



4 Calendar

Keep up with what's ahead with your historical society

6 Meek Mansion Turns 150

Celebrate Meek Mansion's sesquicentennial!

9 Collections Corner

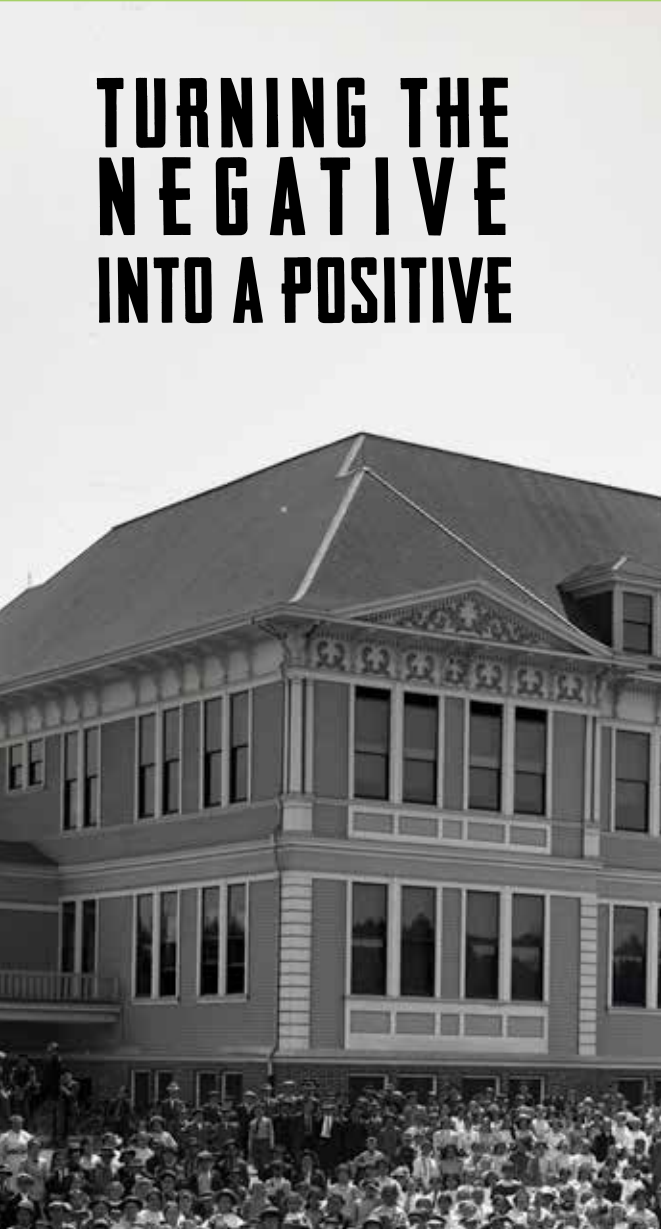
Glass plate negatives turned positive

10 Ruth Rogers

Hayward's First City Councilwoman

AUTUMN 2019 VOLUME LVIII, NO. 3

TURNING THE NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE



CURIOS? TURN TO PAGE 9





FROM THE DIRECTOR

As you have no doubt seen by now, we closed the museum galleries at the beginning of September. While we are all sad to see *Your Story* and the other galleries come down, this is also marking a new beginning for us that I think is pretty exciting.

I recently read an article that made an argument that businesses should not fear stepping off the path they are on if it is not working and taking a step back. For us, our attendance has been better than ever in the museum galleries but our fundraising is down and costs have risen. So, the path we have been on works sort of but we cannot keep it up. I would say we are not taking a step back so much as taking a step sideways to a new path and a more sustainable future.

Soon what was our galleries will be home to a new tenant, while the museum and historical society offices will be located on the second floor. Same entrance off the parking lot into the lobby, visitors will just have to take a short ride in the elevator to find the new galleries upstairs.

Once upstairs, visitors will still find a history gallery, a special exhibition gallery, and a children's gallery along with a modest store and research library. The space will be more intimate for sure but I also think it will be comfortable and approachable. We are still planning to bring you fun and interesting programs and exhibitions too!

It will take a little time to build out the new space but my goal is to have us ready to welcome visitors by mid-year 2020 with the caveat that, if you know anything about construction, it never quite goes according to plan. I will not make a firm open date announcement until we are 100% ready to have you all come visit us again.

In the meantime, we will be focusing a lot of energy at McConaghy House this fall, as you will see in the following pages. We will also be collaborating with HARD to celebrate the Meek Mansion's 150th birthday on October 12. Once the holidays are over, in the New Year we will be bringing back our "History Around Town" programs at venues throughout the area.

We will always be reachable during this transition to answer your questions and concerns. Please know that we always value your continued support. Stay tuned for more news in the coming months!

—Diane Curry, *Interim Executive Director*



HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[Venues]

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HAHS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

Currently closed for renovations.

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.

17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD



SAN LORENZO PIONEER CEMETERY

Final resting place of over 2000 residents from politicians to paupers and Hayward area pioneers.

HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET
SAN LORENZO

AUTUMN PROGRAMS & FAMILY FUN



18701 HESPERIAN BLVD, HAYWARD



Toddler Time is a family program geared towards children ages 1-5 and their caregivers. Together, we share songs, games, crafts and stories. Older siblings are always welcome.

Now at McConaghy House the First Saturday and Second Thursday of each month 10:30-11:30 AM. \$5 program fee per adult

Apples and Pumpkins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate. The first one says "Oh, my! It's getting late!" Don't be late for this song and storytime celebrating all things autumn! Make a paper pumpkin and create an old-fashioned dried apple head.

Día de los Muertos

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Come join us for this celebration that honors family and ancestry! Smell dried marigold petals and *copal* incense. Then learn to make colorful tissue paper flowers, or *cempasuchil*, to decorate your own home *ofrenda*.

Holidays

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

The smell of gingerbread. A cup of hot cocoa. The twinkle of lights. Come see McConaghy House fully decorated for the holidays, and join us for songs and stories as we find the magic of the season.

NOTE: There will be NO Thursday Toddler Time in December, as we will be busy with school tours. Families are encouraged to visit on the first three weekends in December (see right for schedule) when the house will be open and decorated for the holidays.

Family Crafts at McConaghy House

Family Crafts at McConaghy House is full of family-friendly crafts and activities. Each month offers an opportunity to explore vintage Victorian pastimes – the Game of Graces, wooden rolling hoops, homemade giant bubbles! – with additional new craft activities each month.

First Saturday of each month from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. Program is included in McConaghy House admission: \$5 per adult, \$3 for students and seniors, free for children 4 and under and HAHS members.

Upcoming Dates and Themes:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6: APPLES AND PUMPKINS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7: HOLIDAYS



Haunted History at McConaghy House

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM
\$15 Advance Tickets, \$10 HAHS Members
\$20 at the door - Subject to availability

It's the season for spooky stories, and nothing is spookier than when the stories are rooted in truth. Explore true tales of tragic ends, Victorian death traditions and superstitions, in a guided tour through this local Victorian home. Tickets are limited and likely to sell out. Day-of tickets subject to availability. To purchase, visit www.HaywardAreaHistory.org or call (510) 581-0223.



17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD

Meek Estate 150th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join us for a grand celebration, including house tours, crafts & games, a slide-show of Meek family history, a bounce house, and more. Stay for a tree-planting ceremony and enjoy some cake!

Meek Paranormal Investigation

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM
\$75 per person

During this investigation, experienced investigators will lead attendees through the property and explore the paranormal. Investigations for ages 18+. Purchase tickets in advance at haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal.



HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET, SAN LORENZO

Cemetery Clean Up & Open Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Drop by to help preserve our local historic cemetery! Bring gloves, rakes and water. The cemetery will also be open during this time for the public to visit the grounds and ask questions.



[COMMUNITY TRADITIONS]

Holidays at McConaghy House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
\$5 General Admission, \$3 Students & Seniors, Free for HAHS Members

Visit a Winter Wonderland as you step into McConaghy House fully decorated for the holidays, with garlands, ornaments, and Christmas trees in every room of this fully-furnished Victorian home. This year's theme is The Nutcracker, so see if you can find the nutcracker dolls and ballet slippers tucked among this year's decorations. Bring family and friends and come visit on any of the first three weekends in December to travel back in time for an old-fashioned holiday celebration.

Celebrating Meek Mansion's 150th Birthday

by Diane Curry, Interim Executive Director & Curator

This year marks the sesquicentennial of Meek Mansion. Yep, 150 years ago the innovative and daring William Meek had a large elegant house built for his family at the edge of his 3,000+ acre farm. Now there is a bustling community of homes, businesses, and schools surrounding the mansion but in 1869, the house sat in the middle of nowhere.

Imagine what it looked like around here 150 years ago. What is now Lewelling Boulevard was a narrow dirt road. There were no elevated BART track, no Hampton Road. The center of the community of San Lorenzo was a few businesses and the cemetery located up at the intersection of Lewelling and Hesperian. The center of Hayward was way to the south between A Street and D Street, Mission Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard.

Hayward was not even a city yet, that would not happen until 1876. The entire population in the area was under 1,500 people. There was no local newspaper. Children had to travel a good distance to go to school either in downtown Hayward or San Lorenzo. The entire East Bay was still rebuilding from the 1868 earthquake. Farmers in the region were still mostly raising cattle and just beginning to make money from crops. Mr. Meek himself had probably just planted some orchards of his own.

Meek and his family had only been in the area for about 10 years. Meek came to California after achieving success in Oregon, so basically he settled here with money already in his pocket. In just a few short years, he purchased thousands of acres of prime farmland, served as an Alameda County Supervisor, and helped establish the San Lorenzo Cemetery Association, among other things. His family was most likely living in a small house located along Lewelling Boulevard near the edge of what is now Meek Park.

Whether Mr. Meek had been planning for his grand mansion for a while or whether it was a sudden decision that he needed more space as his family grew, we will never know. What we do know is probably sometime in 1868 he began planning for the house to be built the following year. So far, we have been unable to identify the architect or the builder but we do know Meek's home shows Italianate influence in design, a style popular around this time.

The choices he made in materials such as the marble on the fireplaces, the ornate plaster details at the ceilings, and even the stylized "WM" worked into the molding in the entryway illustrate his wealth. Yet, the mansion, and it is indeed a mansion, was a home to his four children and wife (his last daughter would not be born until five years

after the completion of the house). It was also the headquarters of his extensive business empire.

The mansion would be home to four generations of the Meek family before being sold to the Ream family. The Reams also made the house a home, making their own additions and changes over the course of the 25 years they lived there. The Hayward Area Recreation District's purchase of the mansion in 1965 means today that the entire community has the opportunity to appreciate Meek Mansion inside and out. Soon the mansion will be getting a face-lift and a polish and we have plans to open the doors up even more to the community in the coming year. In the meantime, join us on October 12 from 10am–2pm as we celebrate the mansion's 150th birthday!

Above: An illustration of William Meek's residence as published in *Alameda County Illustrated*, Thompson and West, 1878.

Right, top: An architectural detail in the entry includes William Meek's monogram.

Right: Meek Mansion as we know it today.



Why I Volunteer with HAHS

by Monica Ten Eyck, HAHS Volunteer

I volunteer at HAHS because I enjoy the public contact. As a retired librarian, I missed seeing the broad spectrum of people I used to assist in that capacity. I enjoyed my retirement and the chicken and garden time it afforded me, but I really missed the people and especially the children. My grandchildren and I attended a Christmas program at McConaghy House, and we noticed one person took care of two rooms instead of just one, so the volunteers appeared to be in short supply. Just the inspiration I needed to find my niche at HAHS.

I had walked past the McConaghy House hundreds of times as a child growing up in San Lorenzo, the chance to volunteer there once a month was irresistible. And I'm handy with a needle and thread, so the sewing room became my special spot. I've even been entrusted with mending the dress up clothes.

The class visits with the children both at McConaghy House and the HAHS museum are a pure pleasure. I love sharing what I know about the area I grew up in and the children, I think, believe I am as old as Hayward itself. It is so fun to see a child respond to the exhibits, noting things that are familiar and discovering something they have never seen before and finding its purpose in the context of history.

I am so glad to be part of this inspiring organization.



HAUNTED HISTORY *at* MCCONAGHY HOUSE

COME JOIN OUR SPIRITS AND SPECTERS FOR A BIT OF HALLOWEEN FUN!

Explore true tales of tragic ends, Victorian death traditions and superstitions, in a guided tour through this local Victorian home. It's the season for spooky stories, and nothing is spookier than when the stories are rooted in truth.

Friday, October 18th & Saturday October 19th
Friday, October 25th & Saturday, October 26th
Tours start at 7 PM, 8 PM, & 9 PM

Tickets are limited
Day-of tickets subject to availability
To purchase, call (510) 581-0223 or
visit www.HaywardAreaHistory.org
\$15 advanced purchase, \$10 HAHS Members
\$20 at the door



OUR NEWEST GLASS PLATE NEGATIVE

Turning a Negative into a Positive

by John Christian, Archives and Properties Manager

Recently we've had an exciting donation to our collection—a large glass plate negative showing Hayward Grammar School c.1910.

A few things in particular make this glass plate negative particularly unique. First, is its size! Measuring in at 10 inches wide and 8 inches tall, it's almost a miracle this plate has remained intact for over 11 decades. Glass plates were often scraped clean and recycled by photographers or simply lost to time—because... well you know, glass breaks!

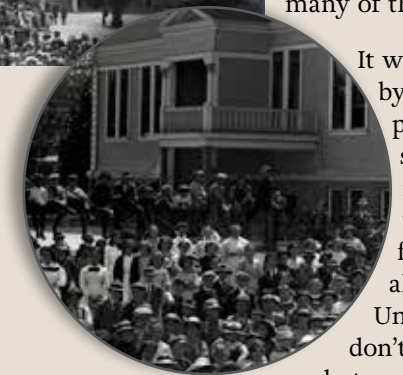
Speaking from experience, a box of glass plate negatives can also be heavy. Transporting these plates was a difficult task all on its own for a photographer. Just imagine for a moment—packing all the glassware in your house, putting the contents in wooden crates, and then transporting them along mostly unpaved roads. There would be more than a few casualties! To have an intact glass plate this size and good condition is awfully rare. Even the edges of the plate are not chipped or cracked which is commonly found on any size glass plate.

While the plate itself is amazing, the revealed image is just as incredible. The photographer captured what appears to be the entire student body of Hayward Grammar School. The school itself was located at B and First Streets, until the late 1940s when First Street was widened and renamed Foothill Boulevard.

A (super!) high resolution scan of the school reveals lots of details with great clarity. Not only can you make out many of the distinct faces, clothing and hats, but other details emerge as well. A pile of bicycles, intricate wood detail on the schoolhouse, even part of the bell tower is clear and visible. Especially interesting is the “clock” tower of the Native Sons of the Golden West building visible in the distance to the



right. What looks like a large clock, is actually just a wooden circle painted to mimic a clock. Then there are the students themselves. In the group you see a range of ages, clothing types and expressions. Some seem indifferent while others appear excited to have their photo taken. It must have been a special moment for many of them.



It was likely taken by an experienced photographer. The skills needed to mix chemicals and transport these fragile plates are all evidence to that. Unfortunately, we don't know who the photographer was and

if they were local or simply for hire from somewhere else. Regardless, it is a sight to behold.

Receiving any glass plate negative is a special occasion for us here in the archives—especially once we turn it into a positive.

Our sincere thanks to Joel Carney for donating this negative.

The First: Ruth Rogers and

the Hayward City Council

by John Christian, Archives and Properties Manager

If you look at today's Hayward City Council, it is majority women, 4-3. Do you know the last time the Hayward City Council was majority women? The answer is never. This council is the first.

This got me thinking about who the first woman to serve on the Hayward City Council was? The answer: Ruth Le Boyd Rogers. And she served earlier than you might have guessed.

Ruth Rogers came to Hayward in 1906. She came with her husband Conway Rogers, a minister at the local Presbyterian church. Ruth quickly joined the all-women's Hill and Valley Club and was active in Hayward's social scene.

In 1922, four years after her husband's death, Ruth ran for a seat on the Hayward City Council and won. She was 52 years old at the time. There isn't too much information regarding her initial election, but she received 426 votes and won out over two men running for the same seat. A small note in the April 24, 1922 Hill and Valley Club meeting minutes has a brief note suggesting a committee be formed to attend the council meetings in support of Ruth.

Ruth quickly assumed her duties on the council and pushed for the enforcement of prohibition laws as well as the vaccination of dogs to prevent the spread of rabies. A

variety of newspaper articles praised Ruth for her work ethic and dedication to the job of city council. She won reelection in 1926 and continued on with the work of improving the city.

Her accomplishments included tearing down a dangerous old pavilion in Memorial Park, voting in favor of the construction of a new city hall (the building currently on Mission Boulevard), and got the funding for the planting of over 100 trees in the city. She also worked very closely with the Health Department, especially on issues related to child welfare. By all accounts it would seem that Ruth was

a respected member of the council and community. As a woman however, it seems there were limits to what Ruth could do.

Prior to the 1960s, the Hayward City Council chose a mayor yearly from amongst its members. Ruth was never chosen as mayor in her eight years on the council. Based on council records it doesn't appear to have ever been considered. Why is uncertain, but for Ruth and many women in politics it was more politically advantageous to embody the stereotypes of womanhood rather than fight against them.

Ruth used the fact that she was a woman to her advantage. As a mother, her campaign

literature is filled with references to homemaking and motherhood, and the moral authority that comes with it. While running for reelection in 1930, her pamphlet to voters contained; "A WOMAN'S PLACE is in the home, but her home means her city as well as her house, and there is municipal housekeeping to be done which can be done better by a woman than a man." In other words, if women had to accept an argument of inferiority on some issues, then obviously men must accept it for others.

And while the local newspapers consistently endorsed Ruth for reelection, they continued to do so in this same way; that as a homemaker and mother, Ruth could nurture certain projects, but still had enough "common sense" to work with the rest of the council—aka the boys club. So while Ruth was accepted in Hayward politics, she was accepted as the voice for women, not all of Hayward and certainly not its men.

This level of condescension continued through her eight years on the council. Perhaps most striking is when Ruth filled in for the mayor who was out of town for one meeting. The headline in the Hayward Review read: "Hayward Ruled by Lady Mayor for Single Hour". The headline made light of the situation and made sure to note that the male members of the council were happy with the temporary arrangement and even joked about it. It is uncertain how Ruth felt

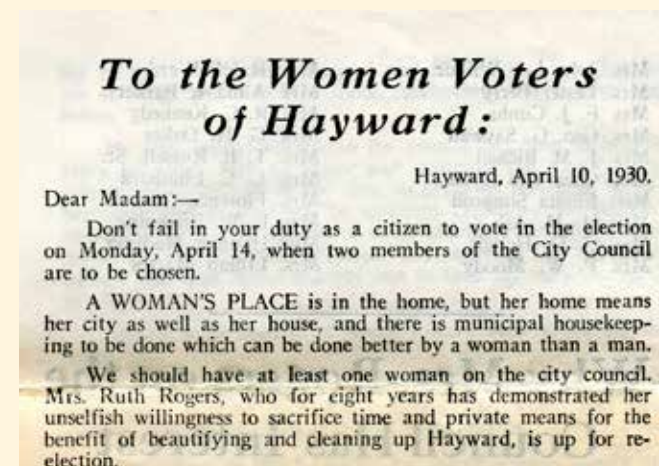
about headlines like this, but it certainly is consistent with attitudes of the time.

Regardless, Ruth was a savvy politician, using voter's preconceived notions about womanhood to get elected twice, which is a remarkable accomplishment for the 1920s. Remember, women's suffrage came to California in 1911 and wasn't nationwide until 1920. All this is more remarkable considering that the next woman elected to the Hayward City Council would be Ilene Weinreb in 1968—almost thirty years later.

The Hayward Journal noted after her loss in the 1930 election that "the City of Hayward owes [Ruth Rogers] a vote of thanks

for her many civic improvements which have aided in beauty. But someone had to lose as is the usual procedure in all elections."

Ruth spent the rest of her life in Hayward. She died in August of 1956, still having been the only woman to serve on the Hayward City Council when she passed.



Left: The Hill and Valley Club posing at the home of Edith Park, July 26, 1912. Ruth Rogers is believed to be the woman seated in the front row, third from the left (inset). Taken ten years before her election to the council.

Above: A pamphlet from Ruth's 1930 reelection campaign.



HAYWARD
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Show your local pride with our original designs! Represent your town with a t-shirt, mug, tote bag, or die cut sticker. Each is inspired by what the region was historically known for. New designs have been added!

Available only at our online Teespring store! www.teespring.com/stores/hahs



Proceeds from each sale directly support the historical society.

For more information regarding other ways to help, please call (510) 581-0223 or visit www.haywardareahistory.org.