



EL DORADO COUNTY
**HISTORICAL
MUSEUM**



El Dorado County Historical Museum Commission 2026 Report

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON
April 07, 2026

Commission Membership

Seven (7) members appointed “at large” by the Board of Supervisors, with at least two members representing established historical organizations.

The Commissioners are:

- **Rigoli**, Jacob (Chairperson)
- **Mitchell**, Randy (Vice-Chairperson)
- **Barrett**, Jeannette
- **Berry**, Keith
- **Manwaring**, Sean
- **Owens**, Dee
- **Williams**, Joseph



*El Dorado Western Railroad (EDWRR),
preserving our railroad history.*

Photo Credit: Mountain Democrat photo by Noel Stack

What we do:

- Create and support a vision for the EDCHM
- Recommend museum policies
- Recommend to accept or reject artifact donations
- Make strategic planning recommendations
- Make budget and funding recommendations
- Represent the museum externally
- Advocate for the museum



Wheelbarrow made by JM Studebaker on display at the EDCHM. By 1855, "Wheelbarrow Johnny"'s wheelbarrows were fetching \$10 each, enabling him to amass savings amounting to \$3,000.

Celebrations since our last meeting:

1. Expanded days and hours
2. Cleanup of the facility inside and outside (ongoing)
3. 600+ items documents in Catalog IT, and growing
4. 2 new volunteers
5. Enablement of 12+ community activities



Driving up the steps of the El Dorado County Courthouse on Main Street in Placerville. Gertrude Kirk and her father in a Model T circa 1913-5. They owned dealerships in Placerville.

Meg Gifford, author and descendent of El Dorado County Sheriff, James Madison Anderson (1886-90), presents to a sold-out audience at the IOOF on the last legal hangings in El Dorado County.

Meg's research, and this EDCHS community event, were supported in part by the EDCHM.



Kathleen Young,
directing the actors
at the 2025 Save-
the-Graves
community event in
the Placerville Union
Cemetery.

Research performed
at EDCHM
supported and
enabled this
community event.



Commissioner
Manwaring in top
hat, supporting the
EDCHS walking
history tour.

Research performed
at EDCHM
supported and
enabled this
community event.

It was so popular,
there was a waitlist!



EDCHS President, Jill
Kearney, and F&T
Museum Manager,
Heather Burnett,
lead a March
walking tour about
1860s Placerville
Main Street
Merchants.

Research performed
at EDCHM
supported and
enabled this
community event.



Thanks to the Veerkamp family and research performed at the EDCHSM, the Historical Society was able to support native resident Phil Berry's presentation on El Dorado County logging.

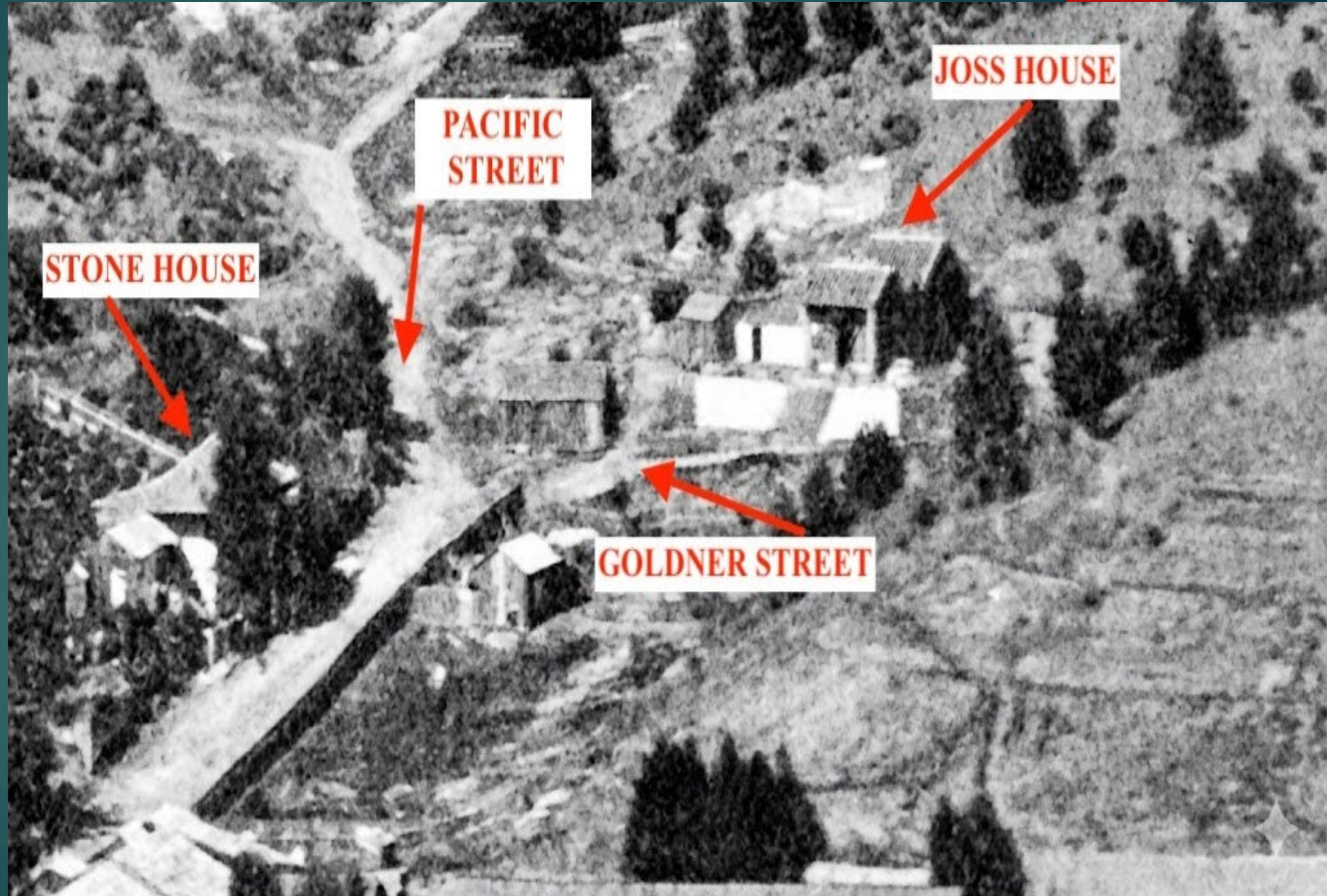


Thanks to the
EDCHSM, EDWRR,
and the Historical
Society, residents
and tourists to El
Dorado County
were treated to a
ride on the
restored railway.



The EDCHS launched a new exhibit at the Fountain & Tallman Museum showcasing the history of the now-lost Chinatown in Placerville.

Artifacts were loaned from the EDCHM to create this exhibit.



Upcoming Goals/Workplan:

We're ready to do more for the Community and the Supervisors.

- **Supervisor Goals:** We're focused on supporting the Supervisors' core goals and the Library Administration.
- **Economic Growth:** We can significantly grow **community engagement** and drive new **tourism revenue** for El Dorado County.
- **Call to Action:** Let's build a plan that serves our County residents **and** boosts the county's economy.



Teenage tourists (Jak and Alex) from Ohio touring the EDCHM in front of the M.T. Kelly replica store display.

Opportunities to better serve El Dorado County Citizens and Tourists

1. Signage
2. Increase social media & advertising presence:
**did you know that....*
3. Educational programs
4. Partnerships with museums and non-profits
5. Digitization

With your additional support, we
can make this happen!

VISION STATEMENT:

The El Dorado County Historical Museum will be a nationally recognized leader in preserving and interpreting the complete, diverse history and cultures of El Dorado County.

Backup images and slides follow







SAVE THE GRAVES 2024: LAW & ORDER



SAVE THE GRAVES 2023



SAVE THE GRAVES – 2022



SAVE THE GRAVES – 2021



SAVE THE GRAVES – 2019

Research performed at EDCHM has supported and enabled 5 years of Save-the-Graves performances, attended by over 3000 community members!











The EDCHS presents
its annual
preservation award
to the Federated
Church for fully
restoring the historic
ME Church.

Research
performed at
EDCHM supported
and enabled this
community event.



State of California }
County of El Dorado }

James M Anderson

being duly sworn says that he is a practical Surveyor that
he made the Official Survey of the City of Placerville
and that this Map is a correct representation of said survey

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 5 day of August 1872

J. M. Anderson

Thomas B. Sutton

Notary Public El Dorado Co.

From the EDCHM Collection.

James M Anderson was El Dorado County's Surveyor and tax collector and sheriff in the late 1800s, and the first to create a survey of Yosemite Valley in 1883.

The EDCHS
launches a new
exhibit at the
Fountain & Tallman
Museum
showcasing the
history of winter
sports in El Dorado
County.

Artifacts were
loaned from the
EDCHM to create
this exhibit.



Commissioners
Manwaring and
Rigoli and members
of the EDCHS
facilitate a \$10K
grant to the
Federated Church
to restore the 1851-3
M.E. Church
building.

Research
performed at
EDCHM supported
and enabled the
grant application to
be created.



The George
Wheeldon exhibit in
the historic post
office on Main
Street on Placerville
was opened by the
non-profit
organization El
Dorado Gold 1848
thanks to a loan of
El Dorado County
minerals from the
EDCHSM.

