



Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 7 & 8
Natural Fiber Fair
Arcata Community Center

September 14
Workshop: How to Restore
Wooden Windows
Jefferson Community Center

Sept 21
Fall Collectible Sale
Phillips House Museum
10-3

The Arcata and Mad River Railroad

by Jerry Rohde

This article, highlighting the railroads, is a continuation of the article on the Arcata Trail from our Winter newsletter. Sources for the research may be found at the HSSA website.

The Union Wharf & Plank Walk Company (UW&PWC), incorporated on December 15, 1854, became, despite its name, Humboldt County's first railroad. Two months later there was a substantial railroad from town (Union) to the end of the wharf, one mile long, over which passenger and freight cars are running regularly, almost every hour ... By late spring the railroad was built two miles over the mud flats of the bay to where



ships could tie up to receive and discharge passengers and merchandise. Much of the railroad was a trestle of piling driven into the mud which was covered at high tide with water. The track was made of wooden rails...over which a four wheel car was drawn by an old white horse, named "Spanking Fury," serving for many years as motive power (Borden).

In 1873 the successor to the UW&PWC, the Union Plank Walk and Rail Track Company (UPW&RTC), which had added a letter to the earlier acronym, overhauled and repaired its nearly 20-year-old wharf (*Humboldt Times* 1873). Two years later the company commenced extending the wharf 600-plus yards farther into the bay, in order to reach "the main ship channel" (*Humboldt Times*, 1875). That same year the company began using its first steam locomotive, the *Black Diamond*. Strap iron was laid upon the wooden rails to accommodate the transition (Borden). In 1881 the Arcata and Mad River Railroad (A&MR) was incorporated as the successor to the UPW&RTC. The corporation's intent was "to construct and operate from the main ship channel at the northerly end of Humboldt Bay to the north fork of Mad River," and this task it gradually accomplished (Borden). At Arcata, southwest of the Plaza, were built "an engine house and turntable, car shops, and a depot with a two track train shed." In 1910 the Arcata wharf was realigned to accommodate all of the line's locomotives. The southern portion of the line, through Arcata, was abandoned in 1942 (Borden), thus ending its relevance to this report.

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Mission

Historical Sites Society of Arcata promotes recognition of the cultural heritage of Arcata and its environs, identify historical and architecturally significant structures and sites within Arcata planning area and encourages their preservation

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President's Message:

Summer is the time for families and friends to travel. We often visit historical sites where we learn more about the development of our nation, states and counties. Picking a building in new town will give insights into where people came from, what they did, who was displaced, and what work was like. The Phillips House Museum tells one of these stories and of course there are so many secrets we will never hear. If only the walls could talk. HSSA docents are the jewels of HSSA. They all have different bits of knowledge which make it so interesting to visit more than once. It is with deep appreciation that I thank all of our docents for their support of Arcata history and for their precious time.

I thought a short history on temperance fountains would be interesting, as the City of Arcata struggles to get our fountain on the west side of the Plaza working again.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, various factors contributed to an epidemic of alcoholism that went hand-in-hand with spousal abuse, family neglect, and chronic unemployment. Americans accustomed to drinking alcoholic beverages like cider "from the crack of dawn to the crack of dawn" began ingesting stronger alcoholic beverages like rum (in the colonial period) and whiskey (in the post-Revolutionary period).

Muddled and ill-tasting drinking water encouraged many Americans to drink alcohol for health purposes. Temperance groups constructed public drinking fountains throughout the United States following the Civil War.

The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union (NWCTU)'s organizing convention of 1874 strongly encouraged its attendees to erect the fountains in the places that they had come from. The NWCTU advocated public temperance fountains as a means to discourage males from entering drinking establishments for refreshment. (Wikipedia)

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Happy summer, Alex

Kel Loughmiller attended the Chapman House tea in a turquoise silk matching coat and dress which belonged to her great mother-in-law, Corrine Musson of Springfield, Illinois. Kel always has the perfect outfit, and it was a pleasure to photograph her in the Chapman House living room.



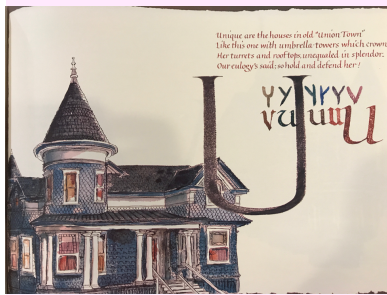
Railroad (continued)

The A&MR followed a course that intersected with the project area at two locations: 1) where the NWP tracks now cross south I Street (which follows the A&MR's former right-of-way—an aerial photo from 1948 shows the intersection at the left of the photo, along with part of the Emerson-Berg Mill and its log dump, and far to right, the pilings for the wharf that took the A&MR out into the bay (Shuster) at a point slightly south of the junction of 17th Street with Alliance Road, where the A&MR, which ran parallel to the west side of Alliance, was crossed by the NWPRR as the latter slanted east to run up the gulch north of Arcata High School (Belcher). A 1947 aerial photo of the area shows the proximity of three rail lines: 1) the NWP crosses Alliance Road, 2) the abandoned railbed of the A&MR, and 3) to the west, the Humboldt Northern Railway (HN). The A&MR and the HN tracks show as pairs of parallel lines crossing 17th Street just west of its junction with Alliance Road (Shuster).



Lenore Cady: Art and Historic Preservation

The entire 26 piece collection of original artwork from the book, *Houses & Letters* by Lenore Cady has generously been gifted to the Humboldt Arts Council's Permanent Collection. The works from this important, local series will be on view through September 1 in the Rotunda Gallery of the Morris Graves Museum of Art. A reception to honor this gift is scheduled for Thursday, August 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. Visitors can view beautiful renderings of some of Humboldt's most historic buildings and homes while reading related text executed in Cady's brush-painted calligraphy. In 1977 these works of art were then published as an alphabet book, *Houses & Letters*. Locally, Cady was part a group of Plein Air painters. At left is one painting from the book. This building is at the corner of 10th and I Streets. It's now T's Café. In 1971 it was the Towers Restaurant.



Cady (for unscripted use) redrew name. The small letter only, the pencil of beams. Reconstructed, completely, and 2 was outdated. Not included if back on other great names one translated. Old houses and houses, could become, these. Leave small, they are looking a hard to compare. If they're dropped like the 2, how are they wanted. In being down something that really was needed.

Byron Deming

Phil Robertson found two documents when he was removing cabinetry and walls in the house at 634 G Street built by Byron Deming. This house was moved one lot over for a gas station. It is believed that the house became flats (apartment upstairs and another downstairs) circa 1940's. Phil went on line and found a history of Mr. Deming's life which gives us a glimpse of early life in our area. The documents are from one of his business endeavors. In his obituary is an account of building the wharf into Arcata Bay. Mr. Deming, who died in 1871 was called "The pioneer of Humboldt County" in his obituary. He was Arcata's first undertaker. To read Byron Deming's complete obituary, visit our website (arcatahistory.org).



Byron Deming is the builder of the two-mile wharf into Arcata Bay. There is a bronze marker on a rock that was placed there to honor the first railroad in California by the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus Chapter of Eureka. The wharf, completed in May 1855, was 1.5 miles long and was extended 600 yards in 1875. Wharf pilings can still be seen as one walks around Klopp Lake from the I Street parking lot of the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Chapman House Tea was a terrific success. HSSA was so pleased to be able to have an event in this lovely restored home. 65 people enjoyed looking into the rooms, seeing the décor, learning about its history and its present use as a vacation rental. There are three units. The suite has the two bay window rooms, full bath, no full kitchen and lots of south light. The one bedroom apartment is in the one story wing and has a linear kitchen in the living room. The main house has three upstairs bedrooms with two baths, living room, dining room, kitchen and ½ bath on the first floor. All the rooms are perfectly appointed by Sandi Hunt, an interior designer. We thank Scott and

Sandi Hunt for the privilege of showcasing the Chapman House and all the visitors who were able to enjoy a splendid afternoon while supporting the Phillips House Museum.



Sacred Empire, a local store and clothing line based in Arcata, recently used the Phillips House Museum for a photo shoot. It made a great background to showcase the original designs available in the store on the Arcata Plaza.

From our Intern

By Shira Kershner

During my time as an intern for the Historical Sites Society of Arcata I found myself in the midst of a project that entailed searching through photographs from the turn of the twentieth century. I flipped through images of young women tanning by the riverside, families camping amongst the redwood trees, and children relaxing in hammocks in the woods. As I looked through these, it struck me how familiar each of the activities were. The photos illuminated the fact that although these people lived in a different era, they engaged in the same activities we do today. Before my internship, when I thought about the people of the past they always seemed so separate and distant from the life I live now. I have learned that there is a common thread that connects all humans throughout time, as each generation experiences the simple joys of life.



The Phillips House "Beer as Rent" Story Inspires a Display

by Claudia Israel

I tracked this Phillips House story for 5 or 6 years. The story began with, "You know a guy lived here in a closet and paid his rent in beer." I always pointed out that the closets were really small, with slanted ceilings and a person wouldn't fit, but it didn't matter, the response was, "You know a guy....."

Last year, thanks to Tim, my "go to" guy, I found out more about "The closet" and the name of "The guy". I decided I would do a display next year highlighting the story and beer.

But plans can change. If nothing else, we are flexible here at Phillips House. At Christmas Tea, 2018, I was talking with Michelle Sommer, who had been an intern and was volunteering as a docent at Phillips House. I asked her what she planned to do when she graduated this year and she said, "Work in a museum." From my experience, the more exposure to different aspects of museum work, the better for the student. Michelle's supervisor from HSU, Jeannette Cooper, who had joined us, nodded sagely. So, on the spot I decided the display I was going to do next year, when many former student residents would visit, could be smaller and done more quickly with Michelle's future in mind!

Michelle and I met in January, decided we wanted to be up St. Patrick's Day, 2019. I started to collect glassware and other items for a display that focused on women brewers in Humboldt County. A story in a recent Archeology magazine, an article in *France Magazine* added chances to dip into the subject. The article I read was: *The Beginning of Beer* (6000 plus years older than was thought), *Songs, Ingredients, Ancient Brews, Micro Brewing, Glassware, Odds & Ends*.

The weather was cold, wet and windy, impossible to warm Phillips House. Michelle and I slogged through with good cheer and we met our deadline with an interesting, informative display.

In April, I had a conversation with Michelle.

"I started at HSU the Fall of 2017 as a major in Art History. I worked with Edith on Archiving Ruth Caskey's letters and pictures she preserved. My experience was published in the last newsletter for the Phillips House. I docented a couple times and worked with you on the Beer for Rent, which was fun and a great learning experience for me. When I graduate I will move back to Seal Beach with my family and apply for museum and gallery jobs in the Orange County and Los Angeles area. Later on I will pursue a graduate degree. That's all I know for now! I am so grateful for my experience at the Phillips House."

An HSU Student, '19, helping tell a story about a former Phillips House resident, also an HSU Student, '81. Solving a mystery. Combine those and we have, in my view, performed our main function. We have preserved and added to the rich history of Phillips House Museum. We look forward to your visit. Cheers!





**P.O. Box 4521
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*Preservation lets me see
How the world used to be.
Now the job is up to me
To preserve it for eternity.*

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