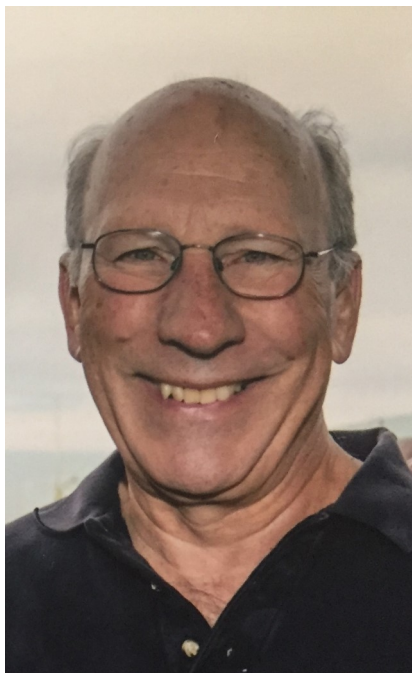


President's Message



Hank Lohse

The new Rocklin Historical Society website is up and running. It's easier to use and has many new features. You will even be able to renew your membership on line. Check it out! Thank you Martin Corona and Holly Clark for making this happen. We also purchased a new computer system to be able to run the archival program Past Perfect. David Baker is working of getting all the bugs out to make it easier for us to use.

The construction of a new

(Continued on page 2)

Where did "Rocklin" come from?

Gary Day

Our city's name first appeared in print in June 1864 when Rocklin was listed in Central Pacific Time Card Number One, a rail passenger timetable, as a stop between Junction (now Roseville) and Pino (now Loomis). But how did the name "Rocklin" originate? And if the coiners wanted to recognize the rock of our granite outcroppings and quarries, why didn't they name our city more conventionally with something like Rockland or Graniteville? Stan Rocklin of Fairfax, Virginia thought that he might know the answer. "...My grandfather Rocklin told me that a distant relative was involved in building the railroads in the West" he said. "Grandfather also told me that a town had been named for that relative".

Could that town have been our Rocklin?

According to a Sacramento Railroad Museum archivist, it was common practice in the 1860s, during construction of the transcontinental railroad, for the Central Pacific to name passenger stations for locally famous people. For example according to the Loomis Historical Society,

the town of Loomis is named for one of its first stationmasters, James Loomis.

But none of Rocklin's 19th century census records show a person named Rocklin and railroad archives don't show an 1860's employee named Rocklin either. Stan Rocklin and his friends have searched genealogically via the Internet since 2002 and have not yet identified a 19th century person named Rocklin who can be connected with the naming of our city.

A second theory about Rocklin's name, one expressed in at least one of Rocklin's written histories, is that "Rocklin" is a corruption of "Rockland" or a Finnish equivalent. However according to former Rocklin Mayor, Roy Ruhkala, Rocklin has never been named "Rockland" and "Rocklin" has no meaning in the Finnish language. Also, as Rocklin historian Gene Johnson says, "Why would the railroad purposely misspell a name?" Ruhkala quickly points out however that, in his experience on the Rocklin City Council, city offices sometimes received mail erroneously addressed to Rockland, California.

(Continued on page 7)

*(Continued from page 1)
president*

Porter Hall building was ruled out by the city. They deemed it a too costly project. We are now toying with the idea of putting up a pre-fab barn at Heritage Park. It can be used to display larger historic items as well as a community center. Keep your fingers crossed!

Thanks to Gene and Marg for the use of the Johnson home-
stead for our garage sale in Sep-
tember. Any garage or yard
sales in the future (if any) will
have to be somewhere else.
The next weekend, September
15th, we packed up the pop-up
tents and folding tables and
headed off to Hot Chili and Cool
Cars. We arrived there early,
waited for the crowds and ended
up signing up 12 new members.
Now, right around the corner is
the Tree Lighting event at Herit-
age Park on December 2nd.
Mark your calendar for a fun
holiday tradition.

Our youngest member on the
RHS board, Holly Clark, has
been promoted by Peet's Coffee
to a bigger store in Pleasant Hill.



We know she
will do a great
job for them and
will be missed
by all of us.
Good luck, Hol-
ly!

Finally, all of know that a non-
profit organization lives or dies
on volunteering helpers. So I am
calling on all members of RHS
to take that next step and volun-
teer to be on the board and even
take on an office position.

Rocklin Historical Society Speaker Series 2017-2018

Old St. Mary's Chapel
Front Street, Rocklin
7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

October 16, 2017

Bill George

Pioneer California History

November 20, 2017

Richard Hurley

Civil War in California



February 19, 2018

Michael Stark

Roaming the Sierra Nevada Foothills

Check Rocklin History website for more society events.

Richard Hurley will be our sec-
ond speaker in this season's
Speakers Series. Mr. Hurley is
co-author of Queen of the North-
ern Mines - a novel of the Civil
War in California. It is a histori-
cal fiction story set in Civil War-
era Nevada County. The book

was a finalist for the 2012 Ben Franklin Historical Fiction
Award of the Independent Book Publishers of America. He
will present a multimedia presentation entitled 'California
and the Civil War' on November 20th at Old St. Mary's
Chapel on Front Street in Rocklin at 7:00 P.M.. More infor-
mation can be found at 'caleducationalmedia.org/history' or
'bearriverbooks.com'. Come join us for an informative, en-
tertaining evening.



Christmas Tree Lighting goes on December 2, 2017

Gene Johnson



A group of dedicated volunteers formed a tree lighting group years ago composed of Rocklin citizens, service club members, businesses, schools, churches and charitable organizations including members and support from the Rocklin Historical Society to provide a Community wide event to celebrate the Christmas season. Over the years the event has been co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Rocklin, City of Rocklin, and the Rocklin Historical Society. The event is entirely FREE to the community and is a fun filled evening celebrating the Christmas Spirit. The event starts off

with a parade down Front Street at 4 pm with bands, dogs from RRUFF, horse drawn wagon, children's train, costumed characters, cheer leaders and of course Santa. During the celebration there will be wagon rides, train rides, pony rides, free crafts, face painting, hot dogs, chili, popcorn, cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, water, performances by musical groups from local schools and church groups, a live nativity scene, and of course visits with Santa and take your own selfie. A special treat this year is a Christmas tree ornament donated by



All of the kids' rides were free last year

lighting the symbolic Rocklin Christmas Tree. The event could not happen without the generous donations from local businesses and in kind products from local vendors, giving back to the community to make it a totally free event for the enjoyment of the Rocklin citizens, families,

and children to celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season.

The event goes, rain or shine, on December 2, 2017 from 4pm until 7pm On Rocklin's Historic Front Street in front of Old Saint



the City of Rocklin, commemorating 125 years of the City of Rocklin's incorporation. And the event would not be complete without the singing of Christmas carols and

Mary's

The Rocklin Historical Society's Final Yard Sale

Gene Johnson

October 7, 2017 marked the end of Rocklin Historical Society's tradition of a garage sale at the Johnson residence on 5th Street. The event was not on the yearly schedule but the closing of Hand Pickin' Emporium and their offer of donating their remaining inventory to us was too much to ignore. After cleaning out the shop and numerous truck loads to storage, plans were made for the sale. Cooler weather in September made the decision easier. After hours of sorting, arranging and pricing by a dedicated team of volunteers, the gates opened early to a steady stream of buyers. The decision was made to continue the sale on Sunday for half a day at half off. All the remaining treasures were packed up and picked up by the Salvation Army. A special thank you to Gene and Marg Johnson for letting us take over their yard for this event. Big thank you to all of you who helped with the set up and take down and on the day of the sale.

Also, a shout out to those of you who donated your extra treasures for the event. All the work was worth it! After all the counting was done we made \$3785! Not bad for our final (maybe) sale!



Payson Williams entertains as he tests the \$100 piano



The Yard Sale offered a wide variety of valuable items. This is a scene from the early morning.

What Were We Thinking?

Gay Morgan

It was one of those lazy summer evenings. Not too hot. Supper was over and the dishes were done after the usual discussion of “It’s my turn to dry—you did it yesterday.” A couple of the men were in the garage peering into the engine of a green Chevy truck, arguing about what might be wrong. The kids had a pretty good game of kick-ball going in the street. (Our street dead-ended in front of our house.) I was clipping dead blossoms off a gardenia bush and wondering if the much-loved Delta Breeze was going to appear this evening. Suddenly there was a hush, the lady rocking on the porch next door called, “Did you hear that?” “Yes, I did.” I said. “Better hurry!” I scurried into the house, rushing to shut all the doors and windows tight.

The Kick-ball game stopped, the kids had heard the sound too. They yelled in delight and ran to get their bikes and scooters. Then it appeared at the end of the block, an old, battered, beige truck with some noisy device in the back belching out huge dark smelly clouds of insecticide.

The neighborhood kids gleefully followed the truck, trying to stay in the mist. Other groups of kids joined in happily along the way. They followed until they got tired or it got too dark. They came home laughing and smelling awful and saying how much fun it was.

Mothers ran to close up the houses to keep the fumes out but our children played in them. We never tried to stop the parade following the mosquito abatement truck. What were we thinking?

Recently, talking to some of those “kids” in their 50’s, they still say it was fun and as far as we know, no one ever got sick.

P.S. Somehow I always thought this was something unique to Rocklin. After writing about it, I learned that Comedian Louie Anderson had recently told a similar story on a late-night TV show. He grew up back east somewhere.

He thought it was fun too.

On our trip to Canada Marg wanted to visit Eastend, Saskatchewan, the site of the 1994 discovery of “Scotty” the most complete skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex ever found.

We met the couple whose farm was at the discovery site and were thrilled to be introduced to the high school teacher that discovered the T-Rex remains.

Our Trip & Eastend, Saskatchewan Gene Johnson

We had a wonderful visit with the docent at the Eastend Museum. The museum occupies several small buildings - a larger building is being added to house archeological artifacts. Not bad for a community of 503 residents largely served by gravel roads.

Help preserve Rocklin's history and support history-related arts projects.



The Rocklin Heritage Fund at the Placer Community Foundation supports the Rocklin Historical Society

Now it is possible to make tax-deductible gifts and perpetual endowments that will support Rocklin Historical Society programs including both visual and performing arts related to Rocklin's heritage.

Please contact Veronica Blake at 530-885-4920 to learn how you can contribute, or go to www.placercf.org.



Local giving. Lasting value.

Old Saint Mary's Chapel News

Nancy Lohse
Old Saint Mary's Chapel Chairperson



If you haven't been by the chapel recently, now is the time to go! Everything is in bloom and the grass couldn't be greener! The trees are turning color for fall. Remember we are open Wednesdays from 5-7 for client tours but we would love to have you stop by and wander around. We usually have the firehouse open, too, to show clients where the groom can hang out before the wedding. You can see the office that served as city hall, the

marshals office, and library. Don't forget to walk through the community orchard just past the firehouse. The fruit is there for you to pick! Enjoy!

This is certainly our busy season. We have had one to two weddings every weekend through October - sometimes 3. August is a slower month - too hot! We are still getting requests for 2017 and have 32 weddings booked for 2018. We even have one booked for 2019 and 2020! All of this certainly keeps the church ladies busy but we love it! Our little chapel is certainly making memories for many!

The chapel has been the site for eleven memorials and funerals so far this year. It is such a lovely, serene place to honor a loved one.

Watch your emails for the start of the next Speaker's Series event in November. It will be held at the chapel.

Please stop by on Wednesday and thank our wonderful church lady volunteers! All the money from use of the chapel goes towards moving the historical society forward.

Visit us for a chapel tour on Wednesdays from 5 pm until 7 pm
916-415-1150

www.OldStMarysChapel.com

email: oldstmaryschapel@gmail.com

(Continued from page 1)

A third theory about the origin of our city's name is that "Rocklin" originated in the Gaelic of early Irish settlers. Evidence for the Irish connection is circumstantial but compelling.

In the United States Census of 1860, most of historic Rocklin was called "Secret Ravine".

The population was centered near today's Secret Ravine neighborhood, the area of homes, open fields and oaks that we see today on the southeast side of Interstate 80 between Roseville and Loomis.

Secret Ravine's 1860 census counted 440 people. 72 were Irish born. 47 Irishmen sluiced for gold in the Secret Ravine creek.

Michael Keating was the local innkeeper. Tom Maloney was the shoemaker. James Bolton owned the farm that he subdivided to form Rocklin's original town site, today's Downtown Rocklin, in 1866. All of these men were Irish. By their numbers in 1860, Irishmen were our area's dominant immigrant group.

Our next glimpse of Irish population density is the 1870 census which shows that during the 1860s most Irish miners had abandoned their sluice boxes and settled into railroad jobs. Irishmen made up the largest group of foreign-born Rocklin Roundhouse workers. And based on the Irish names attached to some of Rocklin's 19th century quarries some Irishmen were in the granite business also.

Rocklin had probably not been named as of March 1864

when the transcontinental railroad tracks reached our area from Sacramento. A *Sacramento Union* article that month refers to our downtown area as merely the *granite quarries at the end of the tracks*. But the 1864 railroad timetable proves that by June that year Rocklin had been named.

Ireland's capital, Dublin, is named for a pool of dark water at the confluence of 2 rivers. "Dublin" is made up of 2 truncated Gaelic words, Dubh for black and "linn" for pool. Noticing how winter rainwater forms deep pools in Rocklin's quarries and fancifully combining English with Gaelic to mimic the construct of "Dublin", Rocklin's Irishmen might have named our town "rock" for the granite and "lin" for the pools. "Rock pool" aptly describes Rocklin's rainwater filled quarries and wintertime puddles among downtown granite outcroppings even today.

And there is more evidence for the Irish connection. Rocklin, Nova Scotia is a sparsely populated, former mill town in the north central part of that Canadian province. Area historian John Ashton says that "In Gaelic a linn is a pool or waterfall. The area around Rocklin, Nova Scotia was settled by Highland Scots who spoke mostly Gaelic. So I think that Rocklin, Nova Scotia was probably named after the waterfalls and rocks where the mills were located."

The origin of Rocklin, California's name remains a mystery. Stan Rocklin and his clan

continue the search. But our city might owe its name to the whimsy of Rocklin's early Irish settlers.

How did Taylor Road Get its name.

Gene Johnson

Taylor Road, once a state highway, stretches from Auburn to Roseville. Sections of it are called Pacific Street and Ophir Road. In 1912, there was a push to build a transcontinental highway – the Lincoln Highway – tying together the East and West coasts. The route followed Pacific Street in Rocklin and wagon roads through Loomis to Penryn, where the Valencia Club is now, and to Auburn. The advent of more national highways, and the numbering system, meant the loss of the Lincoln Highway moniker and the change to Highway 40. In 1960, when Interstate 80 replaced Highway 40, the Placer County Board of Supervisors named the abandoned highway Taylor Road for Porter Lee Taylor. Loomis adopted the new name in place of "Olive Street", Rocklin elected to retain "Pacific Street". Taylor, who died in 1950, had been a Loomis resident since 1903. He was a fruit farmer (Moonshine Orchards) and manager of American Fruit Growers fruit sheds, including the shed now called the Blue Goose. Ref: Article by Beth Enright, Loomis.

**The Rocklin Chamber of Commerce's
Hot Chile and Cool Cars
September 16, 2017**



George Salgado and Hank Lohse and an ambitious group of high school volunteers set up the Rocklin Historical Society's booth early



On a sunny Hot Chili and Cool Cars day, Rocklin Historical Society members saw significant interest in Rocklin's history and they recruited twelve new enthusiastic members.



Take a walk through history

This photo of Rocklin's band is displayed on a historic plaque in downtown Rocklin. If you want to find it, join Dr. James Carlson on one of his monthly walks. The easy one- hour and 15-minute walks start at noon on the second Saturday of each month at Finn Hall on Rocklin Road. Dr. Carlson will point out 10 historic sites along the way. The walk will finish by 1:15 p.m. at the Rocklin History Museum on Rocklin Road at San Francisco Street. Cameras and comfortable walking shoes recommended. If you're interested in joining the tour of Rocklin's historic sites, call or text Carlson at 916-624-0682.

In Memory of Historian Chris Graves

"We're going up this?" Bill George asked the 6 foot-8 inch grey haired man behind the wheel of the pickup truck. "Well darn," he roared as he revved the engine. "You wanted to see the old [Central Pacific RR] grade, didn't you?" Our October speaker, Bill George, informed us that Chris Graves passed away of natural causes at his Newcastle home April 14, 2016. He is buried on a hill in the Newcastle Cemetery near the railroad track, the same route laid out in the 1860s, the route that so fascinated him.

RANDY PETERS
CATERING & EVENTS
PLAN . PARTY . REPEAT .

Mark your calendar

Events Schedule

Old St Mary's Chapel Open for Tours

Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Come take a look at the perfect location to host your next event!

History Walks

Second Saturday of the month

Meet at noon at Finn Hall for a 75-minute walk led by Dr. Jim Carlson. The route is on flat surfaces and covers a variety of historic sites. For more information call or text Jim Carlson at 916-624-0682.

Rocklin History Museum

Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Docents are always needed. For information call Gay Morgan at 624-2355.

RHS Board of Directors

Second Monday of month at 6 p.m. at City of Rocklin, Parks and Recreation Building in Springview Park

If you have comments or questions for the board of your historical society, this is your chance.

Fixers and Small Repair Crew

Second and fourth Tuesday of month

Meet at Old St. Mary's Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Gene Johnson at 624-2378.

RHS Planning Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Oracle on Sunset Blvd.

Museum Committee

First Monday of month at 10 a.m. at Museum

Springfield History Club

Fourth Monday of month at 1 p.m. in the Whitney Room at the Gables' main clubhouse on Park Avenue.

Rocklin History Museum will be closed on November 22, for Thanksgiving holiday

December 2, 2017, Tree lighting at Heritage Park, 4 pm until 7 pm

December 18, 2017, RHS members Christmas Party at the Rocklin History Museum, 6 pm until 8 pm

Rocklin History Museum will be closed December 23 and 24 and 31 for the holiday season.

February 19, 2018 Speaker Series at Old Saint Mary's Chapel at 7 pm

Support the Rocklin Historical Society by becoming a member. Annual dues, \$20 a year, can be mailed to Rocklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Rocklin, CA 95677.



Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors

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