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

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VISIT THE MUSEUM

270 First Street West,
Sonoma, CA. 95476

(707) 938-1762
http://depotparkmuseum.org

Museum Hours: Fri. - Sun.
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Office Hours: Tues. - Fri.
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

By appointment
Wednesday and Thursday
Contact Stacey Stern at
(707) 938-1762 or
info@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:00 am
at the Sonoma Community Center Art Room

Exhibit Opening
"A Brush with the Past"
Friday, January 8, 2016 3 - 5:00 pm
Depot Park Museum

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 10:00 am
at the Sonoma Community Center Art Room

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 10:00 am
at the Sonoma Community Center Art Room

NEWSLETTER

Volume 47 No. 1 January-March 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Patricia Cullinan

Happy New Year!

Our newsletter has a new look and will be published quarterly beginning with this issue. Thank you Yvonne Bowers, Editor, and Pat Pulvirenti Assistant Editor. Also thank you Tom and Jeri Lyn Whitworth for the graphic design which they donated to the Historical Society.

The upcoming quarter has an interesting selection of lectures starting January 7th with Bonnie Portnoy talking about her grandfather, painter Tilden Daken. Look at the schedule on pages two and three in this newsletter for a full listing of this quarter's speakers.

Permits for upgrades at the Marcy House have been obtained and work will soon start.

The Historical Society would like to thank the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce for entrusting the archives of their organization to us. Staff member June Lyons is in the process of accessioning the material.

2016 begins the Historical Society's 79th year serving Sonoma Valley. I thank all of you, our members for your support.

I am always available for questions and suggestions regarding the operation and future of the Historical Society and Museum and can be reached at (707) 938-1762 or president@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.

CHALLENGE GRANT!

YOU CAN HELP!

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society is the recipient of a generous three-year Challenge Grant. Each year we will have the opportunity to match $45,000. The grant is specified as a Curatorial Fund that will support all the efforts of the Society to make our archives available to the public and share the rich history of Sonoma Valley.

The donor, in support of capacity-building for the Historical Society, has requested the Society match in two ways. $15,000 of the grant must be matched each year by donations from individuals. The remaining $30,000 must be matched with other public and private grants. We are so thankful for this donor's generosity.

Your newsletter includes a convenient envelope for your donation. Your contribution is essential to organize, protect and share the Society's valuable archives.

Thank you!

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

2016 OFFICERS

Patricia Cullinan, President
Alice Duffee, Vice President
Polly Baird, Secretary
Jean Miller, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Fred Allebach
Dick Foster
Susan Gordon
Andrew Gibson
Tamara Honeybourne
George McKale

MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Stacey Stern

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society was formed in January 1936 and has served the Valley as a non-profit organization ever since. It is dedicated to the colllection, preservation and dissemination of the historic heritage of the "Valley of the Moon."

THE DEPOT PARK MUSEUM

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society's Depot Park Museum is located at 270 First Street West in the city's old train depot one block north of Sonoma's historic plaza. The museum is open from 1:00-4:00 pm Friday through Sunday. Admission is free.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 861, Sonoma, CA. 95476-0861
Telephone: (707) 938-1762
Web Site: www.depotparkmuseum.org
Email: info@depotparkmuseum.org

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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

Editor: Yvonne Bowers
newsletter@sonomavalleyhistoric society.org

Assistant Editor: Pat Pulvirenti
ppulvirenti@sbcglobal.net

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER SUSAN GORDON

Susan Gordon brings to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society/Depot Park Museum over ten years of marketing and fund development experience in the arts/non-profit arena in a leadership capacity. Her professional background includes working as a journalist, community organizer, and fundraiser for Bread & Roses Presents, Marin Theatre Company and the Bay Area Discovery Museum. She loves arts education and in addition to her professional positions, has had some interesting volunteer roles including variety show chair at her son's elementary school, coordinator for Kol Shofar religious school events, 1st and 2nd grade teacher, and Beit Binah committee member. She studied Journalism at San Francisco State University and holds a B.A. in Education from the University of Missouri – Columbia. She lives in Mill Valley with her husband, Steve, and cat Tiger. Her son, Gabriel, is a sophomore at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

THE MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

One of the core functions of the Historical Society and the Depot Park Museum is education. Requests for school tours are coming in to the museum. Our hardworking volunteers need assistance from new volunteers.

Please consider joining the current volunteers who share with students the history of Sonoma Valley. Training will be provided for new volunteers.

Please contact the museum at 707-938-1762 for more information and to volunteer.

"FIRST THURSDAY" LECTURES

10:00 am
Depot Park Museum

January 7, 2016
Bonnie Portnoy discusses her grandfather, Tilden Daken, a Sonoma and California artist, who lived and painted in Sonoma from 1906 to 1911 and was friends with other artists such as Jack London.

February 4, 2016
Patrick Garcia, City of Sonoma 2016 Alcalde, and Sonoma City Historian George McKale will speak about the Californio culture of early California through Spanish and Mexican rule and later part of the United States.

March 3, 2016
Katherine Rinehart will talk about the assets of the Sonoma County Library's History Annex and discuss researching techniques.

barber shops, flower gardens, butcher shops and bakeries. Section 2 of Ordinance No. 43 imposed a charge of $2.50 for "neglecting to turn off water or permitting the water to run through hose, sprinkler or faucet." As President of the Board of Trustees (Mayor) he approved the ordinance on May 3, 1893.

In 1902, he began talking about converting Weyl Hall into a hotel. He died on July 5, 1902 and did not see his vision come to fruition. It wasn't until 1922, when Samuele Sebastiani purchased the property, that Weyl Hall was converted into a hotel, first known as the Plaza Hotel and currently the Sonoma Hotel.

LENA GRANDE HEILMANN WALLMAN

Fred Allebach

Lena Bertha Grande (1890-1955) was an ethnic German immigrant who arrived in New York, NY. on Mar. 4, 1910 aboard the ship, Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse.

The 1910 Census shows twenty-two year old Lena as a member of the Sylvain and Rosalind Lazarus household. The Lazaruses were retail clothes merchants.

By 1920 Lena was married to baker Ludwig Heilmann (1885-1936), a Polish/Russian ethnic German. Lena and Ludwig had a grocery and bakery in San Francisco and lived at 523 Campbell. Lena and Ludwig had two children, one a daughter named Frances Heilmann.

On the 1940 Census George J. Wallman was married to Lena (Heilmann) and Frances was sixteen years old and listed as a daughter in the household.

Ludwig Heilmann died in 1936 and George J. and Lena met and married. This second marriage for Lena was not successful. When Lena died in 1955 the Bates and Evans funeral record shows her name as Lena Wallman. The map on the funeral record leads to the gravestone of Ludwig and Lena Heilmann. George Wallman died in 1981 and he is buried with his father and sister, along with George Dolcini, Frank A. Matsuyama and Alvin Wallman.

Lena gave her eternal allegiance to her first husband Ludwig Heilmann, the father of her children. They are buried in the Mountain Cemetery, Sonoma.

Frances, daughter of Lena and Ludwig, married John Edward "Jeff" Rubke (1918-2005) of Sonoma. Jeff was the son of Adolph H. Rubke and Elizabeth Hicks. Adolph was a son of Henry R. Rubke (1843-1915) of Sonoma. The Rubke family had land around Vineberg. Frances and Jeff lived on a lot on the southeast corner of Broadway and Napa Rd.

Frances lives in Sonoma. I had the pleasure of meeting her at the Community Center lecture given by Virginia Matsuyama on December 13, 2015.

Top: Ludwig Heilmann
Above: Lena Grande Heilmann

HENRY WEYL

by George McKale

Henry Weyl was born in Bingen on the Rhine, in Germany on May 29, 1834. His parents, Henry and Anna (Beck) Weyl were natives of Bingen, and young Henry followed in his father's footsteps as a cooper and distiller. Henry left his native Germany in 1854 and set his sights on America. He arrived in New York and obtained a job as a cooper in both New York and Williamsburg, until 1855. He found employment on a whaling ship commanded by Captain Seaburg heading for the North Pacific. Weyl worked on the ship for four years and in 1859, when the ship returned to New Bedford, he got employment on the Cotiyress, commanded by Captain Swift. This whaling ship would travel around Cape Horn to the Pacific Ocean.

Upon arrival in Callao, Peru, Weyl left the ship and obtained work as a cooper, blacksmith and carpenter. After a few months, he moved to Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he was hired as a carpenter and stair builder. From Guayaquil he headed north to Panama and was hired as a butcher on the steamer Sonora. The Sonora was one of several Pacific mail vessels headed north along the Pacific coast, arriving in San Francisco on December 14, 1860.

Weyl was hired by P. Malloy working as a cooper until 1862. It was in San Francisco that Weyl met Henry Gerke, who was the superintendent and manager of a ranch in Tehama county which produced wine and brandy. Weyl moved to Tehama County to work at the ranch, but within a few months, became ill and returned to San Francisco. He remained in San Francisco until 1867, when he arrived in Sonoma where he established a cooper shop. Weyl's first land acquisition in 1867 consisted of purchasing two parcels of land on Lot 34, a 1/2 block north of the Plaza on Spain Street.

In 1868, the 7th District Court of Sonoma County registered a complaint, Case No. 943, Henry Weyl vs. Elenore Weyl. This complaint consisted of a decree of divorce and that the "whole of the property be set apart..." The marriage was dissolved and Henry Weyl maintained sole ownership of the property which was situated on Lot 34, across the street from the Weyl House. In 1869, he married Miss Mary Knacksatet. The Weyl's had six boys and two girls.
Weyl operated a winery in Sonoma. In 1876, a law was passed by Congress requiring wine producers to store their wine and brandy in bonded warehouses. They were also required to pay a revenue duty of seventy cents per gallon when the brandy was sold for consumption. Weyl and his partner Leiding produced 15,000 gallons of wine and 1,000 gallons of brandy in 1877. Total wine production for Sonoma County in 1877 was 2,535,000 gallons.

In 1879, he erected a large two-story building, containing three storerooms on the first floor and a hall in the upper story. This building was constructed at the corner of First Street West and Vallejo (Spain) Street at the location of a former adobe constructed by Marcus Vaca. This building became commonly known as Weyl Hall. The ground floor included market businesses with a succession of butchers, grocers and saloons. The Sonoma Index Tribune (June 5, 1880) stated: "William Jones, recently from San Francisco, is fitting up the corner store in Weyl's new building with shelving, etc., preparatory to putting in a line of goods, groceries etc. Mr. Jones looks like a pleasant, active business man and we welcome him among us."

In 1890, Weyl spent most of his time running a market business. He also grew fruit and grapes on his ranch north of Healdsburg and operated a stone quarry in the hills north of Sonoma. The quarries produced basalt pavers for sale in San Francisco.

Henry Weyl was a member of the City Board of Trustees from 1886-87 and 1893-94, serving as President (mayor) in 1887 and 1894. Weyl was instrumental in developing City ordinance No. 43, which proposed to fix water rates in the City of Sonoma beginning on July 1, 1893. The ordinance set rates for saloons, livery stables,

Continued on the next page

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURES

All Lectures 2:00pm
at the Sonoma Community Center, Room 110

January 9, 2016
The Prehistory, Settlement and Early Development of Glen Ellen
c. 10,000 BC – 1940

Local historian Arthur Dawson will take us through the evolution of the northern Sonoma Valley town of Glen Ellen from Prehistory to the beginning of WWII. http://baselineconsult.com/

February 13, 2016
San Francisco Bay during World War II

John Martini, Historical Consultant, writer, and former National Parks Ranger, will speak on San Francisco Bay during World War II which has been described as "a giant cannon aimed at the Pacific, hurling troops, warships, supplies, and munitions at Japan."
During this presentation, John will recall the Bay Area's critical roles during wartime: shipbuilding, troop embarkation, civilian defense efforts, military supply services, and the network of fortifications that protected the Bay. He will also cover some of the War effort's darker stories including the Port Chicago disaster, Executive Order 9066, and the "Peace Riots" following V-J Day. http://www.johnamartini.com/

March 12, 2016
The Californios, the Americans and the Bear Flag Revolt

Historian, Chris O'Sullivan, will share his findings about Sonoma's own Mariano Vallejo and his sophisticated political alliance with the American merchant and diplomat Thomas Oliver Larkin. Together they pursued a patient strategy pushing for California's peaceful, voluntary unification with the United States. Their plans were nevertheless upended by the June 1846 Bear Flag Rebellion, which resulted in both men becoming prisoners of war and losing influence over what degenerated into a tragic conflict.
https://www.usfca.edu/faculty/christopher-osullivan

SONGS FROM THE ATTIC

The following are a modest selection of the hidden pamphlets, files and books from our library. Check out these titles and more in the gray archival boxes in the library. Find them in the green binder index.

Redwood Empire Social History Project
California State Census-1852

Artists of the 19th Century working in Northern California

Saga of Sonoma In the Valley of the Moon
Being the recollections set down by old time residents
Sonoma Valley Historical Society

The Charter of the United Nations
Complete Text signed in San Francisco
June 26, 1945

El Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo 1848
A facsimile reproduction of the
Mexican Instrument of Ratification

History of Weather Observations
Sonoma, California
1850-1911

Historical Landmark Status:
The Watmaugh Road Bridge
South Sonoma Valley

Sonoma Valley Woman's Club
History 1901-1931

Sonoma County Death Records
1873 through 1905

A Proposed Reorganization of the School System of Sonoma County, California, May 10, 1916

The Henry Beeson Story
The Last "Bear Flagger"

Dave Brummett

MEET OUR INTERN - JAMESON REEVES

The Sonoma Valley Historical Society could not complete our mission without the efforts of dedicated volunteers and interns who bring their diverse skills to our projects.

Last summer, Jameson Reeves began a project, LiDAR scanning the Mountain Cemetery, which he will continue in the new year.

Jameson graduated from University of California, Berkeley, in 2014 with two degrees, a B.A. in Urban Studies and a B.S. in Environmental Economics and Policy, earning distinction in both. While at Berkeley, he also completed a minor in Geospatial Information Science and Technology. He spent several years, before, during, and after university, working at Benziger Family Winery where he has recently completed a specialized water mapping project utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology. While finishing his degrees, he began interning for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, focusing on projects related to bicycle infrastructure. A few months after graduation, he moved to Spain where he has been teaching english and independently evaluating city planning programs through his blog civicspace.tumblr.com.

We will focus on more of our volunteers and interns in forthcoming newsletter issues.

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE DEPOT PARK MUSEUM

Begins January 8, 2016 and runs through May 1, 2016

"A Brush with the Past: Art and history in Sonoma"

Our lovely Sonoma Valley has inspired many artists, both amateur and professional. In this exhibit, you will see many pencil drawings and watercolors depicting early Sonoma. Before photographs, these were the only views we had of Sonoma. Later oils, more sophisticated watercolors, and line drawings reflect the artists' views of Sonoma Valley. We are grateful to have the view of Sonoma Creek in Glen Ellen by Tilden Dakin and a large oil painting by Al Sondag that shows the Bear Flag Raising. But the smaller landscapes and portraits of Sonoma in the exhibit are important to the overall picture. All these contribute to our perspective of Sonoma Valley's unique history.

We will celebrate the official opening of our new exhibit, "A Brush with the Past" with a reception on January 8th from 3-5:00pm. Please join us!

THANK YOU!

Special thanks go to our docents who retired this year.

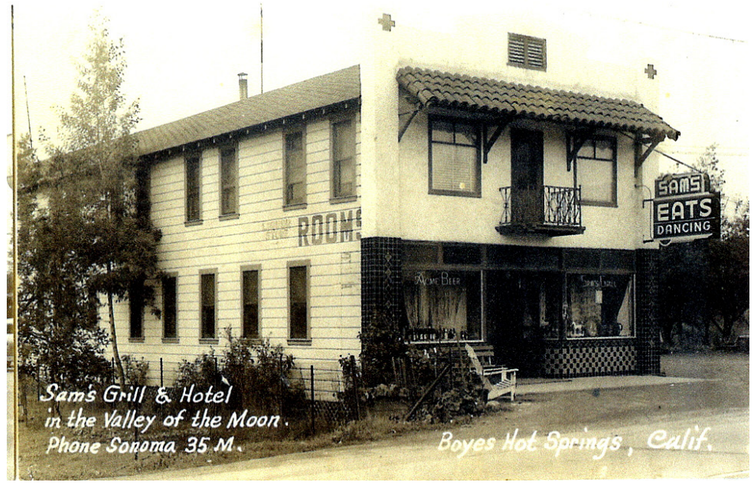
Florence Porter
RosemarySchneider
Bob Gmelin
Ann Solomon
Bernie Fredell
Jane Wiley
Lee and Mary Ezzell

SAM GANOS AND 17960 SONOMA HIGHWAY

Contributed by Michael Aker

Sam Ganavaras (the original Greek name) immigrated to the US around 1906 and settled in Sonoma Valley some time between 1918 and 1922. The building on Lot 23 of the "Boyes Springs Hotel Grounds" that became Sam's Grill was purchased by Sam from E. Anagitos on May 24, 1922. Anagitos got it from the Boyes Hot Springs Hotel Corporation (a development company) in 1916. The Assessor's map ("tank maps") shows Lot 23 as "grill."

The Index Tribune of Feb. 3, 1939 tells us that, "Sam Ganos Improves Place to Keep Pace With City…" Sam Ganos, one of the original Boyes Hot Springs boosters and who saved his grill from the big fire of 1923 by pouring the famous Springs water on the roof when it was all but doomed [my emphasis], has steadily improved his place and now is installing a fine front and back bar…". Very few buildings survived that fire. That makes 17960 Sonoma Highway a historical resource, in my opinion, even though the façade has been greatly altered.



Sam's stepson Mendel also went into the restaurant business in Boyes Hot Springs (and Petaluma). Mendel's Café operated in the building complex that once housed Uncle Patty's on the Boyes Blvd. "spur" across the street from the Plaza Center Building. These buildings may be the oldest commercial buildings in the Springs. Graham's Store, which housed the first Boyes Springs post office, may have been one of them. (Photo dated 1912).

Sam Ganos died in 1963 and his wife, Lillian, inherited. Her house was on the site now occupied by the Valley of the Moon apartments.

Thanks to Todd Ganos, Sam's grandson, for family history. Photos courtesy of the Depot Park Museum and the California State Library