



P.O. Box 893
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www.truckeehistory.org

# **ECHOES FROM THE PAST**

# **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**SEPTEMBER 2017** ISSUE 3

## **Dear Members**

As we come to the end of another great season at the Old Jail Museum, I am reflecting upon so many changes that have occurred - some good, some bad. We have never suffered from vandalism at the Old Jail Museum until this year. Twice we have been 'tagged'; it is with sadness that we say the times have changed.

But on the good side, many new visitors this year have graced our doors. We have had the most wonderful time talking to many people from Europe who love coming to our little home in the Sierras.

We have been host to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission in an attempt to get the Masonic Arch onto the local registry, E Clampus Vitus dedicated a new plaque to Jacob Teeter, and we are in the process of an Eagle Scout Project to get new benches in the upper sitting area in the garden.

We are still working with the Railroad Society on the creation of a mutual museum. This also includes discussions with the Friends of the Library and the Kidz Zone on a mutually beneficial and convenient campus.

We will have our Annual Meeting and dinner on

September 19, at the Cottonwood Restaurant starting at 5:30 p.m. for conversation and a no-host bar. Dinner to follow. If you are interested in joining us please call or email cmortier@truckeehistory.org . The cost will be no more than \$28.00 per person.

May I take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being your President again this year. We have come a long way and I hope we continue this upward movement.

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support of this wonderful and most important organization.

Respectfully, Chaun Mortier, President

## **CALENDAR**

Events will be posted online at our website

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TDHS eNews Editor, Heidi Sproat

Truckee Donner Historical Society ("TDHS") Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Joseph Research Library at 10115 Donner Trail Road, Truckee.

Board meetings are open to the public.

TDHS does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information in these articles.

TDHS retains the right to republish submitted material. Please contact TDHS for permission to use any content in this publication.

#### **Notice to Members**

In 2015, the TDHS Board of Directors approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the Society's bi-annual renewal schedule - January or July. For specific details, please visit our website.

We hope you have been continuing to enjoy this quarterly newsletter. We realize that sometimes printed copies are much easier to grab, but we will continue to distribute our Newsletter electronically. As always, the newsletter will be readily available online and accessible on a quarterly basis. If you are a TDHS member, an email will be sent to you advising you of posting.

Editor's Note: This Newsletter is interactive - it is designed to be read *online* and contains links to relevant source material and in many cases, links to larger images for easier viewing.

# **Updates from earlier ECHOES articles**

From the Editor

Since preparing the article about *Patents in the Truckee area* in our June 2017 *Echoes*, p. 10, issue, I finally finished a book published in 2013 called *The Inventor and the Tycoon* by Edward Ball. I used it as a reference about why nitroglycerine was no longer used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad – see Ball, p. 64. While I originally tracked the book down because of several references to the building of the railroad through the Truckee and Donner Summit areas, I originally thought the book would not be particularly interesting.

However, as one travels along the railroad tracks in California, there are California Historical Landmarks marking episodes mentioned in Ball's book. One landmark in particular comes to mind. In the middle of nowhere on Interstate 5 is a small oasis called Harris Ranch, just outside of Hanford, California. I saw a sign for a memorial plaque for the Mussel Slough Tragedy. I recalled reading about the dispute over land title ownership in Ball's book, pp. 329-31. Just a few miles outside of Harris Ranch is the memorial plaque to those who lost their lives during this land Updates article continued on page 2

Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society (TDHS).
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.

Updates article continued from page 2

dispute. What are the odds I never would have realized the connection had I not finished reading the entire book. SO the "six degrees of separation" theory applies to more than just people.

The relationship between the eccentric "inventor", Edweard Muybridge, and the railroad "tycoon", Leland Stanford, took twists and turns over the years they interacted with each other.

So again, imagine this surprised Editor when she sees a collection of Muybridge's studies at the University of Pennsylvania, my husband's alma mater. Reading the Ball book helped me to better understand the politics and economics of the period and Stanford's background in the development of the transcontinental railroad - especially in California. The moral of the story again: keep your eyes and ears open as you never quite know what connections "connect".

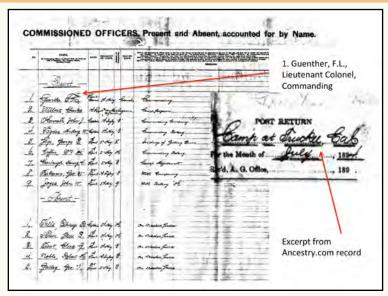
# Strike of 1894 - Effect on Truckee

Additionally, in the December 2016 *ECHOES* issue, pp. 4-5, 7, reference was made to soldiers assigned to the Truckee area railroad, trestles, and bridges to guard against vandalism and sabotage as a result of the national Pullman Strike of 1894. In researching that article, we came across several references to the role of the California National Guard during this strike. Reviewing recently released Ancestry.com historical records, we realized that one of the records was of the "Camp at Truckee, Cal." in July 1894. We tried to match up some of the names in this Commissioned Officers Report record with those mentioned in the Company B article, and to our astonishment, one name did match: Army Colonel Gu(e)nther, p. 174.

Once again, technology intertwines with recently digitized records to bring history to life. (See History Company B First Regiment Infantry, pp. 174, 183, 184, and 206; and

http://www.militarymuseum.org/1894%20Railroad%20Strike.pdf,

Photos in next column.



For a larger image, click on the above photo. Citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Returns from U.S. Military. Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Posts, 1800-1916; Microfilm Serial: M617; Microfilm Roll: 1546.

On July eighteenth, Companies A and B of the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade were ordered to Truckee under command of Major Burdick, to report to Colonel Guenther, United States Army, under whose instructions they were to perform the duties of guarding trestles, bridges, and other railroad property. These two companies remained at Truckee until July twenty-fifth when they returned to Sacramento having been relieved at Truckee by Company B of Auburn, and Company H of Grass Valley, both of the Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.\*

## (Above) Excerpt from

http://www.militarymuseum.org/1894%20Railroad%20Strike.pdf, Adjutant General Report, 1893-1894, Page 247. [page noted as p. 26 - or p. 27, or 1730 in top right corner]. California National Guard and the Railroad Strike of 1894. This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library. Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 10 February 2015.

Original document on file at the California State Library.

You never know what question might be posed to volunteers at Truckee-Donner Historical Society! On Saturday, August 5th, we honored a request from Skywalker Sounds, of Lucasfilm Ltd., © & ™, to record the sound of our Old Jail Museum jail cell door opening. Can't wait to see what this will be used for!

The Nevada County Landmarks Commission recently released a video about some of the historical landmarks in Nevada County. Among other landmarks, this:

short video showcases our own Memorial Arch behind the Old Jail Museum.

# Flags of Distinction By Heidi Sproat and Ron Rettig

Hanging in our own Old Jail Museum is a "G.A.R." (<u>Grand Army of the Republic</u>) silk flag with 38 stars, in a spinning 'bee-hive' pattern, a rare flag composition. If you look closely you'll see that the stars are tilted and appear to be "spinning." Note that "Gen'l Berry Post. No. 85, G.A.R. Truckee, CAL" appears in gold colored letters thereon. See photo at right and 1stdibs website. (Current price: \$3,479.60 CAD!)

One of our TDHS members traced some information about "General Berry" that we thought you would find interesting. **Hiram Gregory Berry** (August 27, 1824 – May 2, 1863), after whom the GAR post was named, was a politician and general in the <u>Army of the Potomac</u> during the American Civil War. He was killed in action by a sharpshooter at the Battle of Chancellorsville, VA in May 1863.

Truckee GAR Post General Berry member A. C. Campbell (see arrow at right) also served on the Union warship USS General Price. The ship Price was originally the Laurent Millaudon, commandeered into the Confederate Navy as CSS General Sterling Price, but was sunk at the Battle of Memphis. The ship was then raised by the Union, refloated and commissioned as the Union ship USS General Price, upon which Mr. A. C. Campbell, later of Truckee GAR Post General Berry served.

In the National GAR Records Program, Historical Summary of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Posts by State, California, and prepared by the National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), entry number 85, confirms that post GEN Berry, of Truckee, Placer County, CA/NV, was named after Major General Hiram Gregory Berry, the Civil War leader.

Another of our TDHS researchers discovered an article in the May 14, 1887 *Truckee Republican* about this very GAR flag. See newspaper clipping, p. 5.

Flags article continues on page 5

Flag donated by Stan Zwarg



GEN. BERRY POST, No. 85. TRUCKEE, CAL OFFICERS .886. PIERCE LAFFAN......Oommander C. H. BARTON. Senior Vice-Commander
DENIS BURCKHALTER. Junior Vice-Commander J. G. BOOTH.....Quartermaster D. W. THORNDYKE.....Surgeon THOS. SMITH......Officer of the Guard SAM'L SMITH.....Sergeant Major C. J. CHAMBERLIN..... Outside Sentinel Meeting, Second and Fourth Monday. NAME. co. SERVICE. ADDRESS. Earton C. H.
Booth J. G.
Burckhalter Denis.
Campbell A. C.
Case Walter G.
Chamberlin Clark J.
Conners John.
Dunn Henry G.
Durney J. N.
Hellwig Jacob.
Hubbard John N.
Lafan Pierce.
Lambrecht Jacob.
McFneeters Dan.
Smith Samuel. Ist Bat, Maine Sharpshooters ... 133d N. Y. Inf. ... 11th N. Y. Battery ... U. S. Gen. Price ... 31st Ohio Inf ... 3d Vt. Light Art ... 18th Wis Inf ... 6th Wis Inf ... 6th Wis Inf ... 26th Maine Inf ... 2d Wis. Inf ... 19th Ind ... Inf ... 19th Ind ... Inf ... 12d Maine Inf ... 12d Maine Inf ... 24d Maine Inf ... 24d Maine Inf ... 25d Maine Inf ... 26d Maine Inf ... 26d Maine Inf ... 26d ... 26d ... 26d ... 28s ... 28 1st Bat, Maine Sharpshooters .... Smith Samuel.... Smith T. J.... Tackaberry Ben. F. Thorndyke D. W... Weed Abner.....

Flags article continued from page 4

# Long May It Wave.

Gen'l Berry Post, No. 85, G. A. R. received this morning a beautiful flag for the use of the post. It is a silk one an substantially made and bordered wit heavy gold fringe. It was made in D troit and cost \$60. It will appear in pulic on Memorial Day.

May 14, 1887 Truckee Republican

And to put cost in perspective, the above article is from the May 14, 1887 *Truckee Republican* newspaper regarding the GAR Flag. In 1887, the flag cost \$60. In 2017 dollars, the cost would be substantially more, the relative price worth escalating to \$1,540. But the cost depends on what comparative benchmark one uses. See this measuring worth cost comparison.

It's amazing what some research will reveal.

And another flag story. In one of the recent collections donated to the TDHS, we noticed this picture of what we believed to be Meadow Lake Union High School students presenting a service flag to the school in honor of Truckee citizens serving in World War II. When we looked for information about this possibility, an article showed up in the *Nevada State Journal* on March 25, 1945, p. 5. And several weeks ago we found the flag in the Joseph Research Library cabin. See also <u>Rare Flags</u>.



This opened book (on the right below) is the 1945 yearbook, the "Chipmunk", from Meadow Lake Union High School. The book is open to the same photo on the lower left of this page.

Photos courtesy of the Editor



# PAGE FIVE

# Service Flag Is Presented

TRUCKEE, Calif., March 24.—
(Special)—The Meadow Lake Union high school service flag, presented to the school by the Truckee high seniors, arrived this week. It is three by five taffeta, with gold fringe and tassels. It is mounted with 58 individual blue stars, and two gold stars, each representing a Truckee high boy or girl in the armed forces.

Outgoing seniors who raised the funds for the flag and presented it as a gift to the school are: Earl Smith, Jr., Patricia Mahne, Betty White, Lupe Reyes, and Howard Hendrix.

The shop class is building a glass covered frame for the flag.

(Above) If you look closely, you will see two GOLD stars, indicating that two service(men) died in service; 58 stars are BLUE; to see details on the history and meaning of the stars, click here

(Left) Nevada State Journal, March 25, 1945, p. 5

# Research and Artifact Update! By Chaun Mortier and Heidi Sproat

This is a new adventure to let the membership know some of what has been happening at the Research Library.

The Schmidt family donated a beautiful set of China (next column, bottom). It was in their house when they bought it in the 1960s. They have also donated a Bible from 1876, numerous household items including two old irons, a salt and pepper shaker set, a sled and saws from the Old Mill at the Railyard. (We checked Replacements.com to see if we could find the pattern and no luck.)

The Titus Family has also donated several items. The Military memorabilia will be on permanent loan to the American Legion Chapter 439 at the Veterans Hall to be on display in the foyer. We are currently indexing and logging numerous pictures and historical items. In this collection are several paintings from Frank Titus, Sr., which were done in the early 1900s. See next page for images.

Although these have been the largest collections provided this year, there have been many more smaller donations. We appreciate all of them!

On the research side, we were asked to help identify the origin of this beautiful token (next column). We were able to let the owner know that John Muir and his wife ran the Palace Dance Hall. Due to issues, they separated and she ran the Red Light Dance Hall. She met an unfortunate fate from a jealous boyfriend but her husband continued to run the Palace Dance Hall. We are still trying to determine where these palaces were located. This was in 1905 in Truckee.

We were also able to provide information to a question posed about the Old Stone Garage located at the corner of Jibboom and Bridge Streets. The requester inquired as to the prior business name in the 1970s. Using donated images from the John Corbett Collection, and scanned by our own Ron Rettig, we were able to track down several photos showing the name of the 1970s establishment,

"Alpenglow Sports / The Hide Side." Images next page.

TDHS addressed numerous questions posed by visitors to the Joseph Research Library, including descendants of lumberman Elle Ellen. We also had inquiries about the depth of Donner Lake, late 1800 period maps, Wally Gellatt, Pollard's Station, Pioneer Monument, Donner Camp Sites, Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road, Summit Tunnel, Schallenberger Ridge, Old U.S. Route 40, the "Lincoln Highway", the "Gateway Motel", Jibboom Street buildings, the first cable tow in the U.S., water pipes in the early 1900s underneath Truckee Veteran Memorial Building, the Truckee Train Depot before its renovation, when "Donner Lake" was "Truckee Lake" (1844)\* and countless other inquiries, many involving "what isn't there anymore" or "what WAS that building".

In reviewing the thousands of images that comprise the John Corbett collection, and which were so painstakingly scanned, we thought you'd be interested in viewing a few additional photos from times gone by. Since they are larger images, we are providing only compressed versions of the images here. See page 7. If you see something you recognize and can add a date, identify people, or offer other period information, please contact us as info@truckeehistory.org.

\* A map, dated 1874 "Lake Tahoe and Surrounding Country Ferdinand Von Leicht, & J.D. Hoffmann, Civil Engineers, 432 Montgomery St. S.F." shows "Truckee Lake" as "Donner Lake." In 1860, the State Legislature passed an act establishing California's first official Geological Survey of California and the act named Josiah D. Whitney to fill the new office. Whitney conducted various surveys until 1874 when funding was not renewed.





Click on these images to view a larger picture

Research article continued from p. 6



Frank Titus Collection, donated 2017



Frank Titus Military Footlocker

Frank Titus Art desk (right)

(Below)
Circa 1970s,
Alpenglow
Sports - The
Hide Side;
Courtesy of
John Corbett
Collection;
unknown
date





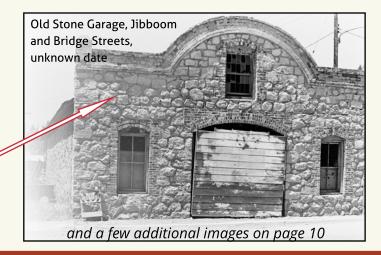
A few samples of John Corbett Collection photos



(Left) Count 'em - 9 fixed wing aircraft in very close flyover formation







# Old Jail Museum Cell Walls By Karl Pape

People visiting the Old Truckee Jail Museum often comment on the amount of steel used to encase the lower floor of the building. Therein lies a story of a gun fight in the jail in 1897 and the response by Nevada County Board of Supervisors to reduce the chances of having a similar event in the future.

The gun fight occurred on March 30, 1897. The then constable, Gus Schlumpf, and a waiter known as Fred King were bringing food to the prisoners. As they entered the jail, a prisoner drew a gun on Constable Schlumpf. He reported that he called for help, grabbed for the prisoner's revolver and drew his own weapon. It appears that the Constable and prisoner fired almost simultaneously.<sup>1</sup>

The Constable lost his thumb in the exchange. The bullet from his gun went "clean though" the prisoner, but struck Fred King killing him instantly. Constable Schlumpf felt responsible for the death of "Fred King" and provided a funeral and a place in his family plot in the Truckee Cemetery.<sup>2</sup>

As a side note, it is interesting that Fred King was not the real name of the waiter. His last name was Schipper. Perhaps, like many, he came from the midwest to start a new life.<sup>3</sup>

This incident convinced the Nevada County Board of Supervisors that the jail needed additional security enhancements. Up to this point, the jail consisted of four rock filled walls and a dirt floor. The clientele were usually the result of too much time spent in either Truckee's 27 saloons or the red light district, but times were changing and the risk of more violent confrontations seemed to be growing.<sup>4</sup>

In October of 1904, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, in a move to make the jail more secure, contracted with the Parcells Safe Company of San Francisco and Oakland for One Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Seven dollars to reinforce the jail. The reinforcement was to be accomplished with

five sixteenths (5/16) steel plate and included the building of three cells.<sup>5</sup> The cells were to be eight feet long, eight feet high and six feet wide. There were to be twenty three quarter inch holes drilled in the side and back of the cells for ventilation.

The cells were to have lattice doors with locks similar to those on the Nevada County Jail in Nevada City.<sup>6</sup> During the building of the cells however, it was determined that the thickness of the steel plate would only allow two cells to be built.<sup>7</sup>

The Parcells Safe Company would eventually become a victim of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.<sup>8</sup>

#### Footnotes

1 Letter, A. F. Schlumpf to Mr. Egbert Schipper, August 14, 1909.

2 Ibid. 3 Ibid.

4 Contract between The Nevada County Board of Supervisors and the Parcells Safe Company, October 5, 1904.

5 lbid. 6 lbid. 7 Determination by Author

8 Crocker-Langley San Francisco Directory for 1905; San Francisco 1907 City Directory.

#### **Editor's Notes:**

Searching for images about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake revealed this image of what remained of Parcells Safe Company.

Other references about Parcells Safe Company assembled at this "wiki" reference, including information about a temporary Parcells facility in Oakland after the earthquake.

Below) Image of Parcells Safe Company advertisement in the Western Architect and Engineer of California, Pacific Coast States, February 1909, Vol. 16, p. 148 (digitized by Google).



Cell Walls article continued from page 8



Photos of Old Jail Museum Cell Walls Courtesy of Greg Zirbel



(Left) Front door rock work



(Above) Note the width of this entrance door

If you haven't visited the Old Jail Museum to see these walls, you'll have to wait until next summer when the jail will again be open.

(Below) Holding ring front door



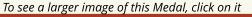
# Rotary Grant for Digitization Of Image Collection By Heidi Sproat



On August 1, 2017, TDHS made a short presentation to the Rotary International, Club of Truckee, requesting grant monies to assist in the digitization of many recently donated photographs and artifacts. That effort was successful and we are pleased to report that TDHS volunteers are diligently combing through the mounds of items to representative samples of images that best display Truckee's history. TDHS volunteers are taking a two-pronged approach - to digitize indices that have already been prepared, and separately, to scan and start to digitize recently donated photographs and images from times gone by. We are currently in the process of designing an Image Collection that we plan to make both "browsable" and searchable by subject matter or by individual collection. TDHS sincerely thanks the Truckee Rotary for their grant which enables us to start this most important project. To view a few of the upcoming images in the online database project.

# 1918 Pioneer [Donner] Monument Commemorative Medal

At the July 15, 2017 Old Timers' Picnic, collector Nathan Brunson shared with us a 1918 Pioneer Monument (Donner) Commemorative Medal. He kindly allowed us to take photos of this medal. Pioneer Monument, located in Donner Memorial State Park, will be 100 years old on June 6, 1918. If you haven't seen the monument, stop by and take a look.





## Gems contributed from members

Trips in Packard sedan from about 7:45 on Old U.S. Route 40, Donner Lake, Virginia City, . . . later towards the end, Lake Tahoe, and color footage possibly along Hwy. 89 around the lake and driving in snow.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_2dUOGZG3NM

# Our June 2017 article on Patents in the Truckee area



A Dynamite sling?

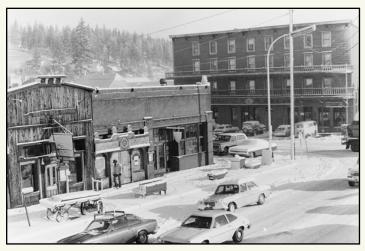
(*Left*) From
San Francisco
Chronicle, Sunday,
October 20, 1895, p. 1,
"Dynamite Slings and
Deadly Arrows"

Caption reads:
"Colonel McGlashan
Throwing Dynamite
Bombs"

Colonel McGlashan purportedly "made several ineffectual attempts to apply for a patent on a dynamite bow or arrow." He was, however, successful in getting his Catapult for Throwing Projectiles patented in 1899, patent # 629044.

#### **Editor's Note:**

A thousand thank yous to our expert proofreaders Patricia and Ron. This newsletter would NOT be possible without their eagle proofreading eyes. John Corbett collection images continued from page 7



(Above) Winter scene at the corner of Donner Pass Rd. and Bridge Street. Note the building in the far left is "Grey's Toll Station", two doors to the right is Bar of America, and "Boice Realty" is on the ground floor corner office of the Truckee Hotel. To see a larger image of this picture, click on it.



(Above) Star Hotel



(Above) Looking eastward towards Commercial Row; to see a larger image of this picture, click on it.



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ISTORICAL SOCIETY



So what is this "QR CODE" or the squirley-looking black & white icon
Some of you may be familiar with these strange looking icons. The black & white cross-hatched icon represents our new

website at truckeehistory.org. If you have a "smart" phone or iPad with a 'QR Reader,' all you need do is scan your device OVER the icon and you should be directed to our website. And what would one use this for? On any printed material, you could 'scan any QR code' and be taken to their website immediately. In our case, you can go immediately to our truckeehistory.org website and see the Calendar for upcoming events.

# **Membership Application | Renewal Form**

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## TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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