

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM



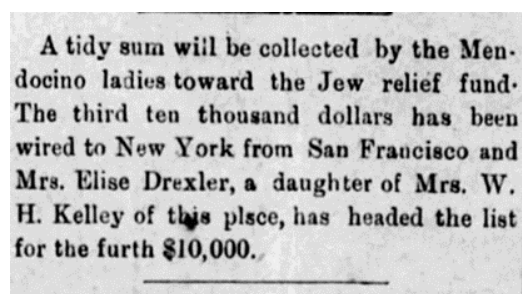
MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

One of the Kelley House events cancelled during the pandemic was a celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. We didn't get a chance to gather on the Kelley House lawn to toast the suffragists, but that doesn't mean you can't raise your glass right now to some of Mendocino's remarkable women.

Treat yourself or a friend to a copy of Molly Dwyer's book, ***From Maidens to Mavericks: Mendocino's Women***, published by the Kelley House in 2016 and

now a best seller. Enjoy inspiring profiles of over two dozen women from a rich cross-section of Mendocino's history, including Native and Chinese women, the Grand Dames of Mendocino, and the owner of a "Fashionable Boarding House" (a euphemism for brothel).

Fortitude and perseverance are two traits you'll encounter time and again in these women's stories about overcoming the challenges of their day (a good "shot in the arm" for us as we weather our current pandemic). From business owners and hotel proprietors to artists and activists, these women shaped the town we live in today. Elise Kelley Drexler (William Kelley's youngest daughter, shown above) "became one of the richest women on the West Coast" and "quietly undermined prescribed gender roles" as she rose to prominence in San Francisco's business community.



A tidy sum will be collected by the Mendocino ladies toward the Jew relief fund. The third ten thousand dollars has been wired to New York from San Francisco and Mrs. Elise Drexler, a daughter of Mrs. W. H. Kelley of this place, has headed the list for the fourth \$10,000.

In a 1905 news clipping shared by Museum Curator Karen McGrath, you can see Elise's donation to the Jewish Relief Fund.

Women today may take their right to vote for granted, but imagine the satisfaction Laura Nelson Lammers must have felt when she voted in her very first election at the age of 49. She taught Mendocino's Chinese children in a special school set aside for them in 1889, and was a founding member of the Mendocino Study Club, serving as its first treasurer. Laura grew up on what is now the eastern reaches of Surfwood Estates.

Let's also pay our respects to the 20th century heroines who helped save and preserve the town of Mendocino, including Beth Stebbins and Dorothy Bear, whom most of you know founded Mendocino Historical Research, Inc. which brought us the Kelley House Museum. Thanks to activists Emmy Lou Packard and Mildred Benioff, we have the Mendocino Headlands State Park in our front yard, instead of condominiums and hotels. Kelley House member Tom Wodetzki is currently working on a written tribute to these women (among others) called "Mendocino Heroes."

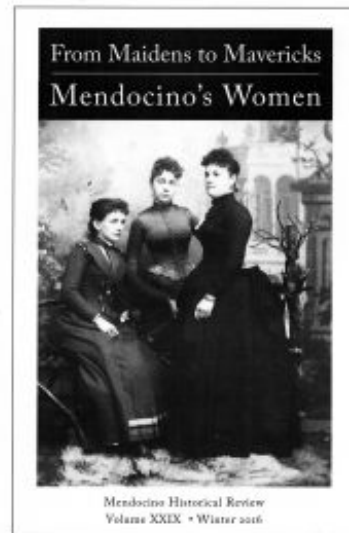
SPRING RENEWAL

If you haven't renewed your membership, now is an ideal time. With our \$50

BOOK OF THE MONTH:
From Maidens to Mavericks,
\$20

basic Historian-level membership, you'll receive lots of great perks including free admission to the museum, a historical photo of your choice, access to member events, an hour of curated research, and recognition in our newsletter. Other levels come with even more benefits. We need you now more than ever!

JOIN TODAY



BUY BOOKS

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

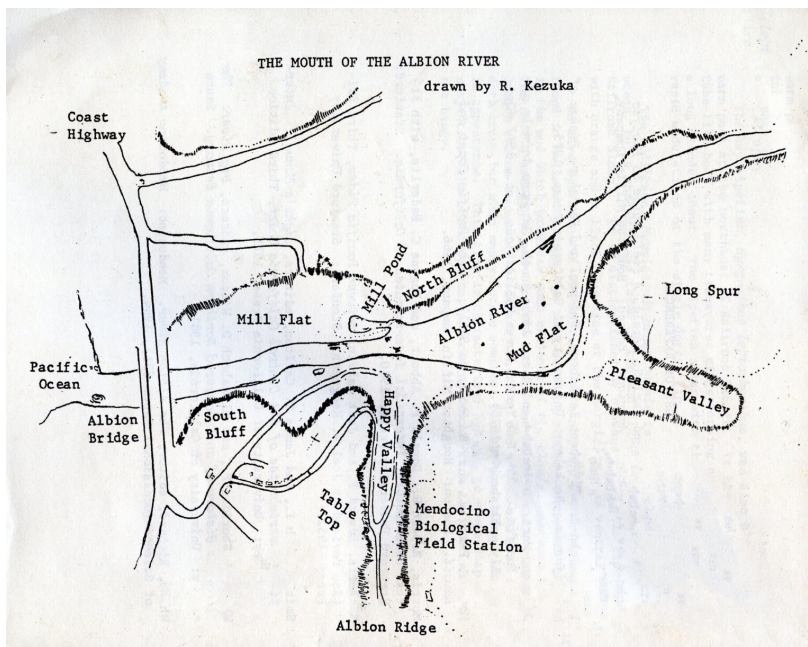


PAVING THE WAY

If you have stopped to admire the new concrete walkway in front of the Savings Bank in Mendocino, you'll enjoy Curator Karen McGrath's blog post about the history of concrete sidewalks in town, the oldest of which dates

back to 1891. It was in front of the Alhambra Hotel on Main Street, the site of other innovations such as acetylene gas lighting and the first telephone. **[Read more.](#)**

**ALBION'S
NATURAL
HISTORY**



Katy Tahja discovered a fascicle in the Kelley House archives, written by Dr. Richard White and eventually published with others as part of the *Mendocino Medicine and Gazetteer*. These volumes

document some fascinating natural history of the Albion area over the last 45 years. She writes, "the mud flats were alive with worms, shrimp, rock lice, shipworm, and clams. Researchers filled a five-gallon bucket of water from a brown seaweed bed there and found 308 living things in the water." Katy is looking for a missing fascicle, Volume 1 titled "The Albion River: A Summer Estuary." If you have a copy, please contact us. [Read more.](#)

READ THE BLOG



MENDOCINO WHALE WAR MINI-EXHIBIT

If you didn't know the Mendocino Whale Festival started as a war and not a party, then stop by the Kelley House Museum to learn more about the Mendocino Whale War of 1975-1976. Dramatic footage captured Russian harpooning of whales off

Cape Mendocino, which united the community in an effort to end commercial whaling (and included a call to boycott Russian vodka!). While the museum remains closed, this mini exhibit is in the display case by our Albion Street door and is part of a [Whale Festival Scavenger Hunt](#) organized by the Noyo Center for Marine Science.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Spring daffodils and vaccines lift our spirits, giving us hope that we might re-open this spring. We don't have a date yet, but we are making plans. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering. No commitment needed; just take our survey and let us know if that sounds like something you'd like to do when it feels safe for you.

TAKE THE SURVEY

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