

Daughter of the Mountains

PUBLIC INVITATION: Gold Rush Book Discussion Monday, February 16, 2009 8:30 a.m. at the Dodgeville Public Library

Katie Green, local author, historian & genealogist will be discussing her current book, *Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat*. Ms. Green brings a wealth of information about the California Gold Rush. She is very interested in hearing about your ancestors that headed off to California.



Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat: A Dauntless Girl of the Golden West

A new Gold Rush book! -- a fictionalized historical adventure story for "children of all ages". Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat is the mostly-true tale of a pioneer child born and raised in an historic gold and lumber camp along the North Yuba River in the mountains of Northern California. As the book opens, we see Debbie Whitney -- daughter of early emigrants -- as a fearless tomboy, impulsive, and also rather spoiled!

At this age, Debbie's ardent desire to test mental and physical boundaries clashes frequently with her parents' protectiveness. Her mother, especially, fears for Debbie's safety and reputation. Fixated on fairness, the girl condemns prejudice and other mean-spirited behavior around her -- and is blind to her own failings. A series of unexpected events shakes up Debbie's life, helping her to grow in understanding and goodness of heart.

This book examines burning issues and changing cultural values that were front and center in 1874 (when the story takes place), as seen through the eyes and actions of a child. They are essentially the same things parents and children still wrangle about today and in every age. It's a book for lovers of history and adventure, ages 12 and up, including adult readers who are young in spirit.

Like A Leaf Upon the Current Cast (Non-Fiction)

Like A Leaf Upon the Current Cast explores the history of life along a section of the North Yuba River from pre-Gold Rush times to the present. In it local events are nestled into the larger picture of the region, the State, the Republic, and the planet. By using Sierra County as representative of what happened in the goldfields all over California, I sketch how the Gold Rush destroyed the sleepy, balanced world of the Native Americans and replaced it first with anarchy and then with a quirky, independent subculture that still holds sway today.

Author Bio: Native Californian Katie Willmarth Green has been a feature writer, journalist and essayist since 1957. Her Gold Rush history, *Like A Leaf Upon The Current Cast* (2001), is now in its third edition. Katie's newest book, an historical novel about a child of the California Gold Rush and pioneer period (for readers from 10 to 110 years) is available at the Corner Drug Store in Dodgeville. She and her husband are perched on a ridge north of Spring Green.

