



2015 November-December Volume 18, Issue 6

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## Administrator's Notes

by *Ralph Gibson*

The leaves are turning gold and amber, but for the life of me, I don't know why. Has someone been showing the trees a calendar? As I write this we've had our first real crisp morning since last year, yet the trees around the courthouse and the Bernhard Museum look like they are on fire.

Of course, what makes the leaves turn isn't the temperature, but rather the diminishing light as the days grow shorter with winter's approach. But it still feels odd to see fall leaves when it's ninety degrees outside.

I hope cooler, wetter weather comes soon because just a couple of weeks after you read this we'll be decorating the Bernhard Museum for Victorian Christmas. Christmas lights and eighty degrees don't mix well. The holiday season will be well represented in our three Auburn Museums with the Bernhard getting the usual 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday treatment, a big Christmas tree trimmed in the foyer of the courthouse, and the Gold Rush Museum adorned with a few holiday touches, including special panels recounting Christmas Day in 1849 from Gold Rush era journals.

Because Christmas has been celebrated in our area since at least 1848, the holiday has become a part of our history and worthy of interpretation. The Bernhard and Gold Rush Museums will be decorated by November 18<sup>th</sup>, and the courthouse tree will go up the following Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## The Michael D. Lininger Collection

by *Kasia Woroniecka*  
Curator of Collections

Another wonderful donation recently became part of our permanent collection. Donated by Dr. Richard Raymond Lininger and his wife, Ana Marie Lininger, the objects belonged to Dr. Lininger's great grandfather Michael David Lininger, master builder and former mayor of Auburn. The donation includes a large chest of tools, souvenir medals and fraternal ribbons, a Knights Templar uniform and hats, as well as photos and documents that became part of the Archives collection.

Michael David Lininger was born in Cumberland, Pennsylvania, in 1842. A few years later the Liningers moved to Iowa. In 1861 Michael



A fleam, or bloodletter, from the Lininger collection.

married Anna Moore, and when the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Union Army 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers as a sergeant. He took part in the battles of Vicksburg, Red River,

Shenandoah, Berryville, Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek.

One of the objects in the collection that dates to the Civil War era is a fleam – a bloodletting tool commonly found in a surgeon's medical kit in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We know today that bloodletting is not effective for most diseases, yet at the time when antibiotics and antiseptics were not yet discovered, bloodletting was used to treat most ailments, including pneumonia and gangrene. The u-shaped blade of the fleam is spring-loaded and activated by the trigger above it. Bloodletting killed more people than it cured, and the practice gradually diminished to a few select medical conditions.



After receiving an honorable discharge in August 1865, Lininger returned to Iowa. In 1872 he moved his family to Ophir and later to Auburn.

Michael Lininger, known throughout town as "Uncle Dave," was a building contractor in charge of erecting many buildings in Auburn, among them the Episcopal Church and the Congregational Church. The donated chest holds many of the tools that were probably used by him when working on these projects. He also participated in the political and social life of Placer County, serving several terms in the Auburn City Council

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Ornate carpenter's level from the Lininger tool collection.

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and two years as the mayor of Auburn. Michael Lininger was a prominent Mason as well as a member of the Knights Templar, an organization associated with Freemasonry. He was also active in the Civil War veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, which was founded in 1866. The G.A.R. supported voting rights for black veterans, promoted patriotic education, helped to make Memorial Day a national holiday

and lobbied Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions.

Michael Lininger died in 1931 in Auburn. His obituary described him as a man who was "loved by all who knew him and respected even by those who differed with him on civic enterprises for his honesty in dealing fairly and



Michael Lininger's Knights Templar hat.

squarely with every problem which came before him."

## Volunteers Help Fashion a User-Friendly Research Center

by Debbie Poulsen  
Curator of Archives

At the Placer County Archives and Research Center we have been very busy making research easier and more accessible. Thanks to our dedicated Archives volunteers, researchers can now access information in their pajamas at home—from anywhere in the world!

One of our proudest accomplishments this year is adding a new link on the Placer County Ar-

chives and Research Center website. [The link](#) connects people to a 1200+ page pdf database of Auburn area vital records and articles of note from the *Placer Herald*, 1863-1915.

During this long-term project, volunteers extracted vital record dates from the newspaper, year by year, onto 3x5" index cards. The information was then merged into the database and linked to our website.

Along with births, marriages, and

deaths, the database also includes references to a limited number of articles about business endeavors and other interesting items published in the *Placer Herald* newspaper.

While online access saves time and money for researchers, it can also whet their appetites for a visit to Placer County to see firsthand where their emigrant ancestors engaged in local industries like gold mining and fruit ranching. Placer County Archives gets requests for information from places as far away as Australia, Alaska, Germany and Wales, and it is not unusual for these people to visit us a few years after their initial inquiries.

Currently we have twenty volunteers



Placer Herald, 1863-1915 Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Misc. Notes			
	Year	Date	Description
Quakers meet	1807	5-Mar	Quarts mining on Fives Hill Divide, Placer; Southern Cross, Rowley, 3 Queens, Barton, Snow Mtn., Bald Mt., Wash Canyon, Lake Canyon, p. 1-184.
A.E. Bond	1894	1-Mar	A.E. Bond, bought property from George P. Lowell for \$2,000 for a grain washhouse, p. 52.
Rev. Jao P.	1873	29-Nov	Truckee, Nov. 23, 1873. Abby married Mary Henry, p. 3-3.
	1884	26-Apr	Abbott & Stangenberg, blacksmiths & wagonmakers, wagons & carriages, p. 3-4.
	1814	7-Nov	A.F. Abbott, 60 yrs., new Auburn, native of Ill., p. 3-3.
			is registered in A.G. Abbott

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in the archives. Along with scanning and numbering items to organize collections, some of them help with research requests. When the requests come in, volunteers usually scan and e-mail information to that patron, who may live here locally or someplace far away.

Recently, visitors from Texas were so delighted with their archives visit that they gave us big hugs as they left! They had traveled here to review the two large boxes of correspondence and documents members of their family had donated to our Robert Watson Collection. Watson was their grandfather and a prominent constable in Tahoe City in the early 1900s. After requesting information three years ago, the grand-



Ron Peterson volunteers his time working with maps in the Archives.

daughters decided to plan a trip to visit us and the Tahoe area. The long journey to Placer County, they said, was well worth it!

Our museum software program, called "PastPerfect," provides access to almost 28,000 digitally scanned

images from our collections. In order to view and order on site visitors need to come to our site and use the computer in our Research Room. These images cover many aspects of Placer County's history, including many photographic images of people and homes. There is a chance we have images of a grandparent that you may not have seen!

Research visitors often say they are very impressed. They usually leave with more material and images than they ever imagined existed. Each year we receive numerous donations of historic letters, books, slides, movies, and images. We are continuously organizing and making it easier for people to find things.

Come visit and see for yourself!

## The Scoop

by *Beth Rohlfes*  
*Editor and Staff Writer*

In our rush to Christmas, let's not forget Thanksgiving. We are grateful for the opportunity to enjoy such a lively history here in Placer County. THANK YOU to those who make it come alive!

"God bless us, everyone," and welcome all to a cozy Victorian Christmas at the courthouse again this year during Old Town Country

Christmas. Hot cider and holiday cookies await our guests, along with festive displays of carriages and quilts, holiday music and a golden Christmas tree decked with glittered cards handmade by children in years past.

Kids! Join us at our Victorian Christmas craft table to create your own unique cards and ornaments.

Bring the whole family to the event, Saturdays, December 12 and 19, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Be sure to come for special holiday music



Museum docent Jo Ann Greene admires the courthouse Christmas tree, December 2014.

performed by the Auburn Concert Band woodwind ensemble, on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.



## Placer County Historical Society News

By Michael Otten  
Immediate Past President, PCHS

### CCHS and National History Day in Rocklin

Be one in a 100. Join a group that comes together to learn from each other while celebrating the remarkable history of our communities.

I'm recruiting museums and history-oriented organizations and individuals to become members of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

After a decade as president of the Placer County Historical Societies I have been elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Conference (CCHS) as well as Region 8 VP. Of the 40 CCHS Regions, my Sierra Gateway Region has the most counties: Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba. I am

also temporary VP for Region 7, dubbed the Goldfield Gateway covering Sacramento and Yolo, until a permanent replacement can be found.

At the October Symposium in Redding, CCHS set a goal of 100 new members for 2016. My goal is to have the biggest boost from our area.



The CCHS is a strong supporter of National History Day. This year the California County Coordinators voted to make William Jessup University in Rocklin the permanent home of the state contest. Mark May 6-7, 2016, to attend. This is a special opportunity for students, grades 4 to

12, to be involved in creating projects based on the theme of "exploration, encounter, exchange in history."

A History Day workshop is set for Nov. 14 at the State Archives. For information go to [www.nhdca.org](http://www.nhdca.org).

To join CCHS please go to [www.californiahistorian.com](http://www.californiahistorian.com) or contact me at [otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net) or 530 888-7837

...Walt Wilson, Placer County Historical Society president, seeks donated items for the Christmas dinner drawing Dec. 3. Be prepared for historical trivia questions for a chance to win a history book. Check [www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org) for a special trivia question.

Happy holidays!

### Christmas Dinner Meeting

By Addah Owens, Vice President

**When:** December 3

**Time:** 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

**Where:** Auburn Veterans Hall, 100 East St, Auburn

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Menu:** Roast turkey, roast baron of beef, sweet potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls, salad, dessert and coffee.

**Program:** Western author Chris Enss will discuss the life and career of movie, recording and TV cowboy Roy Rogers and his wife Dale Evans.

The program, titled "Happy Trails," will cover how the two met, how they overcame the hurdles of show business and marriage, thanks to their steadfast faith. Chris will also have her



books on sale before and after the program. Be sure to ask her to sign them!

We will also sell tickets during the evening for our annual "drawing."

**Mail Check to:** PCHS  
c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Rd, Auburn, CA 95603

**DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL. County directives prohibit it, and, we can't get liability coverage.**

## Placer County Historical Organizations

**Colfax Area Historical Society,**  
Chris Miller (530) 346-8599

[colfaxhistory.org](http://colfaxhistory.org)

**Donner Summit Historical Society**  
Bill Oudegeest, (209) 606-6859

[donnersummithistoricalsociety.org](http://donnersummithistoricalsociety.org)

**Foresthill Divide Historical Society**  
Sandy Simester, (530) 367-3535

[foresthillhistory.org](http://foresthillhistory.org)

**Fruitvale School Hall Community Association**

Lyndell Grey, (916) 645-3517

**Golden Drift Historical Society**

Jim Ricker, (530) 389-8344

**Historical Advisory Board**

Glenn Vineyard, (916) 747-1961

**Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center**

Richard Yue, (530) 346-7121

**Lincoln Highway Association**

Bob Dieterich,

[bobd@iname.com](mailto:bobd@iname.com)

or [lincolnhwy.org](http://lincolnhwy.org)

**Lincoln Area Archives Museum**

Elizabeth Jansen , (916) 645-3800

[laamca.org](http://laamca.org)

**Maidu Museum & Historic Site**

Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299

[roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum)

**The Museum of Sierra Ski History and the 1960 Winter Olympics**

David C. Antonucci (775)722-3502

<http://tahoemuseum.org/>

**Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59**

Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878

[dsallen59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsallen59@sbcglobal.net)

**Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association**

Mario Farinha (530) 269-2412

**North Lake Tahoe Historical Society**

Rebecca Phipps, (530) 583-1762

[northtahoemuseums.org](http://northtahoemuseums.org)

**Placer County Historical Society**

Walt Wilson, (530) 878-6640

[placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://placercountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Placer County Museums Docent Guild**

Tom Innes, (530) 888-8969

**Rocklin Historical Society**

Barbara Chapman, (916) 415-0153

[rocklinhistory.org](http://rocklinhistory.org)

**Roseville Historical Society**

Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003

[rosevillehistorical.org](http://rosevillehistorical.org)

**Old Town Auburn Preservation Society**

Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

**Placer County Genealogical Society**

Toni Rosasco, (530) 888-8036

[pcgenes.com](http://pcgenes.com)

**Roseville Fire Museum**

Jim Giblin, [JGiblin@roseville.ca.us](mailto:JGiblin@roseville.ca.us)

[rosevillefiremuseum.org](http://rosevillefiremuseum.org)

**Roseville Public Library**

Christopher Webber (916)774-5239

[www.roseville.ca.us/library](http://www.roseville.ca.us/library)



# Calendar of Events

## November

5 2:00pm Placer County Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Room 10, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. (530) 878-6640

9 6:00pm Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 415-0153

10 4:00pm Roseville Historical Society meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln St., Roseville (916) 773-3003

16 6:00pm Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535

18 6:00pm Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis library. (916) 663-3871

21 7:00pm Colfax Area Historical Society, Colfax Depot. Nancy Hagman and Helen Wayland will discuss how to research your home's history. (530) 346-8599

23 7:00pm Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076

## December

3 6:30pm Placer County Historical Society dinner meeting, Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn. (530) 878-6640

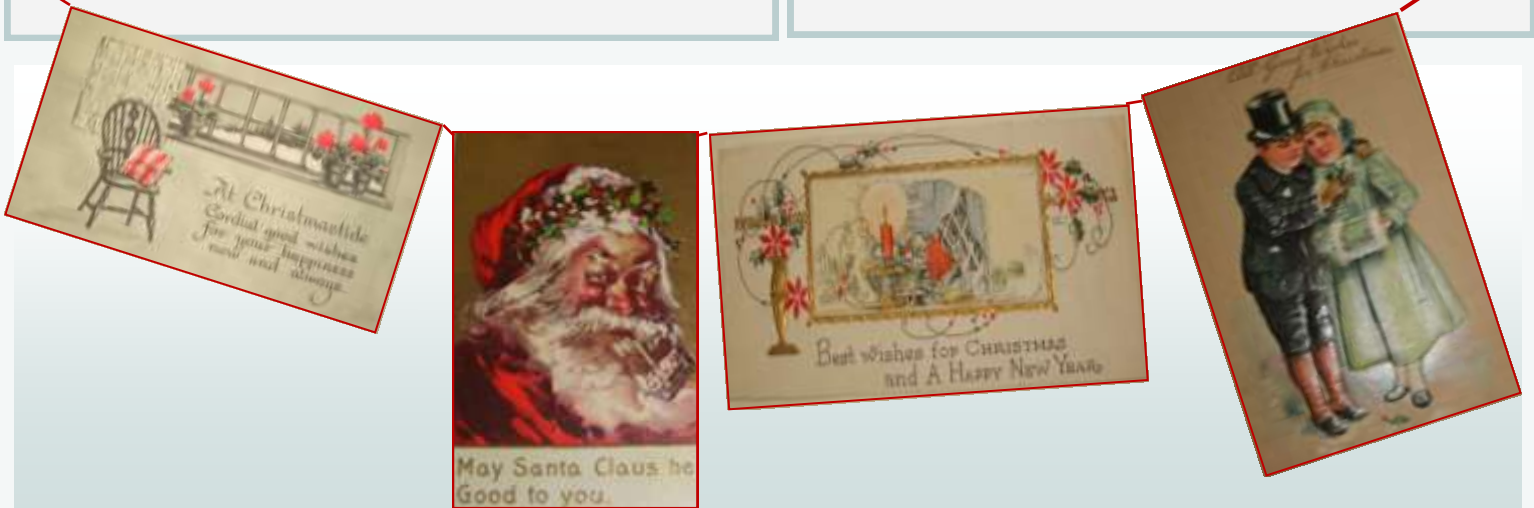
8 4:00 m Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003

14 6:0pm Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 415-0153

16 5:30pm Historical Advisory Board Meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

16 6:00pm Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871

The Placer County Museums is on Twitter!  
You can find us @PlacerMuseums.



**Placer County Museums**  
101 Maple Street  
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