Sonoma Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 861
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NEWSLETTER

Volume 50 No. 4 OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One of the highlights of the third quarter was the donation of nineteen California mission paintings to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society by the Bank of America. These paintings by artist M. E. Fountain have hung in our local BofA branch since I was bringing my childhood savings book there. We are honored to have been chosen as the recipient of this significant collection. Eventually the Mattie (M.E.) Fountain Collection will not only be displayed in Sonoma but will be available for loan to other California mission towns.

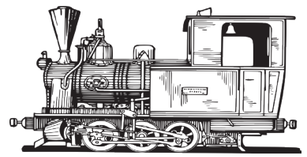
The "History Community and Me" Third Grade Social Studies Curriculum was funded this year by a private donation. The third grade teachers at Sassarini requested the program and Daniel Herrera will again teach the curriculum.

Lynn Downey has begun updating the inventory of the Historical Society's extensive costume collection (clothes, hats, shoes etc.).

The California State Library grant was completed with 1,500 items in our archives inventoried for inclusion in the following online access sites: CaliforniaRevealed.org, WorldCat, Calisphere and Digital Public Library of America.

Carol Page, twenty-year member, past President, current Board Member, and tireless volunteer be awarded the 2019 Sonoma Valley Fund Star Award. The presentation will be made on October 6th from 2:00-4:00 pm at Hanna Boys Center. She has contributed in many capacities and has been a tremendous asset to the Society. Please plan to attend and honor Carol.

Patricia Cullinan



ALL ABOARD!
7TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

December 6, 7 and 8
December 13, 14 and 15; and
December 20, 21, and 22

The trains be will be running and junior engineers will be invited to operate the model trains. Activities will include the opportunity for to make model trees to take home or add to the train layout landscape.

DON'T MISS IT!

DEPOT PARK MUSEUM

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

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

SCRIP CARD AT NUGGET

Use your scrip card at Sonoma Market and help the Society. Email Yvonne Bowers
treasurer@sonomavalleyhistoricalsociety.org
to get yours or pick one up at any Society event.

SHOP AND MAKE AN IMPACT!

Sign up for AmazonSmile and help us make an impact in our community. Visit smile.amazon.com and select Sonoma Valley Historical Society. For every eligible purchase you make, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price to our organization. It's easy, quick and powerful!

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

Michael Acker
Dr. Susan Crutchfield
Kathleen Hill
Dr. Peter Meyerhof
Ron Price
Charlotte Ruffner
Kate Schertz

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

October 12, 2019

The Man Beneath the Paint
Artist Tilden Daken
(1876-1935)
presented by Bonnie Portnoy

Daken was one of the most prolific and adventurous landscape painters in the American West and a friend of Jack London. Though he painted from Alaska, to Mexico, to Hawaii and the South Seas, he is best known as a California plein air painter, including scenes in Sonoma and Marin Counties, the High Sierra, the California redwoods, and dozens of State and National Parks.

November 9, 2019

Lost Buildings of the Sonoma Mission
Presented by Dr. Peter Meyerhof

The lecture is based on an actual tour Mariano Vallejo made in 1834 of the still active Mission. He made a little known inventory not only of its many buildings, but the contents of almost every room. The resulting information gives a very valuable insight into a surprisingly sophisticated enterprise and Native American labor on the frontier of the Mexican empire. Supplementing the inventory with his other research, Dr. Meyerhof will take you on a virtual tour of the Sonoma Mission as it really was, not as it is today.

Important Member Meetings will precede each lecture at 1:30 pm.
Details are on page 7 of this newsletter.

There will be no lecture in December.
We will be back in January 2020

I'LL BE IN SONOMA FOREVER: A Benefit of Learning Local History

by Charlotte Ruffner

When I moved to Sonoma three and a half years ago, I never thought I'd be here forever, but that all changed last year when one of my friends from the Sonoma Valley Historical Society contacted me to tell me that she found a Ruffner buried in Sonoma Mountain Cemetery. The Mountain Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Sonoma and contains the graves of Vallejo, Sebastiani, Boyes, Fetters — basically, the "Who's Who" of Sonoma history.

I went online to www.findagrave.com and found a photograph of Nancy Ruffner's tombstone. She died in 1885. My husband Ben and I took a hike into the cemetery to find the Ruffner grave. It took me about 15 minutes to find it. I called out to Ben to come and look at it. As he approached the tombstone from a distance he saw that the entire plot was large and that "Ruffner" was written in 3-inch letters across a retaining wall. The plot had only one tombstone and what looked like an unmarked grave next to it. There was room for more graves. We looked at each other and said, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

Within days, I was in the office of Rita Gipson, Sonoma's go-to administrative person in charge of cemeteries, asking about the possibility of being buried in the Ruffner plot. Rita told us that if Ben could prove that he was related to the Ruffner who owns the plot, our cremated remains could be buried there. (Sonoma no longer buries coffins in Mountain cemetery.)

I got to work. I looked into Sonoma's funeral records at the Marcy house and found that Nancy Ruffner was married to James Ruffner who died in 1916 and is buried next to Nancy (in the unmarked grave). I contacted a family genealogist who was able to tell me exactly how Ben is related to James Ruffner. Ben wrote a letter to Rita explaining his familial relationship to James Ruffner. We now call Sonoma our eternal resting place. I know this may all sound a bit ghoulish, but we didn't want to leave these decisions to the last minute.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO THE SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FROM YOUR IRA

If you are at least 70-1/2 years old and have a traditional IRA, there's a smart way to give to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. You can make a contribution known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA that is 100% tax-free. Even if you do not itemize your deductions on your tax return, it is possible to make a donation and not pay taxes on the donation. It needs to be sent directly to the

Sonoma Valley Historical Society
P. O. Box 861, Sonoma, Ca. 95476

Please consider a distribution from your IRA to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. The deadline for this year is December 31, 2019.

BOARD NOMINATIONS AND IMPORTANT MEMBER MEETINGS

It's that time of year again--time to nominate Sonoma Valley Historical Society members to fill vacancies on the Board. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions are open for 2020. Another important membership decision will be made to deviate from the Society bylaws and allow Patricia Cullinan to run for another term as President. The Board has identified potential candidates for the Vice President,Treasurer and Secretary positions but will always entertain nominations from the membership. The October 12th membership meeting will identify nominees and the November 9th meeting will see our Annual Elections. Both meetings will be held at 1:30pm preceding the "Second Saturday" lectures. Any member wishing to nominate someone for the Board (including themselves) please contact Kate Schertz kate.schertz@gmail.com.

"BASEBALL IN THE VALLEY" EXHIBIT

Kate Schertz and Mike Acker

We are so excited we can scarcely contain ourselves! The long-awaited "Baseball in the Valley" exhibit will open mid-October before the World Series kicks off. Watch for an eblast announcing the exact date. The response from the public has been so huge that we have way more material than we can possibly show at one time in the museum so we will be presenting the show in two parts.

The first part, which will open in mid-October and run until the train show starts in mid-December, will cover Youth (Little League, Babe Ruth, and schools) and Women and Girls (from 1940-to today). Part Two of the show - to be shown in 2020 - will cover Professional Ball (played here and highlighting those Sonomans who made it to the majors), the adult male teams from 1900-today, and coaches. We have been astounded at what we have learned about the role of America's national pass-time here in the valley.

Early in the twentieth century, the climate and healing waters of Sonoma Valley, Boyes Hot Springs in particular, were attractive to Pacific Coast League baseball teams looking for places to train.

We know that the San Francisco Seals, a perennial powerhouse, were holding spring training at Boyes Springs as early as 1912. In that year, a San Francisco Chronicle headline read, " Eight Acre Ball Park (is) Being Built at Boyes Hot Springs."

(Left 1914 Postcard)

WITH THE OLIVE GROVE in the background these Oakland Acorns' pitchers will throw their final practice tosses at Lichtenberg Field next weekend, when the Oaks depart their 1951 Spring training camp at Boyes Springs. Letting fly (from left) are Wes Bailey, Frank Nelson, Hank Behrman, Lloyd Hittle, Dave Dahle, Jay Ragni, Tom Breisinger and Charlie Gassoway. (CB Photo-

The field later became known as Lichtenberg Field, named after one of the proprietors of the Boyes Bath House. The ballpark land was surrounded by the Olive Grove subdivision in 1947 *(photo, map above).*

Spring training was held in Boyes Hot Springs until 1958 when the Giants came to San Francisco.

"OUR LOCAL ARTIST"

by Peter G. Meyerhof

One of the prized possessions of the Depot Park Museum is the theatre curtain on the west wall. In fact, the width of this curtain determined the width of the museum itself, which was opened to the public in 1978 following a destructive fire of the original, very slightly narrower train depot. The curtain had been commissioned in 1906 for the theatre stage in Union Hall, which stood at the southeast corner of West Napa Street and First Street West. Samuel Tilden Daken was the artist. The Sonoma Valley Historical Society is excited that Bonnie Portnoy, the granddaughter of Daken, will be our guest speaker at our monthly lecture on October 12, 2019 at the Sonoma Community Center. The following excerpt describing Mr. Daken, is taken from the Sonoma Valley Expositor Sept. 27, 1907, which is in the Society's newspaper collection.

"Since Samuel Daken painted the beautiful drop curtain for Mayflower Hall at Glen Ellen, the public has begun to recognize him as an artist with a future...Mr. Daken does most of his sketching early in the evening or late in the afternoon, and has a fine eye for color. He works rapidly and has the happy faculty of transferring elusive lights and shadows to the canvas.

While Mr. Daken has made a special study of creeks and roadways, with an old fence, building or group of trees for a strong contrast, two studies of sheep show a strong talent for animal life and he has several fine sunsets. A large composite painting, executed by the facile brush of Mr. Daken, harmoniously blends bits of Sonoma, Marin, and Santa Clara scenery, thus cleverly imitating famous artists in the evolution of an ideal picture.

Mr. Daken has just leased Loreley cottage on the north side of O'Donnell Avenue, which he has fitted up with a fine studio, 12 by 25 feet, where he has a strong north light and more room for his pictures. He is thoroughly in love with his art and yet is quite modest in his estimate of the value of his canvases. In fact, until people begin to admire them and ask prices, he had not thought very much of the commercial side of art. Now that there is a demand for his pictures, Mr. Daken had become a worthy son of Bohemia and any one may be proud to own a Daken canvas.

Mr. Daken also painted the drop curtain in Union Hall, Sonoma, and it has been remarked by all who have seen it, that it is far superior to the work usually found in theatres outside of large cities."

Note: Tilden Daken is the subject of the October lecture. See page 2

(Photo courtesy of Sherry Michaels)

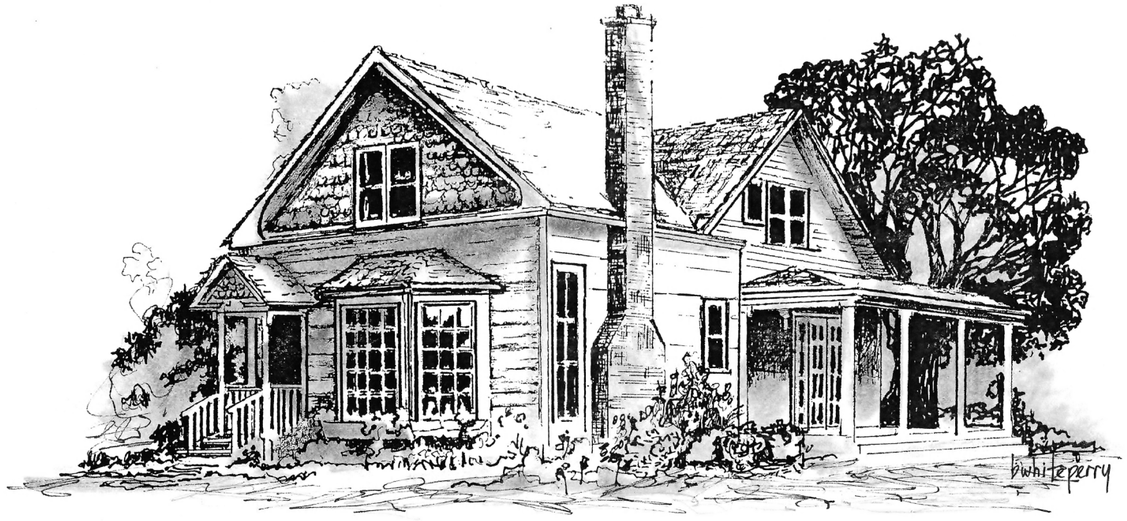
In August during the Sonoma Valley Wine History Weekend, held in collaboration with Buena Vista Winery, the audience enjoyed a performance of "Wildcats and Grapevines," the story of Count Haraszthy, General Vallejo and Mark Twain in 1864 Sonoma. This performance was held at the Depot Park Museum

2019 HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019
4:00 - 6:30 pm
Depot Park Museum

Join us for our Annual Holiday Party! We will be celebrating preserving the history of Sonoma Valley and celebrating the 82nd year of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society

DRAWING AND TEXT BY BARBARA WHITE PERRY



TEN OAKS RANCH, 1862
12781 DUNBAR ROAD, GLEN ELLEN

The day I took reference photos for this drawing was the most perfect fall day in 2007 with filtering light through trees just turning color. The garden was still in bloom and I wanted to stay all day! It is a very special place and has quite a history.

Ten Oaks Ranch was purchased in 1862 by Dr. J.B. and Kate Warfield. They planted vineyards and built their home among the beautiful oak trees. By 1879, Ten Oaks Ranch was producing 50,000 gallons of wine annually.

In the late 1800's, Ten Oaks was converted from vines to pasture for grazing cattle.

When the present owners, Susan and Lewis Cook, bought Ten Oaks, all of the structures on the ranch had been neglected. Susan told me how bad it was; "livestock, raccoons, and other creatures wandered in and out of the house!" Architect Adrian Martinez did a complete restoration, leaving the footprint of the house unchanged and most of the walls untouched. The addition of a porch to the south gave a more open feeling to the home.

The property has vines again and a glorious garden that blooms year-round.

In 1987, the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation presented Susan and Lew Cook the Preservation Award of Excellence.

Ten Oaks Ranch is part of Drawing Sonoma, 2nd Edition. The book is a collection of ink and vine-charcoal illustrations of historic and unique properties of Sonoma Valley with stories of each property's past. Barbara is a Sonoma Treasure Artist. BarbaraWhitePerry.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JAMIE ADAMS*BONNIE BROWN*CHRIS CUNHA
PHILIP GLANDER*BARRY & KAREN HANSON
BECKY & JAY JASPERSE*THERESA LEE
ROGER & FIONA PRICHARD
DENNIS & OLGA PRZYBYCIEN
MICHELLE RULMONT*RANDON STATE
ELIZABETH & GREGORY STEVENSON
MARK STOLICH*IDALIA SULLIVAN
KC GREANEY & ALICE VAN OMMEREN
LUANNE WOLFF*PAULA YOKOYAMA

2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 1

Docents/Students	$15 per year
Individual	$45 per year
Family	$75 per year
Business	$200 per year
Patron	$500 per year
Benefactor	$1,000 per year

Mail your check to:
Sonoma Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 861
Sonoma, CA 95476

Membership Applications are online at depotparkmuseum.org or email Membership Chair, Charlotte Ruffner, at charlotteruffner@gmail.com with any questions regarding your membership. Membership donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Thank you for renewing early! Your support is critical to the mission of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society.

SONOMA COUNTY ARCHIVES CRAWL

"Showcasing local archives and special collections"
Saturday, October 5, 2019
Blue Wing Adobe

October is National Archives Month, which is the inspiration for the first ever Sonoma County Archives Crawl – an event designed to celebrate archives and encourage visitors to explore and engage with institutions that collect archival material. Watch for eblast updates.

MARCY HOUSE ARCHIVES

by Lorrie Fulton

Another California State Library Project, administered under the California Revealed Grant, has been successfully completed. The Marcy House team compiled and entered over 1,500 items, from which nominations out of our collection will be made to be part of an on-line catalog. Of special interest, were the archives of the Sonoma Valley Grange, the archives of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the photographic negatives from the Richard O'Neil Collection. Many thanks to President, Patricia Cullinan for writing the grant application and to Kate Todd, Sharon O'Neil (yes, that O'Neil), Justin Swartout, and our Sonoma High School summer intern, Lizzie Hidalgo for all of their painstaking work!

The Marcy House Team bids farewell to Kate Todd (at least until next summer) as she completes her degree and her student–teaching for…wait for it…teaching HISTORY to high school students! As Kate heads into her fall studies, we welcome new volunteer Lynn Alva, lifetime Sonoma Valley resident.

The Historical Society began the second phase of this year's lecture series in September with an illuminating talk about Charmian London by Iris Dunkle (above left) with 50 attendees. Also pictured, Society President Patricia Cullinan (above right).