

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
www.truckeehistory.org

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2014 ISSUE 3

Dear Membership:

We are having a very active year for the Society. While many new docents have volunteered their time to keep the jail open to the public, we are still in need of more. We anticipate many more visitors this next season with the new sidewalk project underway and the proposed restaurant at the east end of Jibboom Street. We need to be able to take advantage of this increased foot traffic. It would also be wonderful if we could start having the museum open during the week.

We expanded the Old Timers' Picnic this year to include some historical displays from the Railroad Society, William Passmore Camp 25, Sons of Union Veterans and other participants.

We have created some wonderful partnerships with Alpine Mounting, Friends of the Library and the Truckee Donner Railroad Society to be able to expand the knowledge base of our wonderful town. Our partnership with the Friends of the Library has created a wonderful speaker program "*Truckee's History Alive!*" which has been well attended.

Truckee Donner History Society attended the 2014 Rib Fest, the Truckee Tahoe Air Fair and had a booth at the August 7th Truckee Thursdays.

We re-did the Constable Cell exhibit in the Old Jail Museum and upgraded the Titus Display, Ice Harvest and Hobart Mills. We have created a mini-exhibit at the Research Library for the *USS Donner* and the *USS Truckee*.

The Old Jail Museum was re-stained, cleaned and painted this year by the wonderful volunteer work of C.A.T.T. (Contractor's Association Truckee Tahoe). Many thanks to them, it's beautiful! We received a grant from the Lake Tahoe Garden Club to replant many native flowering plants in the garden. We were involved in the new sidewalk project by the Town of Truckee and were given monies to improve the driveway and the garden area of the Old Jail Museum.

We have had many professionals in all types of fields come to us for our information which is now readily available to the public. This is in no part a small task and I have to thank the volunteers at the Joseph Research library for their many hours of dedication to be sure that all of this information is available at a moment's notice.

We wish to extend our thanks to Dwight Teeter, the *USS Donner Association* and our anonymous donor who all helped us this year with

very gracious donations so we can continue to bring our membership and members of the public a more refined view of Truckee's History. We also want to thank the McGlashan Family for their continued support of the Society and its goals of keeping the McGlashan butterfly collection in Truckee and available for viewing. We are currently working with the Sierra Parks Foundation on this project.

We are eternally grateful to all our members who each year dig a bit deeper and share with us so we may continue to grow and develop a stronger Society. We cannot keep this wonderful growth spurt up without all your support - be it monies or time. Last but by no means least, I need to give a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers that donate their time to the Society. Whether it is as a docent for the jail, a researcher at the Library, a worker bee for our many projects or activities, you are all an integral part of the heart and soul of the society. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child and in this case it takes a village to continue the growth of the Truckee Donner Historical Society and you are our Village. To anyone who may have a few hours a month and need to fill them please let us know and we will fit our needs around your schedule and interests.

I am honored to call myself your President. Chaun L. Mortier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 18

Truckee History Alive! Series, 7 p.m., Vet's Hall
September 23* - Membership Dinner at The Lodge Restaurant & Pub in Tahoe Donner 6 p.m.

* Please note the change in date from Sept. 30.

(More event info on page 7)

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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.



(Above) Truckee Donner Historical Society President Chaun Mortier with Dwight Teeter, June 12, 2014. Photo courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society.

Dwight Teeter, descendant, great grandson of famous sheriff and Truckee Constable Jacob Teeter, recently visited his grandfather's stompin' grounds in June 2014. While Dwight Teeter is currently a Professor of Journalism and Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee, he was visiting the California area and stopped by the Research Cabin to say hello - and to make a donation to TDHS earmarked for none other than Old Jail Museum upgrades in memory of his "famous" relative. His great grandfather, **Jacob Teeter**, was known for enforcing the law with a pick handle instead of a gun. Teeter was killed in a violent gunfight with another constable James Reed at Hurd's Saloon on November 7th, 1891.

If you were able to attend the 2014 Truckee July 4th parade, you would have seen the mock jail and voting placards hailing "Election Tomorrow - Vote for Jake Teeter or Jim Reed." Photos taken of the historical jail "float" at the parade are viewable at this link (<http://bit.ly/1s4IOZL>).



(Right) Old Jail Museum 4th of July Parade "Float." Photo courtesy of Heidi Sproat.

TRUCKEE HISTORY ALIVE! PROGRAM CONTINUES

If you missed either of the *Truckee History Alive!* series in March with Captain John Sutter (David Fenimore) appearing or in June with Virginia Reed Murphy (Cathryn Fairlee), take note of the **third** program in the series, **September 18 with Frank X. Mullen as Caleb Greenwood at Veterans Hall at 7 p.m.** Full Details will be emailed to those on our TDHS eNews mailing list. In the most recent eNews, there was a link to photos from the June Reed program. If you missed those, here is the link (<http://bit.ly/Wy6DWh>) to some of the photos taken that evening. If you would like to subscribe to our TDHS eNews, please visit our website at www.truckeehistory.org and sign up.

FIRE AND ICE

TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION

A PLEA FOR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEER PROJECT

The 2nd Edition was created in 1994 with contributions from an amazing group of people. The names include Doug Barrett, Patricia Shiu, Tom Macaulay, Paul A. Lord, Jr., Marshall F. Lyons, George Pace, Ed McMills, Guy Coates and Sharon Pace Arnold.

Now in the year 2014, a mere 20 years later, we find ourselves without inventory. Of course this now means creating a 3rd edition.

We are reaching out to our membership to ask if anyone would like to be on a committee to edit and develop the third edition. The formatting we used 20 years ago has now become outdated and is no longer used. This will mean retyping each chapter into word documents. It is now the time to decide what should be added to this wonderful time capsule of Truckee's History.

We have the assistance of our very own local weather Historian, "The Storm King," Mark McLaughlin, to help get it printed and republished. Please contact me at cmortier@truckeehistory.org if you are interested in being a part of this amazing project. TDHS is still able to sell the 1st edition, now considered to be a collectors item. This will fill in the gaps until we finish this next 3rd edition. 1st Editions are still available through our website, The Bookshelf, and the Emigrant Trail Museum.

We are having to rebuild the text database as times have changed. The 2nd Edition is completely out of stock. The 1st edition was created in 1981 and there are only a few remaining copies available.

Looking forward to hearing from our wonderful volunteers about exploring this unique opportunity.

Chau Mortier



OLD JAIL MUSEUM STAINING PROJECT

JUNE 6, 2014

Grateful thanks are extended to C.A.T.T. Community Project and volunteers who graciously donated their time and talents to stain the Old Jail Museum in downtown Truckee on June 6, 2014.

Josh Root of Root Design Electric was the Project Manager for the staining of the Truckee Old Jail Museum. Josh, along with Jim Easterbrook (Easterbrook Painting, Inc.), Robert Cattaneo (United Paint – Stain and Laquer), Ryan Swenson (Simpson Strong-Tie), Nancy Bruton, and Truckee Paint Mart donated their time and materials for this project.

Project Manager Josh Root expressed "It was a wonderful experience to work with our fellow C.A.T.T. Members and volunteers from the community on this historic project." A special thank you to Nancy Bruton, community member who participated purely to give back! Please join C.A.T.T. Community Project as we continue to benefit our community with projects like these!"

For more information about this project or other C.A.T.T. Community Projects, contact Chairman Josh Root at 530-307-0717 or rootski@sbcglobal.net, or visit their website at <http://www.truckeecommunitybuilding.com/>.



(Above) BEFORE staining the Old Jail Museum June 6, 2014; C.A.T.T. Community Project. Photo courtesy of Josh Root, C.A.T.T. Community Project Chairman.

Continued on page 6

RENO ICE MAN RETURNS TO TRUCKEE



(Left to Right) Betty and Tom Macaulay, Denny Dickinson, and Dennis Beeghly, standing outside the TDHS Joseph Research Cabin. Photo courtesy of Barbara Czerwinski.

Just another glorious summer day at the Joseph Research Library with the "Reno Iceman," Tom Macaulay and his wife Betty, Library Research Volunteer Denny Dickinson and TDHS Treasurer and Photo Archivist, Dennis Beeghly. Macaulay is TDHS' historian emeritus and one of the foremost natural ice industry historians.

Want to get involved and unsure how? If you are in town, please make a trip to the Joseph Research Library any Sunday from Noon to 4 p.m. or Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. located at 10115 Donner Trail Road, Truckee. Do you have time to volunteer from home on your computer please email info@truckeehistory.org. Or last but not least, leave a message at 530-582-0893 (Note: the phone number is only checked twice per week when the library is open).

Denny Dickinson, TDHS member and donor of books and maps, including a select computation of 13 articles related the Chinese in the Truckee area. Denny will be relocating to Santa Fe to be with family and work with the Habitat for the Humanities this month.

Dennis Beeghly is the TDHS's treasurer extraordinaire. He lives in Sparks, NV and comes every week and until

last October also brought Tom for the Thursday 10 to 2 research library openings. Dennis is also the railroad and photograph expert. He also builds museum exhibits (check out the Titus Family exhibit at the Old Jail Museum). Dennis' wife, Linda, frequently makes decorative cakes for TDHS special events. It is worth attending these events just for a piece of her cake.

Barbara Czerwinski and Billie Cornell

RESEARCH REQUEST OF JULY 8, 2014

Question: I recently was told this section of land is called the Polaris Tract and read a very small blurb on the Internet about an old town named Polaris. I would be interested in reading more and seeing any photos of the old buildings or ice works. Where is the best place to start looking?

This question caught researcher TDHS President Chaun Mortier's interest and she too began to wonder about more details as she knows a great deal about the Tahoe Ice Company but just not that much about Polaris itself.

So as Chaun learned, so shall our readers.

Polaris was a siding for the Central Pacific Railroad Company and was the shipping point for the natural ice harvested and stored by the Tahoe Ice Company and then the National Ice Company. The capacity of the Ice House at Polaris totaled 12,000 tons and the house was divided into three rooms. A crew of men working the ice was estimated between 60 to 100 men with wages 90 cents an hour and the crews worked a nine hour day. The last ice harvest occurred in the early 1920s.

The manager's house was located on the north side of the river across from the Ice plant and is affectionately remembered by early Truckeeites as the "Pink Palace." It was the last remnants of the Ice industry and was razed in 1982.

Editor's Note: After a cursory review of some online articles, this editor located other references to Polaris in Tom Macaulay's article, *Forgotten Names Along the Truckee* in the Winter 2012, p. 5, Issue 1 of the TDHS Echoes Newsletter; and this link (<http://bit.ly/Wtd8AF>) in the *Tahoe Tribune*, Dec. 19, 2001, also by Tom Macaulay, *Ghosts in the Truckee River Canyon*. Further, we discovered another Macaulay article entitled "Truckee and the Ice Harvest," published in the first 1981 edition book *Fire & Ice A Portrait of Truckee*, pp. 32-37.

Editors' Note: Serendipitously, "Reno Iceman" was visiting the Joseph Research Cabin just after this research request came in. As luck would also have it, Reno Iceman Macaulay presented an unpublished article about the Truckee Ice Company. The article is published herein in part, to be continued in the next Echoes later this year.

TRUCKEE ICE COMPANY AT MARTIS CREEK

The Truckee Ice Company was incorporated on July 10, 1884 in San Francisco by M.L. Cheney, Clark W. Crocker, Thomas McAulay, George W. Scott, and A.W. Sisson.¹ A letterhead for the company lists each man as a director and A.W. Sisson as President, C.W. Crocker as Vice President, G.W. Scott as Secretary and treasurer, and T. McAulay as Superintendent.²

Superintendent McAulay was instructed to proceed to Martis Creek, Nevada County, and construct an ice works. The budget for this work was established at \$30,000.³

The *Truckee Republican* first reported on work at Martis Creek in June of 1885. Twenty men had steady employment constructing a substantial granite and concrete dam with a base of forty feet, a height of forty to fifty feet, and a length of 200 to 300 feet, one of the finest dams in that portion of the county. It would create a pond of not less than ten acres, favorably situated for ice purposes. The work, including ice houses, would be completed during the summer and the plan ready for ice harvests during the following winter.

Since the plan was located on the south side of the Truckee River, and the Central Pacific Rail Road was on the north side, a railroad bridge would be built to provide access to the ice house.⁴

The capacity was about 5,000 tons, making it one of the smallest plants in the Truckee basin.

There is no evidence that the railroad bridge was ever built. However, the Truckee River was bridged by the flume of Sisson Wallace & Company,⁵ and this bridge may have been used by the Truckee Ice Company. This 32" V flume was built in 1872 and extended two and one quarter miles up Martis Creek. It was later extended to four miles. The Richardson Brothers flume which was built in July 1874, one and one half miles long, connected with the Sisson Wallace flume, giving a total length of five and one half miles.⁶

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LITTLE KNOWN TRUCKEE FACTS

* In 1882, Southern Pacific built a Roundhouse that could house 22 locomotives that helped to transport freight over Donner Summit. See photos below.

* Elle Ellen built a water works comprising of a ditch and flume system from Alder Creek to Trout Creek to supply enough water to operate his three mile flume from his second sawmill (Tahoe Donner) to his lumber yard at the rail yard. c. 1877. Source: Nevada County Tax Records.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC ROUNDHOUSE



(Above) Southern Pacific Roundhouse, Truckee, CA, c. 1920s.
Photo courtesy of Truckee Donner Historical Society.



(Above) Truckee SPRR Roundhouse Birdhouse, designed by Greg Zirbel. Greg designs Historical Landmark Replica Birdhouses. For more information, please visit <http://neattweets.biz/>.

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Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Old Jail Museum article continued from page 3



(Above) AFTER staining the Old Jail Museum
June 6, 2014; C.A.T.T. Community Project.
Photo courtesy of Josh Root

Thank you to all the wonderful support and volunteers who made the staining of the Old Jail Museum a reality this June.

C.A.T.T. Mission Statement

To be a conduit for funds, materials, volunteerism and project coordination towards the restoration or construction of selected structures that are deemed beneficial to the community.

OLD TIMERS' PICNIC JULY 19, 2014

On Saturday, July 19, a delegation of Old Timers came together for an outdoor picnic at the Truckee River Regional Park. Besides TDHS, members of other local history organizations were also present.

Several very prominent faces appeared that beautiful Saturday, including 'Reno Iceman' Tom Macalay and his wife Betty, Frank Kearney, grandson of the same rancher Frank F. Kearney, Dwight Teeter, grandson of the lawman Jacob ("Jake") Teeter, members of the Sutton family, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp 25, Truckee Donner Railroad Society and others whose interest in history has continued to keep Truckee's history very much alive. Entertained by local "period" singer songwriter Richard Blair, and supplied with a delicious cake to celebrate the event, a fun afternoon was had by all who attended as they recounted, relayed, reminisced, and shared photos of times gone by. There were photos in the *Sierra Sun* (link = <http://bit.ly/Uyq1aZ>) and others are available at this link = <http://bit.ly/1nAQxfB>.

Truckee Ice Co. article continued from page 5

The *Truckee Republican* reported in April of 1880 that a bridge across the Truckee River had been completed by H.L. Day. A foot bridge the entire length of the 150 foot bridge was included, and the bridge "is made to support the large Martis Creek flume which will be finished in a short time."⁷ There is no additional information about this bridge or the flume, and we are left to wonder if the original flume failed or was replaced by a newer, larger facility.

A large flat between the Truckee River and the Central Pacific Railroad on the north side of the river was the terminus for the Sisson Wallace & Company flume. It was here that the Richardson Brothers built a finishing mill to process the lumber sawed by their Martis Creek mill further up Martis Creek. This flat was served by several railroad sidings installed earlier, in August 1874.⁸ Records are not clear, but it appears that sidings on this flat also served the Truckee Ice Company.

The Truckee Ice Company joined with many other companies which competed for the market for ice from the Truckee basin. The industry had grown since 1869 when the Boca Mill Company harvested its first crop of 8,000 tons at Boca.⁹ By 1879, the harvest was 49,000 tons,¹⁰ although poor weather in 1883 reduced the crop to 30,000 tons.¹¹

Ice wars raged in the Truckee basin. The business had proved to be profitable, thus drawing more and more producers to the area. In years of poor weather there was a small crop, resulting in high prices. When the winter was cold, these same companies harvested large crops which they had to sell for whatever price they could command.

Notes:

1. Articles of Incorporation, California State Archives
2. Macaluay family collection
3. *Truckee Republican* 1/27/1886; 3/2
4. *Truckee Republican* 7/15/1885
5. *Truckee Republican* 10/08/1872; 3/1
6. *Truckee Republican* 8/4/1874
7. *Truckee Republican* 4/7/1880; 3/4
8. *Truckee Republican* 8/27/1874; 3/2
9. *Illustrated History of Sacramento*, California State Library
10. *Reno Evening Gazette* 4/9/1879; 2/2
11. *Truckee Republican* 1/20/1883; 3/4

Truckee Ice Co. article continued in next Echoes

Roundhouse / Birdfeeder article continued from page 5

BIRDBOUSES HELP TRUCKEE'S PAST COME ALIVE

We have many wonderful artists in Truckee. Maybe it's the mountain air or the good water. The Historical Society has been the benefactor of this art on many occasions as can be seen in the Old Jail Museum with our collection of Raphael Jolly Paintings. The uniqueness of the talent never ceases to amaze us. To honor the artists that love Truckee so much that they preserve Truckee in their art, we bring you this for your pleasure. If you haven't seen Greg Zirbel's historical artwork please visit his website www.NeatTweets.biz.

The Third Roundhouse

When trains needed help getting over Donner Summit, this Southern/Central Pacific Roundhouse built in Truckee back in 1882 could house 22 locomotives that could help get the freight over the summit.

This birdfeeder model of the Roundhouse "houses" up to four gallons of seed. While the roof lifts straight off to easily fill the feeder, both the front and rear doors open to allow pass through traffic.

Historical tidbits: the square nails used as the door knobs on the West side of the birdhouse were salvaged from the oldest surviving farmhouse in Sonoma County, the Stone Farm house built in 1865 which now houses the offices of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. On the east entrance door the old square nails were salvaged from the Truckee area. The metal roof is an old spare tire cover salvaged from the wreckage that's under the Rainbow bridge on Donner Summit. The Granite boulders outside the doors represent the Rocklin Granite with which the original building was constructed. For more details about the Third Roundhouse, please visit the History section of the Truckee Donner Historical Society's website. Also visit the Truckee Donner Railroad Society.

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.

Editor's Note: For those researchers out there, this editor discovered accidentally that our own local Truckee Library on Levon Avenue has a two volume hard bound index of topics cited in historic records of the old *Truckee Republican* newspaper. We're talking the 1800s! It was interesting reading to explore more about one of the sources cited in Tom Macaulay's Truckee Ice Company article in this issue of Echoes and happened to stumble upon the binders. The Truckee Library binders indicate that while they were donated by Denny Dickinson to the Library, the indices were actually compiled under Gordon Richard's direction. If you're looking for historic information, you might want to check these out. Of course, they complement the adjacent antiquated microfilm technology, but nonetheless, the articles are accessible, readable, and I'm told able to be printed. Check out the possibilities.

Continued from page 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Additional information:

Who: Frank X. Mullen

What: The third of the *Truckee's History Alive!* Series for 2014

When: Thursday, Sept. 18th, 2014, at 7 p.m.

Where: Veterans Hall, 10214 High Street in Truckee

Why: To delight and enlighten the Truckee-Tahoe community with a local history program series

Contact: The Truckee Library 530-582-7846

How: Portrayal of Caleb Greenwood performed in Chautauqua-style.

In addition to the scheduled 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

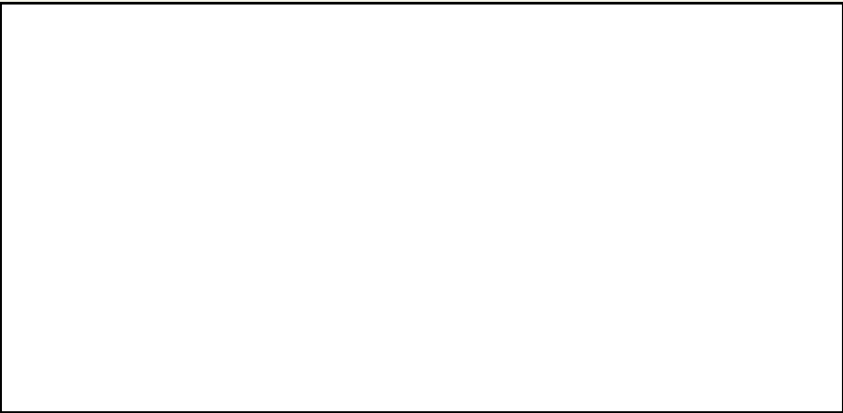
www.truckeehistory.org for those dates to be announced. Those events may include:

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



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Contact me on ways I can volunteer Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail

Museum? Yes / No

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions:

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