NEWSLETTER

SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 51 NO. 1 JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin 2020, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks.

First, to our outgoing Board Members, Yvonne Bowers and Pat Pulvirenti, for all of their efforts in meeting our mission and goals. Thanks to our docents who keep our museum open and maintain our archives. Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership and donated to our year-end appeal. You are the core of our existence and the reason we are able to accomplish our work as keepers of the historical archives for the entire Sonoma Valley. Finally, I would like to thank the Society members that voted to extend my term as Sonoma Valley Historical Society President until the end of 2021. It is an honor to serve the Society and the Sonoma community in this position.

We are excited to welcome two new Executive Committee Board Members: Cynthia Thomssen (Treasurer) and Shelley Hoffmann (Secretary) and new Board Members Kate Todd and Sharon O'Neil. We are excited about the expertise and skills these women will bring to our Board.

The beginning of each year brings a new eagerness to share our archives and exhibits with the Sonoma community and visitors. Future exhibits will continue to illustrate history connecting us to Sonoma Valley through photos and treasures both from the Historical Society and individual collections. We will be commemorating milestones: 100 years of women's voting rights (ratification 19th Amendment in 1920); the 100th anniversary of Eraldi's Menswear Store (still family-owned and managed) in 2022; and the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sonoma Mission in 2023. The history of the Sonoma Valley is exciting and important, not just to those of us who live here, but also to the entire state of California!

Please make plans to visit the Depot Park Museum and the Marcy House Archives and Research Center sometime in the next year and experience the interesting history of this wonderful place we call home. Please consider volunteering at one of our locations. There are several opportunities to contribute. You can be personally involved in discovering, protecting and preserving the history of Sonoma Valley.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Patricia Cullinan

ANNUAL MEETING

February 8th, 2020 1:30 pm
Sonoma Community Center

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held immediately preceding the the February Lecture. The Board will report on the state of the society and present the Society Financial Report.

Don't miss this important meeting!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society is to provide a forum and a resource for the study and dissemination of Sonoma Valley history for present and future generations by identifying, collecting, preserving and sharing artifacts, documents and images.

SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Patricia Cullinan, President
Carol Page, Vice President
Cynthia Thomssen, Treasurer
Shelley Hoffman, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Michael Acker
Dr. Susan Crutchfield
Kathleen Hill
Dr. Peter Meyerhof
Sharon O'Neil
Ron Price
Charlotte Ruffner
Kate Schertz
Kate Todd

BOARD MEETINGS

First Wednesday of the Month
12:00 pm
Depot Park Museum

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society was formed in January 1937 and has served the Valley as a nonprofit organization ever since.
It is dedicated to the colllection, preservation and dissemination of the historic heritage of the "Valley of the Moon."

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

"Sonoma Valley Notes" is the official publication of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society and is published quarterly.

Editor: Yvonne Bowers
newsletter@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Assistant Editor: Pat Pulvirenti
ppulvirenti@sbcglobal.net

"SECOND SATURDAY" LECTURE SERIES

Sonoma Community Center, Rm. 110
276 East Napa St., Sonoma
2:00 pm Unless Otherwise Noted

In honor of the ratification of the 19th Constitutional Amendment, our 2020 Lecture Series will include presentations by successful woman authors.

January 11, 2020

Arequipa Sanatorium:
Life in California's Lung Resort for Women

presented by Lynn Downey

The Sanatorium was noted for its care of women and its now famous Arts and Craft pottery.

February 8, 2020

Shotguns and Stagecoaches
The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West

Presented by John Boessenecker

The true stories of the Wild West heroes who guarded the iconic Wells Fargo stagecoaches and trains, battling colorful thieves, vicious highwaymen, and robbers armed with explosives.

March 14, 2020

Sonoma Mountain

Presented by Arthur Dawson

HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK

by Kate Schertz

It was almost five months in the making. The opening weekend saw no power and most potential visitors staying home out of the smoke. Despite this sad and slow beginning, the Baseball Exhibit took off with the lifting of the smoke and the return to a gorgeous fall. By the time it finished its first run (October 19 through December 1) 259 visitors had read the story and gazed at the wonderful collection of photographs that told the story of Baseball in the Valley, Part I. The new addition of a "smart" speaker allowed "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" to play in the background and a donation of Cracker Jacks pleased our young visitors.

Exhibit attendees included Lynn Alva and her son Ben (above left) who admired the story told of their family's history of playing ball here in the Valley. Kim Bacerra (below right) came from Sacramento and was thrilled to see her photo. She was one of the first three girls who made it onto a Little League team in 1975.

This show will return for another run starting January 4, 2020, after our annual Train Show. The story will continue in the spring with Baseball in the Valley, Part II, with "Proball and those Sonomans who went on to play it;" the "Merchant Leagues of 1900-2000;" and "Coaches who Made It Happen." Anyone having stories, pictures or "memorabilia" they would like to share for the exhibit, please forward an email to archivist@sonomavalleyhistorialsociety.com.

2020 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

AT THE DEPOT PARK MUSEUM

BASEBALL PART I
January 11 - March 22

EASTER BONNET EXHIBIT
March 28 - May 10

BASEBALL PART II
May 16 - September 13

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
September 19 - November 29

8TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW
December 4 - 6, 11-13,
18 - 20

HOW MARE ISLAND GOT ITS NAME

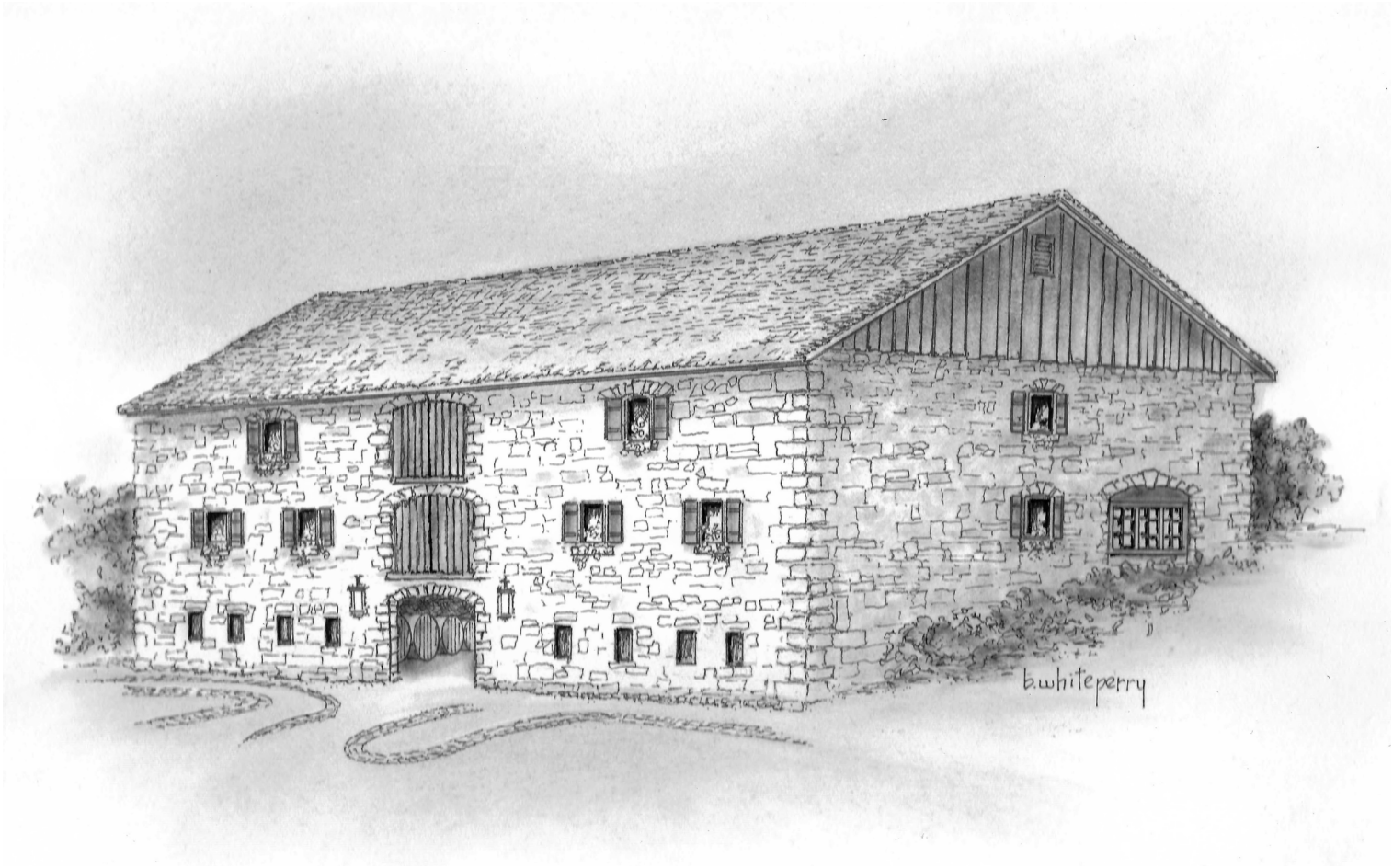
by Charlotte Ruffner

In "Memoirs of the Vallejos" written by Platon Vallejo, General Mariano Vallejo's son, Platon retells the story of the naming of Mare Island.

In 1833, Mariano Vallejo led an exploratory party of San Francisco Bay. When the party arrived at the Sacramento River they swam their horses across the Carquinez Strait. When they reached land, one of the horses, a mare, was missing. Vallejo presumed she had drowned. The party encamped at this spot and several days later saw the lost mare on an island.

Vallejo later reported on his expedition to his commandment. He drew a map of the terrain and explained the various locations. As the commandant listened, he wrote notes on the map. When Vallejo described the camp site, the commandant wrote "Vallejo." When Vallejo told the story of the lost mare, the commandant wrote "Isla de la Yegua" on the map. It was later anglicized to "Mare Island."

DRAWING AND TEXT BY BARBARA WHITE PERRY



Buena Vista Cellar, built in 1864

18000 Old Winery Road, Sonoma California
National Register of Historic Places, California Landmark #392, Sonoma County Landmark #18

Agoston Haraszthey, a Hungarian immigrant, purchased 560 acres known as Buena Vista Ranch in 1856. He produced his first vintage in 1857. By 1859, his holdings consisted of 6,000 acres with 400 acres in vineyards. In 1862, Haraszthy undertook the construction of the first of two stone winery buildings, the Press House. Like the Press House, the second building, the Cellar, was built into the hillside. The building is a three-story structure with a footprint measuring 48 by 94 feet (excluding tunnels). The walls are fieldstone of double-wall construction with a rubble core. Three tunnels of varying heights, approximately 17 feet wide, range from 52 to 76 feet in length and are literally carved out of rock by hand. Haraszthy relied on Chinese labor to build and maintain the vineyards employing an average of 100 or more per year.

The Cellar survived the 1906 earthquake, but the 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 damaged the Cellar and it was closed to the public for 23 years. In 2011, the Boisset Family Collection purchased Buena Vista. In order to reopen to the public, in January 2012, the Boisset Family began a complex restoration involving removing and replacing all mortar. In addition, an innovative technique called Center Core Drilling was used to strengthen and preserve the walls with no visible evidence. The roof was removed and replaced. Two years later, the South Napa earthquake struck on August 24, 2014. This 6.0 quake would have completely destroyed the historic building if not for the retrofit.

On October 14, 2017, the Nunes firestorm headed straight for Buena Vista Winery. Ten fire trucks and

30 firefighters drove onto the property at 3 a.m. fighting at times with their backs against the wall of the Cellar.

From Agoston Haraszthey, a tireless promoter of California winemaking, to Jean-Charles Boisset and the Boisset Family, this iconic winery, Buena Vista, will continue on into the future.

The Buena Vista Cellar is a new ink and vine-charcoal illustration created by Barbara White Perry. Her book, Drawing Sonoma 2nd Edition, features historic and unique properties of Sonoma Valley with stories of each property's past. Barbara is a Sonoma Treasure Artist.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

VICTOR & KATHERINE CONFORTI

FREYA HORNE

JOHN MURPHY

MARIANNE NEWMAN

LAURIE O'HARE

VERA SVALGAARD

2019 TRAIN SHOW At the Depot Park Museum

2019 ARCHIVES CRAWL

Many "history buffs" attended the 2019 Archives Crawl held in October in conjunction with California State Park at the historic Blue Wing Inn.

There is always a buzz in the air when the Blue Wing opens its doors and this event was no exception. Signage attracted locals and visitors alike who also received commemorative buttons.

Society volunteer Pat Pulvirenti (picture right, seated) enjoyed the visitors and the day.

CALIENTE VILLA

by Michael Acker

Caliente Villa was located on the east side of Sonoma Highway, near the corner of what was then known as Sonoma Avenue, now Marin Avenue. The Agua Caliente post office was reportedly located in one of the resort buildings.

The original owners of Caliente Villa in Agua Caliente are not known but we do know A. Nevraumont owned the resort by 1917. Nevraumont was an early resort owner in El Verano, having established El Verano Villa before the turn of the 20th century.

In fact, the Villa went through many owners and managers. In 1920, Mrs. Lewis and Miss Ross were in charge. They…"have leased the (resort) and will conduct the popular springs resort on the apartment plan…" Along with "modern conveniences and comforts," the new proprietors would provide "a long distance phone" and a "classy jazz orchestra!"

CALIENTE VILLA

Situated in the Beautiful Valley of the Moon

One, two & three room apartments, tents and cottages furnished for housekeeping. On line of N. W. P. and S. P. Railroads Napa-Santa Rosa, and Sonoma Valley-San Rafael Stage Lines.

Grounds cover five acres. Five minutes' walk to Agua Caliente or Boyes Springs.

We Never Close

Dancing

Phone SONOMA 4-F-4

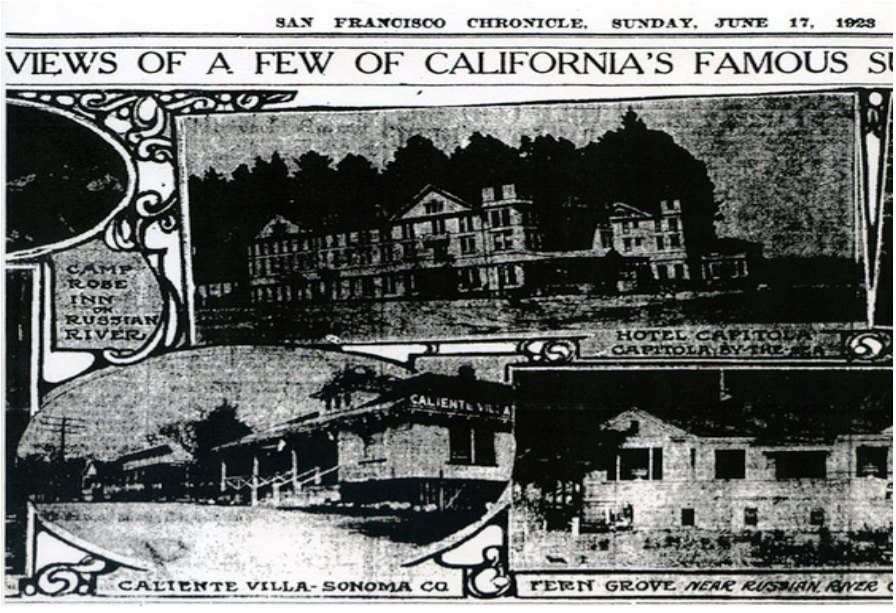
MRS. R. I. LEWIS and MISS I. ROSS, Managers

AGUA CALIENTE. SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

That same year, Lewis and Ross entertained "twenty four members of the Salt Lake City baseball team…Mrs. Lewis and Miss Ross were assisted by a number of young ladies…There was dancing, music and card playing…" and "everything was complimentary, including the smokes, and the boys report a swell time." *Sonoma Index-Tribune*

As of 1940, Jack Valente ran the resort. In 1984, all of the buildings existed when Dan Peterson presented his historic resource report for Redevelopment.

A housing development, built in 1986, resulted with the demolition of one of the buildings. Two were still standing in 2008. In 2019, only one survives (17123 Sonoma Highway).


SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1928

VIEWS OF A FEW OF CALIFORNIA'S FAMOUS S

CAMP ROSE INN ON RUSSIAN RIVER.

HOTEL CAPITOLA CAPITOLA BY-THE-

CALIENTE VILLA-SONOMA CO

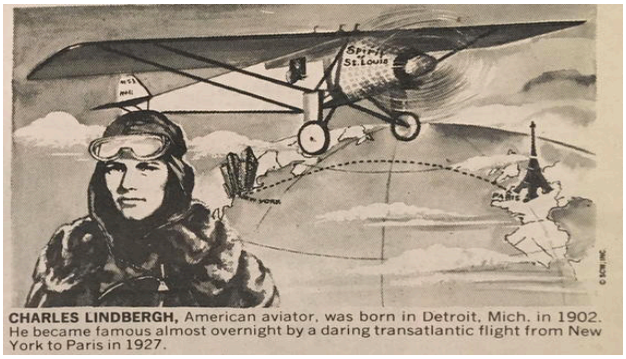
FERN GROVE, NEAR RUSSIAN RIVER

Photos courtesy of the California State Library, the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, and Robert Parmelee

LUCKY LINDY FLIES OVER SONOMA VALLEY IN 1927

by Dr. Peter Meyerhof

Just four months after Charles Lindbergh's historic 1927 trans-Atlantic flight to Paris in the "Spirit of St. Louis," he was back in the United States and flying over the Sonoma Valley in the same plane. Lindbergh was on a cross-country tour, hopping from one major city to another so that his admiring public could see both him and his famous airplane. The day was September 17, 1927 and he was due in San Francisco, but the Sonoma Index Tribune reported that the 25-year-old aviator "circled around the valley in the vicinity of Vineburg, and his plane, the 'Spirit of St. Louis', was plainly visible to many residents of the section." But why was he circling the Sonoma Valley? The banner headline read "Lindbergh Flew Here, Glimpsed Home of Ancestor." The ancestor in question was his great uncle, Col. William K. Rogers, who had owned the Temelec mansion from 1865 to 1893. Apparently the maiden name of Lindbergh's great-grandmother was Kissane, which was the same name as his great uncle. Before purchasing Temelec, William Kissane changed his name to William Rogers in order to distance himself from his earlier life of arson, fraud, counterfeiting, and even murder. William Kissane (Rogers) avoided punishment for his scandalous life of crime through legal maneuvers and friends in high places, but his legal costs forced him to sell Temelec. Apparently the young Charles Lindbergh had heard these stories about his notorious relative and was therefore most curious to see Temelec if only from the air.



CHARLES LINDBERGH, American aviator, was born in Detroit, Mich. in 1902. He became famous almost overnight by a daring transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927.

PLEASE JOIN US AS A MUSEUM GUIDE

Do you like history and people? Would you like to add to your knowledge of our valley and share it with visitors local and from around the world? Then we welcome you with appreciative arms to join us in one of two training sessions to be conducted by Carol Page and Kate Schertz on Thursday, January 9th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm or Thursday, January 16th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Your commitment would only be once a month on a Saturday or Sunday from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Our ability to keep the museum open depends on a cadre of docents. We hope you will answer the call, maybe bring a friend along, and become one of our treasured docents. If interested, please email docents@depotparkmuseum.org.

STAR AWARDS - CAROL PAGE

On October 6, 2019 at the Annual "Volunteer of the Year" Star Awards, we honored longtime member, Past President and tireless volunteer Carol Page (standing second row, fourth from left). Carol certainly deserves this honor for her service, sound advice and leadership. The Society is grateful for her commitment and dedication.

Sonoma Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 861
Sonoma, CA. 95476-0861

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DEPOT PARK MUSEUM

270 First Street West
Sonoma, CA. 95476
(707) 938-1762
https://depotparkmuseum.org

Museum Hours:
Saturday - Sunday
1:00 - 4:00 pm

By appointment
Call (707) 938-1762
(Leave Message)
or email
info@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

MARCY HOUSE ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

205 First Street West
Sonoma, CA. 95476
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(707) 343-1335

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