

# KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

JOIN TODAY



## HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Meet Elise Kelley Drexler

Curious about what a 19th Century version of "local girl makes good" looks like? Meet Elise Kelley, the second daughter of William and Eliza Kelley. Born in 1866, she went to Mills College at a time when only 2% of women received college educations. She later became a philanthropist and real estate magnate worth \$58 million by today's accounting. She paved the way for women's financial independence by winning a pivotal lawsuit challenging her late husband's will, which imposed restrictions on her inheritance. She built a house designed by famed architect Julia Morgan and founded a hospital for children. She left her mark in Mendocino as well, with many improvements to the town including beach access to Agate Cove and gifts to the community library. Read more



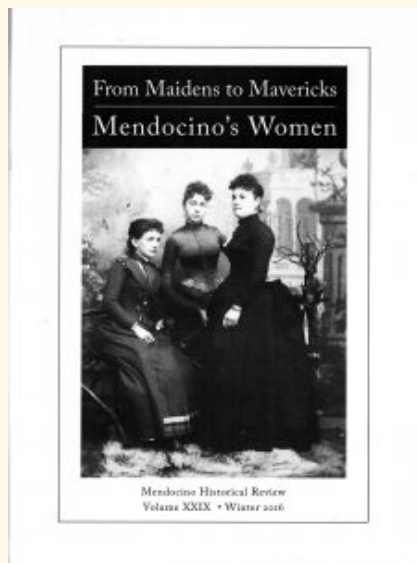
about Elise's life in [this article](#) by Katy Tahja, or come to the museum and enjoy our [updated exhibit](#) on the Kelley family.

READ MORE

## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CURATOR KAREN MCGRATH

May 1<sup>st</sup> will be my last day as the Curator for the Kelley House. Since 2016, I have had many roles: July Fourth event volunteer, the 2018 Silent Auction event coordinator, Director-Curator from 2018-2021, and Curator for the past year. My retirement will allow me to become a volunteer again, and give me the time needed to care for my family—and smell the roses. See you around Kelley House!

*The board and staff extend our deep gratitude to Karen for all that she has given to the Kelley House over the years and wish her much luck and many roses.*



### **BOOK OF THE MONTH** ***From Maidens to Mavericks: Mendocino's Women***

By Molly Dwyer

\$20

Mendocino boasts many strong and inspirational women in its past. This volume honors and remembers some of them. You can't appreciate Mendocino's history without the stories of its



### **CAT MOTHER FANS**

We are looking for pictures, posters, flyers, music, videos, or memorabilia related to the 1970s band *Cat Mother and the All-Night Newsboys* for an upcoming exhibit. If you have something to share, please **contact us**.

### **RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

If you have already renewed, consider giving a gift of a membership to a loved one or

women!

**BUY  
BOOKS**

friend. Choose a membership level that suits your pocketbook. As our thank you, you will receive your choice of a beautiful digital photo from our archives.

**JOIN OR  
RENEW**

## A PEEK INTO THE PAST

### **P.O.W. CAMPS AND "ENEMY ALIENS"**

Many people are familiar with the internment camps imposed by the U.S. government during World War II upon people of Japanese ancestry. But there were other groups incarcerated as well. After the U.S. entered the war, residents from adversary countries were immediately under suspicion and considered "enemy aliens." California had 65 camps which housed German and Italian P.O.W.s. In Mendocino County, people of German or Italian descent could not live or travel west of Highway 1. Learn more about the camps and how one local Italian family navigated life during this turbulent time. [Read more](#)



### **SARAH PRENTISS, BELOVED TEACHER**

In 1912 Sarah Prentiss (on right, principal Callie Grant on left) began teaching the 1st and 2nd grade classes at the Mendocino Grammar School, and was a devoted educator over the course of her 18-year career in Mendocino. From her



obituary, "A great many Mendocino boys and girls, now grown to manhood and womanhood, owe the basis of their education to this faithful teacher who for many years, until her retirement, presided over the primary department of the Mendocino elementary school, and who by her patience and understanding won their affection and the respect and gratitude of a

long line of parents." She also left funds in her will to purchase an organ for the Mendocino Presbyterian Church. Thank you to Sarah and all teachers past and present who have shaped so many young lives! [Read more.](#)

[READ THE BLOG](#)

## KELLEY HOUSE NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS!



We are trying to prepare for summer and could sure use more docents to keep the museum open and the walking tours going. We just ask you to give us two four-hour shifts each month. If you love to be outside and to tell stories, consider becoming a tour guide (we've got a narrated tour that makes training easy). If you love showing off the Kelley House and sharing the history of the town, become a museum docent. Longtime docent Katy Tahja describes the pleasures of being a docent in [this article](#). *Click on the button below if interested.*

[VOLUNTEER](#)

**Research Center**

(707) 937-5791

**US**

