



# The Scruffy Post

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P.O. Box 374

Smartsville, CA 95977

[www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org](http://www.smartsvillechurchrestoration.org)

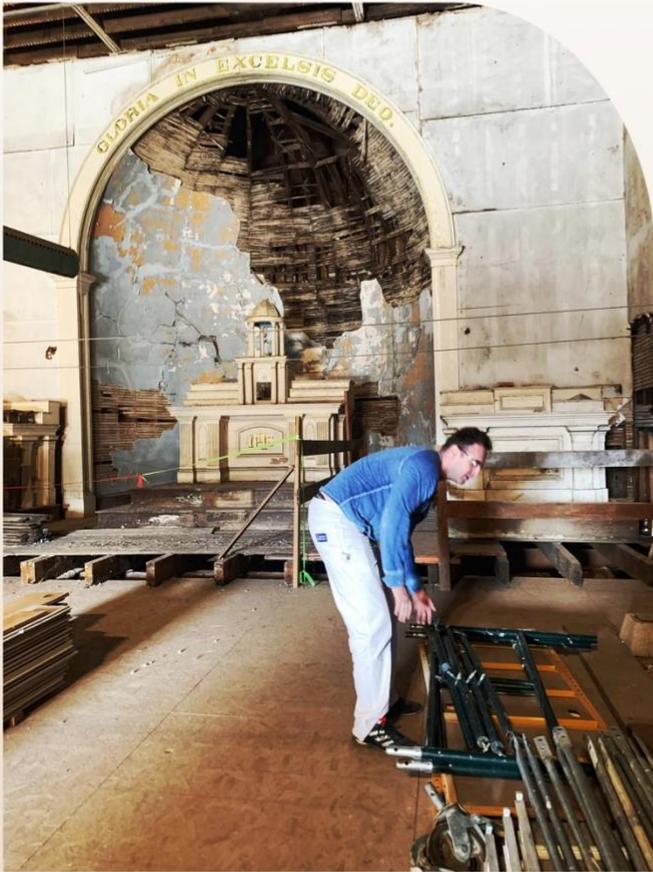


## Byzantine Painting Studio Finishes!

Our sanctuary restoration has made the church interior a virtual new icon to share with you. Thanks to Aurel Onut of Byzantine Painting Studio and his sons Andrei and George, we have a magnificent back wall to view upon entering the church. Commonly the first words have been, "Oh, wow!" and "Beautiful!" Aurel was definitely envisioning such a view and truly realized it would inspire further progress for our restoration work. He used authentic old-world Byzantine techniques learned in Romania to re-plaster the dome after they made repairs on the wooden structure. The three tables were re-painted and gold-leafed, along with the majestic words Gloria in Exelcis Deo written high up over the dome. It's truly an unbelievable sight and we're so thankful for their hard work.

We're still not yet sure when viewing inside the church will occur as a planned event, but will let you know when there is one.

*From this*



*to this!*



Andre Onut bringing in scaffolding

Aurel Onut next to the restored altar

## Thoughtful Interior Design -- a Must!

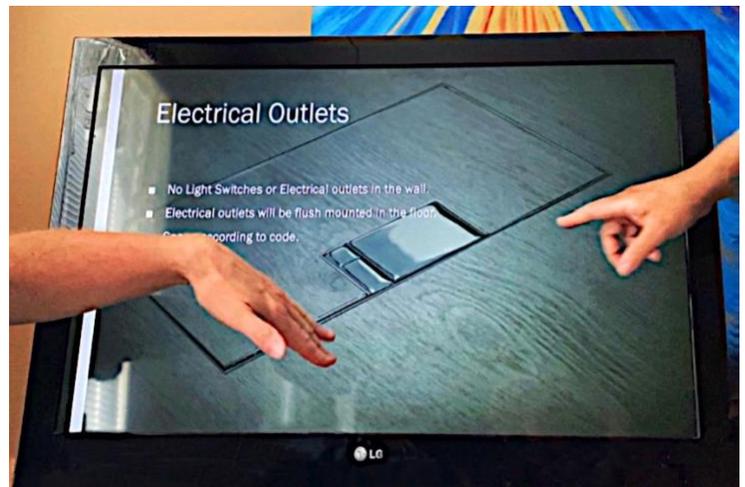
Our SCRFI Board has long been hoping to find somebody with professional experience in helping us design the interior restoration of the church. Two local gentlemen appeared via our social media outreach and we're so excited to announce that they've offered their services at no charge! Stuart Gilchrist knows this area well, loves history, and is a professional interior designer. Kelvin Scruggs is his partner and is a technical whiz with Department of Energy experience who can use modern electronic features to enhance the final function and visual appeal of our restoration work. At our last board meeting they impressed us with their ideas to collaborate with Tommie Berry of Berry Electric.

Upon their initial visit to see the church Stuart and Kelvin were envisioning lighting which can be both traditional and innovative. For example, light switches and plugs do not have to be in view, but instead are subtly placed to allow the original ambiance of a gold rush era church. Overhead lighting will resemble the original church's, but we need to enable multiple uses of the church, such as for displays, viewing, meetings, concerts and receptions. The three chandeliers once lighting the church won't be enough.

We feel most fortunate to have met these enthusiastic volunteers and are hopeful to continue the momentum we've begun with Aurel's sanctuary repair and John Wright's window restoration. Berry Electric of Live Oak has volunteered to draw plans and put in wiring. Further, we have located a company who will give us a bid to shore the back of the building so we can finish the foundation repair. Things are moving forward!



Kit, Stuart Gilchrist, Kelvin Scruggs



Kelvin's power point presentation

## Fund Raising

SCRFI operates from the volunteer work and donations of many people from near and far. We continue to receive money from regular donors and are grateful for each one of you. In our donation box we have coins and bills. From a very generous couple, Ned and Carol Spieker, we have raised thousands of dollars, helping to make possible the restoration of the bell tower, the sanctuary and the beginnings of the window repair. Some of you give us a dollar and some send us a check for twenty-five dollars. Others send one hundred dollars or more. It has all added up so that we're moving forward at a faster rate than ever before.

Future projects are still before us and we want to truly express our thanks to you for partnering with us. We look forward in the future to sharing a way to donate while also sponsoring a memorial plaque for a loved one at each window. Ten triangular sections were once painted and we have ideas for using these window sections for artistic, expressive paintings. Below is one old section recently removed by John Wright of Wright Restorations and now replaced with new glass, though not yet painted. John used white oak for new shutters in the front. He has ten more side windows to go, plus a side window in the bell tower and hopefully the beautiful old rose window in front.



John Wright, an expert at restoration, replaced the old and broken windows with the new.

(Church photo courtesy of Ron Gross, edit by Janet Burton)

## Yuba Parlor #55

In June there was an initiation on the church grounds for the charter members of the newly reinstated Native Sons of the Golden West. Interestingly, Smartsville had a parlor until the 1920's and it's that parlor we have begun anew.

One of the mission statements is to continue its "commitment to historic preservation through its program of marking historic sites and through the Native Sons of the Golden West Preservation Foundation." This is the primary reason some of us at SCRFI sought to join this group, which welcomes both men and women. The group also has a Charitable Foundation which gives to a special children's fund for cleft palate, sponsors a fourth-grade essay contest, and promotes community interaction.

If our members pay the annual dues of \$50, attend one meeting, and help at Pioneer Day once a year they will have fulfilled the minimal requirements. Meetings will be held after each SCRFI meeting at the same location. You are welcome to inquire and become a member. Being a California native is necessary (excepting military families who were out-of-state).



The California Bear Flag, July 14, 2020, NSGW initiation

# Honoring Seth Smith

Seth Smith was the great-great grandson of Timbuctoo settlers Bridget and Mathew Smith and John and Elizabeth Peardon, settlers in Smartsville, and beloved nephew of our vice-president, Kathy Smith, who brought her niece and nephew, Madeline and Seth, in costume for our inaugural costume contest. They continued to come to Pioneer Day and other events for many years. Seth grew up into a fine young man with the confidence and enjoyment of being on stage. In the photo he is reading from the book The Sage of Smartsville, The Collected Stories of George Rigby. He stood on the Timbuctoo Theatre stage made by his father, Phil Smith.

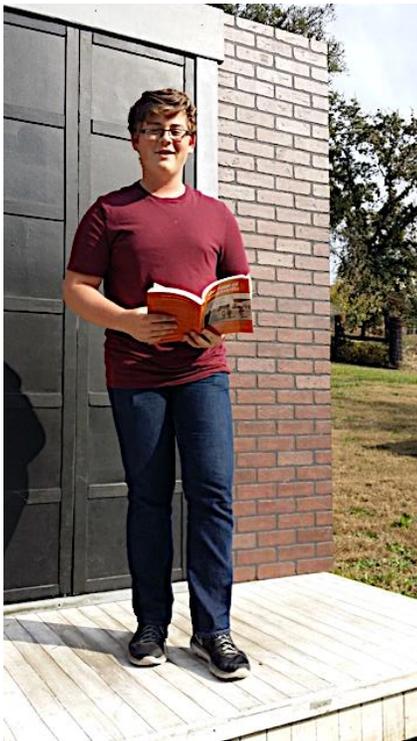
Sadly Seth, age 19, was shot and killed June 15<sup>th</sup> as he took a nightly walk by his apartment near the UC Berkeley campus. Seth was the epitome of a good person – friendly, encouraging, ambitious, intelligent, motivated to do good for others, talented at acting and speaking, and ever-loving to his family. He would have graduated next year with a double major in history and economics. His goal was to do good in this world.

A scholarship fund has been established to encourage students from Seth's high school to be – friendly, encouraging, ambitious, intelligent, and motivated to do good for others like Seth. If you're interested in contributing please contact Kathy at (916) 867-2757 or go directly to the Go-Fund Me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/seth-smith-memorial-scholarship-fund>.

There is no known motive for this senseless murder or information about this tragic act of violence. There is a \$50,000 reward for information in this case. The Berkeley Police Department is urging anyone with information to call the BPD Homicide Unit at (510) 981-5741 or BPD'S 24-hour Non-Emergency number at (510) 981-5900.



Sister Madeline and Seth won a costume contest at Pioneer Day.



Seth read in 2014 from the newly published Sage of Smartsville, The Collected Stories of George Rigby.