

Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

November Newsletter, 2021

1898 - Monteverde Store Opens Now a Museum and Sutter Creek Landmark

Giovanni M. Monteverde, a native of Genoa, Italy (who later changed his name to John) came to America in 1860. After arriving in San Francisco, he decided to settle in Sutter Creek in 1861 and became an American citizen on August 25, 1872. He initially worked in the gold fields but later became a stone mason prior to opening his store in 1898. Many of the stones, cement walks around homes and on Main Street in Sutter Creek were built by John Monteverde.





On August 29, 1872, John married Rosa Levaggi who was from his home town of Genoa, Italy. They were married in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sutter Creek. John and Rosa had seven children: John J. (oldest b. 1873), James, Joseph, Mary, Louis, Katie, and Rose (youngest b. 1889). The children were born and raised in Sutter Creek. They graduated from the Sutter Creek Grammar School.



Both John J. and James attended Business Colleges in Stockton and Sacramento respectively. John J. became a merchant and banker in Sacramento. James became interested in the finance business in Pittsburgh, CA. Joseph was a salesman for his brother John for many years in the coffee and tea business. Louis operated a butcher shop in Sutter Creek for many years and also served as a Precinct Inspector for the Elections Office. (Additionally, Louis served as a juror in the trial of E. Capillo in 1918 for a murder at the Last Chance Saloon in Jackson. Capillo was acquitted.)

Mary, the oldest daughter, was a clerk at the store for many years. Kate was a clerk for the Monteverde Store and helped cook meals and keep the family home. Rose was employed as an accountant at the Old Eureka Mining Company (Old Hetty Green Mine); after the mine closed, Rose worked with the family business.



After John's death in 1918, Rosa, with the help of her children, carried on with the business until she passed away in 1943. From then on, the daughters continued to operate the business.

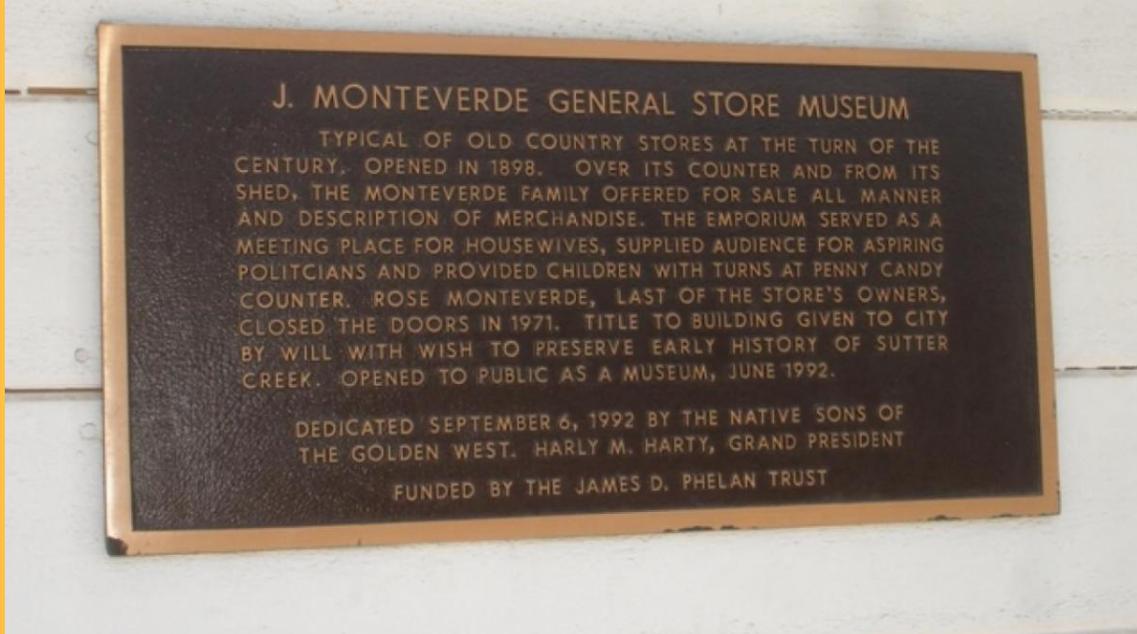
On October 27, 1971, Rose Monteverde put a hand written sign in the window of the Monteverde store on Randolph Street that read, "This store will be closed for a few days." The sign remained in the window for over twenty years. Rose, the youngest member of the family and last surviving sibling, passed away on April 11, 1978.

Rose donated the store to the city of Sutter Creek to be used as a public library or a museum in memory of the Monteverde Family. The City Council, after much public discussion, decided to establish the Monteverde Store Museum. The store never opened again as a business.



In 1992, the store was re-opened as a museum by the City of Sutter Creek. Typical of the old country stores at the turn of the century, the Monteverde Store remains today much as it did.





Over the years, the store has undergone much repair and renovation thanks to countless donations, volunteers, and grants. The City just recently did a professional and thoughtful cleaning of the store.

The Monteverde Store Museum is currently open Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3. Private tours are available by appointment. The City is accepting applications for volunteers to greet visitors and explain the history of the Monteverde Store Museum and the family. The store will be decorated for the holiday season and will be identified as a stop on the Sutter Creek Light Tour.

Save the Date - November 30, 2021

SCCBF will be participating in Amador #Giving Tuesday this year on November 30. Your financial support is essential to our continued successes. Please consider adding us to your annual charitable giving program.



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Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A gift to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. (Donations to SCCBF are received through the Amador Community Foundation.)

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