

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM  
OF CALISTOGA HISTORY  
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41, No. 7

Dec-Jan 2023-24



## A Message from Board President Alan Rogers . . .

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

The Napa Valley is brilliant this time of year as the grape vines go through their color changes of yellow, orange, red and brown preparing for the winter season. As fall leaves us and winter begins, our museum is open for whatever season it may be. Why not make room in your schedule to visit the Sharpsteen Museum? The museum has a variety of exhibits to view as you learn some history of Calistoga. As one visitor wrote: *"I never thought I could experience Disney animation, tiny dioramas, the Donner Party, and Star Wars in the same place but this museum made my dreams come true! I couldn't shut up about it the rest of the trip and was just baffled at how much fun and varied the museum is. I have told probably 20 people about this experience and encouraged them to visit whenever they get a chance. You will not be disappointed!"*

The museum is now open every day of the week and is manned by our wonderful docents who have volunteered numerous hours of time to keep the museum open and the public informed. I would like to thank the museum board, committee chairs, and docents for their dedicated work at the museum to keep it open all seasons of the year. It does take a village to keep this gem of a museum alive. We could use some more of you villagers to contribute your talents, even on a one-time basis, to make some small contributions for the museum. More hands make lighter work for all.

This year has been a very productive and rewarding year for the museum. Here is what we have accomplished this year:

- Awarded "Best Museum in Napa County" by the *North Bay Bohemian*
- Much improved museum website which is full of museum information, including current and past newsletters, and the Association By-Laws

*Continued See MESSAGE pg 2*

Save the date!  
Friday, January 19, 2024  
5:30 pm - 7:00pm.

Please join us for a celebration of  
our current special exhibit:

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

At long last, we're happy to cordially invite one and all to the Sharpsteen Museum in honor of our special exhibit exploring the fascinating life of Reason P. Tucker, the "quiet pioneer." Among our guests at this event will be descendants of Tucker's family, who have generously shared family artifacts for the exhibit; we're especially grateful to Bobbi Enderlin for the loan of many items which make this exhibit historically accurate.



We look forward  
to seeing you!





MESSAGE *continued from pg 1*

- Conducted numerous tours including schools and senior center field trips, and employees from Sterling Winery and Four Seasons Hotel
- A “Reason” to Celebrate at Canard Vineyard- a successful Garden Tour and Wine Tasting Fund-raiser
- Ran a successful Instant Wine Cellar- won by Barb and Doug Hermann
- Two Special Exhibits: *Star Wars Forever* and *Reason P Tucker: The Man and His Legacy*
- Attendance to the museum is steadily increasing
- Ran another successful membership drive. Have you renewed your membership?
- Two very informative Meet the Author Events: *Chinese in Napa Valley- the Forgotten Community that Built Wine Country*, by John McCormick; and *The Rise of Napa Valley Wineries: How the Judgement of Paris Put California Wine on the Map*, by Mark Gudgel
- CHS Senior Ruby Mariscal Robledo won our scholarship of \$2,000
- Rediscovered York Cabin Monument at Foothill and Hwy 29
- Welcomed and trained many new docents- would like to train more!
- Held a successful election of a new Board- all incumbents were re-elected

As our forty-fifth year winds down I would like to again thank all the volunteers who have worked many hours to keep this wonderful museum open and thriving. If not for the support of our members, this could not have happened. Please help us to continue the vision of Ben and Bernice Sharpsteen and their beloved museum. As we get closer to ending another year, we humbly ask you to continue your membership and/or to consider a year-end donation to the Sharpsteen Museum. We are an all-volunteer organization, with no endowment, and rely on the generosity of others. There is much to do, and work is needed to keep our museum's vitality ongoing. A donation in any amount is always appreciated. I made mine. Please make checks payable to “Sharpsteen Museum Assoc.” and mail to P.O. Box 573. Calistoga, CA 94515. Or you can donate using our website. [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org), and click on the “Join and Support” tab.

Hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happiest of New Years.



1311 Washington St., P. O. Box 573

Calistoga, CA 94515

Tel: (707) 942-5911

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

Kathy Bazzoli- First VP

Marcia Ciarlo - Second VP

Peggy Berlin- Recording Secretary

Barbara Lencioni- Treasurer

Jane Bennett- Docent Chair

Jackie Lang- Education Chair

Bev Barnes- Collections Chair

Pat Larsen- Ways & Means Chair

Eden Umble- Media Chair

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.

**BEST OF THE BEST****Team Docent for September & October**

Trudy Angell	Lorne Glaim	Corliss Meyer
Bev Barnes	Marilyn Glaim	Jo Ellen Noble
Rose Beck	Sally Houk	Lauren Thollander
Jane Bennett	Cathy Keag	Doug Webb
Sara Boggs	Pat Larsen	Lamar Webb
Judith Cornils	David Lomax	Jean Williams
Anika Fair	Michael Mannion	Ron Yost

Interested in becoming a docent? Please contact Jane at (757) 536-1146. (Yes, area code is 757, not 707!)

**Welcome New Members**

Dana & Hazel Cole

Bridget Ely

Jeana Jahier

**Thank You- General Donations**

Kate Coates

Cathy & Jim Keag

Linda St. Clair Hidalgo

Kriegh & Linda Moulton

Alan Rogers

Ron & Karan Schlegel

Felicia Woytak &

Steven Rasmussen

**In Memoriam**

Beth Volkman



## We're so excited...

### We have two new additions to our Brannan Cottage!

First is a framed photo of Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) and his wife, Fanny Osbourne Stevenson.

As you know, our Brannan Cottage was the temporary residence of RLS and new his bride, Fanny, during their honeymoon of 1880, wed May 19 in San Francisco. Here at the Springs Grounds in Calistoga they stayed for a couple of weeks but could not afford to stay longer, with the \$10.00 per week charge. Wanting to stay longer, it was suggested they travel up Mt. St. Helena to the old, abandoned cabins at the Silverado Mine. This they did, being delivered to the original Toll House & Hotel near the east flank of the mountain. As rugged as they found the possible accommodations, they chose to stay and made their home.

Traveling up and down the mountain during those few weeks, RLS made sure to write in his journal all the comings and goings, people met and adventures every step of the way.

As scribed, his journal became *Sketches of a Californian Mountain – Silverado Squatters*. First published in Scotland in 1883; then as a serial in the NY publication *Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* in 1884. Published in book form by Scribner, NY, in 1895.

Secondly, walk into our Cottage, look to your right into the children's bedroom. You will find a hand-embroidered coverlet depicting the RLS poem *The Land of Counterpane*, donated by museum member and docent Lauren Thollander. The coverlet is circa 1910 and sewn by her grandmother.

Being a sickly child and spending much time confined to his bed, RLS was not able to read until 6-7 years old yet would create stories and poems dictating to his mother and nanny.

In 1885 he compiled those early childhood memories into his book *A Child's Garden of Verses*, published in New York in 1905. One of the poems included is *The Land of Counterpane*.

In the 1800's a "counterpane" was a bed's coverlet. Unable to venture outside to play-- spending long, lonely hours in bed, his imagination became his friend, his counterpane became his world. This is where his toys, soldiers, and ships lived.

RLS and Fanny traveled by ship to a variety of exotic locations, ultimately landing at the port of Apia in the Samoan islands in December of 1889. There they purchased over 300 acres at Vailima, a few miles inland. They built a two-story home and lived until the death of RLS December 3, 1894. During this time, as Fanny was busy managing, organizing, and working the estate, RLS continued writing. It was here that he was given the name "Tusitala" by the locals, which in Samoan means "Teller of Tales".

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, November 13, 1850. When he passed in Samoa, Dec. 3, 1894, of a stroke, their local Samoan friends surrounded him during the night then carried him to nearby Mount Vaea where they buried him in a spot overlooking the sea.



Based on Stevenson's poem *Requiem*, the following epitaph is inscribed on his tomb:

*Under the wide and starry sky  
Dig his grave and let me lie  
Glad I live and gladly die  
And laid me down with a will  
This be the verse you grave for me  
Here he lies where he longed to be  
Home is the sailor home from the sea  
And the hunter home from the hill*

Frances "Fanny" Van de Grift Osbourne-Stevenson was born March 10, 1840 in Indianapolis, IN. Always known as

Continued See *EXCITED* pg 6



## Notes from the Bookstore

*“The mountains are calling and I must go,” -John Muir.*

The Ken Stanton Trifecta (an achievement that involves 3 successful outcomes). Any one of these three titles, written by local author Ken Stanton, will inspire you to take a step into the adventures you’ve only been dreaming about, time to do it!

Each title is informational, filled with stories, history, and photos.

### 1. *No Mere Pastime – A Life in High Places*

“With a keen eye for the beauty of the natural world, Stanton leads readers from the mountains of California, to the snows of the Canadian Rockies, to the overhanging limestone walls of Italy’s Dolomite, to the monarchs of the alpine world, the Himalaya.” You will join the author as he paddles the whitewater of the Trinity River, makes a one day descent of Tenaya Canyon (Yosemite), as he takes a fifty foot swing on the final, massive overhangs of El Capitan, and more. Softcover, 260 pages, with color photos, 8.5”x5.5”, cost \$28.00/copy.

### 2. *Mount St. Helena- Robert Louis Stevenson State Park- A History and Guide*

*Kana'mota* (Human Mountain) is the name given Mt. St. Helena by the native Wappo hundreds of years ago. Hiking up to her summit at 4,343 ft. on a clear day, views of the Pacific Ocean, downtown San Francisco, the Sierra Nevada, and Mt. Shasta can be seen. “Through extensive research and on the ground field work, author Ken Stanton has come to know the mountain intimately and brings to light its story with clear prose, historical and contemporary photographs and anecdotes from the old timers who lived its history.” Included are chapters on flora and fauna, plus a pull-out map to lead you on your hiking journey. Curious about the White Cap Murder Gang of 1890? Why the mountain is volcanic but not a volcano? What was the connection to Leland Stanford and Richard Henry Dana? Answers and more are found within these pages. Softcover, 256 pages, 9”x6”, photos, maps, cost \$20.00/copy.

### 3. *Great Day Hikes In & Around Napa Valley*

“The valley offers outstanding hiking. Reading these engrossing descriptions makes you feel as if you’re on a guided tour.” -*Sunset Magazine*. “Napa offers a rare pairing of wine and wilderness.” “...have created misty forests, petrified trees, striking rock formations and peaks with sweeping views.” The marvelous Palisades Trail, historic Oat Hill Mine Trail, sheltered redwood canyons in Bothe State Park, see eagles and elk in the Cache Creek wilderness. Your personal adventures to explore. Softcover, 231 pgs. with photos and maps, 8”x5.5”, cost \$12.00/copy.

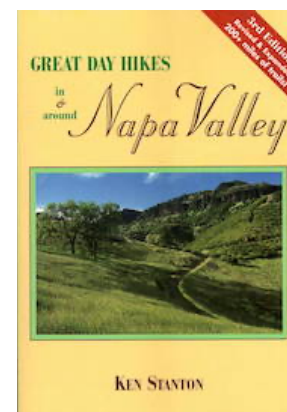
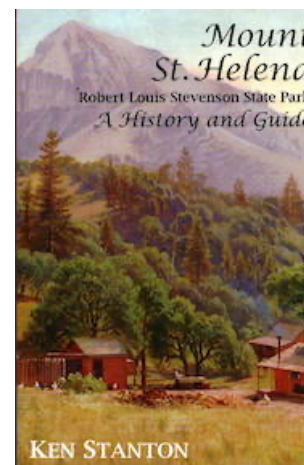
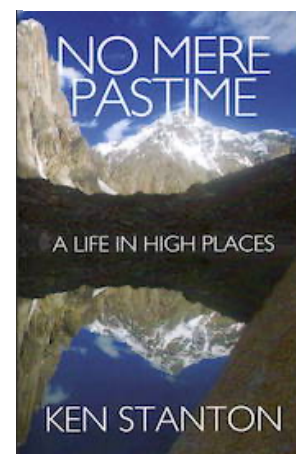
The perfect Christmas gifts for the explorer amongst your family and friends. Purchase one or all three! Don’t forget your 10% member discount. If you prefer to have a title shipped, please send us a message via our web site ([sharpsteenmuseum.org/contact-us](http://sharpsteenmuseum.org/contact-us)). Discount will be applied, plus tax and shipping.

Happiest of holidays to you all. We thank you for your ongoing support of the Sharpsteen Museum.

Kathy Bazzoli, *Bookstore Chair*



Author Ken Stanton







## ...and Other Holiday Gift Ideas

Oh, those memories of Christmas morning magic as a child, so excited to see what Santa brought! And what did you grab first? Yes, your stocking to find those special little extras so carefully stuffed inside.

Now is the time to stock up with those stuffers from the Sharpsteen's Children's Collection. So much to choose from. There are arrowheads (50¢ each), Twirl Time glitter wands, kazoos, bottles of bubbles, train whistles and engineer caps, colorful puffer balls, and more. Doll kits, classic tin Kaleidoscopes, Dover Coloring & Activity Books - you can't miss with any combination. Most toy items priced \$2, \$3, or \$4 each.

And as always, for the more grown-up in your crowd, you will find a variety of holiday table runners, tapestry bags, pocket magnifiers, handmade kitty catnip mice, hand-embroidered tea towels and lavender sachets made with vintage handkerchiefs (some 100 yrs. old) -- there is simply not enough room to name them all.

All items are while supplies last, so come in early and often.

We thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Becky Turner, Gift Shoppe Chair  
Sierra Turner, Co-Chair



**You need not go any farther than our Gift Shoppe or Book Store to find the perfect gift!**

Photos above, left: Table linens;  
Bottom: Some stocking stuffers



**EXCITED** *continued from pg 3*

a tomboy with dark, curly hair, a writer herself in the highest regard and known as “a woman of intellectual attainments”, it is without question that her life had brought her to Grez-sur-Loing where she and RLS first met in 1876. Three children were born to her and first husband Samuel Osbourne, Isobel (Belle), Lloyd and Hervey (died 1875).

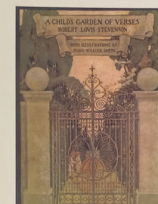
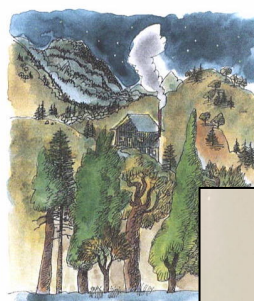
After the death of RLS, Fanny moved back to San Francisco, then to Santa Barbara. Her last companion (and Belle’s to-be husband), Ned Field, described her as “the only woman in the world worth dying for”. Fanny passed in Santa Barbara February 10, 1914. The following year, per Fanny’s wishes, her ashes were by taken by her daughter, Belle, to Samoa where they were interred next to her husband on top of Mount Vaea. The bronze plaque for Fanny bears her name as she was known in Samoa- “Aolele”, meaning “Flying Cloud.”

A love story for the ages, Tusitala and Aolele now rest together for all eternity.

**Note: Copies of *Silverado Squatters* and *A Child’s Garden of Verses* are always available in our bookstore.**

*The Silverado Squatters*

Robert Louis Stevenson

**A CHILD’S GARDEN OF VERSES**

Robert Louis Stevenson

**The Museum will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.**

*Happy Holidays to all!*

PLEASE NOTE: The “Wreath Sale” to be held on Sat. Dec. 2 has been canceled.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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