When Annie Haskell moved with her husband and son to the Kaweah Colony in the fall of 1889, it was with high hopes for the success of the colony. Like her husband Burnette, Annie subscribed to many of the more radical political ideas of her day, one of which was women’s suffrage. She enjoyed the vote as well as other freedoms the Kaweah Colony gave women, but she sometimes shocked Tulare County residents by riding horseback in pantaloons, seated astride, by smoking small cigars, and by occasionally cussing.

Annie Haskell usually spoke her mind, a trait we find admirable today, but which was not often appreciated in women in the nineteenth century. Yet her sarcasm is diffused with wit, and her letters to family members as well as the diary she kept tell us a good deal about the Kaweah Colony.

Despite her hatred of housework and her desire for privacy, Annie had helped to support her home in San Francisco by reluctantly keeping boarders, usually her husband’s friends and family. The tent cabin at Kaweah was too small to hold boarders, affording Annie the first opportunity for privacy since her marriage seven years before, and she wrote home of the lovely city with “white wings,” Camp Advance. Housework at Kaweah was more arduous, however, and Annie wrote of days spent canning, washing, and trying to plant and water the garden needed to supply food. These efforts were not always successful, and Annie’s family frequently had to send boxes of food as well as clothing.

Alternately frustrated by subsuming her ambitions to her husband’s and filled with admiration for him she chafed under wifely duties. When Burnette, on business in Tulare, wrote to request some clean shirts, she replied that the two he had taken with him should suffice just “as one in about three weeks does (him) in San Francisco.”

her own independence, as well as Burnette’s frequent absence, was the subject of gossip in the colony, and she wrote home in September 1891 that “I heard from the city that I am going to get a divorce!”

The Haskell family was eventually ostracized from other colonists, but Annie kept abreast of colony meetings, writing home weekly of the “circus” and the “fighting a la Kilkenny Cats.” Gradually, she took as temporary boarders other families that were in conflict with the colony leadership.

As the colony disbanded, the supplies were difficult to obtain, she wrote: “A diet of drybread and potatoes and apple sauce isn’t conducive to a great “sic” view of life.” In October 1891, she wrote from Arcady to her mother in San Francisco: “the colony as a colony seems to be on its last legs. I am essentially and thoroughly disgusted with it...it has been done to death by a lot of incompetents.” Despite these words, her wit helped her through the difficult times, and she wrote: “I am afraid that some of the colonists who have acquired corns from sitting down so much may have to go to work.”

Annie was not a person who looked back to the past; she closed each year “with a kick” and greeted the new with cautious optimism. When her marriage ended in 1896, Annie supported herself and her son Astaroth by teaching school in northern California, an occupation she continued for the next 23 years. She remained close to her husband’s family, and wrote in her diary until her death in 1942. Therein lies a fascinating portrait of an independent woman.

Did You Know!

That you can read all (well most) of our newsletters on line at www.3rmuseum.org

Then click on the newsletter tab

We have them back to 2008 and will add more as we scan.
Several people have asked how the public restroom project is coming along, so I thought I would bring everyone up to date.

Shortly after Kuyler Crocker was voted in as our new District 1 Supervisor, we contacted him regarding public restrooms in Three Rivers. From that first meeting the wheels starting turning with a lot of meetings with county officials about the possibility leading up to this July.

- July 2018 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted to set aside $250,000 for public restrooms. It was a yes vote from all supervisors.
- Before and after the July vote we worked on the written agreement between the Three Rivers Historical Society and Tulare County. It needed to be handled correctly and so we contacted Dennis Villavicencio to work through the pages and pages of document that the County first presented to us for review. It was worth it. The County Counsel and our Board of Directors agreed with the final draft.
- The major parts of the agreement were for both sides to take part in the project. Tulare County will build the restrooms on Museum property, working with our board at the design that will coincide with the design of our large barn that will be placed in front of the restroom building after its completion. The maintenance of the restrooms will be the responsibility of the Historical Society with “full support” from the business community and the community at large. The Historical Society will be contracting for this work.
- In early August the agreement went back to the full Board of Supervisors, they all voted yes to the agreement and it was locked in to have public restrooms in Three Rivers.
- Now the selection of a contractor to build the restrooms is in the hands of the county. The architect working our barn project is also the architect working with the county.
- Construction to begin in late December or early January with ‘hopefully’ completion in May or June 2019. Once completed ownership of the building will be turned over to the Historical Society.
- When construction starts we will have a ground breaking event and would like all of Three Rivers to join us in celebrating the “Royal Flush.”
- While the contractor selection is being done by the county there are a few things that need to be put in prior to construction.

Water System
- In my newsletters over the past year or so I have talked about our current water system, our high levels of iron in the water and the age of the system. We currently are still under a ‘boil’ water for drinking situation but that is about to change.
- In addition to replacing our current water system we have to think about the requirements for the public restrooms and the barn, in addition to the Bequette House and the main museum building.
- In 1995 Janine Chilcott owned the Bequette Property that the house and barn locations sit on. She had a well dug to 505 feet with good water found at 265 feet. Because her vision of a rest stop did not go through, the well sat until we found it in 2017.
- We are working with designs and requirements to have this well provide all the locations on the museum property with fresh water. The current well will be used for fire suppression and disconnected from the system.
- Like the restroom project, we have gathered officials from the state and county to meet on site to work together and solve any questions that come up.
- You will start seeing construction work for the water system in October, followed by the restroom construction.

Come And Be Inspired

California Native-American Days
September 25-26-27, 2018
Field classroom instruction for 4th grade students

Every September we host this event with the Owens Valley Career Development Center of Visalia, with 3 days of instruction on life for the Native-Americans in our area before the settlers arrived. At 10 different stations around the Museum property the students learn various customs, language, basket weaving, games and more. All instruction is done by Native-Americans.

This year we have 655—4th graders coming from 9 different schools including Visalia, Kingsburg, Woodlake, Lemon Cove and of course Three Rivers.

Stop by between 9:30-11:30 or 12:30-2:30, observe and be inspired the way that we have and realize why we host this event as part of our educational programs.
THE MINING CONNECTION:
A CALL FOR ARTIFACTS
A special request from Louise Jackson
and the
Mineral King Preservation Society

A developing new outdoor display on the west side of the Three Rivers Museum building is all about the long history of mining in the Kaweah River area. That history includes prospecting and mining for gold, silver, copper, and tungsten in the Three Rivers foothills, as well as in Mineral King. If you have artifacts gathered from our local “diggings”, it would be wonderful to have them donated or loaned for the display. For more information, call the museum, 559-561-2707 or Louise Jackson, 559-561-3367. Or send an e-mail to mkpreserve@gmail.com.

Hot Dog Festival
2018

Friday, cleaning corn with the NPS crew, then 10am Saturday the folks starting coming and coming.

Of course we had to have our Tulare County Dist 1 Supervisor, Kayler Crocker and our County Fire Chief, Charlie Norman on hand to help the volunteer firefighters cook.

This is what it is all about!

Drive Thru BBQ

Saturday
October 6, 2018
4pm-7pm
At the Museum

Fund Raiser for Museum and Three Rivers Volunteer Firefighters

And the winner is! CALFIRE crew won the prestige's bucket brigade competition and will keep the trophy until next year.

Save The Date and join us
Saturday
July 13, 2019
House Cleaning

Many items in our gift shop have been reduced up to 50%

Stop by and check out our discount table

Lidabelle Wylie
Sculptures & Paintings on sale

Shop in the Museum Or
On-line at

https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum

IMPORTANT DATES

NATIVE-AMERICAN DAYS
September 25-26-27 for 4th grade students
Public Welcome To Observe

1ST SATURDAY IN THE MUSEUM
October 6, 2018 9am to 7pm
Special Hours during our Drive Thru BBQ

DRIVE THRU BBQ DINNER NIGHT
October 6, 2018 4pm-7pm
Fund Raiser for Museum and Three Rivers Firefighters

1ST SATURDAY IN THE MUSEUM
November 3, 2018 9am to 7pm

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
November 17, 9am-
Veteran's Memorial Building

FESTIVAL OF TREES
November 28, 3:00pm Preview
November 29, 5:00pm, dinner & auction

1ST SATURDAY IN THE MUSEUM
December 1, 2018 9am to 3pm

COMMUNITY CAROLING at the MUSEUM
December 1, 2018, 5pm-7pm