

Historian

September/October 2023 ♦ Vol. 67, Issue 5

of the
Tuolumne County
Historical Society
Sonora, California

**Museum
temporarily
closed due
to A/C issue**

**Hours:
CALL BEFORE
PLANNING A TRIP**

Museum:

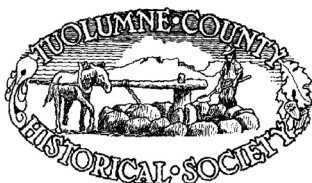
Tues. & Thurs. (10-4)
Wed. (1-4)
Fri. & Sat. (10-3:30)

History Research
Center (HRC):

Tues.-Fri. (9:00-4:00)

**Welcome New
Members:**

**Marianne Coombs
Faith Clusin
Christine Halley**



Letter from the President

Fellow Members,

On July 20, HRC Coordinator Brad Fisher and I attended a regional museum meeting. The Regional Museum Alliance, which includes museums and historical societies in the neighboring Mother Lode Counties, has not met since before the Covid-related shutdowns. It was quite interesting to hear about what is going on with museums in nearby counties and how they managed to get through the past three years of voluntary closures and mandated shutdowns.

The impression I came away with is that the Tuolumne County Museum has done about as well as most museums in the area and better than some with more limited resources. One thing for sure is that every one of the museums in our Mother Lode region has interesting collections and worthwhile things to see.

Chuck Holland

Historic Car Caravan Tour of Highway 108

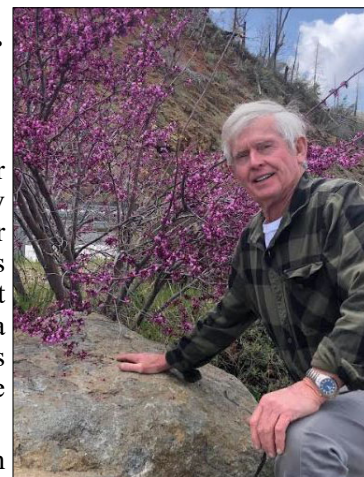
Saturday, September 23—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Attendance will be limited to 25
(PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**

Join in with retired Columbia College Forestry Instructor **Ross Carkeet** on a historic car caravan tour along Highway 108, from Cold Springs to the Douglas Picnic Area, September 23rd, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Carkeet will share historic stories and lore at the historic Cow Creek Ranger Station site, at Donnell Vista, and at the historic Hayes Station site in Eureka Valley. The Douglas Picnic Area in Eureka Valley will serve as a picnic lunch site around 1:00 p.m.



Cow Creek Station, 1915



Ross Carkeet

A long-term member of the TCHS, Ross Carkeet taught Forestry, Natural Resources, and Biology classes at Columbia College for 39 years. He also served as a part-time summer naturalist with the Stanislaus National Forest during the 1980s and 1990s. Born and raised in Sonora, Carkeet has spent considerable time in the upper elevations of the Stanislaus National Forest and often visits his summer cabin near Eagle Meadows.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cold Springs Market overflow parking area, and please try to carpool. Bring your lunch, drinking water, walking shoes, sun lotion, hat, and folding chair (optional). No charge for this event.

Register by calling the HRC of the Tuolumne County Historical Society—209-532-4227.

An Unidentified Photo—Julia Conlin

By Sherrin Grout

This is the second of the two unidentified photographs I found while searching for topics for the *Historian*. The first unidentified woman I wrote about was Addie Lee Chapin Sleeper (*Historian* – May/June 2023.)

Julia Conlin was the fifth child and second daughter of John and Julia C. Conlin, immigrants from Ireland, who married in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1855. They traveled to California by way of the ship *Northern Light* to Panama, crossed the Isthmus, then took the ship *Uncle Sam* to California. When they arrived in Tuolumne County in 1856, they settled in Shaws Flat, where Mary Ann, the first of their eleven children, was born. The family later moved to Columbia.

John was killed in a mining accident near Shaws Flat in October 1877. As Mrs. Conlin was sick, and due to her unfortunate circumstances, a raffle was held in October to raise money for the family. Mrs. Conlin died a few months later in January 1878, leaving her twenty-two-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, and nineteen-year-old-son Thomas (Tom), to care for their nine brothers and sisters, four of whom were under the age of five. Five of the Conlin children later died of tuberculosis: Mary Ann, Andrew, Rosie, Charles, and Katherine.

Julia Conlin (whose photo was identified, see above) obtained her teaching certificate and taught school in Columbia for several years. Julia and her surviving sister, Margarete (Maggie), lived with their brother Tom, in Columbia's Wells Fargo Building. Tom was a well-known Wells Fargo agent. They continued to live there even after his death and ran a private museum, as well as managing the Conlin Water Company during times of drought. At one time, Columbia residents were allowed water for only two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. The sisters also continued collecting information about Columbia in the nineteenth century and writing newspaper columns about the happenings in Columbia in the 1930s.

On October 3, 1939, Julia died in Columbia and was interred in Mountain View Cemetery. A representative of the Wells Fargo Company of San Francisco attended the funeral in respect to this prominent member of one of Tuolumne County's pioneer families.



Julia Conlin, TP1360



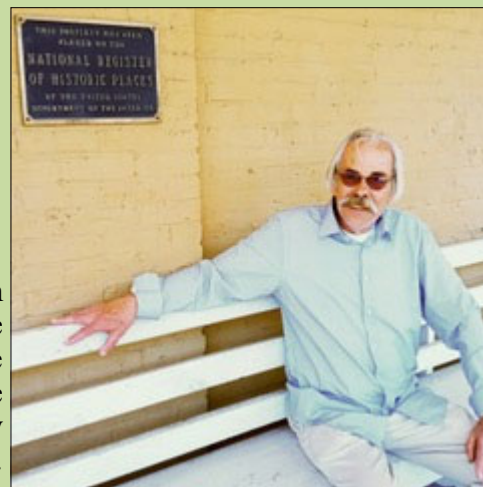
Arrow points to Julia Conlin, a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. TP1161

Museum Corner

The Truth is Out There (In Your Own Backyard)

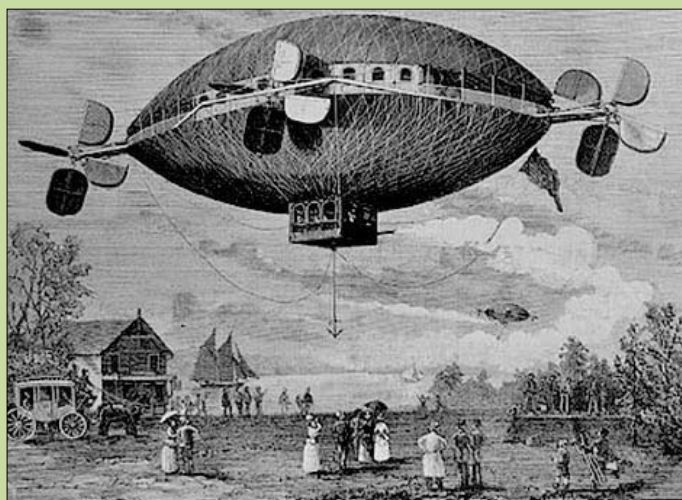
Wed., October 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

With all this talk about UFOs lately, “The Truth is Out There (In Your Own Backyard)” will examine Sonora’s relationship with these “unidentified anomalous phenomena.” Hosted by the Tuolumne County Historical Society as part of their monthly lecture series, the presentation by David Simerley will be held at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road, Wednesday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m. Sonora ranks fifth in the nation for cities with the highest frequency of UFO sightings. Although California as a state has more UFO sightings than anywhere in the country, Sonora is the only California city that made the top ten.



David Simerley

Who remembers the night deputy sheriffs chased a low flying UFO up Highway 108 before losing it above Dardanelle? How about the time a UFO buzzed downtown Sonora in broad daylight? Were you



alive the night in 1963, when saucers landed at Gibbs Ranch? This is the UFO story that has it all—mass sightings, close encounters, even secret air bases working on aircraft with advanced technology. UFO lore in Tuolumne County can be traced as far back as the Gold Rush.

We’ll discuss *THE SECRETS OF DELLSHAU: the Sonora Aero Club & the Airships of the 1800s* (D. Crenshaw and P Navarro, 2009) as well as the Phantom Airship Mystery of 1897, considered the first UFO wave in American history. Actual footage of UFOs visiting Sonora will be shown.

Bring your own UFO stories to share.

**Mark your
calendars**

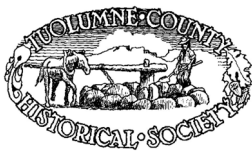
Upcoming Events for the Holidays

Wed., November 8, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd.

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping—artwork, vintage photos, books old and new will be available to purchase. You can also give a TCHS membership!

Tues., December 12, 2023, at 2:00—4:00 p.m.
Tuolumne County Museum, 158 Bradford St., Sonora

Annual Christmas Open House with cookies and cider. Come say hello to the board members and see the new exhibits in the Museum.



**TUOLUMNE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

158 Bradford Street
SONORA, CA 95370-4920

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.*

Non-Profit Organization
U S POSTAGE PAID
Permit #15
Sonora, 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].)

Tuolumne County Museum & History Research Center

158 Bradford Street, Sonora, CA 95370

Museum: 209-532-1317—History Research Center: 209-532-4227

<http://tchistory.org>, info@tchistory.org

**More Online Images Available
to View and Purchase**



New folders of images have been added to the online collection at <https://hub.catalogit.app/1270>.

The recently added topics are railroad related—Sierra Railway/Hetch Hetchy Railroad, Standard/West Side/Pickering, and West Side/Pickering Maps.

If you have an interest in a particular topic, email your request to: info@tchistory.org.

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**Change in address or contact
information?**

Contact Kathy Boone—

cookie48@mlode.com or 209-984-3359