

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



Truckee Donner Historical Society
P.O. Box 893
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530-582-0893
www.truckeehistory.org

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

MAY 2015 ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members:

What a wonderful year your society is having already! I am concentrating this letter on our need for volunteers and docents for the jail.

We were able to stay open every Truckee Thursday and weekends this past season because of the dedication of our docent group. Because of that we were able to bring in an increase of \$750 dollars over the past year.

As you know, we are an all-volunteer group and that tends to take its toll by the end of the season. With our addition of more special events we are thinning out our pool of helpers constantly.

If you have even an hour to spare, these are the events we need help at:

May 16 – Schaffer Cemetery Clean Up Day. We need manual labor to help reset the posts and chains around the Cemetery and to clean weeds. 10:00 a.m. at the Cemetery, Ponderosa Townhouses.

May 25 - Memorial Day – Meet and Greet at Vet's Hall, Noon to 2 p.m. and the Dog Tag Boogie, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. We need people to help set up and clean up, and to socialize with the folks coming to these events.

June 7 - Work Day at the Old Jail Museum; Revamping the garden wall to prevent erosion and general clean up. 8 a.m.

July 11 - Truckee Air Show Set up starts at 8:00 a.m. <http://truckeetahoeairshow.com/>. We will be hosting a second booth with the Friends of the Vet's Hall and the Veterans for this special event. Need people to help man both booths.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 16 - Schaffer Cemetery Cleanup 10 a.m.

May 25 - Annual Memorial Day Ceremony
Sierra Mountain Cemetery, 10 a.m.

May 25 - after the Memorial Day Ceremony,
Special Old Jail Museum Opening

May 25 - Meet and Greet Picnic noon - 2 p.m.
Veteran's Hall

Dog Tag Boogie 7 - 10 p.m., Veteran's Hall

June 7 - Work Day at the Old Jail Museum

June 11 - Old Jail Museum
Official Opening Day for Summer 2015 5 p.m.

June 12 TOAST (Truckee Open Artists Studio
Tour) Click Off reception
More information TBA

July 11 - Truckee Air Show, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 16 - Truckee Thursday
Volunteer Booth Night

July 18 - Old Timers' Picnic and
Truckee History Day at the
Truckee River Regional Park, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Historical Art Show Veteran's Hall 6 p.m.

(More event info on page 7)

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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.

Notice to Members

The TDHS Board of Directors recently approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the following bi-annual renewal schedule.

Future renewals will be sent out biannually: January and July.

Members to be given the option to select January* or July** renewal month.

The new bi-annual renewal will become effective Jan 2016.

Members may begin to choose their preferred renewal month this year with their 2015 renewals.

For those paying by credit card TDHS requests authorization to cancel their existing PayPal subscription to enable member to set up a new subscription by paying in either January or July.

TDHS would extend any membership renewals that might expire before their renewal month choice. Or the member may elect to pay in advance of their existing renewal month if their new renewal month expires later, with any unused prepaid membership dues being retained and gratefully considered an additional donation to TDHS.

* For those who prefer to pay at the beginning of each year

** For those who prefer a mid-year renewal and have their month reflect TDHS's 1968 incorporation and annual picnic month

BUTTERFLY EXHIBIT MOVED

For those of our readers who caught our March 2014 *Echoes* Issue 1 about the much-prized Ximena McGlashan butterfly collection, link pp. 2-3, 6, <http://bit.ly/1GoqJNZ>, there is an update of which you should be aware. With the expert and proficient help of the Donner State Park employees and several TDHS volunteers, the collection was moved in mid April 2015 from the "old" Donner State Park museum to its new home, the Parks and Recreation Community Center. Please stop by to see the new exhibit which now should be viewed by so many more inquiring eyes.

(Left) Photo courtesy of Heidi Sproat.

The McGlashan Butterfly Collection in its new home.



WAS IT A REAL GHOST?**A MYSTERY OF THE SIERRAS.****The Sight That Unnerved Hank Small**

The Specter That Haunted the Snowsheds
of the Central Pacific - A Very Queer Story.

Written for the Morning San Francisco Call., Vol. 72, No. 117
25 September 1892

Did the ghost of Fireman George E. Hoops appear to Hank Small one dark night in November, 1889?

Hank always asserted that it did.

Uncanny is Tamarack. The dismal snowsheds widen here and the heavy supporting timbers are studded as thickly as trees in a dense forest. In the day it requires no very vivid imagination to people the space with weird shadows that make the spot unearthly. By night in the glare of the locomotive's headlight Tamarack is peculiarly dreadful.

About 1 o'clock in the afternoon of March 19, 1888, there was a terrible accident on the Central Pacific Railroad at Tamarack, between Cisco and Emigrant Gap, near the center of the twenty-nine miles of snowsheds owned by the company. It was a frightful collision. Westbound freight train No. 6 and an eastbound freight train came together. Four engines were badly wrecked, eighty feet of snowsheds demolished and four railroad men killed. Firemen Molin and Hoops and Brakemen Congrave and McMaster lost their lives. Several employees were seriously and frightfully wounded, among the number being Engineers Tricaud and Woolley.

The accident, in the number of killed and wounded, was the most frightful that ever happened in the sheds.

Tricaud was shockingly mangled. For months he lay in the Railroad Hospital at Sacramento, and several times a day he had to be suspended from a pulley in the ceiling to correct a curvature in his spine. The breastbone had been crushed in against the lungs, and as he lay upon a couch a screw was inserted in the bone and a weight suspended from the pulley above

to rectify the deformity. The wreck left an indelible impression upon the minds of the employees of the division. Shortly after it occurred the sheds were reported to be haunted. Engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen told minutely how they had encountered the spectral forms of the dead. Nightly apparitions were seen and ghosts stalked through dismal Tamarack and made cowards of brave men.

Sometimes the ghostly and unwelcome visitor would appear in the form of one of the dead firemen: at other times it would vividly and realistically assume the proportions of a dead brakeman.

Sometimes the apparition would stand in front of the puffing and advancing engine, necessitating the stopping of the train, when it would vanish. And then again it would take a position on the side of the track, and as the train passed it would wave its spectral hand and squeak and gibber exultantly.

Conductors and brakemen rarely passed through the haunted stretch without dread; they abandoned their places to seek the caboose at the end of freight trains, when every door and window was carefully closed and bolted; or else thoroughly cowed they sought concealment and immunity from harm in the passenger coaches.

Many maintained that the moans of the dying could be distinctly heard above the rumble of the train, and gloomy goblins with silent tread floated through the grimy air.

There was nothing of the superstitious about Hank Small. His nature was free from the emotional. He was a daredevil fellow who believed in throwing the throttle wide open whether going upgrade or downgrade. The greater the speed of the locomotive the greater seemingly was his equanimity and self-possession. None questioned his bravery.

On a dark night in November, 1889, Hank Small hauled a train up past Tamarack — it was his first night on the division. The night was stormy and boisterous were the elements. A track-walker rode in the cab from the Gap to

Continued on page 6

MEMORIAL DAY - May 27, 2013

I* remember coming here with my mom and dad, there was no grass, no water, just pine trees, pine cones and pine needles.

Just the 2 sides and I don't remember that one side was the Masonic and the other side the Odd Fellows.

Flowers were sent by railway express and we would pick them up at the freight depot, what is now called the Loading Dock.

We called it **Decoration Day**, and I got to thinking when did the name change to **Memorial Day**?

In my research I found it has been Memorial Day since 1868; took a while for the news to reach Truckee!

This is what I found on the internet that I feel you will find of interest today.

Memorial Day History

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the south were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War.

Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966. It's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings as each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860s tapped into the general human need to honor our dead. Each gathering contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, to issue an official proclamation in his General Order No. 11, on May 5, 1866, and first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

It is not important who was the very first. What IS important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division: it is about reconciliation. It is about coming together to honor those who gave their life.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all the Northern states. The south refused to acknowledge the day, honored their dead on separate days until after World War I. Then the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May, passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 to ensure a three day weekend for federal holidays. Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and South Carolina have additional separate days for honoring the Confederate war dead.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and tradition of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen, who gave their life, are increasingly ignored and neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. In 2004, Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

There are some notable exceptions. Since the late 1950s on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. Since about 1951 the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girls Scouts of America have been placing small flags at the grave sites of military cemeteries across America.

There are approximately 185 flags here [at the cemetery] that were placed by the Young Men and Women of the Truckee Civil Air Patrol Squadron. These flags do not represent the military men and women who gave their life, but who did serve in the military. I would like to take this time to remember three young Truckee men who served in World War II, who did not make it back, and their remains were never returned. They are Jimmy Thomas, Levon Joseph, and Edwin Waters, whose 4 brothers also served at the same time: Roy, Erv, Orlan and Bill. These are the three that I remember. Our gravesites represent the Mexican War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, with all branches of the service, one even from the French Foreign Legion.

To help reeducate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans: "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence."

The Moment of Remembrance is a step in the right direction to returning the meaning back to this day. What is needed is a full return of the original day of observance. Set aside one day out of the year for the nation to get together to remember, reflect, and honor those who have given their life in service to their country.

But what may be needed to return the solemn, and even sacred, spirit back to Memorial Day is for a return to its traditional day of observance. Many feel that when Congress made the day into a three-day weekend with the National Holiday Act of 1971, it made it all the easier for people to be distracted from the spirit and meaning of the day. As the VFW stated in its 2002 Memorial Day address: "Changing the date merely to create a three day weekend has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

On January 19, 1999 Senator Inouye introduced Bill S189 to the Senate which proposed to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day back to May 30th instead of "the last Monday in May."

In April 1999, it was introduced to the House, and the bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Government Reform (Bill H.R. 1474). To date, there has been no further development of this bill.

Another reminder is that the disabled veterans are still making and selling the red poppies. Money raised from this venture was originally for war-orphaned children and widowed women. So if you see artificial red poppies for sale somewhere, that is the purpose.

Why poppies?

Inspired by Major John McCrae's 1915 "In Flanders' Fields" poem, humanitarian Moina Michael responded with her own verse:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

God Bless.

Sharon Pace Arnold

Former President, TDHS , 2000 - 2005

* Reprinted with Permission from Sharon Pace Arnold

LITTLE KNOWN TRUCKEE FACTS

Some of us may remember *La Vieille Maison*, the Truckee garlic restaurant famed in gastronomic circles. It was in the building now occupied by the 1882 bar/restaurant.

A famous Michelin 2 star chef and wife were the hosts/chefs, Robert Charles and Amora. Robert moved back to France and has since passed away. Amora (Higbee) stayed in Truckee and lives in Tahoe Donner.

Link; <http://bit.ly/1Ar8RjA>

<http://www.berkeleyside.com/2012/09/04/berkeleys-garlicky-food-revolution-stories-within-stories/>

Echoes From The Past Newsletter

Ghost article continued from page 3

the Summit, and the story of the ghosts of Tamarack was vividly told the fearless and undaunted engineer.

Hank took the train into Truckee. He pulled up in the yard and was about to leave the cab when George K. Hoops, one of the firemen killed in the Tamarack collision, appeared directly in front of the headlight's glare. Hoops was taller than in life. His body was attenuated. From his shoulders down the materialized fireman was robed in white. His face was unconcealed; it was ghastly. His eyes were large, protruding and lusterless, the thin lips widely parted, the cheeks sunken and colorless.

Now Small was no man to quail. A mile a minute in a cab never dazed him, and grades and curves had no terrors for him. But this dreadful apparition unnerved the determined and brave engineer. Hoops had worked with him on the same cab; they had made many a fleet mile together on the pulsating locomotive. And there standing before him was the materialized spirit of a former terrestrial associate!

Terror seized Hank Small. He gazed at the specter many moments before his thoughts took on the hue of resolution. And then with fear, which greatly accelerated his steps, he jumped from the cab and sought peace of mind from his unearthly visitor in flight. Once Hank looked back — the sheeted dead was following him! Trembling in limb and with a deathly pallor on his face Hank entered the telegraph office to report. He sank into a chair. "What is the matter?" asked the operator, thoroughly alarmed at Hank's appearance. "Nothing, nothing," stammered the engineer.

It was several days before Hank Small was able to take an engine out of Truckee. He then asked that he be transferred to some other division. His request was granted and he was given an engine on the Western division, where he was employed when he died.

Hank up to his death always insisted that George E. Hoops appeared to him at Truckee and for once in his life that he was badly scared. Wm. H. Marshall.

TRUCKEE STREET NAMED FOR WORLD WAR II VETERAN

Heidi Sproat

Next time you drive by the intersection of Donner Pass Road and Levon * Avenue, remember that the street was named in honor of World War II veteran, Levon Joseph Link; <http://bit.ly/1bRDBzC>

Lt. Joseph Killed on Okinawa — First Lieutenant **LEVON JOSEPH** of Truckee, brother of Mrs. Albert Ring of Auburn and former Placer College Drama Guild star, died while leading a company in action against the Japanese on Okinawa on May 1. The belated announcement was received in Truckee from the War Department by his wife, Mrs. Virginia Joseph, late last month. No details were contained in the message which was received by telephone via Idaho where Mrs. Joseph formerly lived. The last dated letter received from him on Okinawa was sent April 23. It told of hand-to-hand fighting with fanatic Japanese near the rim of a cliff. Joseph came to Placer College from Christian Brothers College in Sacramento. In addition to his wife and one-year-old daughter, he is survived by his father, Richard Joseph of Truckee, and two sisters, Mrs. Ring of Auburn and Miss Azad Joseph, a member of the US Navy. He was a nephew of Mrs. James McIver and Mrs. Roxie Archie. Lt. Joseph went overseas last March. He had been commissioned early in 1943 in the CAC (Coastal Artillery Corps). Later he was transferred to the infantry and promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. [Auburn Journal-Republican, Thursday, 7-5-1945]

continued on page 7

USGENWEB FILE SOURCE LIST DECEASED WORLD WAR VETERANS

A quick look found 21 year old Levon Joseph enlisted 12/18/1941 and 25 year old Nick Sassarini enlisted 6/28/1943. For more information, you can see the list of World War II enlistments: Link.

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ca/nevada/military/ww2/enlistment>

WWII Joseph article continued from page 6

For those of you who are not aware of the Joseph family, a little background in in order. **Richard Joseph**, early Truckee citizen, generous philanthropist, and entrepreneur, donated the land for Tahoe Forest Hospital in honor of his son **LEVON JOSEPH** who was killed in World War II. Richard Joseph worked as a barber and a photographer and eventually began to acquire property in Truckee. He developed the Gateway area including the Gateway Motel and Mall (where Safeway now stands) and owned and operated the Pastime Club on Commercial Row. Also, of note, Richard Joseph donated the land for the Tahoe Forest Hospital believing that his wife, who died of blood poisoning in 1922, might have lived had there been a hospital closer than Reno. Of note as well is that the "office cabin" of the Gateway Motel built in the late 1930s was relocated to Meadow Park in the 1990s and is now the Joseph Research Library.



* Editor's Note:

In researching this article, the street sign was originally erected but misspelled as Levone. It was later corrected at the request of Dick Joseph in 1975.

Photo extracted from DVD about the Joseph Family and its history of philanthropy and community involvement and dedication

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.

President's Corner message continued from page 1

July 16 - Truckee Thursday Volunteer Booth. Set up at 3:00 p.m. We will need volunteers to man both the Historical Society Booth and the Info Booth as we are the Highlighted Non-Profit for that night.

Festival Kick Off for TOAST - Truckee Open Artist Studio Tour Documentary Film Night. Fundraiser for Friends of the Truckee Veteran's Memorial Hall. Selling tickets, popcorn, etc! Info TBA

July 18 - Old Timers' and Community Picnic. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Set up starts at 9 a.m.

July 18 - Historical Art Show and Presentation. 5 p.m., Truckee Veterans Hall. Set up will start by 3 p.m. Need people to help set up and to be available during the show to help assist visitors.

And of course we have our never-ending need for docents at the Old Jail Museum. It is becoming a very popular spot to visit and with the work being done to improve the driveway it will become even busier.

So if anyone can help, please contact me at cmortier@truckeehistory.org or kpape@truckeehistory.org.

Thanks as always for all your support.

Chaun L. Mortier, President 2015

Continued from page 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Additional information:

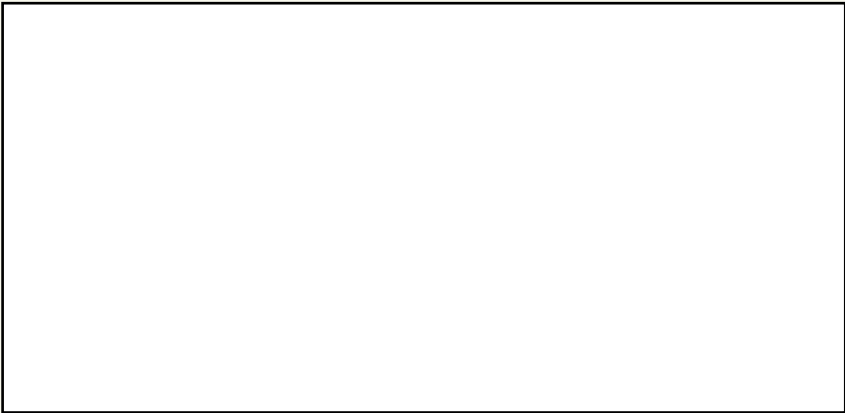
September 22 - Membership Dinner at Marty's Cafe 6 p.m.

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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:

© Photographer Name