Peter's Corner

March 2014 Issue 1

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/MFIa1w.

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.
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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
Forgotten Names continued from page 5

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 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 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.

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.

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 chautauqua 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

Continued on 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.

"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 reporter that the collection was "moving again," and that he was in the process of moving it to the Nevada County courthouse.

Wakefield told the reporter that his family had to move the collection away from the Rocking Stone Tower because it was "too dangerous.

Wakefield died on Dec. 8 at age 76, leaving behind a legacy of preserving the butterfly collection and a love for entomology.

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 America will be involved, but no one can tell.

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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.

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 Fleisch 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.

FOULKS MILL. Across the CPRR from Marmol was the site of Foukls'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 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
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.

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CALVADA, twenty one miles below Truckee on the CPRR at the State Line was surveyed by Von Schmidt in 1872. It is now a private residence. It was named for the Fleishacker Brothers who owned a sawmill here in 1872. Two spillways 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-five 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 from 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.

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Ximena’s article continued from page 2

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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 1931, Ximena McGlashan’s Butterfly
Farmer was published in the Sierra Sun on April 16, 2004.
Part I of this series was published in the
Sierra Sun in April 2004. Link,
p. 5, are available on the TDHS website at these

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 6

Continued on page 4


**Introducing Your**

**TDHS 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Chaun L. Owens-Mortier

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Bob Bell

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Old Timers' Picnic
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Billie Cornell

Publicity, Position Open
Echoes From The Past, Newsletter Editor
Heidi Sproat

**TDHS e-News Editor**

**Fo rget ten 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 is disappeared. A few foundations can still be found in the sagebrush. 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.

**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 handwritten 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.

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Continued on page 3
Spring 2014

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