

NORTHERN POMO



Mendocino's First People

October 2024 - March 2025

April - December:
Thursday - Monday, 11AM - 3PM

January - March:
Friday - Sunday, 11AM - 3PM

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

kelleyhousemuseum.org
707-937-5791

45007 Albion Street
Mendocino, CA 95460

About the Exhibit

We had several goals for this exhibit on the Northern Pomo. First, and most importantly, we wanted to reflect the experiences of the First People who lived, and continue to live, in Mendocino. Secondly, we wanted to share and celebrate the Pomo's rich culture. Finally, we wanted to tell more of the hard history, about the diseases, killings, and legislation that nearly drove the Pomo to extinction.

Bringing the exhibit to life was not without its challenges, the biggest one being: how to tell the history of a people who lived here for over 15,000 years on two walls of a small house. We know there is *much* left unsaid and we hope what you see and read will encourage you to keep learning.

Our other challenge was *showing* that history. We are very grateful to Buffey Bourassa of the Sherwood Valley Band of

Pomo Indians for collaborating on this exhibit. She pointed out that on our first draft we used photos from our own archives to illustrate the narrative, showing only how the Pomo lived after contact with Euro-Americans, when they had been moved from their villages and were forced to live in reduced circumstances. Missing



(because there are so few in existence) were images showing how the Pomo lived pre-contact, like this one of a tule canoe in Upper Lake taken by Edward Curtis. We worked together to find illustrations, photos, and artisanal crafts, both past and present, that would bring the exhibit to life. We hope you enjoy the result.

If you wish to support local tribes, there are a few places to start: patronize Native artisans and businesses, become involved in community events and educational programs with Indigenous partners, and prioritize land conservation and stewardship.

A special thank you goes to intern Kaylin Harr, an anthropology major at the University of California Santa Barbara, for the incredible work she did bringing this exhibit to life. We are also grateful to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County for the Arts and Culture grant that funded this project.

-Anne Semans, Director and Guest Curator

[READ MORE](#)

The Kelley House Museum will be closed on Thanksgiving day.



Thanksgiving Walking Tours

Historic District

Friday, Nov. 29 at 11am

Saturday, Nov. 30 at 11am

Haunted Mendocino Walking Tour

Saturday, Nov. 30 at 7pm

Send your family, friends, and guests to learn about the wild history of Mendocino. \$25 adults, \$15 under 12

[GET TICKETS](#)

**Save the Date! Member Party, Saturday, Dec. 7th,
5pm - 7pm**

IN THE COMMUNITY

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

November 15 – December 15,



2024

Mendocino Theater Company

What could possibly go wrong when a troupe of white theatre makers attempts to devise a play about the holiday's origins that will give due respect to the

continent's Native peoples? Don't miss this comic satire written by Indigenous playwright Larissa Fasthorse.

Says director Betty Abramson, "Working on this play has been a wonderful experience, I have a great cast. We have explored the fallacies of our characters, sought to show how we try so hard, yet inexplicably fail in our good intentions. Enjoy this show and hopefully, in your conversations in the future, recall these characters, maybe sometimes recognize yourself in some of them, and seek out conversations for growth."

[LEARN MORE](#)

A Peek Into the Past



Coffee to Go!

by Katy Tahja

While the Mendocino Coast has seen many shipwrecks along its shores, and enjoyed salvaging the cargo that washed up, the sinking of the “*SS Dorothy Wintermote*” in September of 1938 stands out in the memories of the locals. A veteran of Pacific coastal service, with more than 15 years of traffic on her record, the steamer was carrying a cargo of large appliances, gas cylinders, pharmacy drugs, and groceries from San Francisco to northern ports when she ran aground in heavy fog on Fish Rock near Anchor Bay on the morning of September 17th.

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