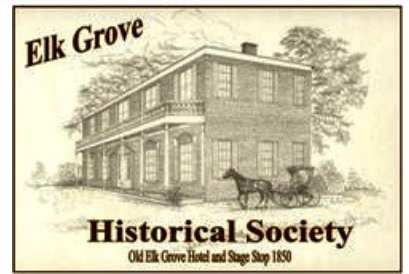


Elk Grove Historical Society

# The Stage Stop Gazette

January 2021 February



Volume 42 Issue 1 - 2

A publication of the Elk Grove Historical Society.

Representing the communities of Elk Grove, Wilton, Sheldon, Franklin, Bruceville, Point Pleasant, and Sloughhouse.



## Presidents Welcome

I want to thank you for being a member of the Elk Grove Historical Society. It has been a difficult year for so many people in many different ways. Your support is so important to our organization in preserving history in the Elk Grove, Galt and Sacramento County region. The most recent history activity was the Foulks House Dedication performed by the Native Son's of the Golden West at Heritage Park on December 5. Thanks to County Supervisor Don Nottoli, Cosumnes Community Services Board Member Jim Luttrell for attending, along with many Foulks family members and our membership.

Year 2021 appears to be headed for a long term COVID 19 period requiring protective health and operational measures. It is possible our region will be subject to Shelter-in-Place requirements again for three weeks. Our daily routines are impacted, like shopping, dining, travel and daily business needs, where wearing masks, social distancing (6 feet) and temperature checks are required. Many businesses are no longer operating. The Historical Society has had to adjust to have computer/phone Virtual Board Meetings, no longer meeting in person. General session meetings are canceled.

The Annual Board Planning Meeting is in question, as to how it may be conducted. The Rhoads School Educational Classes are canceled for the year. Event Planning is difficult at best, as to whether we can host them or cancel them.

I want to thank the recently elected and appointed Board Members for the Historical Society. They are carrying on our operations and business with their dedication to serve. They are Rosemarie Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Dennis Buscher, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Pam Phelps, Recording Secretary; Cindy Mahon, Corresponding Secretary; Jeanette Lawson, Treasurer; David Chalmers, Facilities Manager; Louie Silveira, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor/Archivist and Roberta Tanner, Rhoads School Director. I also want to thank the many committee chairpersons, assistant positions and members that continue to volunteer their time.

With a little luck we hope to have the Yard Sale in June, while we are still monitoring possibilities for the Spring Tea. Big Day of Giving is just around the corner in May. These events are key to funding our projects, like the Summer Kitchen to be attached to Elk Grove House. With your help and kindness, we will move forward successfully.

Happy Holidays and New Year 2021!

Ken Miller, President  
Elk Grove Historical Society.

## The New Historical Society Board Members



L. to R.: Ken Miller-President, Rosemarie Miller-1<sup>st</sup> Vice president, Dennis Buscher-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Pam Phelps-Recording Secretary, Cindy Mahon-Correspondence Secretary, Jeannette Lawson-Treasurer

Congratulations to the newly elected board members. They have all given many hours of hard work and dedication to the mission of the historical society and are deserving of their well-earned positions. Thank you all for your continued support.

Inside the Museum Files:

## Jessie (Cumpston) Baker



We all know the fabulous Elk Grove woman, Jessie Baker, the mother of a son with disabilities, who immersed herself in a statewide quest to find opportunities for her son's education. Ultimately, she created the first public school in California for children with severe mental and physical disabilities in 1963. The Jessie Baker School is located behind our old Elk Grove Elementary (now CCSD headquarters). She forever changed the way we look at special education all over California and in recognition of her perseverance and dedication; she was named Elk Grove's Citizen of the Year in 1965.

She was born in Eau Galle DU, Wisconsin to Royal Cumpston (1872-1936) & Ivah (Vanderpool)-Cumpston (1877-1970).

Their daughter Jessie Emma Cumpston married Lester Baker (1900-1961) and they had three children. (FYI – A branch of the Cumpston family owned the Sheldon store, which ultimately, became the Sheldon Inn Restaurant)

### But did you know?

In an old article about the Elk Grove Fire Department, they tell stories of several local residents who made early contributions...

"One of the most interesting stories of local fire fighting is that of the first woman volunteer fire fighter in the area, Jessie Cumpston. She graduated from Elk Grove High School in 1920, but as a 17 year-old student, she took the task of fire watching. The windmill on her parents ranch on Bruceville Road was her lookout. She climbed it several times a day to see if there was any danger to the surrounding farms. Her horse, Cleo, was kept saddled and ready to go if needed. When she spotted a grass fire, she rode across the countryside to notify the farmers. Everyone kept milk cans and washtubs filled with water for just such emergencies. These were quickly brought to the fire scene. Everyone pitched in by dipping gunny sacs into the water and swatting out the flames. Teamwork was essential, for fast moving grass fires could destroy grain fields in minutes and reduce even the most successful farmer to cinders and ashes."





## Rhoads School Report



Our Living History Program is in jeopardy. Our docents are independent contractors and with the new laws are finding it difficult to work under the new guidelines. We are researching possibilities but will have to see if we can continue the program.



On Saturday, December 5, the oldest surviving house in the Sacramento area, the Foulks House was dedicated at Heritage Park, after 167 years and six generations of family. It was moved to the park in 2005 and it took us 15 years to raise funds and complete the restoration and we couldn't be prouder. Thank you, members!

The event was attended by about 85 interested guests, including 15 Foulks family descendants and our own Board of Supervisor Representative Don Nottoli. Local historian Dennis Buscher gave a 10-minute narrative of the family's history that had us all in awe of this family and incredible woman and what she was able to accomplish.

The Native Sons of the Golden West installed a bronze historical marker with a ceremony that was led by several officers from all over the state. Tours followed and it turned out to be a truly wonderful event.

Check our website [elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](http://elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com) for a complete history of the family

### Calendar of Events for January – February 2021

#### January

Jan 11: Historical Society **ZOOM** Board Meeting  
 Jan 14: Annual board planning meeting  
 9:00-3:00 at the Wackford Center.  
 Jan 18: **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

#### February

Feb 8: Historical Society **ZOOM** Board Meeting  
 Feb 15: **Presidents Day**

Unfortunately, due to the continued fears, safety concerns, and recommendations with COVID the Elk Grove Historical Society will continue its closure for two more months, January and February. We would truly like to open our doors to all our usual events but are taking things cautiously and will decide on a month-to-month basis. Please understand that we are all ready to continue all society activities but will only do so when we are allowed and it is safe for our members. Please be patient with us.



Because of the tremendous success of last years Yard Sale there is already much interest in the date of the 2021 sale. There has been much discussion and we will let everyone know the final decision as soon as we can.



The Spring Tea theme this May 8<sup>th</sup> is **Strawberry Blossom Teatime**. Start working on your ideas for table decorations for those who are interested in entering the competition.

### Treasurer's Report: Jeannette Lawson

Operating/Restoration Accts:	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
General Restoration Fund	\$58,979.15	\$57,411.32
Wightman Memorial Fund	\$6,018.83	\$5,796.45
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>\$214,997.98</b>	<b>\$213,207.77</b>
 <b>Real Estate Rental Account</b>	 <b>\$23,376.71</b>	 <b>\$23,806.10</b>
<b>Museum Store Account:</b>	<b>\$4,050.54</b>	<b>\$4,050.68</b>
 <b>Rhoads School Account:</b>		
Operating Fund	\$501.38	\$501.38
<u>Scholarship Fund</u>	<u>\$11,457.47</u>	<u>\$11,487.82</u>
<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>\$11,958.85</b>	<b>\$11,989.20</b>
 <b>Total</b>	 <b>\$254,384.15</b>	 <b>\$253,053.75</b>

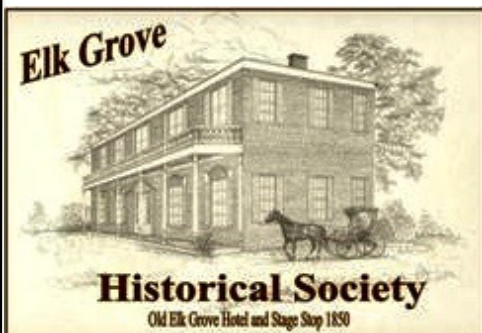
**welcome**  
New Members

Jennifer Cartwright-Thomas  
John Fossetti  
McGovern, Planesi & Walters

**REMINDER:** Please don't forget to renew your membership. The money allows us to pay many bills and help with upkeep of the museum. You can use the renewal form on the next page or go to the website ([elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](http://elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)) and pay by credit card. Look on the Menu for "INFORMATION - EG Historical Society" to find renewal.



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Our website:

[www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)

Elk Grove House and Stage Stop Museum  
Is located at  
9941 East Stockton Boulevard

Adjacent to the West Entrance of  
Elk Grove Regional Park

Museum is open the first Saturday of  
each month or by appointment

Research Library is now open by  
appointment only.

To schedule an appointment:

Email:

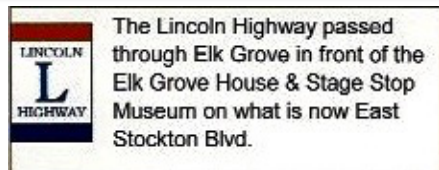
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### New Member and Membership Renewal Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a business membership, please complete the following:

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Types of Membership and fee structure

Check one

\_\_\_ Individual Person.....\$20.00

\_\_\_ Family Group.....\$30.00

\_\_\_ Student (full time under 25).....\$15.00

\_\_\_ Senior Citizen (65 to 79).....\$15.00

\_\_\_ Senior Citizen (80+).....FREE

\_\_\_ Business, Corporation, Association.....\$30.00

\_\_\_ Lifetime (Member & Spouse).....\$400.00

Note: EGHS is a California Non-Profit Corporation  
Dues may be deductible under IRS code 501(c)3