

ELY STAGE STOP AND COUNTRY MUSEUM

Lake County Historical Society



Ely Stage Stop
Museum today

Original location
of stage stop

1877 Hot springs and
Middletown Road

1877 Lakeport to Lower Lake Road

1877 Calistoga to
Lakeport Road

An Update by:
Dr. John Parker

WHY THIS OLD BUILDING?

2002: Caltrans had plans to widen HWY 29 between Lower Lake and Kelseyville.

2003: A historic resource evaluation was

made of the proposed highway alignment.

Although this building was evaluated, Caltrans decided it was not significant enough to warrant preservation. It was scheduled for demolition.



Ely Stage Stop in 2005, before move

IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Community Thought So

Upon hearing of its potential demise, the community rallied to obtain support for moving the historic structure.



The previous owner donated \$100,000, the current owner donated 5 acres, and the county provided the funds for moving and restoring the stage stop back to its original form.

A STAGE STOP'S SECOND LIFE

In 2006, work began on preparing the house for the move. Over the years, several additions had been built on to the original 1860 structure. These had to be removed before the building could be moved.



A STAGE STOP'S SECOND LIFE

Lifted off its foundation and placed on wheels, the building was pulled across HWY 29, through the valley, and up the hill to its new location.



A STAGE STOP'S SECOND LIFE

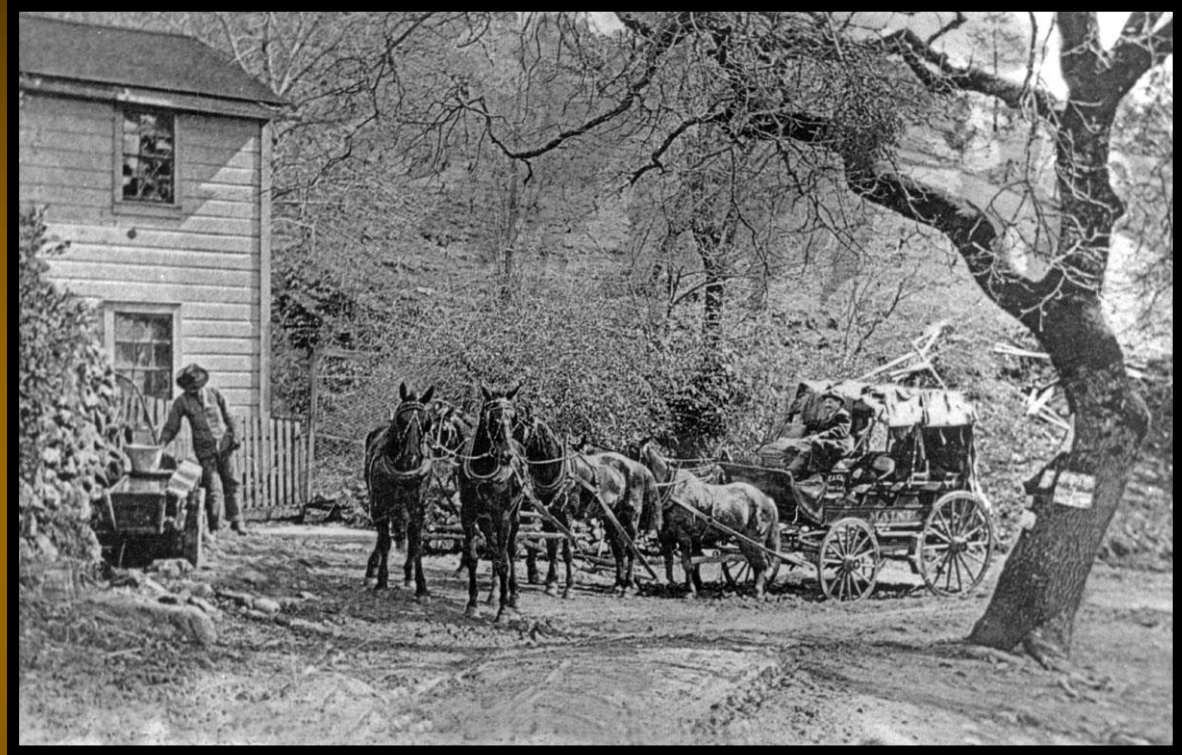
Finally, July 24th 2011, the opening ceremony was held.

The Lake County Historical Society stepped up and agreed to operate the museum for the county.

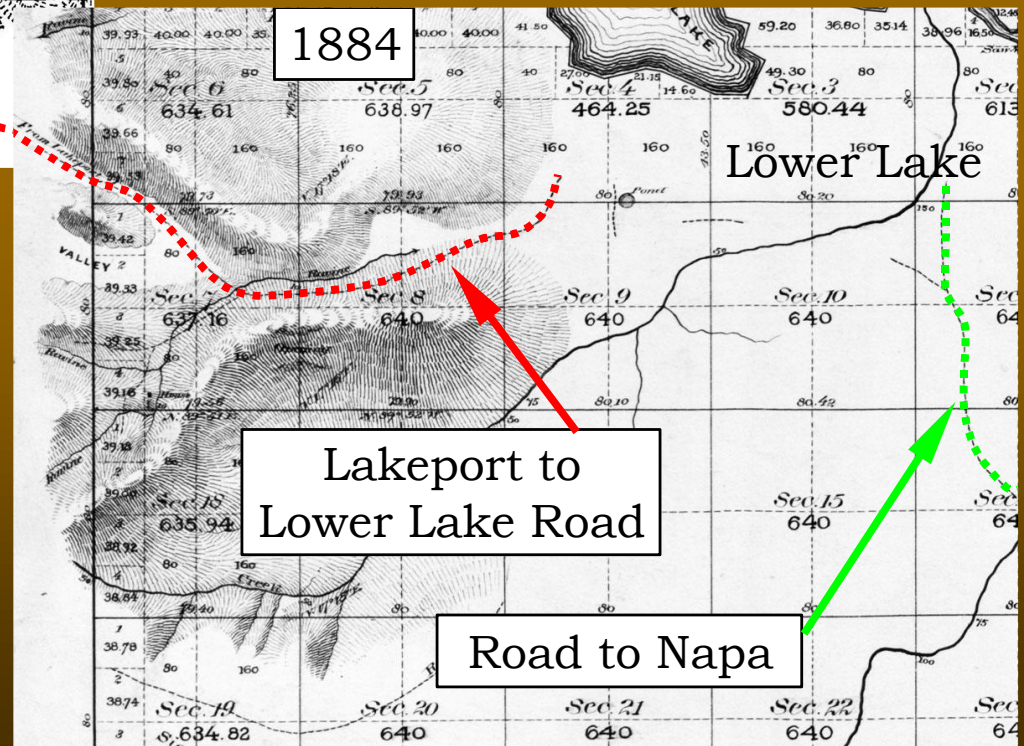
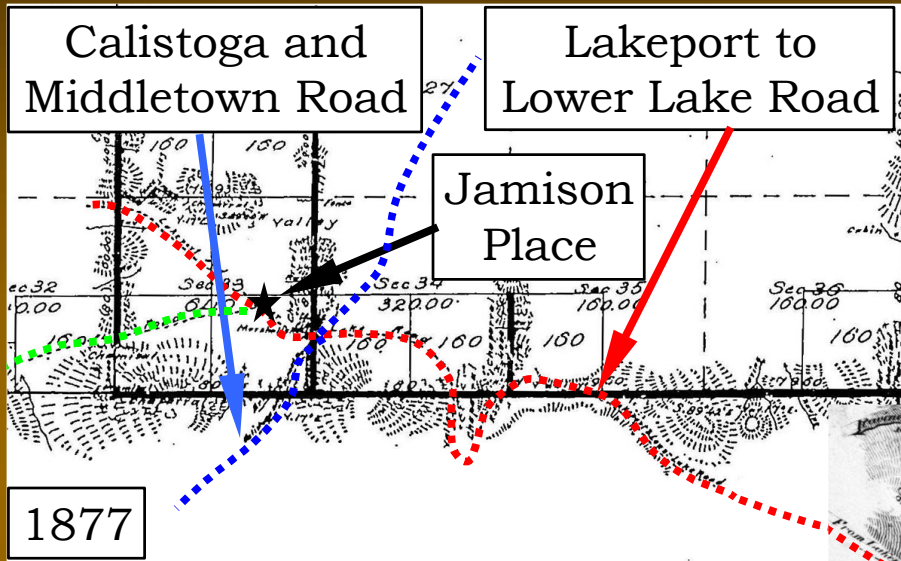


The Jamison Lost Springs Ranch

1859: Mary and James Jamison and their 4 children moved into the Valley and called it home for 14 years. It is likely that the Jamison family built the original ranch house in the 1860's. It served as their house, a horse changing station, and a public stop-over. They also raised stock and farmed.



The Jamison Lost Springs Ranch



These maps show the wagon roads from Lower Lake to Napa, from Lakeport to Lower Lake, and from Lost Springs Ranch to Middletown and Calistoga.

IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Jamison Lost Springs Ranch

1860's: Ranchers from all over the Clear Lake Basin would herd their cattle to the Jamison Place where they were kept in large corrals awaiting the big cattle drive over Mount St. Helena to Calistoga.



The Town of Ely

1873: James Jamison sells the Lost Springs Ranch and moves into Kelseyville where he is elected County Supervisor.

1878: Benjamin Ely receives a U.S. Patent on 120 acres of the Lost Springs Ranch including the old Jamison Place.



The Town of Ely

1880's: Soon the small horse changing station and stop-over house grew into a full service stage stop, public house, post office, and local school. Benjamin Ely's daughter Sarah "Sallie Ann" Ely married James McClure.

As Mr. Ely was busy running his farm near Winters, James and Sally Ann moved to Lake County and ran the "Town of Ely".



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

A core group of Historical Society volunteers hit the ground running. One of the first projects was to build a barn that could house some of the historic wagons

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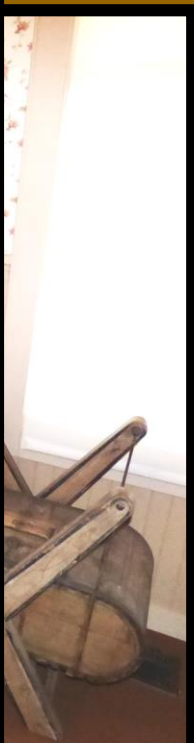


LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

We worked quickly to furnish the inside of the main building and adding different aspects

Interior
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LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

Outdoors, the Historical Society's vast collection of Lake County wagons, tractors, and farm equipment are used to present a story of the county's economic development over the years.



CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

In 2022, Dr. Paul Marchand and the Highland Springs Equestrian Center took the Vic Ferron Freight

Built in 1908 by the local Blacksmith, the wagon hauled freight for years in Lake County till an accident bent its “circle iron” affecting its stability and steering.

It was brought back to life and returned to the Ely Museum and appeared in the 2023 Kelseyville Pear Festival Parade.



CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

When it was discovered that the 1890's Kelseyville Jail was being vandalized, the Ely Museum agreed to take on the moving and restoration of the jail.

Community donations and volunteer labor were used to complete the project and on April 21st, the jail was dedicated. Lake County's Fire Responders with a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce.



CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

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CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

Today, the Historical Society has the opportunity to receive and restore

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use some of the County's "TOT" fund for the project.

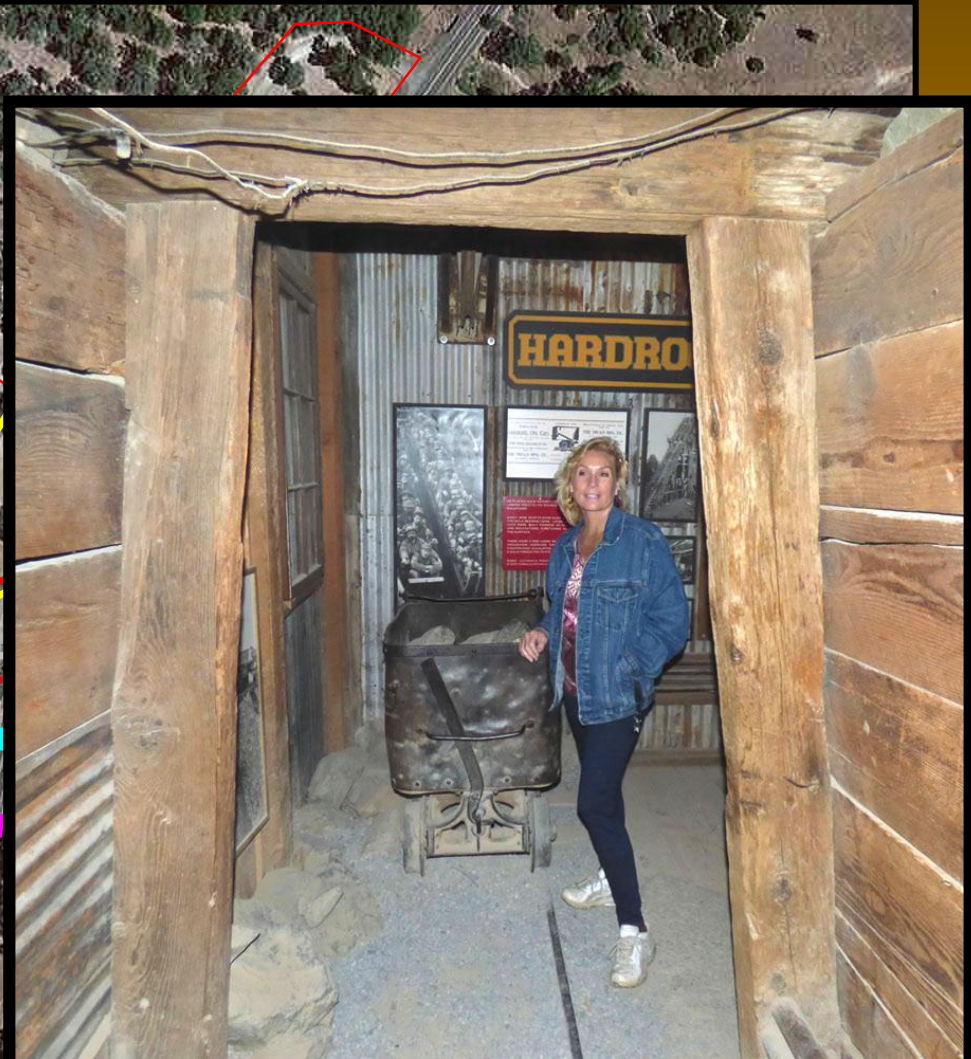


PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have a 5-year “build-out” plan for the Ely Museum grounds.

We are working with the Lake County Rockhound group to develop a mining exhibit and just received the donation of an ore car from Sulphur Bank Mine.

Oak Grove picnic area



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

One of the big priorities was to use the new museum as a way to further the Historical Society's mission:

“to encourage education, preservation and interpretation of cultural resources (including historic structures, prehistoric sites, and places

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LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

Once the basic operation was organized, we opened the doors to schools, educational groups, and civic clubs.

Every
County



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

Outside community groups are also able to use the facility for special events. Over the years, the museum grounds have hosted events for fire victim fund raising, Women in Agriculture, Retired Teachers Association, Boy Scouts, 4H, Wine Grape Association, Master Gardeners, Rotary, and many more.



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

The Ely Stage Stop has become a popular place for weddings, proms, memorial celebrations, and other family events.



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

The Ely Museum has a volunteer staff of more than 20. The most active meet every month to plan new projects and new activities to bring Lake County history alive for the public.

The volunteers put in at least 3,000 hours a year staffing the museum on weekends and conducting special educational programs.

They also get together a few times a year just to party and have fun.



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

Whenever we have enough volunteers, we will dress up, grab the hay wagon or stage coach, and join parades around the county.



LIFE AT THE ELY MUSEUM

A few years ago, we received permission from the land-owner, set up a grid system and began archaeological work at the original Stage Stop location.



Who Visits the Ely Museum?

Currently, the Ely Museum gets about 3,000 visitors a year.

In addition to local folks, our sign-in book indicates that we have received visitors from at least 13 countries, 34 states, and 142 California cities.



FREE MONTHLY EVENTS AT THE ELY

• **Museum Opened:** Every Saturday and Sunday 11:00 till 3:00.

• **Fiddler's Jam:** 1st Sunday of every month in the barn from noon till 2:00. Musicians from the California Old Time Fiddler's Association play.

