

MCHS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MONTEREY COUNTY

SPRING 2024



HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

“History is fragile. Memories fade. Writings are lost...and relics crumble. Historians serve best when they can preserve yesterday - today. Tomorrow is often too late.”

CURATOR'S CORNER



*James Perry,
Executive Director*

ABBOTT CIGAR STORE AND BILLIARD HALL TOKEN, C.1910

This rare and unusual aluminum token (good for 10 cents in trade) was created for a business which inhabited the Abbott House (Hotel). The Abbott House was originally constructed in 1873 by Carlisle Abbott, local businessman and landowner, upon the 100

block of Main Street in Salinas. The hotel was eventually sold to the Cominos Brothers in 1919 and renamed the Hotel Cominos. After extensive renovation, this hotel would eventually serve politicians and dignitaries from across the globe wishing 1st class accommodations in the Salinas Valley.

The hotel was eventually torn down and the land used as a parking lot until Taylor Farms purchased the site and built its company headquarters.



Save the Date!

PLEASE ATTEND OUR
DEDICATION, COMMEMORATION
& DEVELOPMENT EVENT!
Saturday, May 18 from 10am-3pm



We are very pleased to request the honor of your presence for a remarkable day here at the Boronda Adobe History Center. The

program promises to be a historic day in its own right for the Monterey County Historical Society because several important events are happening. It will be 50 years to the very day that the Boronda Adobe was placed on the California Landmarks Registry and will be open for viewing. We will also be rededicating the newly restored monument honoring the members of Company C who served and sacrificed in the Philippine Islands (Bataan) in World War II at 11 am. In addition, we will be dedicating our beautifully completed Victorian Gumper-Castro Memorial Library at 1pm. Artist and author Lynn Butler will host a pop-up art exhibition as well as sign copies of her newest book, titled, "Flames Against the Dark: Saving America's Sacred Sites" in the Lagunita Schoolhouse from 11am-2pm. These events are open to the public and free of charge. We will have several food trucks present offering food/beverages during that time and we certainly look forward to your attendance!

THE HEIRLOOM GARDEN IS GROWING!



The Monterey County Historical Society is engaged in the implementation of the Heirloom Garden on our campus. Fully realized phase one of the Garden will contain heirloom fruit trees, Monterey Cypress, California Pepper, and Live Oak trees, nine raised beds for vegetables and herbs, a rose garden, a split-rail fence to trellis grape vines (from cuttings of the original vines at Mission San Miguel),

and a large section of California natives.

The initial grading of the site has been followed up by the placing of the base material for the brick walkway through the garden. The trees for the windbreak have been planted and we received a donation of four heirloom fruit trees from Thom Taft that have been placed. We received a generous donation of mulch from Keith Day Enterprises of Marina.

The garden is ready for the next phase which will include installation of a drip irrigation system, construction of nine raised vegetable beds, the split rail fence, and the planting of California natives. To continue the momentum of this project we are looking for donations of time, materials, or funding. If you would care to contribute in anyway, please contact Dawn Avery, Director of Heritage Garden Projects at 831-594-6144 or daverymbmg2012@gmail.com to discuss your contribution.



OUR NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED ON APRIL 4!

We are pleased to announce that our website has been entirely redesigned and developed by Douglas Holtzman. We were very fortunate that Doug agreed to help us with this most important project as he spends a considerable amount of time helping other non-profits as well.

Doug Holtzman retired as Assistant Director of Monterey Public Library in 2013. He has also worked at the Richmond Public Library and taught graduate courses in the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. Since retiring, he has worked on websites and other projects for Pacific Grove Public Library, the City of Pacific Grove, Salinas Public Library, Monterey County Free Libraries, Monterey Public Library Friends and Foundation, Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation, Monterey History and Art Association, and the International Concertina Association.

We certainly hope you will review the new website and be as proud of it as we are! We have made Doug an honorary lifetime member of the historical society in gratitude of his extensive time, effort and creativity invested in this project. Thank you, Doug! Please visit the website at mchsmuseum.com.



THE GUMPER-CASTRO ARCHIVAL LIBRARY

PROGRESS AND DEDICATION



Tom Spencer
Head of Restoration and Construction

The desire for an archival library has been a focus for the Historical Society for a number of years. The decision to move forward with the construction of the library was that of Vice President of the Society's governing board, Robert Baillie. During the many conversations between James Perry, Robert Baillie and Tom Spencer, Head of Restoration and Construction,

Tom brought forward the idea of incorporating the Society's interior woodwork from the Jesse D. Carr House into the library design. The Carr Mansion was demolished in 1964 and a number of valuable pieces of walnut woodwork including fireplace mantels and stair railings were preserved by the Historical Society. Once the



Tom displays the Bradbury & Bradbury Wallpaper

decision was made to incorporate these historical pieces, the rest of the design work and the handling of the subcontractors was turned over to Tom. The end result of this two year project is the recreation of an 1885 Victorian library in the Eastlake Style.

The basic shell of the rooms was constructed by SSB Construction, followed by the installation of the Carr House woodwork. Many missing pieces had to be recreated out of matching materials including walnut, pine, and redwood. Many of these new materials had to be hand wood-grained to match the originals by Gail Spencer. The walnut bookcases were custom built by John Laughton Cabinets. This was followed by the installation of Bradbury and Bradbury wallpaper



Gail restores the original wood-grained doors



Larry works on the walnut chair railing

by Gary Sarian of Ameri-Cana Decorating. The wood flooring will be the last major piece of the library and was donated to the Society by Tad Hughes in memory of Larry Vera. None of this would have been possible without the volunteer help of Larry Smith who helped at every stage of installation of the materials.

The room will be completed with authentic period-correct furnishings, including Eastlake style tables, chairs, settees, rugs and light fixtures. The walls will be hung with artwork from the Society's collection, two commissioned alcohol ink painted windows, and a restored leaded glass window from 216 Main Street, Salinas. This endeavor was meant to create a dedicated space for historical research, using curated artifacts of local significance, highlighted and restored to their original beauty.

Tom and Robert discuss the installation of the walnut bookcases



COMPANY C BATAAN MONUMENT RESTORATION & REDEDICATION

On April 8, 2006, The Company C Bataan Monument at the Boronda History Center was dedicated to the one hundred and five brave men of Company C 194th Tank Battalion of the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys. Mills construction team worked diligently, even on rainy stormy days, to meet the April 8th deadline. The dedication was a tremendous success with approximately 250 people in attendance including several members of Company C who served our nation during WWII in the Philippines.

It was a privilege for the historical society to honor their service by having this monument created and sustain their memory by presenting the history of their sacrifices in a poignant and noble way. As you are well aware, the climate of this part of the Salinas Valley is unforgiving to objects of metal when it comes to preservation. The historical society



aspired to have the monument restored and fortuitously located two particularly brilliant gentlemen for this endeavor: Chris Akimoto, owner of ProBlast Restoration in Watsonville and Nick Maciel, owner of Maciel Metalworks in Salinas. Akimoto and Maciel spent the month of November and December carefully attending to every aspect of restoration and we are very pleased with their results which shall provide long-term protection from the environmental elements.

On Saturday, May 18 at 11am, we will have a rededication ceremony including a benediction and prayer for those who served and continue to serve our nation with a placement of a memorial wreath upon the monument. Members of the 149th Armor Unit, successors of Troop C, will be in attendance and we will also have an operable WWII Half-Track Tank on display as well!



LYNN BUTLER, AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHER

The enchanted ancestral lands of America's native tribes are under threat. Ancient traditions collide with modern realities, a stark reminder of the fragility of time and the importance of preservation. Acclaimed photographer Lynn H. Butler has long been passionate about documenting America's sacred sites before they disappear. Now, with her new book *Flames Against the Dark*, Saving America's Sacred Sites, Lynn turns her

visionary camera lens on the magical tribal lands of America's indigenous people. *Flames Against the Dark* features Lynn's poetic, hauntingly beautiful on-location photos, many taken while on horseback, as she travels from coast to coast across America on her mission to preserve the past, by camera. The book is a poignant homage to the Native American lifestyle and spiritual connection to our earth.



SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED!



There are two specific scholarships available the Society is administrating. Please Note: The deadline to apply for these scholarships is June 1.

1) **THE ALBERT JENSEN AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:** This is available to sophomore, junior or senior year college students who meet the following criterion: Be legal residents of the United States; Live within Monterey County with preference to graduates of high schools within Monterey County; Be enrolled in and/or attending universities with the intent of matriculating in agriculturally-related programs;

Recipients shall maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA AND a minimum of 12 units per semester and/or quarter throughout the life of the multi-year scholarship. Applicants must be committed to using their degree(s) to fill the needs of the agricultural industry.

The Monterey County Historical Society pledges to renew the \$10,000 scholarship for up to seven additional years. The scholarship(s) shall not exceed \$20,000 per academic year. The family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) will be a factor in determining the amount of the scholarship.

To apply: <https://mchsmuseum.com/jensen-scholarship/>

2) **JESS TABASA FUND FOR FILIPINO STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP:** This is available to Upper Division Undergraduate and Graduate students for Filipino Studies. The Undergraduate fellowship alternates with the Graduate fellowship. The 2024 Application is specific to the Undergraduate fellowship. Graduate fellowships will again be offered in 2025. Applicants who meet the following criterion will be considered: Must be a resident of California; Preference is for Filipino undergraduate students who live within Monterey County and are graduates of high schools within the region; Graduate students pursuing Filipino studies, particularly heritage and historical studies, in northern California are encouraged to apply; Applicants should presently be enrolled in either an Undergraduate or Graduate program, depending on Award being administered, and be able to provide documentation of their enrollment status, and/or contact information for their college or university's grants and scholarships program; Recipients shall maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and a minimum of 12 units per semester and/or quarter throughout the life of the scholarship. Applicants must be members of the Filipino community, and/or committed to using the scholarship funds to pursue Filipino heritage and/or history studies regardless of background.

The Tabasa Fund for Filipino Studies awards scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 per semester for two semesters for Upper Division Undergraduate students, and \$5,000 per semester for two semesters for Graduate students. The scholarship(s) shall not exceed \$6,000 for Undergrad, or \$10,000 for Graduate students per academic year. To Apply:

<https://mchsmuseum.com/jess-tabasa-scholarship/>



MONTEREY COUNTY



HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

P.O. BOX 3576
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93912

B U S I N E S S

LAGUNITA SCHOOL BEING REPAINTED



Our little Red Lagunita School is in the beginning stages of being repainted! It should be completed by our event on May 18!!



Street Address: 333 Boronda Road, Salinas, CA 93907
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3576, Salinas, CA 93912
Website: mchsmuseum.com/salinas
Office Hours: M-F 9am-Noon & 1-3pm
Daily Research & Tours are by Appointment Only

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