

May 7, 2025



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

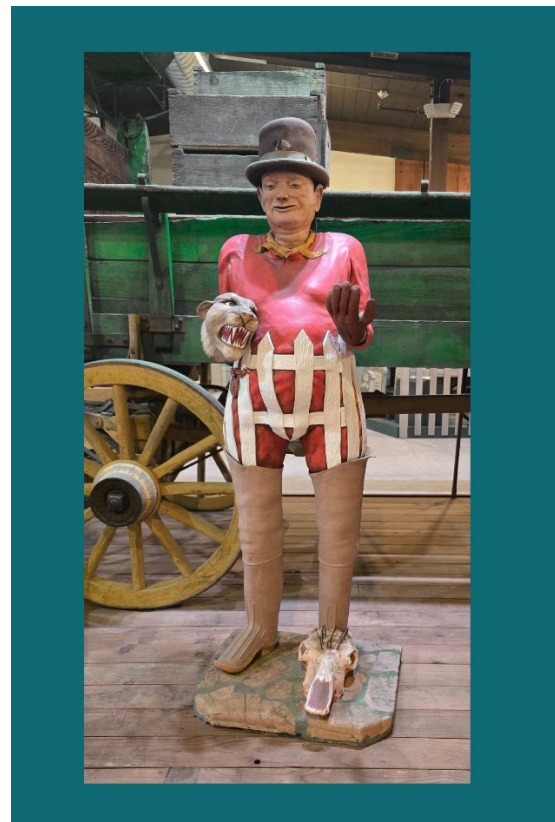
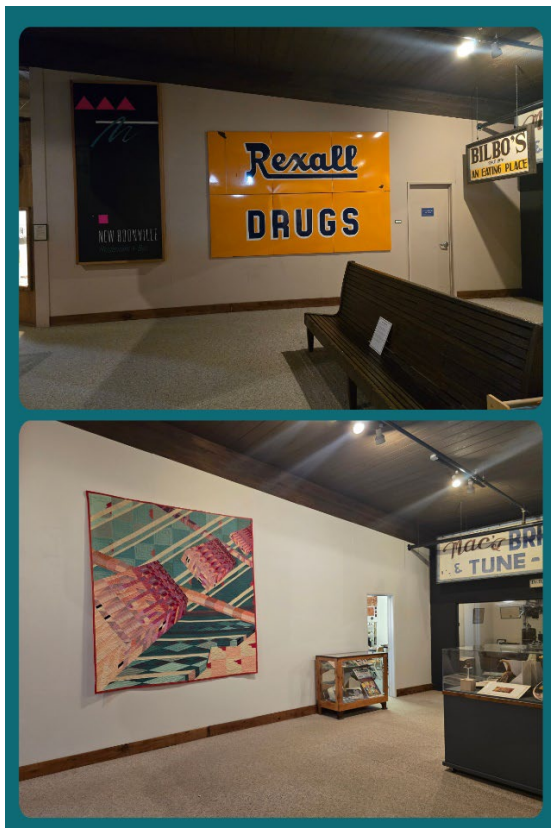
Karen Mattson
Museum Administrator

Mendocino County Museum
400 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490
Telephone: (707) 234-6365

Introduction

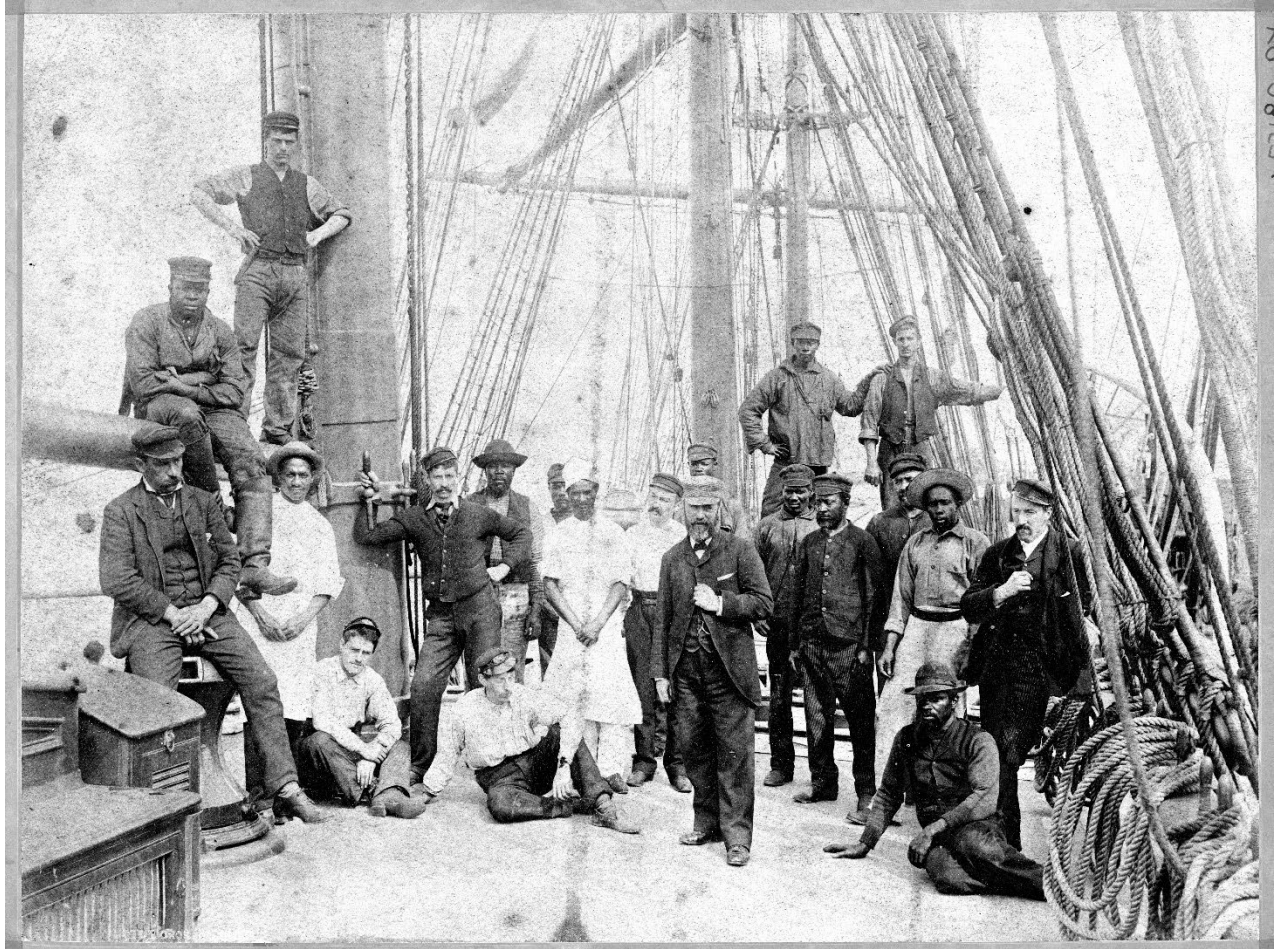
The Museum is proud to showcase two new acquisitions gifted by the Kirkpatrick family. The donated pieces are a life-size portrait of *Foster Guntly*, a life-long Mendocino County resident and rancher, sculpted by ceramicist Mac Magruder, and *Chasing Red Dogs*, which is a bold abstract art quilt, intricately created by local painter and textile artist, Linda MacDonald, that depicts the tension and aftermath of a dog bite experience.

The Museum's west gallery is in the process of being painted and refreshed prior to exhibiting incoming travelling exhibit *Take Me To The Water: Histories of the Black Pacific* by Exhibit Envoy. The new acquisitions will be on display in this space through May 25, 2025.



Images of freshly painted gallery with collections donated by the Kirkpatrick family: quilt, *Chasing Red Dogs*, by artist Linda MacDonald and sculpture, *Foster Guntly*, by artist Mac Magruder .

“Take Me to the Water: Histories of the Black Pacific” at Mendocino County Museum reveals historic connections between people of African descent and the Pacific Ocean. The exhibition opens June 4, 2025.



Officers, apprentices, and crew of the sailing ship *Rathdown* photographed in San Francisco after a six-month voyage, 1892.

Reproduction 073. Miriam Matthews
Photograph Collection, African
American Museum



Most accounts of the United States’ maritime enterprises are disproportionately populated by white seafarers. Mendocino County Museum is pleased to present a new exhibition that expands that narrative to include the many Black whalers, commercial mariners, fishers, explorers, soldiers, and sailors who traveled along the Pacific Coast and traversed the high seas from the 16th century to the present day. *Take Me to the Water: Histories of the Black Pacific* tells the stories of these mariners, their impact in shaping the American Pacific, and their legacy in the context of development of society and identity.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Caroline Collins, who charts her interest in Black people's relationships with water and watercraft to a childhood that included regular visits to Southern California beaches. Dr. Collins is an incoming Assistant Professor at UC San Diego; UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at UC Irvine, an affiliated researcher with the Democracy Lab and the Indigenous Futures Institute at UC San Diego, and is a co-founder of "Black Like Water," an interdisciplinary research collective at UCSD that highlights Black relationships to the natural world.

The exhibit will open to the public on June 4, 2025, through August 6, 2025 and can be viewed during regular open hours.

Exhibition Support

This project is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. The exhibition tours through Exhibit Envoy.

About Exhibit Envoy

Exhibit Envoy provides travel exhibitions and professional services to museums throughout California. For more information, visit www.exhibitenvoy.org.

About California Humanities

For over 45 years, California Humanities has helped give voice to voices seldom heard. Through grants and special programs that reach into every corner of our state, we help tell the stories of California. Visit www.calhum.org to learn more.

I. Effective County Government Organization

The Museum partners with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and Roots of Motive Power to deliver dynamic education programs for Mendocino County Schools.



MENDOCINO COUNTY
MUSEUM

2025 School Tours

Learn about early Mendocino County history with a guided tour experience!

Featured exhibits:

- *Telling Our Story: Early Timber Industry in Mendocino County*
- *Woven Worlds: Native People's of Mendocino County*
- *Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Interpretive Center*
- *Roots of Motive Power Steam Engine Collection*

Themes include: early timber industry and advancements in technology, changes in our local economy and early transportation, natural resource management, and habitat restoration.

Guided tour programs are \$9.00 per student.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Self-guided visits of Museum exhibitions are also available.

In the Field Self-Guided Tour Program includes:

- 15-minute introduction from Museum staff
- Activity guides for self-lead exploration

Self-guided tour programs are \$3.00 per student.

SEE AVAILABLE DATES



REQUEST A TOUR ONLINE

For questions or to request additional details please contact the Museum.



MENDOCINO
COUNTY Museum
"Telling Our Story"

400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 | (707) 234-6365
museum@mendocinocounty.gov|www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum
OPEN Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12:00-4:00

II. A Safe and Healthy County

The Museum is pleased to offer a recurring lunch hour program, A-Bit-and-A-Bite, that features unique aspects of Mendocino County history. This program is hosted by guest speakers every second and fourth Thursday. This casual program brings the community together and encourages friendship and volunteerism.

A-Bit-and-A-Bite History at the Mendocino County Museum

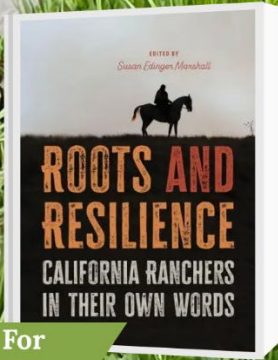
Sherwood Rancher, Marilyn Sagehorn Russell, will recount stories from her early life as a sheep rancher, and will elaborate on her family's successful collaboration with the California Rangeland Trust to preserve the ranch in perpetuity.



Marilyn is a contributing author to *Roots and Resilience: California Ranchers In Their Own Words*, a compilation of poems, stories, and musings, from ranchers across the state.

**Thursday
May 22,
12:30**

**Copies Available For
Purchase!**



- LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- REFRESHMENTS

SPONSORED BY:



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III. A Thriving Economy

The Museum encourages use of the Museum Wonacott Room and Courtyard. This space is being used frequently for community gatherings of all kinds. Use of this space supports visitation to the Willits area, and patronage of local businesses.



Mendocino County Museum

Wonacott Meeting Room & Courtyard

400 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 94590

Looking for a space to hold an upcoming meeting or celebration? The Wonacott Meeting Room and Courtyard at the Mendocino County Museum are open to public use by reservation.

The Wonacott Meeting Room has all you need for meetings, presentations, and conferences. The space can accommodate up to 39 people and is equipped with tables, chairs, Smart TV, mini refrigerator, and sink.



The Wonacott Courtyard is perfect for hosting parties, picnics, or other small-scale events. The space features three picnic tables situated beneath oak trees and a paved area ideal for tables, games, dancing, and more.

Rental of both spaces includes access to indoor restrooms.



Available from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. 7 days a week.
Events outside standard hours are subject to approval.

Rates are \$63 per hour or \$191 per day.
Each space is rented separately.
Reservations on a First-Come-First-Serve Basis.

Download the Application



SCAN HERE



MENDOCINO COUNTY Museum
"Telling Our Story"

For availability and general inquiries,
please email museum@mendocinocounty.gov
or call (707) 234-6365.

IV. A Prepared and Resilient County
N/A

Other/Additional Information

The Museum is pleased to provide special tours of the Museum Collections Facility.



Behind the Scenes Tours: Celebrating the Arts Edition!

Visitors are invited to tour areas rarely open to the public during this unique program. View collections storage areas, see recently acquired objects, and learn about collections care from knowledgeable docents.

Behind the Scenes MAY and JUNE
Tour Dates:

First and Third Thursdays 2–3p.m.

Featured content:

- Ukiah Courthouse Murals
- Willits Center for the Arts
- Mendocino County Artists
- Wine History

Tours are included with regular admission. Space is limited, call ahead and make a reservation.

Please note: This program is recommended for adults and children aged 8 and over.

For more information please call the Mendocino County Museum.





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