

# COLFAX COBBLESTONES

August 2023

Issue 35.3

museum@colfaxhistory.org    www.colfaxhistory.org    www.facebook.com/groups/colfax.california.museum    (530) 346-8599

## August 12 Meeting and Presentation: The Wright Brothers and the Model B Aircraft

Join us Saturday, August 12, 2023, for **aviation stories and socializing**.

If you have a sense of *déjà vu*, that is because this program was originally scheduled for March 4, but we had to reschedule it because Colfax was buried in snow that weekend. We guarantee that this program will not be canceled because of snow.

Swend Miller’s presentation will be about “The Wright Brothers and How They Developed the Model B Aircraft.” The Wright Model B was an early biplane designed by the Wright Brothers in 1910.

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**Saturday, August 12, 2023, 7 p.m.**

Colfax Passenger Depot  
99 Railroad Street, Colfax, California

There is no charge to attend

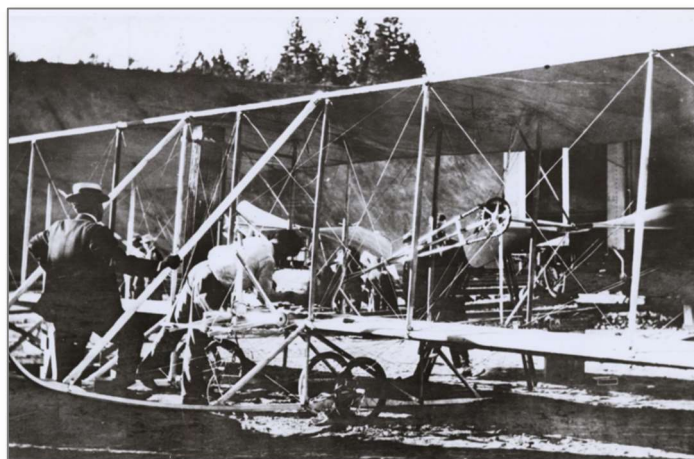
Everyone is welcome

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This was the plane that Robert G. Fowler was attempting to fly across the United States to win a \$50,000 prize in 1911 (that prize would be worth more than \$1.5 million in 2023 dollars). Fowler crashed in Alta, California, and had his plane rebuilt in Colfax, under the supervision of two mechanics from the Wright Biplane Factory, with additional work performed in Grass Valley.

Swend is a retired engineer, with a passion for aviation. He is a past president of the Colfax Area

Historical Society and currently is Archives Director.



Robert G. Fowler’s biplane, built by the Wright Brothers, 1911. Fowler crashed northeast of Colfax during his attempt to fly from San Francisco to Jacksonville, Florida in less than 30 days. His plane was repaired in Colfax. It utilized a 30-horsepower engine from the Cole Motor Car Company. Photo from the online collection of the California State Library.

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## New Facebook page

In June, we created a new Facebook group for the historical society and museum:  
[facebook.com/groups/colfax.california.museum](https://facebook.com/groups/colfax.california.museum)

You can also find it by searching for "Colfax California Museum" in Facebook.

The new Facebook group has enabled us to have more participation—including more posts, photographs, questions, and comments by CAHS members and others.

(This replaces our previous Facebook page, [facebook.com/colfaxmuseum](https://facebook.com/colfaxmuseum)).

### Railroad Days, Sept. 16–17, 2023

**September 16–17** : This annual celebration of Colfax, California's Railroad history features train displays, craft vendors, the Black Flag Gang (Old West gunfighters), family activities, food and refreshments.

## The museum and historical society have a new email

We have a new email address – **[museum@colfaxhistory.org](mailto:museum@colfaxhistory.org)**. This replaces the Gmail address that we were using ([museum.colfax@gmail.com](mailto:museum.colfax@gmail.com)).

### Our October program

**October 21**: Nancy Hagman, local journalist and historian, will give a presentation about the long history of the Bull and Bear statues that were located next to the Colfax Heritage Museum until recently.

This will be an entertaining evening illustrated with great stories and photos.

## Sign up to receive the newsletter as a PDF

Currently we mail each member of the CAHS a printed copy of the quarterly newsletter. To receive the newsletter as a PDF sent to your personal email instead, send an email to [museum@colfaxhistory.org](mailto:museum@colfaxhistory.org) and include "PDF" in the subject line.

## Sign up for our occasional mailing list

To sign up to receive an occasional email from the historical society and museum, send an email to [museum@colfaxhistory.org](mailto:museum@colfaxhistory.org) and include "Mailing list" in the subject line.

### Volunteering at the Museum

The Colfax Heritage Museum needs additional docent volunteers to assist visitors and answer questions about the exhibits and local history. Docents also sell books, souvenirs, snacks, and drinks to visitors.

The museum is currently open six days a week: Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

If interested in being a docent, contact us:

- call the museum at (530) 346-8599
- send an email to [museum@colfaxhistory.org](mailto:museum@colfaxhistory.org)
- visit the museum and talk to the docents and Museum Director

The Colfax Heritage Museum is located in the Colfax Passenger Depot at 99 Railroad St., Colfax, California.

The building also contains the Colfax Visitors Center, public restrooms, and a community room where visitors can wait for their trains and buses.

The Museum and Visitors Center provide visitors with a comfortable place to wait, where they can relax and also learn about Colfax's history and businesses.

More information about the museum is available online at [colfaxhistory.org](https://colfaxhistory.org)

# Please support the local businesses and organizations that support the CAHS

The following local businesses and organizations are members of the Colfax Area Historical Society, and we appreciate their support. We ask you to support them.

<p><b>American Legion Colfax Post 192</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 311 Colfax, CA 95713</p>	<p><b>Colfax Dental Center</b></p> <p>120 Whitcomb Avenue Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6244</p>	<p><b>Colfax Garden Club</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 1801 Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6215</p>
<p><b>Colfax General Store</b></p> <p>6 North Main St. Colfax, CA 95713 rklobner@colfaxnet.com</p>	<p><b>Colfax Lions Club</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 664 Colfax, CA 95713 facebook.com/ColfaxCALionsClub/</p>	<p><b>DACOMM</b></p> <p>Providing internet service to the Colfax Heritage Museum, Colfax Visitor Center, businesses, and residences throughout the area. (530) 545-9750 or (530) 210-9918 dacomm.net • support@dacomm.net</p>
<p><b>Grace Hubley Foundation</b></p> <p>24820 Ben Taylor Colfax, CA 95713 gracehubleyfoundation.org</p>	<p><b>Kurtis H. Fox, M.D., Inc.</b></p> <p>101 Grass Valley St. Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2281</p>	<p><b>Sierra Business Services</b></p> <p>520 South Auburn St, #D Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2455 barbkelly@foothill.net</p>
<p><b>Sierra Vista Community Center</b></p> <p>55 School Street Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-8726 svcc@colfaxnet.org</p>	<p><b>VFW Auxiliary Post 2003</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 1213, Colfax, CA 95713 President: (530) 636-4242</p>	

<p>To join the Colfax Area Historical Society, fill out this form and mail it with a check to: <b>CAHS, PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713</b> . Your subscription will begin with the next quarterly issue.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Phone _____ Email _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$20 Individual membership</b> (one person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25 Family membership</b> (including children)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$35 Business or Non-Profit Organization membership</b> (includes an ad in each issue of <i>Colfax Cobblestones</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Receive the newsletter by email.</b> We will send a copy of each newsletter to your email instead of mailing you a copy.</p>
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## CAHS Officers

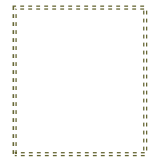
**President:** Dirk Gifford  
**Vice President:** Nancy Hagman  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Kelly  
**Recording Secretary :** Joann Geist  
**Membership Chair:** Chris Miller

**Corresponding Secretary :** Not filled at this time

**Archives Director :** Swend Miller  
**Museum Director :** Irene Allen  
**Member-At-Large :** Roger Staab  
**Cobblestones Editor:** Dirk Gifford  
**Webmaster:** Dirk Gifford



The Lobner Block, Colfax, California, 1900. This was located on Front Street, which is now Main Street.  
From the Bowers-Keck collection of the Colfax Area Historical Society.



### The Colfax Area Historical Society

PO Box 185  
Colfax CA 95713

**Phone:** (530) 346-8599

**Email:** [museum@colfaxhistory.org](mailto:museum@colfaxhistory.org)

**USPS mail:** Mail for both the Colfax Heritage Museum and the Colfax Area Historical Society is received at PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713.

**Museum location:** The Colfax Heritage Museum is physically located at 99 Railroad St, Colfax, California, in the restored Colfax Passenger Depot.