STOP THE PRESSES!

Historic Newspapers Online
by Holly Hoods and Whitney Hopkins

We are very excited to announce that the Healdsburg Museum has just improved access to the past by adding our historic local newspapers into the California Digital Newspaper Collection! Until now, Healdsburg’s historic newspapers have only been accessible on microfilm during limited hours at the Museum and at the Healdsburg Public Library.

We have been working with University of California Riverside for more than a year and a half to provide convenient online access to these historic newspapers through the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC). The CDNC is the largest, searchable free repository of digitized California newspapers from 1846 to the present. The CDNC enables keyword searches of digitized newspapers and crowd-sourcing. This means that users can edit and improve the digitized text, as well as comment on it and tag it.

This project was initially proposed by Eric Drew, a champion of bringing history out of the Museum and into the community. He also generously provided some initial seed money to get things started.

In early 2014, we began the effort to raise an additional $60,000 to have the newspaper microfilms scanned and processed at UC Riverside where the California Digital Newspaper Collection project is based. In addition to the original funding, Eric and Mary Drew and Sotheby’s International Realty offered a matching grant which attracted many more donors. We also received a grant from Healdsburg Rotary Club and substantial support from the Healdsburg Tribune. Internally, this project was organized and carried forward by Past President Stan Becker with the support of Museum staff and our current Board President Jim Brush.

We are proud to be the first Sonoma County community to be represented in this online archive. For additional information, search “CDNC” or visit http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc.

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**Calendar**

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<td>1 AAUW Homes Tour, 10:00am to 4:00pm, Museum Check-in, see page 4 for details</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

Thanks to everyone for all their good wishes about my recent promotion to Executive Director/Curator. I appreciate having the confidence of our dedicated Board and the ongoing support from the terrific staff and volunteers. With everyone’s help, I will continue to strive to move our organization forward in a positive direction.

We’ve hit the ground running with the new collections storage facility on Kennedy Lane. There are a lot of moving parts to getting the space insulated and environmental controls installed, in addition to calculating our storage needs, ordering the proper shelving and coordinating the move.

There are some significant expenses involved in this undertaking, both to set it up and then to maintain it. We are fortunate to have recently received a generous bequest from the Bob Rawlins estate and contributions from the Fred and June MacMurray Foundation, but we recognize that we will need to campaign for additional funds. Some interesting options are being explored now.

Another important development is that the City of Healdsburg has agreed to transfer the legal title of the collections to the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society. The City had a lease agreement in place with HM&HS since 1994 that included the use of the former Carnegie Library building to house the Museum and the collections. The City of Healdsburg will continue to pay the collections’ insurance premium and will continue to lease the building to HM&HS for one dollar per year. We are pleased with this arrangement. The Museum board approved the new lease agreement at the March meeting. Final approval is expected to take place at the City Council’s April 4 session.

Jim Brush and I worked closely with Assistant City Manager Heather Ippoliti to create this new agreement. We greatly appreciate all of Heather’s good efforts and those of the City attorney, Sabrina Wolfson.

President’s Corner  

by Jim Brush, Board President

Spring is here and the rains have been generous this year. There are many projects coming alive at the Museum, one of which is the newspaper digitization project that has gone live online. Check it out.

Another is the cemetery mapping project which will include markers and a directory that will make finding specific sites much easier to locate.

May our freshly watered countryside give you great pleasure at this time of year.

HMVA News  

by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

Kay Robinson has tallied up all of the volunteer hours for 2015 on a detailed spreadsheet. There are 84 active volunteers on the list with six categories of work: research, administrative, collections, fundraisers, outreach and receptionists. The total number of recorded volunteer hours in 2015 was 10,286!

Each year while reviewing the numbers donated “to the good of the cause” as Charlotte Anderson often said, I am astounded at what goes on behind the scenes at the Museum and through outreach and publicity efforts in the community. Rawleigh Fjeld, Board member and coordinator of our two Antiques, Art and Collectibles Fairs gets the award for most hours – 1,120 including 700 as fundraising!

Pam Vana-Paxhia with her huge bag of skills clocked 960 hours, while Jon Lacaillade was building model plaza buildings for 480 hours. The amazing Schmidt sisters, Kay Robinson and Diane Carriger, worked on exhibits, typed, cataloged and archived thousands of pieces of paper for 355 and 261 hours, respectively. Maggie Bates plied her felting, sewing, and molding skills for 295 hours to create and dress little figures for our dioramas, cut intricate exhibit titles and designed our large banners and signs.

Board President Jim Brush coordinated complicated administrative projects for 725 hours. Past President Stan Becker was fundraising 400 of his 445 hours. Board Secretary Phyllis Chiosso Liu spread her 259 hours among administration, exhibits, educational outreach and receptionist duty.

Assistant Treasurer Barry Stallard logged 360 hours. Board members Lockie Gillies worked in the
dark of night for 220 hours on the Museum’s computer network, Jean Leal-Hartlaub’s expertise was community outreach for 302 hours and Louise Fowler’s 216 hours on membership administration.

I would bet that Jim Dreisback spent more than the recorded 165 hours overseeing the Oak Mound Cemetery project, because the results are tenfold. Toni Hopkins spent most of her 411 hours cranking the microfilm machine to find juicy news for the “Flashbacks” column in the *Healdsburg Tribune*.

Our 40 receptionists recorded a combined total of 1,001 hours at the desk and greeted more than 4,382 visitors in 2015. Many other volunteers recorded approximately 100 hours each last year, but here is the clincher: our newly promoted Executive Director/Curator logged 360 volunteer hours!

I logged 580 hours, but all of the above talent, expertise and dedication, made my job easy. What a great team we have assembled! Cheers to our 40th year as the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society!

**Measure Twice, Cut Once**
*by Jane Bonham, Office Manager*

Last month Board President Jim Brush wrote, “Our main focus during 2016 will be to take over the Museum’s collection … along with the development and maintenance of a new storage facility.” Those sparse words launched an effort that will realize two long sought after goals. The initial heavy lifting has been born largely by our two fearless leaders: President Brush and Executive Director/Curator Hoods.

Thanks to their efforts, agreement with the City of Healdsburg to assume the collection ownership is now complete. Meanwhile, Jim’s expertise is transforming a large empty space into a walled, insulated and climate-controlled environment ready to house the collection for many years to come. In addition to these tasks, Holly has started to work her magic, noting who is interested in which tasks for the complex move that will come and visualizing how teams might be formed.

While the building was physically upgraded, Jim, Holly and Assistant Curator Whitney Hopkins researched the next level: identifying the optimum combination of shelves, storage containers, etc., for our new space. They reached out to a specialist in Museum storage. After a site visit to view the current storage spaces, the specialist developed recommendations and presented alternative designs and related costs to several Board and staff members.

After the meeting, the consensus of the Museum workgroup was that there is not sufficient information about the physical dimensions of our current collection to make the best informed decision. Certainly, room to grow the collection must be sufficient or this investment will not meet our future needs. How much is that and how closely does this match the models already presented? These decisions will have a great impact on the utility of our new space.

As I write this column, Carol Peterson and Stan Becker, our intrepid crew with measuring tape and clipboard, are measuring the volume of current storage, documenting what is required for the current objects and artifacts. That information will provide concrete information to guide our next steps and decisions. No guess work practiced in this project: measure twice, cut once!

**Walking with the Dead: Cemetery Tours**
*by Holly Hoods*

Curator guided cemetery tours to accompany our current exhibit, “Discover Oak Mound Cemetery,” will be offered on Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 24, weather permitting. “Meet the Pioneers” tours will be held at 10:00 a.m. and “Tales from the Dark Side” will be offered at 2:00 p.m.

“Meet the Pioneers” features some of our early residents, such as Heald, Matheson, Powell, Fitch, Grant, Grater, McGaughey. “Tales from the Dark Side” includes a true ghost story, three murders, three lynchings and a prostitute’s suicide.

Tickets are $20 per person with the proceeds donated to the Oak Mound Cemetery Restoration. Call the Museum (431-3325) to reserve your place, as space will be limited and interest is sure to be high.

**Thanks to Our Latest Annual Appeal Donors**

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Oak Mound Cemetery Project Update

by Jim & Meredith Dreisback

Spring has arrived and that means it is time for spring cleaning at the cemetery. We have scheduled another major cleanup project for the grounds. Once again, the farming community has come through with a generous donation of labor for the project. We expect approximately 30 workers on April 6 to tackle the duff and debris that we could not get to last fall. If all goes well, this should complete Phase One of the project.

The “mound” will be cleared and made accessible to the students from Sonoma State University to start their mapping project. The heavy rains, as wonderful as they have been, have pushed back our timetable for the fountain project. Meredith Dreisback at work on the cemetery database.

Details, details, details: that’s what the Oak Mound Cemetery database is all about. A crew of eight people has begun the huge task of recording all of the burials at the cemetery, adding to a database originally begun by volunteer Jenny Allen. Jenny worked from the handwritten books that recorded the burials dating back to 1862. Can you imagine what a task that must have been to read the handwritten entries? Our goal is to complete what Jenny started and create a searchable file in PastPerfect, allowing researchers to find, at a click of a mouse, information about the individuals buried at the historic portion of the cemetery.

Actually, the database (as it stands right now) has already been put to use. On March 13, members of the Seaman family came to the Research Room looking for information about their great uncle. Kay Robinson, who happened to be working on the records at the time, was able to look up the name and verify the information.

As we move forward, there are literally thousands of entries yet to be made, but when the project is complete, the Museum will have an extremely valuable record of information that will be used for years to come.

AAUW Homes Tour

The Healdsburg branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) is pleased to announce its annual Homes Tour will be held on May 1. This year’s tour features six fabulous homes that combine to reflect the diversity available in Healdsburg. All of them display the spectacular character and charisma our town is noted for. Two homes might be considered quite regal: one is a Queen Ann; the other is a Tudor Revival. The other homes also offer a royal welcome and include an old farmhouse style and a DIY lovingly restored historic home. There’s also the “Wrong Turn House” (so labeled by its owners) and the “Cloud Walk” which was featured in the October issue of House Beautiful!

Included on the tour are AAUW members’ famous home baked cookies, Russian River Tea Company’s delicious brew and live music!

Also, this year’s raffle features a night’s stay, spa treatments, and a dinner credit at the Michelin starred Farmhouse Inn. Raffle tickets will be sold only on the day of the tour for $20 each.

Tour tickets are available in advance for $35 per person by cash or check at the Museum, Levin & Company, and Copperfield’s Books. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event at the tour’s check-in point at the Museum for $40 per person.

This fundraiser provides scholarships for women and girls and grants which benefit local education. For more information, visit http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net.

Thanks to Our Latest Cemetery Restoration Project Donors

Alexander Valley Ladies Aid
Herb & Wendy Steiner
Internship Presentation Night  
by Holly Hoods

One of my favorite things at the Museum is the opportunity to work with student interns. The Healdsburg High School Academic Internship Program, coordinated by Shelley Anderson, seeks to match juniors with workplaces in the community. Each student completed a career assessment through the school’s guidance counselors. Based on the skills and interests that were identified in the assessment, the internship coordinator assigned each student to the best matched local business.

This year we mentored Olivia Christie, a smart, motivated sixteen-year-old who is interested in anthropology and history. During her January and February internship at the Museum, Olivia helped us create the “Discover Oak Mound Cemetery” exhibit. She also wrote articles that appeared in the last Russian River Recorder and Review.

Olivia also acquired many new skills during her internship. She learned how to research individuals using census records on Ancestry.com and through old newspapers using microfilm. Olivia took on tasks with such enthusiasm and competence that we sometimes forgot she is just sixteen years old!

Whitney and I attended the Internship Presentation Night on March 10 to see Olivia’s presentation about her internship. We ended up as review panelists and watched and commented on six other student presentations. Whitney and I were quite impressed with the engaging students and their insightful descriptions of their experiences. It was very clear that this workplace internship program has a powerful impact on the students.

Attending the student presentations helped us feel even better about our participation in this valuable program. We will definitely do it again next year. I am proud to have been a mentor and look forward to continuing to work with Olivia as a volunteer.

Small Projects Management  
by Lauren Carriere

This semester I am taking an internship in Small Projects Management through Sonoma State. The Small Projects Management course is focused on learning how to research properties and lead a team to survey and record that property. The purpose for this is to locate and record items, structures and other human alterations of the landscape to better understand the past uses of the land.

I am working with another student from Sonoma State University, Robert Watson, to record the Oak Mound Cemetery. In the last month we have learned about creating a budget for small projects and researching the prehistoric occupations of properties. We also learned how to conduct record searches. Record searches are a way to understand what type of archaeological and environmental survey work has previously been done in the project area.

After learning about record searches, Robert and I went to the Northwest Information Center in Rohnert Park to conduct our own record search on the Oak Mound Cemetery and surrounding land. Using maps and a computer database, we were able to see previous studies on properties around the cemetery. Now that we are aware of what has already been done in the area, Robert and I are ready to begin planning for our work to survey and record Oak Mound Cemetery.

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 4, 2016
LANGHART AWARD DINNER
Education Outreach  
by Phyllis Chiosso Liu

Carol Adams and I have wrapped up our classroom presentations in the local Healdsburg schools. We had so much fun teaching the third graders about the first inhabitants of our town.

The 2 ½ hour lesson begins with a slideshow of photographs of early Pomo people and artifacts from the Museum’s collection. We play a game with the students using items from nature and let them decide how these items were used in the Pomo’s daily life for food, shelter, clothing, tools, etc. After the game, we divide the class into two groups for our activity centers.

Carol’s activity center, “Then and Now,” has the students explore items that were used in daily Pomo life and has them offer the modern equivalent. For example, she shows them a cradle basket and the students respond with infant carriers, car seats and high chairs. They record their answers in a booklet that their teacher can incorporate at a future time for a compare and contrast writing lesson.

My activity center, “Acorns,” focuses on the many steps it took to take the seed from the oak tree to the main staple of the Pomo diet. Each student receives a booklet with pictures of each step of the process, but the pictures are all out of order. They need to number the pictures as we go through the process. Along the way, students get to pick an acorn, crack it, peel it and take turns at grinding the meat of the acorn into a meal. They learn that the meal is still not ready to eat because of its very bitter taste. Before cooking, it must be leached, pouring water over and over the meal, until it is finally deemed edible. When all the steps are numbered in the booklet, the kids can cut out the pictures and put them in their proper sequence, which leads to another writing lesson for the teacher to use.

This year we have given our presentation to seven different classes and taught approximately 175 students some important lessons about our first inhabitants.

Family History Essay Contest  
by Phyllis Chiosso Liu

The deadline for the annual Healdsburg Museum Family History Essay contest is almost here. This is a great event that gets children interviewing their family members about interesting events or stories from their own family’s past.

It is open to all children in 2nd to 8th grade in Windsor, Healdsburg and Geyserville schools. Cash prizes and certificates are awarded to the top three stories in each age category: 2nd - 3rd, 4th - 5th, and 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

On Wednesday, April 27, we will host an Awards Night at the Museum where the winning students will be presented with their certificates and award money. Each student will be encouraged to read their essay out loud to the receptive audience. This year the winning essays will also be on display downstairs so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

As always, we encourage teachers to contact us to book field trips to the Museum. It is a wonderful opportunity for their students to enjoy the history of the town in which they are living.

An Early Reaction to Online Newspapers

Dear Holly,

I’ve already spent too much time on the CDNC. It's wonderful. Found when, why and where my great-grandfather, John Louis Branstead, bought property in Healdsburg-December,1892…Well, found more more more. The spelling is not perfect but there is so much information.

Elizabeth Branstead,
Newspaper Digitization Project donor

Contributions in Memory of:

Gloria Patteson – from Norma Passarino
Ron & Arlene Kron
Edward Kozel, Sr. – from Ron & Arlene Kron
James Reed – from Ron & Arlene Kron
Ruby Wasson – from Priscilla Schlag

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Thanks to Our Latest Donors

Alexander Valley Ladies Aid
Simi Winery (Constellation Brands)
Employer Match Program
Thanks to Mark & Carol Peterson
A Visit with Birgit

Healdsburg has always been well connected, and interested in engaging with the world. For many decades now, Healdsburg has promoted international exchange by hosting foreign exchange students. The American Field Service is a nonprofit organization offering international exchange programs in more than 40 countries around the world.

In 1960-1961, Healdsburg’s first exchange student was Birgit Jaastad, the daughter of fruit ranchers from Grimo, Hardanger, Norway. According to the Healdsburg Tribune, the American Field Service selected Ruby and Fred Wasson, fruit ranchers in Alexander Valley, to be Birgit’s host parents because they were a good fit based on Birgit’s background.

Arriving in August, 1960, to live with the Wassons and their four daughters, Birgit stayed until the end of June, 1961. She attended Healdsburg High School as a senior, where she actively participated in school activities. The Wassons took her to Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe. She also visited the state capitol in Sacramento, the Geysers, the Petrified Forest and the Italian Swiss Colony at Asti.

Birgit made many friends while in Healdsburg. The newspaper reported that Birgit was honored at a farewell luncheon at L’Auberge Rouge by members of the Healdsburg Chapter of the American Field Service. At her farewell party, Birgit said that the United States was greater than anything she had anticipated, and hoped that she would be able to return some day to Healdsburg to visit all the wonderful friends she had made. The newspaper reported that she had endeared herself to the entire community.

On March 10, accompanied by her Alexander Valley friends, Alyce and Al Cadd, Birgit Jaastad visited the Museum. Birgit and her husband Tore Bratteteig traveled all the way from Norway to Healdsburg for the celebration of life of Birgit’s host mother, Ruby Wasson. When Birgit lived with the Wassons, Alyce and Al Cadd were her neighbors, and she became lifelong friends with them.

Birgit was pleased to see that the Museum has photographs and newspaper articles describing her stay in Healdsburg 55 years ago. Birgit has fond memories of her time spent in Healdsburg and still keeps in close contact with friends from the area.

We really enjoyed meeting Birgit, and hope she has a wonderful stay in Healdsburg!
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