

*Special Interest
Articles:*

- ❖ Treasures from the vault
- ❖ Help Wanted
- ❖ Volunteer spotlight
- ❖ Mendocino's Cinderella Story

"Kelley House primarily exists to provide a place for Mendocino Coast historical information to be retained so that we can

"Uncatalogued boxes of fascinating documents continue to be revealed in the vault..."

A Historical Research

Collecting, Preserving, Protecting and Sharing the Rich History of the Mendocino Coast Message From the President



Another year draws to a close. How can that be - it seems as if it just got started. Still, looking back, a lot has happened for Kelley House in 2006. We hired an archivist and have seen a lot of progress, organizing much of the material that has been donated to Kelley House over many years. Getting all the old Beacons on CD's (at great expense) has been a big boost to accessibility for all the information found there. Unfortunately, the Archivist position is not permanently funded due to budgetary restraints but it is certainly being retained for next year and we are looking for outside funding/ assistance. We did have the misfortune of losing CJ Cooper, our Executive Director, which always throws fear into the collective hearts of the Board. But we were very blessed in filling the made position with the return of Megan Smith, a previous ED and Board member. Megan made us face the fact that the office was looking a bit shabby so, between painting and cleaning out of old material that has a way of accumulating, the workspace is much improved. We also bit the bullet and had the remaining fencing (primarily the pond area) all rebuilt. Including much clean-up work around the

pond and continuing maintenance of the yard, I believe Kelley House is looking as good as I have ever seen it in my 28 years on the coast. We continue to be involved in many community events including Heritage Days, the 4th of July, the tree lighting and Santa's visit at Christmas, walking tours, our Sunday Afternoon talks, a variety of programs involving our local schools, and our Annual Silent Auction fund-raiser in October.

Kelley House primarily exists to provide a place for Mendocino Coast historical information to be retained so that we can all have access to the past. I am sure many of you have information about our coastal area in the form of pictures, letters, books, etc. Maybe some of it is fairly recent but please keep in mind that today's events are tomorrow's history so, *before throwing out coastal documents/information, consider calling us to see if it will fit into our collection.*

May all of you have a happy holiday and let's all wish and work for a more peaceful new year.

TREASURES FROM THE VAULT

By Linda Wilson

Uncatalogued boxes of fascinating documents continue to be revealed in the vault as we work to organize and catalogue. A few examples:

One box opened recently contains old ledgers used on the Kent family ranch, commonly known to many of us as the "Spring Ranch" in Little River. When the old family home on Hwy 1 was sold in 2000, Peggy Merrill was given these historic documents for the Kelley House archives. Many of the ledgers are pre-1900 and record the daily sales and expenses of the ranch, owned by William H Kent and family.

On November 6, 1882, for example, his sales included steak to CO Packard for 30¢

"The story of his parents and grandparents is like that of many other families in Mendocino. They came from the Azores, lived and worked in Mendocino and then moved to other places."

Treasures, cont.

and 25 pounds of coffee to the Carlson Hotel for \$2.50. Other common sales that year were for suet, rolls of butter, and milk. Moving to the 1948 ledger, one entry lists cows sold to Charlotte, Camel, Sally, Bertha and Charlotte for \$150. Can we assume these were the buyers, not the names of the cows? Expenses of running a ranch are interesting as well. In December 1949, wheels for the wagon were purchased for \$10.30, PG&E was paid \$15.10 and the telephone bill was \$15.13.

Another box contains miscellaneous documents, each of which needs to be catalogued and cross-referenced to people, business, photo or subject files. It contains some old property deeds, insurance certificates issued by A. Heeser, a Christmas greeting card from Arthur Hicks, pastor of the Presbyterian Church (no date). There is a well-preserved program from "Esther, the beautiful queen—a sacred cantata rendered by local talent at Odd Fellows Hall, Mendocino, California, Thursday and Friday April 29 and 30, 1909." The program contains the lyrics and each person performing solos and in the chorus.

A notebook from the Mendocino Lumber Company from 1926 is a peek into the past of what we now call "Workers Compensation records". It describes each injury to workers that year, the location of the mishap, treatment by date, and the date the worker was able to return to work.

The preliminary budget document for Mendocino County, 1939-40, reveals \$23.50 had been spent on "care of pheasants" for the previous year and \$25.00 was being requested. In the County Clerks office, \$122.24 had been spent for a typewriter in 1938-39, and \$120 was being requested for a filing cabinet.

I also found a charge account ledger page from the Jarvis & Nichols Store (Main and Kasten) for the six months ending Nov 6, 1888 for Mr. J Grindle; and a telegram dated December 24, 1877 requesting the recipient "Send by Hudson today without fail twenty-five pounds of blasting powder". In addition to many photographs, only some identified, there is a political poster from the August 27, 1940. primary election for WR Pesula for Supervisor, 4th District.

This list only scratches the surface of that box, and many hours will be devoted to cross-

referencing these documents to other related ones so that a researcher can find answers to historical questions. Researchers are welcome at the Kelley House during regular office hours. Members may research free; a nominal fee is charged to non-members.



27th Annual Silent Auction Report

Another Silent Auction has come and gone—this our 27th annual—and once again we had a great time and a successful event.

The auction was kicked off, after many volunteer hours of labor, on Friday, October 6, with Preview Night, where over 100 people enjoyed a delicious buffet coordinated by Board members Joy Shaw and Mary Travers. Those attending enjoyed great food and wine, a live auction and the first chance to view and bid on the hundreds of items available. The silent auction and kitchen sale followed on Saturday.

Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Little River Inn, Savings Bank of Mendocino, Blackberry Inn, Old Gold, Sea Rock Inn and Century 21 Fort Bragg. Additional thanks go to our generous donors including the Joshua Grindle Inn, Whitegate Inn, Goldeneye Vineyards, Greenwood Ridge Vineyards, Margaret Fox and Harvest Market.

The event netted the Kelley House Museum just over \$18,000 this year, a bit down from the last two years, but still very successful.

Co-chairs Bill Jacobson and Linda Wilson, and kitchen sale manager Mary
(cont. on following page)

Silent Auction, cont.

Travers want to thank the Kelley House Board members and staff, all of whom worked hard on the event. Special thanks go to Joy Shaw and Mary Travers, Bob and Mary Kerstein, Cookie Holmes, Mary Stinson, Ruth and Holm Kappler, Judith Barry, Gwen Jacobson, Diana Dahl, Jeff Tavelli of Chernoff's, Jim Moorehead, Rex Smith, Sonny Handley, Susan Winding of Whistlestop, Mark Zarin, Cliff Shaw and Peter Fearey for all their time and expertise.

And, of course, thanks to the many members and others who donated wonderful items for sale and all those who came to purchase.

Membership Renewal Time

By Megan Smith



It's that time of year again. Time to renew your membership to Kelley House Museum. As an active member, I'm sure you are aware of the work we are doing and how important it is. We've been making great progress towards our goal of preserving our history with the construction of the vault and subsequently the cataloging and organizing of the artifacts. Now we want to expand our goal of sharing that history. We'll be doing this by going online with our collections making them more available to researchers and by improving our exhibits and community events. Your membership will help us continue these efforts.

Please take a moment to send in your renewal in the enclosed envelope. Your continued support is appreciated.

Memorials, Donations and Membership

Memorials:

Martha Wagner in memory of Gary Demitts

Helen Williams in memory of Herb Fraser

Auction Sponsors:

Little River Inn

Savings Bank of Mendocino

Blackberry Inn

Century 21

Old Gold

Sea Rock Inn

Donation:

Mendocino Hotel

New and Renewing Members

Ann Johnson

Ed & Jereen Anderson

Donna Burke

Leone McNeill

Carol W. Leigh

Julie Masterson

Ron & Joan Eich

Alvin Mendosa

Sally Stewart

Ruth Tay

Mary Stinson

Martha Wagner

Arlene & Harold Crandall

Russell Trovinger

Helen Williams

Pat Scott

Karen English

John & Melody Merriman

Eleanor Edmund

JM & NH Lyons

Frances & Gordon McBride

Ruth Kappler

Don Kowalski

Linda J. Moore

Mary & Bob Kerstein

Gretchen & Peter Imlay

Grail Dawson & Betty Barber

Desler Kyn Patten

Nicholas Wilson & Nicola Boynoff

Melissa Miller

Gwen Becker

Dick's Place

A huge thank you to all who generously donate their time, energy or resources to enable Kelley House to continue its mission.

We are excited to report that we are going on line with our collections in order to make them more accessible to researchers and to the community at large.

Recently Wally and Mildred celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. Find out what they say is one of the most important contributions to a long successful marriage!

***Help Wanted:
Kelley House will supply all of the materials needed to build the rolling cart!***

A Note about Wally Smith...

By Martha Wagner

Wally Smith, long a favorite Kelley House docent, columnist, and author of the best selling book [Waters Towers and Windmills of Mendocino](#), is presently receiving care in Sherwood Oaks in Fort Bragg. On July 31, he fell just inside his front door at The Woods in Little River, subsequently entering Mendocino Coast District Hospital's intensive care unit. After a number of days, evaluation showed he could be moved to a skilled nursing facility.

Just before his fall Wally had enjoyed one of his good weather tours around the Woods in his battery-operated sports vehicle. Wally and his wife, Mildred, have enjoyed life at this popular retirement community for many years. Their smooth move took place after his retirement from the newspaper world in Santa Paula in Southern California.

Recently Wally and Mildred celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. During the course of the delightful little gathering Mildred staged at Sherwood Oaks, Wally reminisced about the time in 1939 when he worked at Lockheed Aircraft for \$28 a week and they had just bought a new Chevy coupe for \$900. In the delicious midst of chocolate mousse and wine, one of the party guests asked Wally, "What do you think were the most important contributions to this long successful marriage?" Mildred and Wally exchanged long knowing looks before he said succinctly, "flexibility and a sense of humor!" Sherwood Oaks Health Center is located in east Fort Bragg at 130 Dana, easily reached out Oak Street.

Mendocino Coast Heritage Days Seeking History Lovers...

Planning for the 4th Annual Mendocino Coast Heritage Days is about to begin, and we need your help. If you are a history buff or have a desire to learn more about our area's heritage, you'll want to be a part of this team. Volunteers of all skills and interests are needed – from developing the program to providing helping hands during the event.

Held in May during National Historic Preservation Month, this event celebrates our rich heritage with a combination of fun and educational events for all ages. Last year's Evergreen Cemetery tour was the "talk of the town." If you haven't managed to attend, a retrospective is available on our Web site at www.MendocinoHeritage.org.

Mendocino Coast Heritage Days combines the talents and resources of the Ford House Visitor Center/Mendocino Area Parks Association (MAPA), Kelley House Museum, Mendocino Art Center, and Mendocino Business Association. (As a volunteer,

you'll be in good company.) This is not another fund-raiser; the event does not make a profit. It is held solely for the entertainment and education of locals and visitors. Each year, we have expanded our program, and this year will be no exception. We're expanding our venues to Little River and Fort Bragg, and thus changing our name to Mendocino Coast Heritage Days. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to be a part of our community event, please contact Mike McDonald at 937-5724 or mcdonald@mcn.org.

RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE

Sarah Ginskey, artist, owner, and nature guide has generously donated a two-night stay at the Boom Roadhouse in east Mendocino for the benefit of Kelley House Museum. We will be holding a raffle over the next few months and the winning ticket will be drawn during Heritage Days in May of 2007. What a great gift for your out-of-town visitors or a weekend get-a-way (but not far away). Included in the package are: a continental buffet breakfast; daily hors d'oeuvres and wine hour; light snacks and beverage service all day; and, a guided nature walk from Giant Redwoods to the Pygmy forest.

Raffle tickets will be available at the Kelley House (for more information call 937-5791). Check out the Boom Roadhouse on their website at

<http://www.sojournwithsarah.com>

Help Wanted:

We are looking for someone with some carpentry skills – not fine woodworking, but solid construction. The project? We have long wanted to exhibit the kitchen more as it would have been when Eliza Kelley was the lady of the house. Our "book store", which is displayed on the Kelley's original redwood hutch cabinet, prevents this from happening. The book sales, of course, are a necessary part of fulfilling our mission and they bring in some revenue. We've come up with an idea and design for a rolling cart to display the books for sale which can be placed in a place of prominence when needed and rolled out of the way when not. One might say - just buy it, however, in searching library and school supply catalogs such a cart could cost well over \$1,000.

If you, or anyone you know, have these skills and a bit of time, please call Megan at 937-5791 to discuss the *details. We would, of course, supply all the materials.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This edition we want to feature two volunteers in our "Spotlight". Kris Smith, a newcomer to Mendocino, comes in once a week to help our archivist, Carolyn Zeitler, organize folders and files from the archives. (Yea, no more bits of paper falling out.) Besides putting the information in sleeves and photocopying any newsprint (which is very acidic and decomposes quickly along with anything it touches) she puts the material in chronological order, usually reading it as she works. Giggles and "wows" frequently come from her workstation as she progresses through the pile and we often end up in an office-wide discussion about whatever she's working on. In addition, Kris has also volunteered to be on the Heritage Days planning committee, which is already meeting (see article in this issue) for this event to be held next spring. Thank you Kris!



Another invaluable volunteer is Ray Duff (above). Ray has been in our community since 1969. He and his wife, Lorraine, live in Caspar. Ray, one morning a week, scans vintage photographs which Carolyn later catalogs. This process will not only preserve the photos by creating less physical contact, but will make them more accessible and easier to reproduce. Already at KHM most of our photo

reproduction is done by scanning to CDs. Our goal is to have all of the over 8,000 photo collection as well as the archival materials and holdings of artifacts, catalogued and online for researchers. Ray also volunteers at several other organizations in the community and he's always willing to help out with whatever needs to be done, even crawling around under the house to run cables for computers, etc. Thank you Ray!

A Note to Santa 12/2005

Please Father Christmas bring me a lego aeroplane and a backhoe and the fire-station from the New York Store and the bobcat and the crane.

I hope you have many toys to give to other children, too.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and I hope you get a toy Santa.

That you very much,

Love from Henry

p.s. We have moved to a new house. Please use our new chimney at Navarro Bluff Road. We will **not light the stove on Christmas Eve. XX**

Santa Arrives at Kelley House

On Friday, December 1st, Santa arrived at Kelley House to help locals and visitors alike as well as children of all ages ring in the holiday season. As is the custom, Santa arrived via the local fire truck. Carols were sung with enthusiasm, the Christmas lights were switched on, wassail, apple juice and cookies were served and the community enjoyed the lovely decorations and warm spirits of the season. The Glorianna Carolers added their beautiful voices and ambiance to the songs of the season. Children in attendance received an early Christmas gift from Santa and his helper, and a wonderful time was had by all. Photos of the children with Santa are available by calling 937-5791.

Be sure to stop by Kelley House to see this lovely Victorian home decorated for the holidays.

Volunteers Kris Smith and Ray Duff are always ready to lend a helping hand at Kelley House



Santa and friend
December 1st,
2006

MENDOCINO'S CINDERELLA STORY

By Martin Simpson

"Mendocino has its share of "characters". Below is the story of one of them:

Cinderella Wallace had worked as a maid for one of "First families" until she married. Widowhood followed and Cinderella continued to occupy her house on Main Street. She kept chickens and had some apple trees. She sold eggs and apples for a living.

At night Cinderella wandered about Mendocino. She knew everything about everybody, but mostly about the night lifers. During the day she sat in her front window watching—always watching. She never answered a knock at her door. If you wished to see Cinderella you opened the door and walked in. To get to her door you had to walk right by her as she solemnly watched you from her window.

When "La Grande Dame" came to purchase the fruit of tree or a hen, sure that Cinderella would recognize the gesture for the charitable act intended, Cinderella continued to sit at her window, A tight-lipped demand was made as to why she had not come and opened the door. "You see me settin' in the window, you seen the door, don't you know how to turn a door knob?"

A certain man about- the saloons, a resident about Fury Town (that part of Mendocino lying above the present freeway) would stagger past Cinderella's house in the wee hours singing, with great volume and verve, the songs of his native land. Although she seemed never to sleep, this annoyed Cinderella. Every blessed night the late singer wended his weaving way along Main Street and then cut up through Evergreen Cemetery toward Little Lake Road.

Cinderella's chance came when the town was saddened by the death of a local citizen. A grave had been prepared for the funeral the next day, a grave near the path followed by the singer. Cinderella, properly bedecked in one of her sheets, secreted herself six feet down in the fresh-dug grave. It doubtless was a long wait, but worth it. As the bobbling warbler drew abreast of her ambush, Cinderella rose like a fiend from its pit with a tremendous "BOO!" or some such vociferation.

It is said that the cries of the doughty citizen, as he headed for the safety of his home, were heard in Little Lake—the then name of Willits and the name of the road which traverses East Mendocino.

Cinderella was part Comanche and it was the famed Comanche war whoop with which she frightened her prey as she leapt from the fresh-dug grave. No one

remembers why Mr. Halling had incurred Cinderella's undying enmity, but never again did he take the graveyard shortcut after dark.

Mr. Halling was not the village drunk, as I intimated, but a respected citizen of Swedish extraction who enjoyed singing songs in his native tongue as he wended his way though Evergreen Cemetery after dark. Singing Swedish songs for Dutch courage?

Ordinarily possessing Indian taciturnity, Cinderella had Comanche volume and vocabulary. Mendocino ladies provided social entertainment for themselves by giving teas. Uninvited, Cinderella always showed up, sitting silently in the background, but intent upon all that was said and done, a Comanche conscience. No one dared rouse her ire, for verbal retribution was swift—and loud.

Cinderella knew the Bible from Genesis through Revelations. No local person had her knowledge of Holy Scripture. Each Sunday her stern presence in the back pew pervaded the Presbyterian services. Woe be the pastor if he misquoted Holy Writ. Cinderella's stentorian stricture would ring out with correction which could be heard a block away.

Happy were the Romans whose Latin Mass escaped such correlative corrections!

(Editor's note; these stories were told to Don Burleson by Wanda MacFarland, who was born at Noyo and raised on the Mendocino Coast. These Stories were confirmed, with additions, by Walter Jackson and Nanny Escola, all of Mendocino)."

The Advocate News

What do we know about Cinderella Wallace? Although no photo exists of Cinderella, from the Kelley House archives a picture begins to emerge.

We know that she was born Cinderella Gilbert around 1845 in Illinois; her father was from Virginia and her mother from Kentucky and she may have been part Comanche. She arrived in Mendocino at the age of twenty alone and according to Don Burleson's account she was self-supporting, working as a maid for one of the "first families of Mendocino."

This was a time when there were few single women in what was then the wild and wooly logging town of Mendocino, with its nineteen bars and an equal number of what in polite company were referred to as "fashionable

Cinderella cont.

boarding houses". It was not a town for a single woman. No record is found for the next three years until an entry in the register of the Presbyterian Church on January 5, 1868, when Cinderella joined the church. Eighteen days later her name appeared again when she married Julius August Reuckert, a Prussian by birth who was employed at the Big River mill. Mr. Reuchert had been in Mendocino since 1856, just four years after the establishment of the Mill and Mendocino City. She was 23; he was 40.

In L.L. Paulson's Directory for 1874, August and Cinderella were listed as living in Mendocino on West Ukiah Street. The 1880 census listed August as a "night watchman" and Cinderella as his wife and her profession as "keeping house." On March 8, 1883, they moved uptown, buying property from Helen Lansing at 4471 East Main Street, just across the street from Evergreen Cemetery.

Sometime and for sure by 1885, August adopted the name of Wallace and retired from 20 years of service at the Big River Mill.

After falling ill in 1887, August aka "Wallace" Reuckert died from his illness on December 1, 1888.

Cinderella, better known as "Auntie Wallace", lived out the rest of her days in that house. She sold eggs and apples to the Grand Dames of Mendocino. Sitting in her window you could find her always watching, listening and wandering the streets at night. She died October 12, 1921.

From her obituary, presumably written by Auggie Heeser owner and publisher of the Beacon, he hints at what he knows of Auntie Wallace. "At one time she secured \$450.00 from Mr. Grindle and left Mendocino. All traces of her were lost for about a year and a half when she returned unannounced, having taken a trip through the east.

Outside of her local friends, she is said to have had no use for women. When in San Francisco, she always stopped at hotels where there were chiefly men staying.

She was bright and had a good memory up to the time of her death, being about 90 years old."

From an article in the Beacon on December 17, 1921 we learn that she gave almost her entire estate \$5,000 to \$6,000 to the San Anselmo Orphanage.

Kelley House Museum, Inc. Board of Directors

Bill Jacobson
President
Deena Zarlin
Vice-President
Linda Wilson
Treasurer
Joy Shaw
Secretary
Liz Brazill Chuck
Bush
Dennis Freeze
Dee Lemos
Loretta McCoard
Martin Simpson Mary
Travers

Docents

Judith Barry
Chuck Bush
Kathleen Cameron
Wallace Conroe Bob
Gerbi Gordon Gillingham
Doris Hammer Katy
Tahja
Don Kowalski
Dee Lemos
Rick Miller Martin
Simpson
Ruth Sparks Mary
Travers

Board Support

Jone Lemos Legal
Counsel
Martha Wagner Garden
Support

Staff

Megan-Coddington Smith -
Executive Director
Charlene Stevens -
~~Assistant to the~~
Executive Director
Carolyn Zeitler -
Vault Manager

Newsletter Editor

Joy Shaw

The 1880 census listed August as a "night watchman" and Cinderella as his wife and her profession as "Keeping house."

**Volunteer
Celebration on
the Lawn at
Kelley House -
Sept. 15, 2006**
(Just a few of
the many
volunteers who
attended the
barbecue)

**Kelley House Museum,
Inc.**

**P.O. Box 922
45007 Albion St.
Mendocino, CA 95460
707 937-5791**

e-mail:
kelleyhs@mcn.org

Website:
www.mendocinohistory.org

MUSEUM HOURS
**June-Sept. – Open 6 Days a
Week (closed Wed.) 11-3**
**Oct. –May – Open Friday
through Monday 11-3**

Research Office
Open Mon. – Fri.
9-4

Appointments for research
recommended



**Glorianna Carolers lend special
ambiance to the Christmas holidays at
Kelley House.**

Kelley House Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 922
Mendocino, CA 95460

Nonprofit
organization
u.s. postage paid
Mendocino, ca
Permit no. 11