

COLFAX COBBLESTONES

COLFAX AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER PHOTO GALLERY Old 844 in Colfax

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Helen Wayland

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Mel Couchman

Webmaster:

Dirk Gifford



On the crossing just north of Colfax on the way to Cape Horn

Photo courtesy of Steve Wolf



Photo courtesy of Lynda Couchman



Photo courtesy of Ken Fletcher



Photo courtesy of Lynda Couchman

CAHS HERITAGE MUSEUM

99 Railroad Street, in the Depot

Open: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Daily

CAHS members receive 10% discount in the Gift Shop.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Museum help is always welcome, encouraged, and really needed (see article on page 6). Contact Helen Wayland at 530-346-8599, or stop by the Museum.

YOUR INPUT NEEDED

A shelter over the bull and the bear is an ongoing project and we need your ideas.

PROGRAM IDEAS

Members we need your help! Do you have an idea for a program? A passion for history you would like to share? Would you like to put on a program? If so, please contact Walt or Bonnie Wilson at 530-878-6640.



The Cobblestones of Historic Events
Pave the passing Years' Pathway

WINTER MEETING



The CAHS Winter Meeting will be held at the Depot on Saturday, March 2 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker at the meeting will be Jan Westmore. An author, scholar, and retired corporate executive, a Sierra Nevada foothills resident and native Californian, she is a contributing author to two books, plus a writer and photographer for numerous magazine articles. In ***Images of America: Colfax***, her insightful commentary engages readers as they visually explore the historic images offered from private and public collections. Each photograph reveals an element of the colorful past that enriched this Colfax area.

The Gold Rush of 1849 transformed our serene surroundings overnight into a flurry of human activity as men sought wealth. The town soon became the supply transport center for miners working their claims. When technology evolved to meet the needs of our expanding country, trains replaced pack trains and stage-coaches. Colfax grew to accommodate the thousands of workers toiling their way through the Sierra Nevadas to complete the western end of the transcontinental railroad. The town still serves as a junction point for the railroad and a destination stop for tourists to enjoy its unique history.

TOWN NAMESAKE

by Jan Westmore

Steven Spielberg's hit movie, "Lincoln", reminds us of the role that the Speaker of the House plays in the federal government and how Schuyler Colfax made history when he cast his vote for the 13th Amendment. Before this film, perhaps the average U. S. citizen had never heard of Schuyler Colfax or ever ventured to the California railroad town bearing his name. This is an opportunity to tell the rest of the story.

Schuyler Colfax, though born in New York, grew up in Indiana. He gained political recognition as a journalist for the Whig Party and then served as a delegate to the Whig Convention in 1848. He ran for Congress in 1851 in his Democratic state of Indiana, but lost by a slim margin.

The anti-slavery Whigs evolved into a new party that eventually became the Republican Party. For a time, Colfax had considered switching to a new group dubbed the "Know Nothings", perhaps because they said, "No" to slavery, alcohol, Catholics, and immigrants.

In 1855, Schuyler Colfax ran again for Congress hoping to secure a seat in the House of Representatives. Since he shifted parties more than once as titles and platforms changed, his party affiliation was loosely defined though he did join the Republican Party. He consistently opposed slavery. In the 1862 election, Colfax managed to beat David A. Turnpike, but just barely.

The Big Four (Stanford, Crocker, Huntington and Hopkins) were instrumental in the development and construction of the transcontinental railroad. They wooed Schuyler Colfax and some believe Leland Stanford named the town Colfax to secure project support back in Washington.

By 1863, Colfax had risen to the position of Speaker of the House. President Lincoln was not thrilled with the news. He purportedly did not entirely trust the man. However, Lincoln and Colfax were aligned on one point. Both were staunch opponents of slavery.

Lincoln also knew that in order to insure the abolition of slavery in the country, he needed to pass the 13th Amendment prior to the end of the Civil War. He set his allies to work securing the number of votes required by the Constitution, a 2/3 majority in both the House and the Senate. The vote was going to be tight and no one was sure until the roll call — the final outcome. It came down to only one vote over the threshold number.

Speaker of the House, Schuyler Colfax, who was only required to vote in the case of a tie, broke precedent by asking that his vote in favor of the amendment be recorded.

On April 14, 1865, Schuyler met with President Lincoln regarding the Reconstruction of the South following the war. They spoke for some time. Lincoln was in good spirits and invited Colfax to join him at Ford's Theatre for the performance that night. Colfax declined the invitation. That was the last time Colfax met with Lincoln for John Wilkes Booth assassinated him that very night at the theatre.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our Winter meeting and dinner in October was a success. Norm Saylor, the docent at the Soda Springs Museum gave an interesting talk about Route 40 and it's influence on our area.

The fall and winter have brought us to a slow point in the year. We had many visitors at the museum during Railroad Days. The museum in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce continues to help the traveling public and to represent our community in a positive light.

I have obtained sketches and permit details for the gazebo in the center of town. The society would like to construct a cover over the bull and the bear and we intend to use a similar

theme as the gazebo. The main problems are how to limit access to the bull and the bear without intrusive barriers, as well as the cost.

The society is excited about society member Jan Westmore's recently published book about Colfax. It is titled "Images of America: Colfax" and is an excellent collection of photos and stories about the Colfax area. Jan will be giving a talk about her new book at our Spring General Meeting on March 2, 2013. This meeting will be at the train depot at 7:00 pm. Please note that this date is a change from our previously published schedule!

Thank you for your interest and continued participation in society

projects. If you have any ideas how the Society can be of service to the community and our local businesses, please let me know. Please contact Bonnie Wilson (530-878-6640, email: bonwally@hotmail.com) with your ideas for program presentations.

Swend L. Miller,
Colfax Area Historical Society
President
(530-346-6960)



RECIPE FROM THE PAST

Mom's Congo Squares

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter
 1 lb box brown sugar (Preferably dark, $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups packed)
 3 eggs, well beaten
 $2\frac{3}{4}$ cups sifted flour
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder
 1 tsp. baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 cup chopped nuts
 1 cup Choc. Chips

Note: Dry ingredients can be mixed together before hand.

Melt butter in a 3 qt. sauce pan. Stir in brown sugar until well mixed. Let

cool a little. Beat in eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Stir in dry ingredients. Batter is very thick. Stir in nuts, vanilla, Choc. Chips. Place in lightly greased 9 x 13 pan (glass baking dish, works very well). Bake at 325° for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Note: At our altitude you may need to bake it for as much as 20 to 25 minutes more.

This recipe is from the 1920's. It was my Mother's and is delicious.

*We can't all be heroes,
because somebody has to
sit on the curb and clap
as they go by.
~ Will Rogers*



ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS

Dear Members, We need your help with articles or photos for the Cobblestones.

Articles can be in almost any form -- computer files in .txt, .rtf, .doc, .wpd, or .odt formats; typewritten; or handwritten (provided that it is legible).

Provide photographs, negatives, positives (slides), or files in the

more common photo formats -- .bmp, .gif, .jpg (.jpeg), .pcx, .png, .psp (.pspimage), .tif (.tiff), or .wmf. Photographs should be at highest resolution for best print quality.

To send articles and photos you can email them to melcouch57@peoplepc.com (subject

line "Cobblestones"), snail mail me at 113 Mink Creek Drive, Colfax 95713, or drop items off at the museum and call Mel at 530-346-2394. All non-electronic items will be returned to you, provided you tell me how and where. Next deadline for articles is March 29, 2013. Thank you!

See us on the Web at www.ColfaxHistory.org

Recording the Weimar Cemetery

by Robin Yonash, Chair, The Weimar Project

Imagine a cemetery with plot numbers only—no names. Further, imagine that many of those plot numbers have disappeared or are buried in thick brush. Then you have the Weimar Cemetery as it was when research began to determine, after 40 years of neglect, who is buried in the Weimar Cemetery and where they are buried.

The Weimar Cemetery was originally a part of the Weimar Joint Sanatorium (WJS) for tuberculosis patients, which operated under various names from 1919 to 1972. Patients who died at the Sanatorium and who had no other means of burial were interred on the Sanatorium property, AKA the Weimar Cemetery. Approximately 30% of the patients who died at the Sanatorium were buried in the Weimar Cemetery.



Since this was basically a Potter's Field, instead of costly traditional tombstones each grave was assigned a number which was engraved onto a brass disc. The graves were marked by a piece of 2x6 wood with the corresponding brass disc attached. Records were kept in the WJS office to identify who was buried with each number.

When the Weimar Joint Sanatorium closed, the fifteen WJS member

counties deeded the cemetery to the Colfax Cemetery District. Somewhere along the way, this event was forgotten until Nancy Hagman, quite by accident, saw a notice in an old *Colfax Record*. After a visit to the Placer County Recorder's Office to obtain a copy of the deed and confirm the transfer, a curious discovery was made—the signer on behalf of the Colfax Cemetery District was Richard Ballenger, the father of Craig Ballenger, the current superintendent of the Colfax Cemetery!

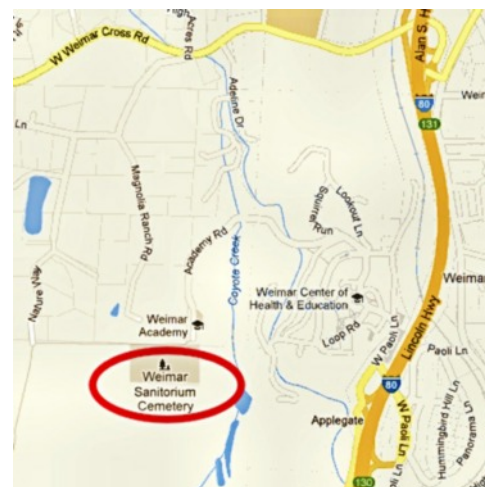
Since no funds for maintenance were included in the transfer, after 1972 the cemetery was essentially ignored. The grave markers deteriorated and much of the cemetery grounds became clogged with manzanita so that some graves are no longer accessible. Further, many of the records were lost.



Research began in July 2012, and by early October, everyone who was buried there, however briefly¹, had been identified with name, birth and death dates, birth location, and maiden name for women. Every plot from 108 through A177 now has a name. The record of the specific grave number for burials 1-107 no longer exists, but 108 names have been identified for that timeframe. One of these people must have been disinterred and their number reused, but since disinterments tend not to get

recorded on death certificates, there is no way to identify who it was.

There are 1,476 persons buried in the Weimar Cemetery, not counting exhumations. A transcription of the entire cemetery is available at <http://genealogytrails.com/cal/placer/Cemeteries/weimarcem.html>. Electronic memorials for all of the people buried in the Weimar Cemetery are in the process of being added to Find a Grave, and may be viewed at www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=1982200. The location of the cemetery is shown on the map below.



(Note that the Weimar Institute, the current owner of the former Sanatorium property, has added burials to the cemetery during recent years. These graves are not included in the transcription, but are on the Find a Grave site.)

Where the country of birth is known, just over half (51.1%) of the people buried in the Weimar Cemetery were foreign-born and 48.9% were born in the United States. Mexico accounted for 15.4% of the total burials and 30.1% of the foreign-born burials. Next was Italy, with 4.2% of total burials. California was the top state, with 8.7% of the total and 17.8% of the US burials.

¹ Some burials were subsequently disinterred and reburied elsewhere

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NEW MEMBERS

- Jan Westmore
- Rosanna & David Young

Welcome!!!

BOARD MEETINGS

- April 18, 2013
- June 20, 2013

All Board Meetings are on Thursdays, and will take place in the Depot at 10 am

GENERAL MEETINGS

- March 2, 2013
- May 25, 2013
- July 27, 2013

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...Weimar Cemetery

There are 29 known veterans of US military service buried in the Weimar Cemetery. This number is primarily based on military data that was tracked on death certificates from March 1940 through 1967. There are certainly many other veterans in this cemetery, but it is not possible to identify all of them individually. Go to

www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcsr&GSvcid=288501

The next step, being undertaken by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jess E. Taylor Post 2003 and Colfax Post 192, District # 7 of the American Legion, is to build a monument to the veterans buried in the Weimar Cemetery. The monument will include a flagpole with a solar-powered light. Future plans include a kiosk, which will have a map and lists by name and plot number.

People who were instrumental in the implementation of the Weimar Project

in addition to myself were: Glenda Ragan, Tom Mason, Tom Passanisi, David Green, Helen Wayland, and Nancy Haggman.

A book with a history of the Weimar Sanatorium and Cemetery, plus lists by name and plot number, was presented to the Colfax Area Historical Society at its January Board Meeting. Giving the Society a permanent record of the research.

*Photos courtesy of Robin Yonash.
Map courtesy of GoogleMaps.*

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Town Namesake

Colfax traveled west the summer of 1865 to carry out President Lincoln's request to convey his appreciation of the miners and the prosperity they were bringing to the nation. During this trip, Colfax made numerous well-received speeches according to the press.

A powerful and prominent man, Colfax had once been considered a very likeable politician — oxymoron? — on the Washington scene, but that again is not the end of the story.

In 1872, *Crédit Mobilier*, the funding arm of the Union Pacific Railroad, was exposed for charging taxpayers for construction costs and the manipulation of their stock price, including the liberal distribution of stock to politicians at a fraction of the cost. The scandal took place on President Ulysses Grant's watch while Schuyler Colfax was Vice President.

This combined with the financial burden of both the Civil War and the construction of transcontinental railroad already strained the economy. Then, when Jay Cooke & Company, a large railroad investor in the proposed Northern Pacific, closed its doors, the economy plunged into a downward spiral — the Panic of 1873.

During all this financial strife, Congress learned that Colfax not only accepted gifts frequently from his constituency but that he also received some of the *Crédit Mobilier* stock. This act led to his rapid tumble from grace and the demise of his career, even though charges were never officially filed. When confronted, Colfax claimed, at first, that he bought the stock. An investigation disproved his story. Colfax then proceeded to tell one tale after another trying to legitimize his stock ownership. Impeachment discussions followed, but his term was nearly over, so that movement did not proceed.

Schuyler Colfax disappeared from public view until he realized he could capitalize on his close association with President Lincoln who had become an icon and a martyr after his assassination. Colfax went on the speaker's circuit and generously filled his coffers. Colfax died of a heart attack on January 13, 1885.

The town of Colfax rose to life with the building of the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s, but has made its own name, known for its tuberculosis sanatoriums, timber, mining, high quality produce and tourism and it still continues as a rail transportation center.

Jan Westmore is a member of the Colfax and Placer County Historical Societies and author of the newly released book, Images of America: Colfax.

MEMORIAL GIVING TO CAHS

Colfax Area Historical Society
welcomes gifts and memorials
in honor or in memory of
loved ones and friends. To
make a gift include your
check with the form on the
right and mail to:

Colfax Area Historical Society
Attention:
Memorials Secretary
P O Box 185
Colfax, CA 95713-0185

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gift in Honor or in Memory

Of: _____

By: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Amount: _____



MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

We want to make sure we recognize those who give much of there time to keep things running smoothly at the Archives and the Museum. In that light we want to thank our Grace Hubley Collection Volunteers:

- Lorraine Simpson
- Nancy Hagman
- Ken Fletcher
- Loralie Hodkin

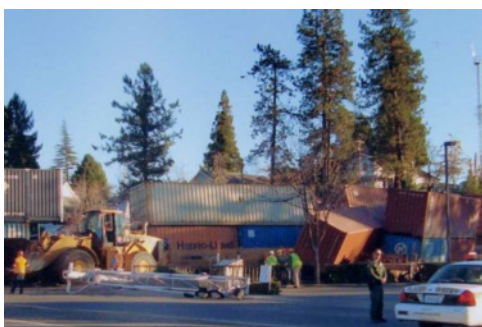
Similarly, to the individuals who give so much at the Museum:

- Chris Miller
- Irene Allen
- Donna Williams
- Claudia Petrie
- Helen Wayland

These people answer questions, sell refreshments, give directions, help

with train scheduling problems, and most importantly, make our visitors feel welcome in Colfax.

On another matter we continue to have a large number of visitors to the Museum. From May 2007 through the end of 2012, we have had a total of 59,329. In 2010 there were 10,887 museum visitors, in 2011 there were 12,596, and in 2012, 11,856, which is very impressive for a relatively small museum in a small, but historically significant, town



Train Wreck in Colfax



Sunday January 20

Photos courtesy of Ken Fletcher

CAHS MEMBERSHIP – JOIN US

Objectives:

To support and promote educational and research activities and interest in the history of the Colfax area; to promote and establish a local museum; to work with other Historical Societies and local groups; to discover, collect and make accessible to the public historical facts and objects; to mark places and buildings of historical interest in the Colfax area and catalog such markers in an orderly manner; to register historical landmarks and buildings; to accept gifts and donations from the public and other organizations and to

raise funds to accomplish all the above.



Meetings:

General Meetings: 4/ year
Locations will be announced.

Board of Directors: 4/year
Located in the Depot at
99 Railroad Avenue, Colfax

Membership and Annual Dues:

Regular (single) Member :	\$15.00
Family (including children):	\$ 25.00
Junior (not included in Family):	\$ 5.00
Business (includes ad in Cobblestones)	\$ 30.00
Non-profit Organizations	\$ 30.00

Additional contributions are always welcome.

Dues apply to fiscal year, July 1 to June 30 and are tax- deductible. Members receive a membership card and quarterly issues of the Colfax Cobblestones.

Make checks payable to: Colfax Area Historical Society. Send with your name, address, phone , email address, type of membership, and amount enclosed to: CAHS, P.O. Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713

TRAIN TOWN USA



On October 4, 2012, the same day that UP Engine 844, made its return trip through Colfax on its way east, officials from Union Pacific presented Colfax with a large emblem naming Colfax "Train Town USA." Presenting the plaque was a marketing Vice President of Union Pacific and his assistant. Accepting the this were County Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery and City Councilman Tony Hesch.



FUN LINKS & INFORMATION

Donner Pass Historical Rendezvous:
www.DonnerSummitHistoricalSociety.org

Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society: www.psrhs.org

Leave a Legacy: www.snral.org

Sierra Nevada Virtual Museum: www.sierranevadavirtualmuseum.com

Historic Hwy 49 Photos: www.HistoricHwy49.com

Gold Rush Stories:
[http:// nevada-outback-gems.com/ gold _rush _tales/ california _gold _rush1.htm](http://nevada-outback-gems.com/gold_rush_tales/california_gold_rush1.htm)



Do you have any stories or photos you would like to share?

Please email them to the editor at:
melcouch57@peoplepc.com

Subject line: Cobblestones

See us on the Web at www.ColfaxHistory.org



COLFAX AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 185
Colfax, CA 95713

Visit Our Museum
Located in the Depot
99 Railroad Street
530-346-8599
10am – 3pm Daily



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS

American Legion Colfax Post 192 P.O. Box 311 Colfax, CA 95713	Teri Andrews-Murch Realtor w/Lyon Real Estate 1900 Grass Valley Hwy Suite 100, Auburn Direct: 530-798-0215 tandrewsmurch@golyon.com www.FoothillsHotProperties.com	Mike Basich Painting 23850 Spring Valley Road Colfax, CA 95713 346-2466	Colfax Dental Center 120 Whitcomb Avenue P.O. Box 1080 Colfax, CA 95713 346-6244	Colfax Elementary School District P.O. Box 1080 Colfax, CA 95713 530-346-6244
Colfax Garden Club P.O. Box 1801 Colfax, CA 95713 346-8149 jewelldelapp@yahoo.com	Colfax Record P.O. Box 755 Colfax, CA 95713 346-2232 346-7029	Kurtis H. Fox, M.D., Inc. P.O. Box 1199 Colfax, CA 95713 346-2281	Golden Drift Historical Society P.O. Box 253 Dutch Flat, CA 95714 389-2617	Grace Hubley Foundation 24820 Ben Taylor Road Colfax, CA 95713 530-863-3698 nhagman@yahoo.com
Mix & Mingle Greek Bistro 30 N. Main Street Colfax 530-305-4050	Pick-A-Flick Video 6 N. Main Street P.O. Box 29 Colfax, Ca 95713 530-346-8808	Placer County Historical Society P.O. Box 5643 Auburn, CA 95604	Roxanne's Stained Glass P.O. Box 934 Colfax, CA 95713 916-396-2606	Sierra Business Service James and Barbara Kelly 520-D So. Auburn Street Colfax, CA 95713 346-2455 barbkelly@foothill.net
Sierra Vista Center P.O. Box 57 55 School Street Colfax 530-346-8726	VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 2003 P.O. Box 1213 Colfax, CA 95713 (Pres.) 636-4242			