

JOSEPHINE MUNSON - TEACHER AT ROSE SPRINGS

by Linda (McBeath) Van Gundy

Two of the early day educators in the area were John P. and Josephine Munson.

John was a teacher, as well as the superintendent of the county schools. John was born in Hebron, New York on October 24, 1824. An orphan he made the most of his educational opportunities. Prior to his career in education he spent time in the lead mines of Dubuque, Iowa and the copper mines of Lake Superior, Michigan. He began a distinguished career in the schools Sheboygan, where he was a teacher and two years as county school superintendent.

John came to El Dorado County in 1852 where he mined, surveyed and taught. He was first elected as school superintendent for El Dorado County in 1873.

He served three terms and then returned to teaching. John was a well-respected democrat and nominated for county clerk, in 1889. At the time of the election the **Mountain Democrat** reported of him;

"He is in every respect an able, capable man for the position of county clerk cannot be denied. It is a fact not generally known that Mr. Munson has voluntarily sacrificed his salary and at times the necessities of life, in behalf of the scholars for whom he labored."

Josephine Munson, was also a well-known teacher, who taught at Rose Springs School from 1885-1887. Josephine was born in Batavia, New York in 1846. John and Josephine married November 28, 1875. Three

children were born to them: Frances in 1878 (she died in 1897), John in 1879 (graduated from Union High School May 8, 1897) and George in 1884.

When John P. Munson died June 16, 1903, it was due largely to infirmities of old age. He had a long and gradual decline in health.

This is a picture of the Rose Springs School in 1887. Josephine (circle) can be seen with her 27 pupil class. Some of the children are from the Coval Gaylord, Gray McBeath, McDougal and Pelton families.



At the time of his death he had been unconscious for about four hours, after falling and hitting his head.

John was remembered as a member of the Diamond Springs Lodge of the Odd Fellows. The lodge passed a resolution stating he, always demonstrated, *“never failing kindness, always being truthful and honest in all dealings and faithful to his brotherhood.”*

Following her husband’s death, Josephine continued to teach until her health began to fail

When Josephine left Placerville to go to Sacramento to be near her son, George, their home on the corner of Coloma and Bee Streets was used by the Episcopal Church. In July, 1905, Reverend T.P. Boyd and his family occupied the home. The home formerly changed hands in 1907, when the church paid \$1450.00 for the property and made plans to re-fence and paint.

Leaving El Dorado County Josephine accepted a position with the Sacramento Orphanage Farm, where she was in charge of one of the cottages for homeless children. She had eighteen children under her immediate supervision.

Their eldest son, John, moved to British Columbia, married and had a family. Their other son, George, never married. George was operated on in April of 1908 at the Railroad Hospital in Sacramento for tuberculosis of the bones. His ankle was opened and the diseased portion of the bone removed for fear the disease would move to his lungs. He settled in Truckee, where he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He died in 1930.

Josephine did not end her ties with the residents of Green Valley; she is noted to have been the guest of Julia McDonald on many occasions, providing her with the opportunity to visit her now grown students and their families.

The citizens of El Dorado County were made aware of the death of Josephine via telegram. She died on September 2, 1920, at the age of 74 years. Her death occurred at the home of her son, George, in Truckee, where she had lived for a number of years. Josephine was laid to rest next to her husband, John and her daughter, Frances, in Union Cemetery, Placerville.

Frederick and Maria Reimer Home

The location of the Frederick and Maria Reimer house has been identified. Our relentless historian, “Carp” Carpenter did it again. This basement and foundation was found recently. It is about 30 feet south of Deer Valley Road, near 4439 Deer Valley Road.

The foundation is 18- by 20-feet in size, about six feet deep. The stairway to the basement (circle). Deer Valley Road can be seen through the trees.



INDIAN CREEK CEMETERY

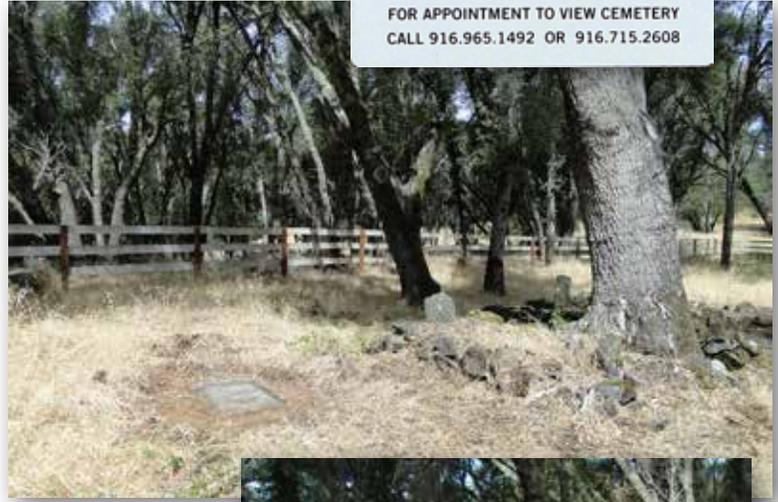
The Indian Creek Cemetery has just recently been identified, mapped, and registered. It is located just west of Lotus Road, north of Indian Creek. It has also been called the Williamson Cemetery, Somerset House Cemetery, and BOB Cemetery. There are a couple well-marked graves and some simple rock work. It is on private land, so access is limited. There are about 40 graves (24 of them detected with ground-penetrating radar). A wildland fire in July, 1931, destroyed all of the wooden markers.

On June 14, 2014, some cleanup was conducted at the Indian Creek Cemetery by several members of the Rescue Historical Society.

The grass was very tall and messy. We located all the known graves and exposed them.

The Williamson Family who owns the site, had cut down several trees and cemented a broken headstone. This is a great help to the appearance of the site

The cemetery needs several days of work. We plan to do this next spring when it is cooler and the grass is just starting to "green-up."



ROSE SPRINGS CEMETERY

Cleanup at Rose Springs Cemetery May 10, 2014. Present were "Carp" Carpenter, Randy Young, and Mark Shoquist and his son, Mike. They spent several hours raking leaves, cleaning the two tombstones, cutting and dragging some brush. Some time was spent on history of the area. There were a number of pictures taken. Mike took a number of still pictures and a short documentary was filmed. The property owner Pat Smothers arrived home as we finished the project. Pat's wife was there when we arrived shortly before 10 a.m.

Further work at this cemetery could include pouring a cement base to hold all the broken tombstone of Robert McDougal, The metal fence around Jacob Bish's grave needs serious repair. All this has been discussed with the property owner. He is in agreement.

This cemetery is on private property and we are there with the owners permission. For this we thank him.



This is the marker for Robert McDougal (1835-1876).



This is the grave of Jacob Bish (1814-1894).

Carp's Corner

Another news letter. Locally, a quiet but interesting summer so far. The drought has us all worried; however, we have had them before. The summer of 1977 comes to mind. You could wade across the Middle Fork of the American River that year. That year there were dozens of lightning fires in Northern California, some of them very large and damaging.

So far this years, the fire season hasn't been so bad; but it is far from over.

I urge everyone to clear around your place if you have not done so already. The fire near Cal Expo is a case in point. With no prevention work what did they expect? The desire not to mess with nature can be dangerous. It is just like in the forest. I never saw a "clear cut" burn. Thin our forests or loose more of them.

Locally our Historical Society has been working on some cemetery cleanups. We have been in Rose Springs Cemetery and Indian Creek Cemetery. Both are on private property so we need permission to trespass, however this can be arranged.

Indian Creek has only been officially named so for a few years. Some of us used to call it BOB Cemetery. The county asked one of the property owners to name it and he did. Many people were already calling it Indian Creek. Today that is the official name.

It is a mess as of this date. If we continue with this project I hope we can do some weed prevention in the spring. Both the above mentioned cemeteries are old pioneer cemeteries. They are just two of many. I personally would like to hear from the public as to their thoughts on this subject.

We are just beginning to locate another cemetery in this general area. I suspect that it is probably the

"Stromack Cemetery". (I'm not sure of the spelling) There was a Stromack House in the immediate area. Your historical society has a picture of the house. The name has probably been mentioned before. I have known about a cemetery in this area all my life, my mother mentioned it, however no one could ever show me the exact location. I'm still not sure. We need written articles about it.



The Stromack place.

Bill believes that we should do something with the old brick factory site just north of the RSLS Hall, probably a fence around it after we have cleaned up the site. I believe that this would be a good place to use a metal detector. Personally I doubt if the site has ever been investigated. I for one think this is a very worthy project. Bill is working on the details.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

President's Report

The Society has been active over the last several months. Members have conducted cleanup of two of your cemeteries and I have been asked to present programs on Rescue at the **Folsom Library** and the **El Dorado Women's Connection** in Placerville.

Some of you may have heard that Mike Skinner has purchased the old Cameron Park Nursery site at the corner of Cameron Park Drive and Green Valley Road. As you know, part of the historic Skinner Winery is well preserved on that site. This ensures that it will remain part of Rescue's history. Here is what Mike says about their plans:

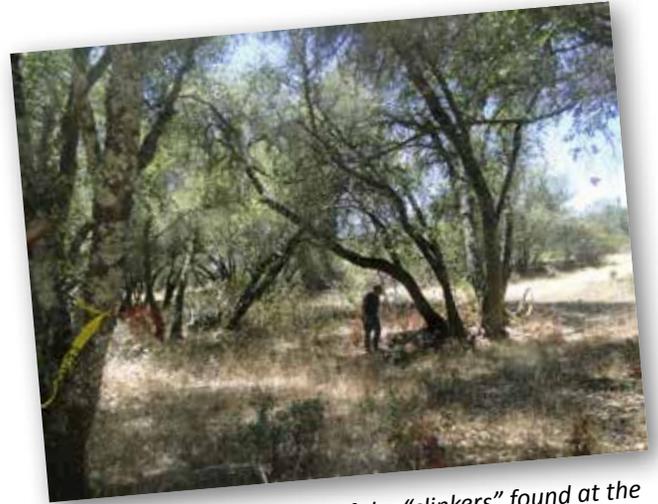
"We still have plans to create a museum of sorts with information about wine-making in the early days, and not just Skinner. We are looking for pictures that we can enlarge and frame to go with ones we have from Skinner Winery. I have a couple from Tom Stewart for Zentgraf, but there were several vineyard/winery operations as far back as 1850 that we would like to highlight as well."

"We will be taking down the building that is there and replacing it with a replica, right down to the old wood, of the original building in the old pictures."

"Our current tenant is a nonprofit group, Pathways For Veterans, and they will be doing a farmers market, food distribution and outreach for the benefit of the community. Once they get rolling I would ask that people stop by and support them any way they can."



"Carp" and I are still working on plans for the brick factory site. The site may change hands again soon, so we are working hard to do something before that happens. The site we will propose to the landowner is about 50 by 75 feet. This will cover the site of the brick kiln and surrounding area that has "clinker bricks" scattered through it.



"Carp" is looking at some of the "clinkers" found at the site. The brick kiln site is to the left.

The bus tour is still in the works for Saturday, October 4th. We need to find out how many people want to take a two hour bus tour of Rescue, hosted by "Carp" and me. If you are interested, please call me at 676-7401. If you get the *answering service* give them your name, number in your party, and telephone number so I can put you on the list.

We want to thank all of you that continue to support the Rescue Historical Society. If you have any suggestions on programs you think the membership would like, please give me a call.

Hope to see you at our next meeting. It is scheduled for September 13, 2014, in the Rose Springs Literary Society hall, in Rescue.

Bill Ten

This is the Skinner Winery building that Mike is talking about.

The Calendar

Mark your calendar:

- **September 13, Saturday** at 10:00 a.m. - Mary Cory, Director of the County Historical Museum will talk about the history of El Dorado County. A short business meeting will follow Mary's presentation

Change

- **October 4, Saturday** – Rescue Bus Tour conducted by Bill Teie and “Carp” Carpenter. It was such a success last time we conducted a tour of our area, we are going to do it again. The plan is to have the tour leave the Rose Springs Literary Society hall at 9:30 a.m. If we need a second tour, it will leave at 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in taking the tour, call (530) 676-7401. Provide your name, the number in the party, if you are a member of the historical society, and your phone number.

Members ride for free. We will ask non-members to donate \$10. If they donate \$15, they will become member of the Society for a year.

ACTION!
If you are interested in going on the Rescue Historical Society Bus Tour on October 4th, call (530) 676-7401.

Rescue Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 13, Rescue, CA 95672

Membership Application/Renewal Form

- Anyone interested in preserving the history of Rescue and surrounding area, is welcome to join.
- Dues are for one year, from January to January.
- Individual. \$15 per year.
- Family \$25 per year.
- Make checks to: Rescue Historical Society.

New member Renewal

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Telephone number _____

Your Officers

President

Bill Teie
(530) 676-7401 wteie@innercite.com

Vice President and Program Chair

Joyce Green
(916) 933-1419 green9421@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Cheryl Yee
(530) 677-4531 cherylyee54@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Beverly Cullop
(530) 903-0618 BevsRetired@yahoo.com

Historian and Newsletter Editor

“Carp” Carpenter
(530) 677-2524 8300ret@gmail.com

Membership Chairman

Randy Young
(530) 677-5538 Randy.Young@sbcglobal.net

Web Master

Jim Steelquist
(530) 672-1144 jsteelquist@gmail.com

Rose Springs Literary Society Hall
Constructed in 1896



Rescue Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 13
Rescue, CA 95672

ACTION!
If you are interested in going on the
Rescue Historical Society Bus Tour on
October 4th, call (530) 676-7401.

Visit our homepage :

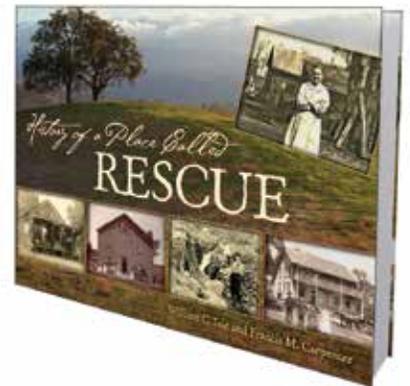


For the latest news, visit our website at:
www.rescuehistoricalsociety.com/

History of a Place Called Rescue is a snapshot in time, starting when gold was discovered in Coloma in 1848, to about the 1930s

Your travel through the area starts with tours along prominent roads in Rescue.

A large, full-color reference map, located in a pocket in the back of the book, pinpoints all of the featured historical sites.



384 full-color pages
Over 800 pictures and graphics

Order at
www.deervalleypress.com
or
call (530) 676-7401