$\mathbf{P}_{etaluma}$ Museum Association

Petaluma Historical Library & Museum

Preserving the Unique History of Petaluma and Providing Educational and Cultural Services to the Community

Quarterly Newsletter

CELEBRATING FAMILY

A Black History Month Exhibit

Sponsored by Petaluma Blacks for Community Development



Photo credit Paige Green

Winter/Spring 2021

Volume 31, Issue 1

On the Cover

by Faith Ross



Local photographer, Paige Green, offered to take photos of Petaluma families during the month of December as part of the Black History Month Exhibit. The family pictured above is the Reynolds family.

CELEBRATING FAMILY

The national theme for Black History Month 2021 is *The Family* – *Representation, Identity, and Diversity.* We at Petaluma Blacks for Community Development (PBCD) decided to share our celebration of Black History Month with the community by asking families from the community to become a part of our exhibit. We felt that Celebrating "Family" is perfect for 2021 given the 2020 year that we have had.

Families come in all shapes and colors – traditional, gay, mixed culture, single parent family, two or more generations; and other. We invited everyone to share some of their family with the community through pictures, family tree, stories, family heirlooms or art. With the pandemic raging, we knew that the museum may not be open to the public, so we decided to stage some of the exhibit in store fronts. You will be able to see parts of the exhibit while you stroll through downtown.

Our exhibit theme is *Celebrating Family*. It will include local families, some of the first black families in Petaluma, famous black families and a trivia area to see if you can guess the name of the black sitcom.

If the museum is not open to the public we will have a video of the exhibit to show on the museum website. Other activities are being planned for our Black History celebration; additional information will be available as we get closer to the opening date of January 29, 2021.

Petaluma Museum Association Board

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The Petaluma Museum Association Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to its members. Many thanks to all the contributors and the proofreaders and volunteers who help with mailings.

If you would like to contribute any news or items of interest to our newsletter, you can email mary@petalumamuseum.com Deadline for submission is March 15, 2021

Petaluma Museum Association 20 Fourth St. Petaluma, CA 94952

Message from the President

Clint Gilbert



As we move into 2021, much has changed at your museum, but its essence remains unchanged.

The subject of my last few letters has been the power and importance of the museum going digital. I've touted the advantages and I've repeatedly asked for your support to fund our work. Your generosity along with our efforts continue to reap benefits. Right now, you can virtually visit our current Suffrage Exhibit and purchase books by local authors in our online gift shop. Once we are open you will be able to schedule your visit while keeping our capacity within county guidelines.You'll be able to access additional exhibit information using a smartphone to avoid touching shared surfaces, and you'll have access to recorded talks that before would have involved gathering around a docent.

I know that using smartphones and computers brings anxiety to some and the excitement of discovery to others. Indeed, many of us forage for information the way other species forage for food! We are often stymied by an intolerance to feeling bored or by the simple act of stopping. Add to that the anxiety of FOMO — the fear of missing out and we can keep ourselves very busy! In fact boredom has almost been driven to extinction by technology and its enabling of access to information and entertainment.

I seem to have an innate drive to constantly seek out information, and then assemble it into narratives and stories to tell myself. It's a full-time job!

It's during this season of natural and imposed lockdowns when nature turns inward that I want to encourage us to be more comfortable with that feeling of boredom and stillness. It's not going to hurt us, but it may restore us. It reminds me how a little bit of hunger can sharpen the senses and allow a greater appreciation of our next tasty meal. One way I quiet the mind is spending time in nature, it can be both a refreshing experience and chance to practice being quiet. One way I focus is to change my surroundings. Most of us have experienced the value of taking a work project to the local coffee shop and how it can spur creativity.

Spaces, whether inside or out have the power to influence and inspire us, and to change our point of view.That was my thought the first time I entered our former Carnegie Library, and no matter how often I return, the effect remains.

In fact, I have a term for it: "Museum Time." It's a time to open the mind and let it find its way to new discoveries or to nowhere at all. It's often not what new thoughts I have but the dissolution of my current thoughts that I value.

A visit to our museum can be an opportunity to practice the art of sustained attention or "single tasking." It can also be a time to allow the mind to quiet and rest in the familiarity of our shared past. Back to a time when, as museum member and author Frances Rivetti recounts in her book, *Fog Valley Winter**: "Wild and earthy, a largely untamed Fog Valley in winter . . .When nights are long and days are short, the urge to batten down the hatches and isolate until spring keeps the crowds at bay. A magical time to roam . . ."

Once the museum reopens, our new systems will help keep you safe during your visits, and help you relax. Then, if you like, I encourage you to leave that phone in your pocket and lose yourself among the artifacts of simpler times and be carried along by the stillness of this magnificent space. You're among friends.

*Speaking of which, we invite you to relax and enjoy as Frances reads excerpts from her book *Fog Valley Winter*.





Petaluma History & Commentary by Skip Sommer, Historian

THE IRASCIBLE SAM CASSIDAY



AMUEL CASSIDAY WAS born in Ohio in 1830. The fourth of 13 children, he attended school in a log cabin and worked his parents' farm until age 17, when he apprenticed to learn the print trade. But Sam was lured away from printing by the discovery of gold in California. He

rode overland to the town of Rough and Ready, Nevada, in 1850 and worked the mines there for four years, becoming mildly successful. He then brought his gold to Sonoma County to farm the verdant Petaluma Valley, until he was able to purchase a share in The Petaluma Argus newspaper in 1861. By

1865, by then age 35, Sam Cassiday had become sole editor/publisher of the Argus. It was a license for him to emote.

Sam ran the Argus with a heavy hand and it was said of him, that

he "had untiring devotion to the literary profession" and also that "his analysis of disputed matters is keen. He did not suffer fools lightly and was a man of strong opinions." These were Civil War days in America, and Cassiday was a staunch Republican, a supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and rabidly anti-slavery. His opinions helped push Petaluma into the Lincoln camp, but the editor of the Santa Rosa Democrat. Thomas Thompson, was a Southern Democrat transplant whose caustic rants about Republicans were so ardent that he actually was responsible for Sonoma County being the only county in the State of California to vote Democratic, both in 1860 and in '64. (It was said that his

Sam Cassiday accused the Santa Rosa Democrat of "being on the edge of treason." Thompson defended, by stating that his paper "was as full of treason as a chestnut was, of meat." There were many back-and-forth charges flung over the war years, but when Thompson said he was "only trying to expose the rottenness of the Republican Party" and that the Argus had "printed some disgusting details" and that "fanaticism is yet on the rampage. Cassiday don't know which end is balanced." Well. Sam Cassiday replied that those comments were much SO "Senseless Twaddle!" (That quote has become Penngrove historian Chuck Lucas' very favorite literary comment).



Petaluma ca. 1868

paper had been financed with Confederate money). This abrasion evolved into an absolutely wonderful duel of diatribe between the two papers. (Fun!). But then, soon after Abraham Lincoln's assassination, things got really nasty between the two men and the two towns. Sam Cassiday's comment that Thompson was a (ready for this?) "brazen-faced, hypocritical treason-breathing tool of Jeff Davis," so

inflamed his Petaluma readers that our incredibly astute, well-prepared, tough and ominous Petaluma Militia (I'm exaggerating a shade here) saddled-up in April of 1865 and galloped off to Santa Rosa with the goal of (at least) burning down the newspaper office and "Gittin' that copperhead, Thompson!" The Civil War, it seems, was still smoldering in Sonoma County.

Fact is the boys were riding that day over dusty, dry Stony Point Road, and well ... there was the Washoe House, with cold beer by the keg. And, yes, you guessed it: the "Army" stopped for beer.

It wasn't the first time that temptation had caused an army to lose its will. And, gee, a hangover is better than getting shot, right? I'm guessing it was just a buncha fun-lovin' guys with their uniforms and their guns and hosses, out for a Sunday hoot. They never got to Santa Rosa that day, but the event has, forever, been labeled The Battle of Washoe House!

However, our Sam Cassiday story doesn't end there. Sam still had farming in his blood and when, in 1869 he was shown the opportunity to lease 11,000 acres near Salinas in Monterey County, he sold the Argus to Henry Westin, and took the gamble to raise sheep. Sam had married Cynthia Denman of the very influential Denman family of Petaluma and the Denmans had made major money farming in Two Rock and so (Sam opined) it may be a better occu pation than the newspaper grind. Could it have been the



Washoe House ca. 1868

influence of his brother-in-law Ezekial Denman, that pushed him into leaving Petaluma and his literary trade? We'll not know that. But, while in Salinas twiddling his fingers, Sam Cassiday passed the bar exam and became a lawyer! All this, while writing his *History of Sonoma County*, to be published in 1889.

Well, the sheep raising/attorney gigs lasted exactly 10 years and Sam and his family returned to Petaluma in 1879 to once again take the reins of the Argus. It is unknown if the feud with Tom Thompson was any factor in Sam's hiatus to Monterey County, or where Thompson was by Sam's 1879 return, but the literary bug bites deep and Sam Cassiday had found that sheep weren't really all that engaging.

Also in 1879, the nation, saw the opening of both Madison Square Garden and the New York Stock Exchange on Broad Street, Thomas Edison debuted something he would call the "light bulb," milk was sold in glass bottles for the first time and ominously, in the southern states, the Ku Klux Klan was gaining strength. And it was in 1879 that newspaper reporter Henry Stanley left for the Congo to meet-up therein with Dr. Livingstone (he "presumed"). Other interesting names in the news included: Mary Baker Eddy, Johannes Brahms, "Doc" Holliday, Henrik Ibsen and Wild Bill Hickok.

Samuel Cassiday, Esquire, was mysteriously not given credit for writing his book. In fact, he was not even paid for the effort and only one page of The History of Sonoma County 1889 (737 pages) even mentioned his name! Cassiday had become steeled to misfortune, but this was too big a blow and caused "his declining years to be embittered." Sam died in 1904 and the pallbearers at his Petaluma funeral included such local names as E.S. Lippitt, C. Poehlmann and Charles Dillon. Sam is buried in his family plot in Petaluma's Cypress Hill Cemetery.

Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY)

by Terry Park

HE THOUGHT BEHIND the acronym had been around for some time before it formally appeared in a couple of 1980 publications. The idea may have begun as far back as the early development of towns when there were no or few zoning laws addressing the mix of business with residences. As towns evolved, so did ordinances, but what to do with an established business now located among residences? In many cases the business was allowed to continue until it closed.

Petaluma had numerous businesses in neighborhoods from as early as 1870 and some continue to this day including Mario and John's bar, Fairwest Grocery, and Ray's Deli.

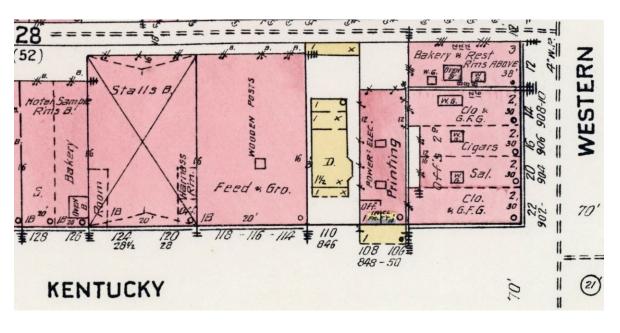
Many were neighborhood mom and pop grocery stores both a necessity and convenience before larger stores such as Safeway and Purity came to Petaluma. However, there were businesses, now long forgotten, which probably would have evoked NIMBY, and rightfully so.

There are about 10 such businesses which will comprise a series of newsletter articles. Not many photos are available so Sanborn maps will be used to identify the locations; you can find them at the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum and the History Room at the Petaluma Library. The Sanborn Company began producing fire maps for cities and towns in 1867 providing information critical to fire insurance underwriters and today useful for researchers. The size, building material, and occupancy of the building and adjacent buildings enabled the underwriter to evaluate the chance of fire and its effects. Sometimes the name of the business was included.

A slice of the 1910 Sanborn map at Western Avenue and Kentucky Street shows businesses along with the following expanded occupancy abbreviations:

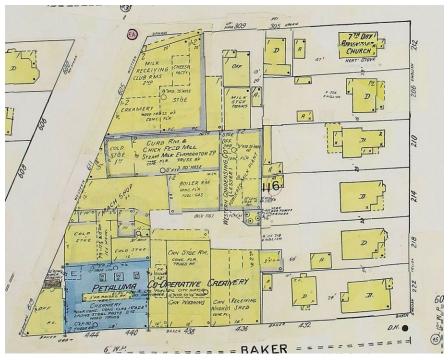
Rest (Restaurant) Clo (Clothing) GFG (Gentleman's Fine Goods) Off (Office Sal (Saloon) D (Dwelling) Gro (Grocery) S (Store) The large X symbol is a stable or barn.

Most of these businesses were located in one neighborhood starting at Bodega Avenue and Baker Street proceeding south along Baker Street and Upham Street and ending on English Street. Along this corridor were hatcheries, breweries, gas station, soda and bottling works, nursery, second-hand store, and a creamery.



The creamery, of course, is the Petaluma Cooperative Creamery, created in 1913; the city allowed them to build on an empty half block. Over time the need to expand resulted in the purchase and demolition of five of the seven dwellings on the block along with the Seven Day Adventist Church. I believe the creamery owns the remaining two dwellings.

Up until the creamery began to pick up milk in tank trucks at the dairy farm the neighborhood did not need an alarm clock: the milk arrived in flat bed trucks and a crew of men armed with hammers struck each milk can lid a couple of times to loosen, creating a non-stop cacophony of sound. I am sure neither the city nor the neighbors foresaw this.



Petaluma Cooperative Creamery, 1949

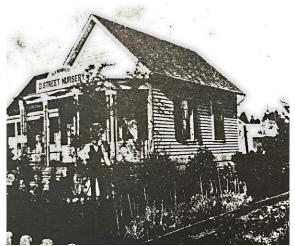
The Eucalyptus Wizard

First in a series about neighborhood businesses by Terry Park

DURING THE 75 years of Spanish and Mexican California rule, some 250 species of plants were introduced, but over the next 55 years, up to 1900, over 9,000 species and varieties of fruit, cereals, forage, weeds, and ornamentals were introduced. It was largely the nurseryman who brought in this flood of plants,

and Petaluma's easy steamboat connection to San Francisco insured that it early shared in the bonanza of new plants.

Petaluma had a number of early nurserymen; however, some resided out of town, including William Sexton on Eastman Lane, J.L. Mock on Skillman Lane, and William Howard Pepper on Pepper Lane. Pepper did have a tree depot and nursery on the commercial corner of



Residence and Nursery of W.A. Reinholdt, D St (1897 Illustrated Atlas of Sonoma County)

Washington and Liberty Street on which he built

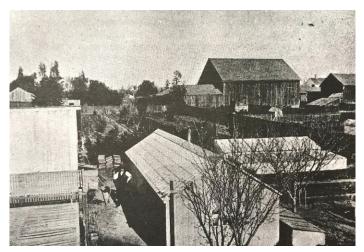
Pepper Kindergarten in 1893, which resided there until about 1959. In 1962 Redwood Empire Savings and Loan occupied the lot.

Wilhelm (William) A. Reinholdt, born in Germany in 1854, came to America in 1879 during the time of social, economic, and political upheaval in

the newly unified Germany. In 1887 he established the D Street Nursery (today the 826 D Street residence between Eighth Street and Brown Court). By 1905 he moved the business to 605 Petaluma Boulevard North (todav Northbay Kitchen and Bath) and in 1908 sold it to Henry Schnabel of San Francisco. Reinholdt worked in nurseries since he was fifteen and before he arrived in Petaluma had worked at nurseries in San Francisco and Oakland. His

inventory included fruit trees, berry bushes, flowers, and the rarest shrubs and exotics known to

The Eucalyptus Wizard.....from page 7



D St. Nursery of W.A. Reinholdt (1897 Illustrated Atlas of Sonoma County)

foreign climes. He was known for reliability, integrity, and for correct labeling.

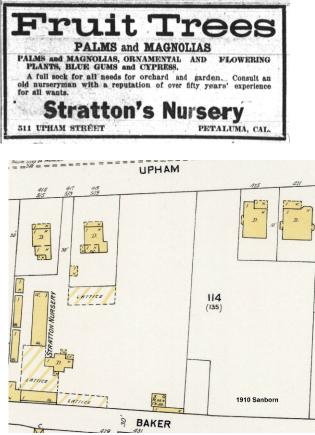


Sanborn map of D St Nursery

He raised and shipped thousands of Monterey cypress trees and eucalyptus, but the title of "Eucalyptus Wizard" belonged to William Abdire Stratton.

William Stratton, a native of New York state, arrived in Petaluma in 1864 and established one of the earliest Petaluma nurseries in 1870. On his

nearly two-acre lot he created an elaborate system of hothouses, greenhouses, experimental beds, and growing trees, plants, and shrubs. He is credited with producing the first eucalyptus trees in northern California and also some of the first cypress trees in California. He believed the eucalyptus tree could be the answer to the disappearing hardwood. It has the strength and toughness of hickory and is adopted to all purpose of furniture and cabinet work. In 10 years, it can grow to 125 feet and 20 inches in diameter; one acre could support 600 trees. By 1875 he advertised having 500,000 seedlings for sale and over the years sold millions with sales to all parts of the world. He was a known authority, gave lectures, and perhaps he and Jack London, a noted advocate of the tree, had discussions and perhaps some sales took place.



1910 Sanborn map of Stratton Nursery

Stratton maintained the nursery until he died at the age of 90 in 1926 and was noted as "the Burbank of Petaluma" in reference to Luther Burbank of Santa Rosa fame whose first job in Sonoma County was working for Stratton. Stratton was active in the community and became president of

The Eucalyptus Wizard.....from page 8

the board of trustees (mayor) in 1897. He also recorded rainfall and temperatures and noted trends for the town. He was laid to rest in Cypress Hill Cemetery where he planted some of the first trees and scrubs.

Some species of eucalyptus trees can live to be 250 years so many of Stratton's seedlings could still be present today in Sonoma County.

Also in this neighborhood, **M.F. Tunzi**, a successful dairy rancher east of town, purchased the property in 1927 and created 12 building lots on which 12 stucco bungalows would be built with matching garage facing the new street named

Tunzi Parkway. Tunzi Parkway connected Upham and Baker Streets and also cut in half the longest block in town, Bodega Avenue to Stanley Street, which the city had unsuccessfully tried in the past. The paper notes a beautiful park, 6 x 60 feet, with a light on each end at the center of the drive. An artistic goldfish pond and fountain which was planned to always be in operation occupied the center. Regretfully the park today does not include the pond or fountain.■

*This series will continue in our next issue when we learn about a little-known hatchery right next to Stratton Nursery.

CREATIVE RELIEF GRANT for Organizations (CARGO)

In July of 2020, the Petaluma Museum Association submitted an application for a grant under the COVID-

19 Arts Relief Grant for Organizations. The museum qualified for this grant as a Sonoma County-based nonprofit arts organization and in November was awarded \$3000.00.

The COVID-19 Arts Relief Grant for Organizations (CARGO) Program had been established as a partnership between the Community Foundation Sonoma County and Creative Sonoma, to provide relief to Sonoma County creative organizations that sustained economic losses due to COVID-19 and the resulting business and community health restrictions. The purpose of the grant was to help sustain Sonoma County's creative organizations through the challenge we are facing in order to continue serving as a source of community cohesion and inspiration as we navigate our new, shared future.

Through this grant, the museum has been able to update our website, bring our museum store online, train board members and staff on social media and fundraising, purchase much needed hand sanitizer for the museum and purchase equipment for audio services for our visitors.

We owe a huge thank you to Creative Sonoma for selecting the PMA as a recipient of the grant and look forward to sharing all we've been able to do with our membership.



Museum Collection Update Solange Russek PMA Collection Manager

Collections Highlight: The Dora Peterson Weather Journals 1886-1929

Many PMA alumni might remember the "Weather Journals of Dora Peterson" that were donated back in the 1980s. These journals were stored in bins and sent to the offsite storage for safe-keeping.

Last year, as Collections volunteers were performing inventories of our ledgers and journals, Dora's five journals surfaced! We brought them back to the Museum to scan at high resolution. Our team of transcribers went to work to type out all of the entries as they were written. We thank Betty Soldate and Barbara Russell-Cambra for spending time helping the PMA plow our 19th century collections into the 21st century!

Dora was born in 1865 and attended Wilson School off Bodega Highway. Dora earned good marks for her writing at the age of five. Her family ran a small farm where she grew up, and she eventually took over when her father died in 1904. Dora wrote practically every day, noting the weather and activities from the morning, afternoon and into the evening. Her journals ranged from 1886 to 1929. She died in 1931.

It is rare to have such comprehensive writings chronicling farm life in Petaluma, especially by a woman who recorded more than 20 years of her life on the farm. Dora never married and eventually transferred the property to a cousin in 1929. We are sharing a few pages from her 1886 journal.

Just Thyrad piel Hesterday it was dry and we dried our clothes I all day, with a few showers. the terday morning themaras and mille St. Helena deared away this me ung, it is quite minde Friday-Rained all day very disagree at 2 Fristay - 6 londy and windy. Runie and 7 wrather, me wally long pain for this tim to the School house this afternoon, Exercises may 14 Salunday It was clear all day by very 5 Manday - Yestuday was very pleasant Mine Letty was here This offer wor. and I want to blurch. Today it may clou. 18 Sunday bleav and windy mut to day with a little mind, finished 21 Wednesday This morning was a to foreburies, it was pleasant Saluday. but has cleared off a gam. Minday and took the henery from the bechive in the of were tory days, very warme. I Wednesday, yesterday was ranny and windy. 22 Thursday - Frog gy and cloudy this it is quite windy, the sky is not clear yet. Man it cleared off and was quite pleasant is spending the day with Minnie. afternoon. Unnie and I saw a won day . 8 Thursday - a clindy day very come and yes terday afternoon. a man hamesuel 9 Friday - This morning it was showing and horse to the higgy and went, after afternoon it has rained steady. 24 Saturday - I I was quite name to day 12 Monday - It was and - pleasant yesterday Judy cleared off. yes lunday it was the sa y so madil not go to blunch, Fred and & went infecto Mainies I want up to Minnie's today and gathe in the after noon, this morning it began lot of brantiful ferres. rain again and is cloudy still. Tuesday - Wint to town this morning . it 15 Hestinisday Thursday - It is raming brue blandy all day. was cloudy ages his

Dora Peterson Weather Journal—1886 Partial transcription on following page

1886

The state of the weather and a few important and unimportant events and facts.

MARCH:

We had a very heavy hail storm in 2nd of March, snow on the mountains.

26 Friday — A very pleasant day, nearly finished cleaning house, no wind to speak of, no clouds, no fog.

27 Saturday— A lovely day, very little wind.

Finished cleaning house all to the _____

29 Monday — Yesterday was a very warm day, went to the Union Meeting at the theater. This morning was foggy, cleared off at 10, very pleasant since, very little wind.

_____ gooseberries and _____ this afternoon and washed this morning.

30 Tuesday — Cloudy all day with a little wind this afternoon.

31 Wednesday — Last night it rained, cloudy allday beginning to rain this morning.

APRIL:

1 Thursday — Cloudy all day with a few showers, the clouds have cleared away this morning; it is quite windy and cold.

2 Friday — Cloudy and windy. Annie and I went to the schoolhouse this afternoon exercises very interesting. 5 Monday —Yesterday was very pleasant,Minnie, Fred and I went to church. Today it wascloudy all day with a little wind. Finished

______ the gooseberries. It was pleasant on Saturday. Papa took the honey from the bee hive in the afternoon.

7 Wednesday — Yesterday was rainy and windy.Today it is quite windy, the sky is not clear yet,Momma is spending the day with Minnie.

8 Thursday — A cloudy day, very calm and mild.
9 Friday — this morning it was stormy and this afternoon it has rained steady.

12 Monday — it was not pleasant yesterday, so we did not go to church. Fred and I went up to Minnie's in the afternoon. This morning it began to rain again and is cloudy still.

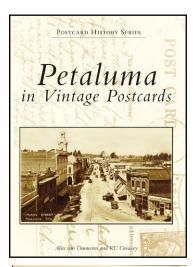
15 Wednesday Thursday — It is raining still. Yesterday it was dry and we dried our clothes yesterday morning. There was snow on Mt St Helena.

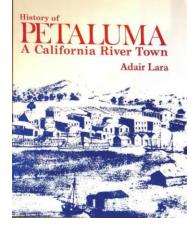
16 Friday — Rained all day, very disagreeable weather, unusually long rain for this time of the year.

17 Saturday — It was clear all day but very windy Lottie _____ was here this afternoon.
18 Sunday — Clear and windy, went to church.
21 Wednesday — This morning was a little foggy but has cleared off again. Monday and Tuesday were lovely days, very warm.

Vísít our Museum Gíft Shop Onlíne

The museum gift shop offers a selection of books and past memorabilia. Our current online selection is limited but is set to expand in the future. We offer shipping anywhere within continental United States. Due to the stay at home order only online purchases are available at this time. Visit our online gift shop at https://www.petalumamuseum.com/gift-shop/





Petaluma in Vintage Postcards by Alice van Ommeren and K.C. Greaney

Incorporated in 1858, Petaluma rapidly became a thriving commercial and major transportation center. This carefully curated selection of vintage postcards illustrates Petaluma's identity and pride as it grew from a strategic port location provisioning San Francisco during the Gold Rush to an agricultural and manufacturing town in the late 1800s. After the turn of the 20th century, Petaluma focused on the poultry industry and proclaimed itself "The World's Egg Basket." The cast-iron storefronts and iconic buildings, such as the Carnegie Library, post office, and silk mill, are some of the impressive landmarks constructed during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Images of a busy waterfront with a bustling downtown surrounded by Victorian homes, beautiful churches, and public parks demonstrate the town's development and prosperity.

History of Petaluma - A California River Town by Adair Lara

A history of the town of Petaluma, California from its beginnings in 1852 through meteoric reinvention of itself as the egg wonder of the world in the 1920s. Historical photos and amazing stories, plus a walking tour of the downtown. This is considered to be the most authoritative narrative of Petaluma's story, and a must-have for local history buffs.



Petaluma Wetlands Field Guide

An exclusive Petaluma Wetlands Alliance publication, the field guide is spiralbound, and at 5.5" x 8.5", can easily slip into an oversized pocket or your backpack, the perfect companion for your camera and binoculars on hiking and birding adventures. Durable and colorful, it describes what the Petaluma Wetlands look like, where they are located—including useful maps—and size, geology, climate, and ecology. You will find a brief history of the area, its park and public trail systems, and this informative field guide also explains the vital role of sedimentation in the wetlands and marshes that make up the Petaluma Wetlands.



Alexander J. "Zan" Stark (1889-1967) "Public Library - Petaluma Calif." Real photo postcard #738, March 1941

You have made the Petaluma Museum a part of your life. Now, we hope you will consider making the Petaluma Museum Association a part of your lasting legacy by leaving a gift in your will or trust.

Your bequest will ensure that the PMA remains a vibrant organization that welcomes our community in the historic Carnegie Library Building and passes down our history to the next generation of Petalumans. To make the PMA a part of your estate plans, contact your financial planner. To find out more about how your will or trust might sustain our educational mission, contact Clint Gilbert, PMA Board President, at <u>clint@petalumamuseum.com</u>

Help the museum and reduce your taxes!

New rules for charitable deductions: The renewed COVID Relief bill continues to allow folks who do not itemize deductions to deduct up to \$300 (single/joint filers) and \$250 (married filing separately) in 2021. As well, folks who do not itemize can deduct up to \$300 (single/join filers), and \$250 (married filing separately). Those who do itemize can deduct contributions up to 100% of their gross income (previous limit was 60%). . A qualified charitable contribution is a charitable contribution (i) made in cash, (ii) for which a charitable contribution deduction is otherwise allowed, and (iii) that is made to certain publicly supported charities. The PMA is a qualified publicly supported charity. Our Federal Tax ID is #94-2826729. Please consult your tax advisor.

Thank you to our 2020 Annual Appeal Donors

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & CATEGORIES

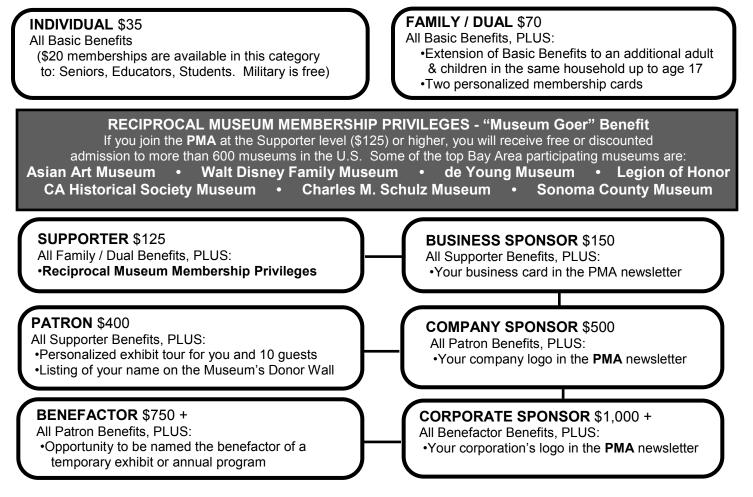
BASIC BENEFITS OF ALL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

•Discounted admission to temporary exhibits

- (admission to the library & permanent exhibits is free to all) •Reserved seating at the Butter & Egg Parade
- •Subscription to and acknowledgement in the **PMA** newsletter

•Personalized membership card

- •10% off Museum store merchandise •10% off gift memberships
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- Invitations to previews & receptions



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Memories from the Photo Archives

"We're all in our places with bright shiny faces!" School children waiting to come in for "Book Week" Circa 1940s



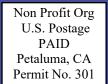
"Looking for the fine print" Circa 1950s







Petaluma Museum Association Petaluma Historical Library & Museum 20 Fourth St. Petaluma, CA 94952 www.petalumamuseum.com



Change Service Requested

PMA Issues a Call for Candidates

The Petaluma Museum Association, a dynamic group dedicated to preserving and celebrating our city history, seeks qualified candidates for its board of directors for two-year terms. Directors are expected to advance the financial stability, organization strength, and cultural relevance of the PMA through active attendance at board and committee meetings and through acting as PMA representatives in their other community activities.

The PMA is looking for potential board members with experience in:

- fundraising
- grant writing
- public relations / community outreach
- marketing / merchandising
- event and exhibit planning
- community-wide education
- architectural history
- a passion for Petaluma history

Deadline for applicants is March 15, 2021. Download an application from the PMA website at www.petalumamuseum.com.