

TURN \$100 INTO \$10,000 FOR THE KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

100 Women Strong Fundraising Event

Thursday, April 18, 2024

5:30PM - 7:30PM

The Kelley House Museum is one of three non-profits competing for the \$10,000 grand prize at this innovative fundraising event to be held at the Caspar Community Center. You (all genders welcome) can help us win by pledging \$100 and showing up to vote for us, all while enjoying wine, appetizers, and the company of good people. We are one of three non-profits you'll learn about that night in a 5-minute pitch, and the organization that earns the most votes (cast and tallied that night) will receive the pooled donations, which total \$10,000. Any amount over that is shared by the two other organizations, so the more people who attend, the better for everyone. *Please* support us by going, or by sponsoring someone to go and vote for us on your behalf. Better yet, go with a group of friends! If you can't go and would like to sponsor someone with your donation, or you'd like more information, please [contact us](#). You can pledge directly to 100 Women Strong (tax deductible) by clicking the button below. Thank you to the Community Foundation for organizing this event.

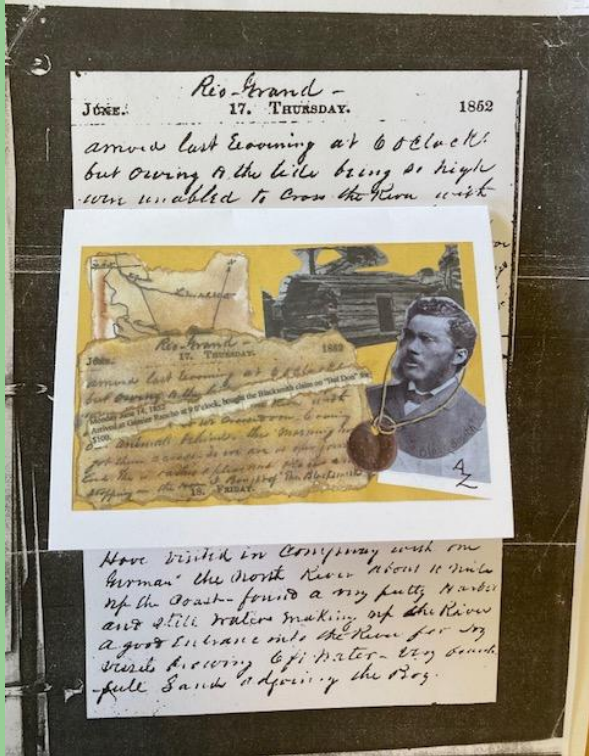
[PLEDGE \\$100](#)

DON'T MISS OUR CURRENT EXHIBIT

Nathaniel Smith: Mendocino's First African American Resident

Runs through May 27th

Nathaniel Smith arrived in Mendocino County in the 1850s and is believed to be the first African American to settle on the coast. His life story is revealed through photos, clippings, and artifacts. Smith was at one time "known to every man, woman and child on the coast." He was celebrated



for his wit, good nature, and essential work as a hunter, fisherman, farmer, and ferry operator.

One of Nathaniel's descendant's helped inform the research and we are honored to have her collages on display as part of the exhibit. Many of her pieces are available as notecards for sale in the museum for \$5 each. We also want to thank Susan D. Anderson, History Curator for the California African American Museum, for her presentation on the history of African American settlers in California, as well as Alexander Wood for his digital exhibit on Nathaniel Smith, which will be available soon. We had a full house and were sorry to those of you we had to turn away at the door. We promise to post the video of the event soon and

will have a digital exhibit up soon as well. *The project was made possible with support from the California Humanities.*

[LEARN MORE](#)

GO FUND ME FOR HEADSTONE FOR NATHANIEL SMITH'S GRAVE

Thanks to the historic Hillcrest Cemetery maps we have in the archives, we were able to identify Nathaniel Smith's grave location, which has no gravemarker. We have received permission from his descendants to take up a collection to install a permanent headstone, and hope you will help us honor his memory with this gesture. We invite you to contribute any amount you can. Thank you!



[HEADSTONE DONATION](#)

SUPPORT THE KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

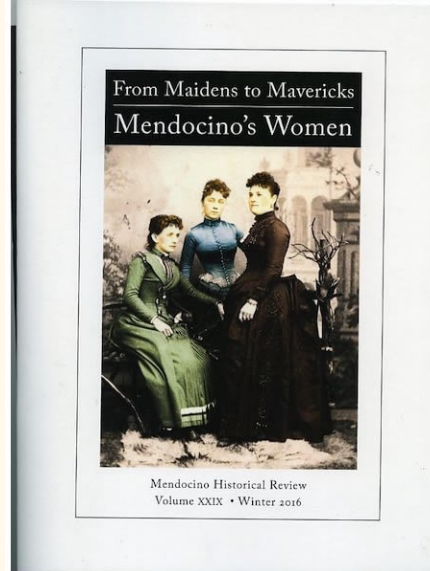
**FOR THE MATH MINDED:
We need a treasurer**

If your love of the Kelley House dovetails with your love of numbers, please consider becoming our next treasurer. The treasurer oversees the management and monthly reporting of the Kelley House Museum's finances, and works closely with our director and bookkeeper. It is not a large commitment of time, so please reach out if you are intrigued and we will tell you more! Thank you to our outgoing treasurer, Ian Roth, for his five years of service as the KHM treasurer.

BOOKS WANTED

We are seeking donations to the Kelley House Museum's annual book sale on May 26th. Please donate history, travel, nature, cooking, and biography books. No fiction please. Bring donations to the office (if closed, leave boxes by office door). Thank you!

[CONTACT US](#)



BOOK OF THE MONTH FROM MAIDENS TO MAVERICKS: MENDOCINO'S WOMEN

by Molly Dwyer, \$25
Celebrate Women's History Month by learning about the many strong and remarkable women from Mendocino's past. The author uses diary entries, letters, and newspaper articles to reveal their lives and accomplishments. Chapters cover everyone from indigenous women to 20th century heroines, and 50 photographs show the women in action and repose.

[BUY NOW](#)

A PEEK INTO THE PAST Women's History Month

Guadalupe Feliz Gorden by Molly Dwyer

Lupy Feliz Gorden (1865 - 1959) was a survivor. Her grandfather, Fernando Feliz, had been a wealthy powerbroker before Mexico lost California to the United States. Subsequently, the Feliz family lost its standing to prejudice



and bad luck. Born and raised in Hopland, Lupy was proud of her Spanish heritage but hid her mother's Pomo blood. Lupy followed an older brother to the Mendocino coast in 1881. She was 16, "dark and beautiful," and a "fine horsewoman." She took a job as a maid for Daisy MacCallum. Not long after, she advanced from domestic help to secretary for the Mendocino Lumber Company and caught the eye of Henry Gorden.

Gorden was a liveryman at a busy stable near the corner of Lansing and Main. They married, and moved into a house Henry built on School Street, a cottage that still stands. When Henry's drinking got out of hand, she posted a notice in the *Mendocino Beacon*: "I hereby warn any or all persons against furnishing my husband, Henry T. Gorden, with intoxicating liquor in any form." When her son began to follow in his father's footsteps, she posted a second notice: "My son, Archie F. Gorden, having left home, I hereby give notice that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by him." Henry left the property to their son rather than Lupy, but she raised the money to purchase the house, living the rest of her life as a landowner. Though confined to a wheelchair in old age, having had a leg amputated due to diabetes, she's said to have remained "cheerful and laughing" to the end.

*Excerpted from the Kelley House publication **From Maidens to Mavericks: Mendocino's Women**, Mendocino Historical Review Volume XXIX, written by local author, Molly Dwyer. The author's lecture from May 17th, 2015, is available to watch on the **Kelley House YouTube channel**.*

READ THE BLOG

UPCOMING 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

Historic District Walking Tour
Every Saturday at Sunday at 11am.

Haunted Mendocino Walking Tour
Tuesday, April 9th, 5:00pm

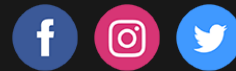
"Murder, She Wrote" Walking Tour
Saturday, April 13, 2:00pm



TOUR CALENDAR

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

EMAIL US



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