



# Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society

## Winter 2018 Newsletter

### Rudolph d'Heureuse and his 1863 photos of the Mojave Road

[Ed. note: For our December 20 holiday party (see page 8 for details), the Historical Society is extremely pleased to present author and historian Jeff Lapidés giving his talk and slide show which has been a huge hit with audiences: **Passage to Eldorado: The Pioneering Photographs of the Mojave Road in 1863** by Rudolph d'Heureuse. Read here a little introductory information about d'Heureuse and his photographs. Next read a brief history of the Mojave Road, along which d'Heureuse travelled.]

#### About the Talk and Slide Show

By Jeff Lapidés

GOLD! SILVER! ...and those seeking their fortunes against the backdrop of the American Civil War, relations among the European-American newcomers, Hispanics, and Native Americans, military exploits, salacious news accounts, greed—and one naturalized German with a camera. (continued on page 2)

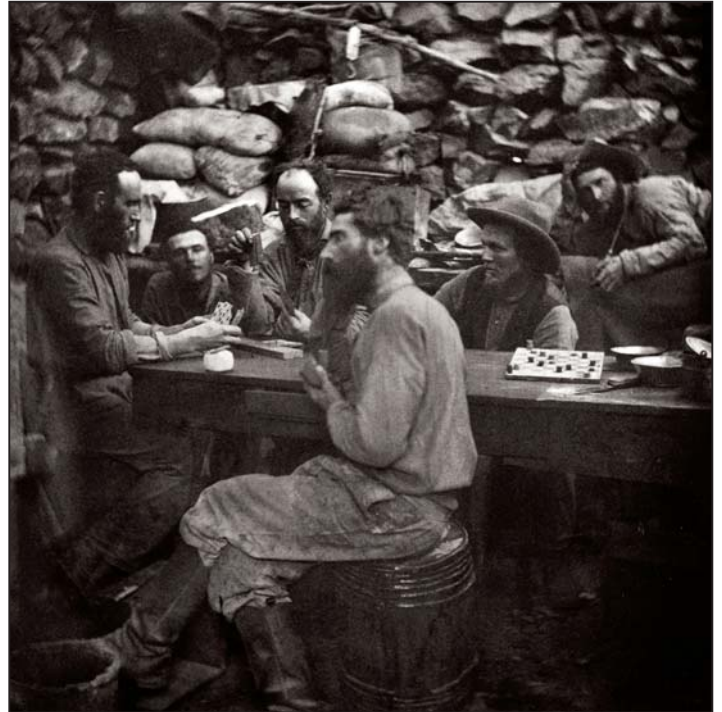


Photo by Rudolph d'Heureuse



### Santa Anita Dam Overflow

By Jeff McGuire

In the summer of 1968 there was a fire here in the Sierra Madre foothills. The winter of 1969 was very wet which caused mud and debris to fill the dam and made water come over the top of the dam. It was scary because it was not known if the dam would break causing massive destruction. After the rains were over the mud and debris was cleared out. I remember standing here looking at how awesome it was seeing water come over the top of the dam. I was 10 years old at the time and it certainly was a big life lesson! Hopefully, it will never happen again, but if it does, it's good to know the dam will hold up. This photo was found among my mother's photos and I assume she took it. I for sure will never forget it.

*Do you have a Sierra Madre memory and photograph our readers would enjoy? Send them to [MaggieEllis04@msn.com](mailto:MaggieEllis04@msn.com)*

## Mojave Road History

(continued from page 1)

Rudolph d'Heureuse—surveyor, cartographer, civil engineer, mining engineer, oenologist, inventor—who on one momentous journey photographed the Mojave Road in the Desert West from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to the banks of the Colorado River and the mines of Eldorado Canyon in today's Nevada. His subjects included San Bernardino, Cajon Pass, and Los Angeles's seaport, New San Pedro (Wilmington). He did it in 1863, many years before anyone else took the next photo of this desert and its inhabitants, travelers, crossroads, forts, soldiers, and watering holes.

As the very first photographic record of the Mojave Road and its destinations, it calls for a reappraisal of its importance as a convergence of mid-nineteenth century technology, art and commerce. Ansel Adams thought highly enough of Rudolph d'Heureuse's work to include five prints of these images in a 1942 show he curated at the Museum of Modern Art in New York—an exhibit that included the pictures of Brady, O'Sullivan, Curtis, Jackson, Watkins, and other luminaries of photography of the Civil War and the American West.

*Jeff Lapidés, a citizen of our foothill village, was the designer of Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre. His new book is a companion to his presentation, The Mojave Road in 1863.*

### About the Mojave Road

Excerpted from *Mojave Road; An Adventure Through Time*

By Len Wilcox

*[The Mojave Road, 138 miles long, ran from about where Bullhead City is today to near Barstow.]*

The Mojave Road was a main wagon trail for only a relatively short time, two decades after the Civil War. When the railroads came, the railways created an easier route to the south complete with oases on the bitter-dry deserts. While it was used, the Mojave Road was a route plagued by hostile Indians, a lack of water, long stretches of sand and rough hill climbs.

In the great westward migration to California, the Mojave Road was not an important player. Most went north across Donner Pass, or south through the Colorado Desert. The road was primarily a supply route, not an immigration trail, used by soldiers and freighters.

Water is everything on the desert, and the locations of watering holes determined the route of the trail. These springs were favored ambush sites, so each location had to be defended by a US Army that was hard pressed to do it. So the Army established outposts, military camps of sometimes just two or three men, who spent their tours of duty protecting gold-

seekers and farmers heading for a better life in the golden valleys near the coast. The Army felt it had to be done; by controlling the water, they controlled the road.

Like most trails and even today's superhighways, the Mojave Road was first an Indian path, used as a trade route. When the Americans began pushing westward, Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, John Fremont and others came this way to reach the pueblos on the coast. When gold was discovered in '49, most of the 'Niners took the northern route, but thousands followed the southern route and took the Mojave Road.

As the population of California grew in the 1850s and 60s, the Mojave Trail became a main southern freight route across California to Arizona. The trail became a mail route, and that was when the military forts were established to keep the lines of communication open. These forts began at Fort Mohave, located on the Colorado River near present-day Bullhead City, and ranged to Camp Cady, just outside Barstow.

The need for these camps faded with the subjugation of the Indian threat and the construction of railroads south and north of the Mojave Road. When the railroads were built, travelers found it easier to follow their tracks, as the railroads had water stops every 5 miles or so. The camps along the Mojave Road were eventually abandoned by the military, but civilian station tenders opened some of them as stagecoach stops or primitive roadhouses.

Source: The DesertUSA e-newsletter  
Undated. Retrieved 11/08/18 from  
<https://www.desertusa.com/desert-trails/mojave-road-page1.html>  
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# GHOSTS ABOUNDED AT SMHPS CEMETERY TOUR

All photos by Mary Lou Caldwell

It was a great event and I want to thank all of you who attended. Our food was provided by Sierra Fusion Restaurant; our "helpers" were members of our SMHPS Board. The event's committee was Shari Eing, Jeff Plaut, Judy Webb-Martin and me. Our amazing actors ranged from ages 12 to 91. The student actors and tour guides were members of the Hawks, a community service organization from the Sierra Madre Middle School. Our actors were a fun group of people who portrayed 20 of our historical "residents" at Pioneer Cemetery. All of the proceeds from this fundraiser will help to support our two museums in Sierra Madre.

Thank you all for your support! Leslie Ziff



Carol Canterbury portrayed Mrs. Heasley



Millie Yom Sefars (left), who portrayed Eleanor Tucker, and Brooke Easter as Emma Tufts



Fred Thomas as John Richardson's indentured servant. John Richardson was the first person interred in the cemetery



Tour guides Faith and Abbot flanking Jaxson Tierney, who portrayed Emil Deutsch



Attendees listening to a performance

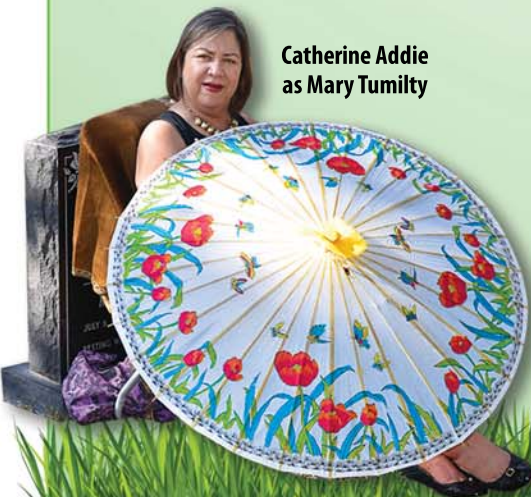


Event chair Leslie Ziff giving some directions to Zachary Kriebs, who played Ammi Hawks

Dane Lenton as Nathaniel Carter



Catherine Addie as Mary Tumilty



Tour guides Madeleine and Matilda from Sierra Madre Middle School's Hawks Club





## California Listens: A Digital Storytelling Project

By Leslie Ziff

This past summer the Sierra Madre Public Library was one of the few libraries in our state that was awarded a grant to capture some of our local stories. We participated in the California Listens project, collaboration between StoryCenter and the California State Library. As a member of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society I was asked to help support this effort. We helped to recruit those interested in creating a short video illustrating a story from their past that pertained to our Southern California area. Ten participants attended the two-day workshop where they learned how to write a narrative script, collect images, and develop a video story, and edit their personal stories.

We all learned a lot in the process. Our reward was the completion of some great stories that will be archived by the California State Library website. Each participant also received his or her own story on a CD. We presented the entire program at the Library on September 27th and had a very enjoyable evening. I hope that this is just the beginning of more stories to be collected in our community.



The workshop

Links:

California Revealed website  
<https://archive.org/details/storycenter>

2018 California Listens Story Samples  
<https://californialistens.org/project-gallery/2018-collection/>

Sierra Madre Public Library website  
<http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=212393&pageId=12537458>

## New Settee at the Richardson House

By Leslie Ziff

Photos by Leslie Ziff



The local chapter of the Questers, who preserve historical sites and artifacts, has been working hard to find an appropriate settee to fit the period of the Richardson House Museum. This past month they were able to deliver a beautiful one to us and we have set it up in the living room. The Questers have always been very generous to our museums and have also added many things to Lizzie's Trail Inn over the years. We are thankful that we have people like Terry Terrell and his wife Peggy Lee Hartwell. Peggy has been very active in helping us to bring the Richardson House furnishings to match the two major periods that the home was used: the late 1860's and the 1930s-1940s. We are always appreciative for help with our museums.



**A Saturday at Lizzie's. Come visit!**  
**The museums are open Saturdays 10:00 – noon.**



Photo: Jeff Lapides



# Remembering John W. Robinson

By Leslie Ziff

Earlier this year the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society joined forces with the Santa Anita Canyon Historical Society, the Sierra Club, John Robinson's daughter and son-in-law, and many friends and admirers to acknowledge the passing of a great man; John W. Robinson. He was a trailblazer in many ways.

John loved to hike our mountains and share his knowledge of the flora and fauna, the history of the trails and meet others with common interests. He was a prolific author who wrote books such as *The San Gabriels*, *Los Angeles In Civil War Days*, *Trails of the Angeles*, and *100 Hikes in the San Gabriels*. It was always a privilege to sit and listen to stories of his many adventures in our local mountains.

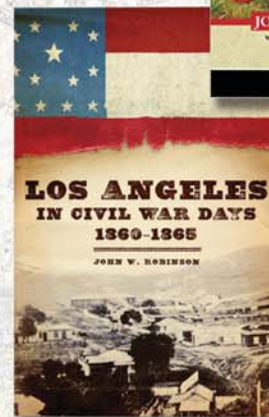
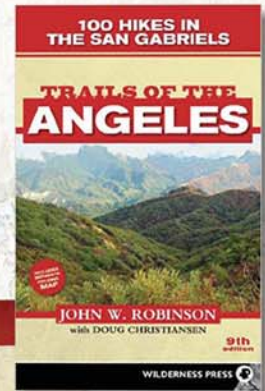
We will miss him.

Photo: Leslie Ziff



Dr. Bill White and Glen Owens

Photo: Leslie Ziff





## President's Message

"Tis the season" - As Fall begins, our attention moves from Halloween - to Thanksgiving, - to Hanukkah - to Kwanzaa - to Christmas preparations. The making of traditional foods, gift shopping, decorating - these all tend to invade our time.

But let's stop to take a breath and contemplate the history behind these celebrations:

All Hallows Eve is a night to honor the ancestors who lived before us - to remember their lives and contributions. A celebration observed in several countries on October 31. It is the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins on the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

Thanksgiving is a time to enjoy the bounty of the harvest, to come together with family and friends. It is a time to help others who are less fortunate. The celebration of Thanksgiving has its beginnings in our country but the celebration of the harvest can be found around the world - the giving of thanks.

Hanukkah is a celebration of lights - remembering the struggle of a small band of Jews who helped to reclaim their lands and their place of worship. The lighting of the Menorah celebrates the miracle of having only a small amount of oil that ended up lasting for 8 nights.

Kwanza, an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrated from Dec. 26 until Jan. 1, is a celebration of family, community and culture. Its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africans. The name Kwanza is derived from the phrase: "matunda ya kwanza" which means; "first fruits" in Swahili.

Christians and many non-Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25th to commemorate the Nativity of Jesus, giving thanks for the 12 Days of Christmas, also known as "Twelvetide" from December 25 to January 5. Some of the customs are gift giving, the singing of carols, Christmas lights and the sharing of a special meal with family and friends.

As we are a nation filled with such diverse cultures, religions and beliefs, it is important to take time to appreciate the history that supports each and every one. When understanding the history - it helps us to see the "whole picture" of why people believe in so many different ways. Yet many of these beliefs share a common thread - love, family, community and the act of giving. The beliefs in the harvest, the breaking of bread together, the customs that tie people together, are much the same all over the world. We love to be loved; we each need to feel that we belong. 'Tis the gifts of the season that help to bring "light" into all our lives throughout the rest of the year. Happy Holidays!

Leslie Ziff



Photo: Michael/Ellis

Jay Whitcraft, Museums Curator; Leslie Ziff, President; Maggie Ellis, Vice President; Christel Chang, Ways & Means Co-Chair; Louise Neiby, Ways & Means Co-Chair; Mary Lou Caldwell, Director at Large; Richard Mays, Treasurer; Jan Wiles, Facebook/Museums Design; Jean Coleman, Director at Large; Teresa Chaure (obscured), Director at Large; Joan Spears, Director at Large

## The 2018-2019 Board

### OFFICERS

President	Leslie Ziff
Vice President	Maggie Ellis
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Richard Mays

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education	Leslie Ziff
Facebook	Jan Wiles
Membership	Maggie Ellis
Museums Curator	Jay Whitcraft
Newsletter	Maggie Ellis
Ways & Means	Christel Chang
	Louise Neiby
Website	Maggie Ellis

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Mary Lou Caldwell
Jean Coleman
Teresa Chaure
Pat Karamitros
Joan Spears

### NON-BOARD MEMBERS

Library Board of Trustees Liaison	Rod Spears
Board Development	Judy Webb-Martin

# MT. WILSON OBSERVATORY

## Then and Now EVENT

In June, the Observatory's fascinating and much-credentialed Tim Thompson gave us a riveting talk on the observatory, its history, its inner workings. Said one impressed attendee: "How are you ever going to top that?"



Photo: Michael Ellis



Photo: Maggie Ellis

Tim Thompson



Photo: Elisa Webster

It was a full house



Photo: Maggie Ellis

Many stayed for the Q&A afterwards

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec 20	Holiday Party with speaker	7pm
Jan 17	Board Meeting	7pm
Feb 21	Board Meeting	7pm
Mar 17	Wistaria Festival / booth	TBA
Mar 21	Board Meeting	7pm
Apr TBA	Home Tour	TBA
Apr 18	Board Meeting	7pm
May 26	Trail Race / booth	TBA
May 4-5	Sierra Madre Art Fair / booth	TBA
May 16	Board Meeting	7pm

## Welcome New Members!

We are very pleased to welcome  
**Jody Gunn**  
**Liz Moran**  
**Joanne Thrane**  
**Gerald & Claire Dunn**  
 and **Vance Pubberly**  
 as new members.

*Thank you for your support!*

[www.smhps.org](http://www.smhps.org)  
[SMHPS@outlook.com](mailto:SMHPS@outlook.com)



Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society



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 (626) 836-6709  
 www.smhps.org

**Members' Holiday Party**  
 Members & Guests

Thursday, December 20 7:00 p.m.  
 Hart Park House in Memorial Park  
 Cookie Feast & hors d'oeuvres

**The program:**  
 A talk and slide show by author and historian  
**Jeff Lapidis**

**Passage to Eldorado:**  
 The Pioneering Photographs of the  
 Mojave Road in 1863  
 by Rudolph d'Heureuse

**SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
 P.O. Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0202  
**Membership / Donation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level**

- \_\_\_ \$20 Individual
- \_\_\_ \$25 Family
- \_\_\_ \$5 Student
- \_\_\_ \$30 Contributing
- \_\_\_ \$60 Patron
- \_\_\_ \$100 Supporting
- \_\_\_ \$500 Lifetime

**Specific Donations**

- \$\_\_\_ Sierra Madre Historical Archives
- \$\_\_\_ Oral History Program
- \$\_\_\_ Museums
- \$\_\_\_ Richardson House
- \$\_\_\_ Lizzie's Trail Inn

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to SMHPS**

The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3).  
 Your contributions are deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank You.

Yes, I would like to be a volunteer for the SMHPS \_\_\_\_\_