

COLFAX COBBLESTONES

March 2020

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www.colfaxhistory.org

www.facebook.com/colfaxmuseum

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New and Returning Volunteers at the Archives, and We Prepare to Move the Archive Collections Online

By Nancy Hagman



Larry Risser (left) and Ken Fletcher (right) collaborate on a technically uncooperative printer used in the Archives Room. Hey, it's only ten years old.

Exciting developments are happening at the Colfax Area Historical Society's Archives.

First: Recently the CAHS acquired the Bowers/Keck collection of negatives, prints, and

some digitized enhancements of photos depicting primarily the Colfax area. These date back as far as the late 1800s. Included are original 3"x3" negatives of both familiar sites and unfamiliar

historic shots, newly rediscovered. There are close to 500 images in the collection.

Second: Ken Fletcher and Lorraine Simpson have returned – after a two-year hiatus – to continue the work of cataloging the Grace Hubley Collection of nearly 8,000 glass plate negatives.

Third: Roger Staab continues his work of expanding the computer data base that digitally catalogs the Archive's collection.

Fourth: We have received an important donation from Microsoft in the form of software applications and technical support. This is colossal help to our new tech team whose goal is to bring us into the information age. More details later about this item.

Fifth: A liaison relation has been established with the Placer County Archives. They are helping with

scanning important items and sharing data and resources.

Sixth: Joining us – with great excitement on our part – is recently retired Larry Risser. You may remember him as the editor of the *Colfax Record* at one point in his career. He went on to Information Technologies with Placer County and brings us very important experience and knowledge. He is helping us out with all the above projects.

So, what does this mean to you as a member of CAHS and a member of the community?

Primarily, our goal is to open public access to the treasures of the museum and the Archives via the internet. Maybe, ultimately, you will be able to share your treasures, too.



The Colfax School, Colfax California, circa 1890. This is a photo from the Bowers/Keck collection of negatives and photos recently acquired by the Colfax Area Historical Society.



Join the Colfax Area Historical Society today and help preserve this

area's history while enjoying the many benefits of membership. Each membership package includes:

- Free Museum admission (yes, it is free anyway).
- 10% Member's Discount on gift shop merchandise in the Colfax Heritage Museum.
- The quarterly *Colfax Cobblestones* newsletter mailed to you.
- Special pre-sale access to popular events, optional event notifications, and much more!

March is Museum Month

Join now and get up to 9 months of membership and benefits for FREE!

MEMBERSHIPS NOW BEGIN ON JANUARY 1 AND END ON DECEMBER 31.

Everyone who joins in 2020 will receive membership and benefits **through the end of 2021**. You will receive up to 9 months of membership and benefits for free.

OFFER VALID THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020.
Good for new members only.

Current members who renew now will have their memberships extended through December 2021—giving you up to 9 months of membership and benefits free!

The Museum Now Accepts Debit and Credit Cards for Purchases

Visitors to the museum can now use debit and credit cards to buy souvenirs, books, clothing, snacks, and memorabilia. In the past, the museum only accepted cash. The proceeds for everything sold at the museum are used to maintain and preserve the museum and archives, make the collections available for viewing and research, and research local history.

Web Site and Facebook Page

Our web site is colfaxhistory.org. It has information about the Historical Society and the Museum.

Our Facebook is facebook.com/colfaxmuseum. It focuses on news and events about the Historical Society and the Museum.

CAHS Board and Officers

The current board and officers are:

President: Jay MacIntyre

Vice President: Dirk Gifford

Treasurer: Barbara Kelly

Recording Secretary: Joann Geist

Membership Chair: Chris Miller

Corresponding Secretary: Not filled at this time

Archives Director: Swend Miller

Museum Director: Chris Miller

Member-At-Large: Roger Staab

Cobblestones Editor: Dirk Gifford

Webmaster: Dirk Gifford



Join us on March 21, 2020, for THE COLFAX PASSENGER DEPOT: The Rest of the Story

Roger Staab will present an intimate look at Colfax's Southern Pacific Passenger Depot, which opened in 1905 to replace the 1865 Central Pacific Depot. Roger will present then-and-now photos and stories of the depot, from its beginning to the present, when the City of Colfax and a team of dedicated volunteers restored the building, which is now the location of the local history museum, Chamber of Commerce and visitor center, and a passenger waiting area.

**Saturday, March 21, 2020,
7 p.m.**

**Colfax Passenger Depot
99 Railroad Street, Colfax**

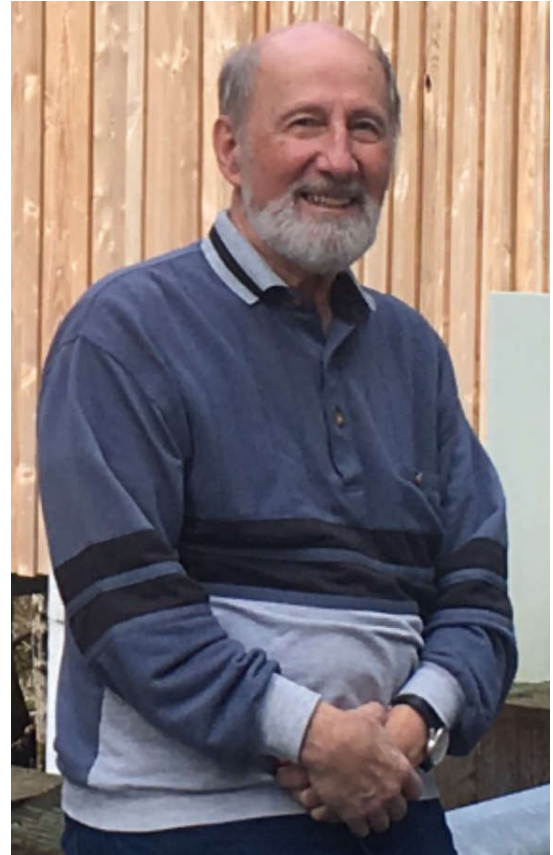
There is no charge to attend

There is no charge. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

We will look at:

- The new depot's service to the traveling public until 1971 when AMTRAK took over passenger rail service.
- The depot's conversion to office space for railroad maintenance of way personnel.
- A promised resurrection and new life in the mid-1990's to serve Capitol Corridor trains only to be followed by disappointment and a change of plans.
- And ultimately the determination of the City of Colfax and a team of dedicated volunteers to bring the building to its present status as local history museum, visitor center and passenger waiting area.
- Along the way we will witness the only time the depot was moved (temporarily) from its original

location. We hope you will join us for "the rest of the story" about Colfax's Southern Pacific Passenger Depot.



Roger Staab is a well-known railroad historian and author. As a charter member and the historian of the Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society (PSRHS), Roger has been collecting railroad images for more than two decades. He has done extensive research about the history of Colfax and the surrounding area, and he has written numerous articles about local history, including the history of the railroad in this area.

Roger serves on the Colfax Area Historical Society (CAHS) board as a member-at-large, and he is a volunteer at the CAHS Archives.

He is the author of a book about the Towle Brothers' logging, railroad, and family businesses, and he is the co-author, with Arthur Sommers, of the Arcadia book Railroads of Placer County.

Join the Colfax Area Historical Society

Join the CAHS and support the work of the Society and the Colfax Heritage Museum. You will receive the *Colfax Cobblestones* newsletter four times a year by mail. Memberships are for one year.

MEMBERSHIPS NOW BEGIN ON JANUARY 1 AND END ON DECEMBER 31. Everyone who joins in 2020 will receive membership and benefits through December 2021. You'll receive up to 9 months of membership and benefits for free.

<p>To join the Colfax Area Historical Society, fill out this form and mail it with a check to: CAHS, PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713.</p> <p>Your subscription will begin with the next quarterly issue.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ ZIP _____</p>	<p>r \$20 Individual membership (one person)</p> <p>r \$25 Family membership (including children)</p> <p>r \$35 Business or Non-Profit Organization (includes an ad in each issue of the <i>Colfax Cobblestones</i>)</p> <p>To join over the phone using a credit or debit card, call (530) 346-8599 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Mon-Sat to speak to a docent.</p>
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When You Join, how is the Money Used?

Membership dues and all money raised help us accomplish the following:

- Maintain the Colfax Heritage Museum in the Colfax Passenger Depot building, in Colfax.
- Maintain historical archives in a rented room at the Sierra Vista Community Center.
- Manage a growing collection of archival artifacts and make these available for research.
- Preserve and protect a collection of 10,000 glass negatives taken by Grace Hubley Jones, a successful commercial photographer of this area.
- Collect and catalog photographs of early Colfax families since the 1850s. Collect family histories, including oral histories.
- Research the history of early buildings in Colfax, with commemorative bronze plaques placed on buildings along Main Street.
- Research the history of personalities in Colfax, such as Robert Fowler (aviator) and Pat Jones (journalist) and dedicate monuments to them.
- Develop a file system to assist persons searching for information on people and history of Colfax and the surrounding area.
- Display archival and historical materials at public events.
- Publish and sell historical publications related to Colfax and other nearby communities.

Local Businesses and Organizations That Support CAHS

The Colfax Area Historical Society (CAHS) and the Colfax Heritage Museum (CHM) appreciate the support and services that local businesses provide.

The following local businesses and organizations are members of the CAHS, and we appreciate their support. **We invite you to support them.**

<p>American Legion Colfax Post 192</p> <p>P.O. Box 311 Colfax, CA 95713</p>	<p>Colfax Dental Center</p> <p>120 Whitcomb Avenue Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6244</p>
<p>Colfax Garden Club</p> <p>P.O. Box 1801 Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6215</p>	<p>Colfax General Store</p> <p>6 North Main St. Colfax, CA 95713 rklobner@colfaxnet.com</p>
<p>Grace Hubley Foundation</p> <p>24820 Ben Taylor Colfax, CA 95713 www.gracehubleyfoundation.org</p>	<p>Kurtis H. Fox, M.D., Inc.</p> <p>101 Grass Valley St. Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2281</p>
<p>Sierra Business Services</p> <p>520 South Auburn St, # D Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2455 barbkelly@foothill.net</p>	<p>Sierra Vista Community Center</p> <p>55 School Street Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-8726 svcc@colfaxnet.org</p>
<p>Teri Andrews-Murch, Realtor</p> <p>Lyon Real Estate 1900 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn CA (530) 798-0215 www.FoothillsHotProperties.com</p>	<p>VFW Auxiliary Post 2003</p> <p>P.O. Box 1213 Colfax, CA 95713 President: (530) 636-4242</p>



JOIN US ON MARCH 21, 2020, 7 P.M. when Roger Staab will present then-and-now photos and stories of the Colfax Passenger Depot, which opened in 1905. The Passenger Depot now houses the Colfax Heritage Museum, the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, a visitor's center, and a passenger waiting area. There is no charge to come to the program. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided. See pages 4-5 for more details.

The Colfax Area Historical Society

PO Box 185, Colfax CA 95713

Phone: (530) 346-8599

Email: museum.colfax@gmail.com

USPS mail: Mail for both the Colfax Area Heritage Museum and the Colfax Area Historical Society is received at PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713.

Museum location: The Colfax Heritage Museum is physically located at 99 Railroad St, Colfax CA 95713

