



# A MAN AND THE MOUNTAIN

## JOAQUIN MILLER'S SHASTA YEARS

### CONFERENCE INVITATION

MOUNT SHASTA SISSON MUSEUM  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013

You are invited to participate in a remarkable gathering of historians, artists, activists, and writers that share an intrigue for Joaquin Miller and his adventures in the Mount Shasta region in the early 1850's. These true stories of war, love, and moral conflict rival any Shakespearean play or Greek tragedy. Young Miller, later known as the *Poet of the Sierras*, was a frontier adventurer and prolific writer that first crossed over the Siskiyou Mountains from his Oregon homeland in 1853 as a young man, and was immediately plunged into a smoldering cauldron of immigrant settlers and miners, and Native American tribes. His Mount Shasta adventures are truly extraordinary, and extraordinarily true.

In the ensuing years he would:

- Cook in a mining camp, take an arrow through the neck at the Battle of Castle Crags, marry the Wintu chief's daughter Sutatot and become the father to baby Cali-Shasta.
- Fight for a protected, Native American republic on the mountain, make a dramatic jailbreak from Old Shasta, and stage a desperate gun battle with a sheriff's deputy that forced his exodus back to Oregon.
- His writings of this era describe the beauty of the region and the harsh realities of life when gold mining fouled the water and killed the fish, leading to starvation, massacres, and ultimately, a war of extermination on the native tribes, the consequences of which continue to this day.

The conference program features twenty-minute vignettes including scholarly research, tales, recitals, tours, and period music. Featured events include a keynote presentation by pre-eminent anthropologist and historian Margaret Kardell that traces the history of the outlaw, Black Bart, a screening of the inspiring *Dancing Salmon Home*, a winner of the American Indian Film Festival best documentary, and a concluding gala of period music and recitals on Saturday night. In addition, and in keeping with region's generous hospitality, there are ample socials planned, including coffee get-togethers, luncheons, and dinner-and-conversation events.

Please save the date, and make your reservations to join this conference community that will go back in time to appreciate the spectacular beauty of the area, trace the series of events that devastated the native peoples and recount the incredible adventures of a young boy that fought on their behalf...all in the shadows of Shasta.

Please share this invitation with friends and colleagues.

Conference website: [museum@mtshastamuseum.com](mailto:museum@mtshastamuseum.com)  
Reservations: By mail, go to conference website, print reservation, send payment by mail.  
By phone, call (530) 926-5508, pay by credit card.

Information: Jean Nels, Mount Shasta Sisson Museum Executive Director, (530) 926-5508  
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