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NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission**  
**P.O. Box 1014**  
**Nevada City, California 95959**  
**info@nevadacountylandmarks.com**  
**530-274-7118**

17 July 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the McGlashan Butterfly Collection be approved. The Collection, which contains butterfly, moth, and beetle specimens from around the world, was begun in 1872 by Truckee pioneer Charles McGlashan and continued by his daughters Ximena and Leonora. It exhibits a unique combination of historical and scientific significance.

The applicant is the Truckee-Donner Historical Society. The Collection is housed in a building belonging to the Truckee-Donner Recreation & Park District, which has consented to having a plaque placed in the building. The application is supported by the McGlashan Family. It is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 20-04.

The applicant has provided a thorough and compelling level of research and documentation to accompany its application, which has been reviewed by the Commission for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.

If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

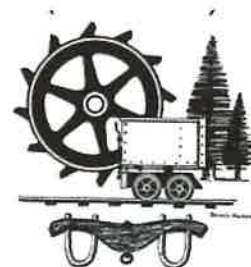
If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Bernard Zimmerman  
Chair

cc. Truckee-Donner Historical Society w/o enc.





# County of Nevada State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark: **McGlashan Butterfly Collection**  
("Collection")

Location: **10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161 (formerly  
8924 Donner Pass Road)**

Name of applicant: **Truckee-Donner Historical Society ("TDHS")**

Address: **P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96161**

Home or work phone: [REDACTED] cell phone: [REDACTED]

Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed  
landmark is located, if owner is not applicant:

**Truckee-Donner Recreation & Park District ("TDRPD"), venue where  
Collection is currently housed, on LOAN from the McGlashan Family,  
Collection owners**

**Truckee-Donner Historical Society, stewards of Collection currently on  
display at TDRPD**

Current Location of Collection:

<https://reports.nevcounty.net/property/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=parcel.ParcelReport&APN=019410022000>

I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site.

Landowner's signature, TDRPD  
Steve Randall, General Manager

Date

## **Brief history and description of proposed landmark:**

(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

The McGlashan Butterfly Collection (“Collection”) is a unique compilation of butterfly, moth, and beetle specimens (Lepidoptera) from around the world mounted on display boards encased in patented wooden frames. The Collection is now over 100 years old.

Charles Fayette McGlashan started his Butterfly Collection in 1872. About 1911, his daughter, Ximena Myrtle McGlashan “Ximena”, often referred to as ‘The Butterfly Princess’, assisted in gathering specimens and arranging the Collection. The Collection is a rare, irreplaceable display of Lepidoptera by the McGlashans. The Collection was originally displayed at Truckee’s Rocking Stone Tower in 1893. The Collection was completed in 1912. In 1895, there was even a butterfly named after Mr. McGlashan, *Malataea Mcglashini*.

Ximena started a butterfly business, The Butterfly Farm, in Truckee. Area newspaper reports and from east coast papers reported that in just six weeks Ximena propagated and sold 6,200 mounted butterflies for which she received \$0.05 cents each, or \$310, averaging about \$50. per week. Any enterprising girl could likewise follow suit. (*Miami News*, 18 Sept. 1912, p. 4)

Mr. McGlashan and or his daughters Ximena and Leonora submitted at least four patents for entomological specimens. The first application Mr. McGlashan submitted was for display boxes in 1886 which patent was granted in 1888; a second application, an entomological mount was submitted with his daughters Ximena and Leonora, which patent was granted in July 1914. A third patent – also for an entomological mount was granted in August 1915, and a fourth for a spreading board for entomological mounting, granted in 1916. There were originally over 20,000 specimens, but after 100 years of being bandied about in several different locations, subject to the vagaries of time and microorganisms, and unfortunately subject to vandalism, what remains of the Collection is presently housed at the TDRPD at 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161. [There are only a few remaining original McGlashan butterfly cases. Several, however, are on display in the Old Jail Museum where they will remain. Estimates put the number of specimens now on display at about 1,200.] The display cases at TDRPD definitely show their age, but many are remarkably intact since their assembly over 100 years ago. In or around 1981, efforts were made to repair some of the damaged cases. The Collection today is still considered to be one of the most valuable information sources for lepidopterists.

McGlashan’s daughter Ximena was an accomplished, self-taught lepidopterist and through hard work and determination was successful in her butterfly farm business. She and her father became authors of a bimonthly

magazine circular called *The Butterfly Farmer* which was published in 1913-1914. Ximena stopped the butterfly business and enrolled in graduate school, graduating from Stanford University with a degree in Entomology and Bionomics in May 1916.

The Collection was originally housed in the enclosed Rocking Stone Tower (“RST”) in the late 1890s and early 1900s, located adjacent to the current Truckee Veterans Memorial Building (“TVMB”). [McGlashan’s home, often referred to as The Crystal Palace, or McGlashan’s Mansion, was the building on site before TVMB]. The original Collection was on display in the RST along with relics from the Donner Party Mr. McGlashan had collected. McGlashan passed away in 1931, and unfortunately, McGlashan’s home burned down in 1934, but the RST where the Collection was housed was *then* undamaged.

In 1938, Nevada County purchased the site for the purpose of constructing a Veterans Memorial Building. During construction, the Collection was moved in late December 1938 to Nevada City for “temporary safekeeping” in spite of protests by Truckee’s Chamber of Commerce and others. McGlashan family members also supported the Chamber of Commerce’s outrage that the Collection was moved to Nevada City. James McIver, Jr., who served as chairman of the Veterans’ Committee at that time, was assured by Nevada County Board of Supervisors that the Collection would be returned to Truckee upon completion of the Veterans Memorial Building. That promise, however, was never kept. [Vandals also destroyed many of the butterfly cases which had been kept in McGlashan’s unoccupied law office near the RST.]

When the Collection was moved to Nevada County Courthouse, it eventually wound up “displayed” in a dimly lit obscure corridor hallway and partially hidden by cardboard storage boxes. The June 1942 Nevada County Board of Supervisors minutes mention that the Board reviewed a petition seeking restoration of the McGlashan (RST) Tower. Further, it was ordered that the RST be repaired at a cost “not to exceed “\$300.” The Collection, however, remained in Nevada City for some twenty-four years.

The now “old” Emigrant Trail Museum was dedicated in 1962. After years of promoting the return of the Collection to Truckee and thanks to the efforts of the McGlashan Family, various organizations, and several people, including Truckee amateur entomologist John Y. Wakefield, the Collection was moved again from the Nevada County Courthouse to the *then* new Emigrant Trail *Museum*. Various letters of endorsement about bringing the Collection back to Truckee were submitted to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors for their approval in their May 1996 meeting.

A three-way August 1996 Memorandum of Understanding among the California Department of Parks and Recreation – Sierra District, the McGlashan

Family, and TDHS provided that the display was to be maintained and kept on exhibit at the Donner Memorial State Park, Emigrant Trail *Museum*. Due to the extremely fragile condition of the display, the Agreement also provided that the Collection was NOT to be removed from the Truckee area. Additionally, in the various transports around the area, the identification labels that Ximena had so painstakingly attached to the undersides of the specimens have been dislodged and are disintegrating. In short, Nevada County returned the Collection to the family, who gave it as a gift to California State Parks to be exhibited at Donner Memorial State Park, Emigrant Trail Museum.

The Collection remained at the Emigrant Trail *Museum* until a new Donner Memorial State Park *Visitors Center* was envisioned in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century and opened in June 2015. The Collection however, was NOT placed in the new *Visitors Center*. Instead, a November 2014 Memorandum of Understanding among all the parties provided that the Collection be moved to the TDRPD Community Center at 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161 where it remains today on public display for all visitors.

The McGlashan Butterfly Collection deserves its respected home in Truckee in perpetuity, and should be recognized for its historical integrity and connection to the Town of Truckee.

As of this date, \_\_\_ June, 2020, the Collection remains on display at the TDRPD.

### **Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark.**

The Collection represents one of the finest lepidoptera assemblies ever compiled. It is the only such Collection in Nevada County.

Although the Collection has been moved about Nevada County since the 1930s, it deserves local Nevada County landmark tribute to honor its creators and to respect the historical Truckee connection it represents. The Collection was assembled in this country's first Butterfly Farm. Through the efforts of the McGlashan family, the Truckee-Donner Historical Society, and other interested parties, an otherwise obscure lepidoptera collection is tastefully displayed at TDRPD, a tribute to the McGlashans as early and active entomologists. The Collection has butterflies gathered from all parts of the world.

## **How will the landmark be protected and maintained?**

The Collection is protected by the Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the owners of the Collection, the McGlashan family, who appointed TDHS as stewards of the Collection. One of the tenets of that agreement is that the Collection is to remain in Truckee and is presently ON LOAN to TDRPD at its current display venue.

TDHS can also assemble information on the Collection by providing a detail sheet on request with references noted above.

In conclusion, there are even McGlashan Butterfly specimens found in the American Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian. Thanks to pioneering efforts of the McGlashans studying lepidoptera, Truckee is unique in that the remaining collection resides here. Protecting and acknowledging this collection as a Nevada County Historical Landmark would be most appropriate.

**Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark. Books and articles. Specific article and newspaper citations included in accompanying References document with links, if available.**

### **Books**

Essig, E.O. (1965, facsimile of the Edition of 1931). *A history of entomology*. New York and London: Hafner Publishing Company. LCCNo. 64-7901 (Interlibrary loan from Sonoma State University).

Leach, William (2013). *Butterfly people: an American encounter with the beauty of the world*. New York: Pantheon Books. ISBN 9780375422935 Notes: Pages 28-29 Edwards encounter with McGlashan. Page 304: Reference 109. Henry Edwards to Scudder, June 2, 1870, SS-BMS, and Charles F. McGlashan to Edwards, June 7, 1887, HE. (Nevada County Library).

Mikula, Rick (2001). *Garden Butterflies of North America: A Gallery of Garden Butterflies and how to Attract them*. Minocqua, WI: Willow Creek Press, Incorporated. ISBN 157223086X <https://books.google.com/books?id=usMgAQAAMAAJ&dq=mikula+rick&focus=searchwithinvolume&q=mcglashan>.

Notes: Page 53 “Donner Pass”

“One of the most unlikely places in the United States to have a butterfly farm is Donner Pass, California, though it was the site of the **first** butterfly farm in the county. And the roots of American butterfly farming began there with a young lady’s desire to go to college. “

“...And that dream continues with the McGlashan Butterfly Foundation in Truckee, which awards scholarships and grants to Tahoe/Truckee area students for the study of entomology.” [www.butterflyrick.com](http://www.butterflyrick.com)

McGlashan, M. Nona (1977). *Give Me a Mountain Meadow: a biographical account of a remarkable man*. Details the life of Charles Fayette McGlashan, 1847-1931. Fresno, CA: Valley Publishers. ISBN 0-913548-41-3 (TDHS Joseph Research Library). ISBN 13:9780913548417.

Mikula, Rick (1997). *Garden butterflies of North America: a gallery of garden butterflies and how to attract them*. Minocqua, WI: Willow Creek Press, Incorporated. ISBN 1572233060  
Notes: Page 53 “**Donner Pass**” (Czerwinski Family Library).

“One of the most unlikely places in the United States to have a butterfly farm is Donner Pass, California, though it was the site of the **first** butterfly farm in the county. And the roots of American butterfly farming began there with a young lady’s desire to go to college. “

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## Publications (articles)

Ball, Jamie. Truckee Almanac Perspectives (undated, circa 1996) *McGlashan butterfly collection returns to Truckee*. Reference to McGlashan Butterfly Foundation.

Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), *The Butterfly Farmer*, September 1913, Vol. 1, No. 1-12, to August 1914, <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/121946#page/3/mode/lup>; also, <http://bit.ly/2ESF4X2> = <https://archive.org/details/butterfl111219131914mcgl/page/n2> = [https://books.google.com/books?id=ujBDAAAAAYAAI&pg=PA208&lpg=PA208&dq=lepidoptera+mcglashan&source=hl&ots=fteI\\_WzIr9&sig=ACfU3U3z6d1seMfKbXrD2p-kr1D4R8svjw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj79\\_W3z9HiAhVE7qwKHRc9AVQ4ChiDoATABegQIBxAAB#v=onepage&q=lepidoptera%20mcglashan&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=ujBDAAAAAYAAI&pg=PA208&lpg=PA208&dq=lepidoptera+mcglashan&source=hl&ots=fteI_WzIr9&sig=ACfU3U3z6d1seMfKbXrD2p-kr1D4R8svjw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj79_W3z9HiAhVE7qwKHRc9AVQ4ChiDoATABegQIBxAAB#v=onepage&q=lepidoptera%20mcglashan&f=false)

Butterflies of America,

[https://www.butterfliesofamerica.com/euphydryas\\_chalcedona\\_macglashanii.htm](https://www.butterfliesofamerica.com/euphydryas_chalcedona_macglashanii.htm)

Accessed June 14, 2020. HCS re *mcglashanii f. truckeensis* .

California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC) entries, links noted below.

Dos Passos, Cyril F. (1938, July 26). *The types of Lepidoptera described by J.D. Gunder*. *American Museum Novitates*, Number 999, pp. 1-16. (published by the American Museum of Natural History, New York City).

Essig, E.O. (1965, facsimile of the Edition of 1931). *A history of entomology*. New York and London: Hafner Publishing Company. LCCN No. 64-7901

<https://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/dcurtis/truckee/references.html> - list of Truckee Butterfly articles

*Insect Collector's Forum (The)* (2016 entries). The McGlashans: The Patriarch and the Butterfly Princess.

The McGlashan Butterfly Collection

<https://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/dcurtis/truckee/collection.html>.

McGlashan, Nona (January/February 1997). *McGlashan Butterfly Collection Wings its Way Home*, *Sierra Heritage*, pp. 30-33. <https://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/dcurtis/truckee/sh.html>.

McGlashan, Ximena (1914). *List of Truckee butterflies*. *The Butterfly Farmer*, 1 (8), pp.125-131.

**Nevada County Board of Supervisors Minutes**

1994-1996

*Nevada County Board of Supervisors*, Agenda item, TDHS President Jim Smith presents request for Relocation of the McGlashan Butterfly Collection from the Nevada County Courthouse to the Donner Memorial State Park Museum, p. 4.

Oppewall Jeannine (1998, Winter). *From the gold rush to the Hollywood Rushes Some Notes on the History of Butterfly Farming in California*, *American Entomologist*, pp. 31-33. From TERRA, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County publication (Spring 1979), Vol. 17, No. 4.

Shapiro, Art, *Butterfly Site, Donner Pass*, <http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/sites/donner> (Accessed June 12, 2020).

Shapiro, Arthur M., *American Entomologist* (Winter 1998), *False Faunas: on Mistrusting Old Special Lists*, pp. 238-250. Accessed September 4, 2019. Search: arthur shapiro false faunas "american entomologist"

[https://books.google.com/books?id=UFpFAQAIAAI&q=arthur+shapiro+false+faunas+%22american+entomologist%22+winter+1998&dq=arthur+shapiro+false+faunas+%22american+entomologist%22+winter+1998&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiRoICig-\\_iAhXIQ98KHc4VCa8Q6AEIKDAA](https://books.google.com/books?id=UFpFAQAIAAI&q=arthur+shapiro+false+faunas+%22american+entomologist%22+winter+1998&dq=arthur+shapiro+false+faunas+%22american+entomologist%22+winter+1998&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiRoICig-_iAhXIQ98KHc4VCa8Q6AEIKDAA)

Shapiro, Art, Professor UC Davis, Examination Reports February 27, and 28, 1996, noting that at the time, "at least 85% of the specimens are in good to excellent condition."

[Smithsonian Object Details for Ximena McGlashan](#) 19 August 1913 specimen, last modified 18 Jan. 2018.

TDRPD Blog, <http://www.tdrpd.org/home/blog/119-truckee-butterfly-collection.html>. Accessed June 17, 2019.



**Echoes From the Past** article (March 2014), Sproat, Heidi. *1915 Historical Discovery made at Joseph Research Library*,

[https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/2014.03\\_echoes\\_march\\_issue\\_1\\_final.pdf](https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/2014.03_echoes_march_issue_1_final.pdf), pp. 2-3, 6.

**Echoes From the Past** article (May 2015), Sproat, Heidi. *Butterfly Exhibit Moved*.

[https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/final\\_efip\\_may2015\\_rfs\\_web.pdf](https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/final_efip_may2015_rfs_web.pdf), p. 2.

Wakefield, John Y., local Truckee resident and amateur entomologist, who researched local universities and arranged for noted lepidopterist specialist Dr. Arthur Shapiro of UC Davis to conduct a complete inspection of the Collection

Wikipedia entry, Ximena McGlashan, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ximena\\_McGlashan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ximena_McGlashan)

## Letters

Various letters from area supporters to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors urging return of the McGlashan Butterfly Collection to Truckee (Spring 1996 letters including one from the then Mayor of Truckee)

Handwritten letter from Ximena McGlashan to Fay Northcott, April 16, 1915.

Letter, dated May 23, 1996, from County of Nevada Clerk of the Board Cathy R. Thompson to TDHS President Jim Smith stating that the Board of Supervisors assented to turn the Collection over to the McGlashan family contingent to a safe move provided by the family to the [Emigrant Trail] Museum; accompanying excerpts from the Minutes of same meeting, Vol. 55, May 14, 1996, p. 846.

Letter from John Y. Wakefield, President, McGlashan Butterfly Foundation, to "Friends" to celebrate the arrival of the Charles F. McGlashan Butterfly Collection returned to Truckee establishing the McGlashan Butterfly Foundation. "The principal goal is to establish a scholarship fund for the furtherance of the study of entomology and related sciences with special interest in developing the involvement of the Tahoe/Truckee area students." (No further information yet discovered.)

Letter dated February 11, 1997 from Patricia L. Johnson, attorney, to whomever, regarding the McGlashan Butterfly Foundation, Inc., a proposed California nonprofit corporation. Incorporation papers "in the process" of being prepared.

## Newspapers

*Greensboro Daily News* (North Carolina)

*Miami News* (The)

*Moonshine Ink*

*Morning Union*  
*Nevada State Journal*  
*New York Times*  
*Sacramento Bee*  
*San Francisco Sunday Daily Call (The)*  
*Sierra Sun and Truckee Republican*  
*Sierra Sun*  
*Sun (The) (New York)*  
*Tahoe Weekly (The)*  
*Truckee Republican*  
*Union Prospector*

## Patents

Showcase for Entomological and Other Specimens, Patented April 10, 1888, No. 380,762, by Charles F. McGlashan, <http://bit.ly/2ZaaW0R> =  
<https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=380762&idkey=NONE&homeurl=http%3A%252F%252Fpatft.uspto.gov%252Fnethtml%252FPTO%252Fpatimg.htm>

Entomological Mount, Application filed March 9, 1914, granted July 21, 1914, No. 1,104,371,  
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=pst.000064090542&view=lup&seq=1027>  
<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/4d/62/7c/bb9269f6eb9ae7/US1104371.pdf>

Entomological Mount, Application filed September 8, 1914, granted August 24, 1915, No. 1,151,280. Submitted by Ximena, Leonora G., and Charles Fayette McGlashan [X., L.G. & C.F. McGlashan].  
<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/8a/65/45/d5b52f6eef1cb0/US1151280.pdf>  
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89048456347&view=lup&seq=1723>

Spreading-Board for Entomological Specimens, Application filed May 5, 1915, Patented February 22, 1916, No. 1,172,816, submitted by X., L.G. & C.F. McGlashan, Truckee,  
<https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/piw?PageNum=0&docid=01172816&IDKey=2AAE9151DB12%0D%0A&HomeUrl=http%3A%25252F%25252+Fpatft.uspto.gov%25252Fnethtml%25252FPTO%25252Fpatimg.htm>

(Other Patents also granted, including a Bird Lure, patent granted March 4, 1930, No. 1,749,497.  
<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/2f/3b/3b/3f6b5da7a6d3a6/US1749497.pdf>)

And at least 9 more patents for bird related feeders, lures, etc.

## Personal Correspondences

McGlashan Family  
Nevada County Courts  
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

Nevada County Historical Society, Inc.  
North Tahoe Week Truckee Magazine  
*Pember* (The) Museum, Granville, NY [thepember.com](http://thepember.com).  
Town of Truckee

Truckee Citizens including school children who submitted notes and letters to the Pioneer  
Emigrant Trail Museum attesting to the diversity and importance to the Truckee community  
Truckee High Sierra 4-H, Entomology Leader

### **Websites**

*Art Shapiro's Butterfly Site: Donner Pass* <<http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/sites/donner>> assessed  
6/12/2020 hcs

### **Collection viewing sites**

Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District, 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161  
TDHS Old Jail Museum, 10142 Jibboom Street, Truckee, CA 96161

### **Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments, etc.)**

Nevada County Assessor Parcel (019-410-022-000). Owner's steward is Truckee-Donner  
Historical Society, P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160. Collection is presently ON LOAN to and  
housed at TDRPD, 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161

<https://reports.nevcounty.net/property/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=parcel.ParcelReport&APN=019410022000>

and

August 1996, Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Disposition of the C.F.  
McGlashan Butterfly Collection Between California Department of Parks and Recreation –  
Sierra District, the McGlashan Family, and Truckee-Donner Historical Society (copy attached)

November 2014 Memorandum of Understanding as to the disposition of the Butterfly Collection  
which permits moving it to TDRPD

### **Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)**

See accompanying photographs

Continue to next page

Chauin La Mordier

6-18-2020

Applicant's signature

Date

Chauin Mortier, TDHS Vice-President 2020

WILLIAM E. McGLASHAN (GREAT GRANDSON OF CHARLES FAYETTE McGLASHAN)

W E McGlashan

06/25/2020

McGlashan Family Representative

Date

[Signature]

7/8/20

TDRPD, Truckee-Donner Recreation and  
Park District, Steve Randall, General Manager

Date

This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:  
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
Attn: Chairman  
P.O. Box 1014, Nevada City, CA 95959

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other non-historical reasons.

An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session

**NOTES:**

1. In perusing additional images, this photograph of a Truckee bar (believed to be the Fontana), circa 1910s, had a display board of Ximena McGlashan's Butterfly collection. The Bar burned and that display was unfortunately destroyed. Source: TDHS INT0001



Close up of cropped Butterfly image



2. Within the last year there have been several requests directed to TDHS, specifically inquiring about the McGlashan Butterfly Collection. Many of the questions have been resolved by directing inquiries to Ximena McGlashan's *The Butterfly Farmer* articles - issues thankfully that are available online. One request we could not answer is the actual specimen identification at the current TDRPD display cases.
3. The most recent request, however, came in June 2019, where the Pember Library in Granville, New York, shared with us images of an actual Owl Cannister container in which Ximena McGlashan shipped her Lepidoptera to purchaser Pember in a Wells Fargo & Co Express container. [Link to images](#) made available for TDHS.
4. In reviewing various documents in preparation of this Application, we also learned that in E.O. Essig's 1931 edition *A History of Entomology*, C.F. McGlashan purportedly sent

some of his collected specimens to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The location identification was listed as Truckee. We did verify that the Museum's current Lepidoptera collection does indeed hold two "McGlashan" specimens, *Euphydryas chalcedona mcglashanii f. truckeensis*. (**American Museum Novitates**, July 26, 1938, No. 999, pp. 7-8). Of noted interest is the connection between Essig and McGlashan. The [Essig Museum of Entomology](#), University of California, Berkeley Research, has been in existence since the 1880s.

Further, in Nona McGlashan's book, *Give Me A Mountain Meadow* on p. 245, she writes: "In scientific circles, the Pacific Coast Entomological Society devoted its leading article in January 1931 edition of [The Pan Pacific Entomologist](#)" to his [McGlashan's] memory. This quarterly, published in cooperation with the California Academy of Sciences, solicited the chairman of its Publication Committee, E.O. Essig, to render a full and warm account of McGlashan's life as well as his contribution to the study of moths and butterflies."

5. Applicant has also recently learned that Nona McGlashan donated several original Ximena McGlashan Butterfly cases to TDHS' Old Jail Museum in about 1991. These will remain at the Old Jail Museum on display. (See images of original display cases in separate Photographs document which accompanies this Application.)

Accompanying materials:

List of and photographs to accompany NCHLC Application

List of References used in the NCHLC Application



# County of Nevada State of California

## Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

### **Photographs to accompany McGlashan Butterfly Collection September 2019**

- 1912 picture of Ximena assembling butterfly boxes for shipment; found in Jeannine Oppewall article, p. 3
- Undated picture of Ximena sorting butterflies into glass jars
- Ximena McGlashan April 18, 1915 letter to Fay Northcott about her butterfly farming lessons
- Ximena McGlashan, cover of *The Butterfly Farmer* monthly publication
- Ximena and Charles Fayette McGlashan
- C.F. McGlashan's Crystal Palace (home) and adjoining Rocking Stone Tower which originally housed the McGlashan Butterfly Collection
- Thelma Meiss standing in front of the Butterfly Collection on display at the Nevada County Courthouse
- Moving day for relocating the Collection to TDRPD
- Installation complete of the Collection on display at the TDRPD
- Close up photos of the Collection
- Photos of some of Ximena's Collection donated to the TDHS Old Jail Museum by Nona McGlashan, and received by the then Old Jail Museum docent curator, Joan Mensour (as shared with a long time Truckee resident)

Unless otherwise noted, all photos courtesy of Greg Zirbel or Heidi Sproat

Continued to next pages

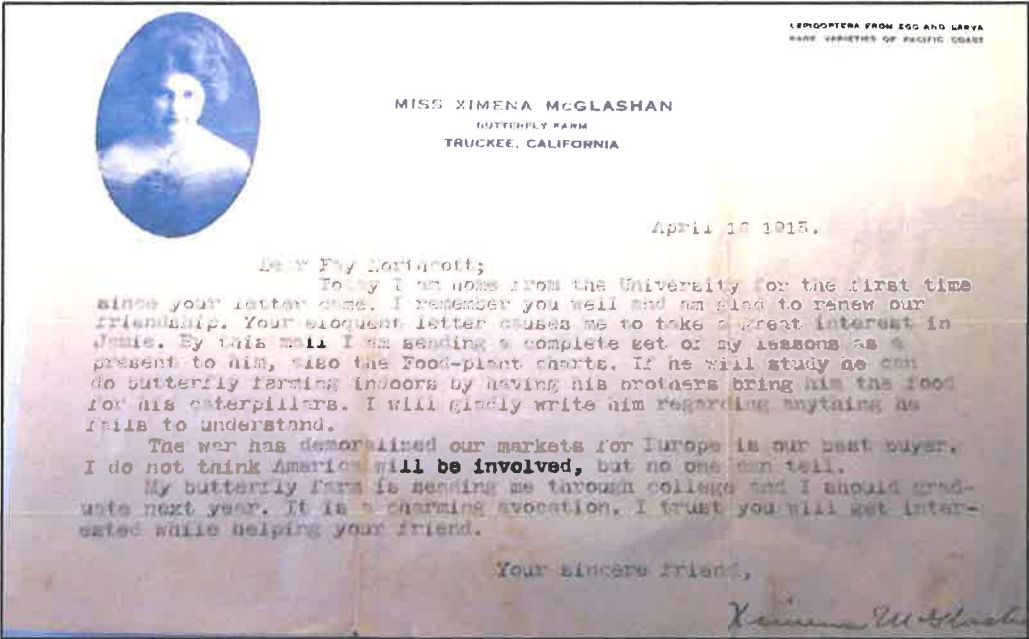


1912 picture of Ximena readying butterfly boxes for shipment; located in Jeannine Oppewall article, "History of Butterfly Farming in California" (Winter 1998), published in American Entomologist and TERRA magazine (Spring 1979 Vol. 17, No. 4).





Picture of Ximena sorting butterflies into glass jars; seen in *Sierra Heritage* magazine, Jan. - Feb. 1997, "McGlashan Butterfly Collection – Winging its Way Home", by Nona McGlashan.

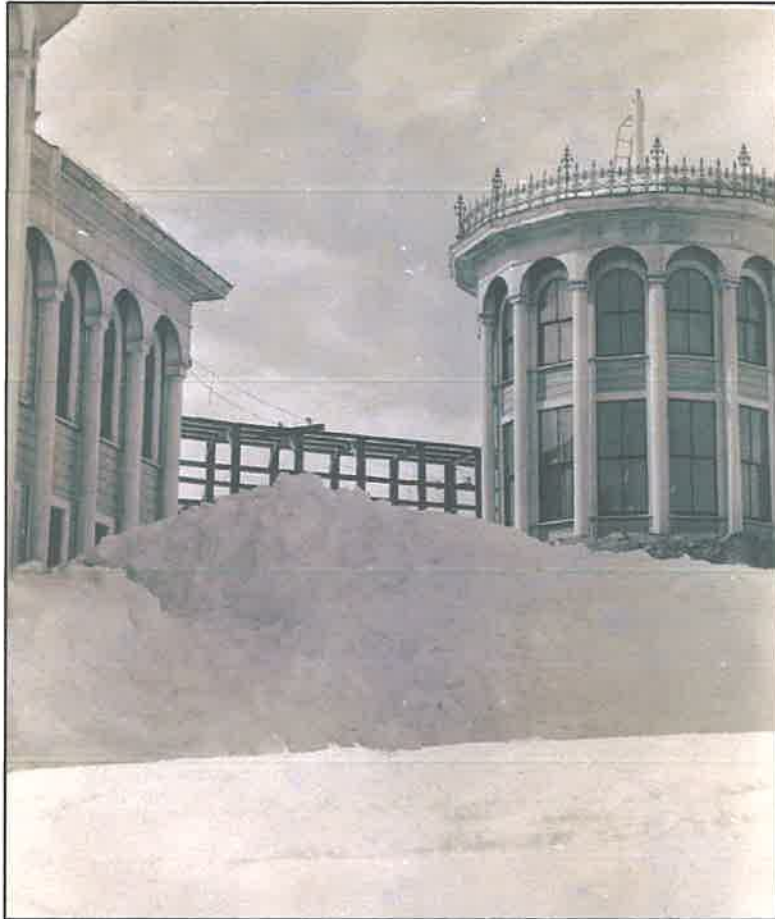




Ximena McGlashan,  
cover of *The Butterfly Farmer*



Ximena McGlashan and her father,  
Charles Fayette McGlashan



**HIGH0013, McGlashan's "Crystal Palace" home and adjoining Rocking Stone Tower Museum where the Butterfly Collection was originally housed.**



**Thelma Meiss standing in front of the Butterfly Collection on display at the Nevada County Courthouse (probably sometime 1990); attribution unknown**



**McGlashan Family representatives, State Park officials, and TDHS volunteers coordinating relocating the Collection from the Donner Memorial State Park Emigrant Trail Museum to TDRPD, Spring 2015**



Since Spring 2015, Collection now on display at the TDRPD



McGlashan Butterfly Collection installation at TDRPD Spring 2015



Close up on two of the Butterfly Displays



Close up photos of the Collection; photos by Heidi Sproat, April 2017





Photos from Ximena's Collection donated to TDHS Old Jail Museum by Nona McGlashan



Note Ximena McGlashan card mount and Pat. Pending notation July 21, 1914.





The above three photos were taken by Ron Rettig, TDHS Research Volunteer. These few remaining original butterfly cases remain on public display in the “women’s room” of the Old Jail Museum at the request of the donor, Nona McGlashan, Charles Fayette McGlashan’s daughter. These displays are not part of the Collection request for NCHLC approval.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
for Cooperation in the Disposition of the  
C.F. McGlashan Butterfly Collection**

**Between**

**California Department of Parks and Recreation - Sierra District  
the McGlashan Family  
Truckee - Donner Historical Society**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, is made and entered into by and between the above named parties in order to securely maintain and effectively exhibit the natural history lepidoptery display known as: The McGlashan Butterfly Collection.**

It is mutually agreed:

1. The display will be maintained for public exhibition and kept on exhibit at the Donner Memorial State Park, Emigrant Trail Museum.
2. Due to provenance in the Town of Truckee and to the extremely fragile condition of the display, the display and its contents will not be removed from the Truckee area.
3. Due to the historical integrity of the display it will not be physically altered other than for the purpose of preservation, conservation, or repair, as deemed necessary by Sierra District Museum Curator or a museum exhibit collection conservation professional.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or supplemented by mutual agreement by the signers or their successors.
5. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding is to be construed as conflicting with existing laws, regulations, and prescribed responsibilities applicable to the respective parties hereto.
6. This agreement shall be effective upon execution by all parties hereto.

WEM

RGm

*[Handwritten mark]*

**Memorandum of Understanding  
for Cooperation in the Disposition of the  
C.F. McGlashan Butterfly Collection**

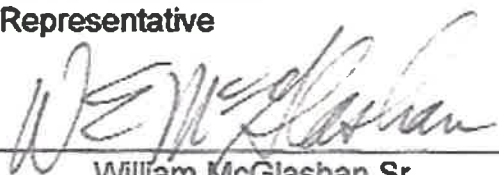
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement as of the most recent date written below.

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Sierra District Superintendent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Macomber

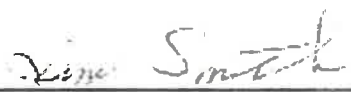
Date 7/22/96

McGlashan Family  
Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William McGlashan Sr.

Date 5/14/96

Truckee - Donner Historical Society  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Smith

cc: Donner Memorial State Park files  
Sierra District Museum Curator files

## McGlashan Butterfly Collection References

Compiled by B. Czerwinski, August 2, 2019 / Rev. HCS June 12, 2020

### Books

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Mikula, Rick (1997). *Garden butterflies of North America: a gallery of garden butterflies and how to attract them*. Minocqua, WI: Willow Creek Press, Incorporated. ISBN 1572233060 Notes: Page 53 “Donner Pass” (Czerwinski Family Library).

“One of the most unlikely places in the United States to have a butterfly farm is Donner Pass, California, though it was the site of the **first** butterfly farm in the county. And the roots of American butterfly farming began there with a young lady’s desire to go to college. “

“.....And that dream continues with the McGlashan Butterfly Foundation in Truckee, which awards scholarships and grants to Tahoe/Truckee area students for the study of entomology.” [www.butterflyrick.com](http://www.butterflyrick.com)

### Newspapers

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*Miami News* (The)

*Moonshine Ink*

*Morning Union*

*Nevada State Journal*

*New York Times*

*Sacramento Bee*

*San Francisco Sunday Daily Call* (The)

*Sierra Sun and Truckee Republican*

*Sierra Sun*

*Sun* (The) (New York)

**Tahoe Weekly (The)  
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Union Prospector**

**SPECIFIC article details:**

Siig, Melissa (8 May – 11 June 2015). *MoonshineInk.com*, [New Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center](#) opens in June, p. 22.

*Morning Union* (4 February 1894). *The Sierra's Marvel The Wonderful Rocking Stone That is Bringing Wide Fame to Truckee. An Archaeological [sic] treasure That is Attracting the Attention of Scientists.* <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=MUI8940204.2.71&srpos=1&dliv=none&3=-----en-en-20--1--txt-txIN-IN-%E2%80%9CRocking+stone%E2%80%9D+columns-----1>. Accessed June 16, 2019 CDNC.

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Coates, Guy and Jim Smith. *Bring the Butterflies Home: Historical Society Seeks Return of McGlashan Collection to Truckee.* *Sierra Sun*. January 11, 1996, p. 9.

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*Sierra Sun* (May 9, 1986) *Home Again*

*Sierra Sun* (May 16, 1996) *Butterfly collection released to Emigrant Trail Museum*

*Sierra Sun* (May 23, 1996) *Butterfly collection efforts lauded*

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### Patents <https://patents.google.com/?inventor=Ximena+Mcglashan>

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Entomological Mount, Application filed March 9, 1914, granted July 21, 1914, No. 1,104,371, <https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/4d/62/7c/bb9269f6eb9ae7/US1104371.pdf> <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=pst.000064090542&view=lup&seq=1027> <https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/4d/62/7c/bb9269f6eb9ae7/US1104371.pdf>

Entomological Mount, Application filed September 8, 1914, granted August 24, 1915, No. 1,151,280. Submitted by Ximena, Leonora G., and Charles Fayette McGlashan [X., L.G. & C.F. McGlashan]. <https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/8a/65/45/d5b52f6eef1cb0/US1151280.pdf> <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89048456347&view=lup&seq=1723>

Spreading-Board for Entomological Specimens, Application filed May 5, 1915, Patented February 22, 1916, No. 1,172,816, submitted by X., L.G. & C.F. McGlashan, Truckee, <https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/piw?PageNum=0&docid=01172816&IDKey=2AAE9151DB12%0D%0A&HomeUrl=http%3A%25252F%25252+Fpatft.uspto.gov%25252Fnetahtml%25252FPTO%25252Fpatimg.htm>

(Other Patents also granted, including a Bird Lure, patent granted March 4, 1930, No. 1,749,497. <https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/2f/3b/3b/3f6b5da7a6d3a6/US1749497.pdf>)

And at least 9 more patents for bird related feeders, lures, etc.

### Personal Correspondences

McGlashan Family

Nevada County Courts

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

Nevada County Historical Society, Inc.  
North Tahoe Week Truckee Magazine  
Pember (The) Museum, Granville, NY <thepember.com>  
Town of Truckee  
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And



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[https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/final\\_eftp\\_may2015\\_rfs\\_web.pdf](https://www.truckeehistory.org/uploads/5/1/9/2/51923135/final_eftp_may2015_rfs_web.pdf), p. 2.

## **Nevada County Board of Supervisor's Minutes**

1994-1996

## **Websites**

*Art Shapiro's Butterfly Site: Donner Pass* <<http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/sites/donner>> assessed 6/12/2020 hcs

## **Collection viewing sites**

Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District, 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, CA 96161

TDHS Old Jail Museum, 10142 Jibboom Street, Truckee, CA 96161

## **Photographs**

1990s Thelma Finger Meiss at Nevada County Courthouse with McGlashan Butterfly Collection

1995 October Guy Coates' "photos at Nevada County" of McGlashan Butterfly Collection;  
Edmund Czerwinski photos at Emigrant Trail Museum of McGlashan Butterfly Collection

2015 Greg Zirbel's photos at TDRPD

\_\_\_\_ Heidi Sproat's photos at TDRPD

\_\_\_\_ Ron Rettig's photos of sections of McGlashan Butterfly Collection at Old Jail Museum

## **Biography**

Ximena McGlashan Howard (1893-1986) Buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland