

STCHS and Library News



Team STCHS By Harriet Codeglia

STCHS, like many volunteer organizations, has lost key volunteers over time. COVID certainly did not help. We often ask for folks to sign up to be docent, or do other volunteer projects as they are scheduled. Now we want to build an accurate database of folks who want to help, and to join Team STCHS.

The recipients of this newsletter are already helping by being members of the organization, and by paying your dues each year. Thank you. If you have some time to spare, one day per month, or for occasional special projects, here is your chance to speak up and tell us your preference.

Email me (hcodeglia@gmail.com) or call me at 415 516 1852. Tell me which of these volunteer activities you want to sign up for. We'll put you on the team and contact you with timing, etc.

- Docent: Welcome visitors to the museum, manage sales in our book/gift store. One or two 4 hour shifts per month is all we ask.
- Yard clean up: At the Gamble block, or the museum grounds, as needed.
- Next step in restoring the Cobden (yellow house in Big Oak Flat) house: flooring, wall board, paint, hang photos and arrange furniture.
- Help organize the next Wine Tasting Cruise in May 2023 –contact wineries, home owners, volunteers, food providers, etc.
- Help in the History Resource Center (HRC) – assist members of the public with family research, specific local history research, and research using Ancestry.com
- Help with our monthly speaker programs, resuming in 2023 – set up, run camera, bake refreshments, cleanup, or be a speaker and share your knowledge!
- Assist the store manager – purchasing, pricing, logging and overseeing the inventory in our museum store.
- Become a board member – help steer the organization and have a direct impact on our future. We meet monthly.
- Put together this newsletter – once per quarter.

Join the team! Help us preserve our local history, and educate locals and visitors. We cannot do it without you! If you have interests and special skills not mentioned above, let me know!

Taking You Back in History

By Kathy Brown
Ferretti/Gookin Home

The small house, tucked between two buildings across the street from the Charlotte Hotel in Groveland, has always been a source of curiosity for those interested in local history. It currently houses one of Groveland's newest businesses, the Trail Less Traveled, but the house was originally built by Sal and Nona Ferretti in 1921.

Angelo Salvatore Ferretti (Sal) was born near Moccasin in 1871. Sal left the area for a while to work as a police officer in San Francisco where he met Nona Turley, born in Ireland in 1877. They married in 1896 and returned to live "on the hill" two years later. Sal purchased 1400 acres of the James Ranch situated on Big Creek about two miles east of downtown Groveland. That ranch land is now mostly under Pine Mountain Lake and the Ferretti Ranch barn was converted by Boise Cascade developers into the present day Lake Lodge. The Ferrettis raised hogs, sheep, and cattle on the ranch and had a slaughterhouse which supplied Sal's butcher shop in Groveland.

In 1902, Sal's first meat market was located in the adobe building which now houses FireFall Coffee. The interior of that building was destroyed in a fire on the east end of town, c. 1920. After the fire, Sal built and relocated his Tuolumne Meat Market to what is now the Serendipity and the Veterinary Clinic. In 1921 he built a "town house" situated between his old and new meat markets for Nona and him to use when they chose to stay in town for business or social purposes. In addition to being a butcher, Sal became a Tuolumne County Supervisor in 1910. A couple years later he convinced the county to approve the completion of the New Priest Grade for which private construction was already well underway by Groveland area citizens. Sal died in 1946 and Nona in 1945.

By the mid-1950s the Ferretti house was owned by Bill and Georgia Gookin. Bill's mother, Rose Segale Gookin (1885-1978), lived in his home after her husband's death for the last 25 years of her 93 years of life. She was affectionately known as "Grandma Gookin" by townsfolk. When the house was renovated c. 1980s, it was reported that underneath the carpet, on the original floors, a worn pathway could be seen from the sink to the cooking stove, to the sideboard where it appeared that many a pie crust had been rolled creating a round worn indentation in the wood of the sideboard. From there the pathway led to the front room area which was used for sleeping. Grandma Gookin knew everyone in town and spent many an hour watching town activities go on from her front window or porch. The house was bordered by a picket fence, with an apple tree, lilacs and zinnias, Grandma's favorite flower, decorating the front yard.

A wide variety of small businesses have occupied this house though the last 30 plus years - beauty parlor, book store, gift shops, kitchen store and candy store among them. Now the Trail Less Traveled calls this historic house their home.

This pen and ink drawing of the Ferretti/Gookin House was done in the late 1970s by Irene Clark. It is just one of a series of about 40 drawings of Groveland area buildings. Prints of these are still available for purchase at the Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum.



Built on Dreams of Gold

Many visitors to southern Tuolumne County - as well as many local residents - don't know about the importance of gold mining in the history of our area. There are no old mine shafts or rusting equipment along the roadside. The area is known as the "Gateway to Yosemite" and a wonderful recreation center - and not for its mining heritage.

The truth is that the towns of Groveland and Big Oak Flat owe their existence to gold mining from the earliest days of the California Gold Rush. 175 years ago the earth and streams of our community were laden with rich deposits of gold. And venturers came from across the world to find it and build their lives here.

In its new exhibit titled "Built on Dreams of Gold," the Museum seeks to reveal the truth of our community's roots in gold mining. It tells the fascinating story of the area's growth from early gold camps as part of the "Forty Niner" era to its consolidation as a center for "hard rock mining" by the 1890s until the closure of nearly all mines in the early twentieth century.

More than 20 historical photos trace the history of area mining and depict the tens - even hundreds - of mines that once dotted the terrain from Big Oak Flat to Groveland. More than 15 historical artifacts - including a miner's helmet and a gold pan - help convey the reality of being a miner.

Come to the Museum and learn the tale of James Savage who befriended the local indigenous people and was led by them to the first gold deposits in Big Oak Flat in 1849. Or the story of Andrew Rocca, an Italian immigrant, whose siphon technology brought all-important water from the Tuolumne River to the gold camps. Or read about the environmental devastation caused by "hydraulic mining" - erosion scars that can still be seen in the area.



FOGL News

By Virginia Richmond

FOGL Helps "Stuff the Bus"

In August, Friends of the Groveland Library treasurer, Harriet Codeglia, presented a check to Tenaya principal Wynette Hilton to help purchase school supplies for Tenaya students.



County Library Donation

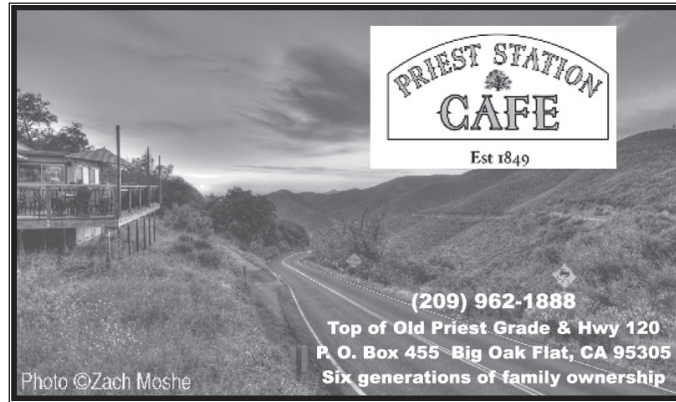
Did you know that FOGL must raise \$10,000 each year to pay the County for our fifth day of library services? The county pays for only four days. In the photo, FOGL president, Virginia Richmond, delivers our check to County library operations supervisor, Anita Simpson.

We thank our members, donors, and Book Nook patrons for helping raise these necessary funds to keep our library open five days a week.



Book Nook Management change

You may have heard that our good friend and stalwart Book Nook manager, Linda Kehoe, has moved to Samaritan Village Senior Living in Hughson. We miss her and her steady hand on the Book Nook, but wish Linda well in her next chapter. We welcome new management to the Book Nook, Karen Hopkins and Michele Roberts. Book Nook continues to be open every Saturday from 10 until 1 pm. We sell gently used books, CDs and DVDs at rock bottom prices.



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Super Successful Annual Barbecue

Despite record temps in the Motherlode, more than 100 local residents and families came out on Sunday, Sept 4, to attend the 13th annual STCHS barbecue at PML stables. There was plenty of cool shade under the tall oaks to sit around tables and enjoy tasty tri-tip, hot dogs and salads, ice cream sandwiches, plus beer and wine and lots of water. The highlight for the kids (and their camera-toting parents) was a watermelon eating contest. Let's just say some of the contestants "really got into it!" They also had fun with a friendly tug of war.

Many thanks to Patricia Gibson for stepping forward to chair the event this year. It is no easy task coordinating all the needed volunteers, vendors, musicians, etc. Patricia did a marvelous job, and now that she knows how...

Big Joe and his Happy Posse band provided a lot of good music, even though it was a bit warm for dancing. The silent auction had some excellent finds, the bake sale was wonderful,

A special thank you to our sponsors: Priest Station, Helping Hands, Black Oak Casino, Sabre Design, Mechanics Bank, Pine Mountain Lake Association, Bay Cal Construction, Premier Valley Bank.

Many volunteers helped make the event a hit. Cookie bakers, the 4 H Club, silent auction donors, drink and ice cream servers, chefs, food servers, meal and raffle ticket sellers, photo display setup – we thank you all.

STCHS sincerely thanks everyone who came out to support the Museum. And have a good time too!



New Rocks Rock

After twenty years of exposure to the elements the stonework on the sign for the Museum and Library was looking a little under the weather. Some stones had fallen away exposing the mortar, which in turn turned to sand. We wanted our "first impression" to visitors to be as positive as possible.

On June 13 the sign had a face lift to replace the stones and repair the mortar to its original attractive condition. By coincidence the work was done by Justen Sudberry and his team who had also worked on the arrastra display in the parking lot many years before. In addition to the sign, the stonework for the display of the Yosemite School bell on the walkway to the Museum was also fixed. Thank you, Justen!



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.



STCHS
PO Box 180
Big Oak Flat, CA 95305

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS Jan. ~ Sept. 2022

In Memory of Dick Davis:

Catherine & Larry Santa Maria	Jeff & Anne Nash
John & Jeanne Wilson	Susie & Walt Bales
Jim Phillips	Steve & Maureen Grierfer
Nancy Jones	Corie & Dan French
Marjorie Edlund	L. Johnson & J. Pacco
Alan & Linda Craig	Dotty Davis
Kathy & Don Brown	

In Memory of Christopher Coan:

Dotty Davis

In Memory of Bert Canepa:

Steve & Muareen Grierfer

In Memory of Jerry Lynn:

Dotty Davis

In Memory of Ralph Gaarde:

Mark & Nadine Dunker	Charles Fenley
Tim & Barbara Vieira	Vicki Gookin
Mark & Ruth Graham	Rhoda Yare
Gilbert Nessler	D. Hart & K. Seaton
Janet Gambell	Richard & JoAnn Spoon

In Memory of Warren Belisle:

Walt & Susie Bales ~ Kathy Seaton & Doralee Harte

In Memory of Fred Hancock:

Dotty Davis

In Memory of Marjorie Edlund:

Dotty Davis