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
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!

NEWSLETTER

SONOMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 50 NO. 2 APRIL MAY JUNE 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Society has been busy in the past months with volunteers working on projects both at the museum and the Marcy House. Kate Schertz and Mike Acker have been busy at the museum inventorying our collections. The Marcy House has had a steady stream of visitors researching information about the people and places of Sonoma Valley. Peter Meyerhof and I have been preparing the rare and fascinating Sonoma Valley Expositor newspapers for shipment to the California State Library for digitizing. When the Society received the acknowledgement accepting our 2018 nominated materials to the California Revealed program, we were recognized for nominating significant Californiana.

The coming months' activities will include not only a collaborative event with La Luz but also our continued "Second Saturday" lectures with a schedule of fascinating presenters signed up into 2020. View our website www.depotparkmuseum.org for upcoming lecture, event and exhibit information.

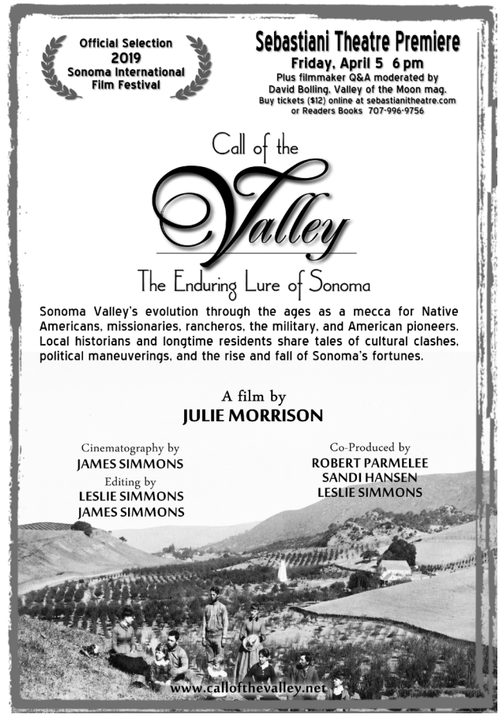
The Society will once again partner with the Sonoma Petaluma Parks (SPParks) and the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation to celebrate Pueblo Day, June 22. We will feature an exhibit at the museum on the original buildings of the Pueblo curated by Peter Meyerhof.

I want to thank members Ron Price and Dennis Grimes for changing the burnt-out security lights at the museum and electrician Darrell Jones for his volunteer work in helping the Society with our electrical issues.

Put Thursday, July 18th on your calendar for the Chamber of Commerce "After-Hours" event. Details to follow.

Thanks again to all our members and friends for their continued support of the Society. We couldn't do it without you.

Patricia Cullinan



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
2:00pm Unless Otherwise Shown

April 13, 2019

FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPES OF CALIFORNIA

presented by Laura Cunningham

May 11, 2019

PETALUMA RIVER WATERSHED

presented by John Sheehy

"Second Saturday" Lectures will be on hiatus June-August 2019 and will resume in September.

September
New Exhibits at Jack London
State Historic Park
Presented by Iris Dunkle

October
History of Sonoma Mountain
Presented by Arthur Dawson
(based on his new book)

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

LOST IN THE ARCHIVES

Kate Schertz

Since January, Mike Acker and I have been conducting an inventory of the Society's holdings located in the attic of the Museum. March 8th, we came across a real treasure--a hand crafted gilt frame containing two internally framed photographs. The backside held a notation identifying them as Jacob B. Snyder and James King of William. Jacob Snyder we knew as he was one of the early pioneers of Sonoma later a member of the group that formed the California State Constitution. But who was James King of William?

It's a fascinating story. Originally from Washington, DC, he became a journalist and then left for the California gold fields. In 1849, he opened his own bank on Montgomery Street in SF. After several misadventures with crooks, he recovered and began issuing his own gold ingots, but in 1851 the U.S. essayer in San Francisco determined that his ingots were 1.8 to 3 percent underweight. King sent these results to every major newspaper in the USA prompting the California legislature to ban the use of privately minted coins. Later he formed a business relationship with Jacob Snyder that ended in 1884 with an economic depression. King went on to become a crusading journalist exposing scoundrels in SF society and business. He particularly battled with James Casey, editor of The Sunday Times . This confrontation culminated in a printed battle over the fate of Charles Cora a well known gambler and husband of madam Belle Cora. Their argument turned fatal when Casey accosted King on Montgomery Street and fired a shot at King. After lingering six days from his gunshot wound King died. Casey was hung by a group of vigilantes and in 1950 King was memorialized in California's newspaper Hall of Fame.

It wasn't nicknamed the Wild West without reason!

In Memoriam

Barbara Jean Miller

The members of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society were saddened to hear that longtime member Jean Miller passed away on February 26, 2019. In the photo Jean (right) is shown with her sister, Joanne and her brother Duke.

Jean was born in Southern California and had a twin sister, Jo. Both sisters attended Stanford and were proud Stanford football and basketball fans as well as supporters of the Stanford alumni organization.

Upon arriving in Sonoma after retirement, they joined several groups and jumped into supporting both the Sonoma Valley Historical Society and Sonoma Valley Woman's Club. They were officers in several capacities and Jean served on the Historical Society Board as our secretary for many years.

You could always count on Jean to do the work, whether it was organizing Museum collections, supplying refreshments for events, cataloguing, protecting and storing our art archives in the Fruit Car.

The Society is grateful to Jean for her unselfish support of the Society demonstrated in so many ways. She was a charming and gracious woman and such a pleasure to work with and a tremendous asset to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society.

She will be deeply missed.

Carol Page

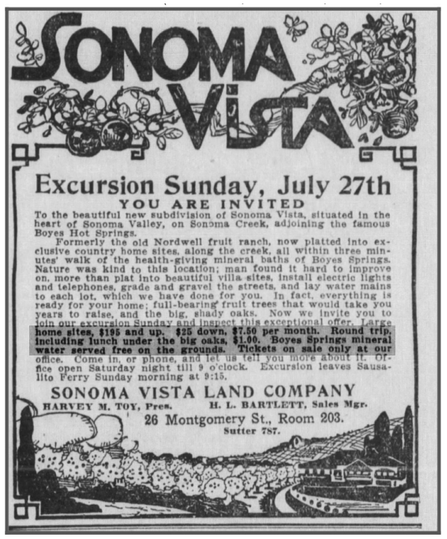
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Ball Jean Behse Erlyne Beltz Michelle Benjamin Donna Brennan Lynn Downey Lorrie Fulton Patricia Garvey Susan Gorin Arlene Holt Gayle Hunting Jocelyn Malkhassian William McKinstry Cathy Salomon Angelo Sassi Susan Staggs Roberta Hodges & Adam Stein Cynthia Thomssen Andrea Tommasi Lavawn Whiting

THE SPRINGS

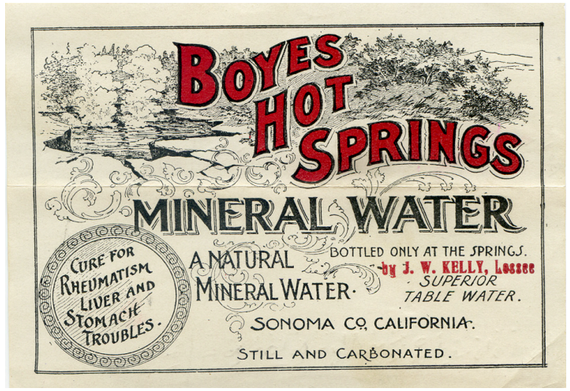
by Michael Acker

BOYES SPRINGS MINERAL WATER

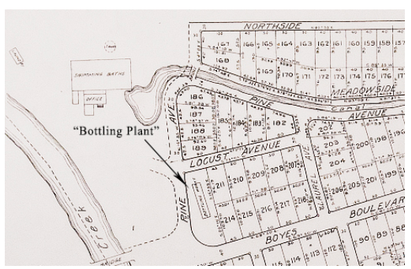


In 1914, the Sonoma Vista Land Company, Harvey Toy, President, advertised in the San Francisco Examiner for a free train excursion to Boyes Hot Springs, which offered, "home sites, $195 and up" and…"Boyes Springs mineral water served free on the grounds."
Sonoma Vista was a subdivision on the west side of Sonoma Creek, south of Boyes Blvd.

In January of 1918, the Index-Tribune stated, "The bottling works of the now famed Boyes Springs Mineral Water has been put in the charge of Fred J. Hansen, popular musician and poultry man" (A talented guy, apparently!) and "The management of the mineral water concern is no small matter as $25,000 worth of water was bottled and marketed last season."



By 1925, the concern was managed by one H. Peterson, according to the IT. "Physician recommend the use of this water as a corrective for stomach and related troubles…try a case and enthuse more and more over Boyes Springs." the reporter stated, severely blurring the line between news and advertising.



The bottling plant, as shown on the County Recorder's map of the Hotel Grounds subdivision, was adjacent to the Bath House near Boyes Blvd.

The building survived and has gone through a number of incarnations.

1980's:

SOME REASONS WHY PEOPLE LIKE TO LIVE IN SONOMA

by Dr. Peter Meyerhof

(From the Sept. 18, 1903 edition of the Sonoma Valley Expositor, W. O. Hocker, Editor)

"Although Sonoma is an old town, she has long since begun to awaken from her lethargy and is fast becoming an up-to-date little city.

That our people have been ultra conservative in the past is true, but there is a long list of worse faults. As a consequence, we are out of debt with plenty of money in the treasury and have not nor never had any annoying litigations. Another electric light plant to take the place of the one recently burned is a certainty in the near future.

The much-needed new city hall is planned for and as soon as sufficient tax money is collected will be built. We predict that in less than a year Sonoma's officials will be occupying a fine new soon city hall.

Our streets are good and clean and are kept in good repair.

Our merchants are prosperous and it is a common saying among wholesalers dealing with our merchants, that failures or slow payments are so rare that the business houses deserve the pet name given to Gen. Grant, namely, "Uniformly Successful."

A large, rich and productive valley surrounds the city and we doubt if there is another valley in the state of its size that can boast of a greater variety and quantity of products.

Sonoma has an over abundance of the purest of water – that from the many artesian wells.

The government of our city is in charge of some of its most responsible business men.

The city trustees at present are: J. A. Poppe, president, George Breitenbach, S. Guicci, G. H. Hotz and A. Pinelli. The other officials are: J. B. Small, clerk and assessor, J. H. Albertson, marshall, G. H. H. Cornelius, recorder, Hon. R. A. Poppe, attorney, Martin Muldry, treasurer."

MARCY HOUSE UPDATE

Lorrie Fulton

The always-busy team at the Marcy House is getting busier!

Treasure troves of items unearthed in the archives and the"Train Car" by Kate Schertz, Peter Meyerhof and Patricia Cullinan, are being inventoried, cleaned, restored and will ultimately be added to our online catalog. We have a local resident, born and raised in Sonoma, who has amassed a 60-year collection of postcards of our beautiful valley and is graciously allowing us to digitize and use the images. To be able to preserve and use these images - dating from 1900's - is amazing!

Three new interns have joined our team, all of whom are history majors in their senior year at Sonoma State. Welcome to Joelynne, Justin, and Kyle! Each of them comes in one day per week and has been a HUGE asset.

A team-tour of Sonoma's historic buildings led by Dr. Peter Meyerhof was held on March 18, 2019 and was captured on video by Kyle. It will be incorporated into our website. Kyle is also working on updating our website.

Marcy House is being recognized by our community as a historical resource as evidenced by a steady increase in appointments and walk-ins by folks who want to know more about the history of the town, their homes and businesses and early Sonoma families. This has also resulted in people knowing and understanding the work of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society.

WELCOME NEW DOCENTS

Charlotte Ruffner, Board Member
Angelo Sassi, Society Member

DRAWING AND TEXT BY BARBARA WHITE PERRY

Carnegie Public Library, 1913

453 First Street East, Sonoma

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was most influential to the public library movement in the United States. From 1881 until his death in 1919, he donated $333 million for the building of public libraries. Sonoma was one of the many recipients of his generosity.

In 1902, the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club was formed with the goals of beautification of the eight-acre Sonoma Plaza, and building a lending library for the community. The Woman's Club began raising money, putting in paths and planting trees.

Because of the goals of the Woman's Club, the City Council passed an ordinance establishing a Sonoma Public Library on the Plaza site, and provided for a Board of Trustees. In 1910, the Board first learned of the Andrew Carnegie Library Grants Program. The City complied with Carnegie's conditions: the community must agree to support it, provide library trustees to maintain it, and the library must be open to the public. In 1911, $6,000 was received from the Carnegie Grants Program.

Architect A.C. Lutgens, who designed the City Hall and the Sonoma Grammar School also designed the 3,200 square foot library that was built for the price of $6,645. The Sonoma Public Library Board first met in the completed new building on May 4, 1913.

The Library was closed in 1976 when the new public library was opened on West Napa Street. Currently, the 1913 building is occupied by the Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau and City of Sonoma offices.

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*The Carnegie Public Library is part of **Drawing Sonoma** Second Edition. The book is a collection of ink and vine-charcoal drawings of historic and unique properties of Sonoma Valley, with stories of each property's past. Drawings and text by Barbara White Perry, a Sonoma Treasure Artist. BarbaraWhitePerry.com*

SONGS FROM THE ATTIC

Highlights from the Posters, Flyers and Sonoma Events Drawer

by Dave Brummett

This time your editor brings help from his grandfather's book that he spent hours with during his childhood. With an 1890 copyright book, Household and Farmers' Cyclopedia contains "One Hundred Thousand Facts for the People." Here are a few for the EMTs and "home doctors" of the time.

1. For Alcohol, Brandy, and other Spirituous Excess
   After emptying the stomach, pour cold water on the head and back of the neck, rub or slap the wrists and palm, and the ankles and soles of the feet. Give some aromatic spirits of hartshorn in teaspoon doses of water. The warmth of the body must be sustained.

2. Cure of Baldness
   Mix and filter one pint of rum, one ounce of distilled water, a half drachm of tincture of cantharides, on of potash, and one drachm of ammonia. Dissolve, filter and wet the head for several minutes. Wash with water.

3. Foot Blisters Occasioned by Walking
   Draw a needleful of worsted thread through and clip it off at both ends. Leave it till the skin peels off.

4. Consumption
   Take one table spoonful of tar, and the yolks of three eggs and beat them together. Dose one tablespoon morning, noon and night.

And, the reason an 11-year old kept coming back to the book.

5. How to Distinguish a Person is Alive
   a. hold a mirror to the mouth and check for moisture
   b. tie a string around a finger; the end is red and swollen
   c. living hands look translucent under strong light
   d. a candle flame will cause blistering
   e. a shiny needle entered into living flesh will be still be bright in a half an hour
   f. a tincture of calabar bean will cause dilated pupils to contract

And one last tip:
   To whiten your toenails mix up two drachms of diluted sulphuric acid and one drachm of tincture of myrrh in four ounces of spring water and apply. (Wash your hands before applying.)

Drachma: a unit of weight formerly used by apothecaries, equivalent to 60 grains or one eighth of an ounce.