

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM



IT'S WILLIAM KELLEY'S 200TH BIRTHDAY!

Celebrate the bicentennial of William Kelley's birth this November 5th. Grab your favorite beverage and toast his legacy, which includes the historic home he built in 1861. Did you know:

He came to California during the Gold Rush by way of the Isthmus of Panama, where he and his brother set up shop selling food and supplies to other travelers. He lost his brother to cholera there and nearly perished himself. "The History of the San Francisco Bay Region," Vol. II, by Bailey

Millard (1924) describes his bout with cholera: "Though desperately ill and distracted over his brother's death, William H. Kelley managed to crawl out of his bed and bury \$2000 in the chimney of his room. When the Doctor appeared, he said: 'You neglected my brother, and if you neglect me, you get nothing, for my money is out of your reach; but if you save me, I'll pay you well'."

In San Francisco, he signed on to the brig *Ontario* as ship's carpenter. The

leaky craft sailed into the bay at Big River on July 19th, 1852 with Mendocino's first steam-powered sawmill.

In Mendocino, Kelley's business enterprises included general merchandise stores, saloons, a skating rink, and a livery stable. At one time, he owned all the land in Mendocino north of Main Street and west of Lansing Street, bounded by the ocean.

[Read our blog](#) or the [Mendocino Beacon](#) (November 4th edition) for more of William Kelley's fascinating story, written by Karen McGrath.



A Kelley House Holiday Celebration

December 4th, 2021

Family fun with Santa and Festive Holiday Open House

3:30-4:30 PM: VISIT SANTA!

We are thrilled to bring back the beloved tradition of cookies and cider with Santa at the Kelley House. Bring your family and your holiday good cheer to snap a perfect picture of your kid(s) standing next to Santa on our porch!

Everyone is welcome -
suggested donation is \$5

5:00-7:00 PM: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION

After Santa leaves for the North Pole, join us as we toast both the 200th birthday of William Kelley and the 160th anniversary of the Kelley House itself! We're decking the halls with Victorian Christmas-themed holiday decorations and serving light refreshments provided by Fog Eaters Cafe and spirits provided by Mendocino Spirits and Husch Winery. Stay tuned for more

information on a very special prize from the MacCallum House.

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SAVE A HOUSE

We couldn't celebrate the 160th birthday of this venerable old house if it weren't for the visionaries who helped save the Kelley House. To truly appreciate that vision,



walk past the museum now and imagine a motel and restaurant in its place! That's what someone planned for the Kelley House until Dorothy Bear and Beth Stebbins took an interest. Read Sarah Nathe's [article](#) about the 1975 restoration efforts, and take a close look at this photo of the old house when it was acquired. Writes Nathe, "The Kelley House may be one of the jewels in Mendocino's quaint Victorian crown, but it took a lot of work over almost 50 years by many generous people to make it look this good. A house this old will always need work, and our next priority is to replace the porches, one of which has been off-limits to visitors for a year because it is structurally unsound. We are about to embark on a capital campaign to do this work, which will enable us to host tours and outdoor events in that area. We invite you to donate any amount now to help with this, or as part of your year end giving.

Donate Now

FROM THE BLOG

Storm Damage

If the recent "atmospheric river" caused any damage to trees or

property, know that you live somewhere with a long history of wild weather. In a [blog post](#) by Carol Dominy she describes the damage caused by a fierce storm in 1924, including a downed flagpole, broken lights, garage doors ripped from their hinges, and a falling wooden horseshoe hanging from this old blacksmith shop. [Read more.](#)

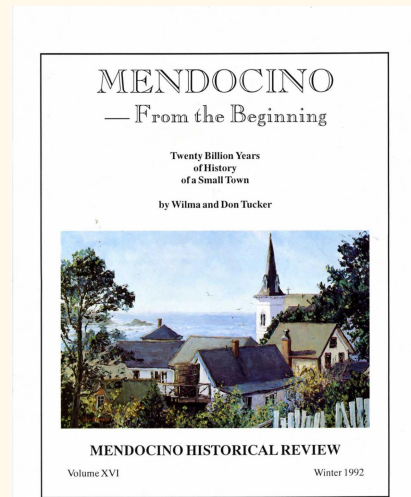


**READ THE
BLOG**

YEAR-END GIVING

You'll soon be receiving our annual appeal letter in the mail, and we hope you will remember the Kelley House Museum in your year-end giving. We've included membership renewal information as well since many of you renew at this time of year. If you aren't sure if it's time to renew, we are happy to tell you. Simply call or email us at info@kelleyhousemuseum.org. Memberships also make great holiday gifts!

We thank you for your support, especially during the past almost two years. While the pandemic and California's drought have wreaked havoc on our lives, they have also revealed the resilience and compassion of our community.



BOOK OF THE MONTH

***Mendocino from the Beginning: Twenty Billion Years of History of a Small Town* by Don and Wilma Tucker**

\$15

A great gift for local history lovers, this best-selling Kelley House publication covers Mendocino's geology, climate, redwoods, architecture and history of its indigenous population, explorers, loggers, and immigrants. Illustrated

DONATE

with more than 40 black and white photographs. Buy online or stop by our Museum shop Thursday through Sunday to pick up a copy.

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BOOKS**

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