

San Lorenzo Valley
MUSEUM

Sharing History • Building Community
Since 1976

New Mountain Echo

Spring 2025 • Volume 23 • No. 1

The Way We Calculated

On Exhibition Now—June 15, 2025

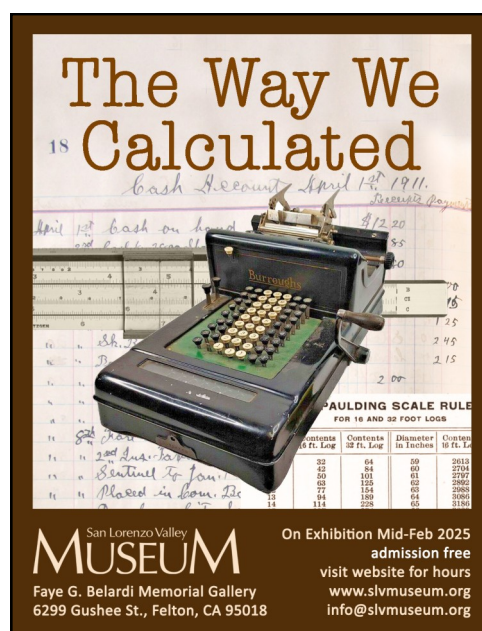
Currently on exhibition at the Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery in Felton is a STEM exhibition featuring a plethora of artifacts and archives, many of which have never before been exhibited: devices to calculate board feet of lumber; adding machines used in local business; ledgers and inventories; surveying tools; slide rules; and other surprising calculating and measuring devices.

Also on exhibition is a model of Vannevar Bush's 1931 differential analyzer - a mechanical analog computer that solves differential equations. The model, built by local resident Tim Robinson, is constructed entirely from Meccano construction set parts.

It will be demonstrated solving non-linear differential equations every Saturday and Sunday from 2pm—3pm or by arrangement. Educators teaching calculus can arrange a private demonstration for their students by contacting the Museum at info@slvmuseum.org.

There are also hands-on activities for younger visitors.

Visit: www.flickr.com/photos/slvmuseum/albums/72177720324047086



Native Plants and Their Historic Uses

With Eva Fewel

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 2pm

Join us at Grace Episcopal Gallery in Boulder Creek for an Earth Day celebration of our local native plants. Eva will present around 40 different plants and talk to their historic and present-day uses.

This program is free, donations appreciated.

Join Us for an Earth Day
Presentation

Native Plants and Their Historic Uses

with Eva Fewel

Saturday April 19, 2025, 2pm

San Lorenzo Valley
MUSEUM
www.slvmuseum.org
(831) 338-8382 • info@slvmuseum.org

Free, Donations Appreciated
Grace Episcopal Gallery
12547 Highway 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Our Mission

*To preserve and share the history of the
San Lorenzo Valley.*

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San Lorenzo Valley Museum**Grace Episcopal Gallery
and Museum Office**

12547 Highway 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

**Faye G. Belardi
Memorial Gallery**

6299 Gushee Street
Felton, CA 95018

Mailing Address:

PO Box 576
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Phone: (831) 338-8382

Email: info@slvmuseum.org

Website: www.slvmuseum.org

President's Letter

Please welcome Scott Tucker to the board of directors. Scott is no stranger to local history and you will find his well-followed posts on many Facebook pages, originating and shared from those Scott manages such as *Boulder Creek History Only* and *San Lorenzo Valley History Only*.



We do still have one open board position. Members in good standing are encouraged to apply. If you are interested email: lisaar@slvmuseum.org. Meetings are held at 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Boulder Creek Gallery and also via Zoom. Meetings are open to all members.

In these times of a rapidly changing federal government and the overhaul of the Nation's arts and culture leadership and funding, please take time to understand this changing landscape and its implications on our local arts and culture scene. Let your local elected representatives know if you support, or not, these changes.

We are a small institution, but our community's history has benefited from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Firstly, in 2004, we were the recipient of a Museums Assessment Program (MAP) grant; an in-depth process of self-assessment and consultative peer review of the organization to help strengthen operations and plan for the future.

Then in 2008, through the Connecting to Collections bookshelf. This was a grant which gave us a set of books and online resources to help small and medium-sized institutions handle every collections care contingency, such as emergency preparedness, digitizing documents, caring for all types of materials, and the care and stabilization

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Executive Director's Letter

I'd like to start this letter by extending my sincere gratitude to you, our valued members and donors, for your generous support towards our 2024 end-of-year campaign. Your contributions towards our Annual Fund and Santa Cruz Gives, in addition to new/renewed memberships with the Museum, are vital to our continued growth and we are truly grateful. Thank You for sharing in our commitment to preserve and share the history of the San Lorenzo Valley for future generations.

In February, SLVHS President Lisa Robinson and I attended the California Association of Museum's Interwoven Conference in San Francisco, where we presented a case study on Implementing an Artist-in-Residence Program in Small Rural Museums. Participants learned strategies and practical examples of how to create an artist-in-residence program that introduces diverse new perspectives, expands interpretive content, deepens community relationships and engages visitors, staff and volunteers. After our presentation, an audience member shared that our Case Study was their favorite presentation of the entire conference! It was incredibly rewarding to receive such positive feedback in sharing the resources we've recently developed with our California museum community.

Volunteers are the heart of the work we do. Starting in April, we will be implementing first Saturday land tending workdays from 8-10AM that will alternate between our two galleries each month. Our first work session will be at the Grace Gallery on Saturday, April 5, where we will be tending to Flora: A living exhibition of native plants and their historic uses—a partnership with the Valley Women's Club's Native Habitat Restoration Program with opportunities to adopt a native plant bed. We are also in need of docents to keep our gallery doors open, participants to walk with us in the Felton Remembers Parade and Boulder Creek Fourth of July Parade, volunteers to fill shifts at the Redwood Mountain Faire, and support with our upcoming programs and events. If you are interested in joining our volunteer community, email us at info@slvmuseum.org or visit our website to learn more on how to get involved.

Finally, we are saddened to recognize the recent passing of Scopazzi's Restaurant Co-Owner, Talal Janbay, who has been a vital part of the San Lorenzo Valley Museum community for over twenty years. Through his work at Scopazzi's, Talal has supported the Museum with generous business sponsorships, hosting and donating to our mission events such as our Fundraising Dinner & Auction and Veterans Day Dinner, and contributing towards landscaping and restoration projects among others. On behalf of the San Lorenzo Valley Museum, we'd like to extend our sincere condolences to the Janbay family, Scopazzi's Co-Owner, Paul Violante, and the restaurant staff, patrons and friends. Talal has made a lasting impact on our local community and he will be deeply missed.



Laura DeAngelis

Meet UCSC EXCEL Fellow Eva Overton

Exploring History, One Envelope at a Time

Hello from the archives of the San Lorenzo Valley Museum! My name is Eva Overton, and I'm thrilled to be interning here through UCSC's Humanities EXCEL Program, which connects Humanities students with local organizations for hands-on experience. As a History major minoring in the History of Art and Visual Culture, I couldn't have asked for a better place to immerse myself in the everyday (yet precious!) materials of the past.

Lately, I've been diving into the Eleanor Fraser collection, cataloging photographs, documents, and—my new favorite—envelopes! They might seem ordinary, but they come stamped with exact dates, times, and locations, offering a historian's dream of concrete details.

Plus, Nancy Ann (Annie) Peery had the wonderful habit of keeping them, often using the backs for notes like “meet here, Salvation Army next Monday.” It's little glimpses like these that bring the past to life. And while I've been savoring Annie's collection, I'm saving a special treat for last—a keepsake book her mother gave her, filled with photographs and personal notes as well as two journals. I can't wait to explore them!

I've also had the privilege of transcribing letters from Evelyn and Cleo Rodgers, two orphaned grand-daughters who had been staying with Annie until, for reasons unclear, they were taken away. It's obvious from their letters that this separation wasn't their choice—or Annie's. They wrote to her often, always asking when she would visit next and mentioning how much the other girls at the orphanage wanted to see her too. Just this past Friday, I cataloged their high school graduation announcement, which they sent to Annie with “Mama” written on the envelope. The fact that she kept their letters says so much about the love between them, even across the distance.

Before the Fraser collection, I worked on the Kaufeldt collection, which gave me a front-row seat to Bob Miller's extensive research on the lime kilns of the Santa Cruz Mountains. His work, along with contributions from Bob Piwarzyk, captured years of dedication to preserving this piece of local history. Seeing the “mess-ups” in Miller's drafts—revisions, scribbled notes, and corrected misspellings—was unexpectedly charming. It's a reminder that history isn't just about the polished final product; it's about the process.

And then, there was the Sittman collection, which introduced me to the challenge (and joy) of deciphering handwriting. Thanks to transcribing postcards from Addie Sittman (who apparently had an aversion to double consonants—except in her own name), I've honed my ability to read tricky penmanship, a skill that might come in handy if I ever decide to teach. Speaking of postcards, I recently learned that postcard collectors actually devalue ones that have been written on.

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Meet UCSC EXCEL Fellow Jake Davison

Teaching Buried History

My name is Jake Davison and I am a student at UC Santa Cruz, working at the Museum as an interpretations fellow. I'm a part of the Humanities Experiential Career Exploration and Learning (EXCEL) program, which provides Humanities undergraduates like me with opportunities to work with local organizations.

My work at the Museum is largely centered around developing resources for educators to use when teaching students about their local history. Fortunately, Boulder Creek's elementary school students are lucky to have a physical resource that directly connects them to their town's past, and it is only a stone's throw away from their classrooms. The Boulder Creek IOOF Cemetery, just up the hill from the school, is a valuable resource that can teach children about their local history through the lives of the people buried there.

My task is to research the individuals buried there, and create worksheets, biographies, and other materials that help teach students about the significant figures in their own community's past. They can learn how these individuals contributed to Boulder Creek's founding, its development through the 20th century, and how a diverse set of people made valuable contributions to their community.

When I first started my internship, I had never been to Boulder Creek, and knew next to nothing about the local history. I have spent a lot of time since then perusing the Museum's archives, exploring the cemetery, researching old newspaper articles, and discussing the town's history with my mentor, Lisa Robinson.

I can now say that I have a firmer grasp on the story of Boulder Creek, and I have enjoyed getting to know the characters who make up its past. I hope my work at the Museum provides resources that can be used in local classrooms that students will enjoy and engage with, as their local history is worth appreciating.



↩ Continued from Page 4

That absolutely blows my mind because, to me, the used ones are priceless—they hold stories, emotions, and tiny snapshots of everyday life. Not to mention, transcribing them feels like the closest I've come to committing a felony (reading someone else's mail and all).

Every day at the museum, I uncover small but powerful pieces of the past, and I'm so grateful to be part of preserving them. Thank you to the San Lorenzo Valley Museum for this opportunity—I can't wait to see what other stories unfold!

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of the Museum's collections. Over the years, we have benefitted from many of IMLS's educational webinars and we are proud to be a part of IMLS's Museums for All initiative.



I also recommend learning the implications of recent Executive Orders on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by visiting here: www.neh.gov/executive-orders.

This president's letter is written using the font Atkinson Hyperlegible Next. The font was developed at the Braille Institute and is designed to improve legibility and readability for individuals with low vision. The font features clear, highly distinctive letters and numbers that make reading easier and hence make text more accessible.

It was designed in 2019, and won Fast Company's Innovation by Design Award. In 2024, it was officially added to the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum's permanent collection.

According to the Braille Institute, the font has made reading easier for millions of people. Moving forward, as we re-design exhibition panels and other publications, we will be looking to incorporate this font in order to increase accessibility to the stories we share.

You can learn more at: www.brailleinstitute.org.

Lisa Robinson

Show and Share with Scott Tucker

Join Scott Tucker at the Museum's Grace Episcopal Gallery in Boulder Creek—see website www.slvmuseum.org for upcoming dates.

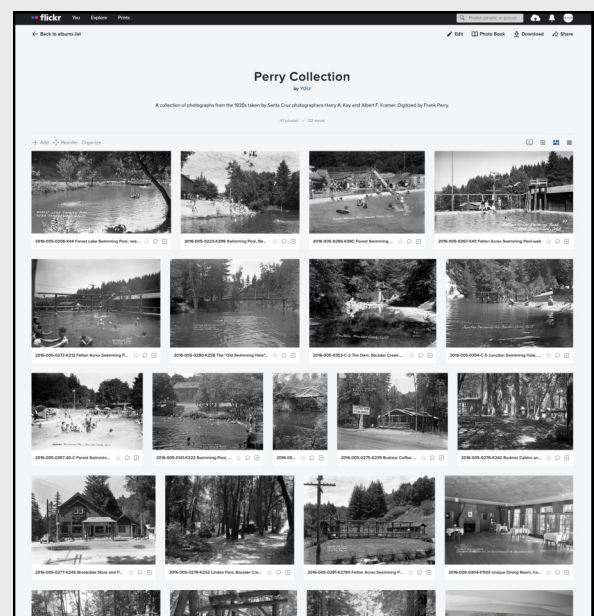
Scott will be presenting historical images from his personal collection, a collection he has accumulated over many years of researching local history and he will be sharing their stories.

Bring along your treasures to share and reveal their story too, or bring along your questions. Drop in at any time 1-4pm.

Please Note: The images that Scott will be presenting are not necessarily from the San Lorenzo Museum collection.

Perry Collection

Check out the Perry Collection online at: www.flickr.com/photos/slvmuseum/albums/72177720313724622/



Exhibition Updates

At the Belardi Gallery, we are installing what will become a permanent exhibition of the early industries of the San Lorenzo Valley, with a particular focus on their use of waterpower. Stories will include the 3-Ls of Lumber, Leather, and Lime, but also other industries that operated here.

Stop by to see the progress and the newly installed artifacts that help tell those stories, including a froe, used for making shingles, shakes, grape stakes and other “split stuff,” signed by Felton blacksmith Emphrey Jones Rubottom (1856—1913). His blacksmith shop, built in 1890, can still be seen today opposite the west entrance to the Felton Covered Bridge.

Emphrey Jones Rubottom was a prolific inventor. He invented a machine for making barrel heads, and one for the manufacture of barrel staves. He invented a harness strap for attaching reins to bridle rings, a brake, a non-refillable bottle and a saw handle which met “with great success” and was “introduced in all timber localities.” In 1893, he built a steam wagon, which he contemplated running to the World's Fair and in 1898 he built a boat. Not just any boat. This boat was 45 feet long and was framed so that it could be dismantled for transportation. Emphrey intended to take this boat up the Yukon River to the Klondike gold fields.

Emphrey and three others took the boat in pieces down to the beach in Santa Cruz to be shipped to San Francisco, where it would be assembled. “As the timbers of the boat were hauled through town they attracted considerable attention, more particularly the large iron scoop in the front of the wagon, which is to be used to bring up the sand from the bottom of the Yukon in the search for gold.” How the boat fared on its journey or if it saw operations in the Klondike, we may never know, but Emphrey and his friends William Glass and Joseph Montgomery did make it to the gold fields.

In 1902, Emphrey developed one of his most successful inventions - a plow. A key feature of the plow was that it had a reversible side-hill shear, which made it “invaluable for working mountain grades by enabling the dirt to be always thrown toward the outside of the road, no matter which way the team is being driven.” It also meant that only half the labor was needed when the “Side Hill Plow” was being operated.



Mexican-Era Pit Saw Blade Used in the Felton Area circa 1840. SCMNH Collection, 2018-012-0001.



Drawing of the Rubottom blacksmith shop, Felton, by Rachel Bachrach, 1985. Tim Myers Collection, 2017-023-0002.



Become a Part of Our Community Today

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum is owned and operated by the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Membership dues and donations are 100% tax deductible. We are solely funded by our members, our supporters, and grants, and depend on the goodwill of our community volunteers' time and skills.

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Please make checks payable to the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society. For payments by credit card please visit our website www.slvmuseum.org.

For more information call us at (831) 338-8382, or email us at info@slvmuseum.org.

Membership Options

Membership benefits include, membership card, printed newsletter, 15% Museum store discount, reduced pricing to fundraising events, member only events.

Individual \$25 ☐

Dual/Family \$40 ☐
(2 adults + Children under 18)

Business \$40 ☐

Supporting \$100 ☐
(Dual/Family benefits + NARM benefits)

Individual Lifetime \$250 ☐

Dual/Family Lifetime \$400 ☐

Business Lifetime \$400 ☐

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Interested in volunteering? ☐ Check out our volunteer opportunities at www.scvolunteercenter.org

**The Museum Galleries
are Open**
Check our website for open hours.
Phone (831) 338-8382
Email: info@slvmuseum.org
Website: www.slvmuseum.org

San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, 501(c)(3)
The San Lorenzo Valley Museum
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