



COLOMA NUGGET

“Celebrating and preserving the history of the Gold-Rush era”

Church Bells Still Ring in Coloma

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is graced by the presence of two churches dating from the mid-1850s. While both survived a rocky preservation road during the past 150 years, today they are well cared for and popular choices for couples looking for a historical setting for their weddings.

St. John's Church

The Catholic congregation of Coloma worshipped on the grounds of St. John's Church since the early years of the Gold Rush. In 1858 they dedicated the existing structure, which replaced a log church. Soon this little church fell into disrepair as the fortunes of Coloma declined and the congregation dwindled. In 1890



St. John's Church

it was repaired and rededicated. But yet again the building suffered from age and decay, so that by 1921 it had to be virtually rebuilt. Sadly, for this little church, local Catholic parishioners were traveling to Placerville for regular Sunday services by the 1930s.

The church was once more in need of restora-

tion by the time it was deeded to the State of California on April 30, 1969 by the Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento. Soon after, in 1972, the State Park and the community joined efforts in order to restore the building. The Bekeart family of San Francisco, descendants of Jules François Bekeart, who built Coloma's gun shop over 100 years before, led the effort. Statues and Stations of the Cross were acquired, pews polished, and the altar furnished. The free-standing bell tower, which carries the original bell that the parish had ordered cast in Sheffield, England in 1860, was restored. On the roof above still stands the cross, believed to be an Austrian design.

Emmanuel Church

The Coloma Methodist-Episcopal Church was organized in 1850, one of the oldest such congregations in California. Emmanuel Church was completed in 1856 as an Episcopal Church. By that time Coloma had become the central point in a circuit district that embraced



Emmanuel Church

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From the Executive Director



Dear Reader,

Coloma has recently been the site of many events – some new, some old. And there's much more to come before the year is over – all showing off the history and beauty of this valley and the inspiration it brings to us all.

Photo:
Neal & Associates,
Cameron Park

You can also enjoy the history of Coloma through the new *Guided Walking Tour* program on Saturdays and Sundays (see page 9 for details).

This colorful and lively place has been especially well captured during the past year by photographer Betty Sederquist, who obviously shares a special affection for Coloma. We decided it was time to share all the color that is Coloma, through Betty's photography, in this special combined color edition. (All photos are Betty's, unless otherwise noted.) We hope it will inspire readers to join us . . . as a visitor or a volunteer in one of the many Park programs or events . . . or just help you remember times you've enjoyed at the Park.

We want to take a moment to remember one who was enthusiastically involved in the Park. As friends tell us, "the Park was her passion."

Debbie Amaral was a member of the Board of Directors of the Gold Discovery Park Association. An enormously generous spirit, whose loving heart and helping hands gave so much to our community, she died much too soon, in April. We mourn her passing, extend heartfelt condolences to her family, and fondly recall the joy she bestowed on us all. She is remembered in these pages in one of our favorite photos.

We hope you'll be inspired to visit us soon.

Sincerely,

What's Going on at the Park

Hours

Park 8 am until sunset
Museum 10 am – 3 pm (subject to change due to budget constraints)
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Park Entrance

\$5 per car (1-9 passengers), except for special events
\$50 per per bus (10-24 passengers);
\$100 per bus (25+ passengers)
No charge to non-commercial school tours with reservations

Museum Phone 530.622.3470

Events Line 530.295.2162

Museum

Exhibits, Diorama (under construction)

Mercantile

Open daily at 10 am. Closes 1/2 hour after Museum
Phone 530.344.1894 or 344.1895

Research Library

Hours Monday, 10 am – 2 pm or by appointment (call Jim Grady at 530.889.1503)

Sawmill Programs

Learn the history of California's Gold Discovery and see the replica of Sutter's Sawmill
Seven days a week
Mar 1 through Oct 31 at 11 am and 1 pm
Nov 1 through Feb 28 at 1 pm

Live History Days

Interpretive programs at Park historic sites teach the overall history of the Park, gold discovery, and Coloma
Houses that may be open: Thomas House, Old Post Office/Dressmakers, Papini House, School House, Monroe House
Thurs and Fri* – Mar 1 through Oct 31
10 am through 2:30 pm

Demonstrations

Blacksmiths – seven days a week
Gold Panning, Rope Making, Mining
Methods & Quilting – Thurs & Fri*

Town & Discovery Tours

By appointment; please call 530.295.2162

*Subject to reduced scheduling based on volunteer participation and state funding.

Real 19th-Century Living

Time traveling has never been so easy. And it's right here in Coloma.

You can experience the life of an authentic 1850s tent town during the *'49er Family Festival* on October 8 and 9, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Then immerse yourself in old-fashioned holiday traditions at *Christmas in Coloma* on Sunday, December 11 from 10 am until 4 pm.

Here are the details:

'49er Family Festival Coloma Gold Rush Live!

Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9
10 am – 5 pm

Parking \$7 per vehicle

For two days Coloma will be packed with images, sounds, and hands-on experiences that bring the 1850s back to life. Visitors can rub shoulders with adventurers and historical figures, such as James Marshall, who found that first nugget that started the rush to Sutter's Mill. A live history tent encampment will recreate Gold Rush history in this authentic setting. Volunteers

portraying townspeople in historically accurate dress will cook over open fires, show visitors how to pan for gold, make candles and rope, and will demonstrate trades such as blacksmithing, spinning,



Debbie Amaral shares her love of history and Coloma at the 2004 *'49er Family Festival*.

weaving, basket making, and more. Children's games from the 19th century will entertain, as will musicians playing period instruments and singing the songs of those early immigrants. It's a lively and colorful way to learn and enjoy the history that is uniquely California – and Coloma.

Christmas in Coloma

Sunday, December 11
10 am – 4 pm

Parking \$7 per vehicle

The winter holidays are not complete without the joys of an old-fashioned Christmas! Holiday shopping begins with over 60 crafts vendors selling their wares at *Christmas in Coloma*. Visitors can enjoy chestnuts roasting over an open fire, carriage rides, wreath making, traditional children's games, 19th-century trade demonstrations, rope making for kids, a real snow mountain, good food, and more. Docents in period dress will lead visitors on guided tour of the historic town, while strolling musicians entertain park visitors. ❁



Celebrating the season at *Christmas in Coloma* includes music around a warming fire.

Another First in Coloma

The *1st Annual California Cultural Days* was celebrated at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in May. Highlights of the weekend included the on-going construction of a Miwok bark house, made with cedar bark, pine wood poles, and grapevine, and the performance of “Friendly Fire,” a historical account of a forty-niner’s life with the Miwok people. Dance, basket weaving, bead making, and other demonstrations offered visitors rich insights into the culture of the indigenous people of California.

The bark house remains in the Park as a permanent educational structure; it is located near the bedrock mortars. ❁

The event was presented by **Traditional Cultural Protection & Advancement, Inc.**, who may be contacted at honor_traditions@hotmail.com.



Construction of the bark house begins with a frame made of pine wood poles.



Grape vines are used to secure the bark house frame.



Finishing touches are added to the bark house.



Implements on display included hand-made soaproot brush, basket, and spoon.

20th-Century Fun for a Day

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park traveled into the 20th century for a day at *ColomaFest – Small Town Summer Days*. Many got there in their classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles – pre-1972 – which were on display for visitors to admire all day long.

In between bites of great hot sandwiches and sips of cold drinks, Park visitors swayed to the swinging sounds of “Cow Bop.” Their infectious rhythms



Visitors of all ages admire vehicles on display.



Miss Teen El Dorado, Christina Masour boosts interest in the opportunity drawing.



Cars of many colors catch the attention of *ColomaFest* car fans.



Cow Bop's “Pinto Pammy” sings. Bruce Forman plays.

An Evening Unlike Any Other

The 1st Annual Patrons Fête – a gala event to benefit the restoration of the Thomas Hansford Williams House in Coloma – entertained and pampered guests in the finest 19th-century style. Indeed, guest Bob Edwards, an active fundraiser himself, was quoted in the *Sacramento Bee* just days later, calling it the “nicest fundraiser I’ve been to.”

Greeted at the gate of the elegant Coloma Country Inn by gracious hosts and friends from another era, guests were directed to the amusements on the lush garden grounds, as the women were presented with delicate sandalwood fans to keep the modest summer temperatures at bay.

Fine wines were poured by winemaker Mari Wells of David Girard Winery. Plates of flavorful appetizers found their way to



Stage coach hands welcome guests to come aboard.

Wiser and Michelle Russell. Town tour experts Neil Roby and Bev Mayerhofer gave guests glimpses into the history of the area.

The affable Huell Howser, star of KVIE’s *California’s Gold*, joined the group just in time to listen in on a “conversation” between three famous figures from Coloma’s past – the 7th Attorney General Thomas



Joan & Gael Barsotti on their way to winning a balloon prize.

guests enjoying the music of strolling musician Broc Wayland and vocalist Paula Lee, accompanied by pianist Mark Michalski. Many found time to take rides on horse-drawn conveyances driven by Davey “Doc”



Church bells usher in Roy and Pearl Carter to their table.



Coloma residents from the past take to the stage.

Hansford Williams, poet Edwin Markham, and California's first park ranger Ezra Smith (played by Tom Farrell, Toby J. Boothroyd, and Alan Beilharz). All three of these men lived in the Williams House, just around the corner from the festivities, and the subject of the Restoration Project recently funded in



Winemaker Mari Wells serves Jerry Levitt, Jack Veal, and June Morin.



Star Celebrity Waiter Huell Howser serves Peter and Susanne Motley.

This slice of tranquility and gentility of a bygone era will be offered again next year at the *2nd Annual Patrons Fête, Restoring the Golden Era of Coloma*, on June 4, 2006 at the Coloma Country Inn.

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An Evening Unlike Any Other

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All proceeds from this event go toward the restoration of the Thomas Hansford Williams House, a project to preserve a valuable, irreplaceable piece of El Dorado County history. ❁



Vocalist Paula Lee with "Thomas Hansford Williams."



Guests get a taste of 19th-century travel with Davey "Doc" Wiser.



Kerry and Candie Bliss welcome guests to their Inn.



Star Celebrity Waiter Huell Howser takes a break with John and Jodie Tillman.



New Walking Tours Offered

Want to make the most of your visit to Coloma?

JOIN US FOR A 1-HOUR GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Led by trained and experienced docents

SEE THE SIGHTS & LEARN THE HISTORY

Saturdays & Sundays through Sept & Oct at 11 am

Meet in front of the Museum

Adults \$5, Children \$3

All proceeds benefit the educational programs at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.



Take a Swipe at Raley's for the GDPA

In case you haven't heard, the GDPA has joined the Raley's "Q Card Program" – the fundraising tool for nonprofits that helps us raise money for our youth educational programs.

When you shop at Raley's, you simply have your Q card swiped like a credit card, and a percentage of your purchase goes to the GDPA. The more you buy, the larger the percentage.

Raley's takes out no administrative charges. 100% of the funds go to the GDPA. All purchases are credited, including prescriptions, alcoholic beverages, and dairy products.

Thank you to Raley's for being such a generous supporter of El Dorado County nonprofit organizations.

If you would like a Q Card, please stop by the Park – at the Weller House or the Gold Rush Mercantile – to pick one up.



Church Bells Still Ring

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Diamond Springs, Coloma Springs, Uniontown (now Lotus), and Coloma. Though the congregation was large in the early days, it steadily diminished as people continued to move away.

In 1921 the building became the property of the Methodist Church, who restored the structure and made extensive improvements. It remained an active Methodist Church until 1963, when the structure was deeded to the State Division of Beaches and Parks.

Today, both church calendars are filled with weddings year round. And, still the bells can be heard, announcing the marriage of another bride and groom. ❁

St. John's Church seats 65; Emmanuel Church seats 150. For information and reservations, call Private Special Events Coordinator Kim Henry at 622.3069, Tuesday through Friday.

Wedding Traditions

Ever wonder why brides are looking for "something old, new, borrowed, and blue?" Here's what's behind the tradition, according to Park wedding docents.

Something Old

"Something Old" signifies that the couple's friends will stay with them. In some traditions it was an old garter which was given to the bride by a happily married woman so that the new bride would also enjoy a happy marriage.

Something New

"Something New" looks to the future for health, happiness, and success.

Something Borrowed

"Something Borrowed" is an opportunity for the bride's family to give her something as a token of their love; it must be returned to ensure good luck.

Something Blue

"Something Blue" is thought to be lucky because blue represents fidelity and constancy.

A Silver Sixpence in Her Shoe

"A Silver Sixpence" was placed in the shoe to bring the couple wealth in their married life.

Be good to yourself & good to the Park

at Yoga in Coloma with
Instructor Kaaren Boothroyd*

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at the Sierra Nevada House
6 sessions \$50 or \$10 per session

Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19

Class size limited. Call 622.6198 to register now.

All fees will be donated to the Gold Discovery Park Association to support the educational, conservation, and preservation programs at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

*Trained in Hatha Yoga by Yogini Renee Taylor, Redondo Beach, California



A Family Tradition for Years to Come

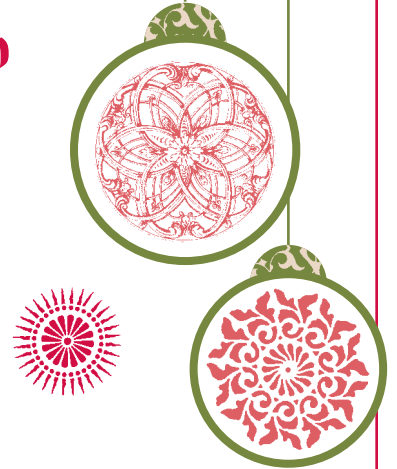
“Old-Fashioned Christmas” Preview

begins October 8 at Gold Rush Mercantile

Beautiful period ornaments and garlands for your tree
Stockings and handmade Santas and Angels too

Shop early. Stock is limited.

Don't forget the 20% discount for GDPA members.



Membership 2005

The GDPA continues to grow, thanks to new and renewing members who have joined since publication of the last issue of the *Coloma Nugget*:

Lifetime

A. Lawrence Nugent

Business

American River Recreation
Ma & Pa Kettlecorn/Your
Lunch is Ready

Family

Gael & Joan Barsotti
Donna Bayse
Val & Dorothy Beatriz
Amy Anderson Bridge
Elaine Chan-Scherer
Gary & Gayle Davis
Joyce Everett
Donna Fleischer
Nancy Havrilla & Jack
Ottaway
Ron & Judith Nail
Rick Rodriguez & Pamela
Morgan
Lisa Scott
Matthew Swasey
Debbie Welch
Gary & Lark Weston

Solo

Beverly Blackwell
Sharon Burton
JoAnne Curtright
Louise Dasch
Ross Deter
Bill Dickson
Jerry Ellinger
Robert Elliott
Mitch Fadel
Roberta Firetag
Curt Goller
Betty Harvey-Taylor
Bridget Heifner
Tim Hughes
Elizabeth Kopper
Jonas Minton
Rene Simonis
Michael “Rick” Sims

A Lifetime Member was incorrectly identified in the last issue. We apologize.
Names should have read:
Judith Bowers & David
Roethler

The *Coloma Nugget* is published four times a year by the Gold Discovery Park Association, P.O. Box 461, Coloma, CA 95613

Offices are located in the Weller House at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Coloma phone 530.622.6198 fax 530.622.6192 website www.marshallgold.org e-mail kboothroyd@marshallgold.org

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Gold Discovery Park Association
Board of Directors:
Mike Judd, President
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Cynthia Allen, Secretary
Candie Bliss, Treasurer
Conrad Tracy

The Gold Discovery Park Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the interpretation and conservation of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.



Enjoy the benefits of membership in the Gold Discovery Park Association!
 Save the history and beauty of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park for
 our children and for generations to come.

SAVE 50% ON MEMBERSHIPS VALID THROUGH 2005.

Benefits of Membership include

- Free admission to Park & Museum (except for special events)
- 20% discount at the Gold Rush Mercantile
- Free *Golden Flakes & Coloma Nugget* newsletters

Just complete the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership dues valid through Dec 31, 2005.

Membership Level* <i>(circle one)</i>		NOW
Solo Miner	\$25	\$12.50
Miner's Family (up to 2 adults \$ children under 18 yrs)	\$40	\$20.00
Business	\$100	\$50.00
Quartz	\$250	\$125.00
Gold	\$500	\$250.00
Lifetime	\$1,000	

Please return this form along with
 your check to:

**GDPA, P.O. Box 461,
 Coloma, CA 95613.**



**Gold Discovery
 Park Association**

P.O. Box 461
 Coloma, CA 95613

The Gold Discovery Park Association
 is a nonprofit organization dedicated
 to the interpretation and conservation
 of Marshall Gold Discovery State
 Historic Park.

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