

Las Plumas

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A Grave Occasion... OR ... Dining With The Dearly Departed.

by Jerry Thomas, Museum Trustee, Quincy.

The Plumas County Museum Association will be hosting a tour of the Old Quincy Cemetery, Saturday, September 18, from 4 to 7:30 P.M. This will be one of several fundraisers throughout the year to help raise the \$34,000 needed for the assistant museum director salary.

Join the immortal William W. Kellogg, ex-miner, Constable & Justice of the Peace, County Assessor, County Clerk, criminal lawyer, publisher and editor of *The Quincy Union*, "Phew!," on a spirit-filled tour of the cemetery. Along the way, you will be greeted by earthly apparitions of some of Plumas County's more famous characters who will share their life stories and a few titillating tidbits of local history.



William W. Kellogg in front of his Jackson Street home in Quincy shortly before his death.

Festivities tip off at 4:00 P.M. with a silent auction, old-fashioned lemonade, ice tea, fine wine and hors d'oeuvres. Kellogg's tour will commence at 4:30, followed by a buffet dinner prepared by museum members utilizing recipes found in the Plumas County Historical Cookbook. During dinner, there will be a reverse strip tease, dancing, music, and other surprises. You won't want to miss this exciting event that surely will become an annual Indian summer activity with future visits to other graveyards throughout beautiful Plumas County in subsequent years.

For your fifty-dollar ticket you get a dinner, social gathering at dusk in the ol' Quincy Cemetery, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, dancing, music, reverse strip tease, (live?) performances of our county's finest thespians, and the knowledge that you are supporting one of Plumas County's most important facilities. Tickets are available at Epilog Books, Plumas County Museum, or from the Plumas County Museum Board of Trustees. Contact the Museum, 283-6320, Jerry Thomas, 283-4231, Charlie Brown, 283-3416, Don Clark 836-2586. Attendance is limited to 60 guests, so get your tickets early.

Quincy Cemetery History

The Quincy Cemetery dates back at least to the early 1850s, although no formal records seem to exist to state the exact date of founding. Historians mainly have to rely on the earliest tombstones as indicators of its apparent age.



Of record however, are several surviving receipts from that time period that refer to the construction of a gallows and coffin for an impending execution to be held in what was called Hangman's Ravine, running from the mountain near the cemetery.

Early photos of the cemetery show the now stately oaks as young slips, encircled by a white wooden picket fence. Early efforts were made to beautify the site, with a caretaker managing it through funds provided by the families of those interred there. Because cemeteries were often the shadiest and most pleasant spots in a town, during the 19th and early 20th centuries they often served the

dual purpose of a park or picnic area for the town's residents.

The Quincy Cemetery is populated with many of the movers and shakers of 19th century Plumas County, as well as lesser-known, down-to-earth, regular hard working citizens. Some of the more prominent folks interred there include Arthur W. Keddie, Plumas County Surveyor and railroad visionary; William Wagner, owner and operator of Bucks Ranch years before it became Bucks Lake; Elizabeth Stark Blakesley, namesake for Elizabethtown; John Boyle, a Quincy attorney murdered on Main Street over a dispute on the location of the county high school in 1913; James Haun, an 1850s Nelson Creek gold miner-turned rancher and grandfather of "Birdie" Swingle who helped create the Plumas County Museum; John Thompson, founder of the Illinois Ranch, now the Thompson Valley Ranch, one of Plumas County's legal founders, and grandfather of Stella Fay Miller, the lady who left the money to build the Plumas County Museum. Many more such illustrious folks are located on this now shady hill slope, and many more unsung individuals are located without benefit of tombstones.



Top and center: Quincy Cemetery c.1900. Bottom left: Warren A. Blakesley in his coffin in his home, 1902.

In 1911, young Mary Anna Foote, a Chinese girl, died and was to be buried in the Quincy Cemetery when a strong opposition arose to that plan. After heated debate, the unfortunate child was buried outside the cemetery fence with her own three sided fence to surround her grave. This precipitated the formation in 1913 of a Chinese cemetery further up the hill and to the east, on the right side of Radio Hill Road.

Today, the Quincy Cemetery is about full, and a new, modern style cemetery known as East Lawn was constructed in the late 1960s near the Armory.

To learn more about the deceased denizens of Quincy Cemetery, be sure to secure your ticket to the September 18th event -

"A Grave Occasion."

Thank you to our Volunteers!

Thank you to all the docents, trustees, directors, and volunteers who volunteered at the Peppard Cabin, Pioneer School, the Spanish Peak Railroad Project during the Plumas County Fair this year, and other events as well: Mary Bird, Ann Castaldini, Chris Coen, Bob Edwards, Doug Ely, Paula Foster, Ginger Gramm and granddaughter Harper Ciprotti, Al Herndon, Jerry Holland, Greg Jewers, Diane Lawson, Harlene Lawson, Bob Lowrey, Carol Paoli, Gaye Porter, Helen Roberti, Ken Roller, Denise Russell, Norberta Schmidt, Jim Shannon, Bill Tantau, Sally Tantau, Elsa Thomas, Jerry Thomas, John Weddle, Lee Williams, Judy Wright. Again, thank you all for helping get the word out about YOUR Plumas County Museum!

Of course, we still need volunteers for a number of upcoming events, so please keep us in mind.

We Need A Museum Trustee

Due to the recent resignation of Trustee Marc Eastman, the Plumas County Museum Association is looking for a new trustee to fill his seat. We would like to find an interested individual from Eastern Plumas to represent that area. The trustees meet bimonthly, although for the upcoming year they will meet once a month. If you are interested in helping further the Museum's mission of promoting Plumas County history, call the Museum at 283-6320. Thank you!

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

The Plumas County Museum Association kicked off a fund drive on July 12, 2010 with a target of \$34,000. The funding is needed for Assistant Museum Director Paul Russell's salary. Plumas County has agreed to pick up the additional \$23,000 in benefits and insurance. To date, the PCMA has raised over \$13,000, mainly from its membership, and we thank you heartily! Other activities geared at raising the needed funds will be a dinner-theater event at the historic Quincy Cemetery on September 18th, an art auction at Nakoma at Gold Mountain on October 10th, a bus tour to La Porte on October 15th, as well as several smaller events. The Museum needs your help, now more than ever. If you appreciate Plumas County's history and would like to see the Museum continue to function at the level of high quality that residents and visitors have come to expect, please contact the staff at the museum at 283-6320 to see how you can help.

On Saturday, August 7th, Paul Russell, Assistant Museum Director attended an all day picnic and high school reunion hosted by Portola High School classes at the Graeagle Picnic Grounds in Graeagle. Paul set up a resource table that offered information on the Museum, featured local history books for sale, and listened to stories and answered questions from the 200-plus crowd. On Sunday, Museum Director Scott Lawson attended the Graeagle Old Timers' Picnic held at the same location and talked with many of the town's "old timers" as well as offered local history books, information, and made valuable historical contacts. This was the 45th year for the picnic and everyone attending had a great time. Along with the Museum, the Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council also had a staffed table to educate attendees on the progress of the White Sulphur Springs Resort project.

The "Gold Crew" consisting of Len Mosley, Ken Myers, and Jay Ricks could REALLY use some help with not only the Spanish Peak Railroad Project, but with the 1922 Studebaker pickup truck project. If you would like some hands-on-history, please call the Museum at 283-6320.

Again, we appreciate your continued support of the Museum, but cannot slow down in our effort to raise the funds necessary to keep the Museum open. If you haven't already made a monetary commitment to the Museum, would you please take the time to do so now? Every bit of help is greatly appreciated. Thank you again to all of you who have stepped up to the plate to support us!

2010 Exhibits on the Stella Fay Miller Mezzanine

January – February: Plumas County Museum Historic Artists
March – April: Joe Willis, Quincy: My Biophilia, An Attitude Toward Nature - Photos
May & June: Pam Trebes, Lake Almanor; “The Perfect View” - Photography
July & August: LouEtta Held, Quincy; Watercolors
September & October: Betty Bishop, Chester; “Catching My Eye” - Photography
November & December: Joe Willis, Quincy: My Biophilia, An Attitude Toward Nature - Cont.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9-4:30, closed Sun., Mon., holidays.

Please call if you would like to exhibit on the Mezzanine in 2011.

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If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let us know at pcmuseum@digitalpath.net.

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