

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

2022 READING SELECTION

Let's choose the next set of titles for the Mendocino County Museum Book Group! Potential selections are listed below and will be discussed at our next meeting on February 9 at 6:00 pm.

For more information about the Mendocino County Museum Book Group contact us at (707)459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org.

***Behind the Green Curtain: True crime stories from Mendocino County* by Ronald Rhea** – Another collection of true crime stories from the pages of the Anderson Valley Advertiser, Mendocino County's newspaper of record.

***Early Mendocino Coast* by Katy M. Tahja** – Driving Highway 1 along the Mendocino coast is a scenic adventure that draws thousands of visitors every year. Following the coast from Gualala on the south to Needle Rock in the north can be a challenge and features back-road driving. But imagine 100 years ago. Were there roads then too? How did people move along the coast? And what were they doing? Why did they settle here? Forget the Gold Rush and the forty-niners--timber was king here. Logging, milling, and shipping wood was the focus of the economy. Railcars steamed through the forests, and ships pulled up to rickety landings to load shipments for faraway places. Today some coast views remain the same, while others have changed dramatically, and whole towns have vanished over the century.

***Gifts from the Celestial Kingdom: A Shipwrecked Cargo for Gold Rush California* by Thomas Layton** – In 1850 a sailing vessel was wrecked on the California coast with a rich cargo of Chinese goods bound for the Gold Rush. This book uses the fate of the vessel for a dual purpose: to tell the story of the beginnings of direct commerce between China and California and to explore the potential of contextual archaeology by tracing the cargo back to its origins in China.

***A Glance Back: Northern Mendocino County History* by Margarite Cook** – A Glance Back is a history and photograph collection beginning in the 1860's of the far northwestern section of Mendocino County, CA, about 200 miles north of San Francisco. This book is part of the history that Margarite Cook, a local historian, collected for 60 years beginning in the late 1920's.

***How Mendocino County Went to Pot: Memories of life in Mendocino Redwood Country in the Last Half of the 1900s* by Dennis Tavares** – The story is a lively and anecdotal factual account and a cautionary tale of the local and national events that shaped the destiny of late 1900's forest product and fishing industries in Mendocino County and the world we live in.

***Killing for Land in Early California: Indian Blood at Round Valley, 1856-1863* by Frank H. Baumgardner III** – Through eyewitness accounts this highly researched work brings to light the graft, greed, and conflicting roles played by the US Army, the State Legislature, and the US Congress. The Round Valley wars of California were an ugly episode in the history of the Westward Expansion, in which Native Americans lost far more than land.

***Logging Railroads of Humboldt and Mendocino Counties* by Katy M. Tahja** - Economic depressions and the advent of trucking saw railroads vanish like a puff of steam from the landscape. Historian and author Katy M. Tahja searched universities, historical societies, museums, and private collections for photographs conveying the determination and ingenuity railroaders had in constructing railways in unlikely places to haul huge logs.

***Murders in Mendocino: True stories of the earliest families of Mendocino County* by Rosemary J Palermo** - From old court records, forgotten memoirs, and newspapers, the author has created a fascinating compilation of true stories. This well researched book will appeal to history buffs, fans of the Wild West and true crime lovers, eager to learn about the greed, violence and obsession hidden beneath the peaceful facade of Mendocino.

***The Seabiscuit Story: From the Pages of the Nation's Most Prominent Racing Magazine* by John McEvoy** - Using firsthand accounts of Seabiscuit's life and racing career as reported in the pages of The Blood-Horse magazine, The Seabiscuit Story tells the amazing rags-to-riches story of this 1930s horse racing phenomenon. Actual accounts of Seabiscuit's rise to fame start with his first victory in a stakes race at age two, his success under new trainer Tom Smith, and the coast-to-coast victories that made him a national icon during the darkest years of the Depression.

***Voyage of the Frolic* by Thomas Layton** - In the late summer of 1984, the author and a group of his archaeology students excavated fragments of Chinese porcelain at the site of a Pomo Indian village a hundred miles north of San Francisco. How did these ceramics, which were more than a hundred years old, find their way to this remote area? And what could one make of local legend that told of Pomo women wearing Chinese silk shawls in the 1850's? The author determined to find the answers to these questions, never dreaming that his quest would eventually involve the lives of nineteenth-century Boston merchants, Baltimore shipbuilders, Bombay opium brokers, and newly rich businessmen in gold rush San Francisco.

***Walking Tractor and Other Country Tales* by Bruce Patterson** - Hard work and love of the land in the heart of redwood country. Imagine driving a tractor at fifteen miles an hour on a highway. Walking tractors is just one of the odd jobs Bruce Patterson has gotten good at. Set in northern California's Anderson Valley, these personal essays tell of Patterson's love of rural living and his experiences working as a logger, fleece stomper, weed whacker, and in other seasonal and physically demanding jobs.



Mendocino County Museum

Hours: Wednesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Saturday & Sunday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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