



In 1884, a Mendocino Resident Helped Ensure Today's Birthright Citizenship

by Carole Brodsky

Because of the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, children born in America to parents born elsewhere are again guaranteed “birthright citizenship.” But how and when did birthright citizenship come to be? Nearly 150 years ago, Look Tin Eli—a Mendocino County resident—played a significant role in establishing birthright citizenship in California for the first time, thereby paving the way for the landmark decision recently cited by the Supreme Court.

Look Tin Eli was born in 1870, residing with his parents and three siblings in Mendocino. His father was one of the first Chinese persons to arrive in Mendocino—an eight-year-old town just beginning to sense the enormous opportunities offered by the burgeoning timber industry.

Look Eli—Look Tin Eli’s father—rapidly found a business need and filled it, opening up a grocery store for the Chinese community. The business was so successful that by 1879, the family was able to send 9-year-old Look Tin Eli back to China.

[Read more](#) of this article from the *Fort Bragg Advocate News*.

You can also pick up a copy of the [excellent book about Look Tin Eli's life](#) online or in the museum store.

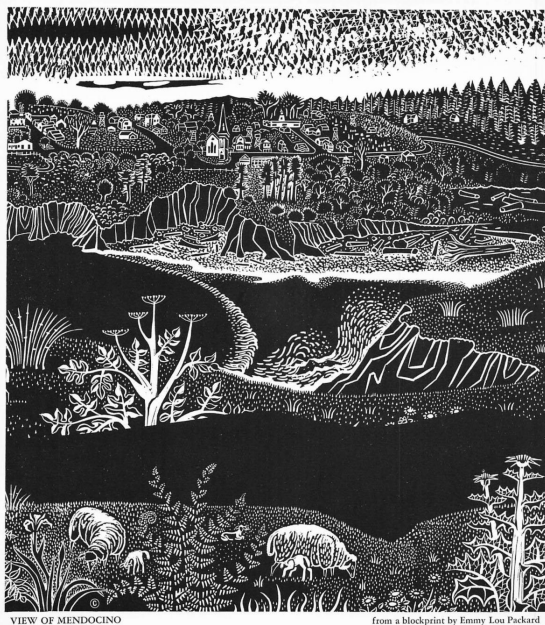
250th Anniversary Celebration

About 200 people gathered on the Kelley House Museum lawn to watch this year's July 4th parade and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. North Coast Brewing Company made sure we had plenty of beer and Caito Fisheries donated the ice that turned our truck into a mobile beer cooler. Gnar Bar fed the crowd delicious

hot dogs, and DJ Stereo Scout delivered the groove! We appreciate all the volunteers who helped us out at this special fundraiser.



New in the Shop!



Emmy Lou Packard Print \$25

This beautifully detailed print shows the town of Mendocino from across the Mendocino Bay, and is a vintage reproduction of an art by Emmy Lou Packard from the late 1960s. During her nine years in Mendocino, artist Emmy Lou Packard wove herself into the very fabric of the town. Her activism helped save the Mendocino Headlands from development, and her breathtakingly detailed woodcuts



Murder, She Tote - Now in White \$25

Fans of *Murder, She Wrote* will love this tote designed by a local artist with illustrations of Jessica Fletcher's house, bike, typewriter, teacup, magnifying glass, and Cabot Cove sign. Get ready to receive compliments from other fans! The bag is 14" x 14" and is made of sturdy canvas, perfect for carrying groceries or books. With 23" long white handles.

preserved the town's rugged and natural beauty forever.

BUY TOTE

BUY PRINT

A PEEK INTO THE PAST



Barn-Storming

CATTLE INVADE GARAGE – this odd headline appeared on the front page of the October 13, 1928 *Mendocino Beacon*. The story goes on to say, “A band of some 60 head of dairy cows being driven up the coast were going through Mendocino and when passing the S. & E.

Garage, spied the big open doors, and evidently taking it for a barn, they rushed in, in a body. They crowded into the show room, back out in the workshop and filled the main floor of the garage, a milling bawling band of bovines.”

Road hazards were different in Mendocino back then. Instead of visitors taking in the sights and becoming oblivious to the cars around them, people had to regularly contend with cattle drives up and down Highway 1. At this time, the route through town would have been Lansing Street and eastern Main Street. Can you imagine sitting at Good Life Cafe and watching this? [Read More.](#)

READ THE BLOG

WALKING TOURS

Check our [tour calendar](#) for the most up-to-date list of tours and to buy advance tickets online. Tickets for all tours: \$25 per person. Regular schedule through August:

Historic District Walking Tour
Saturdays at 11am

Haunted Mendocino Walking Tour
Every Wednesday at 5pm
Just added! Sunday, July 26 at 5pm

Saturday, August 8 at 7pm

Murder, She Wrote" Walking Tour

Every Thursday at 11am

Every Saturday at 11:30am

Just added! Monday, July 27 at 11am

Thank you to our volunteer tour guides:
Jane, Juliet, Sarah, Joann, and Rob.
They give regularly scheduled tours, but
are also available for private tours for
your group. [Contact us](#) for more
information.



TOUR CALENDAR

Murder, She Wrote Festival on The Kelly Clarkson Show!

(click on image to watch)



Festival Tickets

Festival tickets will go on sale in mid-September. We announce the tickets by email, with members getting advance access to tickets. Not a member? [Sign up here](#). if you aren't sure if you are a member, [send us an email](#) and we will check. Recently subscribed members should have received confirmation by snail mail.

Upcoming Partner Event!



Traditional Chinese Medicine FREE Workshop

Where: Community Center of Mendocino

998 School Street

Mendocino

When: August 8, 2026

Saturday

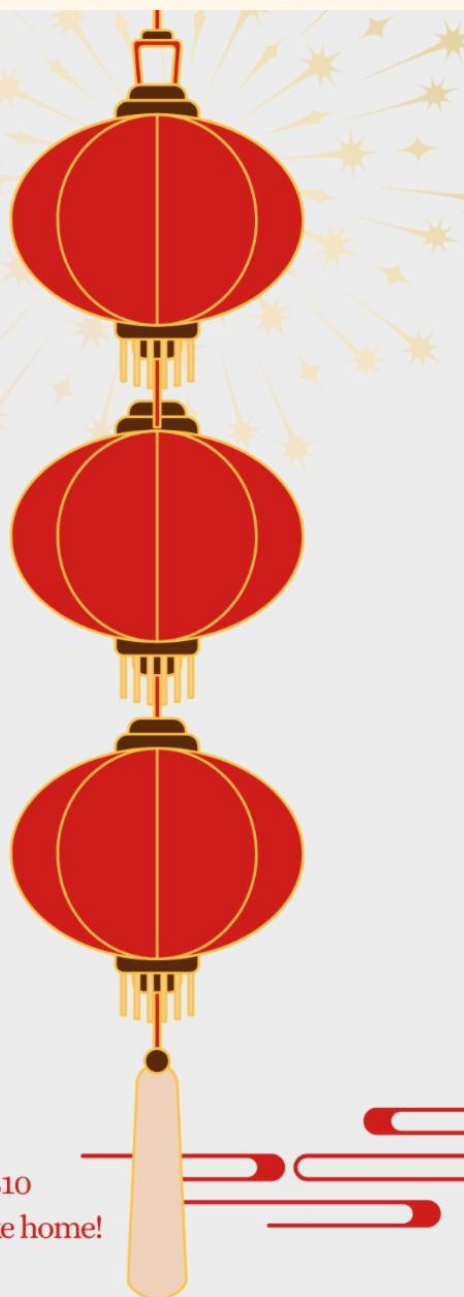
1-3 PM PST

Presenter: Jessica Curl with
Three Springs Institute and Clinic
will present at 1 PM

Tea Making Fundraiser for CCM at 2 PM: \$10
Make a Traditional Chinese Medicine Tea to take home!

Made Possible by:

THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY



**Kelley House Museum &
Research Center**
(707) 937-5791

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