



Message from the Board

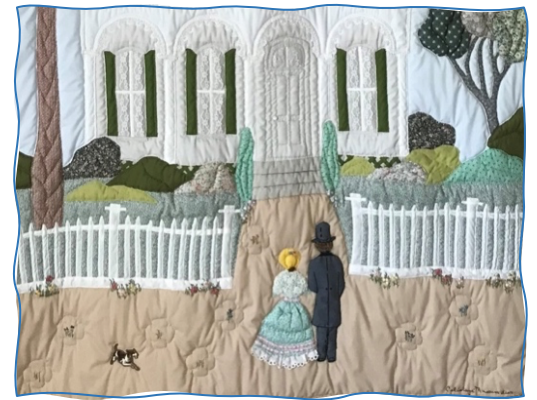
*"The storms keep a'comin'
and the rivers are a'risin'!"*

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

As we write this, the rains have been non-stop, and the Napa River is flowing more than it has in a long while. Fortunately the Sharpsteen is safe, dry and as cozy as ever. Due to the constant efforts of our volunteers, docents, and members, 2022 became a fantastic 12 months. Our overall visitor count, including special tours, nearly doubled compared to 2021. Hallelujah! Sales in our Gift Shoppe & Bookstore have increased, events were well attended, support of the annual Instant Wine Cellar was over the exceptional (thanks to Pat & Dave Larsen), and, of course, we look forward to topping these numbers during the new year.

Thanks to our new Special Exhibit's Chair and Board Member, Eden Umble, our Special Exhibit Area has again become profoundly popular with more slated for this year. Already scheduled exhibits are: "Star Wars" (this month) and the History of the era of Reason P. Tucker (in late Spring). The Reason P. Tucker Exhibit will expand to a private reception and

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New home for Brannan quilt.
See page 6



Coming Soon...

Our Next Exhibit:

Star Wars Forever

An exuberant celebration of creativity,
anchored in the Star Wars universe

Grand Opening Feb. 24

Star Wars spans multiple generations as a cultural phenomenon, and its iconography resonates with movie fans, enthusiasts, kids and parents alike. This exhibit, created in joyful partnership with Rancho Obi-Wan, the largest Star Wars museum in the galaxy, includes curated collections of Star Wars memorabilia that serves as a starting point of

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Postcard from the Museum photo collection, date unknown



HISTORY PAGE – Kathy Bazzoli

Letter from Calistoga – May 11, 1868

Published in the *Daily Alta*, San Francisco from an occasional correspondent of the *Alta*

Our little community was startled out of its priority night before last about half-past eleven by an unmistakable earthquake, jarring the houses and shaking up the economy of life in the upper part of the Napa Valley beyond anything ever before known here. The shocks, which appeared to come from the northward, were accompanied by subterranean rumblings peculiarly ominous at the dead of night. The phenomena seemed to originate in the vicinity of Mt. St. Helena, the highest point of the Coast Range. All this region of the country, including the Calistoga Springs and Geysers, appears to be of volcanic origin – a fact of which the residents hereabout are reminded, at long intervals, by underground demonstrations such as that above alluded to. But, as if to compensate for any little irregularities beneath the surface, nature has lavished upon Napa Valley all her charms of rural beauty.

The country has never looked more inviting than at present. The late rains have given a brilliant hue to the surrounding hills, while the far reaching grain fields, vineyards, and orchards give promise of immense yields.

Today, by the permission of Dr. Rowell, Mr. Sam Brannan leaves for San Francisco after a tedious and critical sickness, during which his life was more than once despaired of – the result of a murderous attack made upon him a month ago.

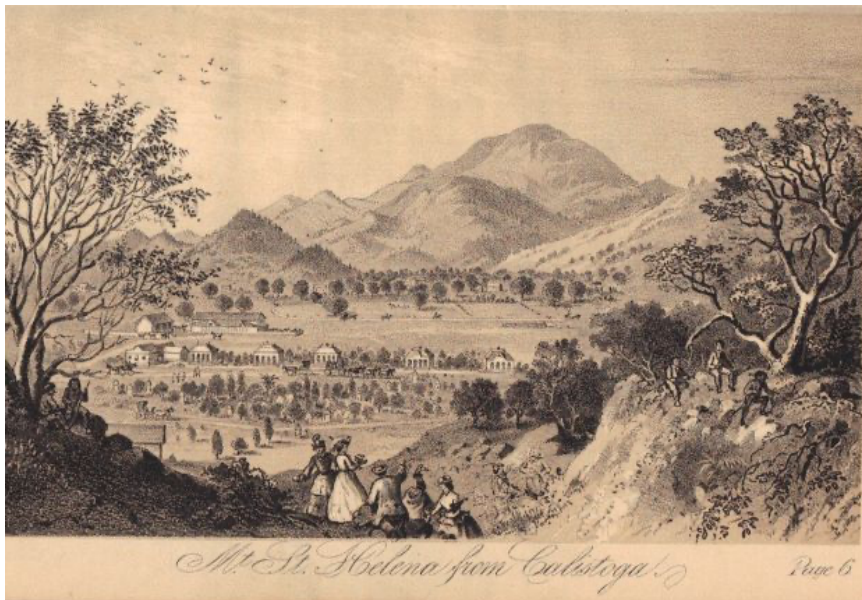
There is but one sentiment throughout the valley regarding the attempt to assassinate a citizen through whose full handed expenditures in all the worthy enterprises, including his Napa Valley Railroad, which have helped to build up this region, every inhabitant within 50 miles of Napa City has been more or less benefitted, to say nothing of his liberal encouragement of enterprises elsewhere in the state.

It is the same spirit of envious hostility against intelligent progress which murdered the lamented Osborn at Oak Knoll several years ago, and which, in its lawless malignity, destroyed nearly a thousand head of invaluable French and Spanish merino sheep, imported at immense expense by Mr. Brannan, which were driven in the night over a high precipice at the upper end of the Napa Valley, sometime since, because they riled the source of a stream which afforded water to parties below.

The feeling throughout Napa Valley against these and high-handed outrages of a like nature has finally become outspoken and decided and you may well believe that the forthcoming trial is awaited with greatest interest.

Mr. Brannan is now pronounced to be out of danger, although some of the balls from the cowardly fusillade are still lodged in his body. Your correspondent found him yesterday busily engaged in his mulberry nursery and vineyard, directing his numerous workmen, and looking like anything but a candidate for the graveyard, although considerably reduced by loss of blood.

Mr. Dickey, of the Ocean House, is now



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MESSAGE *continued from pg 1*

wine tasting at the home Tucker built in the 1800s.

Look forward to more events, meet new authors, gather the forces for our Instant Wine Cellar, evening lectures, the possibilities are limitless.

We thank you all for your continuing support. Please visit our website (www.sharpsteenmuseum.org) for museum event updates, send us a message and tell us what you think, we are here because of you.

Our wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2023!

Sharpsteen Museum Board of Directors

EXHIBIT *continued from pg 1*

inspiration for creative expression and a sense of community. Our obsessive collectors Steve Sansweet, Dwayne Smith, and Marc Morita generously share their treasured objects with us, as they encourage us to dream up our own ideal universe of heroes, villains and those in between.

Grand Opening is February 24th; the exhibit will run through about mid-May. Watch for details on the museum website or Facebook!

Eden Unble, *Special Exhibits Chair*

**Coming Events-**

Fri. Feb 24, Time TBD (check web site or Facebook). New Exhibit, *Star Wars Forever* Grand Opening

Sat. March 11, 12:00 noon.
Meet the Author, "Chinese in Napa Valley- the Forgotten Community that Built Wine Country" by author John McCormick

Call for Material for Upcoming Exhibit

In late spring, we'll be mounting an exhibit on Reason P. Tucker, Calistoga pioneer and one of the rescuers of the Donner Party. There is a fair amount of written information available about him, but we need objects to fill up the display cases in the Special Exhibit Area. Several members have already contributed research and offered to loan artifacts, but we need a lot more to make up a good exhibit. We're looking for photographs, books, personal items, hand tools or household objects from

**New Members-Contributing**

Sara Haynes

New Members- Individual

Tamara McDonald

Andy Mendell

General Donations

Chateau Montelena

Barbara Nechis

In Memoriam

Rosie Dunsford

Patsy Hahn

Visit us at sharpsteenmuseum.org to learn about joining, renewing or upgrading memberships, and the various ways you can make a donation or gifts in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

Thank You for Your Support!!!



the post-Civil War era (1865 - 1890).

If you can lend artifacts of the period, or know someone who can, please contact Special Exhibits Chair Eden Umble (eaumble@gmail.com or 707-280-3636).

Thank you!

Notes from the Bookstore

CHINESE IN NAPA VALLEY

MEET THIS AUTHOR: Saturday March 11th, 12:00 noon. Books are on sale now but will also be available for purchase on the day of the event. I've read this book, a history you should know and learn, written from the heart, and impressive to say the least.

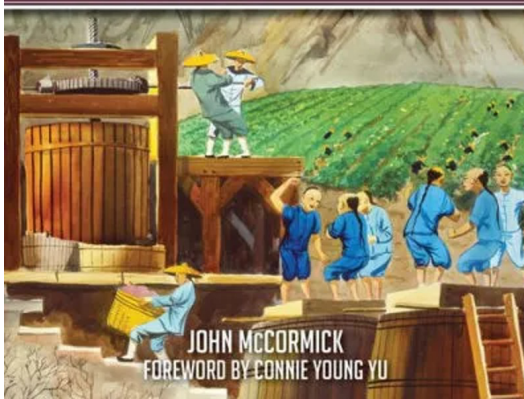
Hot off the presses January 2023, the newest title released by the *History Press*, "Chinese in Napa Valley- the Forgotten Community that Built Wine Country" by author John McCormick, Foreword by Connie Young Yu.

Is it possible to unearth the origins our Valley's prosperity? Look back to the mid-late 1800's as Chinese men, women and families were immigrating to this area. They became laborers, worked the grape fields, silver mines, leather tanneries, laundries, built scores of stone bridges that survive to this day as well as carving our wine caves that remain.



CHINESE IN NAPA VALLEY

— THE FORGOTTEN COMMUNITY THAT BUILT WINE COUNTRY —



Their contributions were enormous yet little appreciated. This new title is a must read for anyone wanting to learn and respect the valley's origins.

From Calistoga to Napa, 175 pages of history & pictures including bibliography and index. Currently available in our bookstore, priced at \$23.99 (less 10% for museum members), plus tax and \$4.00 shipping. If you prefer to order via our website, www.sharpsteenmuseum.org, simply send us a note, we'll do the rest.

Here's to the Year of the Rabbit. Xinnan kuaile.

Kathy Bazzoli,
Bookstore Chair

Lorne Glaim, Co-Chair





One of our handcrafted holiday wreaths adorned the front door of Dave and Pat Larsen's home.

Christmas Sales A Big Success!

As in 2021, we held the museum's wreath sale on the day of the Christmas Faire in the park. We set up shop at the bottom of the ramp leading to the museum's front doors. Customers were waiting for us to open and we sold out the majority of the wreaths by 11:00. There were lots of disappointed latecomers! Our goal for next year is more wreaths! The sale brought in more than \$1,000, which tops last year's total. Many thanks to the wreath makers who produced nearly 50 wreaths and swags. We hope more of you join in on the fun next year!

Pat Haynes, *Christmas Crafts Chair*

BEST OF THE BEST

Team Docent for November & December

Rose Beck	Marilyn Glaim	Jo Ellen Noble
Jane Bennett	Sally Houk	Lauren Thollander
Lloyd Best	Cathy Keag	Doug Webb
Emily Bucchianeri	Pat Larsen	Lamar Webb
Judith Cornils	David Lomax	Jeannie Williams
Anika Fair	Michael Mannion	Ron Yost
Lorne Glaim	Patricia Murphy	

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



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Email: 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)

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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.

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proprietor of the Calistoga Springs Hotel. Since he has become the presiding genius, a new life seems to have been infused into everything. The hotel has been thoroughly repaired and renovated, under his experienced supervision, and is surrounded by beautiful shade trees, groves, and every variety of flowers and shrubbery, affords one of the most attractive places of resort in California.

The lands of the Napa Railroad Homestead Association are adjacent to these springs, and extend miles up the valley – fifteen hundred acres of plain, hill, and woodland, and forming the terminus of the Napa Valley Railroad, which connects this place with Napa City, and eventually with Vallejo. The iron is now laid to within two and a half miles of Mr. Brannan's Calistoga Springs, and when the road is completed hither, which will be in a few weeks, the trip from San Francisco here will be made in three hours – two hours by steamboat to Vallejo, and one hour thence by the Napa Valley Railroad to Calistoga.

Nothing can excel the beauty of the scenery of this famous valley, where the wood-crowned and picturesque mountains everywhere sheltering the lowlands, are in fine contrast with the continuous fields of grain, reaching up to the very slopes of the foothills and stretching for nearly forty miles along the level valley.

Towards evening, when the declining sun pours its golden rays through the foliage of oaks, and across the emerald of the young grain, the valley presents a scene of which the most gorgeous fancy landscape painting would scarcely be an exaggeration. The reality forms a vivid picture, combining the rugged and romantic features of nature with the most charming pastoral scenery and the highest condition of scientific culture, extending over forty thousand acres of land."

Brannan Quilt Finds New Home

Silent Auction bidding for the very first Brannan Cottage Quilt began August 1st, 2022, with an opening bid of \$100.00. The auction closed November 31st with a high bid of \$1,000.00. Our precious piece of history now resides in the Bay Area with a loving family, in fact, the quilt has its own room (see photo at right).

This quilt took 1200 volunteer hours to create in 1979 and had been living in Virginia, never used, always displayed. When the owner passed away at the age of 97, the family returned the quilt to the Sharpsteen to use as we wished. Because the quilt was originally created as a fund raiser, it again went on the auction block.

Thank you to those of you that made bids but there can only be one winner. The good news is that the new owners have promised that when the time comes, they will return the quilt to the museum to be used in another auction. Be looking for it in another 30 years or so.

You see, there is always something to look forward to!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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