

STCHS and Library News



From the President's Desk Harriet Codeglia

One year ago, in the Library/STCHS newsletter, I wrote: "Both of our significant fund-raising events – the Wine Tasting Cruise on Pine Mountain Lake and the Labor Day BBQ – have been COVID cancelled. We will try again in 2021." Here we are one year later and still no Wine Tasting Cruise. But we are going ahead with our Labor Day Country Barbecue.

The museum continues to welcome visitors during shortened hours (Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 until 2) and has some wonderful new items for purchase in the museum store. Many thanks are owed to our volunteer docents who keep the doors open. Masking inside is required – we need to keep our visiting children and all our docents safe. We do miss the foreign visitors, and the Yosemite ranger, and continue to hope for their return in the future. If you are unable to visit the museum during these shortened hours, send us an email at thegroveland-museum@gmail.com and we can schedule a private opening.

Check out our website (www.grovelandmuseum.org) and Facebook page for the latest happenings.

STCHS has been fortunate to receive yet another gift from the estate of Bonnie L. Stevens, long time STCHS volunteer. A second bequest in the amount of \$25,000 came from the sale of real estate and has helped us tremendously in these times of no fundraising.

We thank all our STCHS members for renewing their memberships and sending us cash gifts. We exist because of your willingness to continue your support. You can make memorial gifts or general donations by sending to PO Box 180, Big Oak Flat, CA 95035.

You can also donate online with PayPal. Thanks to Tuolumne County for providing replacement California and US flags for the front of the museum/library building.

hcodeglia@gmail.com

Library News By Cathy O'Connell

Summer has been a busy time at the Groveland Branch Library. More and more residents in the area have discovered we are open and are happily checking out their beloved books, DVDs and audiobooks. Memorial gifts have greatly increased our new book section. We are very grateful to have received generous donations in the name of their loved ones.

With so little offered to children during these COVID times, the 6-week Summer Reading Program was huge success. Children gathered every week to hear a story, work on a craft and play games. Many of the children read numerous books which of course was the primary goal of the program.

We have had visitors, mostly from the U.S., come in to see what we are about and to say hello. It has been fun to hear where the travelers have been and what their next stop is going to be. Our free Wi-Fi draws visitors from far and wide, as well as providing service to our locals. As a reminder, the hours for the library are, Tuesday-Thursday 12 noon to 6:00pm, Friday-Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm. Once again masks are required. We hope to see you soon...

NEW ME-WUK EXHIBIT

The Museum is proud to celebrate the opening of a new exhibit on the indigenous Me-Wuk people of southern Tuolumne County. For hundreds of years the Me-Wuk people lived and flourished in the area of present-day Big Oak Flat and Groveland. Without an appreciation of the Me-Wuk way of life, the Museum's presentation of the history of our area would be incomplete.

The Board Displays Committee under the leadership of Kathy Brown had been contemplating an exhibit on the Native American heritage of our area for years. The Museum had a number of artifacts in collections waiting for proper display, and recent work on the Museum's new book on Groveland and Big Oak Flat had uncovered a number of historical photographs that could be used in a new exhibit. The Committee reached out to the local Me-Wuk Bands to better understand their outlook on the historical portrayal of their culture. In addition, the Museum was in contact with other historical organizations (for example, in Yosemite) to access additional information and materials. Finally, while the Museum was largely closed due to Covid concerns, Kathy had the opportunity to pull it all together in the wonderful exhibit that is now available for viewing.

For hundreds of years before Europeans came to the area during the Gold Rush, the Me-Wuk lived in harmony with the environment, obtaining food and shelter from the resources available. The new exhibit chronicles this sustainable way of life, highlighting the use of local acorns for food and local tree bark for housing. Of special interest are striking vintage photos of the last indigenous chief (Nowasi), his daughter Sophia Thompson who assumed leadership of the Me-Wuk Band upon his death, and one of the

final "roundhouses" used in important ceremonies. Moreover, the exhibit features beautiful examples of the intricate basketry that is such an important part of the Me-Wuk cultural legacy.

The Museum is very grateful to Kathy for her untiring efforts to visualize the exhibit and then realize her vision in such a wonderful way. Without her it would not have happened. The Museum and the community are immeasurably better for having the new display and this new chance to appreciate more about this important part of our history.

The best way to show our appreciation is to come to the Museum and see and learn from the new exhibit! We're open weekends from 10 to 2.



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Dear Sir or Madam,

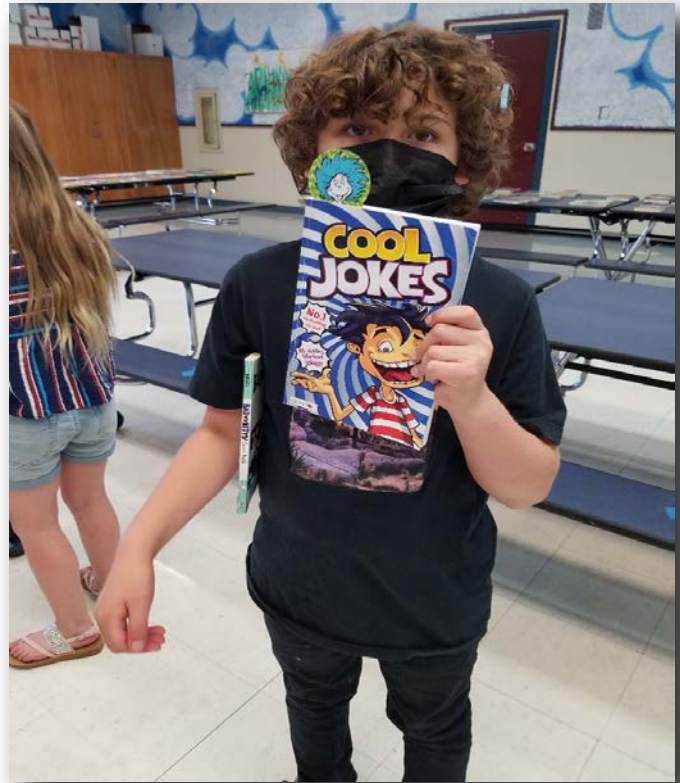
I visited your museum and loved the models best. I am ten years old, and I am a fifth grader. I was given a quiz that I liked. I got 100% on my quiz and was given polished rocks. I also got a rock guide. Also my little box full of rocks fell and the lid broke! Thankfully we found all the rocks and put them into a bag. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

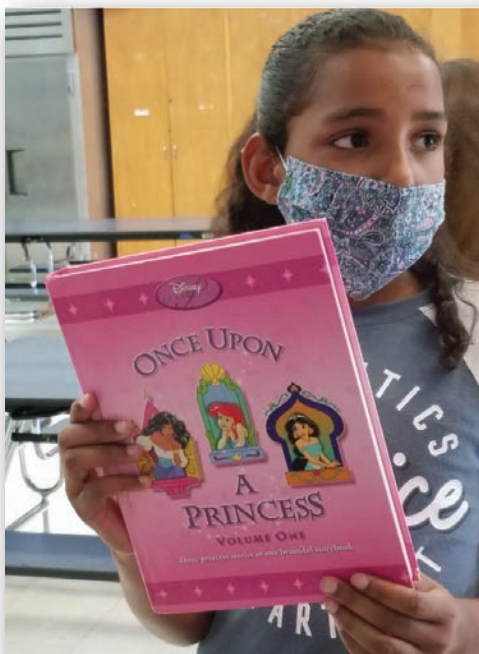
Joshua

FOGL Gives Books Tenaya Students

Friends of the Groveland Library was able to bring a little bit of “normal” to Tenaya students after in tough year in which we were not able to do our usual reading enrichment programs for the students. Near the end of school, FOGL volunteers led by Nadine Pedron gathered up hundreds of donated books, arranged them by grade level K-4, and set up one morning in the school cafeteria. Each class visited in turn and each child was able to choose two books to take home and enjoy. FOGL members Theresa Larson, Audrey Prouse and Karen Handley helped the kids select a “just right” book. While many activities for children are curtailed due to COVID, you can still bring your children and grandchildren to the Groveland Library during the week or to the Book Nook Saturday mornings. Most kids’ books in the Book Nook are just 25 cents! The volunteers of Friends of the Groveland Library are dedicated to supporting our local library and improving literacy in our community. We raise money through book sales and dues to keep our library open five days a week and to provide extra services at the elementary school. You can become a member by sending your name, email address, and a check for \$20 to FOGL, PO Box 43, Groveland.




Kayden Halcon likes joke books.



Makayla Cleary loves princess books.




First grader Rylie Gunter found her favorite book.



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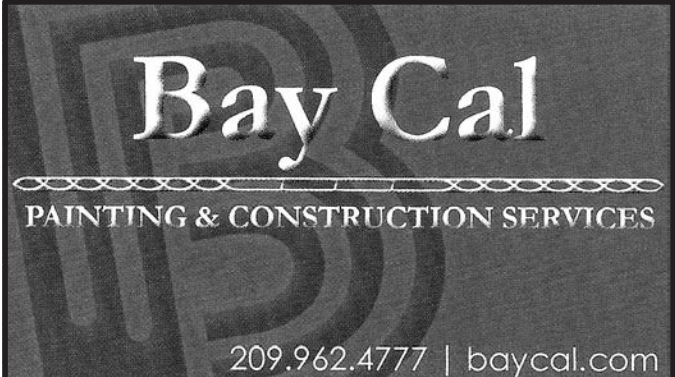
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**Currently the museum is closed..
Contact STCHS via email or through our website.**



**GROVELAND YOSEMITE
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Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society

Museum: 18990 Hwy 120 • Groveland, CA
Mailing: PO Box 180, Big Oak Flat, CA 95305
209-962-0300

Email: thegrovelandmuseum@gmail.com
Website: www.grovelandmuseum.org



The Stanley Family of Early Groveland

Horace and Sara (Upson) Stanley, were married in Iowa in 1876 and came to California shortly thereafter. Horace and his younger brother Charles first found work at a sawmill in Confidence (along Sonora Pass near Sugar Pine). In the 1880 census, Horace listed his occupation as “log chopper” and his wife Sarah was “keeping house” and caring for their two year old son Harry. His younger brother Charles, still single, was listed as a teamster at that same time. By 1883 an even younger brother, Frank Stanley, arrived in Confidence and worked as a carpenter. The three brothers remained in Tuolumne County for several years.

Horace lived in Buchanan (SE of Tuolumne City), working as supervisor of the historic Buchanan mine before moving his wife, three young sons (Harry, Arthur and Fred) and teenage daughter Maud to Groveland in the late 1880s. Their youngest child Myrtle was born in Groveland in 1895. It’s through his children we learn a bit more about the Stanley family and early Groveland.

At the time they moved “south of the river” there was only one ox team left in the hauling business. This team was used by a sawmill operation near Coulterville. The town’s businesses included Cassaretto’s mercantile, the post office, a hotel and seven saloons all in one block. “Ladies of the night” were living on the edge of town. The Stanley children were told to stay away from them and stay off the streets when the miners were in town drinking, playing poker.

Horace operated the Groveland Hotel in 1890 and hosted dinner for the last remaining “49ers” that Thanksgiving. He later operated a grocery in Groveland and would occasionally take gold instead of coin in exchange for food and supplies. Once \$100 worth of gold was accumulated it would be sent via the Wells Fargo Express Office in Big Oak Flat to the mint for coining. After taking the 10% minting fee out of the gold the mint sent back \$100 in gold coins.

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Horace, along with Walter Coyle, is also credited with supplying 200-300 telephone poles to extend the county’s first telephone line from Cloudman to Groveland (1895).

Still later he returned to mining activities holding the position of superintendent of the Sierra, Del Monte and Mt. Jefferson mines. A skilled carpenter, he erected a new blacksmith and woodworking shop, the Buckhorn, in the east end of town. Horace also served as the town doctor; cleaning, sterilizing and sewing up wounds “with a thread and needle from Mother’s work basket”.

When mining became unprofitable and most of Groveland’s mines closed, Horace moved his family to the Stockton area. He spent the balance of his working life as a building contractor.

Horace’s brother Charles Stanley married Alice, the daughter of Thomas Pinder Pool, in Second Garrote in 1885. They, with their infant daughter Genevieve, moved to Newman, Stanislaus County, in 1888. Charles is credited as a pioneer contractor of Newman who built some of the first structures there when the town was laid out.

The youngest brother Frank also moved to Stanislaus County where he worked with his brother Charles in construction. He married Margaret Jasper in Tuolumne County in 1890 and they established their home in Crows Landing where he owned and operated a hardware store.



Commemorative Patio Bricks

These personally engraved bricks are a lasting way to remember a birthday, anniversary, a special occasion, or a loved one, while showing support for the ongoing programs of STCHS and the Museum. They are set in the Memorial Patio to the right of Museum entrance. The patio is never closed!

Contact the museum at gygmstchs@gmail.com to purchase a commemorative brick.



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