

CALEDONIA ENTERPRISE

PO Box 326, San Miguel, CA 93451 | 805-467-3357 | <http://www.rios-caledoniaadobe.org>

Who are Friends of the Adobes?

Friends of the Adobes, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1968 for the purpose of bringing together persons interested in history, especially the history of northern San Luis Obispo county and southern Monterey county. The organization's major function is to promote the restoration and maintenance of adobes and other landmarks of historical significance in these areas.

Rios-Caledonia Adobe

California Historical Landmark No. 936

This former residence, inn, and stage stop was constructed in 1835 and is located on the old mission trail between San Francisco and Los Angeles, adjacent to the San Miguel Mission. Preserved adobe buildings currently house a Museum and Gift Shop, with a Research Library in the works. Picnic spots and restrooms are available. If you haven't yet visited, please come by! The Adobe is open Friday through Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. Take the San Miguel exit on Highway 101 (eight miles north of Paso Robles) to 700 S. Mission Street, San Miguel.



Estrella Adobe Church

California Historical Landmark No. 542

The Estrella Adobe Church, the first Protestant church in northern San Luis Obispo County, was built in 1878-1885 by early pioneers. The church prospered for a few years but then fell into disuse and began crumbling into ruins. The church was restored through the efforts of the Paso Robles Women's Club and was rededicated in 1952. It is opened for a memorial service annually (on Memorial Day weekend), but you are welcome to visit the grounds any time. The church is located on Airport Road in Paso Robles, 2 1/2 miles north of Highway 46 East.



The Rios-Caledonia Adobe is OPEN again!

As many of you know from our last newsletter, the Rios-Caledonia Adobe closed temporarily on June 7, due to mandated structural work (an earthquake retrofit) and exterior improvements by the County of San Luis Obispo, Parks and Recreation Department. It reopened recently and Joyce Herman, our administrator, provided the following update:

The Rios-Caledonia Adobe is again "open for business" after 7 weeks of "retrofit" and 2 weeks of recovery! We're not completely back to normal, but we are working at cleaning up after a very dusty project.

Finish of the outside slurry and white wash project completed the entire Adobe exterior. Removal of roof-tile on the south end of the Gift Shop, which butts the old Adobe's north wall, was necessary to accommodate the scaffolding needed to slurry/white wash. While they were at it, the attic window frame was painted to match the existing blue frames.

We're so proud of the "new look"—please come see! Come visit an historic museum and gift shop that's attaining a "squeaky clean" and newly arranged goal.

[Days of operation: Friday through Sunday, 11 AM to 4 PM.]

Five EASY ways to help or be involved...

1) Join

Membership is an easy way to provide support and ensure you keep updated on our activities. Memberships start at \$10 and can be given as gifts. Visit our website for more information: www.rios-caledoniaadobe.org

We also welcome new Board Members with fresh ideas!

2) Shop

The Rios-Caledonia Museum's Gift Shop offers truly unique antiques and collectibles as well as fascinating books. You just might find the perfect gift for someone special, or perhaps something for yourself!

3) Donate items

Donations of antique/vintage items to sell in the Museum's Gift Shop are very much appreciated! In addition to bringing in money, new Gift Shop items help bring in repeat visitors and shoppers!

4) Donate funds

We are always very grateful for monetary donations of any amount! And, please keep in mind that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit!

5) Volunteer

Volunteers are always appreciated! In addition to helping as docents, in the gift shop, and at special events, we also need helpers for clerical tasks, exhibits, fundraising, research, landscaping, website updates, publicity, and special projects. If you have a special talent or are willing to help in any way, please contact Joyce at (805) 467-3357, or email her at hermanjah11@yahoo.com.

Estrella Adobe Cemetery date correction

Many thanks to Florence Von Dollen, who advised us that we have been incorrectly stating that the last burial in the Estrella Adobe Church Cemetery was in 1938.

Otto Wolf was buried in 1938, but then Bismark Erdman was buried there in 1959. Bismark was on our cemetery list, which was compiled by the San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society, but there were no dates for him on the list.

Keep in mind that although the Estrella Adobe Church is open to the public just once a year for services (on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend), you can visit the grounds and cemetery any time you wish.

In fond memory: Lester Rougeot



As many of you "locals" may already know, Lester Rougeot passed away on July 19, a day after celebrating his 90th birthday at a party attended by over 200 people. Lester and his wife Barbara were staunch supporters of Friends of the Adobes for MANY years, and Lester served on the Board of Directors in various capacities throughout his many years of service.

Lester Ralph Rougeot was born in July 1925 in Lowe's Canyon, Monterey County, California, to Clarence and Sarah Thelma Freeman Rougeot, local pioneer families. His grandparents were Rega and Dovie Nicklas Freeman from Estrella, and Thomas and Ida May Shuey Rougeot from Estrella and San Luis Obispo. Lester graduated from Paso Robles High in 1943. He had been a member of the Estrella Grange #488 since 1939 and was master of the El Paso de Robles Grange #555, Pomona Grange #27 of San Luis Obispo, State Deputy of the California State Grange and member of the National Grange. Lester organized the MidState Fair Pancake Breakfast and was Marshall of Pioneer Days and Sage Brush Days. Among his many awards Lester was Roblan of the month in 1993 and Roblan of the Year 2002; Honorary Chapter Farmer - Paso Robles FFA 1966 and Friends of 4-H award for San Luis Obispo County 1992. Lester was the last surviving charter member of Native Sons of Golden West San Miguel Parlor 150. He was preceded in death five years ago by his wife of 64 years, Barbara (Hatch) Rougeot; sister, Mildred McGraw; his parents, grandparents; brother-in-law, John Craspay Sr.; many cousins, nephews, nieces, sisters and brothers-in-law; and also his twin brother whom he lost when they were 10 years old. He is survived by his three children, Regina (Kelley) Bonds of Hiwassee, Va., Chester (Louise) Rougeot of Paso Robles, and Margie (Vic) LeRoux of Buena Park, Calif.; eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter; sister, Gladys Craspay of Bradley; several nieces, nephews and cousins; special niece, Judy Miller of San Luis Obispo. (Donations may be made in Lester's memory to the Dee Fitzhugh Trust.)

HEARTFELT THANKS to our 2014-2015 members!**LIFETIME members (Benefactors):**

- ☆ Eleanor Boba, Seattle, WA
- ☆ Harry Wolf, Morro Bay, CA

**LIFETIME members (Patrons):**

Bill Alley, Shandon; Cora Andreu, Paso Robles; Constance Avila, Bradley; Mary Baiamonte, Paso Robles; Bill Bartosh, San Miguel; Allen Belden, San Miguel; Jane Belmont, Paso Robles; Millie & Dave Bewley, Atascadero; Barbara Bilyeu, Templeton; Ramona & Curtis Black, Atascadero; Tony Blouin, San Miguel; Corinne Brandenburg, Paso Robles; Diana Brenna, Templeton; Lorraine Cagliero, Paso Robles; Joan & Fred Carrington, Atascadero; Anne Collins, Atascadero; John Comino, Paso Robles; Conference of CA Historical Societies, Claremont; Betty Weitze Cook, Bakersfield; Ray Craig, Atascadero; Gladys Craspay, Bradley; Joan & John Crother, Paso Robles; John Curtis, Martinez; Mr & Mrs Raymond Dauth, Paso Robles; Bev Delwiche, Paso Robles; Linda Elmerick, Templeton; Louise Ferrin, Paso Robles; Eleanor Garrissere, San Jose; Charline & James Green, Sacramento; Denise Grigory, San Ardo; Dottie Hale, Paso Robles; Carolyn & Mike Hawk, Coarsegold; Donna Helt, Cayucos; Joyce Herman, San Miguel; Jane & Dennis Johansen, Santa Margarita; Tony Johnston, San Marino; Kalar Productions, San Miguel; Bertram King, Madera; Cyndi & Dave Krill, Paso Robles; Shirley Mankins, Paso Robles; Helen Marshall, Paso Robles; Linda & Gordon Marshall, Paso Robles; Gary McMaster, Paso Robles; Patrice Merwin, Prineville, OR; Lois & Eugene Miller, San Miguel; Ann Myhre, San Ardo; Rosemary Netto, Paso Robles; Mr & Mrs Steve Onderdonk, Pasadena; Lloyd Plymate, Paso Robles; Agua Caliente Questers; Hazel Rios, Okanogan, WA; Marilyn Rocha, Sacramento; Fay & Pat Ross, Unity, OR; Linda Sayler, Lockwood; Pat Silveira, Paso Robles; Laurie & Jack Sinton, Paso Robles; Susan Souza, Creston; Kari & Toni Sullivan, Paso Robles; Thomas Taylor, Atascadero; Shirley Tharaldsen, Paso Robles; Janet & Robert Tullock, Paso Robles; Nancy & Terry Tweedie, Atascadero; Mr & Mrs Ole Viborg, Templeton; Karl Von Dollen, San Miguel; Mrs Art Von Dollen, San Miguel; Ruth Von Dollen, Paso Robles; Charlotte Wallace, Paso Robles; Jim Weir, Atascadero; Phyllis Wilkinson, Paso Robles; Carla Willhoit, Templeton; Mr & Mrs George Work, San Miguel.

SPONSOR members (annual renewals at \$40 and over)

Catherine Bartley, Bradley; Maryann Berry, Templeton; Betsy & Luther Bertrando, San Luis Obispo; Kathleen Brown, Paso Robles; Mr & Mrs Rex Dahlberg, San Miguel; Brenda & Charles Goff, Reno, NV; Barbara Gonzales, San Miguel; Claudine & James Hallada San Miguel; Joan Hussey, San Miguel; Allie & Donna Machado, Paso Robles; Paso Robles Main Street Paso Robles; Jean Ross, Paso Robles; Karen Russell, Paso Robles; James Sinton, Shandon; Ray Teresi, Grants Pass, OR; Raymond (Joe) Thompson, Templeton.

(Note: If your name is incorrectly listed, please let us know!)

Don't miss these fun events!

- ☆ **CALEDONIA DAYS, September 26, 2015 (Saturday).**
10 AM to 3 PM, FREE to the public.
The day will include: Dutch-Oven demos (with food sales to public), artists, quilters, arrowhead knapping, old-time photography, blacksmith demos, small engine demos, rock collectors, live music, and more!
- ☆ **CANDLELIT TOUR of the RIOS-CALEDONIA ADOBE, with GHOST STORIES, October 24, 2015 (Saturday).**
7 PM to 9 PM, FREE to the public.
Candles and refreshments will be provided.

We have a NEW host

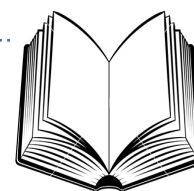
We're proud to introduce a new County "Host" at the Rios-Caledonia Adobe. RON FRIBERG joined us in July and has been very busy clearing the weeds in addition to trimming and watering during our hot summer days. We welcome Ron and his wife, Megan, and hope they will enjoy their time at our historic adobe!

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Rios-Caledonia Research Library News

By Barbara Bilyeu, Lead Library Volunteer

Due to the retro-fitting project at the Adobe this summer, the opening of the Rios-Caledonia Research Library will be postponed until next Spring. Actually, that will give us time to make more materials available for use. But if you have a special need before that time, please feel free to call me at (805) 434-2708 or send me an email at bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com. Meanwhile, here is a "teaser" to tempt you to find out more!



Have you ever taken a trip where everything went just plain wrong? Have you ever found yourself in one incredibly impossible situation after another, your life threatened at every turn? "A Dangerous Journey: California 1849" by J. Ross Browne describes a journey he made that probably didn't occur exactly as the author describes it, but which illustrates the types of events that actually did happen on the road between Mission La Soledad and San Luis Obispo to more than one traveler. All goes comparatively well south of Soledad until Browne is thrown by his mule. The ornery animal then leads him on a not-so-merry chase and into lots of serious trouble with wild bulls, grizzly bears, outlaws, dead bodies, and more. It reminds us that our lovely Salinas Valley was a very lawless and inhospitable place during this period of history, as confirmed by events such as the horrible murders at the Mission San Miguel. Browne is a captivating writer, and is known to have influenced other writers like Mark Twain and Bret Harte. This story appeared originally as a series of two articles in *Harper's Monthly* in 1862 but you can find it at the Rios-Caledonia Research Library in one complete volume. Sorry, you can't take it home with you, but it's a quick read and hard to put down. A fun way to spend an enjoyable afternoon at the Adobe, and you can be glad you don't have to brave these perils on your way home! Or, if you have Internet access, you can read it online through sites that have it digitized in full-text.