Named after legendary pioneer, Peter Lassen, Lassen Peak was formed about 27,000 years ago when, within a few years' time, molten rock (magma) rose from an old crater and piled up to a height of over 2,000 feet. Before Lassen Peak formed to become one of the largest lava domes on Earth, a much larger volcano named Brokeoff Volcano existed in Lassen’s volcanic center. This volcano, also known as Mount Tehama, was about the size of today’s Mount St. Helens and had largely eroded away when Lassen Peak emerged. Lassen Peak would continue to take shape during the subsequent ice-age, and as the glaciers receded, volcanic activity would continue in the Lassen region as nearby volcanos such as Cinder Cone and Chaos Crags erupted.
The Lassen Peak eruptions of 1914-1917 were the first volcanic eruptions to occur in the lower 48 states in the 20th Century, and it was the first active mainland volcano ever to be photographed. At an elevation of 10,457 feet above sea level Lassen Peak may appear quiet now, but 100 years ago it belched steam, ash, and rock from its summit and destroyed homesteads as mudflows and flooding inundated Hat Creek Valley at the base of Lassen's northeast slope. This volcanic activity was not lost on the 5,000-6,000 Plumas County residents, or the thousands of others who resided in Northern California. Lassen Peak's numerous, but relatively minor volcanic eruptions captivated the entire country as opportunistic photographers, news reporters, and scientists flocked to the region.

The first eruption occurred on May 30, 1914 in the form of steam explosions. This occurs when rising magma heats groundwater to the point that it becomes pressurized and vents through fissures near the surface. After the initial eruption, steam explosions on Lassen Peak would become a common occurrence and rarely did a week go by without the Plumas National-Bulletin reporting on its status. On June 11, 1914 a report from Big Meadows (Lake Almanor) states that, “steam is flowing steadily from the mountain” and “spouting intermittently.” Though the initial eruptions may have appeared somewhat harmless, the “tremendous explosions” that occurred on June 12-14 made it clear that Lassen Peak was becoming increasingly violent.

Incredibly, no one died from the Lassen Peak eruptions, but there were certainly some very close calls. One of the first close calls came during the eruption of June 12, when several brave individuals climbed Lassen Peak to gaze at its active crater. While peering into the crater the group got the sense of impending doom and their flight instinct took hold, “there was a puff of blue smoke, followed by a tongue of red flame that resembled the discharge of an old fashioned cannon.” As they ran for their lives, Lance Graham, a Manton sawmill employee “was enveloped in cloud of smoke, while a perfect hail of small volcanic bombs and cinders beat down upon me.” While being pelted, “My senses gradually left me and I seemed to be floating out into space where all was peaceful and calm. I have no idea of how long I lay on the mountain side, but I was conscious of the fact that my companions had left me for dead.”

When the eruption subsided, Lance Graham's party found him “buried in cinders and ash and barely breathing.” After being carried down the mountain he was transferred to a hospital where he was treated for “a broken collar bone and crushed side.” Projected rock from the steam explosion had almost killed Lance.
Graham, and the 12’ x 12’ Lookout House on top of Lassen Peak had also taken a beating.

As ash and mud continued to inundate the region farmers and ranchers began to report of the damage being done to irrigation ditches, streams, and alfalfa fields. On October 8, 1914 the Plumas National-Bulletin reported, “The recent eruptions of Lassen have resulted in the depositing of an unusually great quantity of ash and sand in the lower regions. As far as Fall River valley, 30 and 40 miles away . . .”

By 1915 Lassen Peak “had produced at least 110 observed” eruptions, and cloud cover may have obscured many more. Lassen Peak was undoubtedly behaving increasingly violent and unpredictable and those who lived at the base of the mountain in Mineral, Viola, and Hat Creek Valley were becoming very apprehensive. Chester would be covered with volcanic ash and “while the peak cannot be seen from Quincy, the column of smoke and ash arising from the volcano was prominent on the northwestern horizon.” As the volcano continued to erupt one can only imagine the helpless feeling that some of the local residents must have had. They were at the mercy of an active volcano that did not appear to have any quit in it.

The stage was set for a catastrophic event in 1915, an El Niño year, as a record-breaking 33 feet of snow had accumulated on Lassen’s northeast slope. It began on May 19 when an enormous steam explosion blew a new crater on Lassen Peak and created an avalanche that cut a wide swath down Lassen’s northeast slope. Blocks of hot lava melted the snow which in turn created a mudflow, otherwise known as a lahar, down the northeast slope.
into Lost Creek and Hat Creek. The lower Hat Creek Valley became flooded and the few people that were there escaped to safety before their homes were destroyed.

Lassen's volcanic eruptions climaxed on the afternoon of May 22, 1915 when rock and pumice were blown from its crater and a massive mushroom cloud of ash and gas rose to 35,000 feet. The eruption was reported to be preceded by an earthquake and the mushroom cloud was visible from as far away as Sacramento 130 miles to the south and Eureka 145 miles to the west. Ash from the eruption was falling as far away as Elko, Nevada, 300 miles to the east, and at a distance of 100 miles in Nevada ash had enveloped the region to the point that a train was forced to reduce its speed because its headlights had become ineffective in the ash fall.

Known now as the Devastated Area, the mudflows from the May 19 eruption were to be outdone as an avalanche of hot ash, rock, and gas sped down Lassen's northeast slope. The pyroclastic flow obliterated a three-square mile area and mowed down stands of old growth forest with ease. Lost Creek and Hat Creek experienced another mudflow and more flooding, and as reported in the Plumas National-Bulletin:

“The water of Hat Creek is warm even at Cassel, so warm as to be uncomfortable to the touch, showing that it has been heated somewhere in the upper courses, perhaps high up on the volcano's slope.

All the fish in the stream have been killed, and Hat Creek has the reputation of being one of the best fishing streams in the state.

Burney was crowded with refugees. Some slept in barns, others on the floors in the stores, for the little village is not equal to the task of caring for 100 persons in an emergency.”

Although Lassen would not experience another eruption as large as the one that occurred on May 22, it would continue to have steam explosions in 1916 and 1917, and would continue to show steam until the 1970s. Renowned geologist, J.S. Diller, who had reported in 1895 that “volcanic activity is not yet extinct in the Lassen peak district,” would accurately report after the May 22 eruption that Lassen would remain active, but the eruptions would not rise to that intensity again. The steam explosions that occurred throughout 1915, however, were still intense and they would become particularly violent in the spring of 1917.
With the flurry of volcanic activity that occurred in 1914 and 1915 it is no wonder that Lassen's volcanic center was designated as a National Park on August 9, 1916. Though Lassen Peak appears quiet again, visitors to Lassen Volcanic National Park can observe active steam vents, hot springs, and bubbling mud pits. Lassen Peak is not like its neighboring volcano, Mount Shasta, which was “formed by repeated eruptions of lava and ash from a central summit vent over tens of thousands of years.” Rather, the Lassen volcanic center is an area of “numerous individual vents” which are active for years or decades and then go eternally quiet. While wondering when a volcanic eruption in the Lassen region will occur again we must understand that eruptions occur infrequently, and although there is little doubt that more eruptions will occur, it may be hundreds if not thousands of years before the next one.

Benjamin Franklin Loomis is known for the extraordinary photographs that he took of Lassen Peak while in a state of eruption. The cover photo is an example of his work and shows Lassen Peak erupting on June 14, 1914. More examples of his work can be found in his book, “Eruptions of Lassen Peak,” and at the Loomis Museum at the north end of Lassen Volcanic National Park. More information is also available at the Plumas County Museum.

The Museum And The Community
Grave Occasion 2014

Our 5th Annual Grave Occasion was again a decided success thanks to the efforts of our Board of Trustees, Bill & Sue Wickman, Ron Trumbo, Tina Terrazas, Nathan and Kim Retallack, and of course the actors who portrayed our dearly departed. We thank you again for your support and look forward to another Grave Occasion next year.

Wassail Bowl

The 50th Annual Wassail Bowl will be held at 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 12, at the Museum. Former Plumas County Chamber of Commerce Manager and Plumas County Museum Curator, Robert G. Moon, started the event in his office on Bradley Street in December of 1965. The tradition then moved to the Museum in 1968 and was held there every year until several years ago when it was moved to the Courthouse. After a short hiatus, it was reconvened at the Museum. Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year will be awarded. Wine, Wassail and appetizers will be served. For more information call the Museum at 283-6320 or the Quincy Chamber at 283-0188.
News Around The Museum

Veteran's Exhibit

Museum Docent Calin Turcotte has just put together an exhibit honoring the veterans of World War One and World War Two utilizing items from the Museum's collection. Of note is the German kepi awarded to Josephine Dotta for her exemplary efforts in the Victory Bond fund drive of 1918-1919. Interestingly, the helmet was given to her by Stella Fay Miller, chairman of the fund drive committee and later benefactor of the Plumas County Museum. Be sure to stop in to see the new exhibit.

There’s A New Worker-Bee Buzzin’ Around The Museum

The Museum is fortunate to have a new part-time worker, supplied by Experience Works, formerly The Green Thumb Program. She is Pamela Bolton, and lives with her husband in Quincy. Pamela started this October, and is learning to scan historic photographs, archive the originals, and make copies for public handling. This is no small task, as the Museum's photograph collection tallies well into five figures. We welcome Pam and look forward to working with her.

The Haun Family Collection

Former part-time museum employee Lindsay Morton spent the last two years digitizing the Haun Family collection of diaries, journals, and letters. The collection spans the period from 1841 to 1931, and shows how the family's history is intertwined with the history of Plumas County, the state, and the nation. They cover the Gold Rush, the Civil War, prisoner of war life, ranching, domestic issues, and much more. Lindsay has developed three versions of the collection: a standard one of just scans, another one with transcriptions, and a third one that is more interpretive. She is working on developing her master's thesis at San Jose State through the feedback she receives from visitors to the site. You can view the collection and take her short survey at hauncollection.org. We are thrilled with Lindsay's wonderful work and dedication to this valuable project, and hope you will take time to view it and take the survey.

Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 Locomotive

We are having a small building put up to house the Spanish Peak engine No.2 along with a short section of track to run it on. We hope to have it operational by early this spring. Our thanks to Plumas County Probation Department, Public Works, and the Fair for helping with this project.

Here is Spanish Peak Lumber Co. No.2 locomotive in March of 1927 in a mishap titled "No.2 is got in a hurry."
Out Of Town Callers

Since this past May, we have had numerous visitors from 25 other states in the US:

In the same period we had a number of visitors from Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan.

Making A Present Of The Past To The Future

Front row, left to right: Mary Dunn, Lyle Shattuck, Norma Carr.
Back row, left to right: Bill Skaggs, Philip Hyde, S.L. Bailey, Henry Magill form the non-profit Plumas County Museum Association to accept the remainder of the Fay Miller Estate which built the Plumas County Museum and turned it over to the County of Plumas to operate and maintain. Feather River Bulletin, January 28, 1971.

Then & Now

We now have a 20-foot flagpole, along with our “flutter flag” to let the public know we are open.

In spite of the current budgetary setbacks of the last few years, The Plumas County Museum is still a strong and viable presence in our county. A powerful core of our volunteers, friends and ongoing members are keeping our doors open and are truly making a present of the past for our future.
Mellouise Curry and Hilda Machado present a vintage 19th century Maidu Indian basket to the Plumas County Museum on behalf of the Nifty Thrifty Thrift Store and Eastern Plumas Health Care Auxiliary of Portola. The basket was donated to the thrift store where a keen-eyed volunteer spotted it and rescued it. Rather than sell it and have it leave the area, their Board decided it should stay in Plumas County, and so donated it to the Museum.

Terese Angwin: Collection of items belonging to her late father, Ed Angwin including U.S. Forest Service items, saddlebags, tack, medical items, skiing items, photos, tools, clothing, milk bottles, framed map of Lakes Basin Recreation Area, cooking utensils, camping items; Anonymous: Brass spout for beer or liquor keg from early Plumas County mining camp; Barry Bailey: Quincy slide show; Mike Beatty: 1954 Quincy New Log Cabin Theater show bill; Nansi Bohne: Three watercolors by Lois Jones; Linda Dent: Swift for use in making wool yarn; Richard Douglass: Various billheads from local businesses of 1800s and 1900s, two B&W photos of Seneca and a Seneca area mine; Eastern Plumas Health Care Auxiliary: Maidu Indian basket; Tati Erickson: 48-star veteran's flag, Wells, Fargo items, Quincy Telephone items, Quincy Volunteer Fire Department items, WWI and WWII artifacts, B&W photos, tickets, matchbooks, and other local business items; Barry Gossett: 1947 Quincy Rhodora cookbook; Bob Hall: 8x10 B&W negatives of Indian Valley Railroad, Indian Falls, Feather River Inn; Ed Hampton Estate: Arkansas Creek enamel sign, Mornington Mining Company stock certificate; Ted Hoskins: USMC dress uniform from WWII, cattle counter; Betty Johns: Child's highchair from Keddie, 10-piece tortoise shell toilet set; Fred Kemmerlee: B. Schneider drug bottle, 5 photo postcards of Meadow Valley; Dan Knaggs: Chinese soy sauce jug; Elise Kroeber: 1893 Diploma for Lizzie Larison, Plumas House Hotel letterhead; Bob Lowrey: Mission-style footstool; Marie Meilan: Railway Express strongbox and keys, related Railway Express items, typed history of same; Zona Morgan: Collection of items belonging to her late father, Orville Brown including logging items, longboard skis, pole, emblem, various documents, telegraph and telephone items, military items, voter's booths, trapping items, whiskey bottles, petrified wood from Frenchman Dam, various mining items; Anna Beth Nelson: Granite name plate from J.O. Moncur house on Jackson Street, Quincy; Jeffery & Lori Olsen: Feather River Inn brochures, timber supplement; Jim Paige: Early map of Agassiz & Shaw lands near Quincy, Quincy Volunteer Fire Department helmet belonging to the late Carl Lindsay; Bruce Robbins: 100th Anniversary items from Plumas Club including shot glass, token, matchbook, pins; Helen Roberti: Various WWI Victory Bond Drive documents, pins, flag for family of WWI soldier; Eileen Scarlett: 1920s photo of Blairsden; Helen Sargeant: B&W photos of early logging; Jim Shaw: School desk from the old Quincy Elementary School with donor's initials carved into wood top; Dick Short: Framed original watercolor of Plumas County Museum by Carla Gibson; Nancy Wann: 1945 B&W photos of Portola Baseball Club; Robert Wood: Framed collection of Plumas County arrowheads, 117 B&W photos of Plumas County, framed B&W photo of Arial Beaton with team of horses at Mohawk Valley sawmill, framed B&W colorized photo of Jamison City in the 1870s; P.J. Wright: Local 1920s newspapers and clippings.

From left: Eric Wolfe and Justin Sage, members of the Quincy High Auto Shop Class.

**Studebaker**

The Quincy High School automotive class is still plugging away on our 1922 Studebaker. They have had the seat and roof reupholstered and are currently working on getting a new starter and generator from somewhere in Kansas. Student Eric said that when he first saw the truck, he just had to have a shot at making it run. They both are very excited about the progress they have made so far, and so are we!
Docent Activities

This past summer we had lots of help from our docents. Lisa Hopman continues to work at her filing project, as does Nancy Nicoles. Sherie Grate has been a big help with the register and with processing the newsletters. Rich Knoettgin spent countless hours applying linseed oil on the outdoor artifacts and surveying and creating a plot plan of the Museum grounds that will be indispensable in planning exhibits and other outdoor projects. Keith and Nancy Nicoles and Ann Castaldini did superb duty giving tours of the 1878 Vareil Home, often on short notice. Besides the usual visitors, we had seven bus tours this summer that all partook of the house. Ray Nichol performed his blacksmithing art on several occasions, Sally Nichol, Dee Brubaker, Rita Christensen, Rose & Bill Harrigan, Tony Ryan, Jane Wair and Elsa & Jerry Thomas worked hard all summer to maintain and beautify the Vareil Home Gardens and Marvin Simpson made sure to mow the lawn every week. Linda Wallace kept the Museum open to the public every Sunday until the first of November answering visitor questions and helping them find Fall color. Faith & Piers Strahley have been tackling the ever-demanding front garden ring. The weeds never sleep in that part of the yard. Ken Green, alias Alien, handed out candy to trick-or-treaters this Hallowe’en. Calin Turcotte has been coming in regularly to help, and just finished a new exhibit in honor of veterans of WWI and WWII. Be sure to come see it. Rick Becker has been very busy with our seemingly endless computer issues. Thank you to all of our dedicated docents!

Monetary Donations

Up to $99: Peggy & Barry Bailey; Milt & Estelle Beer; Carl & Sharleen Bloom; Jim Connelly (for Class of 1963); Dautrich Family; Bob & Mary Edwards; Pat Fites; Peter & Julie Hochrein; Ted & Betty Hoskins; Johnstone Family; Rick & Cynthia Knapp; Paul & Linda Leimbach; Eileen Scarlett; John & Betsy Schramel; George Schucehenzuber III; Steve Thatcher; Maurice Tyler; Donna Vanderwagen; William Wan; Floyd & Lola Warren; Heidi Wightman.

$100-$199: Gayle & Andy Anderson; Peter & Totsie Beck; Patrick & Janna Cook; Donovan & Jeanne Davis; Nancy Gambell; Jann Garvis; Charles & Margaret Goodart; Fred & Susan Howe; Walter & Patricia Innes; Guy McNett & Linda Batson; DeAnne Mosley; Nancy Pierson; Dr. George Poole; Ruth Reid; Brita Rozynski; Beverly Thielen; Mayme Wong.

$200-$499: Dorris Beck; Marc & Diane Coventry; Graeagle Merchants; Jeff & Lani Rockholm; Valerie Vann.

$500-$999: Elise Kroeber.

$1000 - $1,999: Family of Phyllis Orr Baldwin; Kay & Orphie Pierson.

$2,000-$4,999: Julie Cannon; David Gardner; Kathryn Hale.

$10,000-$14,999: Fred Kemmerle.

Memorials

Phyllis Orr Baldwin, San Antonio, TX; Patricia Bjelde, Clio; Ruth Broadwell, Santa Rosa; Jean Burns, Quincy; Bill Dore, Quincy; Ethel Howell, Quincy; Danny Leonhardt, Quincy; Marlene Logan, Quincy; Art Scarlett, Reno, NV.
New Members Since May

**Individual:** Richard Arnold, Portola; Lois Boyle, Portola; Mike Delasaux, Quincy; Diane Forsberg, Cromberg; Phyllis Gery, Clio; Candice Gin, San Jose; Helen Henderson, Eugene, OR; John Kreth, Quincy; Dan Murray, Lake Almanor; Karen Oglesby, Quincy; Rob Russell, Quincy; Aleda White, Quincy.

**Family:** Bill & Kimi Coates, Quincy; Norman & Diane Jacobsen, Salinas; Marilyn & Wayne Johannson, Quincy; Clay & Janet Johnson, Quincy; Lonnie & Lyn Nafzgar, Graeagle; Dwight & Karen Pierson, Quincy; Bob & Cheri Shipp, Quincy; David & Nancy Whitaker, Quincy.

**Sustaining:** Julie Cannon, Dublin, CA; David Gardner, Dublin, CA.

---

**Director’s Comments** Scott Lawson: Museum Director

I would like to thank all of the docents, volunteers, trustees and directors who have pitched in and helped so much this past busy summer season. I would especially like to thank Carol Paoli for being available to cover the front desk when I needed to be elsewhere and Linda Wallace for keeping us open on Sundays.

If you haven’t noticed, along with our new “flutter flag” we now have a shiny new 20-foot flagpole to signify when we are open.

Several times this summer we offered Donkey Walks to various spots in the county. These were well-received, and since this was a new venture, we were not sure if it would pencil out or how it would be received. We are now confident that we can continue to offer this program and will be working on a schedule for next year.

Several projects we collaborated on with other groups included Beckwourth Emigrant Trail and Jamison Emigrant Trail fieldwork, the White Sulphur Springs Ranch, numerous school tours, and various requests from agencies such as Department of Water Resources, Caltrans, Plumas County Public Works, U.S. Forest Service, Calfire, PG&E, and U.C. Riverside.

I would also like to thank each and every one of our members who have stepped up to support the Museum in these trouble financial times. We are still operating without any assistance from the County of Plumas, relying solely on fund raising activities, store sales, memberships, and your generous donations.

Please be sure to renew your membership in the Museum Association, we appreciate your support.

---

**President’s Message** Don Clark, President PCMA

As president of the Plumas County Museum Association, it has been my pleasure to work with a very dynamic group of people from all walks of life and from different parts of Plumas County. The Board of Trustees is a truly dedicated group who want to see the Plumas County Museum flourish and continue to be an important part of the county’s cultural fabric. As with many boards, there comes a time when some members would like to step down to either pursue other interests or to take a more hands-on behind the scenes approach. We currently have one position open and two that would like to be. If you are interested in serving on this board with some great people, please contact me at 836-2586 or the Museum at 283-6320.

One of the other aspects of my position is to raise funds for the Museum. I know most of you are aware of the financial position the Museum has been put into, and like me, are probably tired of hearing about it, but it is something that I have to continue to address. We appreciate your generous support, and hope that you will see fit to continue your support now and in the future. For those of you who might be doing some estate planning, we have a brochure that we can provide that details how to donate to the Museum and the benefits of such a donation.

In closing, I wish you a happy holiday season, and invite you to visit YOUR Plumas County Museum soon.
Walking out in style: Look sporty in a new Plumas County Museum ball cap, either brown or black bill. It will set off our quality polo shirts. Mens in tan, ladies in plum. Locally produced just for the Museum.

Waking up in style: Make your morning coffee taste that much better by drinking it out of our wonderful Plumas County Museum mug. And at only ten bucks each, they are a steal! An ideal Christmas present for your friends this Holiday season!

The Holidays are coming quickly so don't forget to do some of your shopping at the Plumas County Museum's book store or online at our eStore at www.plumasmuseum.org. Mastercard and VISA are gladly accepted, along with gold nuggets. Remember, Museum Members receive 10% off of almost all store items.

Our newest book is Big Meadows and Lake Almanor by Marilyn Morris Quadrio of the Chester-Lake Almanor Museum. Marilyn has gathered together over 200 wonderful historic photos of the area and its pioneers and assembled them with captions into an easy to read and engaging pictorial of early-day Chester area.

Other new books are a reprint of Sears, Roebuck & Co.'s catalogs from 1897 and 1905-1910. These books are a perfect resource for historians and antique collectors alike.

Also we now carry Forrest Bryant Johnson’s The Last Camel Charge, The Untold Story of America's Desert Military Experiment.

The Museum Store now carries a wonderful selection of pieces from Feather River Gold Nugget Jewelry, including pendants, ear rings, and rock art.

It’s A Great Place For Your Holiday Shopping!
Museum Committee Chair Frances Gard and Dr. W. Turrentine Jackson of U.C. Davis categorize items on display in the lobby of the county courthouse for exhibits at the Plumas County Museum, to be built in the spring of 1967. *Sacramento Bee*, October 13, 1966.

From The Museum’s Past

**TRUSTEES:**
- Ken Barnard, *Graeagle*
- Charlie Brown, *Quincy*
- Don Clark, *Graeagle (President)*
- Bob Darling, *Graeagle*
- Pete Dryer, *Twain*
- Bob Edwards, *Quincy*
- Al Klem, *American Valley*
- Sandra Lee, *Quincy*
- Jerry Thomas, *American Valley*
- Diane Uchytil, *American Valley*

**STAFF:**
- Scott Lawson, *Last Man Standing*

**DIRECTORS:**
- Tandy Bozeman, District 3
- Doug Ely, District 4
- Norman Lamb, District 2
- Helen Roberti, District 1
- William Tantau, District 5

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-4:00
closed Sunday, Monday & Holidays

Please call 283-6320 to confirm

Please check your mailing label for your membership EXPIRATION DATE. Due to increased printing and postage costs, we cannot send newsletters to non-renewing members.

Individual Membership $25.00 - Family $35.00 - Patron $100.00 - Sustaining $1000.00 - Corporate $150.00

Please mail your check to Plumas County Museum, 500 Jackson Street, Quincy, CA 95971

Plumas County Museum Association, Inc.
500 Jackson Street
Quincy, CA 95971
www.plumasmuseum.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Quincy, CA
Permit Number 38