Malakoff’s

FRENCH CONNECTION

Music Dancing Games Food Wine

MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE HISTORIC PARK

Saturday, September 9, 2017 ♦ 11 to 4:30

Chacun est artisan de sa fortune

poster by Laura Jean Coats
The Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins have collaborated with researchers and local Francophiles to plan a new event honoring the French mining pioneers responsible for much of the early technological and cultural developments around Malakoff Diggins. We will celebrate the early French emigrants in the gold mining era of the Sierra. Envisioned is a festive, lively gathering September 9, 2017. We will unveil newly installed interpretive panels, welcome dignitaries from near and far, premier an original marionette show explaining the origin of the name “Malakoff”, and tip our berets to those early pioneers. The day will be accompanied by popular world and fusion quartet, Beaucoup Chapeaux, and we plan to dance, play games, consume french-inspired food and wine and explore the beauty of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and the historic buildings of North Bloomfield.

Syd Brown 530-265-6344 (H)
530-205-7068 (C)
“A number of French speakers had settled in Humbug Canyon by the mid-1850s. Among the first arrivals in Humbug City were A. Jacobs, John De Bours, A. Lemaire, Julius Lafertee, and Pierre Aubert, the same French merchant who partnered with Fauchery to claim so many high mountain lakes. Two other members of that party, Wattier and Poirson, also came to live in Humbug City, although it is not known exactly when they did so. Given Aubert’s early arrival, it was probably around the same time. Similarly, Fauchery, Lay, and Poquillon all settled at the edge of the MDSHP only a few miles west of Humbug, along the main road connecting Nevada City with Eureka South. The valley between these two enclaves was named Virgin Valley, which also became the name of the local mining district, the Virgin Valley Mining District. Groups of gold miners came together throughout the Sierra Nevada to establish self-governing mining districts in order to formally record and track claims and the sale of claims. Miners named the districts, defined their own laws, and elected officials for each. The record books of the Virgin Valley Mining District have not been found, so we do not know exactly when it was created or who was involved. The name appears in county records by late 1855, and the first elected recorder was O. P. Jones (Deeds 28:420, Pre-emptions 1:223).

Madame August, a French woman, built the Hotel de France in Humbug City sometime in 1855. This early establishment was originally roofed in canvas; it probably served meals and possibly provided other services (Wells 1880). Madame August had partnered with Julian Dusome by 1857, and it appears that they improved the Hotel de France, sometimes called the Hotel de Paris, as it was later assessed as a dwelling on a lot in town with household furniture (Preemption Claims 1:158, Assessments 1863). The emerging French colony included French-speaking Canadians, of which Francis Blain and company were early examples. Both Blain and De Bours successfully pre-empted large parcels of land upstream from Humbug City for grazing and agricultural purposes, but they and everybody else were miners first and foremost (Pre-emptions 1:173, 340)."

source: THE FRENCH OF MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE HISTORIC PARK NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - Prepared for California State Parks Sierra District Tahoma, California March 2016. 133 p. by Mark Selverston
I have important news to share with you--Senate Bill 1, by Senator Beall and supported by the Governor, passed both houses of the Legislature and will be going to the Governor for his signature. Under this measure, a portion of the new revenue collected from a fuel tax increase would be deposited into our State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF). The measure specifies that this new funding is to be used for the state park system, including OHV and boating programs. The use of the funds would be determined through our typical annual budget process. The Department of Finance estimates this additional revenue to SPRF to be $60 million annually upon full implementation. The measure does not affect the revenue currently allocated to the OHV and Harbors and Watercraft funds.

I want to commend you on your focus on the initiatives to strengthen the California Department of Parks and Recreation—including the new fiscal systems we have collectively put in place. All districts now receive their allocations by July 1st, it now takes a few days for field revenue information to be recorded in headquarters, our new budget tool allows us to better track our budget over the last year of its implementation, and service based budgeting is allowing us to gather information to better understand how we invest resources in our programs and parks. These collective tools and your dedication have been important to prepare the state park system and our programs for this additional investment. Each of you has made a difference in this effort and I hope this news makes you proud of what you’ve been able to accomplish. Thank you for your continued commitment to the department and its mission.

Lisa Ann Mangat
Director

Lisa Mangat was named Director on April 30, 2016 after serving as Special Assistant to the Director since October 2015. Prior to coming to Parks Lisa was a Program Budget Manager for the Department of Finance. She also has served as a Fiscal and Policy analyst at the Legislative Analyst’s Office and a Principal Consultant for the California Legislature.

Governor Jerry Brown signed SB1 on April 27, 2017.
With a salute of musketry by Sierra Muzzleloaders, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park’s Humbug Day celebration was set to begin, bringing folks from all around to the streets of historic North Bloomfield, originally called Humbug due to the hard luck of the miners here.

A traditional greeting and opening remarks by Shelly Covert, of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan followed with songs in the Nisenan language.

E Clampus Vitus 10, cook shack was hopping with activity, serving hungry visitors throughout the day.

The parade was, as advertised, the world’s shortest?, and featured the horse & carriage, red shirted Clampers with their Firetruck, Sierra Muzzleloaders, costumed volunteers, and a few French imposters/promoters of our next big event, coming in September, the French Connection.
The hydraulic monitor demonstration drew a huge crowd (as the smoke from the detonated cannon dissipated), and parents were observed grabbing ecstatic toddlers from the delightful muddy pools that were left behind after the big splash.

Fiddle and banjo pick’n accompanied the refreshing end to a very “cool” day in the park.

Dave Anderson, President of the Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins presented two well-deserved Certificates of Appreciation to State Park Aide Brooke Betz for her efforts with the Environmental Living Program, and to FNBMD member Marianne Bryant in recognition of over 25 years of extraordinary efforts on behalf of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.  

photos by John Field
SHOT FROM AMBUSH
Mine Superintendent Murdered in Nevada County
Sacramento Bee
September 18, 1891

“Silveria Galavotti, Superintendent of the Derbec Mine, (Just above Chute Hill Campground) was murdered by highwaymen this morning while coming to this city with a £3,000 gold bar, just cleaned up at the mine. Galavotti and J. D. Ostrom of North Bloomfield were in a two-horse buggy ascending the South Yuba River grade, six and one-half miles from this city, (Edward’s Crossing) when a rifle shot was fired from the bank above. The ball entered the back of Galavotti's head and emerged from the mouth, causing instant death. Ostrom, who was driving, struck the horses with a whip, urging them into a run up the steep grade, just as a second shot was tried, the bullet from which entered the neck of one of the horses, but it did not bring it down. A turn in the road soon took the team out of the range of the shooters. Ostrom continued to force the team up grade, holding his companion's dead body in the vehicle with one arm and being soaked from head to foot with his life-blood. Reaching the head of the grade, Ostrom left Galavotti's body and hid the bullion in the brush. Taking the uninjured horse he rode it to this city at the utmost speed, to notify the officers of the crime. He did not get a view of the robbers or hear them speak. (The wounded horse survived and was put to pasture as a hero.) A wagon was out after the dead Superintendent's body, and several squads of armed men are swarming the scene of the murder.

Searchers returning from the scene of the robbery report finding, “one man's track of size nine shoes” leading from a clump of brush on the hill where the shots were fired. A .45-calibre cartridge shell was also found there. One party claims to have followed a trail to North Bloomfield and think they have the culprit spotted, local gambler and much feared bad man, George Clarke.”

R. M. Kallenberger, who grew up in N. Bloomfield, wrote in 1980, Memories of a Gold Digger, “Clarke was believed to have been hiding out in a cabin near the Marten Ranch (Across Humbug Creek Bridge on Relief Hill Rd., off to the right,) and was being brought food by a woman from town. He subsequently surrendered but was released due to lack of evidence. Clarke soon departed for Meadow Lake where his brother John had a gold claim. Sometime later he reportedly froze to death at that place.”

Edited by L. Clark
Meadow Lake
aka Excelsior, aka Summit City

Sometime, presumably the summertime, during 1860, a trapper named Henry Hartley arrived at this meadow, located almost due north of Cisco at 7300 feet.

Apparently focused upon his hunt for pelts, it took three years before he stumbled upon gold bearing quartz in the vicinity. The find was worthy enough to establish the Excelsior Mining Company thus sparking a “Boom Town”, swelling the population to 4000+ gold seekers coming and going with little profit until the boom busted in 1868.

Celebrities, such as Mark Twain, his brother Orion and suspected assasin Clarke from the previous page, toiled or froze here; albeit said assasin would have had little company during his final days, as 30+ years of winter and structure fires had reduced the place significantly by the time he cooled his heels in repose.

In 1891, thirty one years after his arrival, Hartley was the only permanent resident when a French Mining Consortium bought out “Hartley’s Folly”, providing him a rich profit. Then, while planning a trip to Europe, he suddenly died. Hartley is burried in the, still active, Meadow Lake Cemetery.

Meadow Lake may be reached via California Route 89 north, from Truckee, though the last nine miles are on a logging road. The original 1858 rock and earth dam, built to carry water via flumes to Nevada City and vicinity, is visible amid concrete re-enforcement applied over the years. The reservoir is about 2 miles long, approximately 3/4 of mile wide and nearly 200 feet deep.

Although the lake, forest, meadow, and granite outcroppings provide a splendid example of the high Sierra Nevada, bring a blanket.

by L. Clark, Editor
A roofing crew from Sierra District has been busy in North Bloomfield installing new fire retardant shakes on the roofs to the Skidmore House and Kings Saloon & their respective porches. Work was finished in time to welcome the rattle of a roulette wheel and the roll of dice on Humbug Day.

ECV 10 mustered at the barbershop to replace the front porch, during which they found that Clampers working in 1988 had etched the concrete foundation with the organization’s initials and the year.

After years of stumbling around a large, heavy, oak desk, staff was relieved to watch ECV manually lift it over the office facade and carry it out of the park Visitor Center / Museum.
Thanks to Brooke Betz, Marianne Bryant, Judy Arbuckle, Chris Stark, Dave Anderson, Holly Mitten, Jennifer Stark, and Debbie Dajas’ crew: for making the 2017 Kid’s Fishing Derby........all about the Kids!

PHOTOS BY L. CLARK
It was an innocuous beginning. FNBMD would purchase 400 bundles of firewood from a known vendor to be sold to Malakoff campers and picnickers. A call for volunteers to meet at 2 pm and unload the wood was answered by Dave Anderson, Syd Brown and yours truly. Time waiting for the late delivery was spent cleaning out the wood shed, including evicting various insects and critters who had been minding their business in the dark.

Awhile later, word came that the truck and trailer hauling the wood were broken down about 3 miles away, near the upper end of Backbone Road. After moments of contemplating what was looking like a fiasco, the Wizzard of North Bloomfield, Tom Stark, appeared with a stake-side truck and we were off to rescue the wood. Then came the fun, as we found the double-axle wood trailer had two flat tires and was dragging on the pavement, meaning.......most of the wood had to passed, bundle by bundle from the disabled trailer to the rescue truck.

With much of the weight removed, the trailer became precariously usable, and was tediously towed down Derbec road to North Bloomfield where it finally arrived at the wood shed.

Many thanks to all who showed up to help then stayed the extra hours it took to rescue the stranded load and move it safely to North Bloomfield.

The sale of firewood to park visitors helps to save tree limbs, picnic tables and sign posts from the fireplace.
The season is now in full swing as the 4th of July just passed us by. I wanted to share with you how fortunate I feel to be part of this beautiful park, which includes our park visitors. This past holiday weekend we had a full campground which is the norm for a state park campground on a holiday weekend. Coming from my experience with working in a central valley park just outside Fresno, I develop a cold sweat when thinking about nighttime, quiet hours foot patrols through a busy campground. I cannot tell you how pleasantly surprised I was when I walked through our campground at 11 p.m. to find not one radio turned on, families sitting around the campfire sharing stories, or sleeping solidly in their tents. The groups I did contact for loud music were genuinely happy to see me and thanked me for reminding them about the quiet hour. As per standard ranger procedure, I waited in the shadows after the contacts to see if these folks would respond appropriately. They all responded by turning off the lanterns and crawling into their tents. I had to pinch myself at 11:30 p.m. since I have never experienced such a nice group of campers on a holiday weekend. Malakoff Diggins is a special place indeed and this includes our visitors.

I am extremely happy to announce a new addition to our Sierra Gold Team, Jenna Randar, who is our new Sector Park Interpreter. Jenna brings with her, a passion for interpretation and working with the public. She has been busy these past few weeks, visiting our area parks and soaking up as much as she can. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her in your neck of the woods.

Dan Youngren
Supervising Ranger

Hi, my name is Jenna Randar, and you may have seen me hiking around your park recently with my Stetson on. No, I’m not out impersonating a Ranger, I’m the new State Park Interpreter I for Empire Mine State Historic Park, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, and South Yuba River State Park, or for brevity’s sake, the Sierra Gold Sector. From the sandy beaches of Southern California to the desolate backbone of the Sierra Nevada, I have worked for California State Parks for a decade, doing everything from giving interpretive tours, to museum collections work, to managing a special events program. While my skill set is broad, my passion revolves around the art of interpretation, creating opportunities for park visitors to form their own meaningful connections to a place. It is my mission to begin recruiting new volunteers as well as providing formal interpretive training to those that perform interpretation in our parks.

My door is always open, feel free to say hello at any time.

I can be reached at Jenna.Randar@parks.ca.gov, or give me a call at 530-273-0219.
I want to take a moment and acknowledge the outstanding work and professionalism of two of our Sierra Gold Rangers.

Ranger Ryan Randar was traveling eastbound on Highway 20 at Nevada City, when a truck towing an RV / Trailer swerved off the roadway onto the shoulder then over steered back onto the roadway causing the trailer to jackknife.

At this point, Ryan witnessed a blue SUV collide with the trailer. Ryan immediately took action and began triage assessments since there were three patients; one in each vehicle plus… a woman trapped in the trailer.

Ranger Greg Sherr quickly arrived on scene from the Empire Mine and both worked as a team with scene safety and patient care for an extended period of time prior to ALS arriving.

This is a real life example of the professional peace officer training and bearing the public has come to expect from California State Park Rangers.

Well done!

Dan Youngren #1308
Supervising State Park Peace Officer (Ranger)
Sierra Gold Sector
The deal that saved Jack London (State) Park

Posted on June 16, 2017 by Sonoma Valley Sun

Five years ago, Jack London State Historic Park was one of 70 state parks threatened with closure — the state was strapped for cash, and the parks system was facing a $22 million deficit. But since then, when the nonprofit consortium Jack London Park Partners took over operations, the Glen Ellen facility has thrived.

Attendance at the park is up by more than 50 percent, 30 miles of trail have been restored, donations and volunteer numbers are up, and ambitious natural resource programs are underway.

Meanwhile the Broadway Under the Stars performance series has become a signature feature of the park, gaining national attention. It opens its sixth season on June 16.

Nearly 400,000 people have visited the park since the new management team took over. Now the park is run at no cost to taxpayers; in fact, it garners a small surplus each year that is dedicated to capital improvements. “It is very rewarding to see so many people every day enjoying the Park,” said Executive Director Tjiska Van Wyk. “Our emphasis is on creating as many appealing and accessible ways for everyone to experience this special place.”

No longer part of a statewide bureaucracy, JLPP can focus on bettering the Park and attracting more visitors. Events have broadened from docent hikes to exercise programs poetry and story-telling, family outings and much more.

“We are constantly evaluating new initiatives to determine what makes a self-sustaining management model,” Van Wyk said. “As Jack London said. ‘I will make mistakes a many but watch my dreams come true.’ We stay focused to remain viable and successful while preserving Park access for all future generations.”

The precedent setting public-private partnership between JLPP and California State Parks was made possible by legislation authored by then-Assemblyman Jared Huffman. In response to the imminent closing of the Park in 2011, dedicated members of the JLPP community — passionate about preserving the park as both an important natural resource as well as a major historical and cultural one — became the first organization to take over day-to-day operations of a state park.

“Fueled by the tireless efforts and dedicated commitment of so many people, we have been able to keep Jack London State Historic Park open and thriving 364 days a year for the 5 years since we first learned the park was in danger of being closed, said Lynn Deegan-McGraw, JLPP Board President.

cont.
The novel partnership is now a model for other communities.

“Jack London Partners have succeeded beyond all expectations and imaginations in keeping open our beloved park,” said First District County Supervisor Susan Gorin. “This is a keystone property on Sonoma Mountain, and the efforts of JLPP have introduced so many people from our region, nation and the world to the history and innovation of Jack and Charmian London.”

The natural beauty of the park, and the history and culture of Jack London himself, still a worldwide literary figure 100 years after his death, continue to give the park a unique appeal.

The London File

• Jack London Park Partners operates the Park at no cost to taxpayers.
• In 2012 donations totaled $400,000. In 2016 fundraising efforts brought in $953,000 not including the $450,000 raised to date for a separate capital campaign towards new exhibits in the House of Happy Walls.
• Attendance at the Park is up by more than 50 percent.
• 85% of visitors polled rate their Park experience as “excellent,” the highest score possible.

• The number of volunteers at the Park has nearly quadrupled since 2012, to 400 active volunteers.
• Actively in process: the institution of various natural resource projects like restoration of historic orchard, invasive species removal, creation of defensible space to reduce risk of wildfire.
• The Broadway Under the Stars summer concert series has brought 81,000 visitors to the Park and resulted in nearly $300,000 donated to Park operations.
• Thirty miles of trails have been restored to make them safe and accessible for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders.
• Significant restoration of the winery ruins (now voted one of the best outdoor venue in the West by USAToday)
• Production and installation of state-of-the-art exhibits in park’s museum, House of Happy Walls in 2018

– Source: jacklondonpark.com

I contacted State Park’s H.Q. for a comment on this article. So far, no response. L. Clark Editor

Wolf House - Burned 1913
On Foot From Placerville to Washoe for the Great Silver Rush of 1859

A days walk from Placerville we slogged through the door of a substantial log house into the light of the famous, “Strawberry”, known throughout the length and breadth of the Sierra as the best stopping place on the route to Washoe. It was crammed with humanity jostling for a position at the table. As the bell sounded – we broke. I fixed my eye on a chair, rushed through the struggling mass, threw out my hands frantically to seize it; But alas! It was already captured. Up and down the table it was one gulping mass, jaws distended, arms stretched out, knives, forks and even bare hands plunged into the enemy. Amid calls for, “waiter, pork and beans, coffee”, not a spot was vacant. I venture to assert that from the commencement of the assault, through the capture and complete investment of the meal, the storming of the Malakoff and the fall of Sebastopol could no longer claim a place in history.

From, “A peep at Washoe”. By J. Ross Browne, 1860 - Harpers New Monthly Magazine

French Corral

During the days of gold, French Corral was one of the first historic mining camps to spring up along the San Juan Ridge. A French settler built a corral for his mules here in 1849, and when rich placers were later discovered nearby, a town quickly appeared at the site. The place “Boomed” during the Hydraulic’n era then fell to obscurity after the 1884 Sawyer Decision.

As with the French Connection like peoples grouped together at places such as China Garden, Dutch Flat, Negro Bar, Irish Hill, etc. Thus the common man was referred to by his last name and / or place of origin. Often the newspapers would note, “LeDuc, a Frenchman”, or “Ritter, a German”. A professional person was likely referred to by his name and title. ie. Druggist, A. A. Smith.
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or Renew Your Membership - See Last Page
Secure Sign Up:  www.malakoffdigginsstatepark.org

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FRIENDS OF NORTH BLOOMFIELD & MALAKOFF DIGGINS
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins (FNB&MD) is a non-profit organization assisting the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the operation of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. Your tax-deductible membership in FNB &MD will

- help preserve, protect and enhance the man made and natural resources of Malakoff Diggins SHP
- support interpretation of the park's rich biological diversity, geologic features, historic and cultural resources
- provide you with a quarterly newsletter and other notices of Park activities
- include a 10% discount on purchases from the Malakoff Park Store.

### Membership Levels

- Annual Senior/Student ($15)
- Annual Individual membership ($20)
- Annual family membership ($35)
- Lifetime individual membership ($150)
- Lifetime family membership ($200)

Name ________________________________
Street Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ___________ Zip ___________
Phone (home) ___________________ (cell) ___________________

Email
I am interested in:
- helping the park organization financially
- becoming a trained docent
- becoming a park volunteer
- other

**Mission:**

*We enhance the interpretive experience for visitors, promote park-based education for learners of all ages, and support and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Malakoff Diggins SHP. We also assist other cooperative associations and the State Park System mission for the benefit of the public.*

for more information call 530.265.2740 or check out our website:
www.malakoffdigginsstatepark.org