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Museum Matters

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From the Collection:

We are excited to announce that we have a new exhibit in our Main Street Gallery! This new exhibit was transferred to our museum from the Tulare Historical Museum. When museums evaluate their collections, items can be found that do not support the mission or fit with the rest of the collection. The Tulare Historical Museum tells the story of the city of Tulare and our museum, the Tulare County Museum, tells the story of the entire county. Displaying this piece at our museum makes perfect sense and we are so thankful to the Tulare Historical Museum for sharing this resource with us! The post office came to us in pieces and miraculously our volunteers, Bob Grieb and Stan Hawkins, have beautifully restored the wood and given life to our new exhibit!



Historical Highlights:

Traveling Exhibit at Tulare County Museum Explores Rich, Long Histories of African Americans in Rural California

From the 1849 Gold Rush to today, black Californians have been part and parcel of rural areas, and histories of California's rural communities are incomplete without the role of African Americans. *We Are Not Strangers Here: African American Histories in Rural California*, a new travelling exhibition appearing at *the Tulare County Museum* from *November 1, 2021* to *December 20, 2021*, highlights unknown and untold stories of black farmers, ranchers and rural residents. These stories challenge myths about early California and create new narratives about freedom, self-governance, and civic culture.

Historical Highlights (cont):

African Americans are not strangers to rural California; the culture of cultivating the earth runs deep. Over successive migrations, generations of African Americans settled in agricultural areas from as far north as Siskiyou County to the Central Valley and Imperial County in the South. Black residents had a favorable impact on their rural communities, opening schools, building churches, and exercising vigilance about the equal rights of citizens. Some African Americans pursued lives and work in all-black communities, away from the limits and discrimination found in society at large. Today, black agricultural stewardship continues at farms and ranches across the state, and urban farms thrive in many cities across the state.

We Are Not Strangers Here: African American Histories in Rural California is a collaboration between the Cal Ag Roots Project at the California Institute for Rural Studies; Susan Anderson of the California African American Museum; the California Historical Society; Exhibit Envoy; and Dr. Caroline Collins, Post-Doc Researcher from UC San Diego. This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the 11th Hour Project at the Schmidt Family Foundation.

The Tulare County Museum only has the opportunity to host this exhibit through December 20, so make sure to stop by and check it out!

Three Cheers for Volunteers!

Bob Grieb and Stan Hawkins have been busy making sure our Pioneer Village is safe and beautiful for our visitors! Their latest handy work is visible on the Cramer House and LaMotte School next time you visit. The Cramer House has been stabilized, cleaned out, and has a fresh coat of red painted on the exterior. The color will draw your eye along with the newly planted flowerbeds on either side of the porch. Our visitors can now tour this structure by walking through for the first time in over a decade! The LaMotte School has a fresh coat of green paint on the exterior as well and a beautifully restored porch welcomes guests as they enter the exhibit featuring a school from the early 1900s.



Bob and Stan are currently working on the Wagon Building. Thank you for sprucing up our Pioneer Village!

Save the Date:

We are excited to host our thirteenth cultural exhibition in the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum! This newest exhibit will highlight the pioneers of this area and their contributions to agriculture. This exhibit is part of a rotating series to increase awareness of the rich cultures that have helped shape Tulare County. The Westward Settler exhibit *Exploring America's Frontier: Westward Settler Experiences in Tulare County* is a collaboration between all of the museums in Tulare County. The gallery is filled with artifacts that highlight the family histories from the areas where each museum is located.

The exhibit opening reception will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 19, 2022. The event will feature brief presentations from local community members and the Tulare County Historical Society on the impact of a couple of special folks that are descendants of Tulare County pioneer families. Guests can view a video in our theater that tells the stories of Tulare County from the late 1880s. Also, at this time visitors may tour the exhibit to learn more about Tulare County in its earlier days. There will be lots of history to explore and you won't want to miss it!

Please join us in celebrating this exciting occasion at the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum in Mooney Grove Park (27000 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia) Museum and Park entrance will be free!

Noteworthy:

We are so thankful to have our roof repairs finished and be able to safely display our guns and saddles again. This exhibit has been safely stored for quite some time now and its long awaited return is finally here! Our guns and saddles are one of the most asked about exhibits on display at the museum, so it is with great pleasure that we are able to share them with visitors again.





Super Sleuths Needed!

Do you recognize any people in this photo or the school that they are in front of in the photo? Unfortunately we do not know the year this was taken, but if you do let us know! This photo will be posted on the Museum Instagram and Facebook page so you can comment there or email us at tularecountymuseum1948@gmail.com with any clues you might have. Put on your Sherlock hat and get out your magnifying glasses to help the museum solve the mystery of identifying this picture!

Find us on the web:

<https://tularecountymuseum.org/museum/>

Call us: (559) 624-7326

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Curator's Corner

Happy Holidays history heroes,

This has been a busy year for new exhibits at the Museum and I am looking forward to more next year! I am so thankful for all the support from our visitors and community partners that help us to continually make improvements. I can't say enough about our volunteers and how lucky we are to have them. I would also like to officially welcome Tessa Harden to our Museum staff, she has already been a wonderful addition to our team. Next year we would like to decorate the entire pioneer village, so if you have any holiday decorations you would be willing to donate we will make sure you are on Santa's nice list! Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season! ~Amy King-Sunderson

