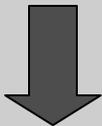


# THE PLACER

A Voice of History

January-February 2013  
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## In this Issue

1. Administrator's Notes
2. Textiles care
4. Museums Intelligence
5. PCHS News
6. Historical Organizations/  
Artifact Highlight
7. Calendar of Events

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## Administrator's Notes

*Melanie Barton*

New Year means a new beginning, and in our case a new theme for *The Placer*. We concluded 2012 with moving our archival and object collections to a new facility. Since our collections are made up of a variety of materials, including textiles, photos and objects made of metal, glass and leather, the new year will give us a great opportunity to examine how to best take care of these objects, whether they are housed in a museum or are part of a private collection. The theme for 2013 is: **A broken lamp is useless, but a well preserved one can illuminate the past.** Each issue of *The Placer* will examine a different area of collections care: Textiles (Jan-Feb); Prints, Drawings and Photos (Mar-Apr); Wooden Objects (May-June); Ceramic and Glass Objects (Sept-Oct); Skin and Leather Objects (Nov-Dec). Our hope is to provide both individuals and institutions information that will enable them to properly care for valued family and community treasures.

The new Museums Archives & Collections facility makes it possible for us to process and

store our extensive collection in optimal conditions. In the coming year we will discuss how to care for objects both in an institutional environment and in a private home. Whether you have a Victorian evening dress or a gold rush journal, it is important to learn the proper care of these items so that future generations can enjoy them. In the coming year, you, our readers will have ample opportunity to ask our museum professionals questions regarding the care and storage of your prized heirlooms. At any time you may email us at [museum@placer.ca.gov](mailto:museum@placer.ca.gov).

2013 promises to be an exciting year for the Placer County Museums. In the next issue of our newsletter, we will outline our Contemporary Collecting Guide. This is a "HOT" topic worldwide and we are excited to be on the cutting edge of innovative programs and practices. With the move into the new facility complete, we can shift our focus to strengthening existing programs such as Living History, School Tours and the Heritage Trail event. We also will expand exhibit development in several

of the museums. Also, new to museums in 2013 is Staci Cox, who joins our staff as Curator of Education. Please join me in welcoming her. To keep up to date on all the latest museum projects, check out our website at [www.placer.ca.gov/museums](http://www.placer.ca.gov/museums). We value your support and hope to see you in a museum or at a museum program this year!

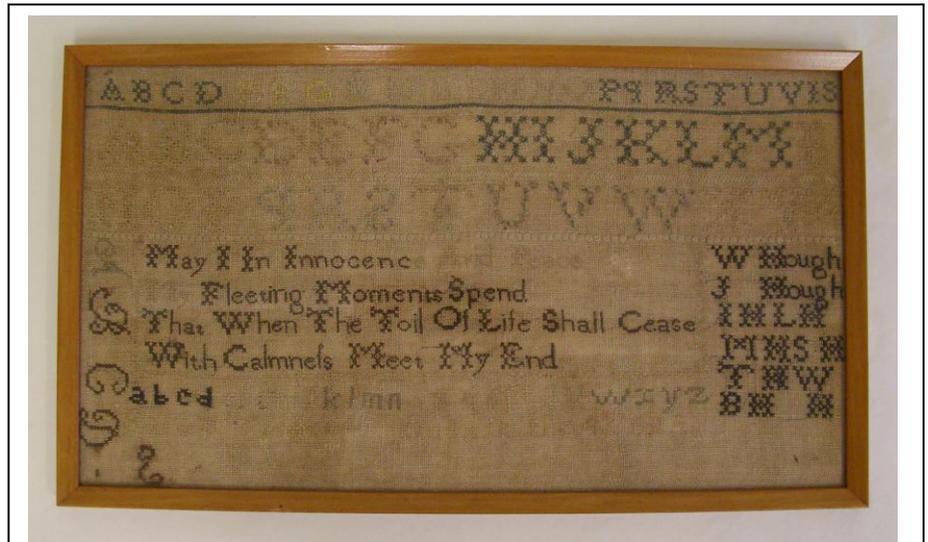
## Textiles Care

By *Kasia Woroniecka*

The term textile generally refers to woven fabrics. In museum collections it has a broader meaning and includes millinery, carpets and rugs, dolls, fans, needlework, curtains and felt, among many others. Our textile collection includes wonderful garments that date back to the Victorian period, uniforms, quilts, wedding and Flapper dresses, household linens and a variety of accessories, to name a few.



This Family Tree quilt was pieced together by Charlotte Allen, donor's grandmother, in 1914, from pieces of a wedding suit, a college graduation suit and a first formal dress.  
PCM Collection



Alphabet sampler, c. 1900. Notice the fading caused by exposure to light.  
PCM Collection

The most common causes of textiles damage include light, poor handling, poor storage methods, inappropriate display and pests.

One of the greatest threats to textiles is light. Light damage is irreversible. It causes the fabric dyes to fade and the fibers to become brittle. While storage and display areas should be dark when not used, curtains, blinds and ultraviolet screens provide a good way of reducing light levels. Lamps should be kept away from textiles since they give off heat, which accelerates the deterioration and provides a good climate for insects, mold and mildew.

The most important rule for handling textiles is not to do it often. Wearing cotton or nitrile gloves prevents the transfer of body oils and dirt. Textiles should never be picked up by one corner or by the shoulders. The weight of the textile should be supported evenly; carried on a tray if the item is small or

rolled if it's large. Items should not be carried on hangers without additional support. They might appear strong while having areas of weakness. Historic textiles should never be worn. Body oils cause stains and attract insects. Dressing and undressing, wrong fit or the lack of proper undergarments to support the fabric, like crinolines or bustles, can cause a lot of damage.

Textiles should be stored in temperature controlled environments, away from basements and attics, with the ideal temperature of 66°F-68°F. Wood, uncoated metal or wood-based cardboard should not be placed in direct contact with textiles. Items should be examined for mold, insect activity or damage before being stored. Archival materials like acid free tissue, Tyvek (breathable, moisture resistant, nonwoven synthetic material) or unbleached and undyed cotton fabric can be used in storing textiles in acid free boxes or in

hanging storage with dust covers. Items placed in boxes should be padded with tissue. Those that need to be folded should be stored with crumpled tissue in the folds to prevent creasing. Textiles should not be stored in airtight containers or plastic bags. Plastic bags used by dry cleaners and plastic garment storage bags are made of unstable plastics that can accelerate deterioration. Throw away your wire hangers!

Textiles should be hung on padded hangers. You can make your own by wrapping a sturdy hanger with polyester or cotton quilt batting and covering it with washed muslin. Textiles can be hung only if they are in good condition, spaced about four inches apart. Heavy garments, beaded dresses and dresses cut on a bias should be stored flat.



Textile exhibit at the Bernhard Museum – wedding fashions c. 1895-1915.

There are a number of ways to display textiles. They can be framed, hung or placed on

mannequins. Plexiglas, rather than glass, should be used in framing. Glass can cause serious damage if broken. Plexiglas or glass should not come in direct contact with the textile, because mold can grow in areas where the two touch. Small textiles, like samplers and other loosely woven fabrics, should be attached to a stiff support before being framed.

Large items, like quilts, tapestries and rugs that are in good condition can be displayed using Velcro, casing or be mounted on stretchers. The fuzzy side of the Velcro strip is hand sewn to the back of the textile while the other strip is attached to a wooden board, which is then mounted on the wall and the textile is simply pressed into place. Heavy cotton or linen can be used in constructing the casing that can be sewn on the back of the textile. A metal rod is then inserted in the casing and hung on the wall. The stretchers method uses heavy fabric that is stretched and stapled over a wooden frame. The textile is then sewn on the heavy fabric, leaving a border. Depending on the condition and the weight of the textile, additional stitching can be added to ensure that the weight is supported evenly.

Pests can cause serious damage to textile collections. These include clothes moths, carpet beetles, silverfish and rodents. Clothes moths and carpet beetles favor silk, wool and feathers. Silverfish consume starch and are attracted to dark and moist climates. Keeping storage areas clean is the best

method of avoiding pest problems. Storage areas should be monitored and cleaned on a regular basis and snap traps and sticky traps should be installed if necessary. Lavender sachets provide a safe and natural insect repellent. Textiles should be isolated and sealed in a plastic bag if insect infestation is discovered. Freezing is an effective method of fighting pest infestations. Generally, once considered safe for freezing, the item should be placed in the freezer for 48 hours, removed for 24 hours and placed in the freezer again for another 48 hours.



Some of the supplies needed for storing textiles: acid free box and tissue, padded hangers, gloves, and thread.

Textiles can hold a lot of dirt and dust. The best way to remove dirt is to vacuum it using a low suction vacuum setting. Use a clean brush to lift the dust off and then vacuum it away, or vacuum through a screen if the item is fragile and decorated with beads, sequins, lace, etc. When dealing with an important and fragile item, contact a textile conservator. Very few museum textiles are good candidates for dry cleaning. Commercial dry cleaning machines process

about 50 pounds of material at a time. The dry cleaning solvent is re-used by the same machine. It becomes trapped in the garment fibers and can off gas if sealed in a garment bag or airtight box, causing damage.

Any small change, whether airing out your closet, moving an item out of a sunny room or investing in archival materials, will help in preserving your textile collections.



## **Museums Intelligence**

### **Placer County Museums News**

*Ralph Gibson*

No offense to those who misinterpreted a Mayan calendar, but 2012 ended just like any other year with a giant ball being dropped in New York and many revelers blowing horns, popping champagne and staying up past their bedtimes. To the Mayans it was merely the end of one cycle and the beginning of another. I think on a small scale, one could say the same thing about the Placer County Museums as we look ahead to 2013.

We begin the year with our Archives and Research Center and Collections Management Facility under one roof in a building named the Archives and Collections Facility (ACF).

We also have a new face on our staff (see Melanie's article) and many new faces among our volunteer ranks. Yes, 2013 looks to be a year of renewal, but it will also be quite busy. We have nine sessions of the Gold Rush Tour program scheduled and spring Living History is right around the corner. The exhibit team will be busy with exhibits that will grace the lobby of the ACF and the foyer of the historic Courthouse. There is a lot to look forward to in 2013 as we forge ahead with our education programs, exhibits, projects and annual events.

I think this year, like most of the years before it, will be full of surprises and accomplishments. I hope all of you had a terrific 2012 and will have an even better 2013!

**Joss House Museum** would like to announce four openings for the Joss House Board of Trustees.

The museum is also seeking new and active volunteer committee members. For more information please contact: Richard Yue - Joss House Museum, P.O. Box 9126, Auburn, CA 95604 530-346-7121;

[auburn\\_joss\\_house@live.com](mailto:auburn_joss_house@live.com)



Valentine's Day is February 14<sup>th</sup>!  
Greeting cards, c. 1900  
PCM Collection

## Placer County Historical Society News



### President's Message

*Michael Otten,  
President*

Welcome to another historical year in Placer County. Placer County's oldest incorporated city turns 125 in 2013. It is the second time around since Auburn dissolved in 1860s to avoid a \$50,000 railroad bond debt repayment and went without cityhood for 20 years before deciding to reincorporate in 1888 (by a vote of 167-62). One wag observed "the citizens of Auburn have got along as best they could without any town government."

My hope for the year is to collect the names and a bit about those who have set policy for Placer County since 1855, as well as for the six incorporated cities: Auburn was incorporated in 1861 and 1888; Lincoln, 1890; Rocklin, 1893; Roseville, 1909; Colfax, 1910; and the newest, the Town of Loomis, Dec. 17, 1984. As far as I can determine no such complete list exists. But thanks to Amy Lind, deputy City Clerk, I have the names of Auburn mayors and council members since 1888. And thanks to Karri Samson, I have a partial list of county supervisors and chairs.

Current Mayor Kevin Hanley is Auburn's 56th since Ed Walsh took the reins on May 12, 1888. Hanley, one of California Legislature's top consultants,

made a bit of history himself by being selected by his colleagues as mayor not once but twice. Until last year, Hanley figured he would never wield the gavel. By council tradition only the top two vote getters in each two-year municipal election cycle would serve as mayor, but in both 2006 and 2010 he finished third in the running. That changed last year when Kevin Nesbitt decided he would only serve a few months and the Council voted Hanley to finish out the year in Nesbitt's place. Kevin Hanley is the first to serve a back-to-back mayoral term since James Jacobs in the late 1950s. Jacobs was the last of the two-year term mayors. Since 1960 mayors have been elected to one-year terms.

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Please check out our website: [www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org). It is currently being extensively revised thanks to the volunteer efforts of member Jon Brommeland. Please offer your suggestions on what you would like to see there. On the home page at the bottom left are black and blue boxes to comment on the design (black) and to ask questions (blue).

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We are looking for volunteers to work on Auburn's 125th anniversary and a display case exhibit at the library. We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the nomination committee and the board of the PCHS. Please contact me. Also needing help is the Joss House Museum Association and the Gold Country Medical Museum.

The Joss House's annual fundraising dinner is Wednesday, Feb. 13, to observe the Year of the Snake. Seating begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Happy Wok Restaurant. The cost is \$28 each. Mail checks to P.O. Box 9126, Auburn, CA 95604. For information call (530) 346-7121. The speakers will be Rene Yung and Dr. Penny Albin who produced the community based storytelling project, the "Chinese Whispers," and will present the pilot, Chinese Whispers: Sierra Stories."

[otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net)

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### Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

*Addah Owens,  
Vice President*



**When:** February 7th

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

**Where:** Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East St., Auburn, CA

**Cost:** \$14 per person

**Menu:** Chinese New Year Dinner

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

**Program:** Dave Duncan will present a slideshow program exploring Turkey. Passionate about travel, history and culture he explored many countries, including Nepal, New Zealand and the Mediterranean.

## **Placer County Historical Organizations**

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Colfax Area Historical Society  
Helen Wayland,  
(530) 346-7040  
[www.colfaxhistory.org](http://www.colfaxhistory.org)

Donner Summit Historical Society  
Bill Oudegeest, (209) 606-6859  
[www.donnersummithistoricalociety.org](http://www.donnersummithistoricalociety.org)

Foresthill Divide Historical Society  
Sandy Simester, (530) 367-3535  
[www.foresthillhistory.org](http://www.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 Area Archives Museum  
Shirley Russell, (916) 645-3800

Lincoln Highway Association  
Bob Dieterich, [bohd@iname.com](mailto:bohd@iname.com)  
[www.lincolnhwy.org](http://www.lincolnhwy.org)

Loomis Basin Historical Society  
Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871  
<http://www.ppgn.com/loomishistorical.html>

Maidu Museum & Historic Site  
Glenie Strome, (916) 782-3299  
[www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum)

Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor #59  
Dave Allen, (530) 878-2878  
[dsallen59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsallen59@sbcglobal.net)

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association  
Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113

Old Town Auburn Preservation Society  
Lynn Carpenter, (530) 885-1252

Placer County Genealogical Society  
[www.pcgenes.com](http://www.pcgenes.com)

Placer County Historical Society  
Michael Otten, (530) 888-7837  
[otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net)

Placer County Museums Docent Guild  
Sandi Tribe, (530) 887-9143

Rocklin Historical Society  
Jean Sippola,  
(916) 652-1034  
[www.rocklinhistory.org](http://www.rocklinhistory.org)

Roseville Historical Society  
Phoebe Astill, (916) 773-3003  
[www.rosevillehistorical.org](http://www.rosevillehistorical.org)

North Lake Tahoe Historical Society  
Javier Rodriguez, (530) 583-1762  
[www.northtahoemuseums.org](http://www.northtahoemuseums.org)

### **Artifact Highlight**

#### **Lace dress**



This two piece lace and ecru ribbon dress was handmade in the 1890's. It was to be worn on a trip to San Francisco when the Vice President of the United States was visiting the city. Unfortunately the trip was canceled as the wearer became ill. The dress was given to Mrs. Knudsen, who wore the gown to the Auburn Gold Show on many occasions.

## 2013 Calendar of Events

### January

- Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.  
Contact: 916-663-3871.
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm** Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting at the Forest Hill Divide Museum.  
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin.  
Contact: 916-624-3464
- Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.  
Contact 530-885-2216.

### February

- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm.** Placer County Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn. Contact: (530) 885-5074
- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm** Roseville Historical Society meeting at the Carnegie Museum. 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville  
Contact: 916-773-3003.
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm** Forest Hill Divide Historical Society Dinner meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall.  
Contact: 530-367-3535.
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society meeting at the Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin.  
Contact: 916-624-3464
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm** Historical Advisory Board meeting at the Bernhard Museum Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Auburn.  
Contact: 530-889-6500.
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting at the Loomis Library.  
Contact: 916-663-3871.
- Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library.  
Contact 530-885-2216.

**Placer County Museums**  
**101 Maple Street**  
**Auburn, CA 95603**

