



# HISTORICAL NEWS



SAN BENITO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2019

## President's Message

By Anita Kane

### We Couldn't Do It Without You

Volunteers. You know who you are. You have a few extra hours, you learn of a need, and you step up.

Over the years, the Historical Society has been blessed to have had quite an assortment of volunteers to call on when the need arises. They have cataloged artifacts, built bird nesting boxes, designed displays, moved buildings, cleaned gutters, vacuumed, put together presentations, baked cookies, directed parking, written newsletters (*sorry I got busy this year and dropped the ball on the summer one*), researched our archives for the public, built things, restored things, walked and talked and showed folks around our Museum, Research Room & Historical Village, and dreamed out loud about upcoming things. The list goes on & on. It's an impressive list of achievements. All of you have, with your unique skill set, promoted the general appreciation of our local history to our community, and we can't thank you enough.



As times marches on, our life circumstances change and we hope yours may include some openings for you to join us. Are you a former volunteer that once again has a bit of time to spare? A new resident looking to get involved with your community? A tradesperson willing to share your expertise? A big-picture visionary interested in joining Board of Directors? A service group looking for a project? Look no further!



Let's chat to see where your skills would be best used. Please Email me: [pres@sbhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:pres@sbhistoricalsociety.org) You can also click here:

<https://form.jotform.com/90196095240153> to fill out a brief online form to get started. I can tell you that time spent in service to others is time well-spent. I look forward to getting to know you.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!!



### Calendar of Events

#### December 7 Victorian Christmas Home Tour

The Museum will once again be on the tour!

TICKETS & INFO: <https://home-tour-2019.ticketleap.com/hpc/details>



#### December 11, Wed 7:00pm Gen'l Membership Meeting

At the Museum  
498 Fifth St, Hollister

Bring a Christmas ornament from your past and tell us the story behind it!

Followed by  
Holiday Social

#### 2020 Events:

**March 25 7pm  
General Membership Meeting**  
At the Museum

**April 18 & 19  
Brookdale  
Blue Grass Festival**  
at the Historical Village

**August 6-9  
Good Old Fashioned  
Bluegrass Festival**  
at the Historical Village

**Sept 18-20  
Civil War Days**  
at the Historical Village  
~ Other events  
to be announced ~

## Meet Museum Docent Jamie Froom



Meet Jamie Froom, the Wapple House Museum Docent. Jamie keeps the Museum open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10-2pm. She receives guests, does some cataloging of documents and artifacts, a little housekeeping, and in general is our face to the public!

Jamie enjoys interacting with people so this position is a great fit. She also enjoys cooking, walking her dog, writing, & math! Stop by have Jamie show you what's new at the Museum!

## What the heck is a Clamper?

**E Clampus Vitus, Monterey Viejo Chapter 1846** is their name. They wear red shirts. These guys are our Park Angels. The California roots of this fraternal organization originated over 150 years ago in the Gold Country, when their mission was to help out the miners and their families. Today they serve community of their various chapters, delivering much needed philanthropy with a historical, good natured spin. They regularly meet at the Park and Get Things Done. This year they installed a beautiful historical Monument for the Park.



They moved very heavy things (a gun case weighing, like a million pounds!), rebuilt steps at the Willow Creek School, hung Owl boxes, installed phone lines, installed fire extinguishers, repaired irrigation lines, removed nuisance trees, installed lighting at the Palmtag shed, repaired the sagging porch on the Cottage Bar, put up a screen for the porta potties; the list goes on.

**Thank you, Donut Dave & Crew!!!**



**The Ancient and Honorable Order of  
E Clampus Vitus**

## 2019 Board of Directors

**Anita Kane**  
*President*

**John Wrobel**  
*Vice President*

**Hydie McDonald**  
*Treasurer*

**Kerry Tobias**  
*Secretary/Membership*

**Becky Thompson**  
*Director*

**Paul Hain**  
*Director*

## Research Room Volunteers

**Verona Flint**

**Roya Singleton**

**Junel Davidson**

**Regan Huerta**

## Museum Volunteers

**Susie Echaore-McDavid**

**Linda Vacarrezza**

**Sharlene Van Rooy**

## Museum Docent

**Jamie Froom**

Jamie opens the Museum to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 10-2 thanks to a generous grant from Community Foundation.

## Tres Pinos Historical Park Docent

**"Your Name Here"**

Become a volunteer Visitor Center Docent, Saturdays from 11-3. You will share San Benito County history with Park visitors and lead tours through the Historical Village. This could be a job-sharing setup among 4 volunteers, with each Docent volunteering once a month for just 4 hours.

## Remembering Merilee Eddy

*Longtime member Verona Flint shared this lovely account of our late member and volunteer Merilee Eddy:*

Within the circle of the San Benito County Historical Society, I am remembering, and want to share thoughts about a former volunteer, Merilee Eddy. She recently passed away at the age of 89.

When given a task, she quietly forged ahead. She identified smaller items, putting them into boxes with proper information, inside and outside the containers. Most of these boxes ended up in the Ferrando House at our Historical Park for storage and future use. Her fine use of calligraphy and handwriting skills were perfect for identifying donated items. She developed a central inventory check list containing 3" x 5" catalogue cards that identified information contained in the storage boxes. While working at the Ferrando House, she also enjoyed the park gardens.

Merilee was an artist in her own right. She was historically accurate in making quilts and was a hand quilter. She hospitably invited other quilters into her tidy home to share their common interest.

Merilee and Earlene McCabe, together, successfully worked hand in hand at the museum, helping to preserve some of our San Benito County history.

I feel it was a privilege to have known Merilee Eddie. She was a quiet spirit who was devoted to a cause and one to stay out of the limelight and self-elevation, always wearing a smile.

## Community Foundation Philanthropy Day



On November 14 the Society was pleased to honor Historical Park Docent Katie Silva as our Philanthropist of the year. Katie volunteered as our face to the public at the Visitor Center, where she greeted guests and led Park tours with a smile and a great attitude. Katie will be missed. She is off studying archeology and who knows, perhaps one day she'll return to San Benito County. Thank you Katie!



Here's Ed, ready to tidy up the Toyon!

## PARK WORK DAY JAN 4

Weather permitting, 9-1 pm

Volunteers will meet at the Park for:

- Tree pruning
- General cleanup

**Hot Dog lunch provided!**

*Thanks in Advance!!*

## Preservation Campaign:

Sincere thanks to our generous donors who have brought the fund so close to the goal:



---GOAL:  
\$30K

---SO FAR:  
\$22,380

The Preservation Campaign seeks funds to patch, paint and protect the buildings at the Historical Village and the Wapple House Museum. Please consider a donation to our current campaign through the link on our web site [sbchistorysociety.org](http://sbchistorysociety.org) or mail a check to:

SBCHS

*Thanks!*

*We couldn't do it without you!*

The Ancient and Honorable Order of  
**E Clampus Vitus**



Community  
Foundation  
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

**Thank You  
For Your Support in  
2019!**

## Hollister Water Works

By Sharlene Van Rooy



With the recent water breaks in downtown Hollister, we thought it would be appropriate to provide a little history about the water supply in Hollister.

It is Richard M. Shackleford who received the first franchise from the City of Hollister trustees on September 27, 1875. His job was to supply water within the next 90 days through means of tanks, reservoirs, etc. situated on Hollister Hill through Artesian wells. A new building soon covered three bored wells at the intersection of West and Third Streets and a Knowles' steam pump was used to pump water up the hill to the reservoir.

All pipes were laid and water was flowing to residents by Christmas.

Shackleford sold all the property to the newly formed Hollister Water Company on March 26, 1877 and moved to Paso Robles where he became an eminent business man until he declared bankruptcy in 1901.

He died of old age in 1915 and was remembered locally as the organizer of Hollister's first water company.





## **San Benito County Historical Society**

498 Fifth Street • Hollister, CA 95023

*[www.sbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sbhistoricalsociety.org)*

The San Benito County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all-volunteer organization (Tax ID #94-2861560). We are solely funded by annual membership dues, contributions, bequests and memorials, grants, and fundraising events.

Please consider becoming a member of the SBCHS. As a member, you will enjoy numerous benefits and discounts while exploring the County's history. Your membership will also help to support our mission to collect and preserve materials pertaining to the history of San Benito County. Visit our website at [www.sbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sbhistoricalsociety.org).

### **SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP**

A Sustaining donation is a convenient contribution option that provides stable financial support to the San Benito County Historical Society all year long, and allows you the opportunity to break up your annual contribution into manageable monthly payments. Sustaining Donors give through a monthly credit or debit card payment which automatically renews based on your directive. Enrolling as a Sustaining Donor makes supporting your Historical Society easier than ever! Your Sustaining Membership package includes the following benefits:

- All the benefits of a General membership
- Special invitations and discounted tickets to events

Please visit [donorbox.org/sustaining-membership](http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership) to view options and set up.

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Your General Membership package includes the following benefits:

- Quarterly Presentations on interesting aspects of San Benito County history
- Access to research archives
- Discounts on SBCHS merchandise and other publications
- Subscription to the Historical Society newsletter

General Membership Levels:

**Individual...\$30   Family...\$50   Organization...\$250   Corporate...\$200**

## San Benito Co. Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal 1/1/2018

To become a member or to renew your membership, please mail this completed application along with a check made out to the SBCHS, to 498 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Thanks!

Note that Sustaining Memberships are done online at [donorbox.org/sustaining-membership](http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership).

*No need to fill out this form if done online!*

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name:		
Email: <input type="checkbox"/> Check here to "go paperless" & receive publications by email only.		Phone:
Mailing Address Street:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Sustaining Membership: <a href="http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership">donorbox.org/sustaining-membership</a>	General Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member (check one and see membership levels below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Contribution (See below)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (please indicate your choice of level)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a special tax deductible contribution (not including membership) for the General Fund. AMOUNT _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a special tax deductible contribution for the Historical Society's Endowment Fund. AMOUNT _____

*Last, but not least, the final act pertinent to each and every one of us...consider a generous gift to the SBCHS in your estate planning. "You can't take it with you," but you can leave a lasting legacy that will greatly benefit this worthy organization's mission.*

VOLUNTEER SPECIAL INTEREST			
I'm interested in volunteering for one of the following activities:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as an Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Write Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Set-Up Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/> Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory & Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum Docent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			