



ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Electrolier

Illuminating St. Helena's History

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Historic school building set for demolition

In the next few months, St. Helena's first grammar school will be demolished. It's history reaches far back.

The wooden schoolhouse was built in the early 1870s on the corner of Oak and Adams. Originally only one room, as many as six more rooms were added over time.

At the end of the 1800s, it was time for a new school. The building was sold at auction to George Schonewald, who paid \$850. In 1901, two rooms from the school were moved to the St. Helena Catholic Church, where it was used as the parish hall. Additions were made to the building until it evolved into the church's thrift shop (Thrifty Manor). The church has announced its intention to replace the building with a new parish hall.

The Society developed a plan to move the original school portion of the building to the city-owned Adams Street property. The school would be restored and used as a home for the society until the permanent History Center was built. The school would be used for educational programming, recreating a late 1800s school experience for local students. The Society was unsuccessful in getting the city council to approve a lease.

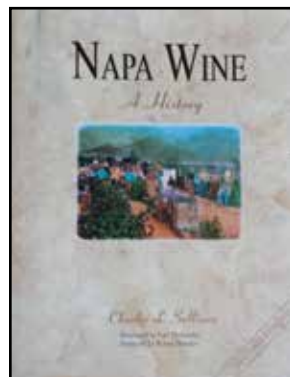
Sadly, this building, which is such a part of St. Helena history, is destined to be demolished in the next few months.

Sustaining Membership Gift

This marvelous resource of Napa Valley's wine history is our special gift to those who join or renew their membership with the St. Helena Historical Society at the Sustaining Member level (\$100+).

Napa Wine: A History from Mission Days to Present by Charles L. Sullivan, 2nd edition published in 2008, is considered a wine lover's necessity.

Thank you to all our members for your continuing support.



St. Helena Hometown Harvest Festival

Photo credit: St. Helena Chamber of Commerce

Hometown Harvest Festival

The St. Helena Hometown Harvest Festival began in the mid-1980s. It was conceived as an event not only to celebrate the grape harvest, but also to raise funds for a St. Helena Community Center.

The volunteer organizers of the early festival offered a unique St. Helena experience—strolling the closed-off streets, eating, wine tasting, and buying crafts. The festival grew to include a now-famous pet parade—well behaved pets welcome—and a Fun Run. It is currently under the leadership of the St. Helena Parks and Rec Department. For 28 years this annual one-day celebration has attracted hundreds of local residents and St. Helena visitors.

The St. Helena Historical Society has been an active participant for many years, having a booth featuring storyboards and artifacts from our extensive collection of photographs and historical treasures. This year our space is devoted to the Paulson Family, featured in the *Electrolier* last spring. We expect that at least one member of the original family will be present.

Take time to wander Oak Avenue, listen to the music, greet your neighbors and friends, and stop by to say hello to the volunteers at the Society booth.

When: Saturday, October 17, 2015

Where: Oak Avenue, between Adams and Spring

Times: Fun Run - 8:30 am

Pet Parade - 9:30 am

Festival - 11 am to 4 pm

From the President...

To the members of the St. Helena Historical Society,

Thank you so very much for your continuing support. Many of you have increased your support by renewing your membership at a higher level. We appreciate it.

As you read the *St. Helena Star* and listen to your neighbors, you know that your board is working very diligently to move the St. Helena Historical Society to a new level. We seek to raise our visibility in the community and to establish a permanent home for the Society.

But...**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We have two events coming up: the St. Helena Hometown Harvest Festival Oct. 17, and the Cemetery Tour Nov. 7. We need volunteers to support these efforts:

- **Festival:** We have two booths featuring select artifacts. Volunteers are needed for set-up, staffing and cleanup.
- **Cemetery Tour:** Volunteers are needed to help set up reception tables and with cleanup.

We value your membership...We need your support.

Please email or call Bonnie Thoreen, 963.7529 or bthoreen@gmail.com.

We look forward to having some fun with you this fall!

Skip Lane
Board President



Recent Acquisition

This cheerleading dress was donated to the Society by Melinda Taplin and her husband George Moniz. The dress is made entirely of wool and is quite heavy. Melinda wore it as a cheerleader at St. Helena High School in 1965–66. She graduated with the Class of 1967.

Board of Directors Update

Meet our newest board member:

Susan Wood Clark grew up in St. Helena. Her father, Laurie Wood, was the son of Frank and Betty Wood and the nephew of Dr. George Wood. Laurie was very involved in the grape and winery business.



Sue earned a degree in English from U.C. Davis followed by a teaching credential from Cal State University in both special education and standard elementary education. After years of teaching in Palm Springs, Sue returned to Sacramento to earn her masters in education, got married, and had her son Rory.

After 10 years Sue divorced, but continued to teach and raise her son. When Sue met Stu, her current husband, it was a perfect match. They were both dedicated teachers and both loved to travel.

Sue loves to work on her family's genealogy and is in the process of compiling a family history complete with old photos, documents, and stories. In 2011, after both of her parents died, Sue and Stu moved back to St. Helena into her family home. It didn't take much encouragement to get her to join the St. Helena Historical Society to help with collections and to learn more about the history of her home town. As a volunteer, she scans and catalogues the photos donated to the Society. She enjoys transcribing the stories that are recorded in the Oral History interviews.

Sue is excited to join the board and become even more involved with the quest for a History Center for St. Helena.

Programs & Events

• Nov. 7: 13th Annual Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Tour

This annual program showcases the lives and history of various individuals at rest in the St. Helena Cemetery. Join guide Mariam Hansen as she shares St. Helena history for two 60-minute tours: 1 pm and 2:30 pm. Rain or shine! Cemetery is located at 2461 Spring Street. \$10 suggested donation.

• Dec. 8: Save the Date! Holiday Wine Reception

Join supporters of the St. Helena Historical Society as we kick off the season at the historic Inn at Salvestrin, 397 Main Street, with a holiday wine reception. Mark your calendar now! More to come as we get closer to the event date.