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**ST. HELENA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

**The Electrolier**  
ILLUMINATING ST. HELENA'S HISTORY  
DECEMBER 2021 • VOL 22 • NO. 4

## Celebrating 20 Years of St. Helena's History



The next year, 2022, marks 20 years that St. Helena Historical Society has been illuminating the area's history. To celebrate, we're opening the doors to the Heritage Center. We're excited about the coming year. To continue to deliver history to our community, we're making investments in our equipment and planning a roster of excellent programs and events. We look forward to welcoming you to the Heritage Center in 2022.

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## The Heritage Center Opens

From the ancient settlements of the first Native Americans to the present day. We're sharing stories that help our community understand the cultural and historical evolution of our community. The Heritage Center is now located in a newly leased and renovated space in the former Catholic Elementary School.

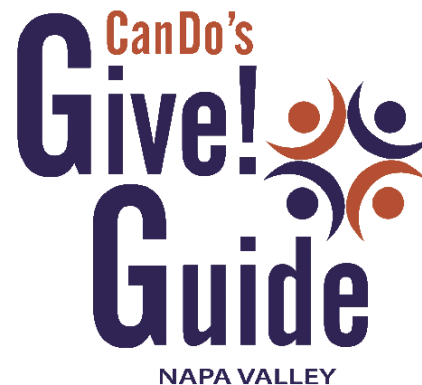
Our new Center houses office space, collections storage space, a permanent exhibit room, a rotating exhibit room, and a community lecture room. This is our place to preserve, document and exhibit local history, provide a meeting place for local organizations.

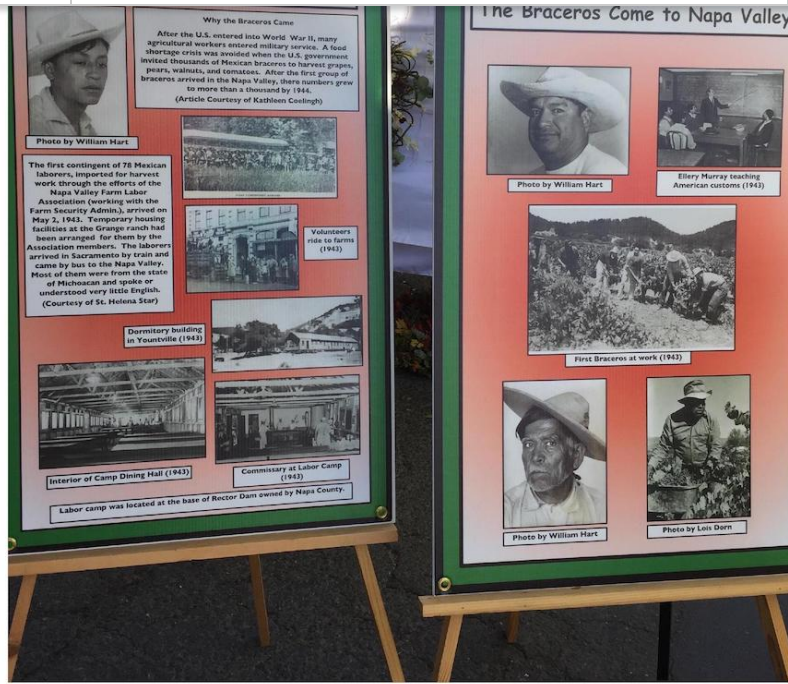
**The Heritage Center is now open on Saturdays from 12:00 noon-4:00pm. 1255 Oak Avenue. Join us!**



### SHHS and the Give!Guide!

We're excited to be part of the Give!Guide this year. It makes it easy to donate. We're an all-volunteer, 510(c)3 organization. Your [donation](#) will help expand the quality and reach of our programs—new AV equipment, a lectern, chairs, etc. [Your support is essential](#) to our continued growth and success.





## The Mexican Diaspora in WWII: The Braceros Arrive in the Napa Valley

As American men went off to war, Mexicans were recruited to plant and harvest crops. These were the Braceros who came to Napa Valley. They brought their families, their culture and traditions. Overcoming obstacles, they became an important part of the Napa Valley community.

Support St. Helena Historical Society

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“ If you don’t know history, then you don’t know anything. You are a leaf that doesn’t know it is part of a tree.

—Michael Crichton

We’re Representing Generations of St. Helena’s Families

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- Of times when farmers grew prunes instead of grapes.
- When there were four auto-supply stores on Main St.
- When there really was a Wonderful Drug Store.
- Or read about what was going on in town when the first **Star** hit the streets nearly 150 years ago.

## 1858: The Birth of Napa Valley's Wine Industry

In 1858, Charles Krug made the first commercial wine in Napa Valley for John Patchett using a small cider press. Dr. George Crane visited St. Helena and bought land for his vineyard. This photograph is of La Perla Winery during harvest season in 1874.



## The Cemetery Walk

The cemetery is a wonderful place to trace our roots. Our annual “Spirits of St. Helena” Cemetery Tour celebrates the listing of our cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places.

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## Historical Society Services

Our research department has assisted numerous wineries, restaurants, and individual residents investigate the histories of their properties. **Contact:** [research.shstory@gmail.com](mailto:research.shstory@gmail.com)

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## Contact Us at The Heritage Center

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[shstory.org](http://shstory.org) • Tax ID#: 30-0087096

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