VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL EVENT

City of Sonora Walking Tours

WE WANT YOU! WE NEED YOU! WE APPLAUD YOU!

Now is the time to sign up for the Historic Downtown Sonora 4th Grade Tours! Since many of our usual TCHS volunteers will be traveling in October this year, we need new recruits to train and to participate in a joyful activity for young and old!

A joint effort between the Tuolumne County Historical Society (TCHS) and the City of Sonora, these tours are a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about their home-history—their heritage. Under your guidance, our young people discover that using their eyes, ears, and mouths—to look, to wonder, to listen, and to inquire—can be as much fun as those buttons on their cell phones!

Our major requirements are that volunteers love Sonora, love Sonora’s history, and love kids. However, guides and trailers must also be physically able to usher 20-25 4th graders and their accompanying adult chaperones from the Opera Hall to the Red Church, with stops at the Sugg House, County Courthouse, County Museum, the Fire Museum, then back to the Opera Hall.

Tour dates are Tuesday, October 2nd; Thursday, October 4th; Tuesday, October 9th; and Thursday, October 11th. We ask that all guides/trailers be at the Opera Hall on the date of the tour no later than 8:30 a.m. Tours culminate at the Opera Hall by noon.

The Pre-Tour meeting date is Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, at the Opera Hall, at 9:00 a.m. (Please note we are meeting an hour earlier than usual for this meeting.) It is important that all volunteers attend this meeting.

If you wish more information, or just want to get signed-up, please contact Linda Clark or Sandy Fisher. Now is not too soon!

Linda Clark….hardlucklin@mlode.com….586-1577
Sandy Fisher…fisher@goldrush.com…..532-3306

Our volunteers are truly the backbone of this educational program. Each volunteer, from guide to trailer, from stationary presenter to “thank-you writer,” is equally important, and we need each and every one of you to make this another successful season.

And for the young at heart….

As we presented last year to end Sonora’s Farmers Market season, the City of Sonora and the Historical Society will again host a family walking tour of Historic Downtown Sonora, Saturday, October 20th. The tours will commence at the corner of Theall and Stewart Streets, right across from the Sugg House. All ages are welcomed for this free event. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for the 2-hour+ tour that begins at 11:30 a.m.

Anyone interested, please contact Sheala Wilkinson at 209.532.7725 or swilkinson@sonoraca.com. The tours are free but reservations are necessary due to space restrictions.

Thank you!
Linda Clark and Sheala Wilkinson
Dear members,
What a summer it has been! Between smoke, fire, and heat, it has been a challenging time here in Tuolumne County.

The Historical Society has a busy calendar from now to the end of the year. Saturday, September 22, is Museum Day, a Smithsonian-inspired event around our country. We have so much planned for that day—for our Tuolumne County Museum in an historic jail. Our theme is “Law and Order: Then and Now.”

Besides touring the historic Jail Museum, come and see the latest equipment used by the Tuolumne County Sheriff’s Department—our bearcat, drones, and police dogs. Enjoy freshly popped popcorn as you tour. Geocaching will start at 8 a.m. at historic stops for kids and adults.

October will be busy, too—historic Sonora tours for 4th graders and adults as well as a cemetery tour.

November will be the second annual volunteer luncheon. More information will follow in the next Historian.

We now have a video about our Museum. The Visitors Bureau put together a video for us. Bethany Wilkinson, from the Visitors Bureau, did all the videotaping and editing. Linda Clark (Hardluck Lin) narrated the video. These ladies did an outstanding job. Please take the time to look it up: www.TCHistory.org.

We are still selling legacy bricks to mount in the Museum Courtyard, and hope to have the bricks up and ready for everyone to see in September. We are so fortunate to have a master mason, Doug Lorimore, to install the bricks.

Like most organizations run by volunteers, the TCHS badly needs more of you to join us at our Museum, at the History Research Center, and for special projects and events, such as the 4th Grade Tours of Historic Sonora. Please help us if you can. It is so rewarding to join in an effort to make your community vital for people of all ages.

Always,

Angela Brown

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Fundraiser for Owners of the Dardanelle Resort

The Tuolumne County Historical Society (TCHS) invites everyone to an entertaining evening, on Thursday, September 20th, in the Museum Courtyard, beginning at 6:30 p.m., to contribute support to the Lewis family, owners of the Dardanelle Resort, recently destroyed by the Donnell Fire.

Matt Thorup, a singer-songwriter who has written a song about his cabin in the resort area, will be the featured entertainment. Matt has already raised $6,000 for the Lewis family, who will also be present to mix with the guests, provide updates, and answer questions about the fire.

For a minimum donation of $25, guests will receive a DVD of approximately 40 historic images of the upper Hwy 108 Corridor from the TCHS Collection. Pre-ordering the DVD is encouraged. For more information or to order a DVD, please call the History Research Center at 209.532.4227.

Historian-Presenter: A Real Trooper

With the Donnell Fire raging near her cabin, Sonora Pass historian Cate Culver entertained a number of TCHS guests at the August 7th History Program at the Tuolumne County Library. Culver has documented her passion for spending summers in the area in a recent Chispa (Jan.-March 2017) and is currently working on a book that focuses on Sonora Pass—its physical structures, such as bridges and summer homes, but also the hunters, cattlemen, anglers, businessmen, and their legendary stories.

In the memory of Melford “Mel” E. Jardine, a donation to the Historical Society has been made by Tom and Terry Machado.
Thanks to Sonora City Historian Pat Perry and her TCHS Publications Committee Editor Sherrin Grout, Historical Society members can look forward to a combined *Chispa* publication of two issues-in-one dedicated to Tuolumne County’s participation in WWI.

This decision by the TCHS Publications Committee to combine end-of-the-year *Chispas* coincides with the TC Museum’s soon to be completed WWI—Influenza Pandemic exhibit, titled “A Global Crisis: 1917-1919.”

This display represents several months of research by Pat and Betty Sparagna, author of the April-June Influenza Pandemic *Chispa*. Exhibits Committee members Allan Bryant and Linda Mellana have worked closely with Pat and Betty, also a member of the Exhibits Committee, to mount a multi-faceted display in the Museum’s Main Gallery as well as the West Cell Block, an area most recently dedicated to Tuolumne County’s participation in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915.

Pat has been in touch with numerous relatives of the thirty Tuolumne County young men who died during World War 1, or afterwards from its effects. Several of these family members have generously supplied photographs, stories, and letters, and Pat is currently working on biographies of each of these men.

Museum visitors will be engaged by Pat’s research into the family history of Tuolumne County infantryman George Marshall, whose mother, Hoveta, made a courageous pilgrimage with other mothers and widows to the graves of their loved ones overseas—government-funded journeys known as the Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimages.

*Historian* readers may remember that a call went out a few months ago for WWI memorabilia, particularly those items related to Tuolumne County and Mother Lode families. The Museum’s displays reflect the generous loans of several individuals, including the following: Jere Lowell Foutz, Marlene Garibaldi, DeAnne Hart, Jerry Marshall, Mark Mehlert, Jim Prunetti, Ann Segerstrom, David Segerstrom, Shiree Segerstrom, Judy Sinclair, and Kurt Sinclair.

The Exhibits Committee plans to complete the Main Gallery display soon and will also mount a WWI exhibit in the County Administration Building. Thanks to all for this very moving tribute.

**West Cell Block Exhibits: Influenza Pandemic display on the left, Jere Lowell Foutz WWI memorabilia display below.**
After taking the position of Curator for the Tuolumne County Historical Society and Museum four years ago, I was astounded by the size and scope of our photo collection. It is truly exceptional.

When I came on board, my goal was to get people excited about their heritage and local history. It’s so easy not to see the forest for the trees and forget a little about how rich and deep the history and family roots are here. And I was looking at the reminders on a daily basis within our photo collection.

I realized that because of the vast size of the photo collection even with our website online collection of some 3,000 images to view and purchase, that was simply a drop in the bucket and many photos would likely never get seen on a large scale. And this collection of faces, places, and events was just too amazing NOT to be seen.

So, after work one day about eighteen months ago, I sat down and created the Facebook group **Mother Lode Memories** to share these incredible images and hopefully bring back some long forgotten memories to the area. I had anticipated maybe a few dozen members, but it simply exploded. People were excited, and the stories began to flow. It was exactly as I had hoped it would be: a place for people to reminisce, to remember what it was like growing up in this small but wonderful area, and my very favorite thing of all, to have someone excitedly tell me I had just posted a photo of a loved one they had never seen before. This truly makes my day. We are close to 6,000 members strong, and I have to say the group is a pure pleasure to manage. The site features multiple images all during the week. I take requests for subjects, and each photo has its catalog number included so you can order the high resolution version for personal use.

The success of this group is entirely due to the love of this community and the history and heritage that goes with it. The Tuolumne County Historical Society and Museum strive to bring this history alive and interpret the past in creative and interesting ways. With the exception of myself, the entire operation is staffed by volunteers. The volunteers spend endless hours of their own time to bring the exhibits and events to fruition, and their value is immeasurable.

I will end this by saying how lucky I feel to be a part of this organization, and a part of this community. And thank you, all, for your continued support of the Society in its endeavor to preserve and interpret the past for future generations to come.

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**Hallowed History**

Stories from Sonora’s Old City Cemetery

Please join us for an evening tour that will bring, if just for a moment, some of these voices back to life. You will be guided by lamplight to multiple sites within the cemetery, where some of these forgotten souls will be waiting to tell you their stories.

**The Tuolumne County Historical Society Presents:**

**Sat., Oct. 20, 2018**

7:00 - 9:00 pm

$25/ per person

Space is limited to 30 guests

Deadline: October 15th

Call—209-532-1317 or 209-532-4227
Smithsonian Hosted

MUSEUM DAY

at the Tuolumne County Museum
158 Bradford St., Sonora

Sat., Sept. 22 - 9 am - 4 pm

Law and Order: Then and Now

Surplus Book Sale
Tours of Museum

On Display:
BearCat
Drones
Police Dogs

Geocaching—
Starts at 8 am
Historic Stops
For Kids & Adults
The Mission of the Tuolumne County Historical Society shall be to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Tuolumne County and the State of California.

The Historian is published several times a year by the Tuolumne County Historical Society, 158 Bradford St., Sonora, CA 95370-4920, for the benefit of the membership. There is no charge for the Historian.
(In compliance with Public Law 103-123, 39 U.S.C. 3656 subsection [j].)