

THE GOLDEN FLAKES

The Golden Flakes is the official publication of The Gold Discovery Park Association

2018 cultures of coloma

Long before the wave of millions of immigrants who flooded the eastern shores of the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's coming to America from all over the world (mostly Europe), the Mexican territory, known at the time as Alta California was having its own flood of immigration!

Wagon trains streamed west along the Oregon and California Trails long before the Gold Rush or California's statehood in 1850, bringing people from many different cultures to an area which had been inhabited by the Native Nisenan people for hundreds of years.



Over the past few months, we have been exploring the many different cultures that came together in California during the Gold Rush. We will continue this celebration over the next several months during Living History Days (2nd Saturday each month). Then in October, for Coloma Gold Rush Live, the event will be the culmination of the park's exploration of the diverse peoples found in Coloma before, during and after the Gold Rush. All cultures will come together in the Melting Pot of Coloma.

Gold Rush Live will be here before you know it and planning is already underway for this annual event - October 11- 14th. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us as we recreate the gold rush tent town of Coloma during this great event!

By Jennifer Steward

Volume 54, Issue 78,79,80



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Gold Discovery Museum & Mercantile

Hours
10 am - 4:00 pm
Daily

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Superintendent's Message



One of the requirements of a Generalist Ranger in the academy is to complete an interpretive talk and meet the requirements set forth. With this said, I recently received a

video of my interpretive presentation from a colleague. I had no idea the video existed. This grainy video was taken approximately 17 years ago, before the time of high definition, and before the time I knew what this career would bring.

Most surprisingly, I found the ideals I spoke of in my interpretive presentation then are the same things I speak of today. How ironic that I chose to speak of the California Gold Rush and how this rush was more than the discovery of gold, but the start of the California dream. At the time I gave this talk I was merely fulfilling a requirement and had no idea how the discovery of gold would truly affect my life. I am a true believer that things happen for a reason, everything has purpose, and eventually it will all come full circle.

With all of the projects we have going on throughout the park, I cannot imagine what we may say about the park in another 17 years and how maybe that one project was the catalyst that made the difference. These are truly exciting times, maybe one day we will look back at finalizing our museum exhibit, purchasing our own commercial sawmill, and or the restoration a historical structure as the piece bringing it all full circle. Time will tell, but as always...thank you for your continued support and keeping the dream alive.

Superintendent Barry C. Smith -- MGDSPH

Meet Our Park Staff Alex Alvarez



As you make your way around the park, you see our park staff working hard to make this place a wonderful place to visit, but who are these people who "make it all happen"? In each issue of The Golden Flakes we try to feature a member of our staff. Please say "hello" to Alex Alva-

rez! Alex has been here at Marshall Gold for about two years. His friend, Haley Williams, (also a park aide) recommended the position to Alex when he was participating in a play in The Olde Coloma Theater..

Before coming to the park, Alex was a server and dishwasher for many area restaurants. Now is he is a park aide, which means he is a jack of all trades! When he first started at the park, he had some "social anxiety" but the people he has the privilege to work with, have helped him overcome these fears. He really enjoys working here, loves being part of the "park family" where everyone is helpful and enthusiastic about their work and truly connected - something he says he has not ever experienced in any other workplace.

Alex says that now his biggest challenge is not "talking shop" outside of work as he's discovered that people aren't necessarily as excited as he is about history and the park's various projects. Alex is also currently enrolled in Folsom Lake Community College going for a degree in History. Other interests and hobbies Alex enjoys in his free time are playing musical instruments, cleaning house, and studying philosophy.

Alex was born in Petaluma. His family moved to Sacramento where he and his sister spent their early years until they relocated to Pollock Pines. Alex has been living in Camino for the last five years.

Alex hopes to eventually get married and raise a family that can appreciate the world as he has come to value it. This park has changed his life outlook for the better, and he hopes to inspire others that same way.

Alex says, "There are some plans in motion to make an informative, interpretive, musical journey about miner's life throughout the park. This project will most likely be finished when I learn how to carry a decent tune!"



Meet Our Park Volunteers

Mark & Audrey Gomm



Pioneer woman, Eleanor Draper, traveled with her husband Ebenezer, to the gold fields from Iowa. As poor farmers, they could not afford to purchase a wagon and team, so they loaded up their four goats with pack saddles and walked nearly 2,000 miles to Coloma. Between the four goats they carried 200 pounds of provisions. Once arriving in Coloma, Ebenezer staked a claim and worked hard at the river every day. In the meantime, Eleanor acquired several chickens and sold the eggs to the miners for \$3 EACH. She also staked a gold claim right in town...and this is the (fictional) character Audrey Gomm has portrayed in Coloma for nearly five years now!

Audrey started "behind the scenes" helping her son, Christopher, by sewing his buckskins as he interpreted here in the park with the mountain men. After she attended a few events, she was hooked! Audrey is, amongst other things, a seamstress. She has enjoyed assisting Jerrie Beard by teaching volunteers and visitors alike about period clothing. Audrey sewed many of the beautiful Christmas vests for volunteers to wear during Historic Holiday Houses!

Mark started volunteering at the California Pioneer History Day, May 2016. He had so much fun interacting with the park visitors that Audrey convinced him to take the volunteer training class. After that, Mark too was hooked and now portrays a Mormon mill worker sharing the story of how the six veterans of the Mormon Battalion who were hired by Sutter to work with James Marshall on the South Fork of the American River. He enjoys teaching visitors the method of constructing with logs of the time period using period carpentry tools and giving them the chance to use a long saw or bow saw. Then they brand their log slice with Sutter's branding iron.

There is so much we enjoy about the park. Audrey calls it her "happy place". It is a place where the cares of the everyday world, 21st century, can be put aside. It is a place where we can reflect on days gone by. We especially enjoy our time with park staff and other volunteers - who have become like family.

The Gomm's have always had an interest in history. Audrey remembers how much she loved learning about the Gold Rush in the 4th grade and, growing up in southern California, she dreamed of some day visiting Sutter's Mill. Mark's has a passion for ancient world history and has studied extensively, even at one point in college majoring in History. Some of their other interests include: the outdoors, camping, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, gardening, art, and photography. Audrey loves to sew but she especially enjoys working with her eight pack goats. Mark likes to create and build things like barns and structures on their mini-ranch as well as furniture - all made from re-purposed materials.

Mark and Audrey both grew up in the San Gabriel Valley at an ideal time - much like the movie "Sand Lot". They met in college, dated, married, and started their family there. In college they studied architecture then both pursued careers in that field. Mark started his own architectural design business nearly 40 years ago. Audrey changed her career when her first (of three) children was born, to "full time mom".



A visit ten years later to El Dorado County sparked their relocation when the Gomm's found a fixer-upper on 5 acres in Rescue. They acquired horses, goats, chickens and geese, found Apple Hill, Wright's Lake, and of course Coloma and Placerville. After 27 amazing years in the foothills, the Gomm's will be leaving their beautiful home state of California to seek new adventures in the Teton Valley in Idaho. They hope to build their dream retirement ranch where they can enjoy their children, 8 grandchildren, family and friends. Once settled, they hope to bring their love for living history to the valley - maybe volunteer in the local museum!

They will be greatly missed!



Filming Project for Upcoming Museum Display

Film producer and Park Superintendent Barry Smith (pictured below) directs videographer Jill Jones during the shooting of the film.

A film crew, led by esteemed film producer Barry Smith, was out at Marshall Gold Discovery State History Park recently filming a segment on mining techniques that will be featured in our upcoming museum remodel. This film short depicts the use of the rocker box, a mining tool that greatly increased the amount of material miners could process in a day. Because this apparatus requires at least two people to operate it, the rocker box also led to the formation of small mining companies.

Who knew we had such local talent for this film? Actors were drawn from Marshall Gold Discovery SHP park staff. On a cool and cloudy day, Park Aides Alexander Alvarez, Stuart Kelly, and Ben Appleby, and Maintenance Aide Shawn Fearn donned period attire and braved the cold water of the South Fork of the American River to demonstrate the use of the gold pan and the rocker box in extracting the precious metal from the river.

Director, videographer, and Senior Park Aide Jill Jones went to all lengths to get the right shot, wading into the chilly waters of the river with camera in hand. She even stretched a bit too far to get the perfect shot she was after, and filled her boot with icy river water!

"The idea came to me at about 4 o'clock this morning," said Smith when asked how he got the inspiration for the film. "In my mind's eye I could see it all, the gold panners, the entrance of other miners with the rocker box.... It was perfect!"





The past few months have been a time of sadness and loss for several members of our Marshall Gold family. We want to send our condolences to Bob Schoff who lost his dear wife, Marianne in late October. Marianne passed away very soon after being diagnosed with cancer. We mourn this great loss with you, Bob (AKA Monterey Jack).

Robert Woodgate has also recently suffered the loss of both his father and his father in law as well. Again, we are deeply sorry, Robert.

We would also like to express our sympathy to volunteer Mindy Miller over the recent loss of her husband. Your friends at the park care about you and are here for you all.

Finishing Touches

Look again! Now there's a handsome looking door covering the once open spot leading below The Weller House! Park staff have been working hard to clean up, level, and add gravel underneath The Weller House which is the new, improved and organized home for park tents!



Time to Renew

Don't miss the next issue of
The Golden Flakes

NEW Member Benefits!

**Members NOW Receive
30% off in The Gold Rush Mercantile**

Fill out and send in the form on page 6 to renew



Farewell to Ranger Eric Carter

Several friends gathered on Eric's last day here at Marshall Gold to send him off with a special gift. The idea for the ranger hat plaque was conceived by Pat Metcalf, designed by Jill Biasco, and created by Brandon Moore. The beautiful plaque was made from three different pieces of wood from trees that have been taken down around the park.

Eric began his new job at Angel Island right around the 1st of the year. Though we wish him well, Eric and his great, big smile and hearty laugh will be missed!



~ You're Invited ~

All are welcome to attend
The Gold Discovery Park Association
board meetings held in The Weller House at
5:30 pm. the 3rd Tuesday each month.

*(It is suggested that you call ahead in the event a
meeting has been changed or cancelled - 622-6198)*

We value your input, questions, ideas, & concerns

Send correspondence to:

GDPA P.O. Box 461
Coloma, CA 95613 or
Email: marshallgoldgdp@gmail.com

Association by-laws were set up
as a non-voting membership
but you DO have a voice!

Articles ~ News ~ Recipes **WELCOME**

Newsletter submissions are welcome
& due by May 15th
PLEASE SUBMIT TO:

jennifer.steward.gdpa@gmail.com
Editor - Jennifer Steward

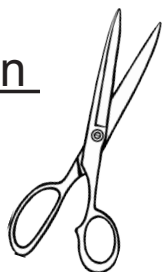
New circulation dates effective this issue:

Jan Feb March - April May June
July Aug Sept - Oct Nov Dec

Cut out
Membership Application

and send to :

GDPA
P.O. Box 461
Coloma, CA 95613



**Welcome to the place where the spirit
of California was born!**

The Gold Discovery Park Association

is proud to be the cooperating association for
Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

WHO WE ARE: We are a private, non-profit corporation governed by a board of directors and a set of by-laws. We are funded through, grants, memberships, donations, sales of merchandise and fundraising events. Your membership contribution directly supports the interpretation, education and volunteer programs at the park.

WHAT WE DO: We sustain a variety of programs for children and adults, contribute to projects that preserve our historic buildings and help maintain park facilities. In doing so, we support the mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation of providing top quality visitor experiences.

WHERE WE ARE: We operate the Gold Rush Mercantile inside the Gold Discovery Museum and sell a variety of educational and interpretive items, a fine selection of California and Gold Rush -era books, gifts, jewelry, souvenirs and toys.

Gold Rush Mercantile

530-344-1895 www.marshallgold.com

Annual Membership Form

(Membership year Jan1 - Dec 31)

\$20 - Individual

\$30 - Family

(2 adults & children under 18)

(Seniors 62+ receive 20% off memberships)

Member Benefits:

- Receives 12 page color newsletter in the mail
- 30% discount at The Gold Rush Mercantile
- Tax Deduction

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

THE VALUE OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

By Holly Thane

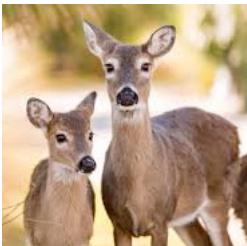
It's hard to believe it's time to gear up for school season when the weather feels like we should be wrapping up and getting ready for summer! As staff starts to prepare the park for the rush of 70,000 students to arrive in the next 4 months participating in our Eureka Programs, it is incredible to think of how far classes travel to visit our historic park.



Yes we get many local schools from the Sacramento area but it is amazing to consider how many classes travel all the way from Southern California. Most of those classes are brought here by one of the many tour companies that visit Marshall Gold. They fly up in the morning visit the Capitol in Sacramento, the railroad museum, and our park and sometimes even fly back that same night! One of our tour companies, Travel Teens is scheduled to bring 1500 students to our park this coming school season all from the San Diego/Los Angeles area!

Over the last few years we have seen different kinds of groups of people start to visit and participate in our Eureka Programs. Of course the vast majority are still public and private schools on field trips but we have seen a definite increase in home school groups and families that are interested in visiting our park. Homeschool groups love our Junior Ranger program that allows them to print off the booklet at home and then bring it to the park with them. They use it to prepare their students at home and go over some of the basic gold rush facts and then when they arrive at the park they use it as a self-guided way to explore what our park has to offer.

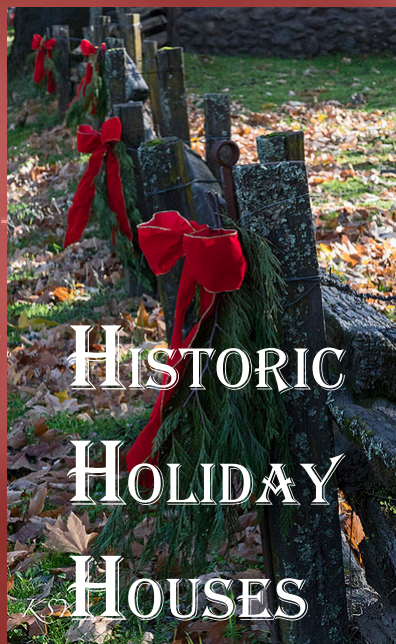
Another group that we have seen an increase in is Girl Scouts! They use our park for different ways to complete badges whether it be hiking, craft projects (leather poke program) or history badges. And these are not just local troops, just last week we had a Girl Scout troop visit from Malibu! They did all four of our Eureka Programs and went for a hike up to the Monument.



Parents and teachers alike love that they can bring their students to our park and not only experience the Gold Rush History but also explore the outdoors. We have many students who visit from Sacramento, San Francisco and beyond, where seeing a deer or a lizard is just as exciting as seeing a flake of gold! In fact, anyone who has given a Gold Discovery Tour knows it's not uncommon to get upstaged by a lizard on the Sawmill doing his push-ups! These are great teaching moments that staff and volunteers embrace and happily change the topic for a few moments to acknowledge our park wildlife.

Also, teachers and parents appreciate our hands on activities which allow students to "do" things instead of watching TV or staring at their phones. I will never forget a student a couple years ago was so engrossed in gold panning that at the end he exclaimed, "This field trip was way better than playing video games!" (His teacher and I high-fived over his head at that point)

One of my favorite things about our park is that we have different seasons. March through June is school season, June through October is summer tourist season, October through December is event season, and December through February is our project/"slow" winter season. So as we gear up for school season and leave behind our "slow" season, it is fun to watch the park slowly come back to life with staff and volunteers roaming around in period clothing, trails being cleared for the many feet to follow, and the yellow buses rolling through the park practicing their routes of dropping off and picking up students. As I write this I am watching our Superintendent mow and edge the lawn in front of HQ as we prepare for our first tour company visit of the season to arrive tomorrow. And yet another season begins for us to proudly show off our beautiful park and teach the gold rush history to our swarms of eager fourth graders!



2017



Photo credits - Kathleen Young



GOLD DISCOVERY DAY

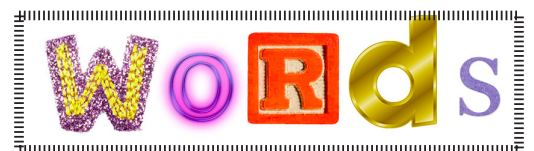
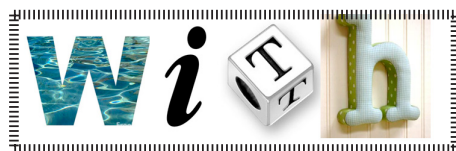


2018



Historic Words We Should Bring Back!

- Snollygoster** - A person who has intelligence but no principles
- Peg Puff** - a young woman with the manners of an old one
- Fudgel** - the act of giving the impression of working but actually doing nothing
- Twattling** - gossiping about unimportant things
- Grumbletonians** - people who are angry or unhappy about the government
- Hum Durgeon** - an imaginary illness
- Crapulous** - feeling ill as a result of eating too much food
- Mugwump** - somebody in charge who affects to be above petty squabbles
- Hugger Mugger** - secretive or covert behavior
- Eflock** - a word that describes tangled hair
- Trumpery** - things that look good but are basically worthless
- Jargogle** - to confuse or jumble up
- Cockalorum** - a small man with a big opinion of himself
- Zwodder** - to be in a drowsy, fuzzy state
- Slugabed** - A person who stays in bed after the usual or proper time to get up
- Grufeling** - to lie wrapped up and in a comfortable manner
- Philogrobilized** - having a hangover, but without admitting to actually drinking
- Ultracrepidarian** - giving opinions on subjects they know nothing about
- Callipygian** - having beautiful, well-shaped buttocks
- Lanspresado** - someone who always conveniently shows up with no money
- Frobly Mobly** - neither well nor unwell
- Caceoethes** - irresistible urge to do something inadvisable
- Abliguration** - spending lavish amounts of money on food
- Uhtceare** - lying awake and worrying about the day ahead
- Kakistocracy** - government by the least qualified or worst people
- Perendinate** - to put off until the day after tomorrow
- Dysania** - extreme difficulty getting out of bed in the morning
- Shivviness** - the uncomfortable feeling of wearing new underwear
- Groke** - someone who stares at you while you eat, hoping you'll share



Meet our New Office Technician ~ Jerrie Beard ~



Congratulations to Jerrie Beard! She is now our new Office Tech. If you want to know exactly what an

Office Technician does...

Jerrie will be responsible for the overall administrative functions for the Marshall Gold Sector. These duties include account management, purchasing and procurement, personnel support, and fiscal services and report preparation for the sector. The OT also acts as sector coordinator for various events and programs and works with the association, financial sponsors, and sector staff for association sponsored events. Other duties include providing support to the museum with cataloging artifacts and filing documents.

And for those who know Jerrie as park Volunteer Coordinator - don't worry! Jerrie is not going anywhere and will continue to wear "at least" two hats and continue working with volunteers as well, at least for the time being!

Living History Day Cultural Happenings

Dates and Themes
For the Coming Year

January 20

Gold Discovery Day – Cultures Kickoff

February 10 - African American

March 10 - Women

April 14 - Italians

May 12 - Asians

June 9 - English/Welsh

July 14 - Irish

August 11 - Mexican/Chilean

September 8 - Germans

October 11-14

Coloma Gold Rush Live!

The Melting Pot





P.O. Box 461
Coloma, CA 95613

We're on the Web
We're on Facebook!



www.marshallgold.com

"Dedicated to the interpretation and conservation
of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday March 20th 5:30

**Board of Directors Meeting
Weller House**

Saturday April 14

Living History Day 10:00- 2:00

Tuesday April 17th 5:30

**Board of Directors Meeting
Weller House**

Friday - Sunday April 20 - 22nd

Sutter's Fort Trader's Faire

Saturday May 12th

Living History Day 10:00 - 2:00

Tuesday May 15th 5:30

**Board of Directors Meeting
Weller House**

**** Living History Day is held "weather permitting" so please call before making the trip!**