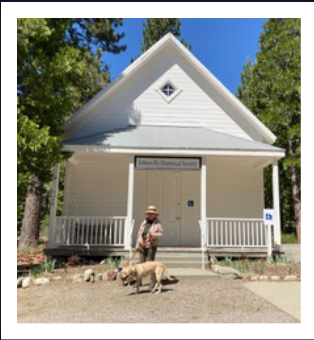


FALL/WINTER 2023.

JOHNSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EST. 1984

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE GOLD-MINING HISTORY OF JOHNSVILLE, CALIFORNIA



ANTIQUE SALE: A SUCCESSFUL JHS FUNDRAISER

More than \$3,000 was raised at the JHS summer antique sale; the proceeds will help maintain the church. p. 5

THE 1878 MOHAWK STAMP MILL

Conservation of two damaged drawings suggests they're the original working drawings of Plumas-Eureka State Park's historic stamp mill. p. 6

THE LAGOMARSINO FAMILY: WHICH GIUSEPPE WAS IT?

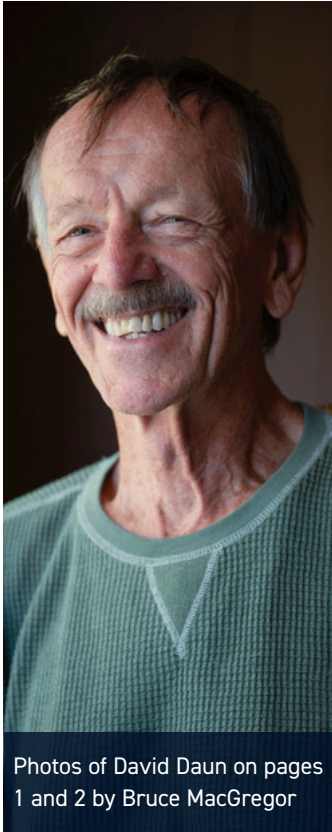
More than 100 years ago, two men named Giuseppe Lagomarsino lived in Johnsville. What are the odds? p. 4

Remembering David Daun: 1938 to 2023

Never one to see a historic building fall into decay, David Daun generated interest in saving St. John's Church in Johnsville. The town pulled together and in 1984 the Johnsville Historical Society was established as a nonprofit organization, with the goal of restoring the church. p. 2



REMEMBERING DAVID DAUN: 1938 TO 2023



David Daun grew up in rural Wisconsin, where his greatest joy was spending time on his grandparents' 640-acre dairy farm. This is where David's sense of colors and shapes and his love of nature began. Whether it was the colorful pattern of the farmhouse bedroom wallpaper, the enormity of the barn timbers, the aromas of soups simmering on the woodstove, the hanging buckets on the trees for maple syrup, or painting the white picket fence, these magical moments were formative for him.

David graduated from high school in 1956 and, after a two-year assignment in the army, he was ready for bigger life adventures. He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1958. A summer study abroad program landed him in Grasleben, Germany, as an apprentice in the building trade. Upon arrival, his host family thought biking through Germany would yield a better education for a young man, so they bought him a bicycle. David spent that summer cycling around Germany with the host family's son.

When David returned to the U.S. in 1959 for the fall semester, he transferred to the College of William and Mary in Richmond, Virginia. David excelled at this college steeped in tradition and interior design. He received a solid foundation in architecture, color, and period-room and furniture design. With brilliant and talented professors, David rose to the challenges of a rigorous curriculum.

In 1960, a friend invited David to California for the summer. Landing in San Jose felt like paradise to David. The climate, beauty, and architecture of the area was so different and

exciting. He attended San Jose State University and in 1962 received his bachelor's degree from the College of Design, with a focus on interior design. The academics were far superior at the College of William and Mary, but David's practical experiences all happened in California. David was employed by esteemed design firms in Los Gatos and mentored by dealers of fine antiques. It was clear he had a love for anything old—furniture, art, buildings.

A weekend job assignment took David to Berkeley, and the energy of Berkeley in the sixties prompted David to leave his job in Los Gatos. He enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a degree in art (sculpture) in 1965. Berkeley was where all his interests, education, and work experiences gelled. He moved into a Maybeck home in the Berkeley Hills and designed and remodeled old Victorian homes in the surrounding Bay Area.

David's next life-changing experience came in 1975, on a weekend road trip to Plumas County, which included a drive through Johnsville. The old, two-story white Woodward House on Johnsville's Main Street had a For Sale sign nailed to the front door. For David, it was a must-have. He purchased the Woodward House (the historical family home of the Mohawk Stamp Mill's millwright, John Woodward) and started on his largest restoration project. It took him more than 30 years to complete the restoration—and it was a labor of love.

Over the years, many Woodward descendants stopped by and shared their stories and history about the home. Johnsville also became David's home. He put down roots; had a family; built his business, Daun Designs; and cultivated a community of friends and neighbors.

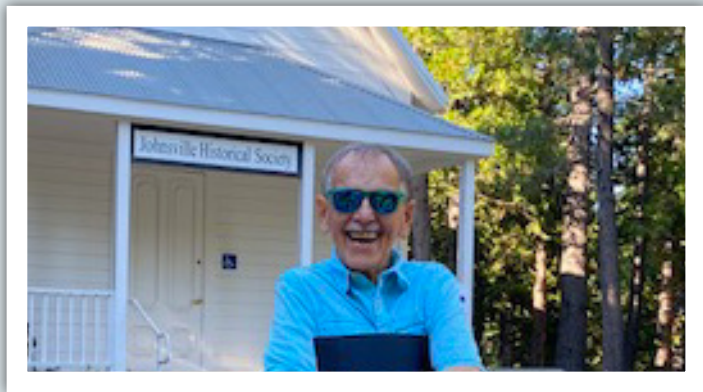
Never one to see a historic building fall into decay, David generated interest in saving St. John's Church in Johnsville. The town pulled together and in 1984 the Johnsville Historical Society was established as a nonprofit organization, with the goal of restoring the church. The church restoration project was completed over several decades, thanks to many volunteers,

endless fundraising efforts, and generous donations of supplies, time, money, and sweat. The beautiful structure stands among the cedars and pines and houses a memorable collection of relics and stories of those who came before.

David's last restoration project was the old Pini House on Arastra Street in Johnsville, which is still being restored by the new owner.

With great joy and love, David resided in Johnsville with his wife, Jane, and daughter, Annie, and his extended family of town residents for more than 40 years. He spent a lifetime re-creating memories of his early life on the farm. He was an excellent cook, an avid baker of desserts, a printmaker, an artist, a historian, a gardener, a builder, a loving husband and father, a generous neighbor, and a kind friend to all.

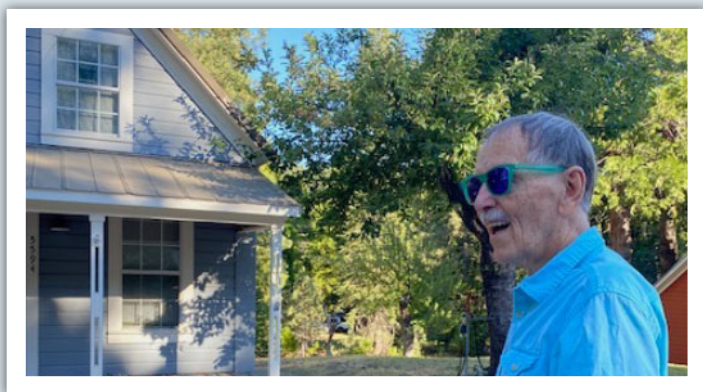
In 2021, an anonymous donor offered the Johnsville Historical Society a matching \$5,000 grant to help raise funds to complete the digitizing project of JHS's historic collection. As an additional incentive for donations, David Daun generously offered the top five donors a historic tour of Johnsville on July 3, 2021. Here are snapshots of David leading that memorable—and what turned out to be his final—tour.



Standing in front of the Johnsville Historical Society's headquarters, David laughed at a local story shared by one of the tour participants. JHS was founded in 1984 by David and his wife, Jane Daun, and other Johnsville residents and friends. The historic structure was previously St. John's Church, and David led the efforts to restore and maintain the historic church for nearly four decades. A commemorative photo of David will soon grace the interior of this building.



The Woodward House is famous for being the residence of George Woodward, the millwright of the Mohawk Stamp Mill, which still stands today in Plumas-Eureka State Park. David and his wife, Jane, bought the house and lived there for four decades while David completely restored the house. They sold it in 2015 and moved to another Johnsville residence on Arastra Street—which was yet another restoration project for David.



David stands in front of the Cuneo House, built in approximately 1880. Maria Cuneo, after being accused by her husband of flirting at a local dance, vowed to never leave her house out of loyalty. After her husband's death 50 years later, Maria took her first steps outside of her yard in 1930. Her story is featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*



David shared details about Johnsville's original firehouse, which stores a horse-drawn carriage. The firehouse was built in 1908 after a fire destroyed most of Johnsville. Decades later, the firehouse was renovated by numerous volunteers with supplies purchased with donated funds. A memorial plaque is posted on the exterior.

THE LAGOMARSINO FAMILY WHICH GIUSEPPE WAS IT?

BY MITCHELL OLSON

In JHS board member Bruce MacGregor's superbly researched and written book, [*Plumas Eureka on Glass*](#), Bruce writes on page 148 about a February 27, 1891, fire in Johnsville and says a Giuseppe Lagomarsino helped extinguish the fire consuming buildings along Main Street.

My wife is a Lagomarisno, and according to her family's history, in approximately 1892 her great-grandfather, Giuseppe Gerlamo Lagomarisno, and his wife Mary (Merlino) Lagomarisno, moved to the area known now known as Johnsville. Giuseppe and Mary had emigrated to the United States from the Genoa area of northern Italy and were married in Amador, California, in 1892. Shortly after they married, they moved to the Johnsville area.

According to Plumas County records, in 1905 Giuseppe and Mary purchased a home at 5462 Arastra Street in Johnsville, which the family's descendants still own to this day (see the photo at right). Giuseppe and Mary had six children who were all born in Johnsville—or "Quartz Township," as the area was known at that time.

Researching our Johnsville family history, I came across a "Johnsville Histories" booklet, volume 1, number 6, dated July 1990. This booklet is a family history of the Lagomarsino family in Johnsville. I read the booklet, looked at the family picture, and realized this was not the Lagomarisno family my wife was descended from. In fact,

it was about another Giuseppe Lagomarisno and his wife Mary and their children. But they also lived in Johnsville!

This second Giuseppe Lagomarisno family had moved from Sonora, California, to Squirrel Creek in 1890. They also had six children, all of whom were also born in Johnsville (a.k.a, Quartz Township). Johnsville School District records from 1903 show that children of both Lagomarisno families attended the school in Johnsville, with Birdena Haun as their teacher.

So, which Giuseppe Lagomarsino was actively trying to fight the fire consuming Johnsville that night?

Based on my research, the Giuseppe Lagomarisno who fought the fire in 1891 was not my wife's great-



The author's Lagomarsino family cabin on Arastra Street in Johnsville today; it was only a two-room home originally.



The Giuseppe Gerlamo Lagomarsino family sitting on the front porch of their Johnsville home: Back row, from left to right, Mary and Rose; front row, Flora, Louis (on lap), Giuseppe, Anna, and Elizabeth; not pictured, daughter Albina. Photo circa 1909.



The second Lagomarsino family in Johnsville: Louisa, Victorine, Giuseppe, Mary, Joseph, Edith, Katherine, and an unidentified family member. Date of photo unknown.

grandfather, Giuseppe Gerlamo Lagomarisno. Rather, it was the Giuseppe Lagomarisno from the Walt and Mary Lagomarisno family line, who had settled in Johnsville before my wife's Lagomarisno family arrived in Johnsville.

Both Lagomarsino families share many historical similarities, as both men came from the Genoa area of Italy. Both first relocated within 30 miles of each other either in Amador County, California, and in Tuolumne County, California. Both Giuseppe's also had relatives living in the area prior to emigrating from Italy. And both relocated their families to Squirrel Creek and then to Johnsville proper. Both also worked at the Jamison Mine. And finally, both Lagomarisno families moved from Johnsville to Oakland, California!

The second Lagomarisno family moved from Johnsville in 1907. Giuseppe Gerlamo Lagomarisno (from the other family) died in Johnsville in 1916, and his surviving wife, Mary, and their six children then moved to Oakland. Oakland is also where my wife's grandfather, Louis Joseph Lagomarisno, had accepted a job: at the Oakland Scavenger Company. Another coincidence: The other Giuseppe Lagomarisno had been instrumental in the founding of the Oakland Scavenger Company.

Were these two Lagomarsino families related? Who knows! Did they know each other? Absolutely. Was the community of Johnsville confused by having two Giuseppe Lagomarisno families at the same time? Who knows! But studying family history can result in an amazing journey, where you learn things you wouldn't believe.

Mitchell Olson is married to Elizabeth Marie (Minton) Olson, great-granddaughter of Giuseppe Gerlamo Lagomarisno.

SOLD! GOLD-MINING ANTIQUES SELL OUT IN JOHNSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

BY KATIE AGNEW

The Johnsville Historical Society's summer antique sale was a great success! Proceeds from the sale totaled \$3,182. Household goods and furniture from Johnsville's heydays were sold, in addition to historical photos, original art of Johnsville buildings, and old postcards, among other items.

The funds will help JHS maintain its headquarters—also known as St. John's Church—and preserve the JHS historical collection. Proceeds from JHS's past antique and rummage sales, along with generous donations from the Thomas J. Long Foundation, funded the church's restoration.

Many thanks to those who assisted with this year's antique sale: Morgan Agnew, Joe Anderson, Colleen McKeown, Mitch Olson, and Kathy Osher schlepped furniture and boxes, set up tables, arranged merchandise, and cleaned up after the sale. Mitch, Colleen, and Joe helped for all 10 hours of the weekend event.

A special shout-out to Kathy MacGregor, who jumped in to help Saturday morning, when we were deluged with shoppers. Also, Brendan O'Reilly came from Quincy to help carry heavy material into the church; Colleen submitted articles to local online newspapers; Joe arranged for new posters for the sandwich-board signs; Morgan posted photos on the Graeagle Classified Facebook page and responded to messages; Mary Piepho shared posts on Facebook; Matthew Agnew-Brackett designed the antique-sale flyer; and Rebecca Forée designed and produced the JHS newsletter.

The community spirit among shoppers, JHS board members, and local residents was fun to see!

Editor's Note: A tip of the editor's cap to Katie Agnew, who stored all the antique-sale items in her Johnsville garage for far longer than was expected; then she marshalled the troops and expertly lead the effort to hold the hugely successful JHS antique sale.

THE MOHAWK STAMP MILL

PROGRESS ON THE WOODWARD DRAWINGS PROJECT

BY BRUCE MACGREGOR

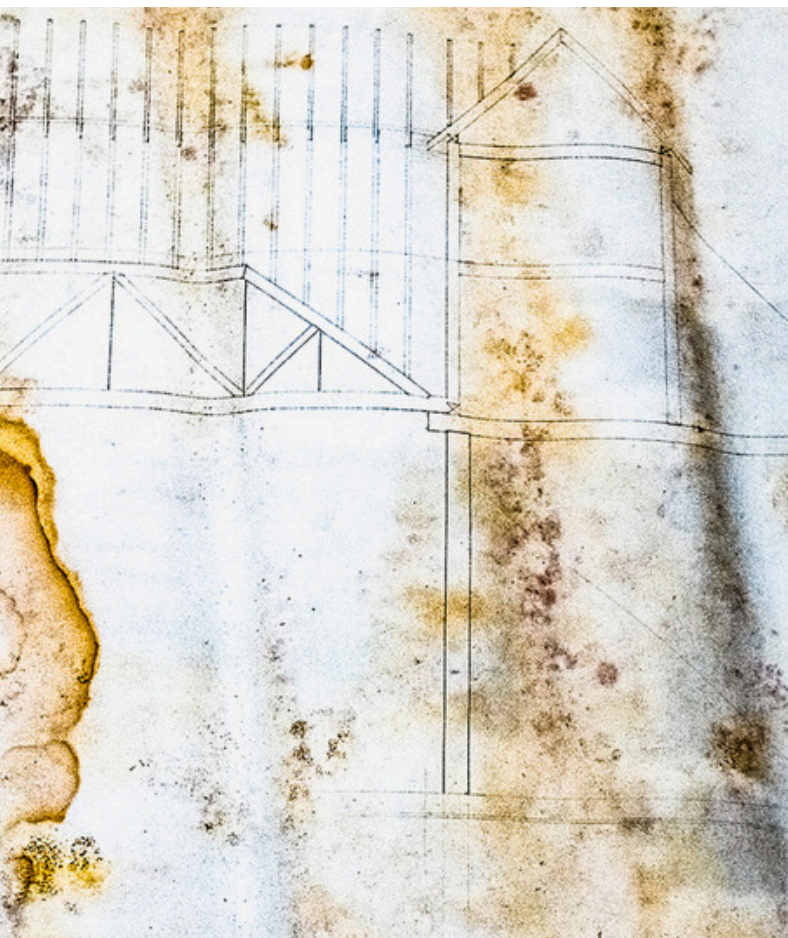
Forty years ago, a set of about 30 mechanical drawings, badly damaged by water and mold, were found in the attic of George Woodward's house in Johnsville. Unlabeled and extremely delicate, the subject of the drawings was difficult to identify. But careful conservation of two drawings completed in January 2022 suggested that Woodward had left behind the original working drawings of the 1878 Mohawk Stamp Mill, the historic centerpiece of today's Plumas-Eureka State Park.

Small sections of the other drawings in the series suggest that more than just the two isolated drawings might be of—or at least related to—the Mohawk Stamp Mill.



Photo by Bruce MacGregor

In July, JHS board member Mitchell Olson surveyed the vast network of interior supports inside the Mohawk Stamp Mill in Plumas-Eureka State Park. Many of these building supports were added by the State of California to prevent a total collapse of the 1878 structure.



Recent analysis reveals the water-damaged Woodward drawing (at left) of a mill and, in the upper-left corner of the drawing, a connecting ore tram. This drawing presents a nearly identical profile of the Mohawk Stamp Mill, shown (at right) in a magnified view of an 1890 photograph.

This summer, thanks to the assistance of Alex Neeb of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation and Mitchell Olson and Kathy Osher of the Johnsville Historical Society (JHS), two important steps were made in identifying the drawings:

- Hands-on measurements of the actual Mohawk Stamp Mill were made and now the dimensions can be compared with at least one of the restored Woodward drawings. Are they the same size? We're still analyzing. Stay tuned!
- And for the first time, the remaining 28 drawings were carefully inspected and photographed, looking for clues about their identity. The tentative result is exciting: 13 additional drawings in the series show clear evidence they portray the framing and interior layout of a large quartz gold mill. Several of these drawings show unmistakable signs that they indeed portray the Mohawk Stamp Mill.

These two developments provide critical evidence that will allow JHS to complete a report of its work on the Woodward drawings, which will be published by the end of the year. A summary report, along with potential future steps for this important collection of documents, will be published in the Fall/Winter 2024 JHS newsletter.



The Mohawk Stamp Mill, circa 1902. Photo by Richard White, courtesy of the John I. MacGregor collection.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL JHS MEMBERSHIP

This is the time of year when JHS memberships are due for renewal. We wouldn't be able to continue our volunteer work without your annual subscription fee to help cover JHS project expenses. Please send a check made out to JHS, along with your name and email address, to:

Johnsville Historical Society
P.O. Box 1458
Graeagle, California 96103

Annual membership fees:

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

If you'd like to give the gift of membership to a family member or friend, please mail a check to JHS along with the gift recipient's name and email address. If you have any membership questions, send an email to JHS at johnsvillegold@gmail.com.

JHS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and all gifts and donations are tax deductible. Thank you. We greatly appreciate your support.





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Kathy Osher, President

Katie Agnew, Board Member

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Johnsville, CA, 1882.
Photo from the Johnsville Historical Society collection.

Newsletter design by Wes Breazell