

THE GOLDEN FLAKES

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

Seasons

With the crisp fall weather at hand, we are experiencing, once again, the changing of the seasons here at the park. This time of year starts what we call our "event season". Beginning in October we host Coloma Gold Rush Live (CGRL) - a time when we step back to the 1850's and create a bustling gold rush tent town. If you are an interpreter, you know the fun of being able to create a character and demonstrate an aspect of pioneer life. If you are a visitor who has come to CGRL, you've experienced the magic of Coloma's tent town. If you have, by chance, camped out in tent town, you would have heard the sounds of sleepy miners snoring in their tents and know when you can sleep no more you would rise at 6:00 a.m. and build a fire to get your coffee going!



On the heels of Gold Rush Live comes our next event, Historic Holiday Houses. This charming and popular event is when park volunteers and staff decorate the park from one end to the other with lovely, fresh, Christmas greens and bright red bows! For one weekend over a dozen homes and buildings will be all decorated for Christmas and visitors will be invited in to hear the amazing stories of each building by a greeters and hosts!

Finally, in January we celebrate Gold Discovery Day commemorating that famous day in 1848 when James Marshall discovered gold in the mill's tailrace.

People often ask our interpreters and volunteers, "Why do you do this?" Those who spend their time researching, gathering period items, and spending time pretending to be part of the past are a unique breed of people. It is clear that they have a passion for history and it gives them an outlet to share that passion. It's also a chance to sharpen their skills, expand their story, and hang out with people who have the same passion.

By Jennifer Steward

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Gold Discovery Museum & Mercantile

Hours

10 am - 4:00 pm
Daily

Board of Directors

Dennis Amaral
(President)

Bill Bennett
(Secretary)

Gale Tanquary

Dick Williams

Brenda Carroll

Don Sauer

Executive Director

Jennifer Steward



Superintendent's Message



As I have said before, it is amazing how quickly time passes when you enjoy what you are doing! It was with my last message, we were gearing up for the summer heat, investing in air conditioner stocks, and preparing our calendars for Co-

loma Gold Rush Live (CGRL). As I write this article, I am contemplating starting a fire in our headquarter fireplace and as we eagerly await the needed rainfall, I am hoping not to discover any new leaks. Whatever the season, I know there will be new adventures!

An enormous thank you to staff, volunteers, docents, and the GDPA for another spectacular CGRL. Whether it was a first time visit and or a repeat visitor to our event, I received overwhelming praise for our professionalism and dedication in keeping Gold Rush History alive. This, of course, is a result of everyone working together, bridging parks core programs, striving for continuous improvement and daily innovation. For those who may not have been able to participate and / or attend, we truly missed you and hope to see you soon.

As we look ahead, we are planning for our annual town decorating November 18 and Historic Holiday Houses (HHH) December 9-10. We continue to make good progress with our museum upgrade and anxiously look forward to its long awaited unveiling in early spring 2018. In addition, we will continue to move projects forward and actively look to make improvements throughout.

Thank you, once again for your continued support. From all of us at Marshall Gold...we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Superintendent Barry C. Smith -- MGDSHP

Meet Our Park Staff Eric Carter

Eric Carter was born in New England living outside Boston for the next 28 years. You may have had the privilege to meet Eric's parents, Richard and Laura Carter, who have come out west, donned period attire and helped out with a couple of our events! Eric attended University in Western Massachusetts before relocating to the West Coast (via Utah and Alaska, (sort of like John Sutter, except by airplane!).



Apparently Eric's grandmother told him at age 4 to become a ranger...so that he did! Eric graduated from the Ranger Academy at Asilomar in Monterey, CA in 2001 (which means he is going on eighteen years with the State Park system).

Before coming to Marshall Gold, Eric did seasonal ranger work in So Cal, including trail work and maintenance, as well as patrols. He headed to the north coast to work in the Redwoods after that. One day Eric was passing through Coloma on his way to Lake Tahoe. It was so green and lovely along the river that he stopped to pick blackberries. When an opportunity came open, he jumped at the chance. He says he would have only move out of a Redwood Camping park for a Day Use Park and that's how, eleven years ago, Eric came to Marshall Gold!

Eric arrived in Coloma on a cold winter night ((14 degrees!) The house had no heat, a buck was standing in the yard looking like he wanted to fight AND a large pine tree fell as he was unpacking. Other than that, it has been an uneventful run here in Coloma!

Eric has recently announced that he has taken a ranger position at Angel Island where he hopes to spend the remainder of his career. Eric and his wife Stacey will be heading off to their new adventure the first of the year. Eric says he's not only looking forward to a new place to learn about and explore, but he's also looking forward to biking to work and won't miss the cars whizzing by (there are NO public vehicles on the island at all). Being the outdoors man that he is, Eric is also looking forward to fishing for striper bass after work, kayaking and sailing around the San Francisco Bay and enjoying some very quiet nights looking out over the SF skyline!

Eric says he has loved working here with all the school kids and rafters alike. The staff and volunteers have been great and fun to be around and there are always some fun stories to laugh at here in Coloma. He and Stacey will be back to ski and play in the river. After retirement (in about 2 years) Eric looks forward to visiting all those parks he hasn't been to yet!

Meet Our Volunteers

Don & Lyne'e Sauer

Don Sauer first came to the park about three years ago. It should come as no surprise that he was introduced to the park by his neighbor (and one of the friendliest people around) - Brenda Carroll. The Sauers moved from San Jose to Garden Valley in 2003 living in a trailer while they built their home. Don and Kathy have one daughter, Lyne'e who is also a Marshall Gold Docent and GDPA member!

Don was born and raised in Kansas. After graduating high school in 1967, Don joined the navy and served for four years as an aviation electrician. It was after he returned from Vietnam that he got married, settled down with his family and became a mechanical design engineer -designing custom equipment for the semiconductor industry. From 1989 up to 2010 Don has a wide variety of occupations including Manager for Mechanical Staff Engineering, a Systems Development Manager, Tooling Engineer, Engineering Manager and has also worked in construction. We've seen the product of most of these occupations as Don has applied himself to developing his interest in the tin punching craft making all kinds of lanterns and other items using a tool he has designed and fabricated himself. He is also quite the craftsman working on various park projects such as tent city buildings and most recently building the all new lighter weight casket used to bury the dead each day during Gold Rush Live - the unfortunate ones who have contracted the cholera.

Along with hobbies welding, metal working- as Don says, "just building living in the quiet of the

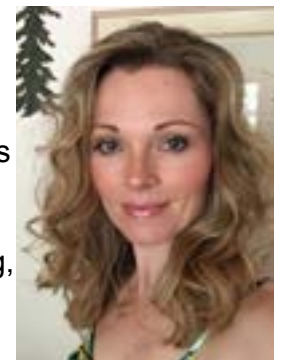


and learning more about the history of the area. Don is active with Living History Days and also helps out in the Eureka Program gold panning with the kids - on a regular basis. He really likes just about everything about the park, especially meeting people from around the world. Don has recently joined the GDPA Board of Directors. We look forward to working with Don in the future!

Lyne'e Sauer has also been volunteering at the park for about 3 years. She and her parents frequently visited the park and it was during one of the Living History Days that Brenda Carroll gave them some information about becoming a volunteer. Lyne'e told Don she thought it would be fun, they signed up, and the rest is history! Lyne'e says she enjoys being at the park and loves being outside. She also loves learning more about the history of the park as well as gaining camaraderie with park staff and volunteers. She loves being part of events and enjoys meeting visitors who come to the park from all over the world. Lyne'e has helped with gold panning, Holiday Houses / making wreaths, hospitality at events, in the



Saloon, and helps her father, Don, with Early Tin demonstrations. Lyne'e was born and raised in San Jose, CA., went to College after high school and have a degree in Liberal Arts, a degree in Fashion Design, and is currently working as a certified Orthopedic Technician and a Medical Assistant. In the past, Lyne'e has also worked as an Apparel Designer/Product Developer as well as spending seven years as a Project Manager for a Retail Design division within the Motorcycle Industry. Lyne'e says she loves art., painting, metal work, she plays the piano, does cycling, mountain biking, and pretty much anything outdoors.





After struggling through cancer, we lost our dear friend and fellow docent Frances Matthews in September. Frances joined the volunteer ranks at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP in 2012, and enthusiastically tackled whatever challenge was presented. She helped in the library and with the Eureka Program, became one of our Dutch Oven Cooks, was involved with the portrait studio and was instrumental in getting our tin punching program started.

Many Marshall Gold volunteers and staff attended the “celebration of life” in October and in order to honor Frances, those attending dressed in period clothing and park uniforms. Frances will be greatly missed.



Thank you!

FOR YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

more than a membership
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

Your membership expires December 31st. Why not renew today? Use the form on the next page to renew!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

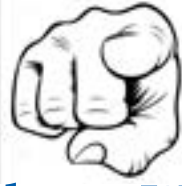
September 9th saw another wonderful gathering to thank and honor our Marshall Gold volunteers with a lovely dinner. The theme adorning each table was “Early California” and these faithful volunteers enjoyed an evening of visiting with one another around the same cause that brings us out to the park each time. A big thank you to all who helped put on the dinner - Jerrie

Beard as well as many other park staff. Also thanks to Gale Tanquary for providing the tableware and many of the centerpieces, Maureen Brown & Co. for preparing the appetizers.

We must give credit where due and this park would not be the park it is without our army of volunteers!

Thank You All!





You're Always Welcome!

The Gold Discovery Park Association would like to invite you to attend board meetings. Monthly meetings are held in The Weller House and are scheduled for 5:30 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

(You may want to call ahead and save a trip in the event that a meeting has been rescheduled - 622-6198)

We value your input, questions, ideas, & concerns
 Any correspondence
 can be sent to:
 GDPA P.O. Box 461 Coloma, CA 95613 or
 Email to: marshallgoldgdp@gmail.com

Though association by-laws are set up as
 a non-voting membership...

"You may not have a Vote, but you DO have a Voice"

Articles ~ News ~ Recipes **WELCOME**

Newsletter submissions are welcome
 & due by January 15.
 Please submit to:
jennifer.steward.gdpa@gmail.com
 Editor - Jennifer Steward

Volunteer Training

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer at MGDSPH?

- Thursday, January 18: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 20: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 25: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 1: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 8: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 10: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00
- Thursday, February 15: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 22: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

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 offer for sale a variety of educational and interpretive items, a fine selection of California and Gold Rush -era books, gifts and toys.

Your Membership is 100% tax deductible
 Gold Rush Mercantile
 530-344-1895 www.marshallgold.org

Annual Membership Form

(Membership year Jan1 - Dec 31)

- \$10 Newsletter only membership
- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family (2 adults & children under 18)
- Seniors (62+) receive 20% off memberships

Membership Benefits!

- The sense of belonging to something great!
- Free subscription to the print newsletter
- 20% discount at The Gold Rush Mercantile

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____



2017



GOLD RUSH LIVE



Photos courtesy of Kathleen Young



THE FACES OF 1850





Historic Holiday Houses

Historic Holiday Houses is a favorite event for everyone and it's right around the corner. Mark your calendars for the 2nd weekend in December when 13 homes and buildings will be open to the public, all decorated for the Christmas season. Docents and greeters will be present at each spot welcoming visitors to come in and hear the story behind each of our wonderful buildings.

Come out and make a wreath, roast some chestnuts, have some refreshments, warm your hands by the fire as you enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas!



Cooperating Associations Field Training

On Wednesday, November 1, Marshall Gold Discovery SHP and the Gold Discovery Park Association had the privilege to host a Cooperating Association Field Day for the Capital and Gold Fields Districts at the Broderick House.



The purpose of the field day was to facilitate stronger relationships between cooperating associations and parks staff, and among the cooperating associations in the region. Our guests were given a tour of the park, followed by a lovely lunch featuring tri-tip (barbecued by Bob Silva) and all the fixings (thanks to the Mo Brown, Gale Tanquary, Brenda Carroll and Jennifer Steward), with more training that continued into the afternoon. It was a beneficial time and a great day!



Pioneer Speaker

On Saturday, November 11th, speaker, William Harlan, delighted a group of local folks with stories about his family's adventures coming west on a wagon train, their relationship to the Wimmer Family, and first hand accounts of being in Yerba Buena and Coloma during the 1840's. Their family was lured to head west after reading the booklet written by Lansford Hastings about "Hastings Cutoff".



A copy of this book was given to our library by the Harlan Family and is available to check out!



A Long List of Improvements!



Among a long list of great attributes Superintendent Smith possesses would be that of “getting organized”! He has a long list of minor (and major) projects he wants to see done and he’s beginning to check a few of them off his list!



One project underway is the “landscaping” of the bank, repairing split rail fencing, and building steps in the parking lot area near The Weller House. Several of our park aides worked away creating this lovely improvement! Who knew there was a rock wall hiding underneath the dirt?

Another project (which is ongoing) is cleaning out the headquarters garage and organizing a bunch of “stuff” into clearly marked and accessible bins! Thanks to the GDPA for purchasing sturdy shelf units and bins!

Another project which can be seen along the highway is the addition of split rail fencing which allows a barrier for cars to park and at the same time creating a safe walkway on the other side for pedestrians. Credit for this project goes to Larry Au and Robert Frew from the LDS church who arranged a service project for approximately 130 kids who worked on it during a youth group retreat. Along the fireside in the evening, they shared stories of Mormon Pioneer History, which helped parallel the project with Marshall Gold. They built and stained approximately 200 feet of split rail fence, then disassembled the fence and reinstalled along Hwy 49 between Bekearts and the Argonaut.

Another HUGE improvement which is underway (not pictured) is that of creating a better storage arrangement for park tents, flies, and poles which are being relocated to a new spot where they will be better organized and more accessible for use.

James Wilson Marshall



James Marshall is credited as the man who discovered gold and started the California Gold Rush. The oldest of four children, James Wilson Marshall was born to Philip and Sarah Marshall in 1810 on the family homestead known as Round Mountain Farm in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. It is still known today as Marshall's Corner. In 1816, the family moved to Lambertville, where Philip built a home on a small parcel of land. James, the only son, moved west in 1834 settling in Missouri where he eventually began farming. It was there that he contracted malaria. His doctor advised him to move to a different area in order to improve his health. He joined a wagon train heading west arriving in Oregon in the spring of 1845 moving on to California in the summer, eventually reaching the agricultural settlement known to travelers as Sutter's Fort.



James Marshall's boyhood is now a small museum as well as the headquarters for the Lambertville historical society.



California was still a Mexican possession at the time and Swiss born emigrant John Sutter had been given a Mexican land grant where he built a fort in the "Sacramento Valley" calling it New Helvetia. Sutter hired James Marshall as a carpenter around the fort where he also did some farming. Marshall soon entered into a partnership with Sutter for the construction of a sawmill in order to produce lumber needed to expand the



Sutter's Mill Some believe the man pictured here is James Marshall but it is not known for sure

fort. Marshall was to oversee the construction and operation of the mill, and would in return receive a portion of the lumber. After scouting nearby areas for a suitable location, he eventually decided upon Coloma, located on the south fork of the American River. Construction of the mill began in late August and continued until January a1848. His crew consisted mainly of local Native Americans and some members of the Mormon Battalion.

The tailrace ditch that drained water away from the waterwheel turned out not to be adequate for the volume of water needed to operate the saw so Marshall decided to enlarge the tailrace using the natural force of the river. Each morning

Marshall checked the progress of the excavation. It was on January 24th when he was examining the channel below the mill that he noticed some shiny flecks in the rock bed. He picked up two pieces and, having some general knowledge of minerals, tried them between two rocks and believed it to be gold. After conducting tests with a lye solution, Marshall returned to Sutter's Fort and shared his discovery with Sutter who performed further tests, concluding that it was indeed





gold. Though the two tried to keep the secret word got out and soon spread and all the able-bodied men in the area abandoned everything to search for gold. Before long, arriving hordes of prospectors from

around the world soon forced Marshall off his land and he left the area.

Marshall did return to Coloma in 1857 where he lived in a small cabin. He did find some success in the next few years with a vineyard he had started but that venture soon failed.

Marshall returned to prospecting, becoming a partner in a gold mine near Kelsey (a small town not far from Coloma). Marshall was not only a qualified carpenter but he was also a “smithy” so he built a blacksmith shop in 1872 on the Gray Eagle Mining Property in Kelsey. The mine yielded nothing. The State of California did award Marshall a pension in 1872 in recognition of his role in an important era in California’s history. Marshall spent his remaining days in Kelsey.



Despite discovering gold at Sutter’s Mill, Marshall, who never married, died penniless in 1885. The only remnant of Marshall’s blacksmith shop is the chimney, which sits on private property and (even though there is no commemorative marker to Landmark #319), can be seen from State Highway 193 in Kelsey.



Above Photo:
 Courtesy of the California History Room, California State Library, Sacramento, California.



Historic American Buildings Survey Wells Fargo Bank Historical Museum, S.F. Original: June 1926 Re-photo: August 1940 - James W. Marshall Blacksmith Shop, Kelsey, El Dorado County, CA

Members of the Native Sons of the Golden West (Placerville Parlor #9) felt that the “Discoverer of Gold” deserved a monument to mark his final resting place so in 1890, they brought their idea to the State Legislature and a total of \$9,000 was appropriated for the construction of a monument and tomb that marks the final resting place of James Marshall. The monument, which was the first to be erected in California, is located at the top of a hill in Coloma at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. James Marshall can be seen pointing to the spot where he discovered gold in January 1848.



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

Saturday November 18

Town Decorating

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP 10 -4:00

Saturday / Sunday

December 9 & 10

Historic Holiday Houses

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP 10- 4:00

Tuesday December 19

Board of Directors Meeting 5:30

The Weller House

Tuesday January 16

Board of Directors Meeting 5:30

The Weller House

Saturday January 20

Gold Discovery Day

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP 10 - 4:00

Saturday February 10

Living History Day

Marshall Gold Discovery SHP 10:-2:00

* Check the website as LHD occurs "weather permitting"