with 30 embroidered scenes depicting historical landmarks and artifacts. Both quilts are now on display in the rear atrium of the county building.

1980s - An ACHS committee circulated petitions and put a measure on the ballot to save the old hospital which still proudly serves the county today.

Larry Cenotto, a local historian, founded the Amador County Archive and undertook organizing the many boxes of records, letters and other memorabilia that had been collected by the Amador County Historical Society.

1984-2008 - The museum was administered by Amador County employees: **Sean Crowder**, 1984-1986, **Cedric Clute**, 1986-1996, and **Georgia Fox**, 1996-2008. The museum was closed in 2008 for roof replacement, but not reopened by the county.

1999 - California Sesquicentennial events commenced, commemorating significant state and local events, including the September 9, 1850 date of California's admission to the United States as the 31st state and the May 11, 1854 date when the California legislature created Amador County apart from Calaveras County.

2010 - The Amador Central Railroad was purchased for \$1 from SPI by a partnership of ACHS and RRCHS. The AMC was approved to run as a tourist railway in 2015. (cont'd on page 3)

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

2012 - A Museum Management Agreement between ACHS and the county supervisors was finalized. An ADA compliant ramp to the mine model building was constructed. ACHS members completed seismic reinforcement to the Brown House and repaired water damage; the exhibits were reorganized, and the museum was reopened in June 2013 after a 5-year closure. **Judy Jebian** was director, working with the help of other volunteers.

2015 - An ADA compliant bathroom was completed opposite the Mine Model Building, and in 2016, exhibits in the Mine Model Building were expanded to tell the gold mining story in greater detail.

2017 - Plans to rebuild the old livery are underway with engineered plans drawn up.

Teresa's Restaurant

Did you know that **Teresa's Place** just celebrated 100 years in business and is one of the few oldest restaurants in California still operating with the original family running it? After seeing a segment on a Sacramento news station recently and then attending the celebration at Teresa's in the memory of their mother, Patricia Giurlani, and the commemoration of the anniversary of the restaurant, I thought it was appropriate to have a short history of the restaurant in our newsletter. The following is a brief history written by Alicia Giurlani Miller.

~Cathy McGowen

HISTORY of TERESA'S PLACE by Alicia Giurlani Miller

Teresa's Place takes its name from Teresa Bassignani, who immigrated to the United States in 1913 as a young bride. She and her husband settled in Amador City, where he worked in the local mines for \$2.50 a day. Teresa took her first job, cooking. Her wages were room and board for the young couple.

In 1920, disillusioned with her general situation, she returned to her hometown in Italy with her two children. She did not intend to return. But, in the latter part of 1920, her home in Italy was destroyed by an earthquake. She decided that returning to the United States would be the best thing for her young family.

Upon her return to Amador County, once again preparing meals for the year. In 1921, with the four hundred present location and opened Teresa's house for miners.

Teresa would remarry in 1928 to a Giurlani. Their son, Paolo, was born part of the restaurant until his passing

Long after the mines closed, the at Teresa's until 1965. Putting all the serve himself came to be called "family style." It was the only practical way to serve a lot of hungry men and allow them to eat as much as they wanted. A variation of that family style dining is provided to this day.



she took a job in the Company Hotel, hungry miners. This job lasted only a dollars she had saved, she moved to the Place, originally opened as a boarding

man who tended bar for her, Giuseppe that same year. Paolo was an integral in 2000.

familiar "Boarders' Table" still existed food on the table and letting each man

Grandma Teresa died on April 26, 1976, but the tradition of serving fine, homemade food is carried on by her family. We look forward to continuing that tradition for another 100 years.

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Heritage Garden Update

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Since the dedication of the UCCE (University of California Cooperative Extension) Heritage Garden on October 17, 2019 (See *The Amadorian*, Vol. 1, Issue no. 1, Winter 2020) the Amador County Master Gardener volunteers have been busy digging, planting and weeding. A visit to the garden at 1336 Jackson Gate Road is worthwhile.

Visitors stroll garden paths and see local heritage plants. The roses and other plants such as iris and toyon are carefully tended by the volunteers who offer tours on the first Saturday of each month from spring through October. Tour guides include **Debbie Ginnelly**, **Susan Price**, and **Judy Wood**.

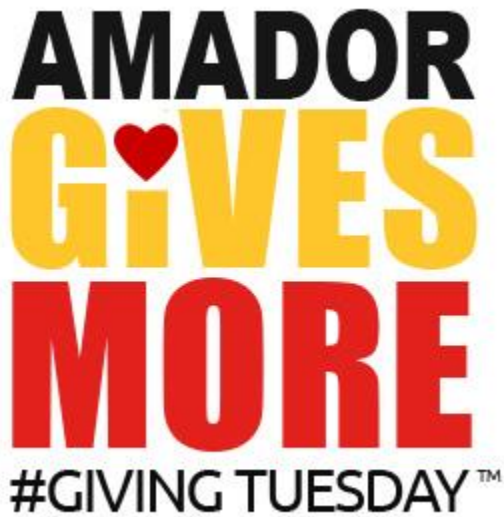
Garden art, including trellises created by Eagle Boy Scout **Colton Folea** of Troop 63 in Plymouth, support climbing vines.



(Left) A sign welcomes visitors to the UCCE Master Gardeners' Rose Garden on Jackson Gate Road. (Right) Fall blooms greet visitors along the garden's paths.



(Left) White rose, "Mlle de Sombreuil" (1850) is scented and a repeat bloomer. Heritage rose stock must be at least 100 years old. (Right) **Jeffrey Powell** enjoys a garden tour from Heritage Garden volunteer **Susan Price**.



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2021

4:30 - 6:30 pm

YOU'RE INVITED

Help us kick off the giving season at
Amador County's 7th Annual
Giving Tuesday Event

Meet & Greet the 50+ amazing nonprofits supporting
the quality of life in our community.

*Charity Showcase - 4:30 - 6:30pm

*Maximize your annual giving; \$5 - \$5,000...
Every Dollar Matters!

*Give to many charities at ONE time

*Donations eligible for Matching Funds

Location: Katharine Drexel Parish, Martell
FREE Admission and Refreshments

Give Where You Live!

A Blast from the Past

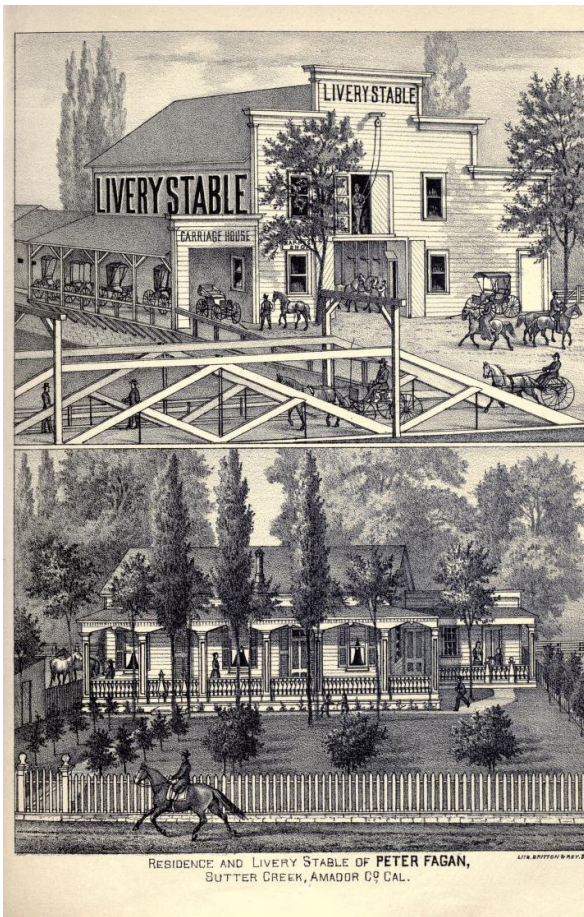
Sutter Creek Auditorium – Life Began as a Livery Stable

How many lives can one building have? Look at the Sutter Creek Auditorium. At least that is what most locals call it. From the 1870s to 1927, it served as a livery stable. It also served as a War Memorial Hall, skating rink, home of Sutter Creek Woman's Club, city hall, police station, fire district headquarters, a social hall, city council meeting chambers, and site of countless social events. That's pretty good for one building.

The building began life as the **Fagan Livery Stables** in the 1870s. The framework extended over the creek where building remnants are still visible.

The stables were purchased by the **Rabb** family in the early 1900s and continued to provide livery services until 1927, when the Sutter Creek Fire District bought the property for \$3,000 using funds raised by the Sutter Creek Woman's Club and a note signed by a group of locals. Firemen and citizens worked together to disassemble the livery stable and used the lumber from the livery to build the auditorium, all in less than a year! (cont'd on page 6)

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org



Livery stable photo from April 8, 1928 taken during destruction.

December 21, 1928 – From the Amador Dispatch

A large delegation is planning to attend the dance at Sutter Creek on the night of Christmas, December 25th. The affair is being given under the sponsorship of the Sutter Creek Fire Department and will make the opening of the new community hall at that place. The new building is a source of pride in the neighboring town, and the committee in charge of the affair Christmas night have prepared to entertain a large crowd at its formal opening.

The enterprise of the residents of the neighboring city in building the new home for public gatherings is a commendable one, and the various sections of this county should join in making the affair next week an event long to be remembered.

The fire district owned the building and the site until 1961 when it sold the auditorium to the Township Four Memorial District for \$15,000. They used the funds from the sale of the auditorium to purchase a 1960 Dodge fire truck for \$15,369.77. They also sold a 1933 Dodge fire truck for \$501 and a 1942 GMC fire truck for \$255.

The firemen continued to use the hall downstairs until they moved to the new station on Highway 49. The Sutter Creek Woman's Club was granted permanent use of the upstairs space for their club activities in appreciation for their efforts. They remained there until they relocated to the new Sutter Creek Community Building at 33 Church Street. (cont'd on page 7)

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

The Township Four Memorial District held title to the auditorium until 1966 when their directors appeared before the board of Supervisors to propose dissolution and transfer of its assets (land and auditorium building in Sutter Creek valued at about \$50,000) to the City of Sutter Creek. However, according to the official Amador County records, the transfer of ownership to the City of Sutter Creek was never completed. Therefore, the property title remains with the now dissolved memorial district.

When the bridge on Main Street was replaced, a new plaza gathering area was created in front of the auditorium.

In 2004, the City of Sutter Creek and the County of Amador celebrated a 150th birthday. As part of the Sutter Creek Sesquicentennial Celebration, there was a mural project directed by **Rand Huggett**. The murals painted by local school children are on display throughout the auditorium's main room.



The Sutter Creek Auditorium today

A gathering place on Main Street in Sutter Creek, the auditorium started out as a livery stable and has served the city in many capacities.

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

ACHS Life Members

Eugene & Christina Ammann ~ Kathy Allen & Frank Axe ~ Richard & July Allen ~ Joseph and Iris Aparicio ~ Ed & Mary Lee Arata ~ Caryl Arnese ~ Dan and Pat Asvitt ~ Evan Bass ~ Michael Bell ~ Heidi Boitano ~ Mark, Lorie & Matthew Bowlby ~ Ray & Barb Brusatori ~ William Burger ~ Paul & Claudine Burnett ~ Jerry Cassesi ~ Robert J. & Susan L. Chandler ~ D.E. Collins ~ Thornton & Paula Jo Consolo ~ Robert M. & Lorraine M. Cooper ~ Mary Cowan ~ Jeannine & Patrick Crew* ~ Jean Louise Dahl ~ Robert Davis ~ Christopher & Cori Dover ~ Kathleen Du Bois ~ John Ellyson, MD ~ Carol Emerson ~ Katherine Evatt & Pete Bell ~ Brian Ferdani ~ Robin Field & Carol Mischer ~ Wayne Garibaldi ~ Phillip & Jenny Giurlani ~ David & Linda Gonzales ~ Jim & Teresa Guidi ~ Ray & Cheryl Herndon & Bobby Keeling ~ Curtis & Denise Hollis ~ Patricia Huberty ~ Jeana (Cova) Hultquist & Marshall Cova ~ Ida Ruth Johnson ~ Marilyn Jones ~ Richard & Pat Jones ~ Gretchen Kingsbury ~ George & Joan La Ponsie ~ JoAnn Levy ~ Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Little ~ Gary & Jaimie Little ~ Stan Lukowicz ~ Doug & Susan McElwee ~ Allen & Karen Martin ~ Jeremy & Shirley McCarty ~ Doug & Susan McElwee ~ Frances Melusky ~ Marshal Merriam ~ Joe & Alicia Miller (Giurlani) ~ Jean Mueller ~ Ron Oliverro ~ Mary O'Neal & Gary Arnese ~ Katherine & William Orescan ~ Alan & Peggy Piccardo ~ Hazel, Jeffrey & Amy Powell ~ Marian & Leonard Randolph ~ Jeanne C. Russ ~ Martin Ryan ~ John H. & Patricia Scott ~ Norm Seid ~ Beverly Smallfield ~ George P. Smith ~ Rose Marie Smith ~ John Solaja* ~ Marie-Louise Solaja ~ Audrey Souza ~ Charles J. Spinetta ~ Ray Stacey* ~ Steve & Linda Stocking ~ Suzanne Erickson Stroy ~ Keith & Gail Sweet ~ Ed & Margaret Swift ~ Russell & Mary Beth VanVoorhis ~ Violich Farms ~ Grant Vogel & Pam Sharp ~ Fraser & Teddy West ~ Sutter Creek Promotions Committee ~ Volcano Community Services District *Benefactor

➔➔ Welcome to new members:

Mary Jones, Dennis Thompson, and Richard Williams



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 Garibldi
 Phillip & Jeny Giurlani
 Larry & Jeana Hultquist
 John James
 Don & Judy Jebian
 Richard & Pat Jones
 JoAnn Levy

Marla Lowe
 Stan Lukowicz
 Kim & Cathy McGowen
 Jeffrey & Hazel Powell
 Beverly Smallfield
 Charles Spinetta
 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

**Amador County Historical Society Board
of Directors**

Society Officers

Cathy McGowen, President

Jeannette Garbarini-Walters,
Vice President

Judy Jebian, Secretary

Wayne Garibaldi, Treasurer

Board Members

Thornton Consolo

Georgia Fox

Phillip Giurlani

Teresa Guidi

Jeana Hultquist

John James

Alicia Miller

Gary Reinoehl

Coni Saracino

Danna Saunders

Keith Sweet

Grant Vogel

Russ van Voorhis

Leonard Williams

*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.

Support

**Amador County Historical
Society by signing up for
Amazon Smiles at
smile.amazon.com**

The Amadorian Editors:
Cathy McGowan, Hazel & Jeffrey Powell

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

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 _____

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org

The Amadorian
A Publication of the Amador County Historical Society
P.O. Box 761
Jackson, CA 95642

In This Issue:

- *President's Corner*
- *September 17th Wine and Cheese Event*
- *ACHS – 1944 – 2017*
- *Teresa's Place by Alicia Giurlani*
- *UCCM Heritage Rose Garden*
- *Giving Tuesday on November 30*
- *Blast from the Past: Sutter Creek Auditorium*

www.amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org