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## Administrator's Notes

*by Ralph Gibson*

Our museums system has been very fortunate over the decades. The Placer County Board of Supervisors, citizens of the county, as well as visitors from all over the world, continue to support our efforts to preserve and interpret our history. You should all become familiar with one particular resource we have in our division: our Archives and Research Center.

Located at the DeWitt Center in Auburn, our Archives boasts a rich variety of sources, and exciting new donations come in on a regular basis. We have original documents that reach far back into the early Gold Rush—court records, deeds, mining claims, school records, naturalization documents, mug books, newspapers and various business ledgers—just to name a few. We also have photographs, negatives and maps.

We also have qualified people there to help you with your research needs. For the first time since 2008, we have a full-time Curator of Archives, Bryanna

Ryan. So we not only have all these great things in our collection, but also the expertise and experience to properly preserve, curate and make them accessible to the public. And Bryanna will tell you that the real gold in the Archives is our volunteers. We have first class researchers and data entry



Visitors celebrate the 2013 opening of the new PCM Archives and Research Center.

technicians who volunteer long hours at the Archives. If you have a research project—personal or professional—I encourage you to call Bryanna and set up an appointment.

The Archives and Research Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:00 am –12:00 noon and 12:30 –3:00 pm. It is located at 11526 C Ave. , bldg. 209 at the DeWitt Center in Auburn.

## The Napkin—not to be flourished like a flag of truce

by *Kasia Woroniecka*  
Curator of Collections

According to a survey conducted in 2015, 70% of American households use paper napkins. With an average use of six napkins per person per day, it's not a very ecofriendly choice, but definitely one of convenience. Nonetheless, the use of paper napkins has been declining in the last 20 years, with more people opting to use the paper towel or turning away from paper altogether in favor of cloth napkins.

Napkins have a very long and interesting history, going back to ancient Greece and Rome, when they were used to wipe hands and faces or wrap leftovers of food. During the Middle Ages hands were wiped on tablecloths or large napkins



Photo: Cotton napkin from the Freeman Hotel in Auburn. White cotton with "Freeman Hotel" embroidered in the corner. PCM Archives Collection.



Photo: People (and cat) sitting around a table with napkins rolled neatly into the napkin rings. Circa 1900. PCM Archives Collection.

hung from the edge of the table. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century napkin sizes depended on the type of event. Rules of etiquette became more structured, and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century much was required of those who wanted to use napkins correctly.

An 1894 book on etiquette explained:

"...the napkin partially unfolded is laid across the lap. It is not tucked in at the neck or the vest front, or otherwise disposed as a feeding-bib. It is a towel, for wiping the lips and fingers in emergencies, but should be used unobtrusively—not flourished like a flag of truce."

The napkin could be used to cover

the mouth when removing a fish bone, but it was never to be used as a handkerchief. A formal table setting has one placement for the napkin—to the left side of the place setting. The napkin should be folded with the closed edge to the left and the open edge to the right.

By 1840 the use of napkin rings became popular in all-English speaking countries. In the home, napkin rings identified personal napkins at the family dinner table so that laundering could be done once a week. Because napkins were not reused after parties, guests would simply leave their napkins

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unfolded beside their plates at the end of the meal.

The use of napkin rings decreased with the advent of paper napkins, which surprisingly are not that old. They were introduced by John Dickinson in 1887.

A stationery manufacturer in West Hertfordshire, England, Dickinson used napkins printed on Japanese paper for his company's annual party. The fashion caught on, and before long large quantities of the napkin squares were being produced. The first company to make them in America was Scott Paper, but that wasn't until 1931. The company introduced the first paper towel for the kitchen and created a whole new grocery category, but the use of paper napkins did not become popular in the United States until the 1950s.

That makes our collection of 17 napkins that belonged to Enid Griffith, great-niece of Griffith Griffith, even more interesting. We don't know where they were produced, but we know when they

were used because she inscribed them.

One of the oldest, with a pretty carnation design, dates to 1908: "My party, Sat. May 8th, 13 years old." Another napkin has a pink chrysanthemum design and is signed, "Ladies Aid at Mrs Banfield July, 1909." There is also a wedding anni-



Paper napkins circa 1908-1917. PCM Enid Griffith Collection.

versary napkin from March 23, 1909, and a Valentines napkin from 1908.

The last one in the collection dates to 1917. It is a napkin with a Christmas holly design from a brunch she attended on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The life of a paper napkin is generally very short, so we are lucky to have these examples in our collection.

## Lurking in the Attic

by *Bryanna Ryan*  
Curator of Archives

As a researcher, sometimes you just *know* there is a photograph of your subject out there, somewhere. How many attics or basements or (gasp) landfills are the resting places of

these missing puzzle pieces? How many are simply unidentified because the information has been lost? How about finding a description of that photograph in a diary

and trying to imagine the scene while knowing the search may be futile?

According to Enid Griffith, the following entry was recorded in

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Griffith Griffith's personal diary on Friday, March 17, 1865:

"Mr. Chamberlin and Mr. Quade and Graves, bosses on Pacific Railroad, were at Quarry. They were on new engine, the Conness. They stopped at Derrick and took the view of the place. Myself and Judge [E. B.] Crocker stood together while taken so we appear in it."

The Archives recently received an incredible collection of photographs and personal papers that contain several of these exciting "missing" pieces, including the photograph described in Griffith's diary! We now have a photograph of the train spur to the Quarry in Penryn. We also have a photograph of the facul-



Photo: Griffith Griffith and E. B. Crocker (fore ground) at the Quarry in Penryn with the new Conness engine. 1865. PCM Archives.

In this collection are the personal papers, photographs, ledger books, and handwritten autobiography of Albion P. Hall, an original stakeholder of the Penryn Fruit Company. He was an all-around mover and shaker in the early days of Penryn and the fruit packing and shipping industry there. He went on to serve in the California Senate and as an Assemblyman from Placer County.

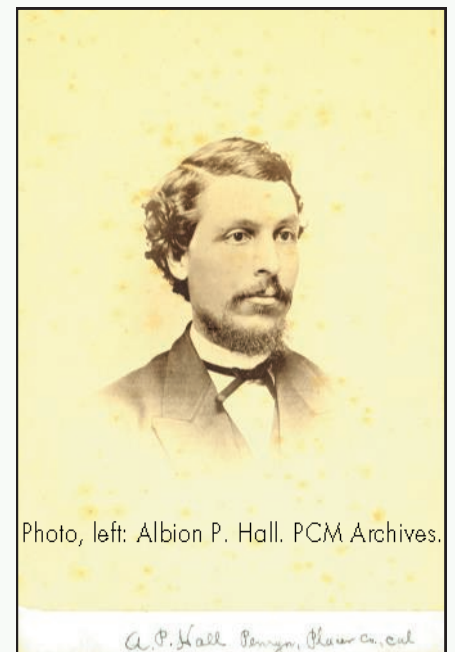
We are so happy these valuable and historic records have made their

way to the Archives and can now be preserved forever. You never know what small item may be supremely significant to the right researcher.



Photo: faculty of the Agricultural College, Penryn. Circa 1892. PCM Archives.

ty of the short-lived Agricultural College, and previously unknown views of the English Colony in Penryn.



Photo, left: Albion P. Hall. PCM Archives.

A. P. Hall Penryn, Placer Co. Cal

## News from Placer County Historical Society

by Michael Otten

Immediate past president, PCHS

### CCHS Honors Betty R. Samson

Attendees at the June 25 annual awards dinner applauded Betty R. Samson as winner of its Wadingham/Doctor Award for her long-time service to the Placer County Historical Society and Historical Foundation and the preservation of local history.

"When I grow up I want to be like her," said Barbara Kimball, secretary of the Conference of California Historical Societies. John Shea,

longtime awards committee chair, said Mrs. Samson called and wrote to thank CCHS for the award and to apologize that, at the age of 91, she wasn't up to making the trip to Los Angeles County.

Samson is also among the few honored at the Rosie the Riveter Home Front Museum in Richmond, CA, for her service as a mechanic at McClellan Air Force Base during World War II and in the Korean

Conflict.

I had the honor and privilege of accepting the award on her behalf and describing what an interesting life she continues to lead. I hope we in Auburn can have a public presentation of the award and her nomination binder, either before the City Council or Board of Supervisors.



### 7-0 Vote to Demolish 1855 Lawyers Row in Auburn

Auburn's Historic Design Review Commission voted 7-0 on June 21 to grant Michael Fanoni's request to take down Lawyers Row, the 1855 brick building with its iron doors, for public safety reasons. Fanoni, a structural engineer for PG&E and an Auburn native, said he purchased the property at 299 Commercial St. with the original

intention of restoring it. Visible from I-80 and across Court Street from the Native Sons of the Golden West in Old Town Auburn, the building replaced an earlier wooden structure destroyed by a fire that swept through early Auburn.

But a heavy rain this January caused many of the bricks on the Court Street side to tumble onto

the walkway and street, closing off that part of the street to parking. Fanoni said efforts to keep transients from breaking in and sleeping there have been unsuccessful

despite fencing and locks. He thinks the building's condition is such that it can't make it through another heavy rainfall.

Fanoni intends to dismantle the building as soon as he can and move it to a safer spot owned by his family in Clipper Gap, where he will incorporate as much of the historic brick and iron work into a new, bigger two-story structure. At the commission's request, Fanoni will provide a progress report early next year. Details and photos to be posted soon at [www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org/).



Historical Landmark plaque for Lawyers Row in Auburn and the building's owner, Michael Fanoni.



## 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),  
<https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>

**Lincoln Area Archives Museum,**  
Elizabeth Jansen, (916) 645-3800  
[laamca.org](http://laamca.org)

**Loomis Basin Historical Society,**  
Karen Clifford, (916) 663-3871

**Maidu Museum & Historic Site,**  
Mark Murphy, (916)774-5934  
[roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum)

**The Museum of Sierra Ski History and 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,**  
Kathie Nippert, (916) 624-2355  
[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, (916) 538-1809  
[rosevillefiremuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rosevillefiremuseum@gmail.com)  
[rosevillefiremuseum.org](http://rosevillefiremuseum.org)

**Roseville Public Library,**  
Christopher Webber (916)774-5239  
[www.roseville.ca.us/library](http://www.roseville.ca.us/library)

### kids say it best

Here's what 3rd graders had to say about Living History at the Bernhard Museum this spring.

*I would kinda like to live in the 1800's. The chores are fun but not all day--and no TV. Allison*

*Thank you. I love that you volunteered for us. I have a question. Did you have fun like me? I love that you were so so so so so nice. Trinity*

*I'm great with a hammer and nail. I even made up a song and it goes like this, hammer and nails don't smash nails. Kaylin*

*They made doing laundry actually fun unlike at home. Russell*

*I did not know that the house used to be a house that the REAL pioneers lived in. But I know you gave it a fixer upper. Samantha*

*I would like to live in the 1800s because it would be cool to not have technologie and help do things. Jayden*

*I would not want to live in the 1800's because I wouldn't have the friends I have now. Jordan*

*It warms my heart just to see you doing this. Thank you again. Amber*

*My class had an epic time. Gracie*

# Calendar of Events

## July

7 2:00pm

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

9 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Maidu Museum & Historic Site, Roseville Telephone Museum & Roseville Public Library

11 6:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355

12 4:00pm

Roseville Historical Society meeting, Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln St., Roseville (916) 773-3003

14 10:00am

Colfax Area Historical Society Summer Board Meeting, Colfax Depot (530) 346-8599

16 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Placer County Museum, Gold Country Medical History Mus. & Auburn Joss House

18 6:00pm

Forest Hill Divide Historical Society business meeting, Forest Hill Divide Museum. (530) 367-3535

20 6:00pm

Loomis Basin Historical Society meeting, Loomis library. (916) 663-3871

23 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Gatekeepers Museum, Watson Cabin & Museum of Sierra Ski History

28 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076

## August

6 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Griffith Quarry Museum & Rocklin History Museum

8 6:00pm

Rocklin Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting, Old St. Mary's Chapel, 5152 Front Street, Rocklin. (916) 624-2355

9 4:00pm

Roseville Historical Society Meeting at the Carnegie Museum, 557 Lincoln Street, Roseville. (916) 773-3003

13 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Colfax Area Heritage Museum, Golden Drift Museum & Donner Summit Historical Society Mus.

17 5:30pm

Historical Advisory Board Meeting, Bernhard Winery, 291 Auburn-Folsom Rd. Auburn. (530) 889-6500

17 6:00pm

Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting, Loomis Library. (916) 663-3871

20 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Lincoln Area Archives Museum & Fruitvale School

25 7:00pm

Placer County Genealogical Society general meeting, Beecher Room, Auburn Library. (866) 894-2076

27 10am-4pm

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2016** Sierra College Natural History Museum





PLACER COUNTY MUSEUMS

101 Maple Street  
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