

The Branch Line

Newsletter of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot

Spring 2022

Her Side of the Story, Tales of California Pioneer Women February 6 - April 22, 2022

Her Side of the Story provides diaries from the Association of Pioneer Women of California which includes diary excerpts and photographs.

This exhibit illuminates the hardships, joys, and life of pioneer women in California. These women will tell in their own words the story of traveling by land and sea to settle in California prior to statehood.

In 1900, The Association of Pioneer Women of California formed and collected the reminiscences of women who arrived in California before 1854 in a single ledger. This incredible document, filled with over 800 handwritten stories of California pioneer women and in the collection of The Society of California Pioneers, is the basis for this exhibition. Together, the ledger and exhibition create a more complete and balanced understanding of our shared history, by highlighting the voices of women who traveled to California.

The ledger, however, does not represent all women. As such, an important section of the exhibition is comprised of diverse portraits of unidentified women. These women represent the thousands of pioneers whose stories were never recorded; each one had a story to tell which is lost to time. Museum volunteers have enriched the exhibit by adding artifacts and stories of local women pioneers. Visitors will find the Soto family treadle sewing machine, antique quilts from local quilters, Mary Jane Boone's winter dress and family Bible from the 1860s, a silver vanity set from the Baldwins, and a trunk from Grange Worthy Master Carl Dauth.



The Freight Room as a Theater

January has become the month when the freight room, the Museum's main exhibit area, transformed into a theater. This year our friends at the Eugene O'Neill Foundation kicked off their 2022 season with a production of *Welded* in our transformed room.

Welded is a play about idealism, insecurities, and intrigues that send the marriage of successful theater couple Michael and Eleanor Cape spinning out of control. This 1924 O'Neill play that is rarely produced and comes from O'Neill's experimental period. The play ran on January 14, 15, and 16th.

Soon it will be transformed back to the Freight Room and will be showing our exciting new exhibit, "Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women". Don't miss it!

Museum Activity

The One-Room School is Back in Session!



1888 school day.

Every spring third graders from throughout the San Ramon Valley have the opportunity to participate in a living history program at the restored One Room School (ORS) in the Tassajara Valley. School marms and school masters conduct an authentic

In this memorable experience, third grade students use slates, learn to cipher, recite from a McGuffey Reader and play nineteenth century games. They dress in period clothes, tie their horses in the stable and eat farm lunches.

The 2022 program begins on February 15 and runs through May 27 and the museum has eighteen schools are signed up for the program. The ORS committee has been working hard to get everything ready. Volunteers plan to clean the school house on Saturday, February 12.

We have many new volunteers, but we are in desperate need of superintendents. Here are brief descriptions for the roles:

- Teacher Docent – leads the class in provided 1888 lessons
- Assistant Docent – helps in class and oversees students during outdoor play enjoying games from 1888
- Superintendent – oversees safe parking, opens schoolhouse, facilitates setting up for outdoor games, may choose to assist with outdoor activities

From the Museum Store

What's new?

We're very excited to introduce a few special items to celebrate spring: Our soft and cuddly Woolley sheep are reminders of our proud valley history when sheep grazed in the San Ramon Valley, and a sheep herder named Ramon inspired the naming of the valley.



Adding to the vintage look of the store, we're featuring old fashioned rainbow skipping ropes, perfect for gift giving to a special child.

Our bookshelves are stocked with books on Valley history, local historical figures and our natural surroundings. We will have deliciously popular locally crafted jam and candy from Danville Chocolates.

First Peoples & Holidays in the Valley

During autumn of 2021, as Omicron began to spread, museum volunteers kept trudging along, first mounting the First Peoples exhibit and a small exhibit on the Collision of Spanish and Indian Cultures. Then Vivienne Wong and our intrepid docent-teachers provided 402 fourth graders with the First Peoples program.

In November/December "Holidays in the Valley" was the featured exhibit. The Chinese New Year splashed across the baggage and waiting room areas and we greeted the Year of the Tiger. Many thanks to Vivienne Wong and Kay Wang for mounting the colorful exhibit.



And the freight room hosted Christmas trees, toys, trains under the trees and explanations of many Christmas traditions. Thank you to Sonya Borlandelli, Richard Bower and Ed Best for their good work.

Third Thursday Virtual Program at the Museum

For almost two years the museum has offered a free virtual program on the third Thursday of the month. Recent programs have featured John Muir's adventures, the Sunol Water Temple, the Old Mint in San Francisco, The History of Alamo to name a few. All programs are recorded for later viewing. These recorded programs are posted on our website and are easy to view online.

It is fair to say that lots of people have been enjoying the programs. Here are some of the viewer counts:

The Secret History of San Ramon: 2,661

The Alamo Cemetery: 1,917

Sunol Water Temple: 517

Highway 21 to Interstate 680: 511

Over the past 28 days, we have had 545 views of our programs.

What do we learn from this? If your schedule does not allow you to attend the live program, go to the website at your leisure and watch the recorded edition. Visit museumsrv.org, hover the mouse over Events and Programs, and click on Past Programs. As you can tell from the numbers, lots of people are enjoying these informative virtual programs focusing on the regional history.



2021 CUMULATIVE GIVING \$100 AND OVER

The Museum would like to thank our generous supporters, especially during these trying times, for their efforts to ensure that the Museum is able to continue to preserve and present the history of the San Ramon Valley.

\$100.00 - \$249.00

Penelope Adams	Ginny Ferreira	Phil Lindner	Roger A. Prince &
Pamela Aha	Bob and Rosanne Fissore	Harry Lindstrom	Noelle Schoellkopf
Joyce and Bill Ashurst	Helena Flanders	Irene Liu	Patrick and Danette Quigley
Emily Bach	Dave Fong	Wenche and Dan Lubbock	Ralph Nader and Pamela Deas
Dall and Pat Barley	Paul and Marilyn Gardner	Paul and Julia Lundstedt	Nancy Ramsey
Martin Baron	Victor and Aurora Georgiou	Margarete Lyons	Phillip Reed
Bay Valley Chinese School	Tom and Gale Gibbons	Jed Magee	Ralph and Arlene Reed
Steve and Kathryn Benvenuto	Garrett and Cathy Girvan	Terry Magnin	Carol Rowley
Geoffrey and Dureen Bishop	Larry and Ruth Goldenberg	Jill Majors	Judith and Earle Schremp
Patricia and Fred Boom	Mark and Leslie Graham	Mark and Carolyn Mason	Jeff and Jacque Schubert
Linda Brewer	Gary Gray	David and Nelda McArthur	David and Micky Smith
Stephanie Brown-Myers	Joyce Gunn	Terrence McCune	Catherine Spicer
Annette Cahill	Sally Haag	John and Chris McGinnis	Mr. George Stegemann
Winkie Camacho	Tony and Jana Haertl	Mark McLaren and Nancy Norland	William and Sheila Stein
Mary Camezon	Lee Halverson	Ida Mergy	Dave and Lesley Sweeney
Joyce Campbell	Mark Harrigan	Ken Mintz	Matt and Cindy Swinnerton
Ann Walker and Gene Campion	Norman and Dolores Heathorn	Doris Moberg	John and Nancy Symank
Nancy Carlston	Roz Hirsch	Mark and Linda Murphy	Frank and Beth Trafton
James and Betty Casey	Elizabeth Hoffman	Don Murray	Sandy Varco
Alice Chambliss	Fran and Jack Hounslow	Dennis and Barbara Musante	Beverley A. Wadsworth
David and Nancy Childs	Barbara and Harry Hubinger	Dr. and Mrs. Charles Nebesar	Michael and Joyce Wahlig
Bill Clarkson	Rachel Hurd	Pennie Needham	Jill Walker & Family
John Coie	Aaron and Malinda Isaacson	William and Barbara Nexsen	Ms. Catherine Wallen
David Connery	Shirley Jacks	Barbara Nuttall	Mary Warga
Marilyn Day	Frank and Judy Jesse	Janet O'Connell-Mangham	Stan Wharton & Barbara King
Mildred Day	Greg Jordan	Sue Ohanian	Mariann White
Denise and Ed Del Beccaro	Patrick and Jane Joyce	Fred and Mary Ann Osborne	Sandee Wiedemann
Natalie Delmore	Gail Kamerer	Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Parish	John and Rhea Williams
John and Nina Dickerson	Lola Kent	Karlene Paufler and Bill Sautter	Rich and Kathy Williams
Sylvia Baldwin Dilgard	Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Krikorian	Karl & Grace Pfeiffer	Vivienne Wong
Gene and Denise Dolan	Don and Joan Kurtz	Don Phelps	Kristen Yanker-Hansen
Paul and Diane Drain	Ray Lamanno	Dana Pingatore	Victoria Zetterquist
Betty Dunlap	Jack Lapidus	Dennis Pisila	
Dan Dunn	Michele Lasagna	Donna Preece	
Jim and Bette Felton	Daisy Lennon	Tim Preece	

\$250.00 - \$499.00

Barbara Jean Ageno	Tom and Mary Day	Marilyn Holcomb	G Scott Phillips
Phil and Candace Andersen	Dave and Sue DeVoe	Sam and Michelle Jones	Don and Jeanne Reid
Eric and Mary Ardell	Jon Dickson	John and Patricia Keenan	Carol Reisenwitz
John and Lani Aurelius	James Dillon	Bob and Carol Klaus	Bob Sada
Stephen and Karen Beck	Chris and Brenda Dittmore	Kyle Kubas	Judy Sandkuhle
Carol and Claude Benedix	Paul and Kathy Fitzpatrick	Jean Livermore	Steve and Diane Scheck
Lynne Call	Bill and Marianne Gagen	Rosalie Malatesta	Paul and Kay Sheckler
Robert and Ping Chang	Joyce Grippi	Malcolm and Florence McAuley	Kevin and Renee Shields
Kathy and Ed Chiverton	Julie Grisham	Jean Moss	Karen Stepper
Kim Crow	William K. Harlan	Terry O'Meara	John and Pamela Turner

\$500.00 - \$999.00

Blair Barry	Danville Women's Club	Roxanne Lindsay	DeWayne and Barbara Ryan
Carol Anderson	Bob and Patty Dobbin	John L. Linewaver	San Ramon Valley Historical Society
Newell and Janis Americh	Bill and Carol Dunkle	Greg and Donna Marvel	Dave and Sara Selway
David and May Behring	John and Tena Gallagher	Don and Joan Metz	Silk Road Massage
Richard and Jacqui Bower	Linda Gossett	Gene and Eleanor Newman	Mark and Susan Simens
Jack and Sheila Campbell	Dick Heron and Sue Pitsenbarger	Traci Parent	Robert and Sandra Storer
Carmen Curtis	Ronald & Ginny Iverson	Mark and Susan Reckers	Don and Marianne Wood
Garrett and Lynn Dailey	Beverly Lane	Richard and Barbara Rosenthal	

1891 Society (\$1,000.00+)

Supervisor Candace Andersen	Missy Davis	Jacob Reid - Capital Insight	Linda Stanley
Jan Berckefeldt	Chuck and Laura Ferreira	Financial Group	Trumark Homes
Ed and Linda Best	Michael and Mary Frandsen	Don Ritchey	Jerry and Mae Warren
Brad and Lisa Blackwell	Joanne Haukland	Jeanne Ryan	William A. Kerr Foundation
Carlo and Sonya Borlandelli	Gina Hind Hodgson	Gary and Kathleen Ryness	Dave Zeising - Merrill Lynch
Chevron Corporation	Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley	Karen Sakata	
Edward Christensen	John and Anne Kubas	Don and Diane Schinnerer	
Davidon Homes	Howard and Claudia Nemir	Ross and Lyn Smith	

In Kind Donations

Barry & Wynn Architects	Isaacson & Company	Elizabeth Weiss, Gagen McCoy	Sweeney Kovar
-------------------------	--------------------	------------------------------	---------------

Volunteers Make It Happen

Museum Volunteer is Awarded Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Congratulations to Dhriti Avala, a senior at California High School in San Ramon and one of our enthusiastic, dedicated student volunteers! She has been awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, given to honor the most outstanding volunteers and the impact they have made. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is proud to have made this possible by being the Certifying Organization for Ms. Avala.

Dhriti has worked more than 2,000 hours as a Greeter over the last three years. While working most every Saturday as a Greeter welcoming visitors at the Museum entrance, handling fees, and admission. Beyond that she answers the many questions visitors have about the 1891 building housing the Museum. In addition to her greeter responsibilities, she has trained and mentored many of the student volunteers that staff the museum on Sundays.

"The museum could not survive without our dedicated group of volunteers. Dhriti brought dedication and enthusiasm to her volunteer efforts at the museum and also helped to train her fellow volunteers. We are indebted to her for her time spent at the museum." said Dan Dunn, Executive Director, pictured here with Dhriti.

We all wish her well as she attends university in the fall where she intends to study computer science and artificial intelligence for a career related to health care. We will miss her and hope she will drop in during breaks from her studies.



Volunteer Openings!

The Museum welcomes friendly volunteers with creative and organizational talents. Here are a few roles to consider...

Chair for the Store Committee : This person, along with the committee is responsible for all aspects of the store: ordering, annual inventory, reports for steering committee.

Storage Management : The museum stores its collection and exhibit furniture in three locations. Someone is needed to keep these items in order as a main focus. Skills needed: organization and tact.

Editor for Branch Line : This person would decide what belongs in the Branch Line, assign writers, work with people to meet deadlines on writing, take photographs, etc.

Contact Lynne Call at the Museum for more information!

Happy 90th Birthday, Carol Anderson!



Friends gathered at the Museum to wish a happy 90th birthday to long-time volunteer and museum supporter, Carol Anderson.

Save the Date!

Back to School Under the Stars Gala
Saturday, July 16, 2022 @ 4pm



The 5th Annual "Back to School Under the Stars" Gala is scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 4:00pm! We are hoping for an in-person Gala at the Tassajara One Room School House, but will comply with county ordinances for the safety of patrons. Our signature Silent Auction will continue again and the gala committee is working to bring added ambiance this year to highlight the history of the San Ramon Valley.

We are grateful to our sponsors and supporters who made last year's Gala a success, allowing the Museum to not only continue our current work and programming, but expand our offerings to include monthly virtual educational/historical programs for all.

Please call the Museum at 837-3750 for sponsorship opportunities or if you would like to donate funds or auction items. Stay tuned for ticket sales and online auction details! We'll see you on July 16th!

Irish in the San Ramon Valley

by Beverly Lane

Next month is St. Patrick's Day and recently several Irish immigrant stories related to the San Ramon Valley have surfaced. Dublin is not the only place which had Irish founders and settlers.

For example, during the nineteenth century San Ramon was sometimes called Limerick. In the first History of Contra Costa County (published in 1882), the author stated "San Ramon ---This is the name given to the Post-office at which is usually known as the village of Limerick...". Limerick was generally the area south of the main village. When the San Ramon Branch Line came from Martinez to San Ramon in 1891, Limerick as a name was rarely used.

There were a number of San Ramon settlers who were born in Ireland or whose parents came from Ireland. Some immigrated early in the nineteenth century and some departed when the potato famine devastated Ireland beginning in 1845. Three were James Barrett, J. D. Horan, and Thomas Nash, businessmen and ranchers.

The most prominent San Ramon Irishman was William Lynch who was a young Catholic from New York. He came to California in 1849, met the Leo Norris family in Mission San Jose and moved with them to San Ramon late in 1850. A carpenter by trade, he built the first wood framed house in the area for the Norrises. He married Mary Norris, settled down and became an important local leader. At one point the little village was called Lynchville.



William and Mary Norris Lynch

James Witt Dougherty, a fifth-generation Scots-Irish Presbyterian, was prominent too. He purchased half of Jose Maria Amador's Rancho San Ramon in 1852, added more property, and became the largest landowner in the Dublin/San Ramon area. He was elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors when it was first organized.

Today his former ranch is full of new homes, businesses and parks in the eastern part of San Ramon.

Danville's best known Irish settlers were the McCauleys, Mary, Edward and their large family. They owned a substantial ranch off today's Diablo Road beginning in 1868. In 1892 they purchased four lots in Danville when John Hartz subdivided his property east of the railroad track. They built and managed the Danville Hotel on lot 9 and family members ran the hotel for decades. Mary McCauley's pies were famous. The Hotel and McCauley house are still on Hartz Ave. today.

Danville is now a Friendship City with New Ross in Ireland. This recognizes the Irish roots of playwright Eugene O'Neill who wrote his last, great plays at Tao House while living in Las Trampas hills. O'Neill famously said that critics should recognize that he was Irish in analyzing his plays.

Alamo had its share of Irish, with Mary Henry of Henry Hotel fame being of Irish descent. This Hotel was a town landmark until 1955. Another couple, Lawrence and Hannah Smith, were born in Ireland and moved to Alamo in the 1870s. They owned a large ranch east of Alamo until the 1930s when it became one of Alamo's first homes development, Alamo Oaks. The Smith ranch house still stands.

Plan to celebrate two Irish-related events on March 17. A museum virtual lecture on the Irish in California with stories about local Irish is scheduled for 11:30 am. And several buildings will be lit up in green that evening. This is part of an international event called Global Greening which is promoted by Tourism Ireland to remind Irish immigrants of their home country. You can drive around and see the museum and city halls in San Ramon and Dublin illuminated in green.

Thank you to Bill Clarkson, Steve Minniear and Sharon Burke for helping research this article and to Irma Dotson for her McCauley information.

First Peoples Program goes to Earth Day at San Damiano

The Museum will be taking part in San Damiano Retreat Center's Earth Day, Sunday, April 24th from 2 – 5 p.m. This free open air event on the beautiful grounds of St. Damiano will have exhibits such as bees, pigeon aviary, organic farming, educational guided hikes, recycling/upcycling opportunities. Students from local schools will exhibit science and art displays of the day's theme: Our Earth, Our Future.

At the invitation of Pierre Fortayon - a First Peoples docent, and his wife, Louise, an Earth Day Sponsor Co-Chair at San Damiano - we are presenting our First Peoples of California Program. Our purpose is to show that The First Peoples were naturalists, observant and protective of their native habitat. In their hunting and harvesting, they took care to never deplete their resources. Our station will display some of the tools used by Indians in their daily lives, such as mortar, pestle and acorns to make acorn mush, as well as pump drills and sea shells to make ceremonial regalia. We think these artifacts will attract visitors to our table as we will provide an opportunity for them to use these tools.

If you are interested in participating, please consider joining the Museum's table. There are two shifts: 1:30-3:30 and 3:30-5:30. Contact Vivienne Wong to volunteer or to learn more.





The Branch Line

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot

P.O. Box 39 - 205 Railroad Avenue

Danville, California 94526

(925) 837-3750

Visit www.museumsrv.org

Email: SRVMuseum@sbcglobal.net

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 193
DANVILLE, CA

MUSEUM HOURS

Please check www.MuseumSRV.org for current hours.



THANK YOU



RECENT DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

Hall photograph, Alamo poetry

High school annuals, assessor book

Bellows, wood carrier, shelf

Tintype, daguerreotype

Wolf Print newspaper

Harlan House information

Library game set

Humburg photograph, brooch

Lynn Wagner

David Osborn

Carlo and Sonya Borlandelli

Heidi Kenniston-Lee

Cindy Kavert

Christian Wiedemann

Jan Habiger

Betty Dunlap

Layout Design: Lani Aurelius