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Administrator's Notes

by Ralph Gibson, Museums Administrator

The Heritage Trail continues through Labor Day weekend with 15 more museums and a



Donner Summit History Hike. Visit our website at www.placer.ca.gov/heritagetrail or give us a call (530-889-6500) for the full schedule and more information. If you have kids or grandkids, a Student Scavenger Hunt is part of this year's event and if they complete their adventure they will be entered into a drawing for great prizes including a Samsung Galaxy 8 tablet and a Kindle Fire tablet. Open to everyone is our drawing for three great gift baskets. All you have to do is pick up a blue Get-Up-And-Go card at one of our participating museums and get it stamped at eight museums to enter the drawing. Your summer adven-

ture, and perhaps a summer prize, awaits!

On August 17th from 4 to 6pm we will have the grand opening of our Gold Rush Museum! You are all invited to attend as we unveil what is truly a new museum. In 2014 we closed our Gold Country Museum in the Gold Country Fairgrounds and relocated to the Auburn Depot at 601 Lincoln Way. We changed the name to the Gold Rush Museum but, honestly, we changed a lot more than that. There are certainly hints of the museum from the fairgrounds, but there is a lot that is new. Like the old museum, we have an indoor panning stream and a mining tunnel, but both are much different and more dynamic. We tackled topics that were ignored in the old museum and added a new twist that will appeal to a new audience. We are proud of our latest museum and we hope to see you on August 17th as we celebrate the grand opening.

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Dysentery, rheumatism,
scoury and infections

Bragging rights were the
ultimate goal.

There is only so much
you can do in the face of
dirt, dust, and mud,

Remember, it's not too late
to pay your annual dues!

Collection Strategy

by Kasia Woroniecka, Curator of Collections

Gold Rush Medicine

Scientific developments in the 19th century had a major impact on understanding health and disease. Yet medicines of the 1850s did not produce desired results and were often toxic and addictive. Anyone working in the goldfields during the Gold Rush was at risk of serious disease. Many died from treatments that consisted of the use of mercury, opium, arsenic, cocaine, heroin, purging and bleeding.

One of the objects in our collection that was commonly found in a surgeon's medical kit in the 19th century is a bloodletting tool called a fleam. We know today that bloodletting is not effective for most diseases, yet at the time when antibiotics and antiseptics were not yet discovered bloodletting was used to treat most ailments, including pneumonia and gangrene. The u-shaped blade of the fleam is spring-loaded and activated by the trigger above it. Bloodletting killed more people than it cured, and use of the practice gradually diminished to a few select medical conditions.

The lack of sanitation and medical assistance, as well as a poor diet, meant that even a common cold could develop into

a serious, and possibly lethal, illness.

Dysentery, rheumatism, scurvy and infections from injury were common. One of the tinctures sold lo-

cally to battle some of these symptoms was the McDonald and Levy's Compound of Manzanita. Produced by Richard McDonald, who opened a drug store on J Street in Sacramento in 1849, the medicine was distributed by his partner, Mr. Levy, who traveled to remote mining camps selling medical supplies. The drug contained in this interesting bottle had mildly astringent, diuretic and

anti-diarrheal properties. The bottles were cast and blown in the eastern United States and would take several months to deliver to Sacramento.

One of the medicines that claimed to cure multiple ail-



Fleam
C. 1850-1870



Compound of Manzanita
C. 1854

ments including bronchitis, colds, sore throat, consumption and bleeding of the lungs was J. R. Stafford's Olive Tar. It was first sold in the 1850s and the medicine could be ingested or applied topically. According to one testimonial used in an 1855 advertisement, J. R. Stafford's Olive Tar was also a successful remedy for the sore backs of horses.

Nineteenth century medicines often offered hope but not much more. They presented a solution to those who had no access or could not afford a visit to a doctor. The fact that many spurious cure-alls are still being bottled and pressed into pills today serves as a reminder that our journey to understand and treat illness is far from over.

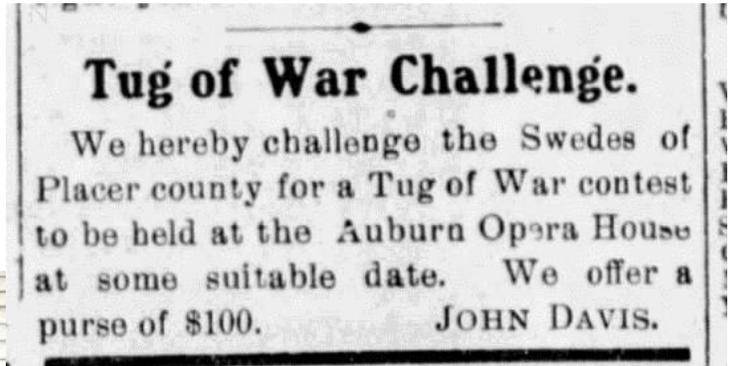


Olive Tar
C. 1850

From the Archives: July 4th Tugs-of-War

by Bryanna Ryan, Curator of Archives

In honor of Independence Day, here are a few items we would like to share from the archives. Tug-of-War competitions were extremely popular events and a staple of July 4th celebrations throughout Placer County. Teams could be made



up from many different groupings. Some popular pairings were married versus unmarried men, railroad men versus local “strong men” or simply according to whatever community the participants called home. Pulls could last over an hour and drew large crowds. There was usually a small pot of money involved, but bragging rights were the ultimate goal. How will you spend your July 4th?

TUG OF WAR.
 The tug of war between the One Ton Railroad Team and a team of local strong men, was won by the latter after a strenuous pull with a margin of $\frac{3}{4}$ an inch. The affair was pulled off at the Plaza, downtown, and was one of the leading features of the day. The teams were evenly matched, and the \$50 prize was either teams' money until the referee fired his pistol. The match was held on a specially constructed platform, and drew an immense crowd to the Plaza.

Weight of Auburn team: Pilliard 152 pounds, F. Henny 153 pounds, Joe Bernhard 167 pounds, J. Viehmeler 161, W. M. Hicks 165 pounds, Vic Johnson 163 pounds, Geo Johnson 187 pounds, J. Malmberg 178 pounds, Alex Ross, anchor, 198 pounds; total 1522 pounds F. S. Roumage captain.

Weight of the Railroad team 1885 pounds, captained by Carl Sather.

Before the big tug of war came off, two juvenile teams had a heated contest for a purse of \$10.



Those Old Carpets are History

by Katy Bartosh, Curator of Education

Have you ever had to move a fragile Victorian tableau of taxidermied birds? Or a nineteenth-century fainting couch? These items just got checked off our museum worker's bucket lists last month with our flooring renovation at the Bernhard.

lections, began moving artifacts in late May. Things really began to pick up on Saturday, June 2nd when the museum officially closed to visitors. The curtains



and durability of the new carpet, will make it well worth the whirlwind effort.

Special thanks to Fran Hanson and Daphne Lake for washing the Bernhard Museum drapes. With thousands of visitors and Living History students they collect a lot of dust, so this job is very important. The museum looks and smells great! But don't take our word for it, come see for yourself!

For over twenty years, the Bernhard Museum carpet has been trod upon by tens of thousands of visitors. All of them walking in and out, rain or shine. This foot traffic has done a number on the carpet, which Placer County Custodial has valiantly tried to maintain. However, there is only so much you can do in the face of dirt, dust, and mud, and this summer the carpeting at the Bernhard was replaced.

Kasia Woroniecka, our Curator of Col-

came down, artifacts made their way up stairs or out to the winery, and the movers came Monday. By Wednesday, the carpet installation was done, and it was time to move everything back and start cleaning and redecorating!

This was a real team effort! And hopefully, the increased stain resistance



News from Placer County Historical Society

by April McDonald-Loomis, President

April400@wavecable.com (530) 823-2128

The Society was pleased to present a plaque to the Gold Rush Museum at the Heritage Trail event on June 16th. The plaque was to commemorate the legacy of May Perry. She was so very influential in forming the basis of our

who first suggested that May deserved some kind of recognition. Thanks also go to Karri Samson, our long time Landmarks Committee Chairperson, for following through and getting the plaque made.

Speaking of Heritage Trail, the Benton Welty Classroom was lucky enough to have Christie Brzyszc and Sandy Rogers back to do the quill and ink penmanship activity. There was a good turnout of families that came to visit



museum system as it exists today. She fought tooth and nail to turn the little exhibit set up for the Sesquicentennial into a full-time museum. We have some of her letters to the Board of Supervisors, and she was not a little lady writing polite notes. She demanded action and most often was very successful. I am sure some of those supervisors trembled when they received her letters! A special thank you to Archives Volunteer Patt Gray for getting the process started. She was working on some of May's letters and scrapbooks and became fascinated by this very charismatic woman. It was Patt

The Society gets quite a few newsletters from other societies, and one of the best just recently received was from the Donner Summit Historical Society. Over the week end of September 15-16th they are hosting their annual Donner Party Hikes. If you are interested in this part of Placer County history, this might be the perfect event for you. As well as several walking tours, some focusing on the Donner sites, one on Roller Pass, one on railroad tunnels and snow sheds. Hey even offer a driving tour. Check out their packed schedule at donnerpartyhike.com

the historic classroom. Thanks always go to Jean Allender for being the go-to person for the classroom and to the other Society members who volunteered their time.

We will not have another Dinner Meeting until October 4th. The speaker has yet to be booked but we will certainly let you all know before October.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Remember, it's not too late to pay your annual dues!

Placer County Historical Organizations

Colfax Area Historical Society

Chris Miller
(530) 346-8599
colfaxhistory.org

Donner Summit Historical Society

Bill Oudegeest (209) 606-6859
donnersummithistoricalociety.org

Foresthill Divide Historical Society

Sandy Simester
(530) 367-3535
foresthillhistory.org

Fruitvale School Hall Community Association

Lyndell Grey
(916) 645-3517

Golden Drift Historical Society

Sarah Fugate
(530) 389-2121

Historical Advisory Board,

Glenn Vineyard
(916) 747-1961

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center

Richard Yue
(530) 346-7121

Lincoln Highway Association

Bob Dieterich
bobd@iname.com
lincolnhighwayassoc.org

Lincoln Area Archives Museum

Elizabeth Jansen
(916) 645-3800
laamca.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society

Karen Clifford
(916) 663-3871

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Mark Murphy
(916)774-5934
roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

The Museum of Sierra Ski History and 1960 Winter Olympics

David C. Antonucci
(775)722-3502
tahoemuseum.org

Native Sons of the Golden West Parlor #59

Dave Allen (530) 878-2878
dsallen59@sbcglobal.net

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association

Mario Farinha
(530) 269-2412

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Marnie Carr
(530) 583-1762
northtahoemuseums.org

Placer County Historical Society

April McDonald-Loomis
(530) 823-2128
placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Placer County Museums Docent Guild

Tom Innes
(530) 888-8969

Rocklin Historical Society

Hank Lohse
(916) 624-3464
rocklinhistory.org

Roseville Historical Society

Christina Richter
(916) 773-3003
rosevillehistorical.org

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society

Lynn Carpenter
(530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society

Toni Rosasco
(530) 888-8036
pcgenes.com

Roseville Fire Museum

Jim Giblin (916) 538-1809
rosevillefiremuseum@gmail.org
rosevillefiremuseum.org

Roseville Public Library

Christopher Webber
(916)774-5239
www.roseville.ca.us/library

July

- 5** 2:00 pm Placer County Historical Society board meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 906-4901
- 7** 8:00 am Heritage Trail 8am-Noon at Fruitvale School and 10am-Noon at Sierra College Natural History Museum
- 9** 6:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society board meeting, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464
- 10** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003
- 14** 10:00 am Heritage Trail at the Placer County Museum, the Gold Country Medical History Museum and the Auburn Chinese Joss House.
- 18** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society general meeting, Loomis Library (916) 663-3871
- 19** 6:00 pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535
- 21** 10:00 pm Heritage Trail 10-4 at the Lincoln Area Archives Museum 10-2 at the Wheatland History Museum
- 26** 7:00 pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076
- 28** 10:00 am Heritage Trail at the Colfax Area History Museum, the Golden Drift Museum and the Donner Summit Historical Society Museum

August

- 4** 10:00 am Heritage Trail at the Roseville Historical Society Carneige Museum, the Roseville Telephone Museum and the Maidu Museum & Historic Site
- 7** 9:00 am Historical Organizations Committee Meeting at the Bernhard Museum Winery. 291 Auburn-Folsom Road.
- 11,12** 9:00 am Heritage Trail Hike with the Donner Summit Historical Society. Meets at Donner Ski Ranch parking lot.
- 13** 6:00 pm Rocklin Historical Society board meeting, Parks & Recreation Office, 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-3464
- 14** 4:00 pm Roseville Historical Society board meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville (916) 773-3003
- 15** 5:30 pm Historical Advisory Board meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500
- 15** 6:00 pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis Library (916) 663-3871
- 17** 4:00 pm Grand Opening of the Gold Rush Museum. 601 Lincoln Way, Auburn (530) 889-6500
- 31** 4:00 pm Heritage Trail at the DeWitt History Museum. 2985 Richardson Drive, Auburn. (530) 889-6500
- 31** 7:00 pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076

