



Founded July 24, 1968 and
designated a 501(c)(3) in July 1971

Truckee Donner Historical Society
P.O. Box 893
Truckee, CA 96160
530-582-0893
truckeehistory.org

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

March 2014 Issue 1

President's Corner

Dear Members,

First I would like to thank you for your continued support. You all make the society what it is today.

As you can see by our Event Calendar we are trying to get our members involved in more activities regarding the Society.

We are still in need of Docents for the Old Jail Museum this summer. I am not intending to whine but due to the new sidewalk Project for Brickelltown we will have an increase in costs to the Society. The maintenance district will cost us between \$400 and \$500 a year to the Town of Truckee so we need to be assured that we can keep the Old Jail Museum open on Truckee Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; also any holidays that do not land on these days. We are anticipating the hours of the jail to be 10:00 am – 4:00 pm to match the hours of the Railroad Museum. There may be a redesign to the driveway because of this project but that will be announced at a Docent Meeting later this year. To learn more refer to the Town of Truckee Brickelltown Streetscape Project. Link, <http://bit.ly/MFjalw>.

We are also now open on Sundays Noon to 4 p.m. at the Joseph Research Library for visitors to study Truckee's History. We do have several areas that can use volunteer hours, which if you have some time we can mold your interests to our needs.

TDHS will also hold the Mystic Walk so we will be able to re-discover Mary Young's grave, a twelve year old pioneer who died during a wagon trip through the Sierra's.

You may contact me at cmortier@truckeehistory.org with any questions. Again thank you for all your support.

Chaun L. Mortier

Calendar of Events

- March 27, June 27, Sept. 18 -**
Truckee History Alive, 7 p.m., Vet's Hall*
- May 24 or 25 -** Shaffer Cemetery Cleanup
- May 31 -** Memorial Day Ceremony, Sierra Mountain Cemetery 10 a.m. (Rain or Shine)
- May 31 -** after ceremony,
Special Jail opening
- June 12 -** Jail opens for the Season
(Truckee Thursday)
- July 12 -** Truckee Air Fair 8 - 5 p.m.
- July 19 -** Old Timers' Picnic at the
Truckee Regional Park 10 a.m. and
Truckee History Day
- August 7 -** Truckee Thursday
Volunteer Booth Night
- September 30 -** Membership Dinner at
Tahoe Donner Lodge
(More info on p. 7)

Inside This Issue

- * **Ximena McGlashan Letter of April 1915 - p.2**
- * **Forgotten Names and Ghosts Along
the Truckee River - p. 3**

Introducing Your TDHS 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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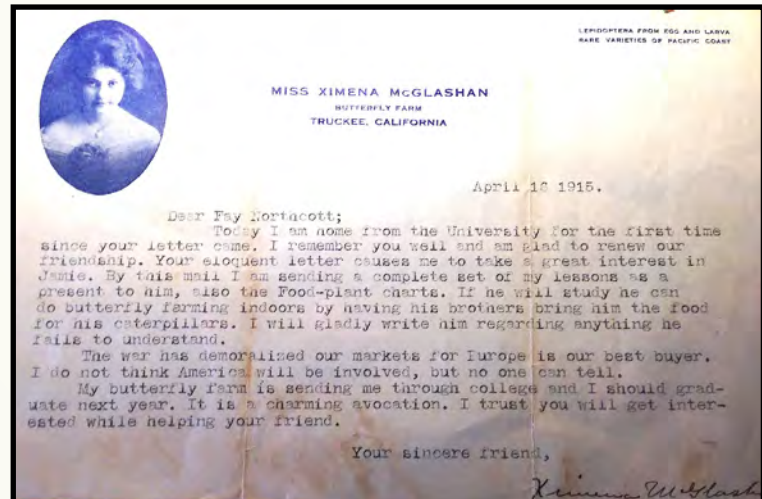


Photo courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society

1915 HISTORICAL DISCOVERY MADE AT JOSEPH RESEARCH LIBRARY

On January 9, 2014, a rare and precious letter was discovered by research library volunteer, Ron Rettig. Unbeknownst to everyone, the original letter dated April 16, 1915 was buried amongst our vast array of library records. The discovery was a surprise to everyone in the library that day. The rare and delicate hand-written letter from Ximena McGlashan to Fay Northcott was written on Ximena's Truckee Butterfly Farm business stationary which included, besides her address, a head-shot photo of herself.

The letter read:

"Dear Fay Northcott:

Today I am home from the University for the first time since your letter came. I remember you well and am glad to renew our friendship. Your eloquent letter causes me to take a great interest in Jamie. By this mail I am sending a complete set of my lessons as a present to him, also the Food-plant charts. If he will study he can do butterfly farming indoors by having his brothers bring him the food for his caterpillars. I will gladly write him regarding anything he fails to understand.

Continued on page 3

Ximena article continued from page 2

The war has demoralized our markets for Europe is our best buyer. I do not think America will be involved, but no one can tell.

My butterfly farm is sending me through college and I should graduate next year. It is a charming avocation. I trust you will get interested while helping your friend.

Your sincere friend, Ximena McGlashan"

Below is a reprint of a newspaper article from the Sacramento Bee, The (CA) - METRO Final, p. B5, Tuesday, December 18, 2001

"Butterfly lover's legacy was return of peerless collection to Truckee:

Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice

Deceased Name: Butterfly lover's legacy was return of peerless collection to Truckee

As a young boy in 1931, John Y. Wakefield watched a film of Ximena McGlashan, a Truckee girl, netting butterflies and was inspired to pursue a lifelong interest in entomology.

In 1997, by then living in Truckee himself, Wakefield told a *Sierra Sun* reporter that the film caused him to rush home, construct his own net and begin collecting the short-lived insects.

Sixty-five years after watching the film, Wakefield was able to repay Ximena - or at least her remaining family members and her town - for the interest she had sparked.

He led a campaign to bring a priceless butterfly collection back to Truckee from Nevada City, where it had been moved "temporarily" 61 years earlier.

In a brief autobiography, Wakefield, who died

Continued on page 6



*The author of the following article, **Tom Macaulay**, poses outside the Joseph Research Cabin in the summer of 2013 with President Chaun Mortier and Board Member Barbara Czerwinski. This ends his three-part series. This article was also printed in the Sierra Sun on April 16, 2004.*

Part I of this series was published in the *Sierra Sun* in April 2004. Link, <http://bit.ly/1hR7VXO> . Both Part I, p 4, and Part II, p. 5, are available on the TDHS website at these links. Part I link, <http://bit.ly/1lsdFw2>.

Part II link, <http://bit.ly/OOZFik> .

FORGOTTEN NAMES ALONG THE TRUCKEE RIVER

*This is the **third** installment of a three part column on the once busy communities between Truckee and Verdi, Nevada. The column is guest written by Tom Macaulay, who is Truckee's senior historian and has studied Truckee's history, especially the ice industry, for many years.*

FARAD is seventeen miles below Truckee, adjacent to the right side of the highway. This is the location of the Farad generating station. The flume

Continued on page 4

between the Floriston bridge and Farad is close beside the highway and is seldom visible. The roof of the forebay house is visible from the highway, just above the Farad interchange. The Farad site was originally Mystic Hot Springs, a spa. During cold weather, steam from the hot springs can often be seen along the left or mountain side of I-80, above the plant. When the Farad plant was built the CPRR built a siding across the river and this provided the only access to the outside world until Hwy-40 was built in 1925.



*Farad 1966 Quake Damage; photo courtesy
Truckee Donner Historical Society*

MYSTIC. Eighteen miles below Truckee, one mile below Farad on the CPRR was Mystic, a section house for the CPRR. Charles L. Wiley had a dairy on the highway side of the river, opposite Mystic, to supply milk to families in Floriston. He later moved his dairy to Iceland. On Hwy-40, before I-80 was built, the Forest Service maintained Mystic Campground.

OLD STATE LINE was nineteen miles below Truckee. This is the original California-Nevada State line, surveyed by Houghton-Ives in 1864. It was moved approximately three miles to the east, to its present location, by the Von Schmidt survey in 1872-73.

SECOND CPRR CROSSING OF THE TRUCKEE RIVER, Camp 24, is nineteen plus miles below Truckee and is visible from I-80. It is at the east end of the long, level stretch of highway after passing the Farad interchange. The railroad now crosses back to the highway side of the river. This is sometimes referred to as the site of Hamlin's State Line Mill or Linham station which were twenty one plus miles below Truckee. Linham was a lumber camp for the State Line Mill.

FLEISH diversion, about 20 miles below Truckee, was built in 1905 by the Truckee River General Electric Company. A wide spot alongside I-80 provides a view of the Fleish flume, across the river. The dam is out of sight on the river. The flume continues for two miles along the canyon wall, with one short section of ditch, and is one of the most prominent features of the canyon.

BELL CREEK enters the river twenty plus miles below Truckee and just below Fleish diversion dam. It was served by a suspension foot bridge from the railroad and was a watering point for the CPRR. Some records indicate that this was the site of Hamlin's State Line Mill and property records and old stone foundations near the railroad give credence to the claim.

CALVADA, twenty one miles below Truckee on the CPRR at the State Line surveyed by Von Schmidt in 1872 was a CPRR side track and passing track.

STATE LINE, twenty one plus highway miles below Truckee on I-80 is the present day boundary between California and Nevada. A prominent monument was removed to Truckee when I-80 was built and the site is now indicated by a highway sign.



*Old State Line, U.S. 40 California - Nevada Line;
photo courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society*

FLEISH power house and forebay, twenty two miles below Truckee, are visible across the canyon. Two spill-ways can be seen. One is for Fleish, the other is for the Steamboat Ditch which takes water from the river a short distance upstream. Fleish was named for the Fleishacker Brothers who financed the Truckee River General Electric Company. It had a post office from 1908 to 1909.

THIRD CPRR CROSSING OF THE TRUCKEE RIVER at Fleish. The bridge, just below the Fleish plant, is easily seen from I-80. It was originally called Manassas Bridge and the narrow canyon just below was called Manassas Gap. The railroad crosses the bridge to the mountain side of river.

MARMOL. Twenty-three miles below Truckee on the CPRR, Marmol was the site of the Inyo Marble Company works. Marble was quarried near Keeler, Inyo County, California, shipped to Moundhouse via the Carson and Colorado Railroad, then to Reno via the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, and then to Marmol on the CPRR. The Marmol plant was run by water power which was cheaper than the 100 HP

steam plant formerly used at Keeler. Inyo marble was used in the D. O. Mills building in San Francisco and in Golden Gate Park. Water was diverted from the Truckee river by a dam at Manassas Gap. A private residence is now near the site. Marmol had a post office from 1891 to 1908.

FOULKS MILL. Across the CPRR from Marmol was the site of Foulk's saw mill, later Essex mill and Hamlin's mill. It is now part of the Quilici ranch.

VERDI DIVERSION DAM. Partially visible from I-80 is the Verdi diversion dam, twenty- three and one-half miles below Truckee, built by Truckee River General Electric Company in 1911. Several different diversion dams were built in this area but all have now been replaced by this one dam. Water was supplied to Coldren/Katz/Merrill Ditches, Essex Ice Company, Verdi Lumber Co., and the California Sugar and White Pine Agency. The generating plant is below Verdi and is not visible from I-80.

FOULKS' TRUCKEE RIVER COUNTRY CLUB was on the highway side of the river at river level, between I-80 and the river, near the end of the Verdi diversion dam. This resort, owned by the Foulks family, was on part of the old family homestead and opened in 1901. Access was from a passenger stop on the CPRR which provided a sheltered waiting area. Abutments for the old pedestrian and carriage bridge to cross the river can still be seen. The site is now a private residence.

ESSEX. Twenty-three miles below Truckee on the CPRR was Essex, a coal and fuel stop for the CPRR. The settlement of Essex was in the curve of hills at the lower end of the existing fields.

ESSEX, MUTUAL, AND CRYSTAL Ice Companies operated in the Essex-Verdi area. The Essex Ice

Continued on page 7

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Ximena article continued from page 3

Dec. 8 at age 76, said he was a child prodigy who skipped four years of school and entered college at 14 to study entomology and biology.

Although he had several other occupations, he devoted much of his life to the study of entomology - particularly lepidopterology, the study of butterflies.

Ximena McGlashan learned the subject from her father, well-known Truckee patriarch C.F. McGlashan, with whom she assembled one of the world's largest butterfly and moth collections.

The 20,000 specimens - many a century old - are now, thanks to Wakefield, housed in Donner Memorial State Park's Emigrant Trail Museum in Truckee. [Editor's Note: The collection is still housed at the Museum as of Feb. 2014.]

Wakefield, who retired and moved from San Francisco to Truckee in 1995, was dismayed to learn that the prized collection had been moved to the Nevada County courthouse in Nevada City while awaiting a safe spot in Truckee.

In 1935, C.F. McGlashan's heirs conferred about how best to preserve the butterfly collection, which had been displayed along with Donner Party artifacts in the Rocking Stone Tower, a small gazebo museum McGlashan built atop a huge boulder on his property.

There was nowhere locally to properly store it, so descendants decided on the Nevada City courthouse for the collection, while the Donner Party artifacts joined others at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento.

Wakefield, volunteering to help preserve the collection, worked with the McGlashan family, the California State Parks and the Truckee-Donner Historical Society to return the collection to Truckee.

"His experience was extensive, and he initiated the project," said Jim Smith, who at the time was president of the Historical Society.

In May 1996, county supervisors voted to return the collection to the family, who in turn donated it to the State Parks for exhibit at Emigrant Trail Museum, where the society had a "welcome back" celebration two months later.

Because of concern that it could be moved out of town again, an agreement signed by the McGlashans, society and parks department states the three groups must agree on another safe Truckee location if the collection ever needs to be moved from the museum, Smith said.



*Photos courtesy
of the Truckee
Doner Historical
Society*

Two
images
from the
Ximena
McGlashan's
Butterfly
display.



Editor's Note: At the time, Ximena was the first butterfly "farmer" in the country. She is often referred to as "the Butterfly Princess." She published a monthly magazine for amateur entomologists in 1913-14 known as *The Butterfly Farmer*, by Ximena McClashan, Publisher & Proprietor, Truckee, CA. Copies of these publications are available at the Joseph Research Cabin for viewing. For additional information, please see the May 17, 1914 column in the *New York Times* on Butterfly Farming, and the magazine editions TDHS holds for 1913-14.

Forgotten Names continued from page 5

Company was in the flat pasture to the right of the Verdi diversion dam. Mutual Ice Company was nearby. The Crystal Ice Company was on the edge of existing Verdi and the only remains are known as Marsh's pond.

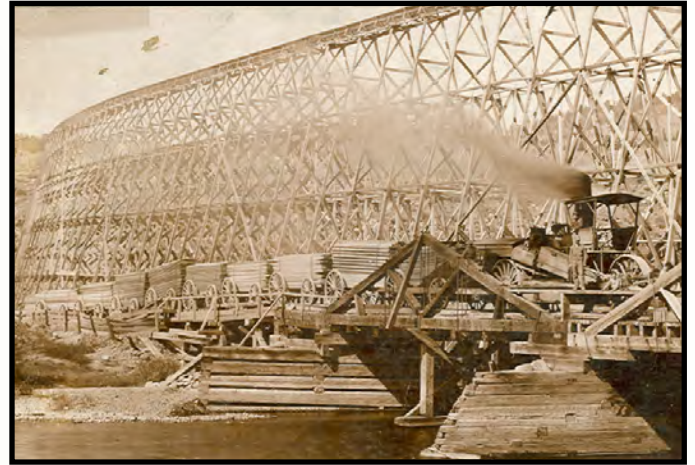
DOG VALLEY and Dog Creek are to the left of 1-80. This is the route discovered in 1845 by Caleb Greenwood and it still provides an alternate to travel through the Truckee canyon. It leads to Boca and Stampede reservoirs, Truckee, Henness Pass Road and Hwy-89.

CRYSTAL PEAK. Just across the California - Nevada State Line, west of Verdi on the Dog Valley road, are the remains of Crystal Peak. It was a thriving community which served the local area and the trade over the Dog Valley grade until the advent of the CPRR. When the CPRR was built across the valley from Crystal Peak, it withered and disappeared. A few foundations can still be found in the sagebrush. It had a post office from 1864 to 1869.

VERDI. Twenty-five miles from Truckee, this town came into being with the construction of the CPRR in 1868. It supplanted Crystal Peak and Essex as the local trading center. The location of Verdi Mill Co. and California Sugar and White Pine Agency, it had a post office from 1869 to the present. It is now a thriving community which is influenced by the growth of nearby Reno. Below Verdi the canyon widens out before it reaches Reno and ghosts have not been followed.

Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society. The only way we can offer programs and events is if YOU, as a volunteer, step up and get involved. TDHS is an all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) organization so any and all donations are gratefully appreciated and tax deductible.

Our mailing address is Truckee Donner Historical Society, P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.



*Verdi flume and steam wagon at Truckee River -
Mclver; photo courtesy of
Truckee Donner Historical Society*

The End

Additional **Calendar of Events** information:

Please note that **Truckee's History Alive** dates, March 27th, June 26th and Sept 25th are Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library and Truckee Branch, Nevada County Library, and the Truckee Historical Society. Portrayal of historical figures and events performed in chattaqua style. Programs will be at 7:00pm, at the Vet's Hall. Please contact cmortier@truckeehistory.org for further information. In addition to the scheduled Truckee Donner Historical Society events listed in the Calendar of Events on page 1, there are several other events whose dates have not yet been set. Please check our website at truckeehistory.org later in the Spring for those dates to be announced.

Those events may include:

- * Railroad Society History Day TBD
- * Donner Hike TBD
- * Mystic Hike TBD
- * Field Trip to Pyramid Lake Tribe Museum



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SPECIAL DONATIONS Memorial Donation \$____ In Honor of _____

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Contact me on ways I can volunteer ☐

Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail? Yes / No

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: