William Alston Hayne III
Submitted by Bev Skinner

I'm saddened to report the death of Alston Hayne on November 14, 2015 – he was the great grandson of William Sr. and Sarah Bourn – and enjoyed visiting our Park many times. I’m including a link to his obituary that was in the Napa Valley Register shortly after his death:

http://m.napavalleyregister.com/news/local/obituaries/william-alston-hayne/article_7a3ab126-d3e2-5f7e-b854-69143a8fee1a.html?mobile_touch=true

A memorial service for Alston was held on Saturday, January 16, at the Grace Episcopal Church in St. Helena where he'd been an active member.

The last time we were honored by a visit from him was at our Miners Picnic in 2012 when he spent most of the day with us. You might recall the photo above of Alston that was taken in Katie’s sitting room at the Cottage that day and was printed in the Empire Star in the October, 2012 issue. The other photo was taken that same day – with our very own VIPs, Jean and Dave McKeen. This same photo includes Christine Gorelick who accompanied Alston that day and became his second wife in 2014. Christine, by the way, is the one who contacted me in November regarding Alston’s death and again this month about the memorial service. They have been living in the “Red Cottage” – on the grounds of the former Madrono estate which Bourn, Sr. purchased for his wife, Sarah, after the birth of their fifth and last child, Maud – who was Alston’s maternal grandmother.

Alston and his deceased brother, F. Francis, always felt “connected” to EMSHP and its activities, and were always willing to assist us with our interpretive efforts. Alston, by the way, is the one who donated some of the Bourn ladies’ dresses to the Park a number of years ago. As I understand the story, the dresses were divided, at some point, between Alston and Francis, and Alston eventually donated his to the Park. Francis’ daughter, Sarah Simpson, who was in contact with me back in February, 2014, is the “holder” of her father’s share.
A HOLIDAY VISIT TO FILOLI  
by Lynne Buenz

Most (if not all) volunteers at Empire know about the special activities that take place the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. “Holidays at Empire” attracts many visitors to the Park, and, as reported in the November/December issue of this newsletter, this past year was no exception.

“Down the hill” some distance, another property once owned by William Bourn, Jr., and his wife Agnes, also hosts a special event beginning at this time. “Holiday Traditions” at Filoli was held this past year from November 27 through December 5. It is an annual major fundraiser for this beautiful historical site, which is now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Before moving to Nevada County in 2006, I lived for many years in the San Francisco Bay Area, across the Bay from Woodside where Filoli is located. Despite being fairly close, and despite hearing many times about how beautiful the gardens are in the spring, I never made the opportunity to visit. Of course, before moving here, I did not know about the “Bourn Connection.” When an opportunity arose right after Thanksgiving this past year, I “jumped” at the opportunity to go with some friends. It did not disappoint.

Each year, Filoli volunteers remove most of the furnishings from the main floor of the house. Vendors, both from the Bay Area and beyond, then set up tables/booths displaying a vast variety of both handcrafted as well as manufactured specialty wares. The kitchen and pantry areas are filled with edible holiday “goodies,” as well as gourmet kitchen-themed items, all for sale. Lavishly decorated Christmas trees as well as wreaths are found throughout the premises, and all decorations are also for sale.

Live music is also featured as part of this special event. This past year, in a section of the spectacular ballroom, a seated audience enjoyed a piano concert featuring holiday music. I have no idea how many people were there the day I visited; I can only say the rooms were literally filled with people, all enthusiastically shopping and having a great time.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to talk with a couple of Filoli volunteers, who graciously invited me to return at another time, especially in the spring. I plan to accept that invitation!
FINALLY, A “WINTER”

by Ranger Greg Sherr

Yes, it is raining at Empire Mine, and we are getting much needed precipitation this year!

At Empire Mine SHP, we are looking ahead to our annual docent training. Our “meet and greet” at Empire Mine for prospective docents is on Saturday, February 27, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The purpose of this “meet and greet” is to introduce prospective volunteers to the many facets of volunteer opportunities at Empire Mine SHP. This year, we are looking for additional volunteers who are enthusiastic, team-oriented and willing to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per month. If anyone is interested in becoming part of our amazing team of volunteers, please contact me at (530) 273-8522. The “meet and greet” is not mandatory for those thinking about volunteering at Empire Mine, but is recommended for people who are wondering about volunteer opportunities at the Park.

People interested in signing up as an Empire Mine volunteer are first required to fill out a volunteer application. Volunteer applications can be found at the Empire Mine Visitor Center front desk and should be given to front desk staff or mailed directly to Empire Mine, c/o Ranger Greg Sherr. In addition, State Park volunteer applications can be downloaded from the State Parks website, www.parks.ca.gov. Within this website, go to “Jobs” and then “Volunteers” to find the application. I will talk to those interested in becoming a volunteer at Empire Mine and schedule each prospective docent for training. The first volunteer training is offered March 11, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. and March 12, 9 – 1 p.m. at Empire Mine SHP. The second option is March 18, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. and March 19, 9 – 1 p.m. at Empire Mine SHP. People wishing to volunteer at Empire Mine SHP, South Yuba River SP or Malakoff Diggins SHP are required to go through one of the two-day options listed above.

I am looking forward to talking to prospective docents and adding new voices, ideas and energy to our amazing group of volunteers at Empire Mine SHP!

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JOB WELL DONE: A THANK YOU

Some time ago, the following letter was received at the Park:

Dear Volunteers,

We are writing to thank you for the fabulous tour we took yesterday at the Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley. This is the first time we have ever written a note about a tour; however, we felt we must communicate our thanks and compliment the volunteers on their program. It was informative, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable! Our tour guide, Dan, and his compatriot, Blair, really made history come alive. We are proud to think visitors can learn about our State’s past through your outstanding presentations. Thanks again.

Tonia and Herb Hughes
Please Take Note!
Submitted by Bev Skinner

The most “under-read” parts of the Empire Star would seem to be the very handy “directories” that appear on the last two pages of each issue. Take a good look at them please!

On the first of those two pages (either page 7 or 9 depending on the length of that particular issue) you’ll find a listing of all the Coordinators at the Park – with the names of those Coordinators along with their phone numbers and email addresses as well. And then on the following page (either page 8 or 10), there is a listing of the EMPA Board members plus committee chairs and other appointed individuals.

Many of you, I know, keep and file all issues of our newsletter so you’ll always have access to this information – but, if you don’t keep them, I’d suggest that at some point you keep those two pages with other phone lists or the like.

The EMPA Board is relatively stable once the calendar year gets started, but other positions change periodically as responsibilities are shifted to others. As Publisher, Lynne Buenz tries to keep these lists up-to-date, but sometimes has no way of knowing about changes unless one of “you” lets her know. Remember, it’s “our” newsletter, so please try to assist Lynne whenever you have a correction, an addition, an idea, or even just a comment – constructive criticism is always welcome.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, January 19 and Tuesday, February 16—9:30 am
EMPA Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 21 and Thursday, February 18—10:00 am
Coordinators Meeting

February 27—11:00 am—1:00 pm
“Meet and Greet” for Prospective Docents

Friday-Saturday, March 11-12
March 18-19
NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

We recently received an e-mail from former docent Sandra Berry. She, along with Karen Krenovsky and Lynne Gaunt, also “fellow” docents, were involved with Cottage Living History before moving to Lincoln Hills a few years ago. Sandra writes that all of them are involved with various activities “too numerous to mention,” and that they still enjoy opportunities to “talk up the Empire Mine and tell how much we loved being docents in the Cottage.” Sandra and Karen have both given presentations on the Empire Mine to the Antiques and Genealogy Clubs at Lincoln Hills. Sandra added that they are often asked about the best time to visit the Park to see docents in costume in the Cottage, and that several times a year there are bus trips from Lincoln Hills to Grass Valley and Nevada City.

Brand New EMSHP Stoneware Mugs Now Available

Submitted by Jennifer Greenfield, Coordinator for the Gift Shop

There’s something brand new in our EMPA Gift Shop – stoneware mugs that have been made especially for us by a U. S. company. There are four different styles/colors to choose from – so you and three of your closest friends can enjoy coffee (or tea – or hot chocolate – your choice) together and you’ll not get your mugs mixed up! They’d make great gifts as well.

Come in and shop for these and other unique items.
FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST
Smoke Clears North Star of Rat Tenants

Blaze Holding Possibilities of Catastrophe Was Controlled by Fast, Expert Work

North Star mine operations are quickly winning back to that normal status of routine development, following the recent fire on the 8600 level and the suspension of operations for several days while the mine fire was fought and the property cleared of smoke. The mill was also tied up during the period of fire troubles but is again operating at near normal pace.

The fire at the North Star was the first in the experience of General Manager F.W. Nobs and he gives full credit to the prevention of a major disaster to the safety teams of the North Star, Pennsylvania, Empire, and Murchie mines, who fought the fire with their gas equipment until every spark had been flooded.

The blaze was confined to a relatively small section of the mine, being localized in a drift and raise, but had elements of inflicting major damage on the property.

Loss of life in the fire was held to three mine mules and several score of rats who were unable to escape the oxygen-lacking gas.

Daily Morning Union, 19 Mar 1936, Pg. 4, Col. 2

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GETTING YOUR MONEY’S WORTH
Submitted by Lynne Buenz

It’s a new year, and time once again to renew your membership in the Empire Mine Park Association (also known as EMPA). (Unless, of course, you are one of many Lifetime Members). Your investment in EMPA is one of the best bargains around. In addition to receiving this newsletter, your membership entitles you to a 10% discount in the Gift Shop. Even more importantly, however, your membership ensures that EMPA can continue to meet its primary goal of providing support to the Empire Mine State Historic Park. An important part of that support involves making the Park safer, more comfortable, and more interesting by adding new educational and historic attractions. Making such improvements requires vision, dedication and, of course, financial backing.

One such project was the paved walkways found in the grounds near the Visitors Center, Empire Cottage and the Clubhouse. Also, as noted in a recent newsletter, EMPA played an important part in financing the Empire Cottage reroofing project. Work is underway to reconstruct and add a two-stamp mill in the mineyard for visitors to experience, as well as an authentic Cornish Pump – the latter were used to keep water out of the underground mine shafts prior to the days when electrically powered pumps were introduced.

Current membership dues are: Lifetime, $200; Supporting, $50 a year; and Individual, Family, Student or Senior, $20 a year. EMPA also welcomes general donations or donations for specific projects. More information can be found on the EMPA website at www.empiremine.org/projects. Membership dues and donations are all tax deductible.

Membership can be renewed using Paypal by completing the form online at www.empiremine.org/membership, or you may send a check to the Park (payable to EMPA in the desired amount), attention: Margi Nielsen, EMPA Membership Chair. The mailing address is 10791 East Empire Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

The automobile sheds were up against the rock wall. Someone had knocked a hole in the wall for a passage to the mine yard. In 1952 there was so much snow that you couldn't drive into the mine yard.

You couldn't park in the sheds because there was about four feet of snow in front of the sheds so you just parked anywhere. That went on for about a month when the snow was all packed down.

We went out one day and drove about ten feet when the car got stuck. They had to send a caterpillar tractor over from the North Star to pull all the cars out. We didn't get home until about 9 or 10 that night.

From an interview of Clarence “Lightning” Thomas, Machinist, and Blacksmith. Interview date: 1/9/83.

The lead man in the blacksmith shop was Buck Jones. What Old Buck didn't know about blacksmithing hadn't been written.

We used to have to take the mill stamps from the 80 stamp mill and repair them. Occasionally they would break. We would save the pieces. Every 2 or 3 months we would take these pieces of shafting which were about 25 feet long and 5 or 6 inches in diameter and get the ends real hot.

All hands would get hold of the shaft, put them under the big air hammer and pound these into the straight long shaft that was repaired for the use down in the stamp mill. Old Buck Jones would oversee the whole operation.

The preceding recollections are believed to be true; however, we are relying on the memory of the individual who had such a recollection.
NEW PEOPLE HELPING WITH THE EMPIRE STAR

Submitted by Bev Skinner

Several of you answered my plea for a replacement for Evelyn Allison who has so graciously and dependably processed the newsletter for those still receiving it via the U.S. Mails. She has generously donated her time for over two years, but would like to turn over her stamps, labels, and seals to someone else so she can meet new challenges. Thanks from all of us, Evelyn!

Frank Herwatt was the first to contact me about taking on this job and he assumed those responsibilities for this current issue that you’re now reading. Thanks to Frank too – we appreciate his willingness to help out!

For those of you who also volunteered, I’ve filed your names for the future. I appreciate your willingness too!

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IT WORKED!

Submitted by Bev Skinner

As you read in the above article, it was an article in the Empire Star that prompted Frank – and others – to contact me about making a commitment to help in a specific way. So – you might keep that in mind when another “opportunity” arises for one or more of our VIPs to take on a new challenge!

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And Yet another Change...

Submitted by Lynne Buenz

This issue marks the last time that Bev Skinner will serve as Editor of this newsletter, a task she took on several years ago when a volunteer was needed. Bev’s keen proofreading eye, her “way with words,” and her desire to make the newsletter the best it could be have served all of us well. Her help has been invaluable to me during my “breaking-in” period of the last two months as Publisher.

Beginning with the March 2016 issue, I will assume the dual roles of Editor/Publisher. While I have worked with newsletters in the past, I am new to producing them with Microsoft Publisher. I am looking forward to this new challenge, and ask for your help and support.

LYNNE BUENZ

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*Empire Star Editorial Policy* — All articles submitted for publication become the property of the Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) and, as such, are subject to editing and/or other modification. In addition, articles may NOT be published the same month they are submitted due to space limitations.
Empire Mine State Park
Volunteer Coordinators

**Interpretative Coordinators**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tour Guides</td>
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<td>271-0126</td>
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<td>School Tour Guides</td>
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<td>School Tour Guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottage Living History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Living History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mine Yard Stations</td>
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**Administrative Coordinators**

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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Trails</td>
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Note: Changes in directory listings on this and the following page should be sent to Lynne Buenz, Publisher, at la_buenz@hotmail.com

www.empiremine.org
Empire Mine Park Association

Thanks to these folks for taking the lead in making the Empire Mine State Historic Park such a unique and enjoyable experience!

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Director, Sean Gilleran / 477-1700 / sgilleran@hiexgrassvalley.com
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Director, Margi Nielsen / 273-8241 / margi.nielsen@gmail.com

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THE EMPIRE STAR

This Newsletter is a Cooperative venture between the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Empire Mine Park Association.

On the web at www.empiremine.org