

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

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October November December 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Patricia Cullinan

Special recognition and thanks goes to Bob Holloway for helping move many of the Historical Society's archives to Marcy House. Bob is curator of the Golden Gate National Recreation area and graciously used his vacation time on the hottest week of the year to move cabinet after cabinet of material to Marcy House. Hanna Center students, who received some well-deserved ice cream cones at the end of the day, assisted him. The move was well orchestrated and all their hard work is sincerely appreciated by the Historical Society.

Our Marcy House Archivist, Annie McCausland, will begin work on October 3. We welcome her to Sonoma and look forward to her sharing her archival skills with our organization.

Our new Museum Manager, Marie McNaughton, is working on the Fall exhibit featuring Politics. Timing couldn't be better with the November elections just around the corner. Please stop by the Museum and introduce yourself to Marie. Pat Carr is reprising her role as Docent Scheduler for the museum and for maintaining all visitor records. Thank you, Pat.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roger Swearingen
Rosemary Penna U'ren

This summer the Historical Society has answered a variety of requests from community members researching information to complete family histories. One interesting request came from Moira Burke. Her great-grandfather, John Marcus Burke, built two Catholic Churches in Sonoma (the second after a fire destroyed the first) and Buena Vista Castle. We assisted her in finding her great-grandfather's birth record.

The community continues to donate historical archives to the Historical Society; Grange records from the early days of the organization in Sonoma Valley to the present, family photos from Rosemary U'ren of her aunt, Mary Barbara Sperisen, who visited Sonoma in the early 1900's, items from Simmons Pharmacy donated by Melissa Redmond, and photos and memorabilia from Bill Lynch's family collection. These generous donations continue to show the trust our community has in our organization to preserve the history of Sonoma and to protect these valuable records.

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
Call (707) 938-1762
(Leave Message)

or email

info@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Wednesday, December 7, 2016

10:00 am
Sonoma Barracks

Docent Meeting
October 13, 2016
10:30 am
Pueblo Serena Clubhouse
951 Fifth St. West, Sonoma

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
Ron Price, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Fred Allebach
Andrew Gibson
Tamera Honeybourne
George McKale
Carol Page
Yvonne Bowers
Jean Miller

MUSEUM MANAGER

Marie McNaughton

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 collection, 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@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.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@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Assistant Editor: Pat Pulvirenti

ppulvirenti@sbcglobal.net

"SECOND SATURDAY" LECTURE SERIES

All Lectures at 2:00 pm
at the Community Center
276 East Napa Street, Sonoma

Saturday, October 8, 2016

"ANTIQUÉ MAPS"

Jim and Marti Schein are the purveyors of antique maps at their store, Schein and Schein, on Grant Ave in San Francisco. This will be a unique format for our lecture series as the Historical Society will be displaying some of the maps and atlases we have in our archive. Jim has agreed to do an "Antiques Roadshow" format where attendees can bring their maps to determine their significance and value. Check out the Schein and Schein map page at http://www.scheinandschein.com/page_17.html

Saturday, November 12, 2016

"BILL LYNCH: LYNCH FAMILY HISTORY"

The former publisher of the Sonoma Index-Tribune and lifelong Sonoma resident will discuss his family's history in the newspaper business here in Sonoma. Bill recently published an updated version of "Sonoma Valley Story" written by his father, Bob Lynch.

Note: There will be a business meeting immediately prior to the November 12th lecture to elect the Board of Directors for 2017.

HOE-DOWN AT LA CASA GRANDE

Contributed by Peter Meyerhof

It was Sunday evening in the Fall of 1844 when General Vallejo decided to hold a fandango in the large upstairs hall of La Casa Grande, his house on the Sonoma Plaza. He had invited the people of the pueblo as well as a few visiting Americans. Seats were set up in two rows with men on one side and women on the other. The musicians (two guitars and a violin) were at one end and a table heaped with food and wine at the other. A young Californio began to dance with vigorous foot stamping from one end of the room to the other. He then walked up to a young lady and began clapping his hands in her face "in a manner that reminded us of a young Hoosier scaring black birds out of a corn field." The lady then went through the same foot stamping as the gentleman had and ended up in front of one of the Americans while clapping her hands in his face. The embarrassed guest went to the middle of the room, tried to imitate their style and realizing he couldn't, broke into a "regular backwoods hoe-down shuffle." His fellow visitors yelled, "Go it countryman – huzzah countryman" while the Californios began laughing hysterically making attempts to imitate this new way of dancing as the evening progressed.

Ref. Johnson, O., and Winter, W. (1846) Route Across the Rocky Mountains, John Semans, Lafayette, IN.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission. The Society depends on your dues. 2017 marks the 80th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society working to preserve the history of Sonoma Valley. Membership renewals are due January 1, 2017. Watch your mail box for a renewal letter.

Don Stevens

MEET OUR NEW MUSEUM MANAGER



Marie Thomas McNaughton, our new Museum Manager, comes to us from the Cotati Museum, where she has volunteered since 2010, including two years as president of the Cotati Historical

Society. She has a master's degree in interdisciplinary humanities from San Francisco State University where she teaches freshmen and sophomores to integrate history, literature, art, and philosophy. Marie has worked intimately with the Museum Studies graduate program at San Francisco State University. She is an experienced community volunteer, with 20-plus years as a docent for the San Francisco Zoological Society. Marie is a graduate of Leadership Santa Rosa, was public sculpture chair for the Cotati Arts project and is a member of the Sonoma County Heritage Network of historians. She also freelances as a writer, editor, lecturer, and project manager. Marie was born and raised in Marin County and lived in Sonoma from 1976 to 1980. She and her husband, Rich, have lived in Cotati for 26 years and have two grown daughters.

Answers to Quiz
on Page 6

1c 2b 3d 4d 5c
6c 7b 8c 9a 10b

SONGS FROM THE ATTIC

by Dave Brummett

In 1916, William Elliot Baker was working on a master's degree at "The Leland Stanford University." After an analysis of Sonoma County schools, he proposed a reorganization. Among other things he suggested a consolidation of schools including moving Dunbar students to Los Guilicos and Flowery students to Los Guilicos and Sonoma. How did that work out? Additionally, his reorganization was projected to save \$177.79 on "Janitors and Supplies." Take this little test to see how much you know about the schools in 1916.

- How many school districts in Sonoma County?
 - 9
 - 26
 - 147
 - No way to know
- Healdsburg High School has recently upgraded and "represents the latest standards for school buildings." It includes a large lecture room and what modern piece of equipment?
 - a "magic lantern" protector
 - a stereopticon
 - a record player
 - a mimeograph machine
- Which of these topics was not on the Sonoma County Course of Study?
 - Composition
 - Hygiene
 - Ethics
 - Mathematics

- How many one-teacher schools?
 - 12
 - 16
 - 48
 - 115

- In elementary school what was the average number of "recitations" per day?
 - 1 per student
 - 8
 - 30
 - 5 per student

- How many school age-kids were there in Sonoma County?
 - 52,000
 - 25,000
 - 13000
 - 9500
- What is the average value of an acre of Sonoma County land?
 - \$10.60
 - \$55.75
 - \$1,200.00
 - \$2,700.00
- Of the approximately 1700 miles of county roads, what percentage were improved?
 - Are you kidding?
 - 19%
 - 59%
 - Every last one of them. It was a wonderful time.
- The school year varied from district to district. What was the range in days?
 - 150-200
 - 180-200
 - 160-185
 - 180 for everyone
- What is the rank of these high schools in average daily attendance from high to low?
 - Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Cloverdale
 - Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Analy, Healdsburg
 - Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Petaluma, Cloverdale
 - Healdsburg, Analy, Santa Rosa, Petaluma

(The answers are all taken from the report and can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.)

A Proposed Reorganization of the School System of Sonoma County, California

Presented to the Department of Education and the Graduate Committee of Graduate Study of
The Leland Stanford Junior University
William Elliot Baker
May 10, 1916

CURRENT EXHIBITS AT THE MUSEUM

Early Sonoma Valley Schools

Chris Bach and Jasmine Villasenor

"Get Out and Vote"

Bob Parmelee & Sandi Hansen



Donated by Jean and Jo Miller



On Loan from Tom Heuser

Please visit the museum and enjoy these exhibits depicting the past.



4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

The 4th Annual Holiday Model Railroad Show at the Depot Park Museum will be held the first two weekends in December (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Sonoma Short Line Railroad is an HO scale modular layout designed and built by museum members and train model experts from around Sonoma Valley. The interest and knowledge of these members covers over 50 years of model railroading experience. You will see and be allowed to operate some of these realistic diesel and steam locomotives. Children are always welcome and are first in line to become a junior engineer.

Admission is free. Donations are gladly accepted.



Join Us for the

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016
3:00 - 5:30 pm
Depot Park Museum



EIGHTH STREET EAST and EAST NAPA STREET 1921

This picture was taken at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Napa Street and Eighth Street East. Buena Vista Station is gone now but you can see the outline of the Schuhmann Hotel. Eighth Street East in 1921 was a dirt road.

Contributed by Fred Allebach

THE DOCENT CORNER

Our summer push to recruit new docents and lure old-timers back, has been very successful. With Pat Carr returning to coordinate, we have scheduled a docent meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 10:30 am to get (re)acquainted, share tips, review and update docent duties. We will clarify policies and procedures (especially cash handling) and learn some new history. Refreshments will be served. This meeting will take place at the Pueblo Serena Clubhouse at 951 Fifth Street West, Sonoma.

Please RSVP to Pat Carr (707) 938-7646. If you are interested in weekend docenting or giving school group tours, but can't attend the October meeting please leave a message at the museum (707) 938-1652. We are especially interested in volunteers who want to learn about our railroad cars. We will be delighted to train you (no pun intended).

EXHIBITS "CONSTRUCTION ZONE"

Marie McNaughton

Our empty cases were looking a little sad waiting for exhibits to be installed. We decided to experiment with a "construction zone" instead of working behind the scenes and unveiling a finished exhibit. We will be showing the public how exhibits are built.

This experiment in an "unfinished" format allows visitors to see how our volunteers labor to transform general concepts into museum installations.

The research, collection-diving, craftsmanship, wordsmithing and then, rearranging and editing as we gain better understanding of our materials, their significance and meanings.



As we build and refresh exhibits, we are keeping novice museum visitors especially in mind. Toddlers, preschoolers, and adults are learning how to interpret exhibits, why historic artifacts are precious and what can and cannot be touched. When encouraged to participate, visitors are eager to make suggestions and will return, bringing friends, to see how the exhibits are transforming.

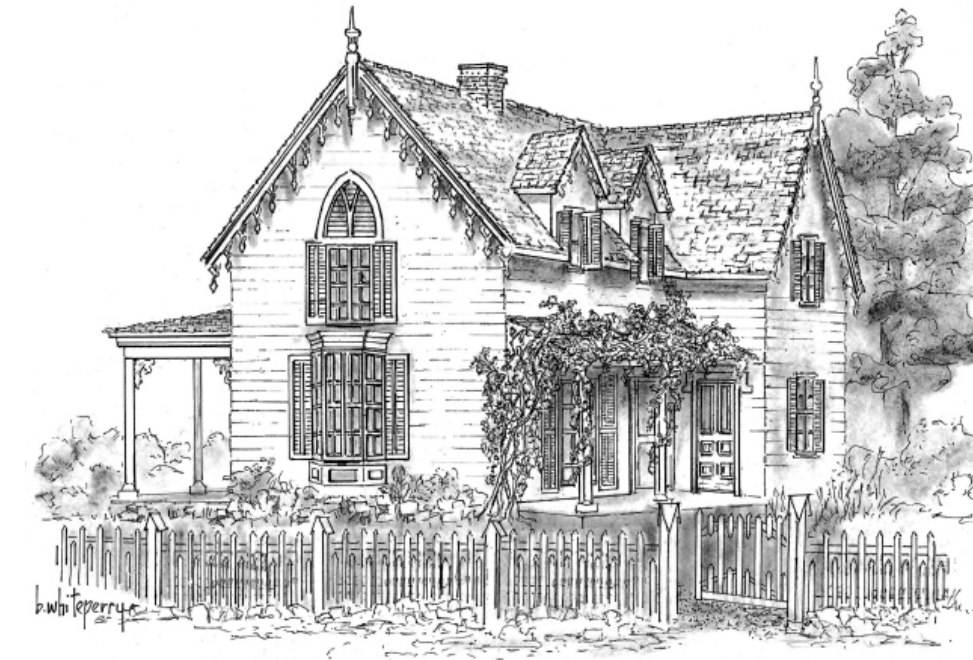
Please visit the meuseum and view the "construction zone." We welcome your feedback on this experiment.

AbovePicture:
Interns Chris Beck and Jasmine Villasenor

DRAWINGS BY BARBARA WHITE PERRY

LACHRYMA MONTIS – GENERAL VALLEJO'S HOME 1851-1852

363 Third Street West, Sonoma
California Historical Landmark Number 4



General Guadalupe Vallejo and his wife, Francisca, wanted to move away from the commotion and dust of the Plaza area. In 1850, they chose a spot of importance to the Native Americans who called it "Tear of the Mountain" because of the springs in the mountainside. Vallejo, a self-educated man, translated that into Latin as the name for his estate "Lachryma Montis".

The General and his wife wanted to make Lachryma Montis the most comfortable and beautiful hacienda in the territory. Unfortunately most carpenters, masons and laborers had gone to the gold

fields and inflation caused goods and labor to be extremely expensive.

The two-story, wood-frame house was the very latest carpenter's-gothic, Victorian-style construction highlighted by a large gothic window in the master bedroom, twin porches, dormer windows, and elaborate carved wooden trim along the eaves. Bricks were placed inside the walls of the house in order to keep it warm in winter and cool in summer. Each room had its own white marble fireplace. Crystal chandeliers, lace curtains, and many other furnishings including the handsome, rosewood, concert-grand piano, were imported from Europe.

A vine-covered arbor shaded a wide pathway around the pool into which the spring flowed, and a number of decorative fountains and delightful little outbuildings also graced the carefully tended grounds. The double wedding of Natalia and Jovita Vallejo to the Haraszthy brothers, Attila and Arpad, was solemnized June 1, 1863 in the beautiful parlor of the Vallejo home.

The homestead included some 250 acres. Grapevines were transplanted to the new site. An assortment of lemon, orange, apple, peach, apricot, plum, nectarine, fig and olive trees were brought to the homestead. Cottonwood trees and roses lined the quarter-mile-long driveway entrance.

General Vallejo and his wife lived at Lachryma Montis for more than 35 years, although as time went by they were forced to live more and more quietly and unpretentiously as the General suffered one economic setback after another. He eventually lost nearly all of his vast land holdings and was forced to sell the vineyard.

He died at home in January 1890, with none of the wealth he had enjoyed earlier, and his wife, Francisca, died in January 1891.

Today Lachryma Montis is part of the Sonoma State Historic Park.