

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

March 7, 2023 • Volume 19 • Issue 5

Susanne Salvestrin Memorial Lecture Series 2023

MARCH 16 @ 7pm

Napa Valley's Pioneer Women of Diversity and Influence

Featuring local historian Rebecca Yaeger

At the Heritage Center Museum | 1255 Oak Ave.

The St. Helena Historical Society's lecture series continues, as Rebecca Yerger discusses some of the remarkable pioneer women of St. Helena who span demographics. It all began with the Wappos, who date back some 10,000 years. In addition to the Hispanic immigrants who came to the Napa Valley and shared their dynamic culture, there were African Americans and Chinese--a labor force that helped build the railroad and worked in other industries.

Yerger will discuss the influence of



Somersall was a famous wapper, Pomo basket maker, teacher, lecturer, and linguist. She'll talk about Eva Jennings, an African American who was St. Helena's 1975 Citizen of the Year.

These trailblazers opened a factory

Emma Eels, another of these remarkable women, was an owner of Callustro Corporation. Callustro manufactured household cleaning products made from a refined, sand-based native stone. In the 1880s the widowed Emma Eels purchased 108 acres of UpValley property and the company planned to take on rivals Old Dutch and Sapolio-brand cleansers.

Photo of Pomo basket weaver Laura Somersall from Bellacana Vineyards.

Saying Goodbye to David Garden

Like many in St Helena, we are saddened by the death of **David Garden**. His many interests included the history of our town, and he was a member and supporter of the work we do.

He shared his reverence for St. Helena's history with his daughter Jennifer, and she has worked with us to refine and upgrade the quality of our exhibits in the Heritage Center.



This tribute is from Jennifer:

David Alexander Garden. January 24, 1930-January 17, 2023.

With his signature beaming smile and twinkle in his eye, David was a man who believed in nurturing the dreams of his family, friends and neighbors. He is remembered as a man of great generosity of spirit.

A New Role for the McCormick Ranch Carriage



The St. Helena Historical Society once again partners with Patti Coyle and her High School drama students. Watch for our carriage as it becomes a surrey during the Drama Department's spring production of "Oklahoma". The carriage is from the McCormick Ranch, which was founded around 1870 at the top of Spring Mountain. Descendants Edna McCormick Learned and daughter Sandra donated the buggy to the Historical Society.

What's New From the Collections Team



These beautifully preserved arrowheads were found on the McCormick-Learned Ranch, situated at the end of Langtry Road in St. Helena. This site had a rare year-round spring where the local tribes had an encampment on their way to and from Sonoma County and the Pacific Ocean.

St. Helena Chinese Memorial Committee Formed to Commemorate the Chinese Contributions

A project is underway by the Mayor's office to mark the Chinese Burial Ground at the St. Helena Public Cemetery.

**SHHS is
supporting the
Committee on this
project**

John Sales, Bonnie Thoreen, Mariam Hansen, Mayor Dohring, John McCormick, Catherine Dann, Joyce Chan and others are on the Chinese Memorial Committee.



For those who joined us for the excellent January program on the

and the Chinese played an important role in the development of the Napa Valley--and there's very little recognition of their effort.

DONATE

Support St. Helena Historical Society

Visit the Heritage Center Museum: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 • SHHS Mailing Address: PO Box 87, St. Helena, CA 94575 • shstory@shstory.org • 707.967.5502
shstory.org • 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Organization • Tax ID#: 30-0087096
