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SUMMER 2017 VOLUME LV, NO. 2



Preserving History





FROM THE DIRECTOR



This past April 22nd, HAHS's Board of Directors bestowed a record 16 History Awards to individuals and organizations doing the exceptional work of preserving and advocating for the history and the built environment of our Greater Hayward community. An array of talents, resources and incentives makes it possible every day for us to have an encounter with our storied past— buildings reimaged, experiences retold, cultures reconsidered.

To date, over 80 home owners, businesses, and service groups have received a History Award. The efforts of our newest roster of civic patrons, volunteers, and local educators demonstrates what is necessary to live, work and play in a present place that is respectful of the past, surrounded by landmarks and opportunities that were or are of our own making:

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sandra Navarro, high school History/Civics teacher at Tennyson High, and **Dr. Linda Ivey** is an Associate Professor of Public History and Chair of the Department of History at California State University East Bay for their dedication and innovation in the teaching of our area's history.

HISTORIC ORGANIZATION AWARD

The **Hayward-Castro Valley Chapter of American Association of University Women**, celebrating their 75th anniversary of service.

HISTORY MAKER AWARD

Friends of the Hayward Public Library, who by their example enable and nurture the impactful places and activities that may shape our historical future.

HISTORIC BUSINESS AWARD

Gumb's Barber Shop, at B and Kelly Streets in Hayward, and **Rowell's Saddlery and Western Wear** in Castro Valley, operating businesses whose longevity has contributed to our area's historic character.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Recently restored private residences and former Caltrans properties at **1465 and 1471 B Street; 1421, 1431 and 1444 C Street; and 22589 Chestnut Street.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lucille Lorge and **Randy Vanderbilt** for promoting Castro Valley history.

HAHS VOLUNTEER AWARD

Dana Hamilton, Collections, Historic Properties and Paranormal Volunteer whose enthusiasm, commitment and service to staff and the public are the very model of volunteerism.

JOHN SANDOVAL AWARD

Brian Morrison, for extraordinary service in support of the preservation and promotion of Hayward area history, the revitalize Old Town Castro Valley, and for his stewardship in relocating the Hayward Area Historical Society to Foothill Boulevard.

Congratulations to all our "history keepers." Their dedication and enthusiasm are a model for us all.

—AT Stephens, *Executive Director*

Top: Sandra Navarro

Middle: Desmond Gumb with Board Member Karen McHenry Smith

Bottom: Dana Hamilton



HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[Venues]

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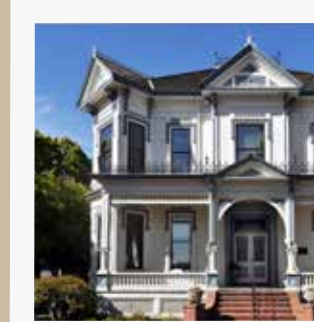
Tiffany Ramoneda
Visitor Services &
Event Manager



HAHS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

Historical and cultural exhibits and events plus a children's gallery, museum store, and cafe! Open Wed - Sun, 10AM - 4PM.

22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD



McCONAGHY HOUSE

A lovingly preserved 1888 Eastlake style Victorian. School tours available. Open the first weekend of the month, 11AM-4PM.

Tours at the top of the hour, last tour at 3PM.

18701 HESPERIAN BOULEVARD, HAYWARD



MEEK MANSION

Built in 1869 by William Meek. Located on nearly 10 acres. Currently undergoing restoration.

17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD



SAN LORENZO PIONEER CEMETERY

Final resting place of over 2000 residents from politicians to paupers and Hayward area pioneers. Open on the second Saturday of the month, May through September, 10AM-2PM.

HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET
SAN LORENZO

Summer EVENTS & PROGRAMS @ HAHS



22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD

History for Half Pints – Summer

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Free with Museum Admission

Summer is the time for sunshine, flip flops, and the outdoors. Bring the whole family down to the Museum for arts, crafts and games that will get you ready for the season.

Toddler Time – Baseball

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 10:30 – 11:30AM
Free with Museum Admission

Baseball is widely known as America's greatest pastime. Bring your little ones to this month's Toddler Time to learn about this classic sport through stories, songs, and crafts.



Summer Dance Series: Swing Dance

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Free with Museum Admission

What better way to express yourself and share your culture than through dance? Join us for a new exciting and energetic summer dance series. This month we welcome instructor **Mike Quebec** to teach a fast-paced, lively swing dance lesson.

Toddler Time – Seaside

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 10:30 – 11:30AM
Free with Museum Admission

The seaside is a place for all to explore! Join us on this journey as we learn more about the amazing creatures that call the sea home. Toddler Time is a family program with focus on children ages 0-5 years. Older siblings are always welcome!

Unmentionable Program

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1:00 PM
Free with Museum Admission

In conjunction with our current exhibition, *Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts*, retired OMCA Costume Curator **Inez Brooks-Myers** and **Rick Moss**, Chief Curator and Executive Director of the African American Museum & Library in Oakland, will discuss "unmentionables" (yes, the fashion of undergarments!) and other unmentionable things!

Summer Dance Series: Scottish Country Dancing

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Free with Museum Admission

Deriving from traditional British forms of dance, Scottish Country Dancing became popular in the mid-18th century as a more relaxed and social dance involving groups or couples of dancers. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join in on this introductory dance lesson of Scottish Country Dancing instructed by local artist **Mary McWilliams**.

Toddler Time – Farm and Harvest

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 10:30 – 11:30AM
Free with Museum Admission

We're coming to the end of summer and it's getting to be the season of harvest. Bring your little ones in to the Museum for our monthly Toddler Time program filled with stories, crafts, and games.

There's a lot going on at HAHS! Keep this section handy and join us for all the fun!



22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD

History for Half Pints – Back to School

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Free

It's that time that your young students start preparing for the next year of learning and excitement! Join us to make your personalized notebooks, create your own bookmarks, and get some free school supplies. This program made possible by the Fund-A-Need Campaign.

Summer Dance Series: Belly Dance

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Free with Museum Admission

Following a brief introduction to the history of the dance we invite you to come and learn how to Belly Dance with local artist and instructor **Joanne Price**. All ages and skill levels welcome.



17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD

Summer Days at Meek Mansion

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1:00 – 10:00 PM
Free | Guided Mansion Tours \$15 General, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

Spend the day in the park with the family! There will be family history tours of the Mansion in the afternoon and a viewing of *The Jungle Book* (2016) in the evening. In the spirit of the film, kids can come dressed as their favorite *Jungle Book* character and participate in a parade to win prizes for best costumes. Parade at 7:00 PM, Movie at 7:30 PM. This event is produced in partnership with the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD). **Mansion Tour Times:** 1:00PM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM. Tickets for tours are limited and must be purchased in advance. To purchase tour tickets, or for more information, please call (510) 581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org. Proceeds benefits the maintenance of the property.



17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD



Independence Day at Meek Mansion

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Free

The well-known community symbol and residence of the Meek Family will be open to the public for walk-through tours. Grab some lunch at the local food vendor booths, pull out those picnic blankets, and enjoy the sounds of **Johnny Mahalo and the Wild Coconuts**. There will be outdoor games, patriotic crafts, face painting, community groups, and festivities for the whole family. Join the Hayward Area Historical Society in celebrating this wonderful occasion! This program is sponsored in part by the Hayward Area Parks and Recreation District (HARD).



Summer **EVENTS & PROGRAMS @ HAHS**



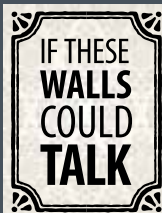
18701 HESPERIAN BLVD, HAYWARD



Public Paranormal Investigations at McConaghy

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
\$75 General Admission

Experienced investigators lead attendees through the property with access to all non-restricted areas. Many paranormal research groups have investigated the location and found the House to be a very active site. Data collected on previous investigations include electronic voice phenomena (EVP), cold spots, touches, apparitions and much more. Proceeds go toward the ongoing restoration and preservation of both properties. Tickets are \$75 and must be purchased in advance. Ages 18+. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (510) 581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal.



Join us monthly for these interesting and informative presentations on the history of the McConaghy House!

Gadgets Galore: What the Heck Is This?

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 10:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

Bring the family out for a scavenger hunt at McConaghy House and learn about past technology! Find historical equivalents to our favorite modern tools throughout the house and stay for a discussion about the history of the objects you find.

Meals, Spirits and Medicine

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 10:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

This tour will look at consumables from Victorian times to the 1930s. Learn how traditional food choices were altered by living in California, the difference between family meals and food for entertaining, and the role of alcohol in social occasions and its use in medicinal products.

Vacations: Leisure Activities and Locations

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 10:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

Explore the McConaghy family's leisure activities and vacation spots. See how archives and artifacts can relay stories about what people did for fun.

Proceeds support maintenance and restoration of the historic property. Tickets are limited and are available at www.haywardareahistory.org or by calling (510) 581-0223.

There's a lot going on at HAHS! Keep this section handy and join us for all the fun!



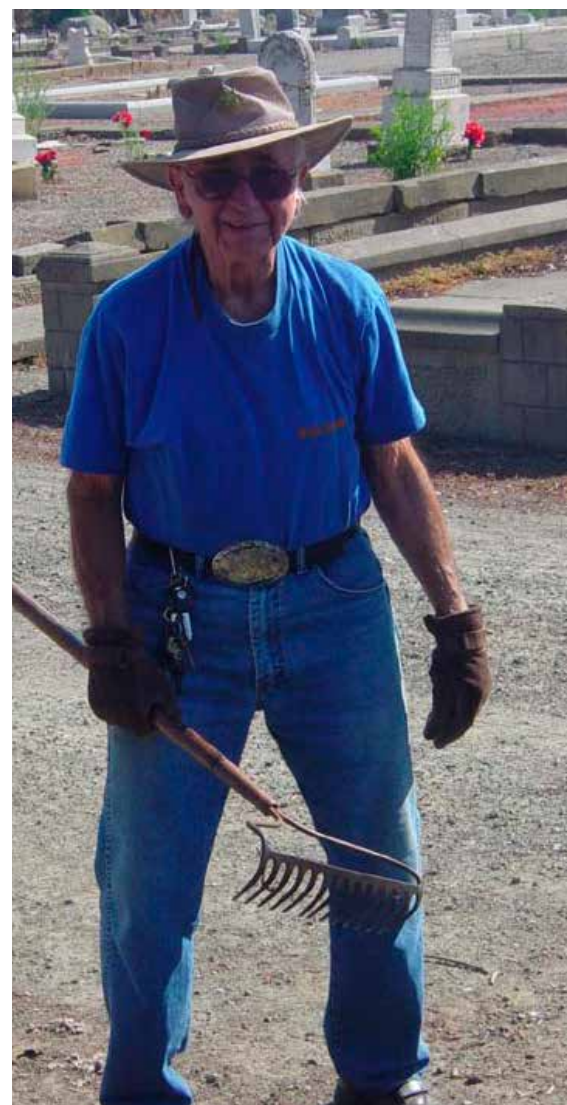
SAN LORENZO
PIONEER
CEMETERY

HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET, SAN LORENZO

Cemetery Clean Ups

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Volunteer Opportunity

HAHS and the Friends of the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery need your help in cleaning up our beloved cemetery! Bring gloves and rakes. Water and light snacks will be provided.



Join us monthly for these interesting and informative guided tours of San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery!

Cemetery Symbolism: Expressions of Individuality and Victorian Culture

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 9:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

Ever wonder what all those symbols on old tombstones signify? Join staff and volunteers for a tour of various symbols seen on tombstones and what we can learn from them about the deceased.

Burials of Note, Part II

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 9:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

Not all of our interesting individuals would fit on one tour. Join us for part two of our tour about some of the early pioneers who shaped the Hayward area community. Hear their personal stories as well as how they impacted the growth of the region.

"Native Of..." Stories of Immigration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 10:00 AM
\$15 General Admission, \$10 HAHS Members, Seniors and Students

The Hayward area has always been an immigration hotspot. Many of the cemetery's headstones reflect where early residents came from before building their lives here in California. Join us for an exploration of their stories.

Proceeds support maintenance and restoration of the historic property. Tickets are limited and are available at www.haywardareahistory.org or by calling (510) 581-0223.

A'Lelia Bundles to Present at HAHS Benefit Luncheon in 2018



MADAM C.J. WALKER

AMERICA'S FIRST SELF-MADE FEMALE MILLIONAIRE

When A'Lelia Bundles comes to HAHS next spring, she will arrive bearing stories about her great-great-grandmother Madam C.J. Walker. The daughter of sharecroppers, Madam was born in 1867 in the state of Louisiana. Her birth name was Sarah Breedlove. Orphaned at the age of seven, she worked the cotton fields to survive. Married by age 14, she moved to St. Louis after the untimely death of her husband. During the 1890s, she began working on a remedy for the alopecia that she suffered from. By the early 1900s, she was an independent businesswoman with a thriving hair care product line especially formulated for the needs of African Americans with nappy hair. Her road to becoming a millionaire and a philanthropist is the story that A'Lelia Bundles will tell next spring.

Mark your calendars! Author and journalist A'Lelia Bundles will be the featured presenter at a luncheon benefit for HAHS next April 2018, and event that you won't want to miss. More details to follow in our next edition of *Adobe Trails*, but if you can't wait until then, contact Deputy Director María Ochoa.

In the meantime, we thought you might like to know more about her numerous accomplishments. She is currently at work on her fourth book, *The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*, a biography of her great-grandmother, whose parties and arts patronage helped define that era. *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*—A'Lelia's biography of her great-great-grandmother—was named a *New York Times* Notable Book.

A'Lelia was a network television news executive and producer for thirty years at NBC News, and then at ABC News, where she was Washington, DC deputy bureau chief and director of talent development. She currently is board chairman of the National Archives Foundation, vice chairman of Columbia University's board of trustees, vice chair of the Columbia Alumni Association, member of the Schlesinger Library's advisory board at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and president of the Madam Walker/A'Lelia Walker Family Archives.

Her articles and essays have been published in the *NYT Book Review*, *Parade*, *Ms.*, *O Magazine*, *Essence*, several encyclopedias and on her websites at www.aleliabundles.com and www.madamcjwalker.com. Among her broadcast awards are an Emmy and a du Pont Gold Baton.

She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and received a masters degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Collections Corner

By **Gretta Stimson**
Collections and Historic Properties Assistant

It's time to highlight another fascinating donation received this year. This donation comes to us from Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brian, who have contributed several beautiful uniforms related to Daniel's father, Harold A. McCormick's, time in the U.S. Navy and San Leandro Fire Department. Not only are the uniforms in this donation well cared for, but they came to HAHS with significant background information about their use.

Mac would be in the reserves for 34 years. After moving to Kansas and then El Cerrito, Mac became a fire fighter in Richmond and San Leandro. In 1950, he moved to Castro Valley where he lived for the next 65 years.

Provenance provided by the donors allow HAHS to personalize artifacts and tell stories about the lives of Hayward Area residents. How an artifact was used, what it meant to its owner, where it travelled and what happened in the lives of the people who owned it, all help the museum capture the East Bay's diverse heritage. If you're considering donating an artifact that fills a gap in HAHS's collection, make sure to include as many memories and as much information about the object as you can.

The Office of Civilian Defense was started in 1941 by Executive order 8757. This order aimed to provide protection for the civilian population by coordinating efforts by the federal government with those of state and local government. One of their regional offices was located in San Francisco. Young Harold McCormick, Mac for short, volunteered for the Civil Defense guarding Bay Area bridges. Mac's mother insisted that he finish his senior year at Berkeley High, but as soon as he could, he entered the Navy. Beginning in 1942, Mac was on active duty for four years. Working on Victory ships and tug boats during the war gave Mac experience that he would use after the war as a Merchant Marine and on tug boats.



Keeping House

What does it take to look after historic properties?

“The Historic Properties are essentially the biggest artifacts in our collection!” A statement often repeated by Collections and Historic Properties Manager, Heather Farquhar, during her many years here at HAHS. They are a slightly different type of artifact, obviously, but need the same care and interpretation as even the tiniest item in the HAHS collection.



As most people hopefully know, HAHS manages the McConaghy House and Meek Mansion, both owned by HARD, and the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery, owned by Alameda County. Each property comes with its own challenges and concerns, of course, but they are very important to HAHS and our community, so we work around and through those challenges.

It takes a lot to be the custodians of the properties. Caring for the properties means knowing what each requires to get them and keep them healthy. And yes, we'll say healthy, because properties like these are like living beings in some ways, they need constant attention and upkeep. You have to know enough about architecture to know what type of house you're dealing with. You have to know enough about construction, both modern and historic techniques, and preservation code requirements, to make sure correct repairs are done and done right for each property. You have to be willing to get dirty and crawl onto roofs and ledges, through basements, shrubs and other suspicious nooks and crannies to properly monitor the facilities for water damage, dry rot, and rodent or bug infestations, and any

other millions of things that could cause damage.

All of the above also plays into the whole aspect of needed restoration and repairs, which is above and beyond basic maintenance. Meek Mansion needs room by room restoration to bring back what was once gorgeous wallpaper, light fixtures, carpets, woodwork, and plaster details. Headstones at the cemetery need repair and stabilizing in some cases. McConaghy could use some sprucing up too. All of which costs a lot of money. Our Collections and Historic Properties Department along with the rest of the HAHS staff, spend a lot of time organizing creative ways to raise funds so we can do all this restoration work, maybe not all at once, but a little bit at a time.

All of our programs and special events at the properties, you may have noticed, are just slightly more expensive than programs at the Museum may be. That additional money really does go toward the restoration and care of these properties. As a result of these fundraising efforts, soon some foundation and electrical work will happen at Meek, a new roof will go on McConaghy, and the walkways repaired at the Cemetery—maybe not the sexiest things to be fixed but all necessary for not only the life of the properties but for safety of our visitors and staff.

We want visitors at the three properties but it requires some creativity to bring people in. First time visitors are just that, first timers. They visit and are wowed because they've never been there before. But the houses and the cemetery are what they are, we can't constantly bring in new furniture and decorations, or you know,



add more headstones, to make it different for a second, third or fourth visit. We can make small changes here and there but essentially the “envelope” stays the same. The next best thing is developing new and creative programs that highlight a different story or aspect of each property. This requires research and planning and the people to conduct special tours and events.

People often ask us why the houses or the cemetery are not open all the time. The answer is simple, we need people to help us keep these places open and running. Volunteers are the key to making that happen. The more help we get from our community, the more often the facilities can be open and the better the programming and tours. We have many passionate and devoted people helping already but we can always use more!

We have a number of programs at all three properties this summer. There is something for young and old, some are specialty tours that we are charging for but there are a number of free events as well. We encourage you to check out the calendar section and drop by one, two or all of these great programs. And if you want to get more involved, check out the volunteer page on our website at www.haywardareahistory.org/volunteer.

Above: People in Meek Park celebrating Independence Day, where typically over 500 guests come through the Mansion.

Far Left: McConaghy House went through a reinterpretation period to reimagine the story of the House and incorporate more information about the family.

Left: Costumed volunteers help create an immersive experience for the Shrouded Tales tours at the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery.



A FOND FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK!

One of our colleagues, Collections and Historic Properties Manager **Heather Farquhar**, is leaving to become a Deputy Director in her own right. Heather joined the staff in January 2005 and has worked with grace, skill and more than a kilo of humor through leaky roofs, suspect mold spores, and ongoing restorations of Meek Mansion and McConaghy House. The living volunteers and departed at the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery, Board and staff alike wish a rising road and good luck to our friend!

Above: Heather Farquhar (right) with Collections and Historic Properties Assistant Gretta Stimson at the 16th History Awards.

Staff Spotlight: María Ochoa



What a dream fulfilling opportunity it is to serve as HAHS Deputy Director, and to be working in this amazing place that exists to advance the thing that I love most, history. My passion for history began with a fourth grade classroom experience where students were assigned a multi-disciplinary project: to write the history of San Lorenzo. By doing so, we learned about the geographic, cultural, and social aspects of the region, and then set those lessons to paper, as we applied our newly learned skills in cursive writing. I still have that book, my first ever, and keep it as a treasured artifact.

I am honored to be part of a staff that is committed to standards of excellence and whose professional backgrounds make this museum, well, HAHSome. My day's work involves identifying development and fundraising opportunities to support the exhibitions and educational programming of the museum. Previously I was a faculty member at San José State University teaching Asian American, California, U.S., and

women's history in the Department of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. I earned my doctorate at the University of California Santa Cruz in History of Consciousness, where I collected oral histories regarding the work of Chicana visual artists in northern California.

In memoriam Nels B. Nelson



In May, the HAHS family lost another friend of the organization, Nels B. Nelson. Many people fondly remember Mr. Nelson as the principal at Sunset High School in the 1960s and in the years prior, as teacher and administrator at Hayward Union High School and San Lorenzo High School. After his retirement from the school district, he was able to turn his attentions to other things, including involvement with the Historical Society. He served two years as our Board president in 1979 and 1980. He was one of the first to realize that what had started as a small organization was no longer that. He pushed discussions about the future stability of HAHS both financially and professionally. He was part of the Board committee that hired our first paid staff person, what Nels saw as a step forward to make the growing and complex organization better. His tenure and forward thinking was the foundation upon which we have the institution we have today. Nels not only helped HAHS but many other organizations in our community as well. Nels B. Nelson touched many lives and had a real impact on our community. He will be greatly missed. HAHS has established the Nels B. Nelson Fund whose proceeds will be earmarked for educational programming for young people. Please contact Deputy Director María Ochoa for more information.

Left: Nels and Donna Nelson at the 60th Anniversary Gala in 2016.

HAHS BUSINESS MEMBERS

THANK YOU
to our HAHS Business
members for your
continued support!



BA MORRISON
2544 Castro Valley Boulevard, Castro
Valley (510) 538-9817, bamorrison.
com

In business since 1990, B.A. Morrison is a family-owned Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning (HVAC) and General Construction company. Fully insured and bonded.



JESS C. SPENCER
MORTUARY & CREMATORY
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(510) 581-9133
spencermortuary.com

A full service mortuary with a crematory on-site. We provide burial and cremation services working with all faiths, fraternal organizations and cemeteries. We also offer reception facilities, advance planning, payment plans and special veterans programs. FD1168

BECK ROOFING
21123 Meekland Ave.
P.O. Box 234, Hayward
beckroofingonline.com



Serving the bay area for over 57 years. We are committed to providing the best quality and workmanship for all the area's roofing needs. Three generations of the Beck family have made customer satisfaction our primary goal.

HAYWARD AREA
RECREATION
& PARKS DISTRICT
1099 E St, Hayward
(510) 881-6700
haywardrec.org



Get Fit, Be Happy & Have Fun with over 1,000 recreation programs & classes. Plan a Party with more than 100 parks & facilities. Simply put explore HARD, play HARD, learn HARD.

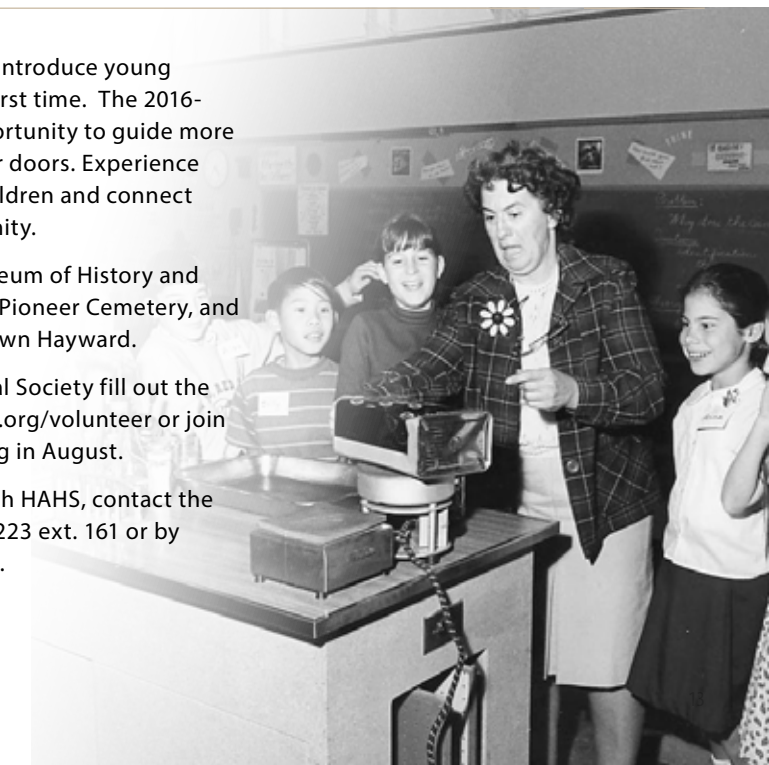
Volunteer to be a School Tour Guide

Every year, our volunteer school tour guides introduce young students to their local history, often for the first time. The 2016-2017 school year alone we have had the opportunity to guide more than 4,800 school aged students through our doors. Experience Hayward area history through the eyes of children and connect these wonderful students with their community.

HAHS is looking for guides for the HAHS Museum of History and Culture, McConaghy House, the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery, and for our guided walking tour through Downtown Hayward.

To volunteer with the Hayward Area Historical Society fill out the Volunteer Application at haywardareahistory.org/volunteer or join us for our next Volunteer Orientation Meeting in August.

For more information about volunteering with HAHS, contact the Education Department by calling (510) 581-0223 ext. 161 or by emailing education@haywardareahistory.org.



Making History from "Scraps"

by John Christian, Associate Archivist

One of the best things about working as an Archivist is that I get to piece together the stories and history of our community using a variety of really rare and neat resources. And one of my favorite resources is our collection of 19th century *Haywards Journal* newspapers.

The paper is something I use all the time when answering questions from the public, researching, or writing articles. What I mean to say is that I have spent a lot of time with these newspapers and have come to know its tiny font and seven vertical columns extremely well. The large bound newspapers require carefully hovering over the slightly smelly newsprint. Archivists make it a point of pride bragging about how many hours they can work with old newspapers like the *Haywards Journal*—posture and sinuses be damned.



There is a specific column in the 19th century *Journal* that I especially love called "Scraps". The "Scraps" section is essentially little one or two sentence blurbs, not long enough to be an article, but information that the paper's various publishers thought should be printed. Think of

it as 19th century Twitter for the area's less than 2,000 residents. Like the tweets we read today, some of the *Journal's* scraps are pretty funny, like this sampling:

- May 19, 1877 "The innocent Mosquito is on his rambles once more, and people have commenced to revise their store of most expressive swear words."
- June 9, 1877 "A man drove through town the other day with ingredients for opening a substantial cemetery. He had a load of gravestones and whiskey."
- March 23, 1878 "The old gent who makes it a regular habit of standing in his bed room window in a nude state while taking his diurnal bath should drop the unseemly exposure and 'pull down the blinds' or he may hear something that sounds better left unsaid."
- July 17, 1886 "It was only 102 Thursday".

Other times however, these mentions give us a darker and more serious view of what was going on around town:

- February 20, 1886 "Since the Anti-Chinese agitation comeuced [*sic*] the Chinese wash houses are running on half time at reduced rates."

This brief sentence, just 92 short characters, reveals that Chinese owned businesses in the area were being targeted and discriminated against just a few years after the creation of the local "Anti-Chinese League" and in wake of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Other briefs give us a sense of the local agricultural economy, what farmers were growing and employing people to harvest:

- August 16, 1879 "We understand Wm. Meek



has sold his entire crop of Hungarian Prunes to parties that are shipping them east."

Small descriptions like this give us valuable insight into what was being grown on the Meek Estate and helps us determine where our local fruit was being sent. Not bad for only 19 words.

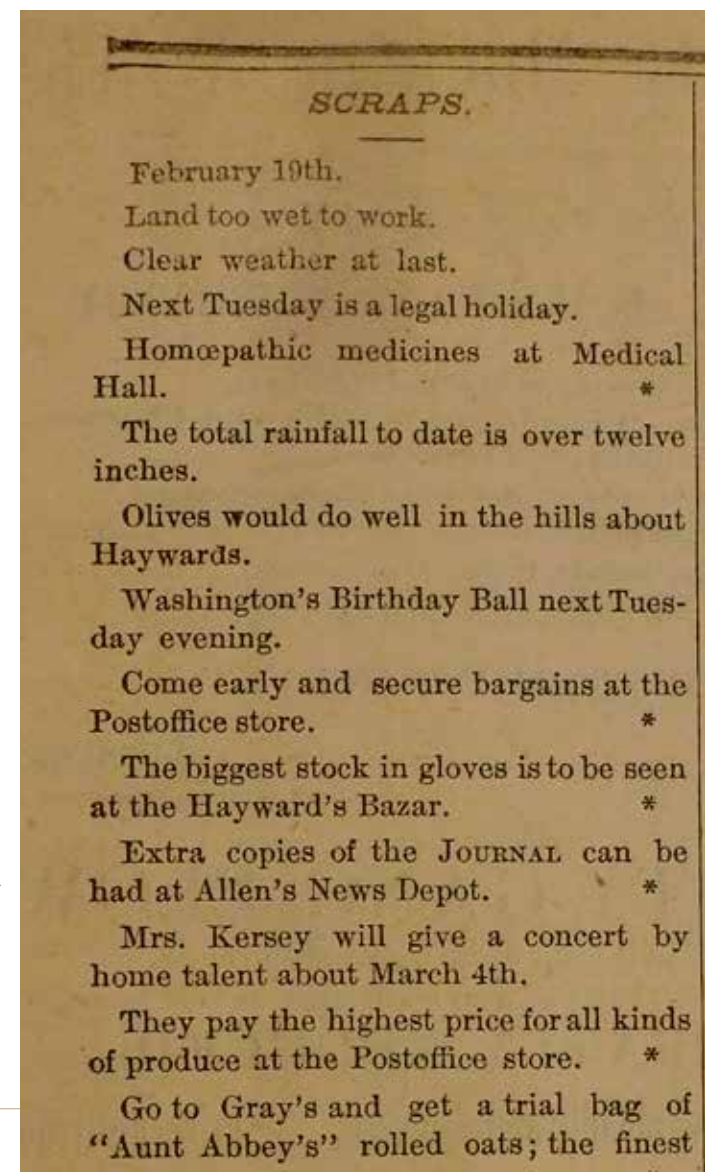
It's not hard to imagine Hayward's residents eagerly gathered around the weekly copy of the *Journal* carefully scanning the scraps for the latest news and gossip rather than reading the substantial articles (sound familiar?). And even though I myself am reading these about 140 years after the fact, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't enjoying them just as much or even more. Most importantly however, for an archivist and historian, these old-timey "tweets" provide us with real primary source information needed to tell the broader story of our communities.



Above: John and Diane reading the newspaper: Neither of these people have a Twitter account.

Right: Small print, tiny sentences, enormously helpful! The *Journal's* "scraps" column.

Left: Whoever thought it was a good idea to create bound newspaper books this size must have never planned on using them on a regular basis for their job. #historianproblems





HAYWARD
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SOCIETY

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COMING SOON: COMMUNITY GALLERY EXHIBITION



Arts & Letters

July 7 through September 10

The **Hayward Arts Council** presents the upcoming exhibition *Arts & Letters* in the Community Gallery.

The uniqueness of this exhibit is that all works creatively combine at least one word or words of text and art in a variety of languages including Asian characters and American Sign Language.

Arts & Letters includes art from members of A.R.T., Inc., Hayward Arts Council, Sun Gallery, middle and high school students and Chabot College and CSUEB students. A variety of media including oil, acrylic, pastels, pencil, pen, photography, poetry, metal, sculpture, mixed media, textiles, card-making, art journaling, jewelry, ceramics, and more will be highlighted.

Awards for first, second, and third places and two honorable mentions will be selected. Join us for the artists' reception and award presentations, and a free demo on Chinese calligraphy by local artist **Ruey Syrop** on Friday, July 7, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Visit www.haywardartscouncil.org to learn details about this exhibition.

HAYWARD
Arts
COUNCIL