More to See in 
“Discover Oak Mound Cemetery” Exhibit
by Holly Hoods

Eight more interesting individuals who are buried in Oak Mound Cemetery have been newly added to our cemetery exhibit and will be on display through July 10.

Meet Lizzie Livernash Koenig, talented writer and progressive editor of the Healdsburg Enterprise newspaper in the late 1890s; Mihilakawna Pomo elder Elizabeth Lozinto Cordova Dollar who helped linguists study and preserve her native language; Professor Henry Bull, inspiring teacher, principal and County Schools Superintendent in the early 1900s; Merritt G. Kellogg, the first Seventh Day Adventist in California and a medical missionary in the South Seas; and Abele Ferrari, Italian immigrant master machinist and inventor, founding partner of Healdsburg Machine Shop. (cont’d on page 5)

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www.healdsburgmuseum.org
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

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

by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

Our Museum was in the news this past month in both the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and the Healdsburg Tribune with a heartwarming story of connections forged across time and distance.

In 2011, we were contacted by Stan Derkx of Holland, who had adopted the grave of Arthur Beeman, a former Healdsburg police officer who died in World War II during the liberation of the Netherlands. Private Beeman is buried in a U.S. Army Cemetery in Belgium. Stan Derkx and his family visit the Beeman grave several times a year to place flowers and pay tribute to the Allied forces who liberated Europe. Stan Derkx found photos of Beeman on our Museum website and hoped to learn more about his background. At that time, I was able to share some history and also help Stan connect with Beeman’s descendants, including his daughter, Carol Davy. They have been corresponding since that time.

The first opportunity for the families to meet occurred in last month when Stan and Kim visited California with their children, Ticho and Lena. I prepared the gallery for their visit with two tables of Art Beeman’s precious personal artifacts and photos donated to the Museum years ago by Carol. The items included his Healdsburg High School diploma, the Western Union telegram notifying his family that he was killed, his Purple Heart and the change that was in his pocket when he died. (The artifacts and story will be on display in the Gallery through July 10.)

It was an emotional experience for the extended Beeman family, including Arthur’s daughter Carol Davy and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, who introduced themselves to the Derkxs at the Museum with hugs.

“It’s a beautiful thing to let the family know that the grave is cared for,” Derkx said.

“We are all a family,” beamed Carol.

It was one of the most touching and memorable experiences in my 20 years at the Museum and a profound example of connecting the past and present. It was an honor to be there.

President’s Corner

by Jim Brush, Board President

You may be familiar with the saying: “an organization is only as good as its people.” The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is a living example of that expression. We are so fortunate to have a collection of extraordinary individuals who come together and contribute to our overall success.

This situation was made abundantly clear to me recently when I accepted a full time job that diverted most of my attention away from the Museum’s operations. It also gave me an opportunity to view our work from afar and it was quite impressive. Lo and behold, everything ran smoothly without me!

We currently have staff members and volunteers working on innumerable projects. They include the new storage facility design and implementation; the Langhart Award and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Oak Mound Cemetery restoration project, the Instant Wine Cellar raffle, the newspaper digitization project, the History Lives/Pioneer Award Dinner, current and future exhibits; the monthly Review, the quarterly Russian River Recorder, community outreach efforts, our website and Facebook page; research requests and, of course, everyday business.

Thank you to everyone who is a part of this lovely and worthwhile enterprise.

HMVA News

by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

As a tiny participant in the huge Oak Mound Cemetery project, I helped clean a couple of head and foot stones on April 23. A small, white-marble base of a 16-year-old boy’s stone revealed the words, “Happy are they who die young,” gave me pause in my work.

I have been trying to locate Geyserville’s Dr. Elisha Ely’s family plot in the cemetery, thinking it was on the damaged approach to the fountain. One of Dr. Ely’s twin daughters, Mary, died in 1872 of typhoid fever at the age of 17 and his wife, Asenath, died in 1882. I had not noticed on the cemetery map that there were two #221 plots in different sections quite close together! Brad Davall directed me to the older Oak Mound section on the top of the hill where he located the correct “plot #221 with a brick wall or
coping around the lot and an oak tree growing on the lot. The lot is 7 feet by 25 feet according to Sexton Shelton.” (This information was found in Harry Bosworth’s father Obed’s papers in Geyserville.) There was no Ely information in the burial records and now it can be added!

While walking around the brick coping of the Ely plot, Holly exposed a complete, light green, “Sealtite Wide Mouth Mason” quart jar in the thick, damp duff. The jar has proved to be quite rare (1908-1926 for use on the West Coast). I happily fanaticized that perhaps it was placed there with flowers in 1922 by the surviving Ely twin sister, Louisa, who had barely survived typhoid fever, when she visited old friends Healdsburg. She was living in Hollywood at the time. Research on the California Digital Newspaper Collection revealed all of these nuggets of information!

The CDNC also revealed a serendipitous find in the Russian River Flag that on June 22, 1876, “The new fountain for the cemetery has arrived, but will not be unboxed for a few days, awaiting the arrival of persons engaged to put it up,” referring to Oak Mound Cemetery 140 years ago!

This year many volunteers continue to be involved in a number of exciting projects, research, and planning the many stages to complete the eventual move of our collections to the new storage facility. History is alive at the Museum!

Museum-Quality Storage
by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

Last fall, in the closing minutes of what was acclaimed a spectacular History Lives/Pioneer Award event, the final lot at auction offered gifts to meet the needs of the Museum. A dozen and a half or more friends of the Museum contributed almost $12,000 toward items such as new display cubes and shelving. That bounty will come in quite handy in support of what Executive Director/Curator Holly Hoods has described as “the best options for museum-quality storage shelving designed to better preserve various artifacts including books, clothing and art.”

For their generosity, we thank Mel and Geri Amato, Cathy and Dave Anderson, Shirley Buchignani, Alvin and Alyce Cadd, Phyllis Chiosso Liu and Ed Liu, Linda Cook, Candy Danhausen, Steve Deas and Jane Rosenberg, Suzie and Rand Dericcco, Eric and Mary Drew, Ann and Edson Howard, Harry Jackson, Wayne and Maryl Lindahl, Ed Micheli, Gary Plass, Carmen and Bruce Selfridge, Diana Smith, and Cullen and Beth Wilder. (Did I miss anyone?)

The Museum collection is diverse and varied: large as well as small (as tall as an 8 foot duck hunting gun, wide as a baby grand piano and tiny as a coin), sturdy as well as delicate (from metal spittoons to fragile baskets and textiles). I have learned that, in addition to shelving, special cabinets and displays are required to house the collection items that do not fit well on shelves or that require special care. These include mesh screens that mount on the wall for art works and open, wide cabinets for textile rolls that hold quilts and rugs.

It has also become clear that proper preservation comes at a price! Wouldn’t you like to adopt one of these specialty storage units? The eight foot wide weapons rack with locking doors is a cool $2,200. One of the two textile cabinets will cost $1,670. If your passion for quilts doesn’t rise to that level, one of the rolls in these cabinets runs $140. Want to support preservation of historic art pieces? Each of the six art screens that will allow art pieces to hang on the wall costs $465. Any contribution will benefit the Museum community for generations to come.

Newspaper Digitization Update
by Whitney Hopkins, Assistant Curator

We have been hearing from more folks locally, in other parts of California and around the United States who are reading our historic Healdsburg newspapers now online at the California Digital Newspaper Collection. We are thrilled!

Just this week we had a visitor from Indiana who traced her family (the Yorks who had a blacksmith shop) to Healdsburg. She read all about them in the online newspapers before traveling to Healdsburg. We also had a visitor who said he was born on the Chisolm hop ranch, where his dad, Basil Huffman, was foreman and wondered if we had any information. We were able to find a detailed account of the gentleman’s birth on the Chisolm ranch, off Pleasant Avenue in Windsor. He left the Museum with the article in hand, very happy. Wonderful stories are emerging daily!

Dr. Geiger, director of the CDNC, reports that more titles have been processed and will be uploaded shortly. Stay tuned for additional years and papers,
including the oldest Healdsburg newspaper we have on microfilm, *The Democratic Standard*, dating back to 1865.

We are very appreciative of the community’s support for our newspaper digitization initiative. In the future, we would like to digitize historic Geyserville newspapers, as well as more recent issues of the *Healdsburg Tribune* (up to 1998). Due to the high cost of the scanning and digitization, however, we will need to raise more funds before we are able to undertake these additional papers.

In the meantime, we invite you to visit the CDNC website (www.cdnc.ucr.edu). Take it for a test drive and initiate your own search!

**Storage Facility Update** by Jim Dreisback

Preparations are moving forward on the new Museum storage facility located on Kennedy Lane. There are many aspects of this move that need to come together to prepare the new leasehold for the collection. I have been asked to help coordinate these efforts so we can complete the facility preparations and make the move as efficient as possible.

Thanks to the staff, many volunteers and key tradespeople, the preparatory work has been taking place. Electrical upgrades were completed by Denny’s Electric. The heating and air conditioning system installation is scheduled for early June. Now that the interior of the facility is insulated, Jon Lacaillade is constructing an insulated, alternate entrance to be installed behind the metal roll-up door. A new security system was installed by Allied Alarm. A new deadbolt is in place on the entry door. Lockie Gillies has been working with the staff to make PastPerfect accessible from the new facility. He is also procuring the necessary computers and data connections. Kay Robinson has organized the entire collection and listed the items on worksheets that will be used when the move takes place. Thank you, Kay. You have done an amazing job!

Purchasing the new shelving and storage cabinets has proven to be a challenging process. The committee is very close to accepting a final bid. This purchase will complete the last major hurdle before the move can begin.

With all this said, while the move itself will be a time consuming process, the end results will be well worth all the effort.

**Why Attend the Antiques & Arts Fair?** by Ronnie Devitt

Most readers of *The Review* know that the HM&HS sponsors the Healdsburg Antiques & Arts Fair held in the Plaza twice each summer. Few, however, may know that each fair is an important fundraiser for the Museum and one which we can all easily support.

The fairs are organized by HM&HS’s inveterate volunteer and board member Rawleigh Fjeld. She is assisted in almost all aspects by volunteer superstar Kay Robinson. Rawleigh solicits and selects the participating vendors and determines the rental price of the various plots depending upon their size and location. On the day of the fair, Rawleigh and her team of volunteers are on the Plaza at dawn to mark the borders of almost 100 plots. They also expedite the efficient unloading and setting up of merchandise. HM&HS’s profits derive exclusively from space rental.

The Healdsburg Antiques & Arts Fair is becoming the “gold standard” of Northern California antique fairs. Vendors want to come here because Healdsburg and its Plaza are so attractive to visitors and locals alike. Increased foot traffic and sales, translates to higher profits for vendors and a higher number of vendors participating which increases HM&HS’s profits. With more vendors desiring to participate, Rawleigh can also be more selective in obtaining those with the best quality and most interesting merchandise.

The Fair on June 12 will feature over 90 vendors, artists and craftspeople displaying their treasures and artistry.

We can all contribute to the success of this and future fairs by strolling through the Plaza and perhaps even splurging on an item or two. We hope to see you there.
Oak Mound Cemetery Project Update  
by Holly Hoods

Our Oak Mound Cemetery project continues to progress, both inside and outside the graveyard.

Kay Robinson and Fran Schierenbeck are designing a beautiful plot map of the old cemetery and its subsequent additions, based on a historic map loaned by Cemetery Manager Sara Hellums. To help visitors locate graves more easily, the new map will be displayed in a kiosk near the cemetery entrance. The kiosk also will feature a brief history of the cemetery written by Assistant Curator Whitney Hopkins.

Volunteers Meredith and Jim Dreisback, Pat McCracken, Margaret Dean, Diane Carriger, Kay Robinson and Katherine Bottini have been updating the cemetery database at the Museum to incorporate records on file at the cemetery office. Our goal is for both the Cemetery and the Museum to have the most complete a set of burial records possible.

“Cemetery Friend” Brad Davall taught a handful of enthusiastic volunteers including Louis Foppiano, Fred Leoni, Ann Howard, Jim and Meredith Dreisback, Fran Schierenbeck, Hilary Price and me how to do repairs and upright fallen headstones. Thirty-six damaged monuments were repaired in our first day!

Restoration of the 1876 central fountain is now underway. Thank you to Scott Cavallo of The Welding Shop who is heading up the repairs and Joe Lickey of Denny’s Electric who helped with the dismantling and removal of the fountain. Jerry Eddinger of Eddinger Enterprises and Stan Johnson of Stan Johnson Pool Construction have teamed up to get the water flowing.

We appreciate the outstanding community support that has enabled us to undertake and sustain this restoration.

My special thanks to Jim Dreisback for his tireless efforts.

Family History Essay Challenge  
by Ronnie Devitt

On the first Wednesday evening in May the beautiful garden of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society was alive with laughter, excitement - and a little nervousness - at the commencement of the awards ceremony for the second through eighth grade winners of HM&HS’s annual Family History Essay Challenge. Thirteen of the fourteen previously selected winners were there to read their winning essays to their proud family members and teachers and to receive their certificates and cash prizes.

The winning essays are currently on display in the cases along the hallway of the lower floor of the Museum. They will also be on display at the Healdsburg Library for the next three months.

More to See… (cont’d from page 1)

Meet John Bailhache, early settler, attorney and farmer, and his wife Josephine Fitch. Josephine was the daughter of Henry and Josefa Carrillo de Fitch, owners of the Sotoyome Rancho, the 48,800-acre Mexican Land Grant that included what is now Healdsburg. The Bailhaches lived in the adobe “Fitch’s Castle” on the Rancho. Also featured is Sheriff James Petray, the beloved Sonoma County sheriff who was killed by gangsters in 1920. Petray’s death was avenged by a group of his loyal Healdsburg friends who lynched the three gangsters in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. The crime was never solved or prosecuted.

We are open to the general public with our regular gallery hours through Sunday, July 10.
When Did the Lights Go Off?  

by Mel Amato

On Friday, April 21, 2016, replicas of the historic spherical globe lamps on our Healdsburg Memorial Bridge were once again lit. This article has been written to determine when the original lights went off during our bridge’s history.

There are four lamps at each end of our two-span bridge and two more between the spans. According to the March 2, 1922, Healdsburg Tribune, about two months after the bridge opening on December 29, 1921, our local Chamber of Commerce proposed that our City of Healdsburg furnish “bridge light juice”; i.e., electric “power for the lights free while the local Chamber” agreed “to keep the lights in repair”. Sonoma County, then the bridge owner, accepted this offer. Bridge ownership wasn’t transferred to Healdsburg until 1980.

In 1924, early in our bridge’s history, these globes became the object of vandalism. As reported in the March 15, 1924, Healdsburg Tribune, a $25 reward (about $350 in today’s dollars) was offered for the apprehension of these vandals. Per that article, “There seems to be an organized band of vandals who take a rare delight in breaking these expensive globes. Replacing the globes has been a drain of the funds of the Chamber, but aside from this, there is a more important point, the lighted bridge is a very impressive entrance or exit for the town and broken lamps leave a most negative impression.”

Our new LED lamps consume only 40 watts of power each compared to an estimated 200 watts for the original lamps. Our City's annual power cost savings is about $550/yr. The increased life of the LED’s versus incandescent lamps also decreases replacement costs adding to the total savings.

All in all, the restoration of these historic lamps by our City provides both aesthetic and financial benefits.

If you have a record of when these lamps permanently “went off” during our bridge’s history, please call our Museum (431-3325) with the information.

Contributions in Memory of:

- William Auradou - from Ernie Frandsen
- Ruby Wasson - from Roy & Fran Onishi
- Doris Frampton Golden – from Ann Mahoney

Thanks to Our Latest Annual Appeal Donors

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Collections Corner

The Museum is often given historic photographs – which we encourage and love for the information they provide; however, recently we were given a photo that truly stands out. The vintage photo of an aviator is framed inside the tip of an old, wooden airplane propeller!

The circumstances surrounding the photo’s arrival at the Museum is somewhat circuitous. The framed photo was found in a barn in Dry Creek Valley and purchased by a local antique dealer. Our Healdsburg history buff and Museum friend, Jack Trotter, saw the framed photo after it had been acquired by the dealer. He recognized that the frame was a propeller and did some research comparing photos to identify the individual dressed as a pilot. Jack determined the frame and photo were indeed unique pieces of local history. The pilot was George St. Clair, a lifelong Alexander Valley resident, rancher, and early aviator, who passed away in 2008 at age 100.

Fortunately, St. Clair was interviewed by local historian Robert Evans and the Healdsburg Tribune at various times regarding his early flying days. According to the interviews, St. Clair took up flying for the fun of it in the late 1920s and flew until he got married in 1936. He learned to fly from Fred Monroe and Ted Peoples in Santa Rosa. After only eight hours of instruction, St. Clair flew solo and purchased his own plane - a thirty-eight foot wingspan Eagle Rock, made in Colorado Springs.

St. Clair recalled that he was the only one who flew at night in those days. He also enjoyed flying in formation with his pal, Vernon Smith, who also had his own plane. One time the two flew in formation over Fourth and Third Streets in downtown Santa Rosa only 50 feet in the air, scattering flyers for a guy running for District Attorney. (The candidate was elected.)

St. Clair also fondly recalled flying with his brother Walter. “Walt used to get out on the wing and we’d fly over the vineyards and orchards so low that the guys pruning had to jump down from their ladders. I landed a lot of times with limbs on the landing gear. It was lots of fun watching those fellows dive for the ground.”

The high cost of flying, including the maintenance of his plane and the government licensing process, prompted St. Clair to give up flying.

We are grateful that Jack Trotter found and donated this special frame and photo to the Museum, which shed light on the early days of flight in Sonoma County.

Board of Directors: Jim Brush (President), Ted Calvert (Past President), Ken Spadoni (Vice-President), Phyllis Chiosso Liu (Recording Secretary), Phil Hartlaub (Treasurer), Barry Stallard (Assistant Treasurer), Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub, Larry Orr, Carol Peterson (Directors)

The mission of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society is to record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of historical materials; to actively foster the appreciation of local history of the Healdsburg area through educational programs, activities and historical research; and to provide finances for, and to support, operate and manage the Healdsburg Museum. Edwin Langhart, Founder.

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