On a quiet day in June, representatives of CA. State Parks, Friends of Malakoff Diggins, and ECV Chapter 10, gathered at the North Bloomfield Cemetery in the park, to dedicate two bronze plaques; the first, to those interred within and to the memory of their presence here and of their descendants, all of whom played a part in the history of the Gold Rush and “The Malakoff”.

The second plaque was affixed to the tombstone of the late State Park Employee, Debbie Pfanner, who now rests among the pioneers.

*Zoom in to read the plaques.*  
*Ed.*

*photos by John Field*
A GATHERING OF GRAVERS

“Burial sites and cemeteries reflect the cultural values and practices of the past. They help us understand who we are and were as a society and from where we came.” - CA State Parks

March sunshine drew 21 Gravers into the North Bloomfield Cemetery to be carried away by Archeologists Chris Ward’s (Cemeteries of the Western Sierra) interpretation of that place.

Chris connected the occupants of the place by weaving among the stones identifying the pioneers themselves, then their descendants, arriving at recent family interments. The addition of photos, on particular graves added to a connection from over the years.

Grave monuments vary greatly. Elaborate imported white marble columns, regional granite tablets, unique carved wooden obelisks and alloy placards populate the grounds.

Several Fraternal Orders and groups are represented: Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Improved Order of the Red Men.

“For several weeks, meetings were held in the School House, blankets being nailed up at the windows and guards patrolling the grounds to insure privacy.”

History of Nevada County – 1880 cont.
By 1880, the approximately 4000 Chinese in Nevada County, constituted 22% of California’s mining population, making them the largest single nationality engaged in that endeavor. Many Chinese were buried in the North East corner of the NBF Cemetery.

Profound differences in burial practices during a gathering and prevailing social prejudice had led to an expulsion from “Cemetery Hill”. Family members of the North Bloomfield Chinese community were obliged to stop using the town cemetery and to remove interred family members to a separate cemetery ground to be located along Relief Hill Road, immediately outside of town.

The oldest remaining grave monument dates to 1857. (McNulty). The oldest known burial, George C. Carter dates to 1853 and burials are thought to have occurred before that, as early as 1851. The site has 261 distinct cemetery plots, representing at least 357 interments, 269 named and 88 unnamed. In addition to Malakoff / N. Bloomfield, the historic-era citizenry of Columbia Hill, Relief Hill, Snowtent, and Backbone all used the graveyard and are represented therein. The east side of the place is used for modern-era interments dating from 1965.

North Bloomfield Cemetery is an integral component of the Malakoff Diggins – North Bloomfield Historic district, and is listed on the National Register of historic places.

Do your own “Graving” at North Bloomfield Cemetery, open every day of the year.

Thanks to Chris Ward, Mark Selverston, Holly Mitten and Syd Brown
CAMPOODIE
Place Where The People Lived

For years parks’ personnel have been aware that a group of 30-40 Nisenan people occupied a piece of land on the periphery of the park; having lived there before, during and after the gold rush. Scant information is available beyond that fact, other than one of the women was known as “Grand-ma” and said to be a mid-wife. Most structural evidence of the place has long disappeared, likely made of bark and / or rough wood.

This past May, Archaeologists Mark Selverston, Chris Ward, Denise Jaffke and Spencer Fry, in cooperation with the Grass Valley Charter School, Expeditionary Learning Field Program joined together to perform a superficial, surface inventory of designated plots at the Nisenan site. Also attending the event as observers from the Nevada City Rancheria, were Sarah Thomas and James McCood.

On this day, 25 fourth graders mustered to receive their instructions for the day; some of which was covered at the school in preparation for the field trip. The instructors oriented the group to their location, explained the process of scraping the surface and collecting anything that did not grow there; ie. pieces of glass, metal, buttons, tools, sifted to reveal small items.

The kids were reminded to notice where artifacts were located. This symbiotic relationship allows the kids to learn in the outdoor environment and the park to identify specific spots that will provide further understanding of the interaction of the Nisenan People with the gold rush and beyond. Ed.

Our Tribe is a living culture that is ever evolving and changing over time. But one consistent, never changing factor, is our homelands and our Traditional landscape. We are interested in what is happening on the land and appreciate being invited to participate. We have much to share about our ancient culture and we also learned a lot on this project. It was an honor to be included.

Shelly Covert       www.shellycovert.net
Secretary, Community Outreach and Spokesperson, Nevada City Rancheria Tribal Council Nisenan Coordinator, Firehouse No. 1 Museum
Executive Director, California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)
Summer is here and the Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins have taken on the task of coordinating state park’s Discover Malakoff Series, on the second Saturday of each month. In May, we had the Kid’s annual Fishing Derby. June was our long-running celebration, Humbug Day, which brings new visitors, along with old-timers back to celebrate the Diggins colorful history. This year we let folks know just how important the guys from E Clampus Vitus Chapter 10 {Clampers} are to our ongoing efforts. We also were glad to acknowledge Tom Stark, our maintenance guy. Without him, we don’t know how things would keep running!

Our July event, was a hike in the Diggins with local legend, Hank Meals. We were also lucky to have our own committee member and local archaeologist, Mark Selverston, to add to Hank’s information. The reception from the hikers was very positive. In this issue, you will read about the latest project by the Clampers – the replacement of the ELP pavilion. We were very glad to get this done before the spring ELP kids came. This project was fully funded by a grant from the Foster Family Private Foundation. The initial grant funds were given specifically to support the ELP program. The Foster Family Private Foundation has been very generous, over the past 2 years, making a great impact on the park and the ELP program.

Happily, the first phase of work on the North Bloomfield Schoolhouse, and the Carter House restoration is scheduled for this fall.

While funded by State Parks, costs are greatly reduced by the use of volunteer labor through HistoriCorps – a non-profit which does restoration work all over the U.S. We’re honored to be the host of this years’ District Cooperating Associations annual meeting. It’s the chance for all of the other non-profit associations supporting the parks in our District (from here to Bodie) to come together to share ideas and make connections which expand our capacity to fill the gaps at our parks. So come on up and make your own summer memories, whether it’s at the French Connection in September, or just one summer afternoon. We look forward to seeing you!

Holly Mitten Chair, Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins

Discover Malakoff !

Aug. 11 Diggins Hike with Mark Michalski
Sept. 8 Malakoff’s French Connection II
Oct. 13 Cemetery Tour with Chris Ward
Nov. 10 Schoolhouse tour (HistoriCorps project)
Dec. 8 Christmas at Malakoff
We will have online registration (RSVPs required) for the hikes and special tours. (Limited to 25 participants) (NO DOGS)
Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and the town of North Bloomfield, Ca. recently revealed its wares to a group of experienced photographers partaking in a new photo workshop program hosted by “Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins”, a cooperative association of South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA). The well-preserved gold mining town houses buildings from the 1800s consisting of a drug store, general store, church, museum, school house, and the Skidmore house to name a few. The photo workshop program was conducted as a collaboration with Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Sacramento led by George and Jo Ann Aiello of Aiello Studios. As a result of Viewpoint’s advertising, a group of twelve experienced photographers signed up and paid for a day of rarely experienced interior access to the historical buildings still stocked as they were left when people moved away for lack of any further hydraulic gold mining in the area.

George Aiello described the first workshop as a ‘pilot’ program and coordinated with Janet Peters, the photo workshop manager for state parks.

It is the intent to continue this program in the future and expand it out to South Yuba River State Park, Bridgeport, and a self-contained program at Empire Mine State Historic Park.

All proceeds paid for the use of the park go directly to the State Park where the event takes place and used for preserving programs along with improvements of the park.

Some of the people who contributed their time to the new photo workshop effort were: Janet Peters, Robert Coats, John Thompson, Paul Keasberry, John Field, Ranger Michele Green, Ranger Matt Green, Ranger Dan Youngren, Brooke Betz.

Submitted by John Field
SYRPA Publicity

R. D. Skidmore’s Shotgun House
photo by L. Clark
CLAMPERS RAISE THE ROOF

Peering out of their canvas tents, through the teeming rain, school children taking part in Malakoff’s Environmental Living Program no longer have to hunker down there for the duration.

Thanks again to members of ECV, Chapter 10, a new covered shelter was erected in April, allowing for outside class work or just a chance to escape the confining tents.

Environmental Living opens the world of our forebears of the Gold Rush. Kids begin by planning for their expedition, dressing for the times, carrying their gear and supplies to the site, (rather than having everything delivered by car), cooking typical food over an open fire, then making crafts to learn the value of being able to sustain one’s self in the outdoors...... Such as, tin punching, candle-making, leather craft, cooking, and cleaning up, may seem archaic, but the lessons of responsibility, self-reliance, working in cooperation with others and respect, are values imprinted for a lifetime.

The shelter top is typical of the era...... Where else might kids experience the sound of rain on a tin roof?

L. Clark, editor
Wyatt Earp’s friend Luke Short, sometimes gunfighter, sometimes gambler, sometimes deputy sheriff, was also a sometimes whiskey maker. He had a reputation of being reliable and of offering fine-tasting whiskey. Few people knew he stacked the bottom of his whiskey barrel with rattlesnake heads. Luke liked to partake himself, but never touched his own supply.

Before whiskey was bottled, it was a drink of the wild west itself. Whiskey was delivered in barrels to be distributed by the jug at a local apothecary or saloon. The saloon might want to stretch a batch out by any means at hand. It was not uncommon to do so using prune juice, neutral grains, turpentine, sugar, iodine, tobacco spit, (see-Spitoon), rattlesnake heads, fusel oil (Fermentation By-Product....Fusel: German for “Bad Liquor”)....or water.....say it ain’t so....whatever water was handy.

The terms, Name yer poison, Snake oil, Hair of the Dog, Coffin Varnish, Kansas Sheep Dip, etc. likely were grounded with some truth as to their origin or effect.....such as the Elixer (cure all) of the day, though often, as with Patent Medicines, *The Cure was Worse than the Disease.*

Gold miners, in diggins such as Malakoff, usually had crude circumstances for making whiskey, which is one of the reasons that many of the mining camps served mainly beer, importing whiskey as the supply and price allowed. Still, hard liquor was often of dubious quality, albeit more than a few miners (and others) would drink about anything in a keg, leaking from a keg, or puddling on the ground beneath a keg. It is written that many miners, striking it rich, drank their fortunes away, leaving nothing to bring back home to the “states”, mind and body broken.

**Upper Platte Trade Whiskey:** 1 Gal. Alcohol; 1 Lb. Plug Black Twist Tobacco; 1 Lb. Black Sugar or Molasses; 1 Handfull Red Spanish Peppers; 10 Gal. River Water (In Flood); 2 Rattlesnake Heads per Barrel. Some locals may add leather or gunpowder.

Tobacco was added to color the clear “moonshine”. Pepper, sugar and molasses added flavor. Gun powder was added to test the alcohol content by tossing a lit match into the cup. Rattlesnake heads were rumored to be medicinal (not), based on Chinese Water Snake, Omega 3 oils used as a liniment.

*Snakes in the Whiskey, Snakes in the Outhouse. No wonder it was called, The Wild West.* L Clark.

Sources: *The Wildest West: Old West Recipes*         *Dodge City, by Tom Clavin*
Over 52 years ago Governor Edmund Brown, Members of E Clampus Vitus Chapter 10, Citizens for Saving Malakoff Diggins, Dignitaries, Park Employees and Park Visitors gathered to dedicate this piece of California History, known variously as, The Malakoff, The Diggins or simply, Humbug. Their collective efforts dedicated the facts, the legends, the good and the bad, for theirs and future generations.

Each year following, folks, including family descendants of the pioneers, would return to commemorate a Homecoming Festival, a time of celebration, not only of preserving the park but of the opportunity to renew the family friendships among the array of descendants involved with this idyllic place. With time, the last of the “old timers” have passed on, rendering the “Homecoming” aspect somewhat hollow. So, eventually the original name of the place, “Humbug” was resurrected and applied to the event, and Humbug Day it is, presenting a picture of how a gold mining town appeared; done through the old buildings with their ancient contents, costumed interpreters, miners, trappers, dancers, musicians and of course, food and drink.

Thanks to the many Volunteers, Park Employees, ECV Chapter 10, and Friends of Malakoff for their hard work in perpetuating this historic and delightful, Day in the Gold Rush.

L. Clark, Editor

State Park Employee Tom Stark and Representatives of E Clampus Vitus Chapter 10, Receive Certificates of Appreciation for Their Decades of Effort on Behalf of the Park, from Friends of Malakoff Chair, Holly Mitten.
It is with mixed emotions that I announce I have accepted a promotion outside the Sierra District effective August 1st, 2018.

The next chapter to my parks career will be that of the Park Superintendent II, manager, of our Northern Dispatch Center located in Prairie City State Vehicle Recreation Area in Rancho Cordova, Ca.

When I arrived to the South Yuba River State Park in January 2013, I had minimal experience with park volunteers or with cooperating associations. Very quickly, I realized that the parks in the Sierra Gold Sector rely heavily on volunteer support. I understood that in order to make our local parks come “alive” and special for our park visitors that arrive from all over the globe, a strong, energetic and positive volunteer contingent was required. For this, I am truly grateful to have gotten to know some of the most passionate and dedicated park volunteers within the department.

This is an exciting time for our Department as we initiate the Transition Plan that was laid out by the Parks Forward Commission. New District personnel organizational charts are starting to become approved which will give us a road map of how Districts will be managed. I have worked with many talented, generalist, park professionals in this District that have really held it together during these difficult years. I hope that relief for them comes soon.

Thank you Sierra Gold Park Volunteers and the Park Family. Stay positive, stay healthy and I will see you all out on the trails.

Dan Youngren #1308
Supervising State Park Peace Officer (Ranger)
Sierra Gold Sector

Ranger Youngren is too modest. His talents as a Supervisor, Co-op Liaison, working with people and as an officer are exceptional. This District is better for him having been here, as will his future assignments. Editor
A Derby for Fish

On May 4th, the 2018 Visitors Season was kicked off with the Annual Kid’s Fishing Derby at Blair Pond. This year, due to concerns over previous large throngs of fisher-kids and their parents impacting the narrow corridor around the pond, a limit of 50 kids, plus parents, was established.

The result gave the participants the opportunity to spread out around the pond and find their “own” spot rather than by necessity, standing shoulder to shoulder. The fish were biting, as evidenced by the photos below and produced another delightful day in the park. Ed.

Photos by Mark Michalski

Monthly Field Training Series-
This is for Staff and Volunteers (not open to the public)
- Monday, July 23, 2018 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Speaker Mark Selverston, Topic: Native American Presence here during the Gold Rush. Meet at front of Museum at 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, August 20, 2018 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Speaker Denise Jafke, Topic: The Chinese Presence here area during the Gold Rush. Meet at front of Museum at 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, Sept. 24, 2018 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Speaker Chris Ward, Topic: Occupants of the North Bloomfield Historic Cemetery. Meet at front of Museum at 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, October 22, 2018 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Speaker Pending, Topic Geology.

PLEASE RSVP TO BROOKE BETZ
IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THESE FIELD TRAININGS:(530) 265-8125.
HistoriCorps

Will Be Renovating The North Bloomfield Schoolhouse and the Carter House in September and October

**Contact:**  [https://historicorps.org/events/north-bloomfield-ca/](https://historicorps.org/events/north-bloomfield-ca/)

HistoriCorps engages volunteers to save historic places across the United States. Join us for an adventure in the great outdoors.

“I have never worked so hard, eaten so well and laughed as hard as I have while working on a HistoriCorp Project”

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**On-Going Public Tours and Programs**

--**Campfire Programs**- Held every Saturday at 8:00 p.m. in the Campfire Center, Chute Hill Campground at Malakoff Diggins SHP.

**There will not be a program on Saturday, July 21 because of the Story Telling Festival.**

--**Town Tours**- Every Day! Meet at 1:30 in front of the Museum and have fun learning about what life was like in North Bloomfield in the 1880’s!

--**Gold Panning**- Every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Meet at the Museum at 3:00 and try your hand at striking it rich in search of gold!
Join Friends
of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins
or Renew Your Membership - See Last Page

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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)
☐ Annual Business Sponsor ($100)

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

Send payment with membership application to
FNBMD
P. O. Box 1658
Penn Valley CA 95946
or join online at: http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org/membership-application/

**FRIENDS OF NORTH BLOOMFIELD & MALAKOFF DIGGINS**

**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:
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