



In this Newsletter

Angels Camp Museum Foundation launches Fall Fundraiser with a new audio story on Instagram

This is a story about **Andrew Galliaro**, an immigrant who came to Angels Camp from Rehoboth, MA as told through six letters he sent home.

**Listen for free and be
inspired to learn more!**



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an active account.





Dear Members & Friends of the Museum,

The Angels Camp Museum Foundation had just taken delivery in March of our new Acoustiguide handsets for the upcoming launch of the new self-guided audio tour of the Museum's 3-acre campus full of Gold Rush era history when the stay at home order was put in place. Since then, the planned April 11 launch date has come and gone and at present at least in California, only outdoor museum exhibits are allowed to be open. We hope that changes soon.

In the meantime, however, the new tour, funded and developed by the Angels Camp Museum Foundation that supports the work of the museum, wasn't the only project we developed.

Last year the Museum was fortunate to acquire six letters from a Massachusetts family whose Italian Immigrant friend, Andrew Galliaro, moved to Angels Camp and penned the letters about what life was like in the small mining town from 1856-1858. From these letters, the Foundation and museum historians created a companion track to the audio tour that tells the story Andrew in his own words, with historical facts, period sound effects, narration and a voice actor playing Andrew Galliaro.

The foundation members thought making it available to the public at large during this pandemic would be a way people could still enjoy history and raise awareness about the museum. To do this we used Instagram Stories to knit together the audio visitors to the museum would hear on the tour, and posted the story to our new [Instagram page](#). Each segment is less than 5 minutes long but transports you to an entirely different time and place. We hope you enjoy it and hope to see you soon when the museum reopens!

In the meantime stay safe and enjoy!

Karen Strand
President, Angels Camp Museum Foundation



"The Gold Rush is more than just a footnote in America's history," said Jim Miller, Education Coordinator for the Museum. "Imagine how different our country might be had the news of the discovery of Gold not been announced widely by President Polk, news that sparked the rush to California in the first

place hastening its statehood.”

During the course of the story, audiences will learn important details surrounding the 1848 discovery of Gold in California. For example, in March 1848, there were roughly 157,000 people in the California territory; 150,000 Native Americans of varying tribes, 6,500 persons of Spanish or Mexican descent known as Californios and fewer than 800 non-native Americans. Just 20 months later, following the massive influx of settlers, the non-native population had soared to more than 100,000 people - a diverse blend of young and old but largely male persons from all over the country and the world. By the mid-1850s, there were more than 300,000 new arrivals—and remarkably, one in every 90 people in the entire United States was living in California.

“We may have to wait to re-open our doors to the public at the museum itself, but it occurred to us that for everyone stuck at home more than usual, we could bring history directly to them by creating a simple Instagram page,” said Karen Strand, Angels Camp Museum Foundation President.” “It is a true story, and since the story is told in audio format with sound effects, it invites us all to close our eyes and use our imaginations as Andrew’s story unfolds.”

The Corona Virus has hit cultural institutions hard all across our nation. According to the International Council of Museums, of the world’s museums that are currently shuttered because of the coronavirus pandemic; one in 10 may not reopen. The Museum Foundation hopes that if you like Andrew’s story you’ll make a donation in whatever amount is possible to support their efforts, but a donation is not necessary to access and enjoy the story.

The new Museum Instagram Account dedicated to the Andrew Galliaro Story can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/angelscampmuseum/>. Special thanks to the Pierce Family who donated the letters, the Angels Camp Museum staff, resident historians, and the Calaveras County Archivist for helping to make this story possible. For more information about the Angels Camp Museum, please visit the [Angels Camp Museum website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

About the Angels Camp Museum Foundation

The Angels Camp Museum Foundation works to support the development and expansion of the collections, programs and resources of the Angels Camp Museum in Angels Camp (Calaveras County), California, and to establish it as one of the premier local history and educational museums in Northern California.



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