

*Special Interest
Articles:*

- ❖ Mandarin Fan Donation
- ❖ 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

Daisy MacCallum - "...notes from her visits with inmates at San Quentin (while living in San Francisco she often visited the inmates taking them books to read and encouraging them to

A Historical Research

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

It seems that whenever I pop into Kelley House there is usually a buzz of activity going on. The other day I was surprised to find Bob Winn, a long-time resident and teacher at the College of the Redwoods now living in Oregon, doing research work on materials only available in our archives. And Ruth Sparks, one of Kelley House's newer docents as well as the current president of the Mendocino Study Club, offered to fund some restoration work needed on an 1858 map (donated by Dotty Zimmer) showing Mendocino as Mieggsville (its very early name). This very large map (4'x5') has been hanging in the Escola Room for the last several months but was recently moved back to the vault for a more stable climate until restoration work can proceed upon it.

Harvest Market at Mendosa's recently donated a very nice display case and, once we got it into the Escola Room, we discovered that this display case matches one we already possessed but is of a smaller size and perfect for our needs. Loretta McCoard, using mostly her own artifacts, has created a beautiful Chinese display just in time for the Chinese New Year. And Marty Simpson has been busy putting up our Frolic exhibit as well as creating a tribute to Nathan Smith, one of the very few African Americans living on the coast in the early days of our town.

If you haven't been in Kelley House recently, please stop by for a visit and see some of these current displays. The office is open to visitors every weekday and the museum is open from Friday through Monday during our quieter winter and spring months.



Study Club Members Learn More About Daisy MacCallum

By Megan Smith, Executive Director

On January 26 I had the privilege and pleasure of being one of the guest speakers at the Mendocino Study Club. The topic was Daisy MacCallum. A "packed house" of Study Club members and their guests listened to Jeanette Hansen (Mendosa) tell her memories of when she was in the fourth grade interviewing Daisy for a class project. It was fascinating. Daisy was the elite grand lady of Mendocino; well read, well traveled, charitable and well to do.

For my part of the program I searched our files and took artifacts from the vault I thought would help us "feel" what Daisy was like. We were able to see the three dolls Daisy played with when she was about 8 years old – all beautiful in their original clothes and still having their human hair wigs. I also took a pink and black ball gown that is in very delicate condition and cannot be removed from its acid free box and wrappings. We don't know when or where Daisy wore the gown, but it was definitely hers. A variety of documents were also available to see. An album of pressed flowers, lists of her charitable contributions in the 1930s and '40s, notes from her visits with inmates at San Quentin (while living in San Francisco she often visited the inmates taking them books to read and encouraging them to improve their minds and spirits).

As a gardener, several items were of particular interest to me. Daisy had hand
(cont. on p. 2)

"It (a hand-painted 19th century Chinese mandarin fan) was presented to the museum by local resident and long-time fan collector Geraldine Pember."

written a six page (legal size paper) of 222 Heritage Roses in Mendocino in the year 1935. There were also orders for roses to various suppliers and the invoices received upon delivery. Another treasure were her notes about restocking the gardens at MacCallum House, naming each rose she ordered and where it would be planted. Wouldn't it be nice to have these lovely old plants back?

Thank you to the Mendocino Study Club for having me as their guest. It was a terrific change of pace from my usual duties of juggling the budget, paying the bills, assisting researchers and, promoting the Kelley House Museum.



Mandarin Fan at Kelley House

By Carolyn Zeitler

The Kelley House Museum was recently the proud recipient of a hand-painted 19th century Chinese mandarin fan. It was presented to the museum by local resident, and long-time fan collector, Geraldine Pember. Geraldine started collecting fans in the 1960's and has traveled worldwide in gathering them.

The history of fans goes back more than 2,000 years before recorded history and has come to be regarded as fine art.

Geraldine holds memberships in The East Bay Fan Guild, The Hand Fan Museum in Healdsburg (*the only museum in the United States dedicated solely to fans*) and The Fan Circle International in the United Kingdom. She is well known as a lecturer on the subject.

The mandarin fan has been gifted to the Kelly House as it resembles the type of fan which would have been found in the Frolic cargo when it ran aground in 1850.

Mandarin fans, also known as the fan of one hundred faces, were often associated with the China trade. From the 16th to the 19th centuries the Chinese ports of Canton, Whampoa and the Portuguese port of Macao saw many types of cargo made for the western market, the mandarin fan being just one of these. The fan became a lucrative commodity for the Chinese and, by the 19th century, the Mandarin fan had become an important export item.

So it was, on June 10, 1850, the Frolic

departed from Hong Kong, on its journey to San Francisco, with 230 containers of merchandise and sundries such as combs, silks, chinaware, and Mandarin fans.

The Chinese mandarin fan, made for the western market, displayed a pavilion scene with Mandarins, a member of any of the nine ranks of public officials in China, and, at times, female court figures. The pavilion was an open structure with a pillar-supported roof. These fans were made from paper and painted with gouache and ink in many colors, the faces painted with ivory. Many of these figures painted on the fan carried fans themselves.

The making of the mandarin fan was a tedious, difficult process involving the talents and patience of many people. During the 18th and 19th century, paper was handmade specifically for the fan. A cutter and shaper shaped and cut this paper into two leaves. An outline of the scene was sketched with a brush and the background color was applied. Figures and buildings were painted by artists who excelled in these areas of expertise. Silk gowns and ivory faces were then pasted on by another artist. Finishers applied border details and later sticks and guards of sandalwood, ivory, silver, or lacquer were inserted. The fan's opening and closing has to be symmetrically correct and required the experience of an expert in folding.

The fan is currently on display in the Nannie Escola room at the Kelley House Museum. It is being displayed in conjunction with an exhibit about the Chinese living on the Mendocino Coast created by Lorraine McCoard and a display of artifacts retrieved from the wreck of the Frolic.

"The making of the mandarin fan was a tedious, difficult process involving the talents and patience of many people."



Kelley House to Highlight Mendocino Weddings

One of the most fascinating aspects of my job as an Archivist at the Kelley House Museum is to sort through our many historical photographs. Recently, I have come upon a number of wedding photographs, taken at the turn of the century, many of these people long forgotten except for their image. The modern viewer is only left to wonder, while looking at these photographs, who these couples were and what their wedding must have been like. Imagine how many Victorian girls dreamed of and planned their weddings.

The Kelley House will be making weddings the theme of a new exhibit to be on display through the summer months. We are presently looking for historical materials to be part of our exhibit such as photographs, letters, wedding dresses, invitations, and albums. Something borrowed, something blue, something old and something new. If you have items that may be of interest for our exhibit, please contact Megan or Carolyn at the Kelley House Museum at 937-5791.

**Carolyn Zeitler - Archivist
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***Will and Emma Barton Coombs
November 1900***

Memorials, Donations and Membership

Memorials:

Donation:

New and Renewing Members

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
successful marriage!*

*This opportunity
also allows for an
insider's look at
treasures from
the vault.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We need volunteers for some specific tasks. If you have talents in these areas and even a little time to spare we'd love to hear from you.

- **BUILD A BOOKSHELF.** We'll provide the plans and the materials. We need a movable rack to better store and display our books for sale. Contact Director Megan Smith at 937-5791.
- **PHOTOGRAPH ARTIFACTS.** This opportunity also allows for an insider's look at treasures from the vault. We need help in photographing artifacts stored in our vault so we can scan the photos into our catalog. We'll provide the digital camera. Contact Archivist Carolyn Zeitler at 937-5791.
- **HELP ORGANIZE AND COPY VAULT DOCUMENTS.** This is simple, but fun. Pick a subject you're interested in. We'll give you a stack of clippings to copy and put into chronological order for our subject files. (Possibilities include subjects like fires, churches, old hotels, logging, clubs and organizations, just to name a few.) Contact Archivist Carolyn Zeitler, 937-5791 or Archives Committee Chair Linda Wilson at 937-3745.



*Linda Wilson and Carolyn Zeitler -
Having Fun in the Vault*

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.

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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.**

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MUSEUM HOURS
**June-Sept. – Open 6 Days a
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Research Office
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9-4

Appointments for research
recommended



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

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