

Historic Jack House

536 Marsh St. San Luis Obispo, California 93401

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The historic 1878 Jack House opened on the first Sunday of April this year and will be open for tours on Sundays 1PM – 4PM through mid-December. Special tours can be arranged. Call (805) 781-7300 for tours, presentations and docent information.

The 2017 - 2019 Jack House docent board took office on April 1st with Lois Crotser, secretary; Toni Kincaid, vice president; Marilyn Darnell, president.

Special tours in spring time bring seniors, 3rd and 4th graders. In addition, docents reach out to students in class, seniors at community rooms and local groups sharing the life and times of the Jack family throughout the year.

Docents basked in wildflowers on Shell Road in March and will tour the historic Dana Adobe in June.

The Pioneering Spirit of Nellie Hollister Jack

As a young girl Nellie came to California in the 1860s. Life in the west for a girl was different from the east, as girls in the west were encouraged to be outdoors, swimming, hiking and exploring their environment, as well as being willing to work hard. Independence and determination were thought to be important qualities for a young lady.

Nellie was well educated becoming fluent in French. She rode a horse with skill, riding her horse into the post office to pick up mail without getting off. Nellie helped build community in San Luis Obispo and suffered the loss of a child, like many pioneer women of the west. She



Figure 1 Nellie Hollister Jack

Upcoming Events

May: Mother's Day

Pioneer Nellie Hollister Jack

June: Father's Day

Captain Robert Jack

July: Independence Day

"Hurrah! For Strawberries!"

The Hollister wagon train in 1858 was led by William with brother Hub as captain. They followed the old Santa Fe Trail through New Mexico and Arizona into southern California via the Rio Grande through Fort Craig. They crossed the Gila River about Tucson, the Colorado River to Fort Yuma through San Diego and San Gabriel to Lompoc, California. Disliking the cold, clammy, windy area Nellie's mother, Ellen, bought the El Chorro Rancho and adobe in San Luis Obispo, now known as the historic Hollister Adobe.

hosted an elegant reception for young people that made news, and hosted dignitaries on May 5, 1894 when the Southern Pacific Railroad brought their first passengers to SLO.

Robert Jack: sea captain,

Sewall's most tenured

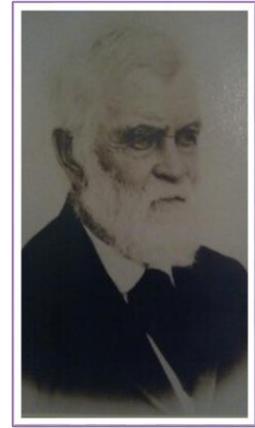
Robert Jack was employed by the Sewall Shipbuilding Co. of Bath, Maine between the 1844 and 1881 becoming their most tenured employee. He transported cotton, wood, California fruits, and passengers. He docked in Liverpool and Hull, England, Cardiff, Wales, San Francisco and Vallejo, California. As captain of the ship he was responsible for the hiring, firing, payments to crew and vendors and the complete wellbeing of his crew, maintenance of the ship inside and out, purchasing provisions, as well as minister and doctor when the occasion arose. He also received primage, or payment for taking good care of the goods he carried aboard ship under his protection. He brought items home from his travels, such as dresses, fabrics and items for home. Robert Jack born October 22, 1812 of sturdy Scot Irish Jack stock in Bowdoinham, Maine left this world on May 3, 1899.

Communication

As a Sewall employee Captain Jack was required to write regular reports. He became known for his poor spelling, which may be why he encouraged his son Edgar to pay attention to such things. While at sea he also wrote regularly to his wife Nancy. His soft side is revealed through them. A collection of 70 copies of his letters include those to the Sewall's acquired from the Maine Maritime Museum and personal letters from a Jack descendant and Bowdoinham Historical Society will be at the Jack House on Father's Day courtesy of Marilyn Darnell.

Father and grandfather

Time away from home grew difficult for Captain Jack over the years, but he preferred it to farming. He wrote lovingly to Nancy with instructions and advice for keeping up the family farm, childrearing and taking care of herself. In 1879 he visited San Luis Obispo with the local news referring to him as "hardy" "hearty" and "as active and vigorous as his son." The



The Evolution of Travel JACK FAMILY STYLE

EXHIBITION

A Victorian trunk room has been created using Jack artifacts to display how luggage changed as modes of travel evolved from the 1800s to the roaring twenties. Trunks, suitcases, travel accessories, letters and postcards belonging to the Jack family tell the story of their travels that took them coast to coast as well as abroad.

Jack Family

Robert Edgar 1841- 1916

Nellie Hollister 1849 – 1920

Ella Studley 1871 - 1881

Gertrude Marie 1873 – 1944

Ethel Easton 1879 – 1961

Robert Edgar Jr. 1880 – 1925

Howard Vail 1887 - 1974

1864 Brazilian rosewood square grand piano in the parlor of the Jack House was his gift to his granddaughter Gertrude bringing it around the horn. It arrived via Port Harford and was played by Ignace Paderewski at the Jack's Cholame Ranch.