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Noteworthy

2020 was the third year that the Tulare County Museum officially honored our veterans by hosting the Veterans in the Classroom project. Although we were unable to hold an event last year, we were still able to join local students virtually in their zoom classrooms! Thank you to our local veterans Neal Schneider, Leland Castro and Jim Dremel who gave their time to talk with students about being in the military. They brought photos, model helicopters and uniforms to share with the students. Stationed in front of the military display at the Museum, the local veterans spoke with twelve classes ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. It was so wonderful to be greeted by a screen full of students waving American flags and eager to ask their questions. These interactions are a gift to both the students and the veterans because the students learn directly from those who have served and the veterans are able to share their stories with younger generations.



Neal Schneider talks with Ms. Florente's 3rd Grade class at Valley Life Charter School



Neal Schneider talks with Ms. Canterbury's 3rd Grade class at Valley Life Charter School



Leland Castro & Jim Dremel talk with Ms. Withrow's 3rd Grade class at Lombardi



Leland Castro & Jim Dremel talk with Ms. Patino's 3rd Grade class at Lombardi

Special thanks to the following teachers for keeping our Veterans in the Classroom program going!

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Ms. Patino-3rd Lombardi | Ms. Davin-3rd Lombardi |
| Ms. Withrow-3rd Lombardi | Ms. Fisher-3rd Lombardi |
| Ms. Gonzalez-K Mineral King | Ms. Williams-1st Mineral King |
| Ms. Lewis-1st Mineral King | Ms. Garcia-2nd Mineral King |
| *Ms. Canterbury-3rd Valley Life Charter | *Ms. Florente-3rd Valley Life Charter |
| *Ms. Tyler-3rd Valley Life Charter | Ms. Brenner-5&6 Sycamore Valley Acad. |

*Classes that also wrote letters to veterans for our poppy display, including Ms. Welch's 6th Grade class at Four Creeks Elementary.



Historical Highlights



History of the Poppy

After World War I, the soils in France and Belgium were enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem “In Flanders Fields” written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation in support of the veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. In 1924 the American Legion asked Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day in the United States. On May 28, 2021 wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform!

For more information visit <https://www.legion.org/poppyday/history>

From the Collection



Mr. John Drysdale recently donated a Winchester model 1897 shotgun to the Museum. This is a wonderful addition to our gun collection and we are excited to get it on display!

The Winchester Pump Shotgun was designed by John Browning. It was first designated as the Model 1893 Slide-Action. Approximately 33,000 of this predecessor were made. In 1890 Winchester bought the Browning design and in June of 1897, the Model 1897 was born with several changes made from the 1893 Model.

The Model 1897 was first listed for sale in the November 1897 Winchester catalog as a 12 gauge solid frame. The Model 1897 became an instant hit and was the best known and most widely used exposed hammer, side-action gun in history.

Since the time the Model 1897 was first manufactured it has been used by American soldiers, police departments, hunters and now Cowboy Action shooters. The Model 1897 was discontinued in 1957 after having been produced for an astonishing sixty years.

~ *A Comprehensive Guide to the Winchester Model 1897: Everything you ever wanted to know about the Winchester Model 1897 Shotgun.* By: William Longiotti



Announcement!

The Tulare County Museum invites you to participate in a unique experience that provides the opportunity to represent your heritage. By sharing your family history, you will be assisting in educating the local community on the cultural diversity of Tulare County. We are working to create an exhibit highlighting the Westward Settlers, who were the pioneers of Tulare County. We are looking for photos and artifacts that can be loaned to the Museum for the exhibit. These exhibits are generally on display for approximately one year, so that visitors have plenty of time to visit and learn about our local history. The Museum has been home to twelve previous cultural exhibits, each one unique in the story told through history.

If you or someone you know is part of a family that arrived in Tulare County during the mid to late 1800s, please contact the Museum Curator, Amy King, at aking1@tularecounty.ca.gov or 559-624-7326. We would love to document your family history and share it with our community to tell the story of Tulare County!

Special Shout-Out:



Carnegie Museum of Kings County

Working together to bring Kings County history to life through preservation and education.

The Carnegie Museum of Kings County (“CMKC”), a non-profit corporation, was formed in 2020 to revive the community museum located at the historic Carnegie library in Hanford. CMKC is backed by a strong cadre of community members. We are currently working with the building’s owner, the City of Hanford, to assess possible structural issues with the historic library building and reach a new lease agreement.

Many groups and individuals have gathered documents, pictures and articles about Kings County’s history but this information is hard to access and many items have never been digitized. CMKC has established a virtual museum (www.carnegiemuseumofkingscounty.org) to serve as a centralized source for the public to access this historical information. In addition, our dedicated group of researchers and writers will be curating new content through virtual exhibits and articles. Once the physical museum is established, the virtual museum will support the exhibits at the Carnegie museum with additional virtual content related to the exhibits.

For information, contact Jack Schwartz at carnegieofhanford@gmail.com.

Article by: Jack Schwartz



Super Sleuths Needed!

This photo is from the Museum collection and we have not been able to identify what church this is. We suspect this old church is in Tulare County. Very interesting architecture! This photo will be posted on the Museum Instagram and Facebook page so you can comment there or email us at tularecountymuseum1948@gmail.com with any clues you might have. Put on your Sherlock hat and get out your magnifying glasses to help the museum solve the mystery of who is in this picture!

Find us on the web:

<https://tularecountymuseum.org/museum/>

Call us: (559) 624-7326

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Curator's Corner

Hello history heroes,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the start of a new year! The museum is working to stay connected in the community through our Facebook page and we are working on creating virtual tours that will be hosted on our website in the future. Meanwhile, we are adding some new displays and working to care for the collection while we remain closed. Stay tuned on our website and social media for when we anticipate re-opening. I am looking forward to the day when the museum can safely host our visitors again.

~Amy King-Sunderson