



THEN & NOW: PLACES FROM PLACER'S PAST

Written By Kimberly Horg

Over a century ago, the Transcontinental Railroad brought travelers to the area in search of work. From there, several small towns in Placer County began to thrive, eventually growing into the cities they are today. One doesn't have

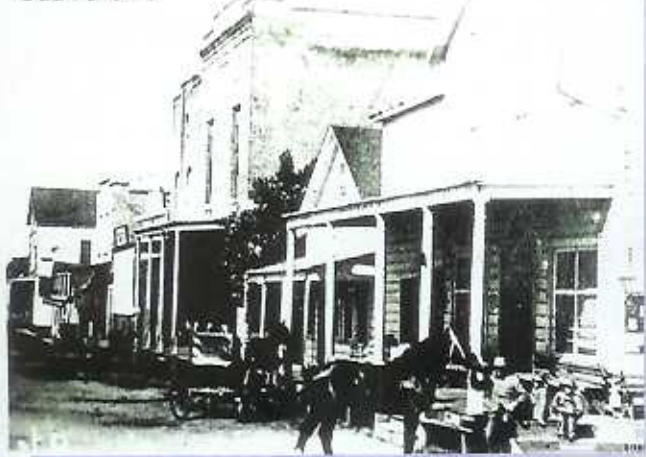
to look hard, however, to find vestiges of the early years. Remnants of our historical legacy can be found throughout Roseville and Placer County.

The oldest fraternal group in the city operated the **Roseville Odd Fellows Building** in 1872. J.D. Pratt sold the airspace to fellow Odd Fellow J.H. Dryer, and he built on top of the store. "The Odd Fellow building is as interesting as it is different; the building is one on top of the other and is the oldest commercial building in town," says Phoebe Astill of the Roseville Historical Society. In 1942, the Odd Fellows moved to a newly purchased location: the Women's Improvement Clubhouse.

In 1912, the Women's Improvement Club had raised \$2,500 for a new library for the city of Roseville. Local businessman A.B. McRae donated two lots as well as the labor to build it, and Andrew Carnegie donated another \$10,000 to this good cause. The resultant **Carnegie Library** was used as the city library until 1976, when a new library was built. In 1988, the Roseville Historical Society opened a museum in the historic building. "The Carnegie Library Museum was built by citizens in the area who raised the money for something they felt the city needed," Astill says. "It is now a place to learn the history of the area."

The first permanent church in Roseville was dedicated in March of 1883. The land for the **Methodist church** was donated the previous year by local Anna Judah, who wanted it to be used as "a place of divine worship." In 1947, a kitchen, pastor's study, and

Odd Fellows



Flemming Building



Methodist Church



church parlor were added; in 1951, a new sanctuary; and in 1985, a new social hall that appended to the original structure. The Methodist church is not only the oldest church in the city, but it also still occupies its original location. "My great grandfather helped construct the building, and I am still a member of the church," Astill says.

Another place steeped in history is the **Roseville Telephone Museum**, located on Vernon Street. In 1910, Gottlieb M. Hanisch bought the Pacific Telephone Company, and then in 1913, William Doyle became an owner. The next year, the name of the company was changed to the Roseville Telephone Company, and many years later, its name changed again, to Surewest Communications. "The Telephone Museum shows how the telephone company came to be, and it has displays from early times to present times," Astill says. It is open to the public but by appointment only.

In Auburn, residents and visitors alike can hear the chimes of the historic red-and-white candy-striped bell tower at the **Old Town Firehouse**. The two-and-a-half-story structure was built in 1891 for the Auburn Hook and Ladder Co., which was established in 1852. The Auburn Volunteer Fire Department is one of the oldest volunteer groups west of the Mississippi. The same bell that alerted volunteers 154 years ago still chimes at 8 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. It is located on Old Main Street.

The Fleming Building, located on the corner of 5th and G Street, is also an original; this brick edifice was built in 1863. "A lot of buildings burned down, and after that, people built buildings out of brick," says Jerry Logan, historian for the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lincoln. The building was the first general store in town and also housed the area's first Wells Fargo Bank. It has been occupied by many different businesses since and is still in operation. It is now home to a couple of different stores and a coffeehouse.

Built in 1863, the **IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) Building**, located in downtown Lincoln on 5th Street, is another historic site. It was a

lodge for many years and then was used as a brewery. It is currently closed and up for sale.

According to Logan, **Gladding, McBean & Co.**, located in north Lincoln on highway 65 and 7th street, is one of the most famous locations in the town due to its role in shaping several prominent landmarks. The company got its start in 1875, manufacturing sewer pipes but then switching to terra-cotta. It is still in operation today. Over the years, it has supplied terra-cotta to many famous buildings, including Stanford University and Carnegie Hall in New York. Terra-cotta from Gladding, McBean & Co. was also used to restore the hall a couple of years ago. After the

IOOF Building



HISTORY [THEN & NOW]



Gladding, McBean & Co.

San Francisco earthquake of 1909, the company shipped large amounts of terra-cotta and was instrumental in helping to rebuild the city.

Another big supplier of materials for famous buildings was **Griffith Quarry** in Penryn. It supplied granite for buildings in San Francisco and Sacramento, including the State Capitol. It was established in 1864 by Wales

native Mr. Griffith Griffith. In 1874, it became the state's first successful commercial granite-polishing mill. The Griffith Quarry Park and Museum has three miles of nature trails offering views of old quarry sites, and the museum exhibits the history of area's granite industry. It is located on the corner of Taylor and Rock Springs Road in Penryn. **IRM**

WALKING TOURS

Self-Guided Walking Tours of Downtown Lincoln:

Brochures can be found at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

Old Town Auburn Walking Tour:

Tours start at 10 a.m. at the historic courthouse in Auburn.

Historic Roseville Walking Tour:

Contact the Roseville Historic Society for more information.

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Colfax:

Maps can be found at the green railcar located at 2 Railroad Street in Colfax.