

ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM ONCE AGAIN WELCOMES VISITORS!

Museum Foundation Kicks off \$25K Fundraising Campaign for Mining & Ranching Building



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New Fundraising Campaign for Pole Barn Artifacts - \$25K Goal

There has been so much activity at the Museum and the Museum Foundation it's hard to know where to begin!

First, with this new fundraising campaign, the foundation has established a new website – www.angelsmuseumfoundation.org. Many people don't know the history behind the museum foundation and the museum (that goes back to 1951!) and all of the past successful campaigns the foundation has spearheaded on behalf of the museum. I hope you'll check it out – particularly our brief history/timeline that is found under News & Resources on the website. It's quite interesting!

Martin Huberty our Museum Director and head of the Calaveras Visitor's Bureau has also been hard at work transforming museum exhibits, improving the museum grounds, and developing exciting new programs for museum visitors! We are excited to help Martin in his quest to better stage the vast array of artifacts residing in our Mining & Ranching Building by kicking off this fundraising campaign to raise \$25,000 to showcase our many mining and ranching artifacts in the most engaging way possible.

Funds raised will be used to:

- Increase access and safe navigation of the large exhibit space, bringing it into ADA compliance:
- Add a Blacksmith Shop and a General Store exhibit to the three existing Carpentry, Printing & Weaving artisan exhibits;
- Complete the extensive rework of the museum's remarkable gem and mineral exhibit; and
- Enable the Museum to better showcase the extensive collection of Farming, Mining and Ranching technologies that were all pioneered during the Gold Rush.

For thirteen years the Foundation has supported the museum through specific projects and <u>various campaigns</u>. The COVID-19 pandemic posed some real challenges for our museum which resulted in the co-location with the Visitor's Bureau. It also helped strengthen and focus our commitment as the Museum Foundation to increasing our ability to preserve our important Gold Rush history and artifacts – including those that the Museum received from the now closed Old Timer's Museum in Murphy's.

Throughout the Mother Lode, starting in the late 1850s after the majority of surface Placer gold deposits were exhausted, many former miners began to take up farming and ranching. This economic shift foretold the future when mining would eventually give way to agriculture and cattle ranching in the foothills. Over the coming weeks, we're going to give you a preview of what you'll find in the pole barn and the interesting related stories behind the artifacts!

Individuals and companies wishing to support this fundraising campaign can visit the new Foundation website and <u>make a donation</u>.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Karen Strand Angels Camp Museum President

New Self-Guided Tour a Hit with Museum Visitors!

We are delighted to report that the Angels Camp Museum has re-opened and we're excited to welcome back our valued members. As you may recall, back in March we were preparing the big launch of our new self-guided tour, or "Digital Docent Program" but then...pandemic. We may not have had the "big event" we were originally planning to launch this exciting new audio tour, but we're delighted to know it's a big hit with museum visitors!

We hope you will all take some time to come and experience this information-packed tour. If it sparks a question or two in the process, our human historians, Chuck Schneider and Jim Miller will be delighted to answer them for you! The new Digital Docent tour is included in your museum admission and we look forward to seeing you soon!



"DIGITAL DOCENT" TOUR YEARS IN THE MAKING

The idea for a self-guided tour, or "digital docent" project first originated with the Angels Camp Museum Commission and in 2019 the Museum Foundation Board researched resources, drafted a budget, and approved funds to move the project ahead.

Thanks to Chuck Schneider, Jim Miller and the Museum staff over many years, an excellent docent script had already been developed and served as the foundation for the final script development. Additional scripts written by Bob Hillis, Museum Commissioner, and others were also included and further

research was done to add context and historical perspective for visitors. The result is a 60-minute tour that starts upstairs in the main building and guides guests through portions of the entire Museum grounds.

The Foundation worked with New York-based AcoustiGuide, the creators of the well-known San Francisco Alcatraz Penitentiary Audio Tour. The company pairs character-driven stories with intuitive software and hardware solutions which transforms them into captivating audio tours that transport museum visitors to another time in history.

"Not only does the self-guided audio tour allow us to share more historical content and context, but it allows us to share it with more people," said Chuck Schneider, Museum Staff Historian. "The staff had a hand during each step in development from fact-checking to selecting the narrators. It's really exciting to see our work come to life with background music and special sound effects."

The Museum was also fortunate to receive six letters from a Massachusetts family whose Italian immigrant friend had moved to Angels Camp in the mid-1850's. His letters explain what life was like in the small mining town. A companion track on the audio tour tells the story of Andrew Galliardo in his own words with additional historical facts and photos. A real-life story!



You can listen to Andrew Galliardo's story on the <u>Museum's Instagram page</u> which will be a great introduction to the Museum's 1-hour Audio Tour. Please note that on Instagram, the audio was strung together in 15 second segments using "Instagram stories" to bring this to you free and in advance. Enjoy!



What's better than a day at the Museum? A FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM!! SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 31st the Angels Camp Museum encourages everyone -- especially those who have not been to the museum in a while -- to come out to see all of the great improvements that have been made. The event kicks off the Museum's new membership drive. More to come on the day's events!

MUSEUM HOURS AND ADMISSION

Hours: Open 7 Days a week, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$15.00 Adults, \$10 Children 6-17, under 6 (free)

Discounts:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Seniors, First Responders and Calaveras County Residents receive a 20% discount (\$12.00)
- Families of 4 and above (same family) \$40.00 flat fee







Our mailing address is: Angels Camp Museum 753 S. Main St., Angels Camp, CA 95222 (209) 736-2963 | angelscamp.gov/museum

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