

Friends of Snowshoe Thompson

The officers of the Friends of Snowshoe Thompson are as follow:

President: Kim Harris

Secretary: Sue Knight

Treasurer: Loraine Dix

Directors: Nina MacLeod, liaison between Genoa and Norway, Lynne Bowersock, Darlene & Ted Tiffany, Diane Johnson, Billie Weatherlow, Jo Allen

Members will be notified of meetings and events.

To become a member please send \$10 and contact information to:

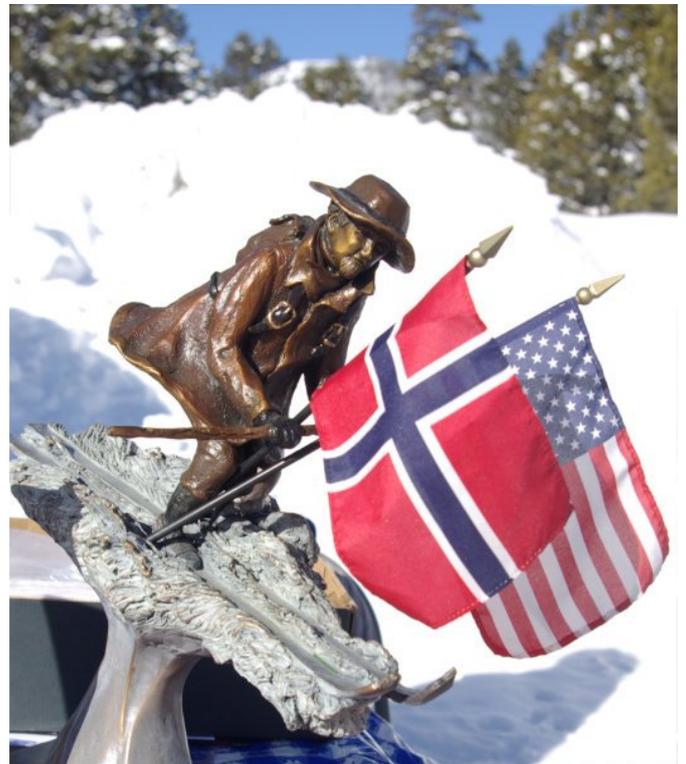
Friends of Snowshoe Thompson
P.O. Box 605, Genoa, NV, 89411 or
e-mail

wildrose@pyramid.net

www.snowshoethompson.org

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SNOWSHOE THOMPSON



Legendary Mailman
of the Sierra

History of Snowshoe Thompson

The legendary “Mailman of the Sierra”, John A. “Snowshoe” Thompson, carried mail from Placerville, California, to Genoa, Nevada (Utah Territory) for 20 years, twice a month during the winter. Disillusioned with gold prospecting, he responded to an article in the “Sacramento Union”, asking for a mail carrier since “people living east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and west of Salt Lake lose contact with the outside world as winter snows cut off all communications.” While “Snowshoe” contemplated this challenge he carved 10 feet long wooden skis (long boards) and practiced with a long balance pole. When he felt competent he “decided to offer his services to Uncle Sam as a mail carrier”, in spite of warnings about men before him who had tried and not made it. When he left Placerville on the first trip in January 1856, someone yelled after him, “Good luck ‘Snowshoe’ Thompson,” hence the name that stuck with him.

“Thompson was born Jon Torsteinson-Rue on April 20, 1827, on a farm called “Luraas-Rue gård” in Tinn, Telemark, Norway. Jon was the fourteenth and youngest child of Torstein Olson-Rue and the sixth and youngest child of Gro Jonsdatter Einungbrekke.

Gro was Torstein’s second wife. “Torstein was 68 years old when Jon was born but died just two years later in 1829. Gro’s life was very difficult after Torstein died.” In 1837 Gro had an opportunity to emigrate to America.

She and Jon, along with many others from the Telemark region, left Norway on May 30, 1837, on the ship Niord, arriving in New York on August 15, 1837. After a short life of adventures and service to others, John “Snowshoe” Thompson died on May 15, 1876.

He is buried in the Genoa Cemetery. His wife, Agnes, and son, Arthur, are buried alongside.

Information is taken from:

“Snowshoe Thompson: His Life and Adventures” published by the Carson Valley Historical Society in 1991

The magnificent statue of John “Snowshoe” Thompson, which stands in the grounds of the Mormon Station State Park in Genoa, Nevada, was dedicated on June 23, 2001. Sculptor was Don Budy from Colorado. This statue was made possible with funds raised by the Snowshoe Thompson Committee of the Greater Genoa Business Association. On October 6, 2003, a nonprofit organization was formed called “Friends of Snowshoe Thompson”.

The purpose of this organization is “To promote and foster the memory of John “Snowshoe” Thompson through events and activities, and to maintain the statue and planter in the Mormon Station State Park.

The mission . . .

“To honor the memory of Snowshoe Thompson in many ways, including promotion of international cooperation between Norwegian and American communities; promotion of connections between American Lutheran Churches and Scandinavian Lutheran Churches; encourage education in the schools about Norwegians in America; hold events supporting these ideals.”

**Friends of SnowshoeThompson
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

**Member interest (circle any that apply) History,
Events, Norwegian, Skier, Other**

Membership fee \$10

**Return to: FOST, P.O Box 605 Genoa, NV
89411**