



Southern Oregon Historical Society Newsletter

News from Southern Oregon Historical Society

November 2015

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Dear Members,

My letter today brings a special request - that you support one of Southern Oregon's most beloved places, Historic Hanley Farm and Home. Your gift will be matched 1-1 thanks to the generosity of our Board of Trustees, the Gold Digger's Guild and community members.

For almost 70 years, Southern Oregon Historical Society has made history come alive at Hanley Farm, where over 7,000 children learn American history and experience life as it was in pioneer days. Each year, thousands walk through the halls of the Hanley Home, just as it was when Mary Hanley last lived there. In the winter, the structure of the landscape and trees are lace against the sky. In the summer, the large century trees tower over lush gardens and the small spaces become your secret places. There's so much to love.

- .. Your \$50 gift becomes a gift of \$100 and provides fresh food for our youth programs.
- .. Your \$100 gift becomes a gift of \$200 and brings a low-income child to summer camp at Hanley Farm.
- .. Your \$200 gift becomes \$400 and helps to preserve the historic buildings: Hanley Home, the 19th/20th Century Barns, the Greenhouse, and the 1850 Spring House.

It's easy to give: [click here to make an online gift](#), make a call, or send us a note. We can do so much more with your help, and we are so grateful.

Thank you.

Diana Drews
Southern Oregon Historical Society
541-773-6536 x204



Coming Up at SOHS

Oct 1-Dec 10 History: Made by You
Nov 18 Windows in Time: Bicycles
Nov 28 Wreath Making at Hanley Farm
Dec 2&9 Windows in Time: Diaries
Dec 27 Holiday Hanley Home Tour

Wreath Making at Hanley Farm

Holidays at Hanley Saturday November 28 from 11am-3pm

You know the holidays are near when Historic Hanley Farm is decked out in red ribbons, bells and wreaths. Stop in on Saturday November 28 and join in the holiday cheer! Santa Claus will be

on hand, enjoying hot cider and cookies, watching over the children's crafts and activities, and checking out the gifts in the Holiday Boutique. Admission is free, and wreath making kits are \$15.

And mark your calendar now for the annual holiday tour of Hanley Home on Sunday December 27 from 11am-3pm. \$3/members and \$5/non-members. For more information, call 541-773-6536 x202



Spotlight on Elizabeth Luca-Mahmood

Elizabeth Luca-Mahmood takes the lead on making the grape vine bases for the annual wreath making festival. "It's my favorite event of the year at Hanley and I love it so much!" she says. "I trim the grapes and we wind fifty foot vines into bases. I trim the trees and there's a real diversity of foliage to work with - everything comes from Hanley, even hundred year old holly!"

It's no wonder that Elizabeth loves the wreath making festival so well - she says it's artistic, creative and fun. It's easy to understand why, when you start with the base wreath and end up with a decorative masterpiece crafted to your interest, and your home. Join us on Saturday November 28, from 11am-3pm.



News from the Curator

The Collections Department has been busy this fall. In addition to the usual daily routines of cataloging, processing and preserving artifacts, Hanley Farm has been a hub of additional activities. Hanley Farmhouse received a repaired and restored gutter system and a newly painted facade in the original c. 1875 color palette, thanks to a grant from the Kinsman Foundation. The home's interior sported a display of vintage Halloween ephemera for the annual Scarecrow Festival and Haunted Field events.

The Kinsman Foundation awarded us an additional generous grant to make repairs to the Hanley water tower. This project, to begin in January, will repair rotted footings and siding, fabricate a new gutter system, re-shingle the roof and repaint the structure.

Staff has also turned their attention to a fall deep-cleaning of our storage facility building and assessment of building condition before the impacts of the upcoming winter season.



Collections Corner

October 11, 2015 was the 92nd anniversary of the D'Autremont train robbery. According to Southern Oregon Historical Society records, this iron wedge was discovered at the south end of Tunnel 13 in the rock dump caused by the mail car explosion. It's a great example of how a simple, unrefined object can represent such an important story. (SOHS 1967.149.12)

Curious to know more? In 2013, KTVL/News10 and the Southern Oregon Historical Society uncovered a rare interview with Ray D'Autremont, one of the train robbers involved in the tragedy at tunnel 13, after he was released from prison. The interview was recorded by News10's sister station in the 70s. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HosbufZ7P_I

SOHS also has a number of books on the D'Autremont train robbery, perfect gifts for the holiday season. [Shop online here](#) or stop in at the downtown Medford History Center Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4pm.



Vertical Files Preserve Rare Ephemera

The SOHS Vertical Files consist of twelve cabinets that contain files on over 10,000 people and 1,400 subjects. Some

subject files, such as the Rogue River Wars, include thousands of clippings. For others, the file might include only one article.

This collection of ephemera has been developed over the years by dedicated SOHS volunteers and staff who add to the Vertical Files frequently, and depend on them daily. Although finding a particular fact may be more like a treasure hunt than a simple retrieval, research in the Vertical Files is often rewarding and frequently fascinating. The Vertical Files are located at the downtown Medford History Center and is available to SOHS members at no charge Tuesday-Friday, noon-4pm. Non-members can access the collection for a daily use fee.



David Miller's Headstone

Medford's first property owner and drugstore owner, David Henry Miller, died in 1917, but his grave was unmarked until recently. Chuck Sears, a descendant of Miller's by marriage, purchased a headstone and arranged for its placement earlier this year. Miller was honored at a graveside ceremony in the historic Jacksonville Cemetery on Sunday, November 1, 2015. Southern Oregon Historical Society's Associate Curator of Collections Tina Reuwsaat was among the first to speak with Chuck Sears as he researched his relative and notes, "The Southern Oregon Historical Society supports and celebrates Chuck Miller's respect for the past as he creates this memorial for the future."

Curious to know more about David Miller? [Here's his biography on the SOHS website.](#)



Windows in Time: Bicycles Down the Valley by Amy Drake

Jackson County Library Services and Southern Oregon Historical Society are proud to announce the last two Windows in Time lectures for 2015. Amy Drake, SOHS Exhibitions Curator will present *Bicycling Down the Valley* on Wednesday November 18, noon at the Ashland Public Library.

In December, *To Reflect and Correspond*, *Southern Oregon Diaries and Letters* is the final presentation of the 2015 Windows in Time history series. This noon lecture will be presented by Stephanie Butler, Local Historian and Southern Oregon University Pre-College Youth Coordinator on Wednesday, December 2, at the Medford Branch Library, 205 South Central Avenue, and on Wednesday, December 9, at the Ashland Branch Library, 410 Siskiyou Boulevard. Free and open to all who love history!

Stay tuned for the 2016 Windows in Time series! Coordinators Amy Blossom, Alice Mullaly, Larry Mullaly and Dennis Powers have been busy finalizing presenters and topics.



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