



EL DORADO COUNTY
**HISTORICAL
MUSEUM**



El Dorado County Historical Museum Commission Overview 2025

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON
OCTOBER 21, 2025

Purpose/Objective of the EDCHM Commission:

ORDINANCE No. 4551, CHAPTER 2.20 - COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMISSION

2.20.350 Established. There is created and established a citizens' advisory commission consisting of seven (7) members to be known as the County Historical Museum Commission.

2.20.360 Purpose. The [El Dorado] County Historical Museum is established to assist the County in maintaining a vision and subsequent goals for the County Museum; to encourage opportunities for county residents to become involved in the historic interpretation and preservation of historical artifacts and documents important to the county.

Core Responsibilities [Summarized / Abridged]:

1. Advisory to the Board
2. Financial and External Advocacy
3. Collections and Administrative Oversight

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

MAY TERM.

MONDAY, May 5th, 1873.

Present: Jas. E. Carr, Chairman; John Sheridan, Wm. Guthrie; Jas. G. Trotter, Clerk.

The following proceedings are had:

The report of R. B. Martin, Road Overseer of District No. 10, received and approved.

Ordered, That the Clerk, in answer to the letter of Drury Melone, Secretary of State, relative to the supplying of this county with a set of Standard Weights and Measures, inform him that none will be required for this county.

The report of W. S. Lowden, County Surveyor, on the condition of Bridges in the Hay Fork and Weaverville Road Districts received and approved and the Auditor is hereby authorized to issue a warrant on the Bridge Fund to the party building said bridge across Big Creek, in Hay Fork District, according to the specifications of said Lowden, now on file with the Clerk.

The petition of citizens of Hettenshaw, praying that a precinct be established at that place, received and approved.

The resignation of John G. Sanborn, as Road Overseer of District No. 6, received and accepted, and Henry Knowles is hereby appointed as Road Overseer of said District on filing his approved Bond in the sum of \$500 conditioned according to law.

Ordered, That Jesse Tourtellotte be and he is hereby appointed Road Overseer of District No. 2, on filing his approved bond for \$500 conditioned according to law.

Ordered, That the Board adjourn till Tuesday, May 6th, 1873, at 9 A. M.

Commission Membership

Seven (7) members total, (5) at large and (2) appointed by the Board of Supervisors, with at least two members representing established historical organizations.

The Commissioners are:

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



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

Photo Credit: Mountain Democrat photo by Noel Stack

EL DORADO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM (EDCHM)

Our Mission: To preserve, protect, and promote El Dorado County's history and heritage.

Main Facility: El Dorado County Historical Museum
(104 Placerville Drive)

Living History Program: El Dorado Western Railroad
(El Dorado & Shingle Springs)

Additional Archival Storage: El Dorado County
Library (345 Fair Lane)



The EDCHM main entrance at 104 Placerville Dr.

What we do:

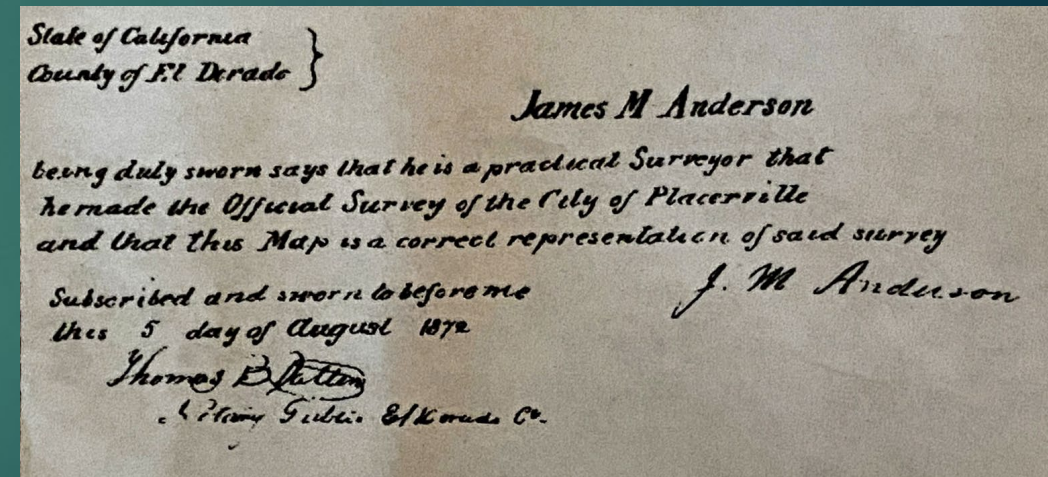
- Create and support a vision for the EDCHM
- Recommend museum policies
- Recommend to accept or reject artifact donations
- Make strategic planning recommendations
- Make budget and funding recommendations
- Represent the museum externally
- Advocate for the museum



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.

Governing Documents

- ▶ Ordinance No. 4551
 - ▶ Established the EDCHM Commission in 1973
 - ▶ Updated February 29, 2000, as part of the creation of the Collections Management Policy.
- ▶ Museum Collections Management Policy
 - ▶ Originally adopted October 1999
 - ▶ Second Revision adopted November 2020
 - ▶ By incorporation, additional governing documents such as the County Museum Emergency Response Plan, County Museum Ethics Policy (Code of Ethics), etc.



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

A challenge overcome through collaboration and foresight.

1. Temporary Closure.
2. A Collaborative Solution.
3. Looking Forward.



The EDCHM Research Room is open for the first time since before COVID. Librarian, Bonnie Battaglia, and volunteer and author, Rodi Lee, are seen here supporting community research inquiries.

Service & Performance Indicators, Collections

The Museum accepted the following into the collection:

- 3 small boxes of miner lamps and crucibles from Coloma
- Autobiography of Charles Peter, original printing
- Turner Collection: 1 box containing bed warmer, parasol, 2 tea sets, 2 pairs of gloves, box of pins, drawing of Judge Arnot, opera glasses, doily, pudding cook book, Trivet, photos, etc.
- Vesuvio's Pizza: Pictures from the 1960s
- 1 El Dorado Rose Sash as worn by Clara Nielsen in 1982
- Loose photographed prints of works by Carol Matthis, including photos of Carol
- David Birge, El Dorado County gold rush era doctor's medical books, journals, instruments, etc.
- Peggy Bosch donation of Johnny & Selma White family letters and photos (late 19th and early 20th century)
- ZUM ANDENKEN memorial / mourning art



Director Lovell and Commissioner Rigoli, reuniting an 1850s crucible to the Jake Jackson Museum in Trinity County; September 2025

Upcoming Goals/Workplan: The Community is Asking For More!

- **Our Next Step**: When budgets and time allow, we can significantly grow **community engagement** and drive new **tourism revenue** for El Dorado County.
- **Supervisor Goals**: We're focused on supporting the Supervisors' core goals and the Library Administration.
- **Call to Action**: Let's **collaborate** to 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.

Author and Lake Tahoe resident, Maggie Gorrill, presents on the historic Tahoe Meadows community.

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



Commissioner
Manwaring,
introducing historian
and author Jill
Kearney at
Sportsman's Hall.

Research performed
at EDCHM supported
and enabled this
community event.

It was so popular, that
there was a waitlist!



Commissioner Owens,
supporting the
EDWRR and EDCHS at
the El Dorado station.

Research performed
at EDCHM supported
and enabled this
community event
where Commissioner
Owens was the
speaker.

It was so popular,
there was a waitlist!





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

Commissioner
Berry and
members of the
EDWRR recognize
community
member
contributions
including the
Scouts.



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.

