



CLARKE MUSEUM

Spring 2013

DONKEY DAYS: HISTORY COMES ALIVE EVERY YEAR AT THE HISTORIC FORT HUMBOLDT

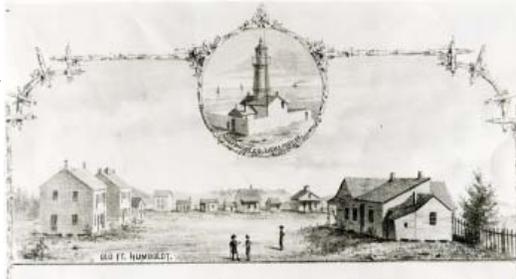


History will come alive at Fort Humboldt on Saturday, April 27th as Ulysses Grant and Seth Kinman ride into town while the mechanical steam donkeys and Gypsy locomotives are steamed up.

The steam donkey was invented by Eureka businessman and mill owner John Dolbeer. It was used to move logs from the woods to the mill site. Members of the Timber Heritage Association will be on hand to steam up the historic Falk shay locomotive and provide free train rides. The Falk was used in logging operations near the long-gone

town of Falk at the headwaters of the Elk River.

There will be a full day of living history activities for all ages at this historic site. Life at Fort Humboldt from the mid to late 1800s will come alive as volunteers from Fort Humboldt and the Clarke Museum will perform historical reenactments. Included in the day's festivities are black powder gun fire demonstrations, army camp life and a surgeon's station along with many more exceptional representations of life in America in the 1860s.



The Wiyot Tribe is performing a demonstration Brush Dance and Humboldt State University students will hold a logging contest. Hot dogs and snacks will be served to help raise much needed funds for these community minded organizations. Historical reenactments, exhibits, displays, steam donkey in action, "hit and miss" gas engines, and drag saws - this is a day you don't want to miss! Admission is free. The event will be held rain or shine and will only be canceled if required for safety reasons. For more information contact Fort Humboldt at (707)445-6547.

THANK YOU CITY OF EUREKA



The City of Eureka has generously sponsored the Clarke Museum for 33 years. Today they represent the Museum's biggest donor and we can't thank the current and past City Councils and Eureka city residents enough. Your support allows us to continue our mission of presenting and preserving Humboldt County history for locals, tourists and students alike.

The Mission of the Clarke Historical Museum is the acquisition, preservation and educational display of objects relating to the history of Eureka and Humboldt County, in order to further appreciation by residents, visitors and school children of the area's rich and diverse heritage, and to promote increased visitation to our historic region.

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VETERANS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY



Humboldt County residents have patriotically performed their duty in times of national conflict. In honor of these local veterans, we are exhibiting uniforms and other memorabilia connected with these local heroes with a special contribution from the Karuk Tribe on Karuk veterans. If you are a veteran or would like to come pay your respects to these service men and women, please join us on Memorial Day, May 27th as we are hosting a shake a veteran's hand event from 12-3pm.

Photo to the Left Lilly Marie (Candy) Olson was a recruiter for the Women's Army Corp during WWII. She married Galen Russel Olsen, a third generation Humboldter who was born in 1922 to pioneers Oscar and Marie Bush Olsen. He enlisted in the Navy during WWII. They established Olsen's Heating and Sheetmetal in Eureka. Galen was a board member of the North Coast Vintage Aviation Society.

PHARMACIES IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

When visiting the Museum, have you ever noticed the beautiful mahogany cabinets with drawers labeled with various names? Arsenic and Sassafras are just a few labels you can find. This cabinet is from Bohmansson's Drug Co. and is a feature of an exhibit currently on display at the Clarke Museum. Artifacts on display include bottles, photos, and measuring equipment related to local pharmacies in Humboldt County. Included is the history of the Bohmansson family, which is chronicled below.

Robert Hugo Bohmansson was born in Kristianstad, Sweden, in 1865. He attended the Stockholm Pharmacological College, graduating in the 1880s and emigrated to the US in 1888. Three of his brothers also came the US. He spent several years in the Nebraska-South Dakota area, working in drugstores, before spending a year walking(!) to SF. Perhaps the presence there of his older brother, William, encouraged this journey. He arrived in SF in the early 1890s, acquired a California certificate as a pharmacist and, eventually, a drugstore on Folsom St. He met another Swedish immigrant, Amelia Anna Lundblad, who became his wife. They started a family before Robert decided to move to the North Coast. He arranged the purchase of the Arcata Drugstore in 1899, the business run by an intermediary until the Bohmansson family was able to make the journey northward. Robert engaged in a partnership with local pharmacist, William Keller, which eventually included the purchase of the Blue Lake drugstore. Eventually the Keller-Bohmansson Drug Company purchased the Fitzell drugstore located at 3rd & F Street, Eureka, in the Weck building. Weck, also a druggist, was Fitzell's father-in-law. The Weck building was constructed in 1884 and torn down in 1949.



Interior of Arcata Drug Store c. 1890

Bohmansson and Keller parted ways with Keller getting both the Arcata and Blue Lake establishments. Robert operated the Bohmansson Drug Co. store until his death in 1938. His wife died in 1929. Hit by a car, she had a fatal heart attack several weeks later, still confined at home as a result of the auto injury. Robert was known as a genial, gentle man, a bibliophile with many interests. Among his papers is a short essay he wrote titled: "Kindness conquers the world." He and Amelia had three children: Elsa, Greta and Ruskin. All three graduated from EHS. Ruskin, named after the popular 19thc. English writer and poet, John Ruskin, made his life in the SF area. Greta studied to be a schoolteacher and then eloped with a local man and never resided in Eureka again. Elsa remained single. Following her father's sudden death at home of a heart attack in 1938, she took over the drugstore, selling it in 1942 to the store manager. She left Eureka during or shortly after WWII. Greta also left Humboldt County, both she and Elsa gravitating to the SF Bay area.



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A.S. BATES RIFLE

Items in the Clarke collection arrive by many paths. The following is the story of how one item, a battered, non-descript pioneer rifle belonging to Augustus Seymour Bates, found its way to us.

Almost nothing is known of A.S. Bates' life prior to his arrival in HC. What we do know was provided in a letter from his granddaughter, Daisy Kiler, written when Daisy was 91 years old, to the Westminster Historical Society (Orange County). A.S. Bates was born in Massachusetts in 1805. Both of his parents died when he was still a child and he was raised by an aunt and uncle. He became a cabinet maker and at some point moved to Chicago where he made caskets for an undertaking concern. In 1850, he married Catherine Conway. Two years later, the couple made the lengthy boat journey to San Francisco via NYC. According to Daisy's letter, the Bates spent little time in both SF and Eureka before reaching Union (Arcata) however this appears to be a telescoping of a series of events from 1852 to 1854 that ends with Bates purchasing a ranch on the Mad River seven to eight miles from Union. Bates supplanted the small log cabin on the property by building a "comfortable home" from a huge redwood on his property. Mr. Bates raised cattle while Mrs. Bates took in roomers and boarders. Riding parties came out from town to have dinner and spend the day for an outing. A trail that led to some mines passed through the Bates property and the drivers often stopped for meals. Little was made from serving meals, for food was high, costing \$50 for a sack of flour and \$1.00 for a dozen eggs as all food had to be transported via mule back. Childless arriving in HC, the Bates had two children in their time along the Mad River; Elizabeth (Lizzie) b. 1858 and Augustus Seymour, Jr. (Gussie) b. 1860.



postcard from the Clarke's collection

On the morning of March 26, 1862, Bates left his house at 10AM to "investigate the cattle." Shortly thereafter, a shot or shots were heard, one of which Catherine knew not to be from Bates' gun. Arrows were fired "into the house" whose residents left hurriedly, making their way to Daby's Ferry, two miles closer to Union. Daisy's description of the attack must have come, for the most part, from her mother as she was not yet four years old at the time. Bledsoe's *Indian Wars of the Northwest* elaborates: The attack on the Bates ranch was part of a general 1862 Native American uprising in the area south of Hoopa which worked its way southward toward Union. On the morning of the attack, the Bates' home had numerous visitors. On the 24th, a "group of citizens" removed the Goodman family from its home and took them to the Bates' ranch. Their home was burned that same day. The following day, the 25th, a day before the attack on the Bates' ranch, the Hanlon home, also vacated, was burned. It should be noted that the Native American modus operandi did not generally include murdering women and children. They looted, burned the buildings and killed the cattle. Bledsoe notes a Mr. B. Croghan also in the Bates residence at the time of the attack. All escaped. The body of A.S. Bates was retrieved the following day. He had been killed by a bullet to the neck and also had an arrow wound in his body. A meeting held in Union shortly after the attack noted that: "Every dwelling east of the Hoopa trail for a distance of 50 miles had been burnt by the Indians." On June 6, 1862, a Native American attack at Daby's Ferry resulted in the shooting and death of Mrs. George Danskin, whose widowed husband Catherine Bates later married. Two years later, two ranchers gunned down a Native American who was armed with a firearm that proved to be the A.S. Bates rifle which was eventually donated to the Clarke by Frank Kiler, Daisy's son.

The Clarke Historical Museum Newsletter is published Quarterly
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THANK YOU ROTARY CLUB OF EUREKA



The Clarke Museum is a recent recipient of the Sign and Ruth Smith Rotary grant, which funded the purchase of conservation and preservation equipment for the museum's collections. We were fortunate to be able to purchase dehumidifiers, fans, and environmental monitors for the collection storage areas. This will help ensure that our community's priceless history is not susceptible to mold growth. The museum also purchased security cameras

and conservation equipment including a museum grade vacuum cleaner to use when cleaning objects. We understand that there are many worthy non-profits in Humboldt County, and the museum is greatly honored that the Rotary Club of Eureka decided to help us preserve our unique collections. Thank you!

AND A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR SPONSORS

If you have attended one of the Clarke's fundraising events you may have noticed a big sponsors sign. Please take a moment to read who is sponsoring the Museum and let them know you appreciate their support the next time you shop at their store. Silent auction items are often donated, and monetary sponsorship for an event funds the operational expenses for the museum. This means that the museum's doors are open for visitors and school tours another day. Please support us by shopping locally and supporting our sponsors. Thanks for making sure Humboldt history is a priority for our community.

DAYS OF GENERAL GRANT

In the 1930s, Humboldt County celebrated "The Days of General Grant". The event, held in downtown Eureka and at Redwood Acres fair ground, featured parades and entertainment. Local residents and merchants were encouraged to wear old time clothes, and decorate their businesses. Men grew beards and mustaches – and were fined if they didn't!

Photo to the Right local barber Ben Shoemaker regularly played General Grant. In the photo, he is joined by Harry Selvage as Robert E. Lee and Chetwood Schwarkoph as Abe Lincoln.



GIFT SHOP

The gift shop at the Clarke is constantly stocking new goodies. Original serigraph prints from local artist John Wesa, earrings and necklaces from Happy Woman Jewelry, lotions and lip balms from Ewe So Dirty, old fashioned recipe books, and handcrafted bookmarks from local artist Juliane Lovich are just a few of the new items ready for Mother's Day shoppers. Shopping in the gift shop helps support the museum, local artists, and authors. Don't forget, as a member you receive a 10% discount on all products in the gift shop.

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THANK YOU NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Abelleira, Elisa | Giampaolo, Marie | McKenna, Lynn | Skelly, Elaine |
| Albee, Gary & Janice | Glen, David | McKinleyville High School | Slack, John |
| Anderson, Marilyn | Gross, David | McPherson, Susan & Bob | Slack, Lisa |
| Berman, Joan | Hansen, Joseph & Anges | Mendelsohn, Pam | Slack, M. Kristin |
| Berry, Craig | Hartin, Arlene | Miller Farms | Slack, Rick |
| Biehn, Mary & Earl | Hash, Beccy & Dave | Miller, Audrey | Smith, Connie |
| Black, Patricia | Hauser, Dan & Donna | Moore, Jack | Smith-Ferri, Sherrie |
| Eureka Books | Hilfiker, Anita & William | Morrill, William | Humboldt Gem and
Mineral Society |
| Lost Coast Brewery | Hill, Constance | Nash, Jack & Nona | Stevens, Margaret |
| Bronchetti, Tom & Margaret | Hoard, Ken | Palmbeck, Virginia | Tahja, Katy & David |
| Cerny, Frank & Libby | House, Leland & Christine | Parker, Laurel | Taylor, John |
| Christensen, Dr. Norm &
Sally | Humboldt County
Elections Staff | Perry, Debora | The Humboldt
California Association |
| H.E. Pierson Company | Hunt, Rich & Carolyn | Person, Helen | Traphagen, Martha |
| Crow, Kay | Johnson, Ken & Pamm | Phegley, Milton and Barney | Wahlund, Mock |
| Del Grande, Mrs. Virginia | Johnston, Peter & Jennifer | Times Printing | Wagner, Eris |
| Devons, Amanda | Jones, Carolyn | Rhude, Paula | Ward, Gail & Larry |
| Dickson, Douglas & Joanne | Klarnar, Kara | Rich, William & Kimberly | Wellman, Lonnie |
| Drake, Adrienne | Ladwig, James | Risling, Mary | Wilson, Jane & Richard |
| Dvorak, Judith | Largent, Pamela & David | Savage, Mark & Teri | Winter, Storme |
| Evenson, William | Mahler, Donald | Schimps, Erich | Ziegler, Gretchen |
| Fernandez, Dina | Mahler, Donald | Schonfisch, Marianne | |
| Fullmer, Ralph & Shirley | Marks, Seth | Hydesville School | |
| Genger, Margot | Marseille, Tanya | Jacoby Creek School | |
| Gerstacker, Dee & Hans | McBride, Aida | Sheppard, Jack & Paula | |
| | McBride, Suzanne | Shimasaki, Jean | |

A memorial fund was established honoring Edwina "Eddie" Hannah. Eddie was a lifelong Eureka resident. With her husband Tom, she contributed a great deal to the museum. Her philanthropic work and love for family and friends will be much missed in our community.

The following people have donated to the museum in her honor.

Wendy Wahlund and Ben Sheppard

Tom Hannah

If you would like to contribute to this fund please contact the museum at (707) 443-1947.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

April 27th & 28th, 10am – 5pm
Donkey Days

May 4th, 6pm -9pm
Arts Alive: Scott Brown
Eureka Then and Now book signing

May 26th, 11am – 2pm
Special Hours for Kinetic Sculpture Race

May 27th, 12am – 3pm
Shake Hands with a Veteran

August 24th, 12-4:30pm
Salmon BBQ

FROM A COOKBOOK IN THE CLARKE'S COLLECTION CRAB MOLD

Heat in saucepan until bubbly:

1 can mushroom soup

1 envelope Knox gelatin dissolved in 3 Tbsp. water

Remove from heat and stir in:

1 cup chopped celery

½ cup chopped green onion

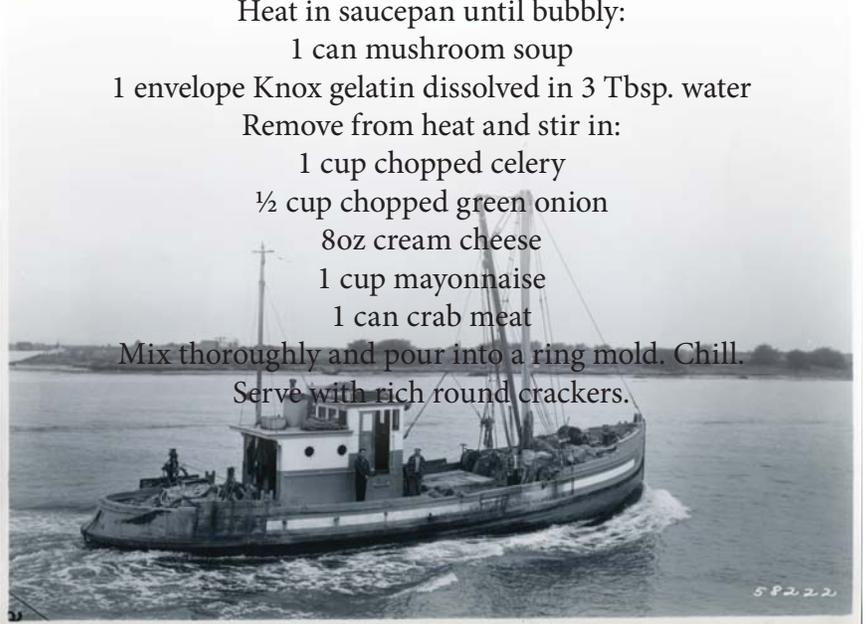
8oz cream cheese

1 cup mayonnaise

1 can crab meat

Mix thoroughly and pour into a ring mold. Chill.

Serve with rich round crackers.





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