Jeff Tobes Memorial History Walk
Sponsored by the Sonoma County Historical Society

Scheduled for April 1, the Sonoma County Historical Society has organized the 20 mile Jeff Tobes Memorial History Walk from Healdsburg to Cloverdale. A former teacher, Tobes’ love of history and of walking led to him become a leader of the Sonoma County Historical Society and to organize annual walks throughout the county. He was also a staunch advocate of History Day in which students create and present elaborate history projects, some of which qualify for advancement to regional, state and national competitions.

The route starts with breakfast at Big John’s Market, continues to lunch in Geyserville, on to Asti for a special tour of the old Italian Swiss Colony tasting room, proceeds through old Cloverdale for dinner and then a bus ride back to Healdsburg.

You can see the route, register for the walk, get training tips and additional information at www.sonomacountyhistory.org/tours/historywalk.

Here is a typical view that participants in the April 1 Jeff Tobes Memorial History Walk will enjoy.
Find additional information at www.sonomacountyhistory.org/tours/historywalk.

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**Calendar**

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<td>7 AAUW Homes Tour, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Register at Museum</td>
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<td>15–31 Museum Closed for New Exhibit Installation</td>
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Healdsburg Museum
221 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707 431 3325
Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

Museum Hours:
11:00 am - 4:00 pm Wednesday – Sunday
History Matters

by Holly Hoods,
Executive Director/Curator

This past month has had many highlights, including some welcome spring weather and resulting new buds and blossoms in abundance. Our volunteer Master Gardener Pam Vana-Paxhia has begun pruning and tidying the Museum side garden which is lush after all the rain.

For several years, HM&HS had been paying monthly rent to store a number of big, bulky items offsite at Redwood Moving and Storage. Now that we have set up our new climate-controlled Collections Storage building, we are able to accommodate these large, historically significant pieces of furniture. They include a handsome set of chairs, a table, a piano stool and 1850s baby grand piano belonging to the Col. Matheson family, a writing desk that belonged to A. Gallaway and a parlor organ that belonged to Clarice Sullivan.

Jon Lacaillade prepared an area for these heavy items to rest. Strongmen Paul, Joe and Mel from Redwood Moving and Storage carefully transported the weighty artifacts, as well as a brass cannon and a large cabinet of drawers from the Museum to our new Collections Storage Building. We appreciate being able to consolidate the historical collections and to reduce expenses. Redwood took very good care of our precious history. Thanks to Bob Fraser, Lisa Martinez and the great crew at Redwood Moving and Storage. We wish them all the best in their relocation to Santa Rosa.

We are grateful to our Healdsburg City Council Members Mayor Shawn McCaffery, Vice Mayor Brigette Mansell, David Hagele, Joe Naujokas and Gary Plass for partially funding the Museum’s grant request for additional shelving, a rolling safety ladder and archival storage improvements in the Collections Building. We were awarded $2,500 for these items which is about half of the amount we sought. We appreciate the Council’s consideration of the Museum among the many deserving nonprofits in town doing worthy work. We will use every dollar wisely and continue to fundraise to buy appropriate supplies to care for our community’s historic resources.

We often see visitors from out of state during the winter and early spring months. The gallery guest book shows recent visitors from Indiana, Nevada, New York, Illinois and Wisconsin.

I was delighted when the gallery receptionist sent one recent visitor downstairs to say hello to the staff (“They’ll want to meet you!”). It was Dave Hoy, the grandson of J. Lee Hoy, the owner of the former Sanitary Dairy. Dave and his wife were visiting the Museum from Colorado. Dave was warmly welcomed by the staff and volunteers and greeted with family photos, history and artifacts that are part of the Museum’s collection. It was a happy visit for us all.
President’s Corner  
by Ronnie Devitt,  
Board President
Are you taking advantage of your Healdsburg Museum membership? If you have an HM&HS membership at the $100 level, your card has the magic NARM gold sticker showing the Museum’s membership in the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (“NARM”). This means that your Healdsburg Museum card gives you benefits at NARM’s almost 900 member institutions, including museums of art, culture, history, science and botanical gardens throughout the U.S. Canada and in Mexico, Bermuda and El Salvador. The usual benefits include free admission for two adults to the permanent collection during regular museum hours, free admission to special exhibitions when no special ticket is required and museum store discounts. Even if your travels take you only as far as Santa Rosa or Ukiah, you will save money. Remember most museums are hardly ever free. A complete list of NARM members is found on the www.narm.org website. And remember to always carry your Healdsburg Museum membership card.

Even if you have the basic HM&HS membership, you are entitled to free research by appointment at our Museum. Favorite topics include genealogy, property history and trips down memory lane. If you haven’t checked out the gift shop recently, do so — especially the book collection which gets bigger and better. You also receive the Russian River Recorder and, of course, you do not have to be a member for online access to the 19,000+ photos in the Museum’s collection which is available at www.healdsburgmuseum.org/collections. You can also access the California Digital Newspaper Collection at www.cdnc.ucr.edu.

Our members are our best ambassadors. We need you! Bring your friends, neighbors and relatives to the Museum. Encourage others to become members or give memberships as gifts. We need a growing membership to be sure that our “Museum is always free” for our entire community.

HMVA News  
by Ann Howard, HMVA Co-chair
The two photographs on the cover of the last issue of the Review instantly caught my eye: the Wagele family in their 1908 Buick and a close-up of the two large headlights in the Museum’s collection. Edson and I live on the bench above Dry Creek Valley to the east and across the road from the Wagele Ranch. In fact, the original family home is still standing.

I decided to contact some of the receptionists who have greeted visitors during the first 15 days since “Treasures from the Museum Collection” exhibition opened on February 26, wondering if visitors identified specific items that caught their fancy. I spoke with Ted Robinson, Tom Rhodes and Frank Zak. Healdsburg history is important to out-of-town visitors and the Pomo basket display garners much attention. One fellow enjoyed the dresses and asked his wife if she had gowns like those from 1950s. (Frank said she couldn’t have been old enough!) Tom Rhodes personally enjoyed the clothing on display, lamenting that 1950s clothing is thought of as antiques! Another couple commented on Jon Lacaillade’s model of the Plaza, marveling at the scale-model detail. Most visitors enjoyed the displays by themselves; only one had questions for the office staff.

Frank Zak, a past board member and receptionist, mentioned that our newest receptionist, Kip Miller, just celebrated his 87th birthday on February 24 and that Frank will be 87 on July 24! Tom Rhodes who kindly took over my Saturday duty at the desk will celebrate 85 years on May 19. Happy Birthdays to our loyal volunteers!

Our new Board President, Ronnie Devitt, quickly learning about the internal workings of the Museum, recently requested a report from the different standing committees of the Board. Reading these reports reminds us of how deeply involved the 13 directors are to increasing membership, fundraising, collections, annual events, volunteer appreciation, newspaper digitization, improving the website, technology, first floor reconfiguration and more. Plus, there are many volunteers with individual projects: Museum in the Classroom, Family History Challenge, receptionists’ calendar, mailings, scanning, filing, accession, donor acknowledgement, museum gift shop, publicity, social media, publications – so many to list.

Thanks to Our Latest General Fund Donor
Alexander Valley Ladies Aid
Admission to the Museum is free because of our members and donors like you. Please mention the Museum to those around you.

I was waiting to hear about a possible second major surgery, already postponed once. Finally heard from Stanford surgeon after review of CT scan. Some change - we are talking millimeters. Next CT scan and consultation in three months. A reprieve!

Newspaper Digitization Update

We hope you enjoyed our latest Russian River Recorder, which included many examples of the fascinating history to be found in our Healdsburg newspapers. In order to create this issue, we utilized the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC).

We now have most of the Healdsburg newspapers between 1865-1990 digitized and searchable on the CDNC. Nearly every day we have researchers looking for historic family members, businesses, houses and more on the CDNC. They are benefiting from the ability to search our local newspapers. What a wonderful resource!

Without all of your financial support, it would not have been possible to convert our Healdsburg newspapers from microfilm to digital online records. To date, we have spent over $45,000 on this important project. Now we need to raise additional funds to digitize the Healdsburg Tribune between 1991-1998 (the last year that was microfilmed) and the Geyserville Gazette newspaper. If you have not already, please try out the CDNC at https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc and consider making a donation.

Thank you again for your support!

Thanks to Our Latest Newspaper Digitization Donors
Jon Eisenberg
Geyserville Chamber of Commerce Members

Contributions in Memory of:
Don Frediani from Michael, Nicole & Erica Frediani
Betty Miller from Nancy & William McNamara III
Ralph & Janice Sceales

Contributions in Memory of:
Dolores Gagliardo from Shirley Buchignani
Marilyn Haywood
James Soracco

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AAUW Homes Tour

The Healdsburg branch of AAUW is pleased to announce its annual Homes Tour on May 7. The tour opens the doors to six beautiful and charming homes highlighting home design “then and now” in Healdsburg. Visitors will be able to explore a majestic Neo-classical mansion with a stunning staircase, furniture and photographs spanning five generations. Renovators will love the 1870s Victorian mansion known for its dramatic makeover. The oldest home on the tour, built in 1868, is a Victorian cottage with a charming garden. A transitional style home from the early 20th century that has been lovingly remodeled as it approaches its 100th birthday is also included. Exciting contemporary homes include a hilltop home whose expansive windows capture fantastic Healdsburg views and a home and studio where the owners’ art brings additional light.

The tour includes a stop for the famous home baked cookies of AAUW members and a refreshing cold beverage.

This fundraiser provides scholarships for women and girls, and grants which benefit local education.

Tickets are $35 per person in advance of the May 7 tour. They are available for purchase by cash or check at our Museum reception desk. They may also be purchased on the day of the tour for $40 per person.

Online ticket purchases and more information is available on the AAUW website at http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net.
The Intern’s Presentation
by Jane Bonham, Office Manager
I only recently learned that in 2014, the high school internship program received an award from the California School Boards Association. But that came as no surprise to me, as I was already impressed with the thoughtful structure and guidance built into the program that I saw firsthand, during Holly Hoods’ mentorship with this year’s intern, Nick Nelson.

Impressed with the program and our intern, I was delighted to accompany our Executive Director/ Curator in attending the intern presentation evening on March 8. It was a beautiful, warm evening, a welcome change from the recent cold storm. A large group of people were gathering inside the school, so I sat out front the better to meet Holly when she arrived. That vantage point also gave me the opportunity to watch the arrival of various family members and mentors, smiling and greeting friends. I felt honored to be a part of this pleasant assembly. A fire truck pulled up in front and I wondered if there was trouble.

I soon realized from the smiles that they too were mentors here to support the students!

Then suddenly, it was time for the main event. The attendees broke into smaller groups, each assigned a room in which several students would present. Despite signs in the hallways and room numbers on the name tags, it somehow felt like the first day of high school all over again! Holly and I joined our assigned group for a series of five student presentations. We were given a printed scoring sheet for each, to provide feedback about presentation content and delivery.

Students entered one at a time, accompanied by family and assisting staff members. Presentations were delivered orally along with a PowerPoint slide presentation. The same structure was used in each presentation as the students described their community placement and experience.

When Nick entered with his mother and a teacher, Holly and I beamed as he waved hello and greeted us by name. He was as authentic and honest in his presentation as he was when working with us at the Museum. His slides were filled with photos of the time spent at the Museum and the projects he completed.

When asked if the placement had given him a better sense of what he might want to aim for in the work world, Nick explained that he still had no clear idea what type of work he would do. Then, he continued to explain what he had carried away from his placement that he hadn’t known: That it is possible to find work that makes you happy. He said simply, with feeling, “I was happy there - all the time.” Priceless!

Thanks to Our Latest Annual Appeal Donor
Peggy Rawlins,
in memory of her son Geoffrey Lee Rawlins

SAVE THE DATE!
July 8, 2017
Langhart Volunteer Event
Honoring
Diane Carriger
and
Maggie Bates
Cemetery Restoration Project Update  

Jim Driesback

I have some really good news to share with you. At my request, the Museum has decided to form an official committee to oversee the Oak Mound Cemetery project and our new board member, Eric Ziedrich, has agreed to chair that committee. That means that the past two years of work we have put into restoring the cemetery, its records and the fountain, will continue as an integral part of Museum operations. All of the past projects, whether they be digitizing burial records, cemetery maintenance or headstone repair can now be organized to meet specific goals set up by the committee.

I am looking forward to our first meeting and bringing on some additional volunteers.

Sunny days have allowed work to continue on the cemetery fountain. Thanks to Stan Johnson, Stan Johnson Pool Construction, the plumbing is complete; and the pump and filtration system have been installed. This allowed us to load the fountain basin with decorative “salt & pepper” rock. I must say it really looks amazing.

We are now ready for Bill Domenichelli, Domenichelli Masonry, to work his magic repairing the rock surround that has been damaged over the years. This signals the final step, allowing the planting to take place by the Healdsburg Garden Club and for “Leda and the Swan” to take its place atop the fountain.

Stay tuned, we are planning the reveal date in the near future.

Thanks again to all who have put in the thousands of volunteer hours cleaning up the cemetery, digitizing the records and restoring the fountain. We all need to take pride in what we have accomplished.

The fountain basin loaded with rock awaiting the next step in its restoration.

Thanks to Our Latest Cemetery Restoration Project Donor
Alexander Valley Ladies Aid

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Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Dr. Stephen Jarvis
Douglas Johnston
Darrilyn Mollath
Jennifer Terreri
In place of my monthly column, I would like to share this commentary from Zoe Smith of Annapolis, CA. Zoe appeared in our research center some months ago, with a request to see and handle original vintage photographs for class assignment. We had already moved most of our photo collection to our new storage facility; however, I was able to show her the 1870s Joseph Downing stereoscope cards, which had not yet been relocated. Downing was the first professional photographer to open a studio in Healdsburg in 1873, and his images are some of the earliest of the area. Zoe describes her experience at the Museum and her appreciation for the opportunity to examine our collection.

In an attempt to beat an incoming fall storm, I made an impromptu visit to the Healdsburg Museum and was warmly welcomed despite having not made an appointment. I was researching for my history of photography class and needed to look at some early photographs. What better place than my local repository of ephemera.

While most of the photography collection had recently been moved to a climate-controlled storage off site, there was a group of 140 stereoscope cards which I could look through. I was given white gloves and got right to work. Carefully crafted by photographer Joseph Henry Downing, these images leave us with a vivid impression of the town and inhabitants of this small village in northern California in 1872 and 1873.

Joseph H. Downing depicted his own business, Photography Rooms in Healdsburg, California, on a stereoscope card, and several views of his Reception Room, showing merchandise for sale, Sitting Room, and Operating Room are on other cards. Many of his other cards are of locations in Healdsburg and environs with specific compass directions and street names.

Shown on the same card, next to Downing’s business, is the small building of Dr. G. A. Cooke, a glove leather tanner. Three other views of the rural tannery, as it is constructed and developed, were the most interesting cards I came across in the collection, precisely because they show the passage of time, and therefore history.

This evidence of change over time, consolidated into three stereoscope cards, gave me an historical perspective of a single place by a single photographer. Once set into motion, the revolution in stereographic imaging and viewing, continued to inform and delight me almost 150 years later, by giving me detailed and comparative views into the past. I was indeed fortunate to be so cordially allowed to inspect these stereoscope cards by the Healdsburg Museum and am grateful to them.
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