

The Tale of Grizzly Ryder

James Ryder, who claimed to have come across country with Dr. Tripp “at the close of the Mexican War,” had been tramping through the woods one day looking for stray cattle. He had been as far as the big rocks at Searsville. It was dusk by the time he started back to Tripp and Parkhurst’s store.

When Ryder reached the arroyo, he stopped at the spring for a drink of cool water. Hearing a rustle in the bushes, he made out a form in the dim light which he thought was a steer. As he moved toward it he realized his mistake. It was a grizzly bear, and what was worse, a mother bear with cubs.

Before Ryder could react she had seized him in her paws. He managed to work one arm loose and reach his knife. He stabbed the bear, which caused her to momentarily relax her hold.

Ryder tumbled down the ravine with the mother and cubs in hot pursuit. When he stopped rolling he played dead. For tense moments, the bears sniffed at him. Then, the mother gave Ryder a blow on the side of the head, which took off an ear, and departed with the cubs. At this point, Ryder lost consciousness.

He came to at the Brown Adobe. The man who lived there produced a needle and sewed up the wound and stopped the bleeding. Ryder forever after was called Grizzly Ryder and the arroyo where he was attacked became known as Bear Gulch.

--Adapted from *Crossroads: People and Events of the Redwoods of San Mateo County*, Gilbert Richards, G. Richards Publishers, Woodside, 1973.

Questions:

- How did Ryder escape from the grizzly bear?
- Do grizzly bears still live in California today?
- Is any location in your town named after an animal? Why?

Woodside Store



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Living History Program Teacher’s Guide

In this hands-on living history program, your students will experience life in the 1880s. Among the activities they will participate in are washing clothes with a washboard and an old-fashioned washing machine, making shakes (wooden shingles), using a two-man saw, filling store orders, and calculating prices.

To help your students make the most of this outing, we suggest that you review the history of the area and of the Woodside Store. We have also listed some activities you may want to do with your class before and after your program.

Enjoy your visit to the Woodside Store and this chance to relive history.

SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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History of the Woodside Store

In the 1840s, when California was governed by Mexico, the land where the Woodside Store stands was part of John Coppinger's *Rancho Canada Raymundo*. With the discovery of gold in 1848, many adventurers flocked to the area. They discovered they could make money exploiting the giant redwoods. Among the Forty-Niners were three Easteners, Robert O. Tripp, Mathias Parkhurst, and Mr. Ellis, who left San Francisco with the intention of making redwood shingles.

By 1851, Ellis left the area, but other shingle makers, sawmill men, and lumberjacks were hard at work supplying the building boom in San Francisco. Parkhurst purchased a 127-acre parcel of *Rancho Canada Raymundo* from John Greer, husband of Coppinger's widow, Maria Luisa Soto. On the land, Parkhurst and Tripp built the first Woodside Store to supply the woodsmen. In 1854, after the original structure had burned down, they built the existing building. Parkhurst died in 1863. Tripp purchased the store from his heirs and continued to run it until his death in 1909.

Over the years the Woodside Store became a community gathering spot, a stagecoach stop, a "bank" with the only armored safe in the area, a lending library, and a United States Post Office. Dr. Tripp also provided dental services at the Woodside Store.

Today, the Woodside Store continues to serve the community as an interpretive museum. It was purchased by San Mateo County in 1940 and listed as a State Registered Landmark in 1949. The restoration of the site to its 1880s appearance was completed in 1994 by the San Mateo County Historical Association. A county park, the Woodside Store is interpreted by staff and volunteers of the San Mateo County Historical Association. It is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 4 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 pm - 4 pm.

Activities

- Discuss how to determine the age of a tree.
- List in order the steps in felling and milling trees.
- Why were redwood trees important during the Gold Rush? Name all the products made of wood.

- Discuss what items may have been sold at the Woodside Store and for what reasons. Some items were imported from other areas. From where were the following items imported?

coffee	produce	seeds	canned goods
tea	tobacco	sugar	maple syrup

- Some items were sold at the Woodside Store, but were also commonly made at home. Discuss the process of making the different items and why some people may have purchased them at the store.

canned goods	soap
clothes	bread

- Dr. Tripp was a dentist. What are the differences between a visit to Dr. Tripp and a visit to a dentist today?
- Discuss what methods of communication existed in the 1800s. How did people get around? How did information get relayed within the community and over long distances.
- What did a blacksmith do? Why would a blacksmith work near a stage stop?
- Discuss what we do with old clothes today. What did they do with old clothes in the 1800s? Discuss how old clothes were "recycled" into quilts and that a quilting bee was a social occasion.