

Echoes from the Past

TRUCKEE DONNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SPRING

2012

President's Corner

The summer will soon be upon us and the Old Jail Museum will be opening for the season. The museum is staffed 100% by volunteers. We really need more help! It takes many people to staff the museum successfully for the whole season. If you can spare time on a Saturday or Sunday, please consider helping us out. If you can't but know someone who would like to, please extend an invitation to call me. We provide training, so it's OK if you don't consider yourself an expert. You'll learn as you go! email me at cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org or call me at 530-305-4231.

Returning Docents: We want to thank you for all of your hard work by treating you to lunch on our official opening day. Saturday, June 16th we will have a picnic lunch on our patio in the back of the museum. Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM. We hope you can make it by!

We are excited to be opening a new railroad exhibit in June! Our research team has been hard at work and I can tell you that you will be WOWED! I'm not going to give anything away; you must come down and see for yourselves. We will unveil the new display on Saturday, June 16th. Come down and be one of the first to see it. We will unveil the new display and cut the celebratory cake at Noon.

The Old Jail Museum will be open from 11-4:00 on Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Week end. It will be closed after that until the official Opening Day on June 16th, when we celebrate our volunteers!

The Old Timers' Picnic and Truckee Reunion is On Saturday, July 21st from 10-4:00 at the Truckee River Regional Park. Bring a lunch and some chairs and plan on staying for the day to visit with old friends. We rent the Chief Truckee Lawn area for the day, so bring your whole family!

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*Awake, thou wintry earth--Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth--Your ancient gladness!
~Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"*

Civil War Headstone Dedication Ceremony: June 23 at Sierra Mountain Cemetery

As in any historical cemetery there are those that have unmarked graves. There are elaborate and simple Monuments; there will be wooden crosses for others. All of the marked show the names and dates of the lives of those resting in peace but it's the "dash in between" that makes us curious. Who were these people and how did they get to Truckee? What did they do in their lives? It is the military markers that help shed light on what some of these pioneers were in their lives. It is these markers that show the dedication to our country, enough to fight in a battle and risk losing their lives, just to keep this country free. This is not to slight all those that fought for this country in their own way, it is just something about seeing a military marker that makes a person take pause.

The Truckee Cemetery District has dedicated its cause to the preservation of the three historical cemeteries within its scope. Although there are two historical sections in the Sierra Mountain Cemetery they are within their own right separate and equal cemeteries. The Odd Fellows and the Masons purchased land in 1873 and opened the first true cemeteries in the Truckee area in 1874. The original land plot was 200' x 225'. The south section was used by Odd Fellows and the section to the north by the Masons.

The third area that has become known as the "Catholic" Cemetery was also created in the same time era. Its official name is "The Old Truckee Cemetery". It began its use for those that could not be buried, either for beliefs or financial reasons, into the upper cemetery. The previously used

"Brickelltown" Cemetery which is at the end of South East River Street past the pavement was apparently no longer acceptable for use. From research of old burial records it has been determined that there are 22 known civil war veterans in the upper cemetery. Ten have markers; military or personal, six remain unmarked pending further research and six now have new headstones.

This ceremony is to honor those six and remember all. The actual Evergreen Ceremony is being held by a joint effort of the Battleborn Civil War Re-Enactors and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This ceremony is a formal recognition for these soldiers. It is also the 150th Anniversary of the song "Taps", which is so familiar to all. This will be played on an authenticated civil war bugle.

Participants will include Congressman Tom McClintock, The Patriot Guard Riders, the Air Guard Honor Guard out of Reno and the Truckee and Reno Civil Air Patrol. Also on hand will be the Fort Point Garrison Civil War Brass Band (<http://www.fortpointbrassband.org/>) playing civil war era music and our own Mountain Belles.

The ceremony will start at 10:00am; parking will be at a minimum so please try to car pool. We are working on off-site parking and will be announcing that soon. Also; period dress is very welcome but leave your guns at home! The Civil War Groups will be doing a 21 gun Salute. Please join The Truckee Cemetery District and the Truckee Donner Historical Society, along with the Battleborn Civil War Re-Enactors, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Congressman McClintock, the Patriot Guard Riders, Air Guard Honor Guard Nevada, Truckee and Reno Civil Air Patrol, The Fort Point Garrison Brass Band and our own Mountain Belles in honoring these soldiers with the new headstones.

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See our website for more details at www.truckeehistory.org.*

The Stones That Tell of Truckee's History

BY GUY COATES

This article originally appeared in the Sierra Sun on January 31, 2001. Guy Coates is the former vice president of the Truckee-Donner Historical Society.

During the last three Ice Ages, glaciers covered the Truckee River basin and surrounding mountains, carving out Donner Lake and many other lakes.

Much evidence of this glacial action can still be seen by examining the smoothed and striated rock along old Highway 40 near Donner Pass. To the east, today's Nevada desert was covered by a huge inland sea.

The earliest known inhabitants to occupy the Truckee area were prehistoric nomadic tribes who spent their winters in the Nevada desert and California valleys. During the summers these ancient hunters climbed both sides of the Sierra into the high country.

These inhabitants, believed to be ancestors of the Washoe, Maidu and Paiute Indian tribes, traveled through the pristine mountain meadows and forests collecting edible and medicinal roots, seeds and marsh plants. In the higher elevations they manufactured stone tools and hunted local game and fished in the many lakes and streams while living in temporary brush shelters.

Archaeological evidence of these ancient people who returned year after year during the Middle Archaic Period can be found in petroglyphs carved into solid granite near the crest of Donner Summit as well as in the abundance of

flaked stone artifacts, broken tools and dart points which have been discovered throughout the Truckee basin.

When Stampede Dam was completed in 1969, an ancient Indian ceremonial circle of stones in Stampede Valley dating back 15,000 years was carefully removed to an area adjacent to Truckee River Regional Park and placed exactly in their original position by volunteers and members of the Truckee-Donner Historical Society under the direction of Carroll Maynard, Roy Baker and Dorothy Fordham.

In 1983 an archaeological excavation at the location of today's McDonald's restaurant revealed that the site was associated with a large prehistoric Indian camp dating back 3,500 years. The findings included layer after layer of stone artifacts indicating that the site was once a major tool-manufacturing area.

Resident archeologist Susan Lindstrom has found evidence of a Washoe village at the mouth of Donner Creek and other sites all along Interstate 80, Donner Lake Park and throughout the Truckee River basin. Today's "bug station" sits atop a large site dating back 8,000 years.

In one study Lindstrom noted that downtown Truckee rests on top of a former Washoe Indian village site named "K'ubuna detde'yi," and below Truckee, at Trout Creek, was another

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Now every field is clothed with grass, and every tree with leaves; now the woods put forth their blossoms, and the year assumes its gay attire. ~Virgil

Projects and Information

The Stones that tell of Truckee's History

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village site named "Pele ma'lam detde'yi." The Washoe name for the Truckee River was "a'wakhu wa't'a."

Perhaps the most tangible reminder of Truckee's Native American roots sits on the hillside above the Town of Truckee. Rocking Stone Tower is believed to be one of 25 such stones known in the world. Reminiscent of a Druid monument, Rocking Stone has diligently stood guard over the community as long as anyone can remember. At one time the slightest breeze or touch of the hand could set the 17-ton smaller boulder rocking.

According to a Washoe Legend, the large flat rock provided a place where the ancient hunters could dry their food, while the continuous movements of the smaller stone kept it safe from scavenging birds and animals. It was also believed that Rocking Stone was a very sacred place that served as a natural altar to worship the Spirit God.

"This story may well be a local non-Washoe legend," says Lindstrom. "I have never found any ethnographic evidence to support it." One geologist who recently examined the site believes that native tribes painstakingly chipped away the mother rock to flatten the top and somehow rolled the smaller boulder on top, thus creating a primitive monument. Other experts believe that Rocking Stone is merely a relic of the glacial age.

While experts may never agree on its origin, there is little doubt that it must have provided ancient people a first-class view of the 20 mile-long lake that once covered the entire Truckee basin.

- **Continuing Projects:** Street Project, Fire History, archiving of artifacts from the Jail Museum and Research Library, indexing of the Research Library Books in preparation for publication on website. Archiving photo collections; includes scanning, numbering, indexing and preparing for publication on website in a PDF format.
- **New Jail Exhibit opening this season:** The Human side of the 1952 snowbound City of San Francisco. Truckee's history centers on railroads, tourism and dealing with the "storm king." The story of the snowbound City of San Francisco is one of the monumental stories of the Sierras that captured the nation's attention at the time. Sixty years ago Truckee played a key role in the rescue operations.
- **Major Photo Requests:** Assisting new owner of Alta Hotel in refurbishing the site, Assisted Anchor Steam with advertising photos of Boca Brewery: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_kal6opEyc, Assisted Wells Fargo with photos for a mural project, Assisted America's Star Media/Morningstar Entertainment with photos for upcoming National Geographic Documentary.
- **Upcoming Events:** June 23rd and 24th. Ice Harvesting Symposium featuring Tom Macaulay, Expert on Ice Harvesting in the Truckee Area. The event on Saturday, the 23rd will be at 1:00PM at the Joseph Research Library with a slide presentation, Q & A session, and overall discussion. On the 24th people are being asked to meet on the Legacy Trail easterly end at the first information sign for the ice harvesting by 11:00am.
- **Other Events:** The Trestle Tour and the Tunnel Tour sponsored by the Truckee Railroad Society and supported by Truckee Donner Historical Society.

Member Connection Corner

By Billie Cornell

Looking into the future it is important, as a non-profit, to be able to 'connect' with both our long-time members and future members. Your TDHS board agrees, it is important to keep a print newsletter for those members who do not communicate with an iPad, iPhone, Android, computer, or other personal device and for those of us who just prefer to read a paper-newsletter in their hands. But this is not true for everyone.

As Membership Chair, there is a similar 'connection' for our membership renewals. Being an association with a long history, communication methods have taken a giant leap into, what some folks 44 years ago (when TDHS was formed) would have called, science fiction. Yet for many, cyberspace and digital communication is the only way to function these days.

Conservation, being eco-friendly and recycling are important when making financial and personal decisions. As part of setting up a new membership database, many of you may have already received my Stay-In-Touch email. We have a new Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system with Sales Force to, initially, handle our membership duties. The days of storing a database only on 3x5 index cards (yes, I still use them though) and mailing a generic photo copied renewal letter lacks our current communication needs.

By providing us with your current contact information and telling us your communication preferences, we will be able to keep in touch the WAY YOU LIKE.

I implore you to contact me with your questions and communication preferences for both membership and newsletter delivery. As I have said many times before, the worst part of being the Membership Chair is when I have lost communication with a member and have no choice but to remove them from our membership database. Ouch! You can reach me by email at bcornell@truckeehistory.org, by phone at the Joseph Research Library at 530-582-0893 (leave a message), or by mail at P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160. I'm here for you and to improve TDHS's Member Connection Corner. Cheers, Billie

Forgotten Names and Ghosts Along the Truckee River By Tom Macaulay

This is the second 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. The final installment will be published in our Summer 2012 issue.

CAMP 16, later named PACIFIC, was one mile below Prosser Creek and eight miles below Truckee, on the CPRR right of way. It was named by CPRR construction crews and was the site of Pacific Lumber Company, Nevada and Mountain Lakes Ice Company, Pacific Shingle Co. and the terminus for some lumber flumes descending Prosser Creek. Nothing remains today.

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Floriston, CA

Volunteer for the fun of it! Contact Chelsea Walterscheid at cwalterscheid@truckeehistory.org to volunteer as docent for the Old Jail Museum this coming summer!

Forgotten Names and Ghosts along the Truckee River
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BOCA is nine miles below Truckee, across the river on the left. It was the most famous town in the canyon. Named Camp 17 by CPRR construction crews, it was first a mill site for Friend and Terry Lumber Co. of Sacramento, then the Boca Mill and Ice Company which became Sierra Lakes Ice Company and then The Union Ice Company. It boasted a large hotel, a school, stores, a library, and fine residences. Natural ice harvests started in 1868 and lasted until 1927. I-80 crosses the site of the Boca Brewery which operated from 1876 to 1893. Numerous broken foundations are still visible at Boca. The existing earth fill dam was built in 1940 by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The residence of the water tender employed by U.S. Federal Water Master to control river flow is below the dam. Boca was a post office from 1872 - 1945.

RODDYVILLE or ROWDYVILLE was located across the Truckee River from Boca, possibly near modern United Trails Campground. It does not show on maps and is only known from a few letters and oral references.

HINTON. Maps show Hinton ten miles below Truckee, and CPRR time tables list a stop twelve miles below Truckee. Twelve miles would place Hinton at Camp 19 and the CPRR may have used this designation before building the Hinton side track between Boca and Hirschdale. Foundations for the old Hinton bridge are visible at Hirschdale. Hinton was not a community.

BURKHALTER and CLINTON. Burkhalter is ten plus miles below Truckee, and Clinton is 11 miles. A concrete highway bridge on old Hwy-40 below Hirschdale crosses the TRUCKEE River AND gives access to a small flat on the right, between the highway and the river. Now private property this is the site of Burkhalter's Mill, used by Bragg & Folsom's Pacific Wood and Lumber Co. The Clinton Narrow Gauge Railroad extended up Juniper Creek almost to Lake Tahoe. The town of Clinton was on the CPRR to the left of the highway immediately after crossing the river. The names are often used interchangeably. Clinton was a Post office from 1891 - 1896. The concrete bridges were built in 1926, part of Hwy-40 through the canyon.

CAMP 19. One mile below Clinton and twelve miles below Truckee, Camp 19 was the site of the Marysville Mill in 1868. The actual site has not been located, but a log chute is visible on the slope across the river. I-80 below Boca gives a view of the Truckee canyon. Across the river can be seen an abandoned county road which gave access between Hirschdale and Iceland. This road was part of a detour during construction of I-80.

ICELAND. Thirteen miles below Truckee, Camp 20, also known as Cuba, is where Gray Creek enters the Truckee River. An old log crib dam can still be seen across the mouth of Gray Creek, first called Joe Gray Creek. Joe Gray, who helped found Truckee,
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Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.
~Lewis Grizzard

Forgotten Names and Ghosts along the Truckee River
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*In the next issue we
will complete the trip
down the canyon!*

built a lumber mill here and gave his name to the creek. In 1876 he leased his property to People's Ice Company of which he was part owner. Also operating here were Mountain Ice Company, Union Ice Company, and Floriston Ice Company. Old ice pond walls are between the CPRR and the river. Iceland was a post office from 1897 - 1923. A new residence has been built on the old log pond.

TUNNEL14. This tunnel between Iceland and Bronco was part of the original CPRR construction. It was abandoned when the railroad was double-tracked in the early 1900's. In the 1970's the railroad dynamited the tunnel to prevent vagrants from using it.

BRONCO or WICKES. One mile below Iceland and fourteen miles below Truckee is Bronco Creek, first called Alder Creek and then Wick's or Wicke's Creek before acquiring the modern name of Bronco Creek. Brothers Alexander M. and Lucius D. Wicks operated a wood yard here, complete with post office, store, telegraph station and residence. It was also used by Walter Hobart and, in 1892 by Kidder Brothers. It was a post office from 1872 - 1891.

FLORISTON is fifteen miles below Truckee. It is the second most famous town on the river. First a CPRR section house it was also the site of the Rocky Run Ice Company. The Floriston Ice Company was up river, between Floriston and Bronco. The Truckee River General Electric Company's Farad diversion dam was built in 1899. The dam washed out in the

flood of 1997, but the site is visible on the left side of the highway, across from the Floriston exit, as is the upper portion of the Farad flume. In 1900 the Floriston Pulp and Paper Company completed a paper mill on the right side of the river. Modern I-80 goes through the site of the mill but company houses can be seen on the hillside above the CPRR. The paper mill went through several changes in ownership: (Floriston Pulp and Paper Co., Crown Columbia Paper Co., Willamette Paper Co., Crown Zellerbach Corp.) and was finally closed in 1930. Lawsuits over pollution in the Truckee River were a constant problem for the paper mill and downstream water users. Crown Willamette Paper Co. moved its operations to Camas, Washington in 1930. Very few personnel transfers were made but some families from Floriston moved to Camas and found employment in the new mill, which still operates. The Floriston site was vacant except for a watchman until 1947 when Preston L. Wright of San Francisco purchased the property. On March 20, 1949, the Floriston hotel was destroyed by fire but the rest of the town survived. Houses were sold to private citizens and the town now has 42 homes and about 150 residents. There were several sites referred to as Floriston, but the present location has had a post office from 1900 until the present.

ROCKY RUN Ice Company was located on the river at Floriston where the I-80 bridge crosses the Truckee River. The old ice pond wall can be seen between I-80 and the river, between the Farad diversion dam and the I-80 bridge.

*And Spring arose on the garden fair, like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast, rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.*
~Percy Bysshe Shelley

Membership Application | Renewal Form

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For Renewals: Check if there are any changes below: () If known, your renewal month: _____

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Enclosed please find a check for:

Junior (18 years & younger) \$10 _____ Individual \$20 _____ Family \$30 _____ Business \$40 _____

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Community Memorial Garden \$ _____ Memorial Donation \$ _____ In Honor of _____

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Contact me on ways I can volunteer ()

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail? Yes / No



Contact us at:

(530)582-0893



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