



THE ELECTROLIER

Newsletter of the St. Helena Historical Society, Spring 2008, Vol.6 No.2

MUSEUM FOR A DAY by Mariam Hansen

The St. Helena Historical Society held its third Museum for a Day in the Native Sons Hall on April 27, 2008. Five long-time families displayed historical information on their sojourn to Napa County and several other groups contributed exhibits.

Davie and Jennifer Pina designed the Pina exhibit. Juan Pina-Mena (later John M. Pina) left Malaga, Spain on the British steamship Willesden, via Gibraltar, in October of 1911 bound for Hawaii. On board were 1800 Spanish and Portuguese, including his future wife, Maria Pavon, and her family. They had all been recruited to harvest sugar cane and pineapples. Later making their way to California, the couple married in Vacaville in 1915. By the 1920's, they had settled along Silverado Trail east of Rutherford, where their family eventually numbered nine children. Elaborate exhibits showed a photograph of the ship that Juan Pina and his wife's family arrived on, a reproduction of the poster recruiting immigrants to Hawaii, a photo of John & Maria

Pavon Pina with nine adult children, a World War II uniform jacket belonging to the late Joseph Pina, and decorative Spanish flags. A welcome surprise during the afternoon, was when Bruno Ghiringhelli was able to identify many of the other students in a 1930's-era group photograph, taken at Liberty School, showing 5 of the Pina children.

Helen Heibel Nelson and John Heibel presented the Aetna Springs/Heibel Family history. The resort has a long history and opened in 1873. The golf course opened in 1892. The previous owner was Len D.Owens. George B. & Ruth Dangers Heibel owned the resort in Pope Valley from 1945 to 1972, raising their five children there. Luminaries such as Ronald Reagan visited; he announced his 1966 run for gover-

nor there. John had framed photographs of his father and Ronald Reagan. Helen had artifacts such as bedsheets embroidered with the resort name and many original brochures of the resort. Her photo display showed her parents lives in San Francisco, at Aetna Springs and post-Aetna.

John and Sandra York brought the York display. John York I and Lucinda Hudson York came to Napa Valley in 1845, crossing the plains with the Grigsby, Hudson, and Elliott families. The Yorks resided here until the Bear Flag Rebellion in June 1846, when they moved to Sonoma for protection. The family moved to the mines on the discovery of gold in 1848, meeting with good success. They returned and settled on land around Dean York lane, named for them. David York was the first in a line of lawyers that continues to today. Present day John York and his wife Sandra showed many photos and items belonging to the family. They live in the historic York home.

Bill (William Whittingham) Lyman III represented the historic family. William Whittingham Lyman I was born in Pittsburgh, PA, studied mining in Germany and purchased 800 acres of the Bale Grant in 1871. He was a gentleman grape farmer, operated the grist mill and active in trade and fraternal organizations. His son W.W. Lyman II was

educated at UC Berkeley and taught Celtic there. When he retired he moved back to the valley. His descendants were Ted Lyman and Thomas Amis Lyman.

The Napa Valley Museum brought artifacts donated to them by Louise Rossi, accompanied by Eve Kahn and John Holt. Ferdinando (Fred) Rossi and Rachel Sculatti immigrated from Switzerland and Italy in the late 1800s. They married in 1896 and their children were Arthur, Remo (Ray) and Louise. Fred bought land south of St. Helena (next to Whitehall Lane Winery) and became a successful vineyardist until his death in 1922. Art took charge and also had success as a winemaker, but died in 1950. Ray attended UC Davis, becoming a fruit buyer in central California. Rachel died in 1958. Louise and

Cont. on page 3



Helen Heibel Nelson shows visitors exhibits of Aetna Springs and Heibel Family history

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The Historical Society has had a full plate this past spring. We held our annual meeting potluck dinner at Susanne Salvestrin's Sunny Acres and were blessed with ideal weather. The food was excellent, topped off by Susanne's usual superb desserts. For me, the highlight of the evening came when Susanne read excerpts of Dr. Crane's journal dating back a century and a half. His day-to-day concerns seemed not very different from our own today.

In early June, Mariam Hansen's Program Committee brought a number of us to the cemetery to learn something of the Civil War veterans buried there and a brief history of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was the American Legion/VFW of its day. St. Helena had an active post of the GAR, with its greatest activity coming in the 1880's.

The GAR event was also the first time that we were able to put Ernie Navone's red 1973 Chevrolet pick-up truck to use. The truck was donated to the Historical Society by Andy Navone, Ernie's son, and is now fully registered, serviced and ready to go. We hauled chairs from the Native Sons' Hall to the cemetery, and look forward to making good use of it at future events.

The Board of Directors held a planning session in May, at which the next steps in establishing a St. Helena History Center were discussed. Tricia Westbrook, our strategy guru, is almost finished putting together a piece on the Visitor Experience which we want to create, as well as a Case Statement, which is a document describing the accomplishments and vision of the Historical Society as well as outlining the need for a St. Helena History Center and how it would benefit all members of our community.

These two documents will be used to make our pitch for support to various local organizations, to set forth our position to the City for use of a portion of the Adams Street property, and to raise funds for the building of the History Center.

We are continuing to circulate petitions and gather names of those in support of siting the History Center on the corner of Adams Street and Library Lane. Thanks to all of you who have helped in the petition effort. We expect to spend some time in the coming weeks sitting in front of Sunshine and Safeway gathering additional signatures. If you'd be willing to circulate a petition or spend an hour or two at Sunshine or Safeway, please give me a call – 967-6210.

Thank you, *Skip Lane*

St. Helena Historical Society
P.O. Box 87
St. Helena, CA 94574
Voice mail: 707-967-5502
Email: shstory@shpl.org
Website: www.shstory.org

Officers and Directors

Skip Lane, President
Susanne Salvestrin, Vice President
Mariam Hansen, Secretary
Kim Farmer, Treasurer
Donn Black
Frank Harrison
Mariana Olguin
John Sales
Tricia Westbrook

Committee Notes:

The **Collections Committee** coordinates and manages the acquisition of new materials. It generally meets on the last Monday of the month at 9:30am in the library meeting room. Current chair of the committee is Susanne Salvestrin. Email her at Susanne@salvestrinwinery.com

The **Program Committee** plans and presents programs and events to teach the public about our local history. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please call Mariam Hansen, 963-5748.

Questions? Comments?

Call or email the Newsletter editor,
Kim Farmer, at 963-0630,
ksfarmer@seedgrain.com

I'd like to join the St. Helena Historical Society!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Individual \$30 Family \$50

Business/Organizaton \$150 Life \$500

I would like to: Volunteer _____ Make a donation to the Society _____

JUNE IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH....

Please find the envelope enclosed with this mailing and renew your membership today
Thank you!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM HONORS CIVIL WAR VETERANS *By Donn Black*

On Tuesday, June 3, four uniformed members of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were joined by 35 citizens for a St. Helena Historical Society event to honor and learn about Civil War veterans buried in St. Helena Cemetery. Dean Enderlin of Calistoga made the presentation, aided by David Schleeter of Windsor, Charles Christian of Santa Rosa and Lou Olker of Petaluma. They each wore authentic Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.) uniforms.

The Civil War veteran's plot at St. Helena Cemetery was dedicated by the G. A. R. Kilpatrick Post #38 here in 1881. Since then, 14 Civil War vets, most of whom moved to this area after the war, and a few of their spouses, have been interred in the plot adjacent to Spring Street, albeit under only eight military style headstones. Another 26 Civil War soldiers, including one Confederate veteran, are known to have been buried elsewhere in the St. Helena Cemetery. Mr. Enderlin's research has indicated the likelihood that up to another 40 men who served in the Civil War are also buried in the local Cemetery.

The G. A. R. lasted until the 1990's, when Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, another fraternal organization, took the former's place in the quest to find, identify and arrange a proper burial for Civil War veterans. The four members of Sons at the ceremony in St. Helena last Tuesday are seriously dedicated to that worthy task. They ask anyone having any information concerning the non-military burial place of any war veteran to contact Dean Enderlin at 707-942-4470 or by email at enderlin@sonic.net.



Dean Enderlin (center) and cohorts dressed in Grand Army of the Republic costume.

Cont. from p. 1

Ray ran the ranch together until his death in 1997, after which she took over the business. Upon Louise's death in 2007, the ranch was sold to Frog's Leap Winery and the \$12.5 million proceeds were donated to UC Davis, the largest gift they ever received. On display was Louise's doll and Ray's watch, given as chairman of the Native Sons, along with other family heirlooms.

A Pope Valley historic photo display was donated by Joe Callizo, the un-official historian of that area. The Presbyterian and Catholic Churches shown in the photos are since gone. Other photos displayed a variety of activities in the area: two baseball teams, the Pope Valleys and Aetnas; one room schoolhouses— Hardin, Upper Pope Valley, Pope Valley Central, Aetna and Olive; Aetna and Walters Hot Springs; and mining operations at White Rock and Oat Hill. Susanne Salvestrin created the display.

The St. Helena Elementary School Multi-Age Program students recently created displays for their History Fair. More than twenty were on view, including topics such as Inglenook, Bale Mill, Oddfellows, Steves Hardware, Chinatown, Napa Valley Olive Oil Co, St. Helena High School and many more. The Chinatown exhibit included a wooden model based on an original photo. Other models depicted Inglenook, Steves Hardware, Oddfellows and Napa Valley Olive Oil. Everyone was impressed with the quality of the research done by these youngsters.

Our Silent Auction was a success, as many bidders walked away with treasures and gift certificates. The hot item was the dinner for six donated by Susanne Salvestrin. Many people lined up to bid on what is sure to be a delicious and memorable repast.

The next Museum for a Day will be in 2010. Visit the website at www.shstory.org.

CALENDAR

Call our voicemail to reserve a space: 707-967-5502. See our website: www.shstory.org

June

June 19: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

July

July 17: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

August

Aug 21: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

September

Sep 2: Program at 4:00pm. More info in next newsletter.

Sep 18: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

October

Oct 7: Program at 4:pm. More info in next newsletter.

Oct 16: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

Oct 25: Stop by and visit the Historical Society booth at the St. Helena Hometown Harvest Festival.

November

Nov 1: Annual "Spirits of St. Helena" Cemetery Discovery Walk.

Nov 20: Board of Directors meeting, 4:30, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

December

Dec 2: Annual Christmas Potluck dinner

Mission Statement

The St. Helena Historical Society is a public educational organization. Its mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and provide access to historical materials of all kinds from our community as well as to promote public awareness and participation in the collection of such materials.

St. Helena Historical Society
P.O. Box 87
St. Helena, CA 94574