



# Tales of Glen Ellen

The Glen Ellen Historical Society, Glen Ellen, California

Spring Issue 2014

## Remember Your Membership— Join In (Or Renew Yourself) Now!

ALTHOUGH WE ARE A GENUINE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, that doesn't mean we don't need money to pay for the things we do—we most certainly do. The Glen Ellen Historical Society depends upon a thriving membership to maintain our budget, and we deeply appreciate any donations that we receive as well. We are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization, so any contributions you make are tax deductible.

The things we do, including this quarterly newsletter, do more than remind us of our past—they preserve our heritage, even as our region continues to grow towards inevitable change. We like to think we guide that change.

Bob Glotzbach's book *Childhood Memories of Glen Ellen* captures the early years of our village, but it's currently out of print; when we have the funds a new edition will be published, with a new introduction by Arthur Dawson.

Memberships and donations have also funded our free public presentations every few months. These have celebrated several aspects of our legacy, bringing the world and vision of

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## HOW GLEN ELLEN BECAME OUR NAME

ARTHUR DAWSON has found what may be easily considered the original birth certificate for our village. The document, dated June 20th in 1872, officially recognizes the "Glenelen Post Office" at "Lebanon", a settlement a quarter mile east of Calabazas Creek at the Justi ranch on what is now Dunbar Road, with a population of 200.

Later that summer, on August 3rd, the following notice appeared in the *Sonoma Democrat*: "Mr. Temple, Postmaster, informs us that he has received official notice of the establishment of a new post office on the road, between here and Sonoma, to be called 'Glen Ellen,' and that

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IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT DOWN LAST FALL,  
HERE'S ONE MORE CHANCE FOR YOU TO DANCE!

## Happy Daze Are Here Again!

from 12 to 5 pm Saturday, May 31st  
on the Decks at Jack London Village  
14301 Arnold Drive

featuring history-making musicians from  
throughout the Valley of the Moon

Admission is free,

ALTHOUGH DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP IN OUR  
ORGANIZATION ARE THOROUGHLY ENCOURAGED.

## Come Hear an Afternoon of Good Free Live Music

THOSE WHO WERE THERE remember how we lit up the old Grist Mill last November, and took the town back a half century with a show called "Those Were the Daze My Friend!"

A few hundred people came to hear local musicians tell the stories and make the sounds of the Sixties and Seventies in the Valley of the Moon.

Those who were there still talk about that afternoon; those who weren't can still get the double DVD set and listen in. Better yet, now you can come back to hear it live, all over again, and better than ever.

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## HOSTING GUESTS AT STUART CREEK

JIM BERKLAND and Charles Mikulik spent time with archaeologists from the Humboldt State University Cultural Resources Facility on May 21st. They are assessing the impact of the Stuart Creek Steelhead Passage project on the historic landscape of Glen Ellen. Of particular interest is the dam on Stuart Creek at Glen Oaks Ranch that has been used as a fishing hole for decades.

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## WHAT ABOUT THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT? by Charles Mikulik

In addition to being the president of our board of directors, Charles is also a graduate student in the Cultural Resource Management program at Sonoma State University. He spoke at Mayflower Hall in February about the significance of our infamous Cannon Incident, and how it relates to the current discussion of a Glen Ellen Historic District. This is his current report.

RECENTLY, PAINTER PRESERVATION & PLANNING prepared a report for the Sonoma County Landmarks Commission of the Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) assessing the Glen Ellen Historic District. Painter assessed 114 properties along the "Arnold Drive Corridor" and formally documented 71 buildings.

While the study was not meant to be conclusive, it highlighted some of the difficulties in managing historic properties in Glen Ellen. Historic Districts require continuity of theme and historic significance. The buildings in the Arnold Drive Corridor fail to meet guidelines because they represent a variety of architectural styles and time periods. The PRMD may have difficulty assessing any potential impacts to the community if the

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## REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP & JOIN UP NOW!

[from the other side]

those who came before us back into focus. We've talked about the lifestyle and values of our Original People (the Miwok, Pomo and Wappo), the heroic ranch life carved out of the wilderness by Californios such as General Mariano Vallejo, the Gold Rush and the Bear Flag Rebellion and California statehood, the railroads and the wineries, and the ideas of sustainable farming promoted by Jack London. DVDs of these events can be purchased on our website at [www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org).

But membership in GEHS is important for more reasons than funding our projects—it signifies your recognition that this is a special place, and that what makes it special must not be lost.

Our vision statement, as it was originally written back in 1996, reads: "The mission of this Society is to encourage the participation of the people in the community to research, disseminate, preserve and celebrate the history of Glen Ellen."

Over the years since this was written we have come to understand that our concern is not simply about what has happened here in the past—it is in fact about the soul of this place today, as it has evolved over the years.

Your membership is a guarantee that our legacy will

continue into the future. The modest amount of \$25 for an individual membership makes sure our work can continue. So make your check out to GEHS and send it to us soon, at PO Box 35, Glen Ellen CA 95442.

## HOSTING GUESTS AT STUART CREEK

[from the other side]

Jim Berkland told some of his fishing stories and helped explain the value that the dam, and Stuart Creek as a whole, has to Glen Ellen. This marks the first collaborative effort between the Glen Ellen Historical Society and archaeologists.

We will continue to share information and are planning further meetings to help guide practical and appropriate recommendations as to the future of the dam and additional resources along Stuart Creek.

THE GLEN ELLEN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## ABOUT THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

[from the other side]

properties within the district do not cohesively fall within the defined criteria.

We must carefully consider historic preservation efforts. Glen Ellen now stands at a crossroads. It can be argued that a larger geographic perspective on the region is necessary to properly contextualize the historic district. It can also be argued that one of the themes of Glen Ellen is its diversity of architectural, aesthetic, and cultural character.

To date, the GEHS has identified 186 (including the 71 mentioned in Painter's report) historic resources that should be considered when development is proposed. This region played a critical role in Sonoma County as a center for viticulture, logging, art and literature, and tourism (just to name a few). In fact the Glen Oaks Ranch, Hotel Chauvet, Jack London Ranch, and the Sonoma Development Center's main building are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is time for the people of Glen Ellen to speak up and tell Sonoma County what history they want preserved and how it should be preserved. It is a part of who we are. Let's make sure that we consider this before we take any actions that will permanently alter the physical aspects of our community that serve to remind us of who we are. After all, we cannot know where we're going without the knowledge of where we've been.

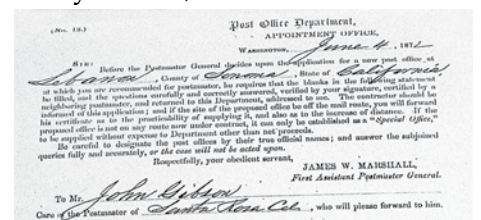
## HOW GLEN ELLEN BECAME OUR NAME

[from the other side]

Capt. Justa [sic] had been appointed postmaster for the new office...

"The petition for this office, we believe, named it Lebanon, but on examining the list of post offices, it was found that there were no less than six or seven called Lebanon, and to prevent confusion another name was selected, and the one chosen is certainly beautiful and appropriate."

It was soon afterwards that, in an effort to avoid further confusion, Charles Stuart changed the name of his nearby ranch from Glen Ellen (originally named in 1858 for his wife Ellen Mary Stuart) to Glen Oaks.



Glen Ellen's Birth Certificate

## COME TO AN AFTERNOON OF GOOD FREE MUSIC

[from the other side]

"Happy Daze Are Here Again!" is what we're calling this particular musical gathering—this time out on the decks above Sonoma Creek, at Jack London Village. It's being put together to kick off our annual membership drive, while making sure the musical legacy of the Valley of the Moon lives on.

Our collectible poster can be seen here and there around town, and it says it all: *Admission is free, though donations and memberships in our organization are encouraged.*

Headlining the afternoon are the Davedjohn Quartet, Ten Foot Tone, and David Aguilar & Friends, with opening acts by Blonde Sandwich, Bjorn Again, and the Impromptus.

The whole thing takes place Saturday afternoon, May 31st, from 12 to 5 at Jack London Village, 14301 Arnold Drive in Glen Ellen. KSVY will broadcast from there live throughout the day, so if you can't show up you can still listen in. But—as some of us learned last year—you'll really want to be there.