

Johnsville Historical Society



A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to Preserving the
Gold-Mining History of Johnsville, California

Spring–Summer 2023 Newsletter



See the Last Page for Details About our Special Fundraising Antique Sale



Overview Unseen

Poem by David Daun

Tall white rectangular wooden building
Topped with pointed steel-clad covering
It sheltered our hardy immigrant miner folk
With much needed peaceful and spiritual hope
Through long mountain winters it stood in heavy snow
Noticed from above where only birds do go
It's walls have witnessed all forms of gathering
And still, community celebrates fellowship within.



Images on page 1: Items in the Johnsville Historical Society collection. Above, a drone photo of the Johnsville Historical Society headquarters taken in the summer of 2022, Johnsville, California.



A Look Back: Johnsville's Catholic Church

by David Daun

Catholic residents of Johnsville started building their church (pictured at right) in the summer of 1899 and completed it in 1900. A priest from the church in Downieville rode a mule for more than 40 miles over the mountains to Johnsville every other week to say mass in the church, which was in use until the early 1920s, when the mines started closing and townspeople began relocating throughout California.



Today, the rebuilt church serves as the headquarters for the nonprofit Johnsville Historical Society, which bought the building from the Catholic archdiocese in Sacramento (see the building as it looks today on the previous page). When I and other Johnsville residents and visitors were restoring the church, we discovered an up-turned iron horseshoe embedded in the front-left corner of the building—perhaps to bring a little extra good luck to the miners and their families.

Photo by Richard White, 1901; negatives courtesy of the John I. MacGregor Collection.



Johnsville Historical Society Membership

We wouldn't be able to continue our volunteer work at the nonprofit Johnsville Historical Society (JHS) without your subscription fees to help cover project expenses. Membership is open to the public—and gift memberships are available. To join or renew your annual membership, please send a check made out to JHS, along with your name and email address, to:

Johnsville Historical Society
PO Box 1458
Graeagle, California 96103

Annual membership fees:

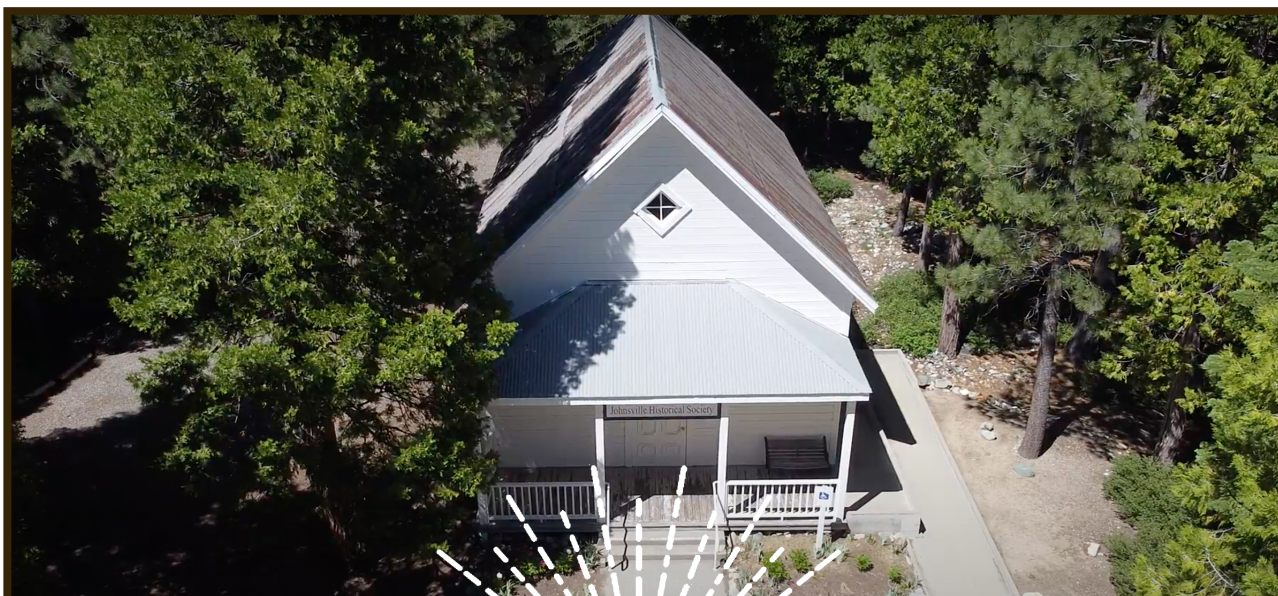
- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Patron
- \$150 Business
- \$250 Founder



If you'd like to give the gift of membership to a family member or friend, please send a check to JHS, along with the gift recipient's name and email address. Tax-free donations are also welcome. For more information, please email Kathy Osher or Katie Agnew at johnsvillegold@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Johnsville Historical Society Board Members

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ Kathy Osher, President | ▪ Bruce MacGregor, Board Member |
| ▪ Katie Agnew, Board Member | ▪ Don Moulds, Board Member |
| ▪ David Daun, President Emeritus | ▪ Mary Nejedly Piepho, Secretary |
| ▪ Rebecca Forée, Board Member | ▪ Kim Zwick, Board Member |



ANTIQUE SALE!

A Special Fundraiser for the Johnsville Historical Society (JHS)

JHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the gold-mining history of Johnsville, California.

Johnsville Historical Society

Turn right off Main Street at the north end
of Johnsville (look for signage)

Saturday & Sunday

July 15th & 16th, 10am to 3pm

Furniture, linens, rugs, photos, postcards, household items

