

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

JOHNSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EST. 1984

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



Step Back in Time: 3rd Annual Johnsville Poster Tour & Festival

Discover what life was like
125 years ago in Johnsville! p. 2

The George Woodward Residence, 1880

This neo-classical private home belonged to the master builder behind almost every stamp mill in the area. Among his many engineering feats was the Mohawk Mill, now the centerpiece of Plumas-Eureka State Park. Woodward built this house to raise his family of seven children.

Photo and poster by Bruce MacGregor

STEP BACK IN TIME: 3RD ANNUAL JOHNSVILLE POSTER TOUR & FESTIVAL

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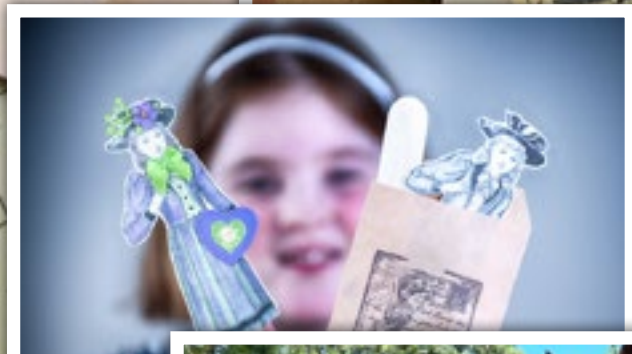
Discover what life was like 125 years ago in Johnsville! Join us for a weekend of history, family-friendly fun, and Gold Rush-era discovery.

- **When:** Saturday, July 18, 10 AM-3 PM & Sunday, July 19, 10 AM-2 PM
- **Where:** Throughout historic Johnsville and inside the Johnsville Church at 5578 Arastra Street
- **Free:** The walking tour and children's activities are free!

Event Highlights:

- **Self-Guided Tour:** Pick up a free tour map inside the Johnsville church or at the JHS booth at the Plumas-Eureka State Park Museum.
- **Kid-Friendly History:** Enjoy fun facts woven into the tour, featuring the surprising origins of Tootsie rolls, Crayola crayons, and jigsaw puzzles.
- **Old-Fashioned Play:** Stop by the Johnsville church for games and activities enjoyed by local children between 1880 and 1910. Kids can paint wooden block houses, make paper dolls copied from an 1897 catalog, and play with wooden trains, checkers, or dominoes, among other activities.
- **Fresh Baked, Fresh Squeezed:** Treat yourself to homemade cookies and lemonade at the church. All proceeds support the JHS mission to preserve the area's unique local history.

Presented by the [Johnsville Historical Society](#) in collaboration with [Plumas-Eureka State Park's Gold Discovery Day](#).



RENT THE HISTORIC JOHNSVILLE CHURCH FOR YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT

The beautiful Gold Rush-era church and museum located in the forest off Arastra Street in Johnsville, California, may be rented in spring, summer, or early fall for special occasions, such as weddings or family gatherings. Construction of the church started in 1899 and was completed in 1900, then decades later it was lovingly restored by residents and other volunteers. Today, it is owned by the nonprofit Johnsville Historical Society (JHS), which uses it as a museum and its headquarters.

Maximum occupancy is 49 people, and events are limited to six hours per day, between 8 am and 9 pm.

The church features a modern kitchen, and food, beverages, and alcohol may be served (but not sold). It is wheelchair accessible.

The rental fee is \$600 for the first day, and \$100 for each additional day, with a three-day maximum rental period; an insurance policy rider also is required. The rental income helps JHS maintain the historic church and grounds.

For more information and images, please email JHS Board President Kathy Osher at johnsvillegold@gmail.com.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP—AND HELP US GO GREEN

The nonprofit Johnsville Historical Society (JHS) could not continue to preserve its fragile and extensive Gold Rush-era collection, as well as the Johnsville church and surrounding trees, without your help. Your JHS membership and renewal fees are our primary source of income.

We are trying to cut down the cost of our newsletters by greatly reducing the number of printed copies we mail to members, as printing and postage costs continue to soar. To help us with this effort, please write your email address on your membership check so we can email the newsletter to you instead of sending it through the mail. Emailed newsletters also include live links to pertinent web pages.

Need a gift idea? Please consider the gift of a JHS membership. Just include the gift recipient's name and email address along with a check to JHS.

Annual membership fees:

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

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

Questions? Email us at johnsvillegold@gmail.com.

Thank you. We appreciate your support.



JOHNSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Osher, President

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Newsletter design by Wes Breazell

Editor, Rebecca Forée

JHS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and 100 percent of donations are tax deductible.



Residents and friends eagerly await the Fourth of July parade on Main Street in Johnsville, California, in the 1920s.

Photo courtesy of Plumas-Eureka State Park Association