



ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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www.AngelsCampMuseumFoundation.org

Chinese Immigrants *By Judith Marvin*

The lure of gold drew the Chinese to California, just as it had the other immigrant groups. Most of the immigrants came from Guangdong Province in Southern China, which had previously had contact with the west through the port of Canton. The reason many Chinese emigrated were the series of wars, rebellions, civil disorders, floods, famines, and droughts that wracked China, and made earning a livelihood difficult in their native land. Like Europeans, Chinese immigrants were predominantly males who were either single or who had left their families in China, but unlike the Europeans the Chinese had a larger share of assisted immigration. Sponsored by Chinese merchants and district companies, by 1860 there were 3500 Chinese in Calaveras County. The majority of them worked as placer miners in companies ranging from a handful of men to 25 or 30.

As observed, the methods of the Chinese miners were "expeditious, practical and industrious," and were scientific and systematic in working their claims. In Angels Camp, they worked the placers along China Gulch and Angels Creek, reworking them after the Euro-Americans had removed the more readily available gold. Chinatown in Angels Camp was located along China Alley (now Byrd's Way), where Sam Choy and Lien Sing built their merchandise stores in the early 1860s, and the street was packed with Chinese boarding houses, gambling establishments, and vegetable gardens.

In spite of the anti-Chinese feelings, the declining wealth of the placers, and the advent of hard rock mining, these hard working Chinese miners remained in Calaveras County until the mid-1860s, 1870s, and early 1880s, by which time the reworked streams and gulches had little or no gold to offer. Thereafter, most of those immigrants began an exodus to other California towns, where they generally sought employment in agriculture and various menial tasks. The last of Angels Camp's Chinatown washed away in the flood of 1909, leaving only the brick stores of Sam Choy and Lien Sing to mark its passing.

The Museum Acquires the Sam Choy Building

The Angels Camp Museum recently acquired the historic Sam Choy building. The brick and stone structure located at 1329 Birds Way in downtown Angels Camp was built in 1860 by Chinese merchant Sam Choy. The building was utilized by



Sam Choy as a mercantile store from 1860 to 1892 when it was sold to Walter Tryon. In 1897 it was purchased by Fred Pareto who built a wooden second floor. The Monte Verda family owned the building from 1908 to 1928. During this time it was occupied and utilized by a Chinese prostitute. In 1928 the building was acquired by Calaveras County who passed the ownership to the City of Angels Camp. The city removed the second floor addition and converted the building into a jail, which operated until the mid-1950s. Thanks to the efforts of local historian, Judith Marvin, in 1984 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Throughout this time the city has leased the building to various businesses and individuals. In May of 2011, Museum Director Craig Hadley recommended that the City of Angels Camp should give control of the building to the Museum. Thirty days later the City's Infrastructure Committee approved the acquisition.

The historic importance of the Sam Choy building cannot be overstressed. The impact of Chinese immigrants on gold rush era Angels Camp and Calaveras County is of major significance and needs to be interpreted properly. Their contributions are often ignored or overshadowed by a lack of diversity in historical interpretation. This building is the best opportunity to implement such interpretation that will enhance the cultural diversity of the history of Angels Camp and the Gold Country region. It will also enable the general public to become more aware of the historical importance of the building and have access to it as both a resource to the community as well as a public interpretive space.

Short-term plans for the building are to make it safe and accessible to the general public by late spring of 2012 for lectures and meetings and also create a special exhibit on the Chinese immigrants of Angels Camp.



Hogarth Stamp Mill Dedication

On Saturday July 30, 2011, after more than two years of effort, the Angels Camp Museum dedicated this historic five-stamp mill. The Hogarth Stamp Mill became the newest addition to the Museum's comprehensive mining exhibit. The mill likely dates back to the late 19th century, but was first recorded in 1920 when it was purchased by Harry Hogarth as part of the Relief Quartz Mine. It was later moved and then purchased by the city before finally ending up at the Angels Camp Museum.

The Native Sons of the Golden West were on hand for the ceremony, including Grand President, David Allen, and Director of Historical Research, Barney Noel. Museum

Commission Chair Bob Petithomme was charged with the ribbon cutting. A single operational stamp mill was on display next to the five-stamp mill, and the original five horse power engine that powered the larger mill was on loan for the day from the Ghiglieri Ranch. The single stamp mill was turned on to signal the ribbon cutting and lend its loud rhythmic thumping sound to the festivities. More than 60 people, including surviving relatives of Harry Hogarth, were on hand for the unveiling. Family member, Richard Serra of Vallecito, donated the monument for the plaque. Refreshments were provided by the Museum Foundation.



ANGELS CAMP MUSEUM

MOVING FORWARD....

It is exciting to mention just some of the recent progress that has been made at the Museum. Recognition is due to Museum Director Craig Hadley and his staff, the Angels Camp City Council and staff, Museum Commissioners, Museum Foundation Directors and several exceptional volunteers, who all see the potential of this wonderful resource.

- * Acquisition of the Sam Choy building
- * The creation of a marketing logo
- * New employees hired and a new employee handbook created
- * Remodel of the upper floor gift shop and entry way
- * Mark Twain Exhibit
- * Mark Twain Commemorative Stamp Cachets
- * New plans for: Print Shop Exhibit

Blacksmith Shop Exhibit
Carpentry Exhibit
Textiles Exhibit



- * Accessioning Program
- * Received a \$25,000 contribution for the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system for the main building
- * Nearly 500 people attended Gold Rush Day
- * Web Site updates
- * New Laptop Computer and Printer for Museum staff
- * Extensive Workshop time to develop the Museum's new Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles

"The mission of the Angels Camp Museum is to preserve and interpret the Gold Country history of Angels Camp and the Mother Lode region."

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

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The Museum Foundation Newsletter is sent to Museum Members. It can be viewed on our website at www.AngelsCampMuseumFoundation.org. To contact the Foundation, please leave a brief message and contact information with Museum staff at (209) 736-2963. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

BECOME A MEMBER
OF THE MUSEUM!

Mark Twain Commemorative Stamp Unveiling

On Saturday June 27th, 2011, the United States Post Office unveiled the 27th stamp in the Literary Arts series honoring Mark Twain at the Angels Camp Museum. On the same day the stamp was also unveiled in Twain's boyhood home of Hannibal, Missouri. The unveiling event in Angels Camp was a big success. Attendees included Postal Service representatives from both local and regional offices, various newspaper media and many interested guests.

The museum will now sell commemorative covers with the new stamp in the museum's gift shop. All proceeds go to the Museum Foundation for future Museum projects. The limited edition of commemorative cachets can be purchased at the Museum Gift Shop for \$5.00 each. These will remain on sale as long as the limited inventory lasts.



In this photo, from left: Museum Director Craig Hadley; Angels Camp Postmaster Laney Henderson and Mark Twain impersonator and actor Pat Kaunert.

A MOMENT WITH CRAIG HADLEY

As the Director of the Museum, this column would normally be focused on our recent accomplishments and our exciting plans for the future. However, we recently lost two very important supporters and members of the Museum and I feel it is important we acknowledge their contributions to the Museum. Angels Camp Mayor Jack Boeding and Lifetime Member Roy Daniels both succumbed to heart failure within a few hours of each other. Jack on the evening of September 14 and Roy just after midnight on the morning of September 15.

Originally from Kansas, Jack had spent more than 20 years in civic duty to Angels Camp in various political positions. In the seven months since I became the Museum Director, I had gotten to know Jack pretty well. As the Museum is owned by the City of Angels Camp, I worked closely with Jack on a number of various issues. In that time I soon considered Jack a friend. He was an avid Museum supporter. Jack was quick with a smile and always an encouraging word. The Museum had no better friend within the city government and he was very excited about the direction the Museum was going and its future potential. I will miss my conversations with Jack, his good nature, and his support. Jack was 72.

Roy Daniels was born in 1917 and as a young man during the Great Depression he rode the rails and worked construction jobs all over the west. Drafted into the Army in January of 1941, he served in World War II and participated in the landings in North Africa, Sicily, and Salerno. It was at the Battle of Salerno in Italy that he was wounded when shrapnel penetrated his helmet and nearly killed him. He spent 20 years in the military, first with the Infantry, then the Army Air Corps, and finally the Air Force. Following his discharge he moved to Angels Camp to raise a family. His Uncle, William "Bill" Daniels, was the founder of the Angels Camp Museum back in the early 1950s.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Roy, but everyone I have spoken to, who knew him, said he was cheerful and full of good humor. He loved talking to young people and telling stories of his experience in World War II. Roy was 94 when he passed. He lived a long and fulfilling life. He was a great supporter of the museum and a life-time member. He will be missed.

We have lost two staunch supporters of the Museum and their memory reminds us that we should never take for granted those people around us who support the Museum through either their volunteer efforts or monetary contributions. A Museum is not just buildings and artifacts, it is a living breathing thing supported by people like you. It is made up of the hundreds, if not thousands, of people whose hearts and minds are reflected in the exhibits and the stories they tell. Jack and Roy's legacy will live on in the soul of our Museum and their contributions to its continuing mission to educate and enlighten visitors on the rich history of Angels Camp and the Gold Country Region.





Angels Camp Museum Foundation
PO Box 1385
Angels Camp, CA 95222



Tickets are available in advance at the Museum during regular operating hours as well as the night of the lecture. Everyone must have a ticket, even FREE members. We encourage you to get your tickets in advance in order to ensure a seat as there is limited seating available.

Parking is available in the main museum parking lot or in one of the three lots on the main museum grounds.

For questions or enquiries, please contact the Museum during regular museum hours at (209) 736-2963 or email Museum Director Craig Hadley at craighadley@angelscamp.gov

JOIN US!

Angels Camp Museum **LECTURE SERIES**

The first Thursday of each month, beginning in October
6:30pm
in the Museum Carriage House
\$10 per person - Museum Members are FREE

2011 SCHEDULE

October 6, 2011: *The Story of Indian Rock*

Speaker: Tom Jackson, Ph.D

In celebration of archaeology month, archaeologist Tom Jackson will discuss how archaeology has helped fill in the gaps in the historical record in regards to local Native American history and the story of Indian Rock.

November 3, 2011: *Censorship & Mark Twain*

Panel Symposium

Actor Pat Kaunert as Mark Twain will open this symposium with a short performance. He will then take his place on the panel as himself, as part of a discussion on the history of censorship and Mark Twain's work. Discussion will include the recently "edited" version of Huckleberry Finn that was published earlier this year. There will be a Q&A session with the audience at the end.

December 1, 2011:

19th Century Christmas in America: The Origin of Our Christmas Traditions

Speakers: Craig Hadley – Museum Director

Craig will talk about the history of Christmas traditions in America and their origins. The lecture will end with a reading of Clement Clarke Moore's immortal poem "The Night Before Christmas."

For the 2012 Lecture schedule please visit our website at
www.angelscampmuseumfoundation.org