



Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

(nonprofit 501(c)3 – Tax ID #87-1825043)

November Newsletter, 2023

No Fish This Month...

As in the old adage “give a man fish to eat and he will be hungry again tomorrow, but teach him to fish and he will have food forever” or something like that.

Instead of combing the online resources for a newsletter story, we thought it would be a good idea to share with you how to access some of our favorite online history reference sites for your own purposes.

One of the most convenient and interesting sources is the online newspaper archives. They are great for looking back to revisit everyday life and specific events from as far back as 1846.

Here are few of our favorite newspaper archives:

1. The online version of the Ledger Dispatch provides access to the Amador County Library archive which includes 13 different local newspapers from as far back as 1855. Searches are free with a paid subscription. Here is a sample from 1863;

Amador Dispatch.

JACKSON:

Saturday, : : Nov. 21, 1863.

STAGE ROBBERY.—On last Monday morning, 17th inst., two high-

waymen stoped the stage about a mile and half from Fiddletown, took the driver from his seat and searched him to ascertain whether he was armed. Finding none about him, they kindly assisted him to unhitch his horses from the stage, which they took and hitched to a tree about fifty yards distant. They then returned to the stage for the purpose of appropriating the contents of Wells Fargo & Co's treasure box to their own use. They tried to open the box with a chisel; finding this a rather slow process, they concluded to blow it open with gunpowder, which, by working some into the box, and igniting it with fuse, they succeeded in doing. There was \$2,035 in the safe. A reward of \$2,000 has been offered by Wells, Fargo & Co., for the recovery of the money, and the arrest of the robbers.

provides access to the Bee, but it also links back to Newspapers.com which is again archives of papers from all over the country for a small fee.

3. The California Digital Newspaper collection provides free access to papers from 1846 to 2023 at cdnc.ucr.edu.

If you have a special interest in the local gold mining history you are in luck. Here are the two major sites on the local and greater Mother Lode gold mines;

1. The Western Mining History site provides technical descriptions and brief histories of all the mines from throughout the Mother Lode, accessed at

<https://westernmininghistory.com/mine-county/california/amador/>

2. Another source of details on over 1,100 gold mines can be found at thediggings.com/usa/california/amador

3. Amador Gold is a locally produced archive of photos and information accessed at amadorgold.net/tours/mines

If you are more interested in stories about early California events and people try;

1. Masons History of Amador County printed in 1881 is considered the ultimate source of early Amador County history. The full text can be read or downloaded for free at; <https://archive.org> then search "Amador County" then select "Mason's History of Amador County", then select "download full text". The format of the downloaded text is a bit awkward but the content more than makes up for it. Here is a sample:

CONDITION OF SOCIETY IN 1854.

The introduction of improved methods of mining brought a great increase of population to Amador, as well as the other counties of California. Along with prosperity came the institutions, the dance houses and the gambling saloons, looked upon then as a peculiar feature in California society, but which is now found to be a natural growth wherever sudden wealth comes to those unacquainted with its proper use. The absence of the family influence also favored a condition of society in which the influence of woman was in the descending scale. The soiled doves were mostly natives of Mexico, "dusky daughters of Montezuma" as the poets termed them and of Peru. It is said that at one time two hundred of the frail beauties were resident in the town of Jackson.

If you are interested in historic photographs of the region, try:

1. calisphere.org/collections, then search Amador. This is an excellent collection of historic photos from throughout the

Mother Lode.

2. Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation at Suttercreekfoundation.org and Cityofsuttercreek.org have photo galleries and links to other history sites and photos including this early picture of the Sutter Creek Grammar School circa 1995.



3. Amador County Archives has a very large, well-organized hard copy and digital collection of photographs to view and/or to copy for a small charge. There is an online list of archived materials plus binders full of photographs organized by general topic for your review.

In addition to these online site visits, don't forget the local museums and archives:

1. **The Amador County Archives**, located on Airport Road. The Archives is well organized and open to the public by appointment at (209-223-6389). There is a wealth of digital and hard copy photos and documents available to the public.
2. **The Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School Museum** is open by appointment at info@sccbf.org.
3. **The Sutter Creek Fire Department Museum** is located next to City Hall and onsite at the fire station. An online tour can be accessed at suttercreekfire.org/Sutter-creek-fire-history
4. **The Knight Foundry** is an actual living/working museum of all forms of metal working. It was founded in 1872 as a water powered iron foundry. The website knightfoundry.com provides access to the tour schedule as well as an extensive collection of historic photos, videos, and stories.
5. **The Amador County Museum**, located in Jackson has an amazing collection including a working miniature gold mine

operation, as well as local history available through amadorcountyhistoricalsociety.org.

6. **The Sutter Creek Visitors Center**, located at 71A Main Street, has an interesting photo gallery and knowledgeable docents to assist with information and directions.

If you are interested in researching and documenting local history, contact us at info@sccbf.org about opportunities at assisting with the expansion of our archives and history displays.

SCCBF will be kicking off a 5 part lecture series, starting in January with a new video of the Historic Knight Foundry. Additional lectures will be by Glen Villa, President of the Miwok Heritage Center; Teresa Guidi, Amador County Archivist; and local history author/archeologist Kimberly Wooten. Dates, times, and detailed information will be forthcoming.

SCCBF joins the Amador Community Foundation from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Katharine Drexel Parish on #GIVINGTUESDAY, November 28, 2023 . In addition to the ways to give listed below, SCCBF will also have a link on our website, sccbf.org and on our [Facebook Page](#).

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

#1- Charity Showcase

Charity Showcase - Meet & Greet 50+ amazing nonprofits supporting the quality of life in our community:

- Charity Showcase 4:00pm-6:30pm @ Katharine Drexel Parish
- Give to many charities at ONE time
- FREE Admission/Refreshments
- Donations eligible for Incentive/Matching Funds
- Maximize your annual and end of year giving!
- \$5 - \$5000 Every Dollar Matters!

#2- Give Online- all day!

- Donate to one or multiple non-profits in one spot!
- Donate at GiveAmador.org

#3- Drop-Off Giving!

The Amador Community Foundation's office at 571 S. Hwy. 49 in Jackson will be open from 8 am - 4 pm. Stop by and join them for coffee & giving.

Do you know someone who would like to receive our newsletters? Send contact information to info@sccbf.org to be added to our distribution list.

[Visit our Website](#)

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SCCBF's current renovation project is the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School which is rich in Gold Rush history. This beautiful building is California's second oldest two-story brick schoolhouse. There are four rooms within the Historic Grammar School that can be rented.



Contact the City of Sutter Creek for information on rates and availability - (209) 267-5647 ext. 230 or email info@cityofsuttercreek.org / [website - cityofsuttercreek.org](http://website-cityofsuttercreek.org)

The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation (SCCBF) is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and development of the community's historic assets both now and for future generations. (nonprofit 501(c)3 – Tax ID #87-1825043)

**DONATE
TODAY**

SCCBF a Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) | PO Box 24, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

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