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A Message from Our President, Stephen Taplin

Greetings:

The summer is in full swing and visitors are returning to the valley in real numbers so send them our way! Our museum is open on the first Saturday of each month from noon to 4pm. It's a great place to go when you want to see things that mark our history---Gigi's bar, the harness for Luigi Quaglia's horses just as it hung in their barn on the last day it was used, the stones used by the first settlers in this rich valley to grind acorns. They are all there waiting to be shared. We

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the former Catholic school, now we need people to come.

We need to enrich the stories being told

Currently we are planning for the *Hilos Visibles/Visible Threads* exhibit. Descendants of Spanish-speaking cultures pick symbols of their past and represent them on fabric squares. We'll display them in our Heritage Center to celebrate their stories. Spanish speakers were among the first European settlers in the valley. Their numbers grew with the bracero program that brought Mexican men here to support agriculture when local men went off to fight WWII.



Spanish speakers are fundamental to the story of the Napa Valley

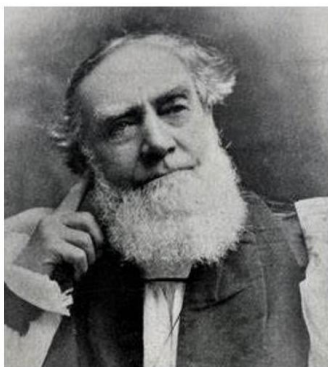
Hilos Visibles [kits and instructions](#) are available at the St. Helena Library. Just pick a symbol and interpret it on your square. This year we'll present stories from Spanish speakers, but we can repeat the effort among the many groups that made this valley: Native Americans, Germans, Italians, English, Russians. Make them and we will show them.

Your involvement in the Heritage Center is critical to its success. It has been my privilege to be president for the last two years and to see what we can do when we work together. Covid has slowed us down but that has given us more time to paint, clean, and organize the Heritage Center. Now it is time to use it.

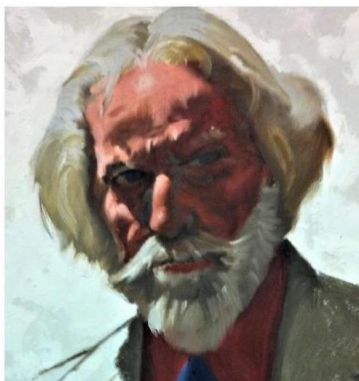
A new president is stepping forward to lead and build on the energy of this fine town

The St. Helena Historical Society Board welcomes Bonnie Thoreen as she steps into the presidency. Bonnie was a past executive director of the Historical Society, and a Dean at Napa College. She brings a deep knowledge of our history. Join us, share what we have, and

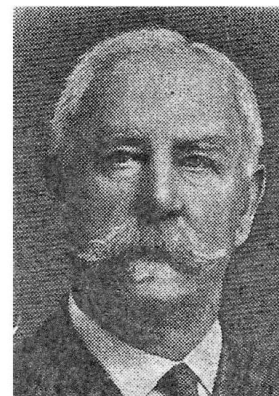
Our Focus on the Pioneer Families of St. Helena Continues: The Lyman Family: July 13, 7:00pm



William Lyman, Sr.



Jack Lyman



Theodore Lyman

Zoom event: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89919560749?pwd=ft9wJ2_pPAiobDkL6_ZqV7xT06FaG_.1

Meeting ID: 899 1956 0749; Passcode: 670416

The Lyman family name is recognized today for Lyman Park, but the first Lyman, Right Reverend Theodore Benedict Lyman, owned 800 acres in Napa County in 1871. His son William W. Lyman took over and was a member of the German Social Club, whose building was on the site of Lyman Park until 1924. When the family donated the land to the City, it was named in his honor.

Daniel Maughs Gardner, Jr. The Adventures of a St. Helena Mayor

Daniel was born in 1886 in Oxford, Mississippi. His parents were Daniel & Antoinette Gardner. He had two brothers, Fulton and Andrew, who also became career military men. He was appointed to West Point in 1905 and graduated in 1906. From here, Daniel was on the move: South Carolina for Marine Officers' School, later finishing Marine Corps School at Quantico, Virginia. Various military assignments: Guam Naval Station, Subic Bay, Mare Island, and on the *USS South Dakota*.

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Mare Island Naval Shipyard was the first Navy base on the West Coast. During World War II, it became one of the busiest naval shipyards in the world

While at Mare Island, Daniel met and married Lois Crosby in 1915 in Alameda County. She was the daughter of Walter & Harriet (Hertz) Crosby. Her aunt Jessie Hertz married Charles Butters, who would play a part in Daniel's adventurous life. Daniel's Marine Corps career was cut short prior to WWI due to his deafness. In spite of his handicap, he was called back to the Marine Aviation Corps. He was to lead the first American squadron into France. Fortunately, the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 saved him from that.

After the war Daniel remained in the Bay Area

He studied poultry farming at UC Davis, determined to enter that field. In late 1920 he purchased the Greer farm of 15 acres on Spring Street across from the Presbyterian Church. He renovated the house before Lois' arrival in January 1921.

Daniel ordered fertile eggs from the Hollywood Poultry Farm in Washington State

These famous hens produced 200 eggs a year. By 1923 2,200 baby chicks a month were hatching on the "Sunnyside Farm". Both chicks and eggs were sold. When a hen stopped meeting her quota, laying fewer eggs, off she went to market for meat. He built a 100-foot long chicken house and had an incubator that held 3000 eggs. The heated brooder house was 160 feet long. Daniel's eggs were sold as far away as San Francisco. The Taylor Duckworth Building on Railroad



While many of us know this building as the former home of the restaurant "Terra", it was also where Daniel Gardner grew his poultry business. It was known as "The Hatchery"

Daniel and Lois became active citizens and volunteered for many organizations

In April 1930 Daniel was elected to the St. Helena City Council. In those days the council chose the mayor. Chosen by his fellow council members, he served with John C. Money (Money Way was named for him), Leslie Merriam, Albert Haskell and Herbert Byrd. Mayor Gardner promised to keep taxes from rising. He saw a need for a full-time fireman on duty, but was met with opposition because the first volunteer to arrive got to drive the fire truck—a sought-after position! The council also disagreed about handing out traffic tickets. Some thought it drove away tourists and gave the town a bad name. Others worried about public safety and traffic!

Mayor Gardner left office in April 1934 and began his next adventure sometime later

Remember Charles Butters, Mrs. Gardner's uncle? Charles died in 1933 and had no heirs, so Mayor Gardner became involved in Charles' mining company in Central America. Butters Divisadero Mine was located in Nicaragua. Charles had invented a new process to separate gold bearing ore from rock using cyanide, a toxic pollutant. He employed Augusto Sandino at the San Albino Mine in Nueva

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organized a group of 50 men to march on the mine and take it over. He promised to “kill Yankees” and forcibly drove out all foreigners. The US deployed a Marine Expeditionary Unit to protect American property. Sandino was killed and became the inspiration for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Butters had already found a much more compliant government in El

Salvador

Butters purchased the San Sebastian mine in the early 1900s for \$100,000, and within a year had mined \$1 million worth of 24 carat gold. Butters’ gold-sourcing skills and the workers’ stamina produced 1,673 tons of gold that was shipped to the US aboard the *SS San Juan* in 1909.

Gardner reactivated Charles Butters’ gold mines

Mayor Gardner made numerous trips to El Salvador to reactivate successfully the gold mines owned by Charles Butters. In the 1940s Gardner was gone for months at a time. Gardner risked his life there on several occasions and was finally forced to cease operations when the Salvadoran government took possession of the mine. Major Charles Maugh Gardner, Jr. died in 1970 in San Francisco and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His two brothers, General Fulton Gardner and Colonel Andrew Gardner rest there as well.

Lois Gardner died in 1975 in Walnut Creek. She is buried next to her husband.

The Birthplace of St. Helena: Dedicated on June 11

Mariam Hansen, SHHS Research Director; Archie Eckles, E. Clampus Vitus; Anna Chouteau, City Council; Jay Smith, Owner, Sunshine Foods; and Stephen Taplin, SHHS President dedicated the birthplace

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Birthplace of St. Helena on
June 11 at exactly 10:04 am.
The plaque is located in the
corner of the Sunshine Foods
parking lot.



St. Helena Board of Directors, 2022-2023

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Mariam Hansen, Research Director; Kim Farmer, Membership; Nancy Caffo, Helen Nelson, Marilyn Coy, Collections & Acquisitions



July 13: St. Helena's Pioneer Families: The Lyman Family

September 14: Helena's Pioneer Families: The Chaix Family

October: New exhibit--*Hilos Visibles*--An art and fabric project

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Edging Culture: Quilt Squares Rise at St.
Helena Library

October 9: The Cemetery Tour is back!

November: Research Director Mariam Hansen will be discussing the movies made in St. Helena!



October 9: 16th Annual “Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Discovery Walk”, Featuring Our Italian Settlers

We'll commemorate some of the Italians who are buried in the St. Helena Cemetery. We're collaborating with the high school drama department, and our students will dramatize the events and socioeconomic factors that motivated settlers to leave Italy and settle here in the St. Helena area.



The Heritage Center: Open the First Saturday of the Month from Noon-4pm

We're looking for volunteers to help staff the Heritage Center on the first Saturday of the month. Noon-4pm shifts. Contact

shstory@shstory.org

1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574

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Support St. Helena Historical Society

Visit the Heritage Center: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 •

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