



CLARKE MUSEUM

AUTUMN 2015

2015 Clarke Museum Salmon BBQ & Street Festival

It's time again for another Salmon BBQ fundraising event at the Clarke Historical Museum. The event will be taking place in front of the museum on **October 10** from **12:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.** On the menu is roasted salmon, fry bread, coleslaw, baked beans, and a soft drink, all for the low price of \$20 per plate. In addition to the fabulous food, there will also be several vendors selling



Native American gifts and jewelry. The street in front of the museum will be closed for the day, so celebrants can spread out and enjoy themselves.

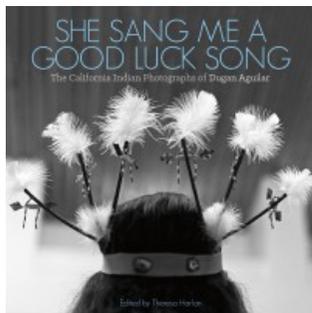
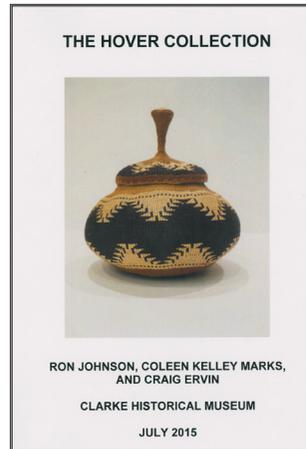
Salmon is an important, indispensable local food source. When Chinook and Coho salmon reach breeding age, they return to the rivers and streams to spawn before they die. Salmon harvesting has long been a fundamental feature of life in Humboldt County. Historically, local Native American groups such as the Yurok, Hupa, and Karuk have relied on strong salmon runs for a good portion of their sustenance, and, to some degree, still do today. Come down and celebrate the successful salmon run and support your local history museum!

The Hover Collection of Native American Baskets

We are pleased to announce the new Hover Catalog is now available to accompany the reinstalled Hover Collection. The 1996 donation/purchase is primarily featured and also most of the premium baskets from the 1983 part of the collection are now reproduced in color.

New research shows the collection was primarily assembled and maintained by women weavers from the Peach, Young, Starritt, and Hover families over several generations. It ultimately became a collection rich in “made for the trade” baskets by many of the best Karuk and Yurok weavers. These include Nettie Ruben, Elizabeth Hickox, Daisy Jacobs, Florence Harrie, Carrie Sandy Bar Jim Roberts, Amy Smoker, Nettie McKinnon and several others.

The text and photographs are by basket scholar Ron Johnson with many new attributions by Craig Ervin, Coleen Kelley Marks, and Ron Johnson. This amazing collection is perhaps the best window into the golden age of basket weaving which you will want to explore. The low, at-cost price is \$20.



While in the newly redesigned gift shop, check out the kid's section, featuring wonderful locally-themed books and toys, such as *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot*, Tallest Tree Growth Charts and Coast Redwood Germination Kits. Also available are Dugan Aguilar's most recent book, *She Sang Me a Good Luck Song*, and *A Rare Botanical Legacy* featuring the botanical illustrations of Ruby and Arthur Van Deventer. Of course, perennial favorites such as *Two Peoples, One Place* and *Baskets & Weavers* are also in stock, along with DVD copies of *Stories from the Clarke*, *101 Milestones*, *Through the Eyes of a Basket Weaver*, and *Weaving Through Time*. Come down and shop at the Clarke!

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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.



CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Current Exhibitions

The Hover Collection

January 2015-October 2015

A "living memorial to the Karuk basketmakers," this collection of Karuk basketry and dance regalia from the mid to late 1800s will be on display once again. Featuring artifacts from master basket weavers such as Elizabeth Hickox and Nettie Ruben, this collection represents some of the most amazing Native American basketry in the world. This permanent collection was first displayed at the Clarke on May 13, 1985.

Daughters of the American Revolution

September 2015-October 2015

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Daughters of the American Revolution, this exhibit highlights the history of the local Redwood Forest chapter of the national organization. The DAR was organized as a heritage society that prides itself in the enhancement of local communities.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Local Wildflower Exhibit

October 2015- January 2016

The Clarke Historical Museum begins an excursion into Humboldt County natural history with a Local Wildflower Exhibit featuring artwork and photos of native plants by artists who draw their inspiration from the region. Local botanical organizations will also be represented.

First Contact: Bodega and Hezeta in 1775

October 2015-November 2015

In 1775, a Spanish expedition combed the Pacific Coast in search of new land and peoples to exploit, but luckily they stayed a short time in Trinidad Bay before moving on. Commemorating the 240th Anniversary of the expedition, this exhibit features objects and images associated with the historical event.

Humboldt Church History Exhibit

October 2015- January 2016

A tribute to organized religion in Humboldt County, this exhibit offers a glimpse into the region's spiritual past. Included are photographs of historic church buildings and congregations from throughout the county, along with a host of assorted objects associated with local clergymen and worshippers.

Upcoming Events

Earthquake and Tsunami Workshop

September 26, 2015

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Come get prepared for the next weather event on the North Coast. Join NOAA and HSU representatives for a fact-filled afternoon. Discussion topics include preparation of disaster relief kits, and evacuation route planning.

Clarke Museum Salmon BBQ

October 10, 2015

12:00- 3:00 p.m.

On the menu is roasted salmon, fry bread, coleslaw, beans, and a soft drink, all for the low price of \$20 per plate. In addition to the fabulous food, there will also be several vendors selling Native American gifts and jewelry. Come down and celebrate the successful salmon run and support your local history museum!

Archaeology and Cultural Awareness Day

October 10, 2015

12:00-3:00 p.m.

A part of California Archaeology Month, Archaeology and Cultural Awareness Day celebrates the preservation of our country's heritage. Come down and enjoy this hands-on, family-friendly event. Sponsored by Umpqua Bank.

White Glove Club: Lithic Tools

October 17, 2015

1:00- 3:00 p.m.

Join Cal-Trans Archaeologists Darrell Cardiff and Dennis Wardlaw for a members-only presentation on the museum's collection of Native American stone tools and arrowheads. The White Glove Club is a benefit enjoyed by those who have purchased Patron level (\$100+) or higher memberships.

Meet the Artist: Wildflower Exhibit

December 12, 2015

4:00- 6:00 p.m.

A celebration of the artists and photographers featured in our rotating exhibition, including Dorothy Klein, Annie Reid, Patricia Anne Sennott, Rick Tolley, Ron Johnson and Gordon Schatz. Speakers to be announced soon, check our website for details. Appetizers provided by Gabriel's Restaurant.



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Conservation Stories: Saving a Hupa Dress

Rosemary Hunter has been a longtime supporter of the museum, and though she has stepped down from the Board, she continues to volunteer on the Nealis Hall Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the Native American collection.

As you will read below, a Native American ceremonial dress and apron were taken out of the collection in 2004 for conservation of what was identified as black mold. When the dress was finally returned earlier this year, it was in very poor condition. Rosemary agreed to take the dress and apron to see what she could do, when she returned it two months later it was back to its former glory. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we would like to thank Rosemary for her terrific work and her continued support of the museum.

“I remember this dress and apron as part of Ms. Clarke’s collection when I first started as a docent in 1987. From the very low catalog number assigned to the dress, it would appear to be one of the first items of this type Ms. Clarke collected. It has been on display several times through the years, and I believe has participated in the ceremonial regalia loan program.

It was taken out of the museum in April of 2004 for conservation, I understood it was moldy, but for whatever reason the conservation was not done. The next time I saw this dress and apron it came before the Clarke Museum’s Native American Committee for evaluation, and a decision on its future. They were in sad shape indeed, the leather was hardened, the fringe was balled up and stiff, the cedar berry beads were cut off, as were the shells and cut abalone pieces. There was no mold on either piece; the black markings were simply where the pattern has been marked on the leather. My heart was broken to see this beautiful dance regalia in such sad shape.

I agreed to take it home with me and see what I could do. I did have pictures of both pieces from our computer cataloging files. I received the dress and apron in April 2015. The cedar berry beads, abalone and clam shell decorations had been removed from the dress and were in zip lock bags. It took weeks just to soften the leather and fringe. The beads and shells had to be attached individually, which certainly gives a person great appreciation for the woman who did this 100 years ago without modern needles and lighting.

It has been my pleasure to once again help preserve the culture of this area, and be of service to Ms. Clarke to whom we all owe our thanks for being so wise as to preserve our past.”

-Rosemary Hunter



U.S. Grant Quilt Presentation

The donors of the Grant Quilt letters view the original quilt and letters, on display now at the Clarke.



Left to right:

Patti Gagliotti, Tom Saunders, Barbara Cady, Dave Cady

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CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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From the Director

As many of you have undoubtedly heard about the budget deficit faced by the City of Eureka and the corresponding cut in funding for the museum, I thought this would be a good time to give you an update. It has indeed been a difficult year so far financially. The City of Eureka cut their contribution to us by \$4,500. In addition, two infrastructure issues connected to our 104-year-old Bank of Eureka building popped up at the beginning of the year, a water pipe broke and emergency electrical work took place on top of increases in workers compensation and utilities, which has forced the museum to make many hard decisions. With heavy heart, we have been forced to lay off our gift shop attendant Patti LeGary and make many cuts to non-essential budgetary items; All painful, yet necessary.

While the future of the museum remains strong and our commitment to serving the community by preserving and presenting Humboldt County history through honoring and learning from the past will continue to guide us, our operations have been impacted. We will continue to be a community partner and play an important part in keeping the city of Eureka a great place to live and a welcoming place for tourists. Please know that this financial crunch will in no way impact our plans for the WWII memorial at the airport. We can't thank those community members who have responded by increasing their annual membership contribution and giving one-time donations enough, we certainly need the support.

Sweat Equity

The Board of Directors and staff continue to invest time and money in keeping the historic Bank of Eureka building in top shape. Since 2012, we have spent nearly \$30,000 on building upkeep and countless volunteer hours. This work ranges from electrical upgrades, roof repairs and repainting the interior, with the money coming from grants, individual donors and money from memberships.

While every year we continue to make progress on keeping this historic building in good shape, we know full well that this 104 year-old building will continue to require much more money and time going forward. Maintaining the historic building is a top priority, it not only stores the museum's collection of nearly 120,000 artifacts, but it represents the community's home for all things related to Humboldt County history and local Native American culture. I sincerely thank all of you for donating time, money and expertise in helping the museum continue its mission of preserving and presenting Humboldt County history now and into the future.



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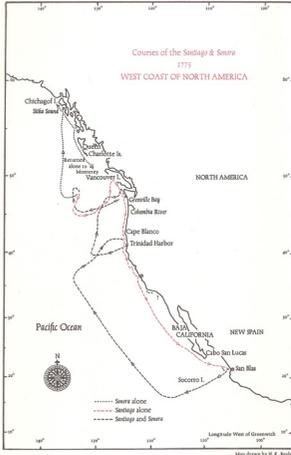
AUTUMN 2015



The Hezeta and Bodega Exposition of 1775: First Contact on the North Coast

(continued from the Summer 2014 Newsletter)

In the following days, the crew reprovisioned the ships with ballast, wood, and water, being assisted in their chores by the Indians who volunteered their help. Top masts were cut and fashioned and the schooner was boot-topped to clean its hull.



The sailors interacted quite convivially with the native community, visiting them in their homes and when a meal was taken ashore by the crew they were joined by families from the rancheria. According to one of the ship's chaplains, Fray Miguel de la Campa Cos, they evidently heeded the commander's prudent orders to be on their best behavior.

The members of the expedition described the Indians they met as affable and it was likely that the villagers viewed the wayfarers as potential trading partners and possible allies against their traditional enemies. However, the genuine hospitality of their village hosts was made abundantly apparent when two of Santiago's apprentice seamen went missing.

One of them, Pedro Lorenzo, having returned to his ship, implicated the natives in his disappearance and that of his shipmate Joseph Antonio Rodriguez. Amicable relations could have taken a turn for the worse when Hezeta, much to the disapproval of his fellow officers, conducted his search through the village for the second seaman in a hot-headed rampage. When the truth was found that the Indians had nothing to do with the desertion of Rodriguez, Lorenzo was punished for his inveracity, but in an expression of compassion the Tsurai residents intervened on his behalf,

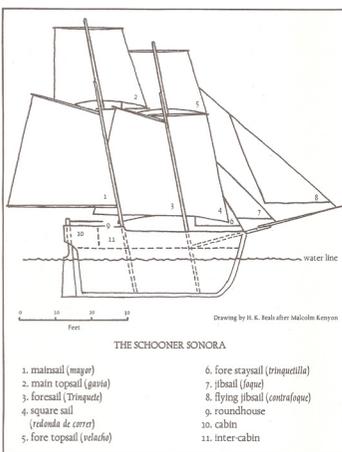
imploiring the commander to spare him the scourging.

During their stay, the officers and chaplains recorded cultural observations in vivid detail of their Tsurai hosts and neighboring Indians. On their forays near the bay, they give an impression of the lushness of the nearby countryside, its mountains, forests, and seashores. Bodega and his second officer, Francisco Antonio Mourelle, produced the first chart of the Port of Trinidad. An excursion was made to a river to the south of the bay by Hezeta and Mourelle which they named Rio de las Tortolas (River of the Turtledoves) for the good-sized turtledoves they saw upon arriving (today's Little River). There they befriended another group of Indians with whom they traded beads for sardines and visited a nearby rancheria (perhaps the Wiyot whose northern territorial boundary was at the river).

The expedition departed the Port of Trinidad on the morning of June 19th with assurance from the Indians that they would keep the cross on the summit. Successful so far in their



mission, the convoy sailed farther north where their next landing near the Quinalt River of today's Washington State, would be neither as friendly or fortuitous as the one at Trinidad Bay, when seven of the Sonora's crew were ambushed. Five of them were killed outright as they tried to maneuver their launch to the beach, two others were lost. Bodega opened fire on a canoe of Indians as they pursued the schooner, killing six of their men. Further down the coast, a party from the Santiago had landed and performed a hasty possession ceremony. Heading into increasingly inclement weather and with the ill health of the crews, the officers embraced the realization that with the ravages of the long ocean voyage they were now faced with turning back. However, under the dark skies of a stormy night the two ships were separated and the Sonora, in the face of the advanced season and scarce supplies, carried on toward higher latitudes while the Santiago, with few hands well enough to sail the ship, made it to a point off shore west of Vancouver Island before beginning the return journey down the coast.



- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. mainmast (mayor) | 6. fore staysail (trinquilla) |
| 2. main topsail (gavia) | 7. jibbail (fogu) |
| 3. foremast (Trinquet) | 8. flying jibbail (central/loque) |
| 4. square sail | 9. roundhouse |
| 5. fore topsail (velacho) | 10. cabin |
| | 11. inter-cabin |

Hezeta in the Santiago came upon what he determined be a large bay, this was in fact the mouth of the Columbia River (as it was later named by New Englander Robert Gray in 1792). The Santiago then reconnoitered the coast until it reached the Port of Monterey. Meanwhile, the schooner Sonora ascended to the region of the Alaskan Pan Handle where they first sighted an island with high, snow-capped mountains, most notably Mt. Edgecumbe (as later named by Captain (continued on p.6)



First Contact (cont. from p.5)

James Cook). Navigating upward along the coast, Bodega entered a bay and landed to take possession (Sea Lion Cove on the north end of Kruzof Island). The next day when he and a party went ashore for water and wood they encountered native people, most likely the Sitka of the Tlingit Nation. A confrontation ensued over the taking of water, but was resolved peacefully. The Sonora pushed northward to its furthest northern point estimated at 58° N. Heading south, sailing close to what they believed to be the mainland, the expedition searched for the entrance to a northwest passage, whereby they came upon a large bay and landed to take possession. There they stayed two days to chart the waters (Bucareli Bay on the west side of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska). Once again Bodega would make another bold attempt northward, notwithstanding the vulnerability of such a tiny vessel in heavy seas, but with the crew so stricken with scurvy, he resolved to begin the return journey. Continuing southward, Bodega and Mourelle surveyed the coastline, carefully examining every inlet and charting the waters. Encountering a large inlet (Bodega Bay), the Sonora entered it and traveled to what Bodega believed was an abundant river (Tomales Bay) where they were greeted by Indians in tule canoes (probably Coast Miwoks) who traded with them. By October 7th, they sighted Monterey Bay through the fog, certain of their location when they spotted the Santiago & the San Carlos riding at anchor. They were greeted by Hezeta and Ayala amidst much fanfare. After a period of recuperation at the Presidio of Monterey and the crews had been nursed back to health by the Franciscan fathers at the nearby mission of San Carlos Borromeo, the Santiago and Sonora sailed in company to San Blas to report the expedition's findings. They arrived on the 20th of November 1775.

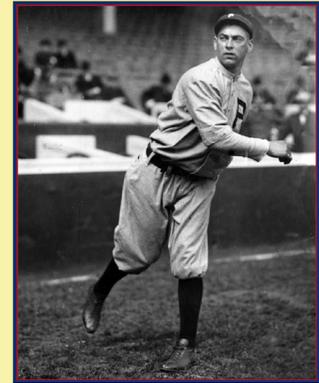
Although the voyages of 1774 and 1775 are not as widely known as Captain James Cook's 1776-79 expedition to the North Pacific, they did have an impact on later Enlightenment era investigations. As commandant of San Blas, Bodega himself lead the Expedition of the Limits in which a number of Spanish voyages convened to explore the Pacific Northwest and where he also met with English captain George Vancouver for negotiations at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. Trinidad was later visited by Vancouver during his global expedition (1790 - 95), the location which was known from a translation of Mourelle's 1775 journal. During their brief visit, botanist Archibald Menzies ventured to the summit on the headland where he came upon the cross left by the Hezeta - Bodega expedition 18 years earlier. Prussian naturalist Alexander von Humboldt for whom Humboldt County was named, although he himself had not visited the area, gives accounts of the Pérez expedition and that of Hezeta - Bodega - Ayala which he begins in his Political essay on the kingdom of New Spain, "This voyage, which singularly advanced the discovery of the northwest coast, is known from the journal of the pilot Maurelle [or Mourelle],..."

The Hezeta and Bodega expedition stands out for its invaluable notes on local geography, climate, tides, native flora and fauna, as well as its cultural and social observations of indigenous peoples and it has the distinction of surveying many of the coastal features that gave us, for the first time, an accurate look at the West Coast of North America.

For a moment in time, the everyday life of the quite village of Tsurai and its neighbors intersected with the international affairs of far reaching colonial empires. It was however, the American Republic which began its own formation that very year that would one day inherit the claim of California and its North Coast as part of the United States. As for the voyage of the Santiago and the Sonora, that expedition would capture for us a remarkable glimpse into what this land and life was like two hundred and forty years ago.

-Dina Fernandez

HUMBOLDT HISTORIAN



Joe Oeschger, Humboldt Major Leaguer
FALL 2015 VOLUME 63 NUMBER 3

The Fall 2015 issue of the Humboldt Historian. Available now at the Humboldt County Historical Society, Eureka Books, and Northtown Books.





CLARKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

AUTUMN 2015



Thank You New & Returning Members

Rosemary Hunter	Christine White	Shirley Lipa
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Jack Moore	Jacqueline & Allen Adams	Elaine & Lewis Lester
Douglas & Joanne Dickson	Mille Brucker	Jon Mitts
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Judith Dvorak	Nancy McCarroll	William Nicholson
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