

THE SIERRAN

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S JOURNAL 1853-1883 by Margaret Wiltshire

April 3, 1853

"This is Sunday. One week ago James, Wash, Kenneth A. and I went up to Keisters. We talked about Kenneth starting to California. Little did James and Wash think then that they would be out on the road now. Kenneth and Wash started Wednesday with Purcell. James started Thursday with John S. Dooley. The night before he started Father was over at John S. Dooley's. Says Dooley to him, "I want another hand, and tell Jim to bring over fifty Dollars and go with me." So he and Father talked with James about it and he concluded that if he could go reasonable he would go. So in the morning Father went over to Dooley's and made the bargain for James to go for his work. We gave him 42 pounds of bacon and 25 Dollars. They are all on their winding way.

John Galloway"

This note was originally written on the page of an arithmetic notebook by sixteen year old John Galloway, a younger brother of James Galloway. It is the only record of how James Galloway, my great-grandfather, happened to come to California at the age of 18 from Bellevue, Jackson County, Iowa. However, it is only the beginning of a well-documented record. James had only one day to get ready for the trip west that would take him from his family; evidently he took some notebooks in which he kept a record of his travels. These he later transferred to a journal which he kept until his untimely death 30 years later. Most of the first 20 years were spent in Sierra County. They tell of some incidents in the life of a typical miner.

So, overnight, it was decided that James would be "another hand" in the overland party of John S. Dooley. My great-grandfather's journal begins on Thursday, March 31, 1853. It was entitled "Journal From Home to Salt Lake".



JAMES H. GALLOWAY AND EMILY HOOVER GALLOWAY. TAKEN AT HOWLAND FLAT, JUNE 18, 1865.

"I left home at noon. Went to Mr. John S. Dooley's. We started from there at 2 o'clock. Stopped at Mr. John Bredens three miles south of Andrew. Distance traveled today - six miles."

The Journal is a day by day record of the trip from Iowa. The names of some of the people in the Dooley-Purcell party were mentioned. It is unfortunate that he couldn't write
(Continued)

more fully of his experiences, but paper was a precious commodity.

On August 16 is an entry: "Came to the Humboldt at the 75 mile crossing. 17th. Lay by. My reason for not keeping this journal the entire rout (sic) was that I could not get paper to write on."

"I arrived at Bear Valley on the 17th of September 1853. Here I left those with whom I had crossed the Plains. Here I considered that my journey ended, for I was now in California. On the 18th I went to Little York, on the 19th to Nevada (City), 20th and 21st went to Forest City. Worked around there part of the time until the 24th of October when I hired to Winters and Hepperley for \$50.00 per month. December 6th went to Minnesota, bought into a claim which I worked until the 13th of April following. In the meantime I began a journal. (This last entry was added to the Journal in 1860.)

LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

"Diary Commencing March 1st, 1854

Wednesday, March 1st, 1854. I am living in a log cabin on the South end of Minnesota Flat with Hiram Arches, Patrick Hays and Thomas Bull. I worked in the Jackson Tunnel today and half of last night. It had snowed some today. The following entries were written a line per day. They indicated he worked in the tunnel and the weather outside generally miserable. He occasionally went to Forest City. On April 1st he finally mentioned his cousin, James Galloway, who came from Forest City. This was his first cousin, more commonly known in Sierra County as Judge James Galloway. He came to Sierra County with Major Downie in 1850 and married in that year. (James H. Galloway, to distinguish himself from his cousin, added the middle initial H. to his name after he came to Sierra County.)

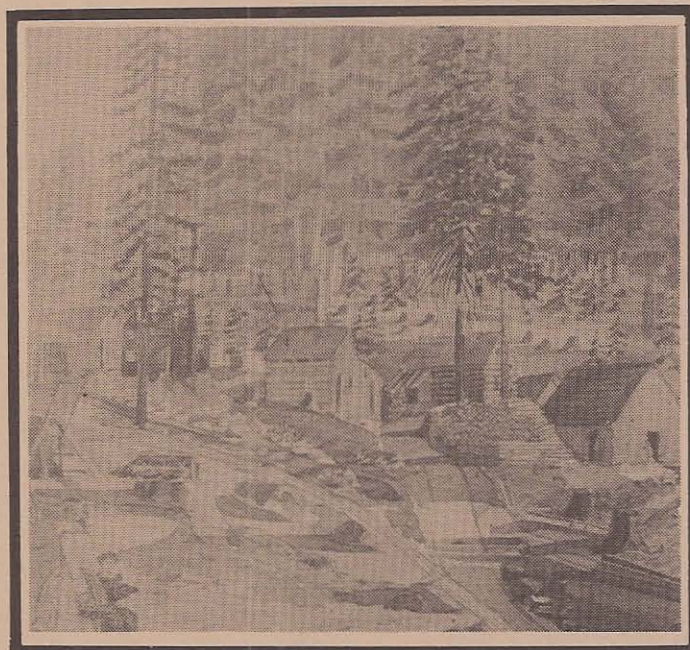
"April 25th. Galloway and I split 150 boards this afternoon.

"Wednesday 26th. Went with Galloway and Reed to look out a rout (sic.) for a waggon road in to town.

"Thursday 27th. Worked on the road part of the day." (This would be know as Galloway Road.)

"Friday 28th. Getty and I cut sleepers for Galloway's house. Cut out a road to haul them."

"Sunday 30th. Snowed & rained. Went with Dic Cowden to drive his pigs off the hill."



ORAL HISTORY

The Sierra County Oral History Project is just beginning!

Oral history is the recording of personal reminiscences on tape in order to document history as seen through the eyes of those who lived it. Hearing the memories of ordinary men and women on tape is a way to really make history come alive!

The Sierra County Historical Society is in the process of beginning a collection of oral history interviews, to document the rich and varied history of our county on tape. A workshop was held in June at the Kentucky Mine Museum. Given by Mary Rehwald, director of the Plumas Community History Project, Feather River College, Quincy, the workshop trained volunteers in how to organize the project, what equipment to use and how to carry out the interview.

Several oral histories have been recorded already and the society hopes to collect many more interviews. These will be kept at the Museum and made available to persons wishing to listen to them - whether out of personal interest or as a way of researching our county's history.

If you have resided in Sierra County or have been involved at all in her history - you would be a valuable person to interview for this collection! Please contact the Museum (916)862-1310 - if you have information to share, or, if you would like to become involved in the Oral History Project as a volunteer.

SCHS MEETS

The fall meeting of the Sierra County Historical Society was held at the Loyalton Museum on October 14, 1984. The potluck luncheon, delicious as usual, was attended by about 35 members and guests. A tour of the new museum was hosted by Milton Gottardi.

Following the luncheon and tour, a business meeting was held. Among the topics discussed:

- The SCHS need a treasurer! This person would be responsible, not only for keeping the society's bank account in order, but also for payroll and for filing quarterly and annual tax statements. If you have some time to devote to this job and are interested, call Julie Jones, SCHS president, at 862-1341.

- A report was given on the museum and the society's oral history project.

- The society will be presenting a proposal to the Board of Supervisors for grant money available to the county from the Park and Recreation bond proposition passed by voters in June. A similar proposition provided funds for original restoration of the Kentucky mill and portal and for construction of the Museum and Park. The current grant program is administered by the California Department of Park and Recreation and will be funding worthy projects over the next three years. The society has proposed to use money on park improvements - applying wood preservative to the mine and mill buildings, improving visitor services and interpretation and finishing the project of opening the mine tunnel for tours.

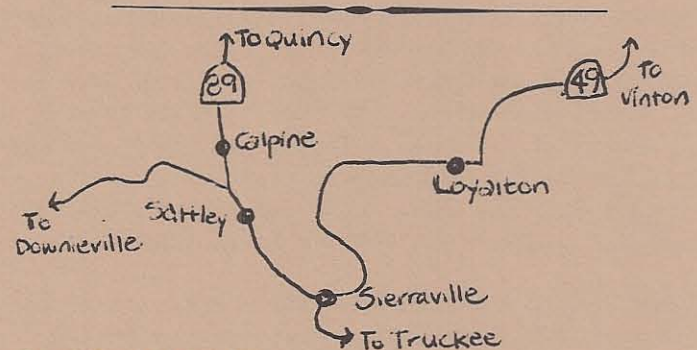
- A report was given on the mine tunnel project, which was begun last spring. Phil Pollard and crew began clearing out the portal and replacing timber sets in preparation for the work of opening the underground tunnel. The project, funded by money in the museum building fund, was halted when those funds were depleted.

- The old Sierra County film series, originally done in the 1930's, was transferred to video tape by Eric and Mary Vannoy. This will enable the movies to be viewed without fear of breaking the old and rather delicate film.

- The society agreed to sponsor the project of reprinting walking tour maps of Sierra City. The

society will work on updating the map and redoing the graphics. One thousand will be printed at no charge to the society by Len Kinzler.

- The next Historical Society meeting will take place in January. The date and location will be announced later.



NEW MUSEUM AT LOYALTON

The Sierra Valley Museum, located at the Loyalton City Park, opened for its first summer season this year. Displays center around the rich history of the Sierra Valley, its primary industries - logging and ranching - and the life of the people who have lived in the valley.

The Washo Indians, who were the first inhabitants of the Sierra Valley, are remembered in a display created by students who were enrolled in the Scholar in Residence program at Loyalton High School during the 1983-1984 school year. The display traveled to Washington, D.C. in spring 1984, where it received honors in a nationwide competition.

The later settlers of Sierra Valley are remembered in displays concerning churches, schools, fraternal organizations and aspects of daily life. An area is furnished as an old-time hotel room, an antique teddy bear sits in a wicker rocking chair, children's toys once sold at Johnson's Cash Store rest on a shelf as if waiting to be played with again. Household utensils are displayed, as are IOOF ceremonial items, church histories, tobacco tins and liquor bottles.

In addition to the already existing display area, the Museum has room to expand. It has an outdoor area which will contain displays of Sierra Valley farming implements. The building which served as an early school in Loyalton and later as the Catholic Church has been moved to the grounds. It will be used to expand display and storage space.

The Loyalton Museum will be open again in spring. For anyone interested in Sierra County history - it is really worth visiting!

This is the first mention of his cousins Cowden, who preceded him to Sierra County. Dr. Joseph Cowden was active in Forest City in 1854, married there in 1857 and was a Fourth Corporal in the Forest Rifles in 1859. He died in Downieville in 1865.

"Monday, June 26, 1854. Jos. Cowden & I selected a place to build a cabin. Tuesday, 27th. Cut logs with Jo for a cabin. Wednesday, 28th. Cut logs and leveled a place for a cabin. Thursday 29th. Dic Cowden hauled our logs. Friday 30th. Jo & I worked until evening at the cabin. Saturday July 1st. At Forest City. I was sick at Galloway's. June 16th. Went up above the Galloway Ranch where they were putting up snow. Monday 27th. Packed down a load of snow on a mule." Then he went back to work in the Enterprise Tunnel, Forest City.

James stayed at his cousin Dick Cowden's Ranch, off and on. "September 13th. James Cowden & I cut logs for a cabin at Forest City. Thursday, 14th. Hauled the logs for a cabin. Friday, 15th. Began to raise the cabin. Saturday 16th. Finished the cabin. Went with Jas. C. to hunt a shingle tree. Sunday 17th. Went with Galloway on mules to gather plums; found plenty."

He spent the next week working on the cabin with James and on Sunday went to church at night.

Jim Cowden was one of the founders of the Bald Mountain Mine and one of their relatives, Judge Peter Van Clief, continued to work it until 1887.

"Sunday, October 1st, 1854. James, Joseph & Dickson Cowden and myself moved into our cabin. Moved down to the lower cabin."

By November he was getting restless. He went to Washington twice, once getting a pair of pants. On the 29th he went to Nevada City, a distance of 16 miles, and back to Forest City the next day. Christmas was also a little different in those days.

"Sunday, the 24th. Washed some dirt today." And on the 25th, "Christmas. Rained. Tuesday, 26th. Done nothing."

In January he purchased an accordin for \$13.00.

To my knowledge, James did not see any of the members of the wagon train he came with to California, however, he mentioned seeing Wash James in October of 1854. He was about two years older than James Galloway and had lived near the Galloway family in Bellevue, Iowa.

James H. Galloway was to remain in Sierra County mining in various locations for eight long years. Typical entries showed that he "Went to Nevada City." "Bought in on a

Wash paid out from July 1st 1865

July 1 st	paid R. packs for this book	75-
" "	" " " " Apples	50
" 2 nd	" " " " for Specimine	5 62
" "	" " " " cabbage	25
" 8 th	" " " " Cook had on a Gun Boat	5 00
" 4 th	" " " " Barber had on old meat bill	5 00
" 5 th	" " " " For West Stamp	50
" 9 th	" " " " Beef bill	2 75
" "	" " " " for Apples	25
" 11 th	" " " " Sundries from a few	7 00
" 13 th	" " " " Coat, Boots, Duster, from Scheline	10 00
" 15 th	" " " " Peaches & Oats from wagon	2 00
" 16 th	" " " " Sundries from a few	2 75
" 21 st	" " " " Hat \$5.00 Cumber 50 Dicks 25	5 75
" 23 rd	" " " " Peaches & cabbage	50
" 24 th	" " " " Exp. paper to Downieville	44 00
August 1 st	Expenses of trip to San Francisco	175 25
" 19 th	" " " " Box of Apples 53 Bgs 22 Tomatoes 6 1/2 50	2 30
" 20 th	" " " " Cabbage & Beets	25
" 21 st	" " " " Sweet Potatoes 8 1/2 50 Irish Potatoes 10 1/2 50	1 00
" "	" " " " Paid on beef but saw	2 00
" 22 nd	" " " " for 50 lbs Quince	2 50
" 23 rd	" " " " Candy for Mason	25
" 25 th	" " " " Vegetables	50
" 26 th	" " " " Bill at Watters paid	14 10
" 29 th	" " " " Box Tomatoes 60 lbs	2 00
" "	" " " " Sweet Potatoes & Cabbage	50
" "	" " " " Shingle	25
Sept 2 nd	" " " " Beef bill in full from July 9 th	19 91
" 8 th	" " " " Peaches 50 Bgs on Beef but saw 16 1/2 50	4 30
" 10 th	" " " " Paid 14 Bona on Provision Bill	140 00
" "	" " " " Mr. Zimatt for hauling wood	9 00
" 20 th	" " " " Tomatoes 25 Bgs 1/2 50	1 25
" "	" " " " With Bill for all Summer	17 39
" 24 th	" " " " Sack of Potatoes 142 lbs from a wagon	5 50
" 26 th	" " " " Button 25 Pares 10 1/2 50 Potatoes 12 1/2 50	12 35
		55 05 52

DETAIL FROM FAMILY ACCOUNT BOOK - 1865. JAMES H. GALLOWAY.

claim." "Building a log cabin." "Worked in tunnel" "Washed dirt." "Sold my interest." "Prospected." "Hired two Chinamen." "Have \$120 for two weeks' work." "Attended sluice, 29 ounces today." "Had a dispute with a Dutchman about our line."

James sent money home when he could, mentioning it in the next letter to see if it had been received. His diversions from work were simple: He "visited with Galloways in Downieville." "Went to church tonight." "Baked pies this afternoon." "Wrote a letter to father."

RETURN TO IOWA

By 1861 James had saved enough gold to return to Iowa as a successful young man of 26 years. This time he left San Francisco on a steamer, daily recording the distance traveled. He crossed the Isthmus, and on to New York. He soon bought a horse and carriage and drove to Iowa. At a party the night after he arrived home, he met Emily (Emma) Hoover, and in less than two months they were married.

MARRIED LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

Soon after their marriage, Emma and James H. Galloway headed for California via New York and the Isthmus.

For the next fourteen years the couple lived in California, first in the mining country of northern Sierra County. Weather was frequently mentioned in the daily account. Emmas's first two children were born in March with snow many feet deep outside the little home. In 1868 the family of four made a return trip to see relatives in Iowa. On their return, they settled briefly in San Jose, where James tried his hand at farming. While there, the third child, my grandfather John Debo Galloway, was born. But James kept thinking he could do better at mining, and they returned to Sierra County.

After a short stay with no good luck at mining, he next tried owning and operating a store in Oakland. He was familiar with that area, frequently visiting an aunt and uncle there, but he learned the hard way that folks don't

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ALICE MAY, JOHN DEBO AND MASON GALLOWAY. TAKEN ABOUT 1875.

always pay their debts to store-owners. So, once again the family moved, this time to Napa Valley, where they had a little house on the property of friends from Sierra County days. Again James tried farming, with no more success than previously. In July of 1874 he records a visit to San Francisco where he occasionally speculated in stocks. Discovery of rich ore bodies in Virginia City brought the entry, "Getting ready to go to Virginia City" in 1875.

Again the mining life had its ups and downs, heat in the mines bringing about illness due to temperature changes, occasional injuries and then, in just two years, the death of his dear wife. The older son remained with his father, the daughter was already in a boarding school in Reno, and "Johnny-Bo", too lively to be welcomed into the household of his aunt in Sacramento, was sent on to the Napa home of the Klams, where he spent the next 5 1/2 years. When 14, John returned to Virginia City and his father. The reunion was cut short by a mining accident, and the three children were orphaned.

Thus ended the life of a high type of miner whose painstaking diary gives us a glimpse of daily life 100 years

ago. Although his hopes of wealth and affluence never materialized, he left a heritage of hard work and devotion to family. His son, John-Bo, used the \$1,000. he received from his father's life insurance policy to pay for his education.

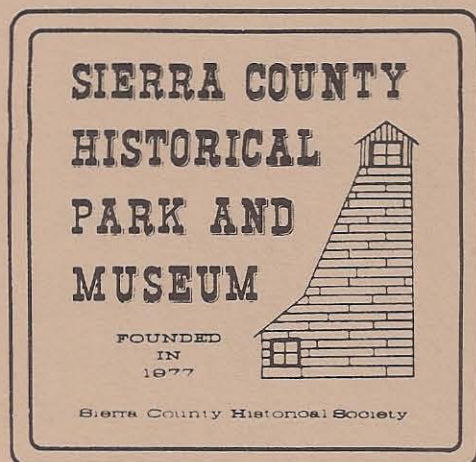
I am indeed proud of my great-grandfather, James H. Galloway.

Margaret Wiltshire

The Sierra County Historical Society thanks Mrs. Margaret Wiltshire for her generosity in sharing the historical material and photographs contained in this issue. If any other Historical Society member has material suitable for publication, please write to: Sierra County Historical Society, P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125.



CENTER OF GIBSONVILLE LOOKING TOWARD WHISKEY DIGGINGS. TAKEN IN 1913.



KENTUCKY MINE MUSEUM NEWS

This past summer the Kentucky Mine Museum had its most successful season ever. A record number of visitors toured the Museum and stamp mill, learning about the process of hard rock gold mining as it was once done.

Before the Museum opened a work party was held in which Historical Society volunteers donated a day to clean up the museum and grounds and to do maintenance projects. The new wooden carved sign was installed near Highway 49.

The museum season began on Memorial Day weekend with an open house, music sponsored by the Sierra County Arts Council, a picnic, and a raffle for the Sierra County Conservation Club. The stamp mill was "fired up" using the old Pelton wheel for power and visitors saw - and heard - the stamps in action.

During the summer, the Museum staff greeted visitors from all over the world. The staff consisted of Cathy Otto, curator; Karen Donaldson, assistant curator and tour guide; and Becky Boyt, clerk and tourguide trainee. Loyal volunteers from the Historical Society helped to make the summer a successful one.

At the end of July, a new resident joined Cathy and David Otto in the caretaker's apartment - their new son, Nathan!

A visit was made to the stamp mill by a Cal OSHA representative, who listed safety features needed in the mill if it is to be run for public demonstrations. If all goes according to plan, these improvements will be added during the winter and spring, so that the mill can be demonstrated for visitors on weekends next summer.

The museum has received several new artifacts and displays. These include:

- A display of Chinese artifacts from Western Sierra County, loaned by Milton Gottardi.

- A beautiful collection of purple glass on loan from Ramona Melvin.
- Arrowheads, baskets, and beadwork loaned by Rose Eames.
- A display of Sierra City area rocks and minerals donated by the Cold Lake Mining Co. The specimens were gathered by Derry, Michener and Booth, Inc. of Denver, Colorado, representatives who spent the summer of 1983 in Sierra City. Evelyn and Jack Miller of Sierra City have prepared a beautiful display case for them.
- A pair of 12 foot racing skis or snowshoes, loaned by Clyde Nance. These were made in Poker Flat and used for the snowshoe races in La Porte.
- A flintlock rifle that dates from 1840/1860, found by Dick Bates of the Cold Lake Mining Co. in Sierra City. He found it in the brush east of Deer Lake. Although the stock has rotted away and it is very rusty, the ramrod is still in place and the butt plate was found nearby.
- The picnic area has a new large barbeque, big enough for three family barbeques at once, constructed and donated by Phil Pollard of Sierra City.

Volunteers will be needed to help with displays and with office work this winter. If you would like to help - even for a few hours - please call the Museum at (916) 862-1310.

JOIN THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a Museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds quarterly meetings, publishes a newsletter, and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of society activities, receive the newsletter and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour.

If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join!

Annual Membership dues:

Regular membership	\$5.00
Sustaining membership	\$10.00
Business membership	\$15.00

Send dues to:

Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 260
Sierra City, CA 96125

- ☐ If this box is checked, its time to renew your membership. Please send dues payment to the address above.



Happy Holidays!



Sierra County Historical Society
P.O. Box 260
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