



APRIL EVENTS

April 2 @ 4pm: Diane Dillon: "Our Civic DNA"

Join us at the Heritage Museum, 1255 Oak Ave. where Diane Dillon will share her original research of St. Helena's elections, starting in 1876. Expect lively portraits of some of the most outrageous elected officials and a few pre-Brown Act shenanigans. Dillon will identify events that over the years have shaped what she calls our town's "civic DNA".

Diane is the fifth generation of her family born and raised in Napa Valley; she is descended from Connolly Conn, whose uncle made the first set of Bale Mill grist stones in the 1840s.



More than 20 years in county government

In 2002, she was elected to the County Board of Supervisors, and represented the large Third District (almost the entire upper half of Napa County) for 20 years; she was the first woman to represent that district, only the 4th woman ever to serve on the Board of Supervisors – and the first woman Supervisor in Napa County to enjoy more than one term in office

April 11 @ 11am: Chinese Memorial Plaque Dedication



Chinese immigrants played a crucial role in shaping Napa Valley's wine industry. They planted vineyards, built wineries, caves, railroads, and bridges. Their labors were a significant contribution to the wine industry and Napa Valley's cultural heritage. On April 11, a historic plaque will be dedicated to remember them. **Look forward to lion dancers and a traditional Taoist blessing ceremony.**

929 Main Street (Royal We Wines)

St. Helena No RSVP necessary. Information: 707.967.5502

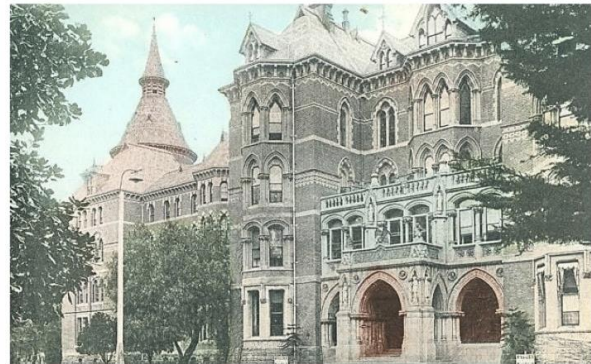


April 23 @ 4pm: Napa State Hospital and Its Multiple Personalities

With Historian Rebecca Yerger

The Napa State Hospital, a 500-bed, four-story mental facility, opened in 1875. It was as a model for the nation in the treatment of mental illness.

It was once self-sufficient, with its own dairy and poultry ranches, a bakery, vegetable gardens, orchards and other farming operations. Patients often worked in these hospital divisions as part of their treatment programs. At one time, the asylum's beef operation outside Yountville and its poultry farm on Coombsville Road provided meat for the Veterans' Home in Yountville and the prison at San Quentin.



But the hospital has a troubled past, and there are reports of paranormal activity. Join us on April 23 at the Heritage Center!

April: New Exhibit—Welcome Wellness to the Heritage Center!



On loan from Napa County Historical Society is an exhibit on Wellness. Napa Valley has been a renowned wellness destination for more than 8,000 years. It was the Wappo people who discovered this sacred "Oven Place" of healing geothermal waters and volcanic mud. The Wappo were deeply spiritual people, and they used the springs and mud as a source of detoxification and for healing rituals.

Before wine made the Valley a destination, people traveled here to relax and rejuvenate in the hot spring resorts that popped up all over the Napa Valley in the 1800s. Calistoga was the epicenter, as it lies in a highly active geothermal zone, with mineral water heated deep within the earth before rising to the surface.

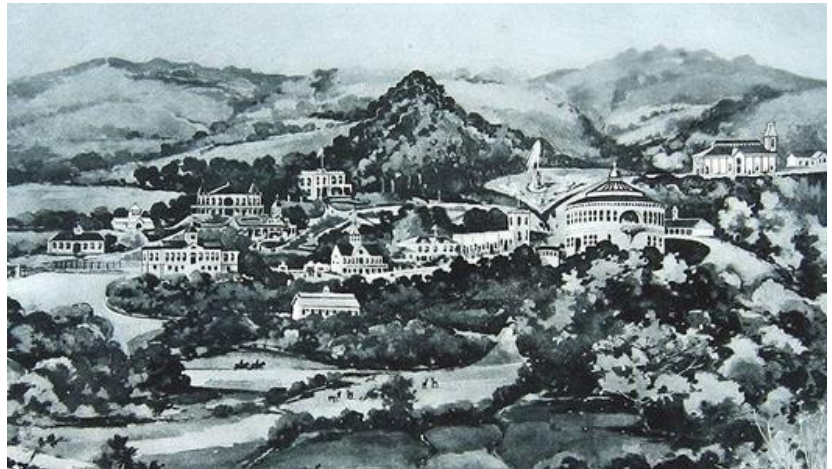


White Sulphur Springs Hotel

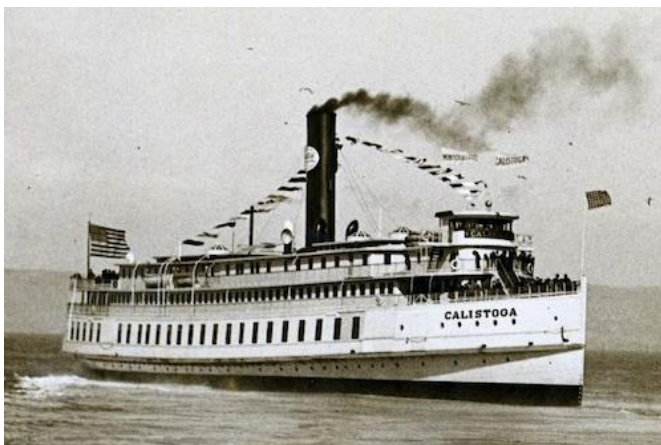
Opened in 1852, the White Sulphur Springs Hotel was the first of the wellness resorts. It was located near what was once a Mexican Land Grant given to Dr. Edward Bale. In its prime, the hotel could accommodate 1000 guests. Later used as a retreat center by the Hoffman Institute, the 45-acre property suffered catastrophic destruction during the 2020 Glass Fire, losing 17 of its 20 buildings. There are plans to reopen in some capacity.

Napa Soda Springs Hotel

The Soda Springs Hotel was notable for its luxury and it attracted the area's elites. It was originally developed in the 1850s around 27 natural mineral springs. The resort was known for its 75-foot-tall Rotunda with a ballroom, music hall, pagoda, horseback riding, tennis and billiards. The property included more than 50 rooms with stunning views. The stone used in building the hotel was quarried onsite. Today, only the ruins of the original stone buildings remain.



Traveling to the Wellness Resorts



Wealthy San Franciscans traveled to Napa Valley resorts in the latter half of the 19th century by taking a steamboat from San Francisco and crossing the Bay to landings in Vallejo or Napa. From there, they took a horse-drawn stagecoach to the resorts. The first steamboats began navigating the Napa River in 1850, providing direct access to the area. Stormy weather meant pretty miserable delays on both the steamers and the stagecoaches. By 1864, Sam Brannan launched the Napa Valley

Railroad, connecting Vallejo via San Francisco ferry to Calistoga.



And then there were the stagecoach drivers . . .



Clark Foss, a renowned driver who provided stagecoach trips to the geysers in Geyserville. Foss was a big guy—more than six feet and 300 pounds, and he elevated the role of stagecoach driver to performance art. He enhanced his trips with yelling and cursing, rounding curves on two wheels, going so fast that he lifted his horses off the ground.



On his way to the geysers, he superbly finessed the horses around 35 turns, some with dropoffs of nearly 2,000 feet. Robert Louis Stevenson immortalized Clark Foss in *The Silverado Squatters*: "Flinching travelers, who behold themselves coasting eternity at every corner. . ."

July 18 @ 5:30-8:30: Dinner in the Museum

Mark your calendars for our third annual fundraiser, Dinner in the Museum. Gerard's paella, Flamenco guitar, Napa Valley wines and dessert from retired CIA professor Lars Kronmark.

A few new additions this year:

- We're moving our silent auction online. Great auction items, including our signature progressive dinner. All items will be available for bidding when our website launches in June.
- We're excited to welcome our event wine sponsor, McKahn Wines, a family-owned Napa Valley winery specializing in Rhône varietals including Viognier, Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre.



At the Heritage Center Museum | 1255 Oak Avenue



ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE ELECTROLIER
Illuminating St. Helena's History

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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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