Sonoma Valley Historical Society
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Sonoma, CA. 95476-0861

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

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

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

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

First Wednesday
12:00 pm
Depot Park Museum

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95476

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 49 No. 2 April May June 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first three months of 2018 have been an exciting time for the Society.

The Marcy House team has been actively inventorying the amazing photos and records that are housed in our archives. Thanks go to volunteers Shelley Hoffman, Kate Todd, Marlayne Weider and Board members Kate Schertz, Carol Page and Peter Meyerhof for their hard work in continuing to get the Marcy House ready to open to the public on regularly scheduled days. Currently we are open by appointment only.

As the newsletter goes to press we will be sending off the very rare copies of the Sonoma Expositor newspaper, and the equally rare Sonoma News, to the "California Revealed" project of the California State library for digitizing. Old newspapers are brittle. Digitization will preserve them for the future. Both the "California Revealed" project and the California Digital Newspaper Collection are looking forward to having these papers available online. The quality of the photos in the Expositor is amazing.

Also the Society received a grant in February from the California State Library, again through the "California Revealed" project, for the processing and cataloguing of 1,500 items from our archives in preparation for the next round of nominations for digitization. We are honored to have received the grant.

We have had some astounding lecturers this winter and look forward to Peter Meyerhof and Bill Lynch this spring.

Patricia Cullinan

THANK YOU!

The Society thanks those individuals and families who have made donations to the Historical Society during the first quarter of 2018:

George McKale
Muriel (Shainsky) Robbins Family
Tom Cannard
Robert Cannard
Republic of Thrift

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

If you haven't renewed your 2018 Society membership, please mail your check today. To check your membership status email yvonnebowers@mac.com.

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
Yvonne Bowers, Treasurer
Pat Pulvirenti, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Tamera Honeybourne
Ron Price
Dr. Peter Meyerhof
Michael Acker
Kate Schertz
Suzanne Berube
Dave Brummett

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHUCK & SUE BINGAMAN
MARLAYNE WEIDER
GREG & LINDA ROSE
DENISE EWINGS
RICHARD LASKER
KATE ROGERS

"SECOND SATURDAY" LECTURE SERIES

2:00 pm at the Community Center
276 East Napa Street, Sonoma
(Unless Otherwise Noted)

April 14, 2018
Peter Meyerhof

THE ROLE OF A NATIVE AMERICAN IN ESTABLISHING SONOMA'S WINE INDUSTRY

An exciting historical discovery has recently come to light. A Native American has recently been identified who appears to have planted the very first grape vines beyond the Sonoma Mission on his own small grant just east of Sonoma in the 1830s. These vines survived for many years and became the origin of the vineyards of the Buena Vista Winery.

May 12, 2018
Bill Lynch

MY SONOMA, VALLEY OF THE MOON

Bill will speak about his latest book; a behind-the-scenes look at the community and the people who made Sonoma Valley one of the most popular tourist destinations in California. It is through a rose-colored rearview mirror, highlighted by personal anecdotes and rare old black-and-white photos.

"Second Saturday" lectures will be on hiatus June-August 2018

UPDATE: SONOMA FIRE PROJECT

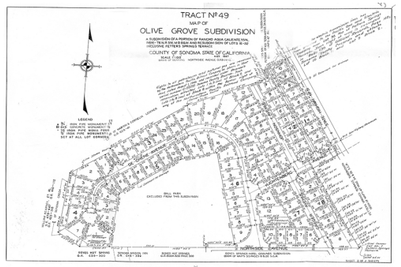
Interviews for the Sonoma Fire Project are still being conducted and project manager Lynn Downey is also collecting articles from the Sonoma Index-Tribune and other newspaper as stories about the fire and its aftermath are published.

OLIVE GROVE TRACT

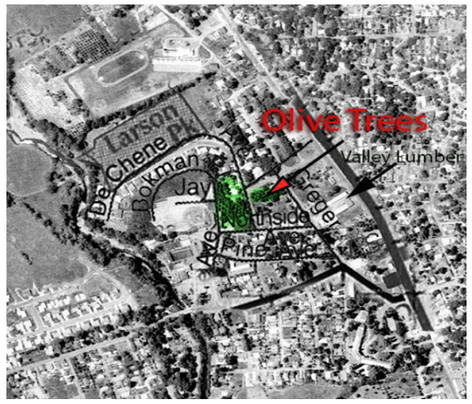
Michael Acker

The Olive Grove Tract: Where was it? What is the history of the trees?

According to a Santa Rosa Press Democrat article from 1942, "Edwin P. Thomson, who many years ago owned the site of Fetters Springs…in 1887, planted the olive grove that now borders the highway between Fetters and Boyes Springs." In 1946, the PD tells us that "Twenty-five acres of olive grove property fronting the state highway in Boyes Hot Springs and extending down to the ballpark, will soon be made available as an exclusive business and residential subdivision…" the owners were Bill Johnson and Rudy Lichtenberg, who also owned and managed the Boyes Bath House. The two other names on the Recorders documents are Lester Dechene and Milton Greger. All have streets named after them in the area.



Recorder's map of the subdivision dated 1947



Above is part of an aerial photograph from 1961 with a few street names superimposed. At that time, Bokman Avenue did not exist. Bokman approximately follows the outfield fence of the Boyes Springs Ball Park, mentioned in the PD article about the subdivision, which can be seen left center of the photo.

According to a Sonoma Index-Tribune article from 1988, the trees covered an area of 12.5 acres at that time. The trees were removed in that year, much to the dismay of local residents.

At various times various people have made the claim that the trees in the Olive Grove tract were planted by M. G. Vallejo. This was asserted and called "historical hearsay" in 1988 when the trees were removed. I believe the information about Edwin Thomson disproves the Vallejo theory, however, more research in the Recorders Office is needed to establish the chain of title.

From an online real estate ad, an example of the "Vallejo's olive trees" hype:

"Property Details for 17600 Johnson Ave:

Experience this darling 1949 Turn-Key home in the heart of the Wine Country! This meticulous 2 bedroom, 1 bath home features a spacious vintage kitchen, and a light and bright living room. The private back yard is a gardener's delight that includes a patio, a deck and plenty of shade provided by two mighty olive trees that were once part of General Vallejo's olive grove. Minutes from the Sonoma Plaza, restaurants and wineries."

Above description is from May 03, 2010.

Olive trees on DeChene Ave. in 2017. (Author's photo). Could these trees have been planted 130 years ago? From their girth, it seems possible. There are many more large olive trees still, within the boundaries of the Olive Grove Tract. Whether planted by Vallejo or Thomson, the trees constitute important historical artifacts.

I'm indebted to Joanna Kolosov of the County Library for research on the Olive Grove.

WHERE IS MARIA CARRILLO REALLY BURIED?

Peter G. Meyerhof

Dona Maria Ignacia Lopez was born in San Diego in 1793 and married Joaquin Victor Carrillo in 1824. They had 13 children including Francisca Benicia Carrillo who married Mariano Vallejo in 1834. After her husband died, Maria Carrillo moved north to Sonoma in 1837 to be nearer her daughter. She and her unmarried children were permitted to occupy the Cabeza de Santa Rosa property on the Santa Rosa Creek in 1837. Five years later she was granted this land. It was cultivated by her son, Ramon Carrillo, with the help of gentile Indians who lived in the area. She died on February 9, 1849 and was buried under the baptismal font of what is known today as the Mission San Francisco Solano chapel, actually the parish church that her son-in-law built in 1841 on the former mission property.

Now contrary to what we are led to believe from a bronze plaque below the restored font, it is likely that Maria Carrillo has left the building. To the displeasure of the Vallejo family, Archbishop Joseph Alemany sold the mission property in 1881 and built a new church on West Napa Street. The purchaser of the former church was the merchant Solomon Schocken who intended to use it as a warehouse for hay. He was fully aware that Maria Carrillo, and one of her sons Juan Carrillo, were interred there. Having some compassion for the Vallejo family, he agreed to let them remove the bodies.

General Vallejo wrote his son Platon, "Schocken has been begged by two daughters of your grandmother that they can exhume her, they being given 3 months of grace." Benicia Vallejo wrote, "If my Mama and my brother were not there I would not feel so sad but having to move the dead is terrible. I trust God gives us strength and courage to do it. Poor little Mama, what a good Catholic she was. She herself prayed to Father Quijas to bury her near the Blessed Water. But now we have to take her away. I have faith that you will help me re-bury my dear Mama to where all our children, which are dead are. When they are together I will be content." In a request for financial help from her relatively wealthy sister, Josefa Fitch of Healdsburg, Benicia made it clear that the Vallejo family burial ground at Lachryma Montis was to be the re-interment site of her mother. This small cemetery was on the hillside north of the present parking lot. There were already five young children of Benicia and Mariano Vallejo buried there as well as, perhaps surprisingly, the ashes of their attorney Martin E. Cooke. Although conclusive proof that the body of Maria Carrillo was removed from the church and re-buried has remained elusive, it seems very likely given her family had both the opportunity and the strong the intention to proceed.

Ref. Madie Emparan, The Vallejo's of California.

ANTONIO CACCIA: WHO WERE YOU?

I know you were born in Cadenazzo, Switzerland, c. 1861, and that you obtained a passport from the Swiss Counsel in Besancon, France, in 1884, for the explicit purpose of coming to America. You must have been a handsome dude, with your black hair, brown eyes and eyebrows, standing 1M 78cm, with a medium sized nose and chin so it says.

But how did your passport end up in the Blanchard-Goddard Collection at the Sonoma Valley Historical Society? Did you come all the way to San Francisco? Are you related to the farmer listed in the 1922 farm land registry? Maybe to Valerie who is engaged to the owner of Umbria?

Ah, the wonderful mysteries that test the mind when working in the archives at Marcy House. Wouldn't you like to do this fascinating work? Volunteer by calling our President, Patricia Cullinan. We'll train you. We particularly need people with excel skills.

Kate Schertz
Lost in the Archives

SONGS FROM THE ATTIC

contributed by Dave Brummett

Do you like trains? Then you need to take a journey through the Marcy House archives. Here are some railroad "stops" found in just one box in the archives.

"There isn't a train I wouldn't take, no matter where it's going."

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Stop 1
There was an experimental 15 miles of narrow gauge iron track in 1878-9 belonging to the Sonoma Valley Primoidal Railroad. It failed.

Stop 2
Out of that failure, the Sonoma Valley Railroad was born. In the Sonoma Plaza…the railroad constructed its railway station, passenger car barns, engine house, water tank, turn table, coal bins and tool shed.

Stop 3
In March 1881, the Sonoma & Santa Rosa Railroad Company was incorporated, creating 6.5 miles from Sonoma to Glen Ellen. In August of 1882, the first through service from Glen Ellen to Sonoma Landing via Sonoma began. (Sonoma Landing was near the mouth of Petaluma Creek on San Pablo Bay).

Stop 4
The first train was welcomed in the Plaza by Paul Donohue, the owner, and the General M. G. Vallejo family. One daughter, Luisa, sang from in front of the engine. The first engineer was Sam Lewis, a Welshman.

Stop 5
"There is nothing quite so thrilling as an illuminated and completely detailed train of passenger cars winding through a moonlit pass…"
From: Instructions for Building Passenger Cars, O gauge, 15¢, 1948

Stop 6
Standard Time adopted November 18, 1883
Before local time was based upon the transit of the sun across the meridian at 13 miles/sec for 1140 feet of longitude, most people kept "sun time." A traveler from Maine to California, to have correct railroad time, would have to change his watch 20 times.

Stop 7
Travel on the North Pacific Coast Railroad from the coast to San Francisco

Question: How long did it take to get from Cazadero to San Francisco?
Answer: 5 hours, 40 minutes

Question: Why?
Answer: Duncan Mills, Russian River, Howards, Freestone, Bodega Roads, Valley Ford, Tomales, Marshalls, Point Reyes, Tocaloma, Camp Taylor, San Geronimo, Fairfax, San Anselmo, Rose Station, Tamalpais, Corte Madera, Alta (Blithedale), Mill Valley, Bay Junction, Sausalito.

Can you picture the route? Give it a try some fine day…in a car or maybe on a bike.

IN MEMORIAM

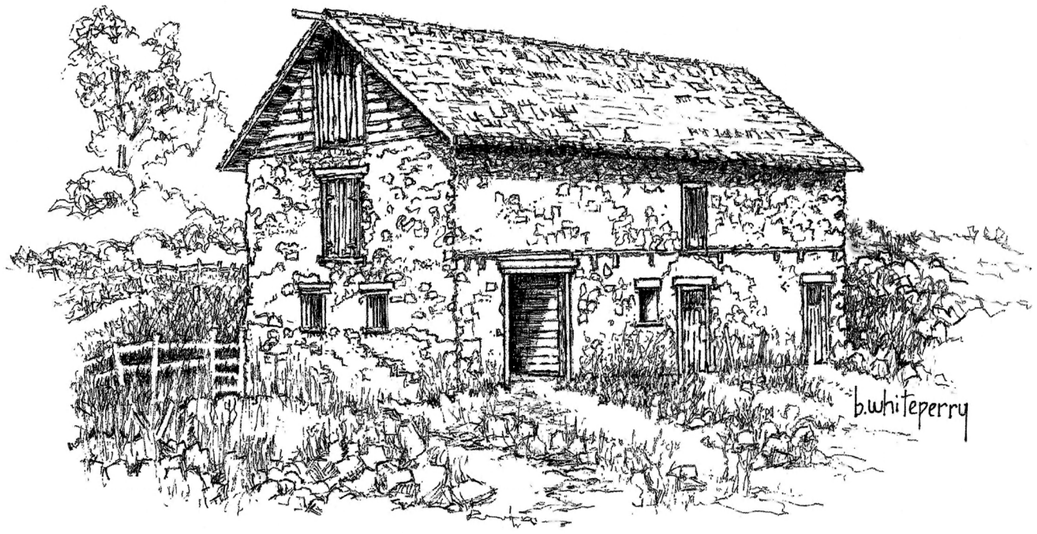
The Sonoma Valley Historical Society was saddened to hear of the passing of long time members:

Newton F. Dal Poggetto, former president of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, passed away in January 2018. Newt was born in Sonoma in 1922 and lived most of his life in Sonoma. He was a natural historian by his association with the people who created the rich history of Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley Historical Society is grateful for the enormous contributions he made.

June Picetti Sheppard passed at the age of 101 in January 2018. June was born in Sonoma and was honored as Sonoma's Alcadessa in 2005. She generously donated to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society and we appreciate her many contributions and her hours of volunteerism in Sonoma Valley.

Rosemary Schneider was a longtime docent who conducted many of our school tours and was delightful with the children. The Society is grateful and appreciates all she did to share Sonoma's history with our visitors to the Depot Park Museum.

DRAWING AND TEXT BY BARBARA WHITE PERRY



Glen Oaks Ranch Stone Barn, Glen Ellen, 1859-2017

The Stone Barn was built in 1859 on a gentle hillside. It had two-stories and measured 75' x 35'. Lintels were massive redwood beams. The first floor had seven large stalls with doors that opened out to the pasture, and gates that opened into a wide aisle. The wooden floors were worn from the large work horses. A room still contained tack of the days past. The barn's second floor loft was open space for hay storage reached by a simple ladder and the gable-end had an opening for hay to be delivered. At the southeast corner a manger was accessible to livestock from the exterior, a very rare feature.

The history of the barn is entwined with the ranch. Glen Oaks Ranch was once a part of a land grant issued to General Mariano Vallejo in 1839. It was purchased in 1859 by Colonel Charles V. Stuart. He built the adobe stone mansion, barn, and smokehouse using local stone and Chinese labor. When Stuart died in 1880, he was one of the largest wine producers in the state. His wife Ellen managed the winery and became one of California's first women winemakers.

In 1952, the Glen Oaks Ranch became the home of Roswell and Camille Cochran and their daughter Joan who devoted herself to the restoration and protection of the ranch.

In 1994, the property was accepted into the National Register of Historic Places. Seven years later, Joan Cochran granted three easements over the property: the first ensures that the undeveloped portions of the Ranch will be preserved in perpetuity as "forever wild"; the second limits use of the historically farmed area to agriculture; and the third easement protects the historic farmstead. When Joan died in 2002, she left the 234-acre ranch to the Sonoma Land Trust, which has since preserved Glen Oaks according to her wishes.

In 2004, the Sonoma Land Trust commissioned Architectural Resources Group to assess the Stone Barn and recommend stabilization and rehabilitation measures.

In 2010, an anonymous donor offered to provide half the cost of completing all of the stabilization and rehabilitation required for the stone barn, and the Land Trust committed to raising the balance of the funds. Degenkolb Engineers drafted the construction plans by the end of that same year. Treeline Construction

provided key solutions to safeguard the integrity of the structure and worked closely with the Land Trust and the engineers to refine plan details while permits were being secured.

Work completed between June and December 2012 included: seismic reinforcing; removing the old roof and installing a new shake roof; adding new rafters to the existing rafters on the second floor; replacing rotted gable-end siding; installing a reinforced concrete bond beam at the top of the stone walls; anchoring the roof to the new bond beam and walls; drilling in stainless steel pins every three feet throughout all four walls to connect the two rock layers; replacing rotted joists and flooring; repointing cracks and fallen stones; and repairing doors and window shutters.

In November 2013, the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation presented The Award of Excellence for preservation of the historic 1859 Stone Barn to Sonoma Land Trust and Treeline Construction.

The Stone Barn at Glen Oaks Ranch was lost in the Nuns firestorm on October 9, 2017. All wood was turned to ash and only a portion of stone walls now remain standing. This iconic 1859 structure will stand in our hearts forever.

After restoration December 2012

Two days after Nuns fire October 2017

Current condition 2018

The Glen Oaks Ranch Stone Barn is part of Drawing Sonoma Second Edition, a collection of ink and vine-charcoal drawings featuring historic and unique properties of Sonoma Valley from 1823 to 1938. Drawings and text by Barbara White Perry.

CELEBRATE PUEBLO DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

On June 24, 1835, California Governor Jose Figueroa ordered Lt. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo to establish the Pueblo of Sonoma according to the Spanish town planning guidelines, the "Law of the Indies". These laws regulated social, political and economic life. Sonoma was the last California pueblo that followed those guidelines. Organizations that focus on and preserve Sonoma Valley history are collaborating on a celebration of Pueblo Day. They will be commemorating and celebrating its historical significance with the community.

Sonoma Petaluma Parks, Inc. (SPParks), the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation, and the Sonoma Valley Historical Society will be opening their respective historical buildings to the public. The Blue Wing Adobe Trust and the City of Sonoma will join in supporting this event.

Free tours will begin at the General Vallejo bench in the Sonoma Plaza. Participants will receive a passport directing them to the Depot Park Museum, the Maysonnave House, the Sonoma Barracks and the Blue Wing Inn. Those who complete the tour and have their passport stamped at all 4 venues will receive a free ice cream cone from the Sweet Scoops mobile cart at the General's statue.

This event shares with the Sonoma community an appreciation of Sonoma's history and supports Heritage Tourism in Sonoma.

Volunteers are needed for this fun event. Please contact Patricia Cullinan or Dave Brummett if you can help.