



**THREE RIVERS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Est. October 1991

Museum October 2000

501(c)3 Organization

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# Three Rivers Historical Times

January / February 2015

**"WILLIAM (BILL) CLOUGH" BY DAN ALLES**

*The following article was first printed in the Historical Society newsletter of September 1994. Some of its content was taken from the book 'Mineral King, the story of Beulah' by Louise Jackson. Her book is available in the Museum gift shop.*

A colorful figure of the Three Rivers, South Fork of the Kaweah and the Mineral King areas was this man: a bachelor, preacher, prospector and miner. One landmark with his name he left behind; Clough's Cave on the South Fork of the Kaweah River. [Ed. the door to the cave is our artifact of the month for January and is in the museum.]

This cave he discovered and opened up and in the early days was one of the trips the people of the valley always loved to take on horseback. It was he who conducted the funeral for my father in June, 1891. He was a deeply religious man, but don't for a moment think any one could bluff this man in any manner. For instance, once Professor Dean, another determined character, tried to put Bill out of a cabin in Mineral King. Bill just sat down in a chair and told Dean not to bother him. Dean went on his way and did not disturb Clough as Bill said he was reading his Bible and did not wish to be disturbed.

Clough was not easily provoked but once riled up, he was a man to leave alone. On one occasion, a man by the name of Red Phillips called him a vile name. Bill just hauled off and knocked him flat on his back and walked away. On discussing the matter with another man, he said he was not mad but just wanted to teach Phillips a lesson.

On another occasion at Atwells Mill when the employees and families and friends had him preach a sermon, the young men got him to preach from the edger table of the mill. This table was on rollers and as Bill got along with his sermon, they pulled the table and Bill took a fall; but he just got up and never missed a word.

Bill and some of his friends had mining claims in Mineral King; the "Annie Fox", the "Lady Franklin", and several others, the names of which have slipped from my memory. About 1904, he had me help him with the assessments on his and other peoples' claims in Mineral King. We would pack our camp outfit from one claim to the other as we finished the work on each campers' claim. Our first camp was in Franklin Canyon, or what if I am not mistaken, was the Lady Franklin. When I first went to his camp he had a stew cooking. After I had eaten quite a supper, I asked him where he got his beef. To this he replied, "It ain't beef, it's bear meat."

From there we packed over the mountains to the lower Monarch Lake and worked on a claim on the south side of Saw Tooth belonging to Lud Chambers of Visalia. We made our camp under a big boulder at the lake. this claim was a silver and lead claim.

One amusing incident took place there when we got ready to leave and pack up over the cliffs to the Empire. On Sundays we did not work; for this reason I had time to roam the mountains. I had discovered where the water entered a cavern and came out further down. As this was along the route we took to get to the Empire when we got to where it was, I told Bill to stay on the trail as I wanted to go in the hole and see if there was a cave. Well, I had entered the small opening and crawled some distance when I heard Bill say from the entrance, "I'm coming in, too." "Don't try it," I warned him, "because you are so much larger than I and you will get stuck in the opening." As I knew he would try it anyway, I retracted my forward progress and as I got to the opening, there was Bill, stuck in the entrance. We finally succeeded in getting out. I might add that it took quite an effort to accomplish this feat.

Continued on page two.....



**Editor's Corner**



Tom Marshall

2014 was a busy year for us and 2015 is shaping up to be even bigger.

Last year the board decided to make all yearly memberships due on July 1st, so we sent out prorated invoices to bring everyone up to July 1, 2015. We have received many of them back and would like to hear from those of you that have forgotten that invoice. The museum is growing bigger and better each year which also means the operating expenses go up. The Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and that means we operate on dues and donations.

I think the Board of Director's and the docents have done a great job at making our Museum a big part of our community but it can only continue to happen with your help.

So, look in that stack of non-profit donation request letters and put ours right on top. Remember, any donation or membership fee is tax deductible.

**CLOUGH'S CAVE STORY, CONTINUED**

We continued working his claims for many years and along in the nineteen twenties he also had an agreement with the Edison electric company to close the valves on the storage lakes in Mineral King as he was always the last man to leave.

I am not sure about the date, but when Bill failed to show up in the late fall, a nephew, Ike Putman, Dan Maxon, and I went in to try and find him. We went through all of his diggings, but could not locate him. We found a diary which said that he had closed the Eagle Lake valves on November 2; but that was the end of the diary. As the snow was too deep to do much worthwhile exploring, we gave up for then. Later, two of my brothers and Tom Maulbach went in and found his clothes, watch and other articles on the Lady Franklin Lake trail, but no trace of him. This has remained a mystery to this day. No one ever knew how he died or what became of his remains.

Yes, Bill was a great, dominating man with a great character. He had many peculiar ways, true. But, he was always willing to help his fellow man and would go a long way to do a kind deed. If ever a man deserved a place in the great beyond, Heaven, it is Bill Clough.

*[The following spring, another search party did, indeed, find the remains and some clothing of what was believed to be Bill Clough. It was thought he probably died of heart failure.]*

**THE COOK BOOK IS COMING WITH YOUR RECIPE**

It's time for a good old fashion cook book but this one will have the history of each recipe with it and will include some history on Three Rivers.



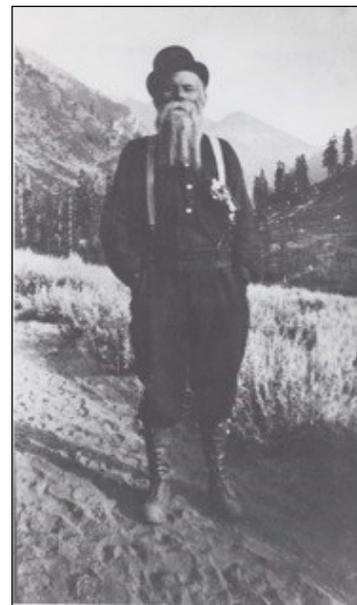
Original recipe's past down through the family is what we are looking for.

**Original family recipe's only.**

Listed below is the recipe information we need.

- ◆ Recipe Title
- ◆ Measurements & Ingredients
- ◆ Cooking Instructions
- ◆ History of Recipe  
Tell us about who originated it and when.
- ◆ Name of person in family that started the recipe.
- ◆ Your name, Address, Phone, Email

*The door to Clough's Cave is our artifact of the month for January*



## MUSEUM HOSTS TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF VIPS

The Volunteers in Patrol (VIPs) with the Tulare County Sheriff Department who live in Three Rivers hold their monthly meeting at the Museum. They are informed of activities in the County at-large and are brought up to date with the needs of our community by the Deputy assigned to Three Rivers.

You may have seen the VIPs driving the Sheriff Department truck which is usually parked at the Comfort Inn for convenience. VIPs create their own patrolling schedules, and serve as extra eyes and ears for the officers, sharing valuable information about our communities.

Specifically in Three Rivers, VIPs do house checks when a home may be vacant for a time as requested. Forms are available in the Post Office lobby, and are mailed to Box 9-1-1. In addition, they are often seen at community events, acting as support for safety personnel, and may be called out in case of an emergency or to do traffic control as needed.

Many of our VIPs also patrol in the county and are scheduled through Headquarters. Department mail is delivered, vehicles are relayed and other tasks or requests that do not need sworn officers are handled.

Another great service is PROJECT LIFESAVER. This is a free safety program provided by the Tulare County Sheriff Department. It is designed to locate missing persons who may wander away, and provides a feeling of peace of mind to caregivers.

People who may benefit from this free safety program are those with special needs such as autism, Down's syndrome, dementia/ Alzheimer's or other developmental disorders.

When someone needs PROJECT LIFESAVER, our Sheriff volunteer team arranges all the details. A radio transmitter is placed on the client. This radio sends out a special frequency every second, 24 hours a day. If the client wanders away and can't be located by the caregiver in the immediate area, one phone call to 9-1-1 reporting the client's radio frequency and details about where the client was last seen, starts the process for a search. The client is usually found within 45 minutes!

Consider being part of this support team for our



community as a VIP! Anyone over 21, in good health, with a clean police record can apply. For more information go to:

[www.tularecounty.ca.gov.sheriff](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov.sheriff). Click on Recruitment...Volunteer Programs...Forms & Applications. Or phone (559)735-1825. You can also ask any VIP you see around town. They are easy to spot when they are on duty. They wear a white shirt with ID, black pants and shoes, and these days, usually a black jacket with the Sheriff's badge emblem on the sleeve!

Being a VIP truly can make the difference between life and death for someone. YOU can make a difference!

Yard Sale

### Community Yard Sale

Saturday June 6th 8am-4pm

at the Museum

We wanted to give you plenty of time to clean out that garage, attic or whatever you have.

\$10.00 will hold your space



**THREE RIVERS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Three Rivers Historical  
Society & Museum**

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Here's your  
January  
February  
2015  
Newsletter



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**Artifact of the Month, January 2015**

**Clough's Cave Door**



Stop by the museum and see the door to Clough's Cave. While here check out our gift shop for more information on the cave, Three Rivers history, and more.



**Artifact of the Month, February 2015**

**Porcelain Heater**



On the right is a porcelain heater and on the left is a steel version of the heater. They both would put out a lot of heat using kerosene oil.