

of the  
Tuolumne County  
Historical Society  
Sonora, California

## Letter from the President

*Happy New Year*

Fellow Members:

Hopefully the coming year will see a return to a more “normal” pattern of travel and tourism. This past year was far from what one would consider normal. As you know, we finally re-opened from the Covid shutdown in June, only to close again a few weeks later in August due to the break-in and attempted theft of the County Gold Collection.

We just had a very nice year-end event at the Museum on December 10, and we anticipate this reception will be the first of more regularly scheduled gatherings at the Museum for our members. But don't wait for a special event to come by as there are at least a half-dozen newly restored exhibits as well as our display of works by local artists to view.

Earlier in December, I was at the Museum when a woman dropped in and told us that it was her third attempt to visit since we had been closed the previous times. She said she really enjoyed her visit and wanted to come back with her family. We were impressed with

her persistence and assured her that we would be maintaining a regular schedule going forward.

One of the things we frequently hear people say is something like “I've been meaning to come by the Museum.” Make 2023 the year you take some time to actually visit the Museum and see what our volunteers have accomplished.

Chuck Holland

Director Linda Crocker and President Chuck Holland standing next to the TCHS tree in Court-house Square. TCHS received an honorable mention!



Welcome New Members:

Columbia Archives & Library

Candra Neff

Jeanne Nelson

Gregory Rhodes



## New Additions to the Museum

Recently the Nancy Kelsey mannequin was given its own exhibit space. Nancy Kelsey was the first pioneer woman to cross over Sonora Pass, all while carrying baby Martha.

Another new addition is the result of the recent break-in. A red donation box has replaced the wood/glass donation box, which was destroyed by the unwelcome intruders.



## Columbia's Louisa Daegener Volkmann and Shilling & Company

By Sherrin Grout

Louisa was the fifth child of William Daegener and Maria Schultze, originally from Prussia. Upon moving to Columbia in 1852, William was named the agent for Todd & Company's Express. When Wells, Fargo & Company bought Todd & Company later that year, Daegener stayed on as the Wells, Fargo agent. Two years later, feeling well established in his business and in town, William sent for his fiancée, Maria Schultze. She arrived in San Francisco on January 7, 1855, and on January 10, Maria and William were married.

The Daegers had five children, Hattie (1856), William (1858), Emma (1860), Paul (1862), and Louisa (1863). When a scarlet fever epidemic came through Columbia in December 1862 and January 1863, William (Jr.), Emma, and Paul died in the same week. They are buried in the Columbia Cemetery along with Hattie, who died in 1870.

Two years later, the much smaller family left Columbia and moved to San Francisco, hoping that the Bay Area would improve Louisa's health. Some time later, they moved to the Napa Valley, but after a buggy accident the family moved back to San Francisco. The Daegers sold their Napa land, some of which went to Jacob Beringer and eventually became part of Los Hermanos Vineyards.

While attending Denham School in Napa Valley, Louisa wrote of going to school in Columbia. She said her first teacher was Mrs. Dealy, and she remembered sitting on a bench. It took her a long time to learn to read as her attendance was often interrupted by sickness. Louisa also remembered Miss Severio, a later teacher in the Columbia School. When the Daegener family moved to St. Helena, Louisa rode a pony named Bill to a private school under Mrs. Dodge.

The Daegers became friendly with a family named Lemme, while in the Napa Valley, continuing this friendship when they moved to San Francisco. One Lemme family member, Agnes, married August Schilling. In 1882, Louisa attended a party at the Schilling's house, where she met George F. Volkmann. Louisa and George were married in 1883.

George Volkmann was a minority partner in the Schilling & Company, founded in San Francisco in 1881. The company engaged in the processing of coffee, tea, baking powder, spices, extracts, and other unrelated products. As soon as the firm felt sufficiently well established, it decided to make a radical departure from custom. At the time, coffee was mixed with chicory, tea was artificially colored, and cinnamon was mixed with almond shells. Schilling & Company offered a full line of unadulterated products of the highest quality. Another innovation of the young firm was the closing of the office during the noon hour. Posted on their office door was a sign which read "A time to work, A time to rest, A time to eat your meal with zest. This office is closed between 12:00 Noon and 1:00 PM."

After the 1906 earthquake, the company's offices were moved to the basement of the Volkmann's house on Broadway Street. On May 6 1932, Louisa died and was interred in Colma, California. The family continued their involvement with the company until 1945, after the death of George F. Volkmann.



P37079

Louisa Daegener Volkmann

**BEWARE OF  
IMITATIONS**

**PIONEER  
BAKING POWDER**

THE ORIGINAL  
POWDER IS MADE

The Public is  
CAUTIONED against SPURIOUS  
imitations.

The Pioneer  
Baking Powder  
is the only Powder con-  
sisting of nothing but  
REFINED  
Grape Cream Tartar  
and  
English Bicarb Soda  
SCIENTIFICALLY COMBINED.

**A. SCHILLING & Co.**  
SAN FRANCISCO.

# Museum Corner

## Identifying Curiosities In the Collection

Often an item in our collection challenges us to identify it correctly. One tool that we've begun using with *some* success is the image search on the Internet. It doesn't always work because the items we are trying to catalog are from the past. The adjacent photo is one such example. When we applied the image search, it came up with ridiculous suggestions, such as an insect sprayer, blow torch, or an olive oil dispenser. Yet we knew it was a Chinese artifact by the characters stamped in the metal. After much searching of antique Chinese items in other museums, we finally decided on something that fit. Separated from the card catalog that accompanied it, this item is a sprinkler used in a Chinese laundry once located in downtown Sonora. Water was heated up, steam escaped through a tiny hole in the top of the cylinder, and a person blew air through the trumpet-shaped tube to force the water droplets onto the item that needed ironing.



2022.52.113

## New Additions to Online Images

As mentioned in the last *Historian*, you are now able to view and purchase images from our Photo Collection online. Recently added "folders" of topics are from the Thad Waterbury Negative Collection, which currently spans 1973-1982.

To view the folders, go to <http://tchistory.org/product/photo-collection/>. Click on CatalogIt.Hub, which will take you to the collection of folders. Click on the folder you are interested in, then click on the image. Note the **Object ID #** of the image. Return back to <http://tchistory.org/product/photo-collection/> and decide how you will use the image. Your options are Personal Use Only, Non-Commercial, and



2021.20.144  
Niagara Trestle, 1974



2021.20.1096  
Sprouse-Reitz on Washington St., Sonora, 1980

Commercial. In the amount box, scroll to the appropriate dollar amount. Type in the Object ID #(s) you wish to purchase, then click on the Donate button to proceed to Checkout.

If you are unsure of any of the above instructions, contact the History Research Center Coordinator at [coordinator.tcmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.tcmuseum@gmail.com).

Since going public with "Unidentified-Men, Women, Children, and Group," visitors to the site have helped to identify several images. If you can provide any information about photos online, please send an email to [coordinator.tcmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.tcmuseum@gmail.com) or [info@tchistory.org](mailto:info@tchistory.org).

Another new feature on the Society's webpage is a direct link to Rob Gordon, the volunteer researcher ([research.tcmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:research.tcmuseum@gmail.com)).



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Non-Profit Organization  
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Sonora, California

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*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.*

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**REMINDER—Your TCHS Membership goes from January 1 through December 31. If you haven't paid your 2023 membership, mail in your membership envelope, which you received in your last *Historian*. Or, you can pay your dues online at:**

**<http://tchistory.org/product-category/membership/>  
Don't miss any upcoming *Chispas*!**



The front gallery of the Museum was festive at the Christmas Open House. Come by the Museum in 2023!

**Hours:**

The Museum is open:  
Tues. & Thurs. (10-4)  
Wed. (1-4)  
Fri. & Sat. (10-3:30)

The History Research Center is open:  
Tues.-Fri. (9:00-2:30)

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