

# SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM

OF CALISTOGA HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41, No. 6

Oct-Nov 2023



### *A Message from the Board*

Yes, it is already October and the first step into the holiday season. We have enjoyed the first nine months of the year and boy, if walls could talk! Unfortunately, they can't so you will need to continue reading. Thanks to our dedicated docents and visitors from around the world, daily adventures are never ending. Visitors love to talk and share family stories, that's what makes our job so much fun, but the best part is watching every visitor leave with a word of thanks and a smile on their face. "We love your museum"; "We had so much fun"; "The stagecoach is amazing"; "My favorite thing is the diorama of the springs grounds"; "Our kids love the train and it actually runs!"; and "We'll be back!".

We are kept busy as additions to our archival collections keep coming in, new titles are added to our bookstore, and new items arrive for the

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### **Reason P. Tucker: The Man and His Legacy**

*Special Exhibit on now-February 2024*

Our motivation for this exhibit was to celebrate the momentous life of Reason P. Tucker, the lesser-known Calistoga pioneer whose legacy can still be traced today through the lives of his prolific descendants, many of whom still live in Napa Valley. Through photographs and family artifacts including his rifle, a rustic sugar box, and an iron bell which once sat atop the Tucker School on Larkmead Lane, visitors will get a vivid sense of life in Calistoga from pre-Civil War to the turn of the century. Married four times, RPT had 10 children over a span of 45



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### *Instant Wine Cellar Results* **Locals Cart Home the Big Prize**



*From mighty whites to fab cabs  
Some pair with rib eyes some with  
crabs.*

*Alas, you'll no longer see 'em  
Lined up in our museum.*

*From wine we'll not have to wean  
Thanks to all at our great  
Sharpsteen!*

Poem by Barb and Doug Herrmann

Congratulations to Barb and Doug Herrmann, who won this year's Instant Wine Cellar of 5 mixed cases (actually 61 bottles!) of premium wines from Napa Valley producers. Our celebrity ticket puller, local hotelier Carl Dene,

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## REASON *continued from pg 1*

years and outlived 3 of his wives. His granddaughter, Martha Calvert Tucker, described him as “six feet three inches tall, very strong and heavy weight. He was a man of great determination,” she said, “and always very friendly and kind to everyone. He was quiet and reserved and never interested in public recognition. He did not seek the status of hero, but like it or not, a hero is what he became.” - *Reason P. Tucker: The Quiet Pioneer*, by Barbara Neelands, 1989 – Napa County Historical Society

Captain Tucker led the first rescue mission to save Donner Party survivors (and participated in the 4th); he saved 19 people, 12 of them children whose descendants had a significant impact on Napa Valley. Lovina Graves was 13 when she was rescued by Tucker; she eventually married John Cyrus and they settled in Calistoga. Lovina's daughter Elizabeth Cyrus Wright became the librarian at Calistoga Public Library and wrote *The Early Upper Napa Valley* in 1928.

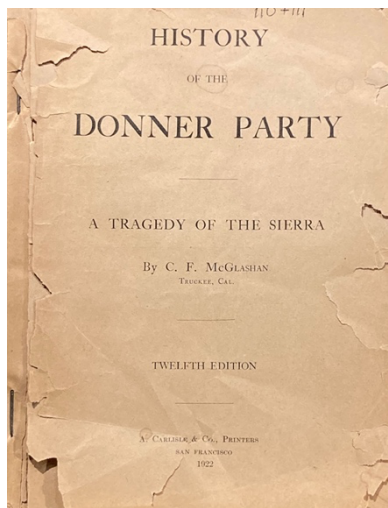
Tucker lost his Calistoga homestead and vineyard property in a bitter 1872 legal dispute over California land grants which went all the way to the California Supreme Court. RPT lost everything but his livestock, and got no compensation for any of the land or their improvements; he was even required to pay court costs.

The ever-resilient Tucker started over, moving with his youngest daughter Annetta, then nine, to Goleta, north of Santa Barbara. He married for the fourth time and bought a small farm in the area. Included in his new property was a magnificent grove of “cathedral” oaks and gigantic

sycamores in a glade along San Antonio Creek.

After his death in 1888 at the age of 82, Tucker was buried in Goleta Cemetery. His headstone is inscribed: “An honest candid worthy man – one of the heroic rescuers of the Donner Party.”

The Tucker family donated Tucker's Grove to Santa Barbara County as a public park. The original 18 acres of Tucker's Grove has been expanded by other donations of land over time and have grown into a permanent park.



Eden Umble, Media Chair



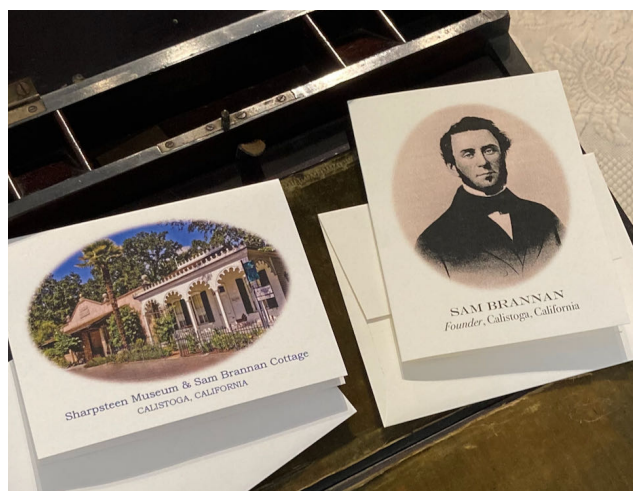
## MESSAGE *continued from pg 1*

Gift Shoppe and old ones are replenished. You will currently find Autumn-themed colored table runners and towels, new children's train whistles & engineer caps, and kaleidoscopes have been added for sale. Our greeting cards by Cardthartic continue to be popular and our new museum notecards made by us for you are also available.

We wish you all a safe Halloween and a glorious Thanksgiving. Please be thankful, I know we are. We could not succeed without the support of our members.

*Sharpsteen Museum Board of Directors*

## New items in the Gift Shoppe--



*You asked-- We listened! Exclusive Museum notecards in 2 styles for your corresponding pleasure!*

*Table runners- perfect for Fall and Holiday decorating.*



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Web: [Sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://Sharpsteenmuseum.org)

Email: [info@sharpsteenmuseum.org](mailto:info@sharpsteenmuseum.org)

Museum House Tel: 942-5916

Museum Hours:

12-3 pm M-F; 11 am-4 pm Sat-Sun  
(Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas)

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan Rogers- President

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This Member Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a non-profit 501(3)c organization.

Shari Hanson- Newsletter Editor

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Museum's mission is to preserve and to provide for public exhibitions and study of the history of the community of Calistoga and the upper Napa Valley.

## LOCALS *continued from pg 1*

drew their winning ticket on the afternoon of August 26 before a small crowd of Board Members and Museum Volunteers. The Early Bird Prize of 4 bottles of wine was won by Placentia, CA resident Donna Hickman, who bought her ticket on a visit with her son, who lives in Calistoga.

The win so delighted the Hermanns, that they penned the poem at the beginning of this article.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who solicited wine and sold raffle tickets, all the participating wine donors and to all who purchased tickets.

*Pat Larsen, Ways & Means Chair*

*Carl Dene draws the winning ticket.*



## Notes from the Bookstore

Two favorite Mark Twain quotes:

“Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.”

“A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can’t read.”

Luckily for us all, the Museum Bookstore carries no health books, but we do carry a large and diverse selection of titles relating to the history of Calistoga, Napa County, California and the US. All books are carefully chosen for inclusion on our shelves, all for your reading pleasure and education.

There are three titles that again win the top-spot as the most popular for 4 years running.

“*Images of America – Calistoga*” by Author John Waters, Jr. with the Sharpsteen Museum. The history of Calistoga from the Wappo and early settlers to Sam Brannan and on into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 127 pages with nearly 200 photos and images, measures 6.5” x 9”, soft cover, price \$21.99/ea.

“*Looking for the Past in Calistoga – A Historical Overview*” by Author and Historian Kent Domogalla. 92 pages including timelines, stories and biographies of the famous & infamous, a walking tour of historic properties and locations in alphabetical and chronological order from Berry St. to Washington St. complete with descriptions, photos, images, and index. 8 ½” x 11”, soft-cover, price \$15.00/ea.

“*Silverado Squatters*” by Author Robert Louis Stevenson. It was the summer of 1880 when Stevenson and his new bride Fanny came to Calistoga for their honeymoon, first staying in a Brannan Cottage on the Hot Springs grounds (the same cottage now attached to the Sharpsteen). Upon moving up to the old abandoned out buildings at the Silverado Mine on Mt. St. Helena, RLS began scribing this new adventure day by day. *Silverado Squatters* was among the author’s first work to be published this side of the Atlantic. “...a classic, beautifully written tale brings to life the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century wine country and provides a vivid, delightful companion guide for any visitor.” Approx. 5” x 7”, soft-cover, \$12.00/ea.

Kathy Bazzoli, *Bookstore Chair*



### MEMBERSHIP - JULY & AUGUST 2023

#### New Members

Frank & Pam Brocco  
Gianni Busato  
Sanije Citaku-Perrett

#### In Memoriam

Don MacInnes  
Audrey Pope  
Donald Udelson  
Jean Hughes Wright

#### General Donations

Denise Flaherty	Alan Rogers & Dina Corcoran
Jim & Kathy Flamson	Louise Schmidt
Dennis & Bonnie Gamble	Marilyn Stark
Julianne Laks	Polly Thacher
Marcia & Jerry Phillips	Wendy Watson

Rich and Carolyn Czapleski, proprietors of  
Canard Vineyard and Czapleski Vineyard



# Docents: We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!!!

## Slip slidin' away? Not Our Docents!

Trudy Angell was 'Docent on Duty' a few days ago and shared an adventure with a visitor, one that had a very fun and positive outcome. A gentleman from Napa came into the museum looking for information about his grandfather who had owned and operated the old Railway Saloon in Calistoga during the late 1800's. Trudy listened carefully to the man's story, she tells us, "and then it clicked for me that maybe we should take a look at the railroad diorama and there it was...the scene taken from an old photograph of his grandfather's saloon with the actual photograph posted above it! He was soooo excited! He'll be back and bring his family I bet."

This is why we do what we do and why the Sharpsteen Docents are so crucial to our survival.

Great job Trudy!



## WELCOME STERLING WINERY

On Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Sharpsteen was thrilled to welcome 16 staff members of Sterling Winery. Docents Lorne Glaim, Trudy Angell, & Jackie Lang shared the museum and Calistoga history with the group. Most of these employees are new to the Napa Valley and were excited to learn about Calistoga and its history.

## BEST OF THE BEST

### Team Docent for July & August

Trudy Angell	Marat Ford	Molly McGuire
Bev Barnes	Lorne Glaim	Patricia Murphy
Rose Beck	Marilyn Glaim	Jo Ellen Noble
Jane Bennett	Sally Houk	Lauren Thollander
Lloyd Best	Cathy Keag	Doug Webb
Sara Boggs	Pat Larsen	Lamar Webb
Judith Cornils	David Lomax	Jean Williams
Anika Fair	Michael Mannion	

Interested in becoming a docent? We are always looking for smiling faces to greet visitors. Please contact Jane at (757) 536-1146. (Yes, area code is 757, not 707!)

← Don't Forget that we have scavenger hunt activity sheets that not only are fun but will enhance any young person's visit to the Museum!



## CHRISTMAS WREATHS ARE COMING BACK!



Time to start thinking about our Christmas wreath workshops! In 2021 and 2022 we sold wreaths and other craft items outside the museum on the same day as the Christmas Faire in the Park. The combination of faire-goers and Farmers Market buyers resulted in good sales; so good in fact that we sold out early!

Coinciding with the annual Christmas Faire in the Park Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we plan to have a wreath sale during Farmers Market hours (9 am-1 pm, or until sold out). Wreath making will take place in the Museum House on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Beginners and experts are welcome. Past session participants have had a good time creating and chatting with new and old friends. As usual most of our creations will be bay leaf wreaths but we would love some evergreen branches (other than redwood). Let us know if you know a source. We hope to have you join in the fun!

Please call me at (707) 337-9797 if you have questions.

Pat Haynes, *Crafts Chair*

The Museum will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, Nov. 24.**

*Warmest Thanksgiving wishes to all!*



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sharpsteen Museum Association  
1311 Washington St., P.O. Box 573  
Calistoga, CA 94515

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