

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

400 Janis Court

P.O. Box 1126

Trinidad, CA 95570

trinidadmuseum.org

Editors: Patti Fleschner, Alexandra Cox, Jim Webb

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019, 2 TO 4 P.M.

Trinidad Museum Society members and guests are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 2 p.m. in the museum.

The meeting will include a brief business meeting, during which last year's Minutes will be read and Treasurer Dennis Koutouzos will present a financial report. Three Board of Directors will be elected. Nominated are Jim Webb, Jill Mefford and Dennis Koutouzos, however, other nominations may come from the floor. Currently on the Board of Directors are Patti Fleschner, president, Scott Baker, vice-president, Virginia Waters, secretary, Dennis Koutouzos, treasurer, and Jill Mefford, Matthew Marshall, Jim Webb, Mary Spinas Kline and Ashley Mobley.

Guest speaker will be naturalist Jim Webb, who will present a talk and slide show on "Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest." Jim is a regular volunteer at Redwood National and State Parks, walking many of its trails weekly and

observing the seasonal changes in park vegetation and wild life. He is co-chairman of the Natural History Room with Virginia Waters and a member of the TMS Board of Directors. His past career as a lawyer and employment with the Forest Service has given him considerable insight into land stewardship. Jim and his wife, Dr. Joey Wauters, whose careers took them to Alaska for many years, have visited nearly all of the United States National Parks as well as international preserves of beauty and bio-diversity.

Following Jim's presentation, guests will be invited to view museum exhibits, including the "50th Anniversary of Lady Bird Johnson Grove" in the Photography Room, the "Working Baskets" exhibit in the Native American Room; and the "Schools and Scholars" display in the Heritage Room along with the Native Plant and Historic Gardens and the permanent exhibits. Refreshments will be served.

Natural History Room Updates

Fungi

The Natural History Room is updating two exhibits this year before the annual meeting of the Trinidad Museum Society on April 27. The fungi exhibit is being expanded to include lichens as well as fungal fruiting bodies, and the display case that previously displayed freeze-dried fungal fruiting bodies will now contain a display related to the environmental roles fungi play in our local forests, with dried specimens to illustrate the different morphological forms of local fungi. The photographic display and pamphlet in the fungi exhibit have also been expanded to include lichens and several additional fungal fruiting bodies as well as several drawings illustrating fungal anatomy and life cycles.



Lichens, like the fruticose lichen shown above, play important roles in our local forests and are one of the environmental roles of fungi explained in our updated exhibit.

The update to this exhibit has been accomplished with the talented and able assistance of Tabitha Pike, an intern from Humboldt State University.

Wildflowers

The wildflowers exhibit is undergoing some minor updates that should be completed in time for the annual meeting as well. The photographic display is being expanded and changed in appearance and content, including an expanded number of species and new photography. Along with the changes to the photographic display, the wildflower pamphlet is being updated to reflect the changes to the photographic display.

As with the fungi exhibit, the wildflower exhibit is being updated with the assistance of Alicia Osmundson, another intern from Humboldt State University.



"Schools & Scholars" Exhibit in Heritage Room

Trinidad area schools are featured in the new Heritage Room exhibit, "Schools and Scholars." The history of Trinidad School (1870), Big Lagoon School (1881), Patricks Point School (1883), Little River School (1899, and later known as Bulwinkle and Crannell School), and Stone Lagoon School (1899), all are featured.

Trinidad School (1870-Present)

The first Trinidad School was built in 1870 near the cemetery. It was a one-room, one teacher school constructed by Henry Gastman at a cost of \$220 on a 75' x 150' lot given to the town by lumbermen J.P. and J.A. Hooper. Gastman was not paid in full and went to court to settle the matter. C.R. Saunders (no relation to the Mose Saunders, who came to Trinidad in 1919) taught there from 1870 to 1874.

There were nine or ten families (with four or five children in each family) which sent their children to school, including Warren Watkins, Josiah Bell, L. Bell, John Haskell, Fred Flaherty, W.H. Pinkham, Nichols, McClosky, Brown and Snow, according to

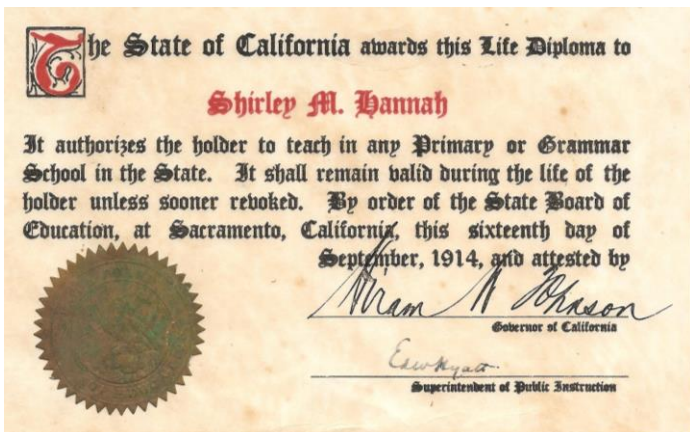


Sibyl Jamieson, whose research is included in the "Trinidad News & Views Historical Happenings" columns, written between 1980 and 1985 and reprinted by Trinidad Museum Society.

Teachers through the years were: Dickson (1874-1881); S. Handy (1889); Cornell (1896-1899); Daisy Allen (1898), Wallace Feenaty and Drake between 1900 and 1911; and Shirley Hannah (1911-1915). Percy Woodcock followed in 1919 and later became Superintendent of Humboldt County Schools.

Shirley Hannah, whose art work is featured in the exhibit, was 23 years old and had two years of previous teaching at Klamath River schools when he arrived in Trinidad on January 15, 1911 to meet with the School Board of Trustees and to get settled as a boarder in the Sangster's Ocean View Hotel (today's Eatery Restaurant

on Parker at Trinity Streets). Mrs. Kristina Sangster, of Danish descent, was his landlady, and "what a



wonderful cook she was" wrote Hannah in his "Country School Teacher Reminisces" in three 1969 issues of "The Humboldt Historian." He added, "For a person who follows a sedentary occupation a little exercise and fresh air is necessary to keep one in good health and build steady nerves...so several times a week when the weather permitted, I would walk to Luffenholtz and back before breakfast...it stimulated the appetite and I can still appreciate the steaks and friend eggs that Mrs. Sangster often gave me for breakfast."

Trustees of the school were James Underwood, who with his wife, Martha, kept a grocery store, Robert Probst and George Scott, Postmaster. Other Trustees were; Warren Watkins, Mrs. Mary Thompson Johnson (Mother of Alice Johnson) and Allen Hyner.

Hannah was paid \$100 per month for ten months. He taught eight grades and 62 pupils to begin the term. Hannah wrote that "the one thing that impressed me about the pupils was their friendliness and willingness to help a new teacher...of course in a school of that size and so many classes, it was necessary for the program to go along like clockwork...outlining a subject was a method I used in teaching...which produced very good results, so the pupils made outlines of geography, history, grammar, physiology and even arithmetic." At the end of his first year, the Trustees asked him to teach a post graduate class in addition, which he agreed to do. He taught French, algebra, ancient history, geometry and advanced arithmetic to the older students. Some of his pupils were: Willie Snow, Charlie Beach, Vera Flaherty, Irma Probst, Martha Sangster, Edith Tighe, Esther Hobson, Cynthia Day, Warren Underwood, Willie Goselin, Roy Goselin, Albert Sangster, Earl Cunningham, Eunice Wells, Greta Flaherty, Louise Scott, **Alice Johnson**, Hazel Hobson, Albert Ehreiser, Frank Pidgeon, George Dryden, Mary Beach and Annie Morton.

Trinidad Public School

REPORT OF *Alice Johnson* Grade *6* 191*3* - 191*4*

STUDIES	1st Mo.	2nd Mo.	3rd Mo.	4th Mo.	5th Mo.	6th Mo.	7th Mo.	8th Mo.	9th Mo.	10th Mo.	Class Standing	County Examin'n	Average
Days Absent	1	1/2				1/2	1/2						
Times Tardy													
Neatness	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Depertment	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Reading	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Spelling	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Writing	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Arithmetic	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Grammar	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
English	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Geography	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
History	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Civil Gov't	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physiology	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Drawing	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Music	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Composition	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nature Study	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Phya. Geog.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Humane Edu.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
AVERAGE													
No. in Class													
Rank													

S. M. Hannah TEACHER.
NO. 3-C. F. WEBER & CO., S. F.

Standing in Examination

Standing of *Mary Colley* No. *30*
during examination commencing *DEY 25 1911* 190

SUBJECTS	Standard	Standing of Applicant
1. Algebra.....	100	61
2. Arithmetic, Written.....	100	65
3. Arithmetic, Oral.....	100	95
4. Bookkeeping.....	100	100
5. Composition.....	100	83
6. English Grammar, Written.....	100	90
7. English Grammar, Oral.....	100	85
8. Elementary Physics.....	100	85
9. English and American Literature.....	100	85
10. Drawing.....	100	60
11. Geography.....	100	67
12. U. S. History and Civil Government.....	100	60
13. General History.....	100	72
14. Methods of Teaching.....	100	64
15. Orthography and Defining.....	100	74
16. Penmanship.....	100	90
17. Physiology and Hygiene.....	100	90
18. Plane Geometry.....	100	63
19. Reading.....	100	65
20. School Law of California.....	100	65
21. Vocal Music.....	100	59
Total for certificate.....	2100	1792
Necessary for certificate.....	1785	

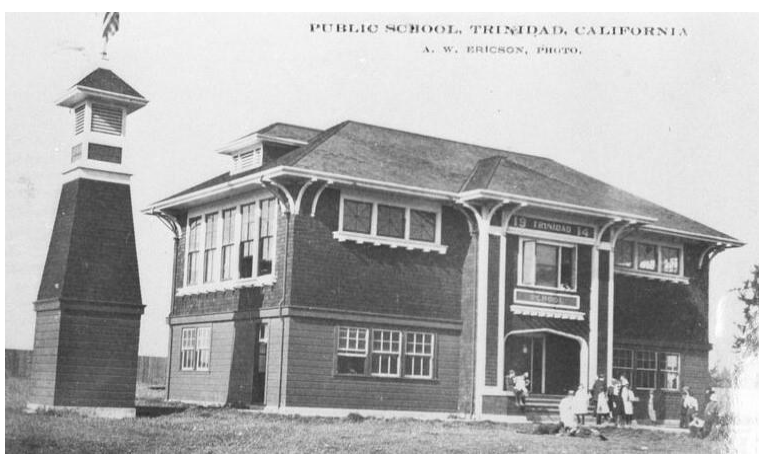
S. M. Hannah
Secretary Board of Education.

In 1913, the Board of Trustees voted for two teachers and a new school. They hired Mary Day, a local girl whose parents owned a ranch on Old Stagecoach Road (Jim and Virginia Waters' home today). Shirley Hannah wrote in his reminisces "As the new teacher and I became better acquainted, it became evident to me that she would make an excellent 'boss' so later on (1918) we got married. Her name was Mary Day and believe me, I've had a 'merry day' of it ever since. That surely was my lucky year." (Shirley Hannah and Mary Day are the parents of Thomas Hannah, who has contributed many photographs, documents, books, and objects to the museum). Two woodsheds were placed on the property as a temporary room for the primary grades where Mary Day taught until the Fall of 1914, when a new school was ready at the current Trinity Street school location after the first school burned down.

The new school was a two-story redwood building with four rooms with a large hall running between and heated by a basement furnace. This school was built on four acres and included a basketball court, but it too was destroyed by fire in the late 1940s.

While a new third school building was being constructed on the same parcel as today's Trinidad School, classes were held in the Town Hall and the Presbyterian Church next door to the school.

In 1949, the school enrollment was 145 with seven teachers, according to Katie Boyle, who began teaching at Trinidad School that year after serving at Little River (Crannell) School. Kenneth C.B. Williams was Superintendent. The new school building was ready for occupancy in 1950. It



contained seven class rooms. Enrollment between 1951 and 1953 was 369 pupils. In 1953 a cafeteria, kindergarten and three classrooms were added. Members of the faculty for the 1956-57 school year were; D.J. Dickenson, Loleta Thompson, Katie M. Boyle, Juanita Buell, Barbara Cole, Truman Davidson, Carolyn Edeline, Zelma Franzoni, Mary J. Lengel, Ruby Montgomery, Jerrold Moore (part time music), Thelma Moore, Ruby Raybourn, Dorothy Smith, and Russell Verhousky (speech therapist). Other teachers who served later were Walter Ricks, Clarion Holt, Carol Shepherd and Ben Shepherd. In 1968-69, there were 423 students and 35 staff members and in 1978-79 there were 176 students and a staff of 24.

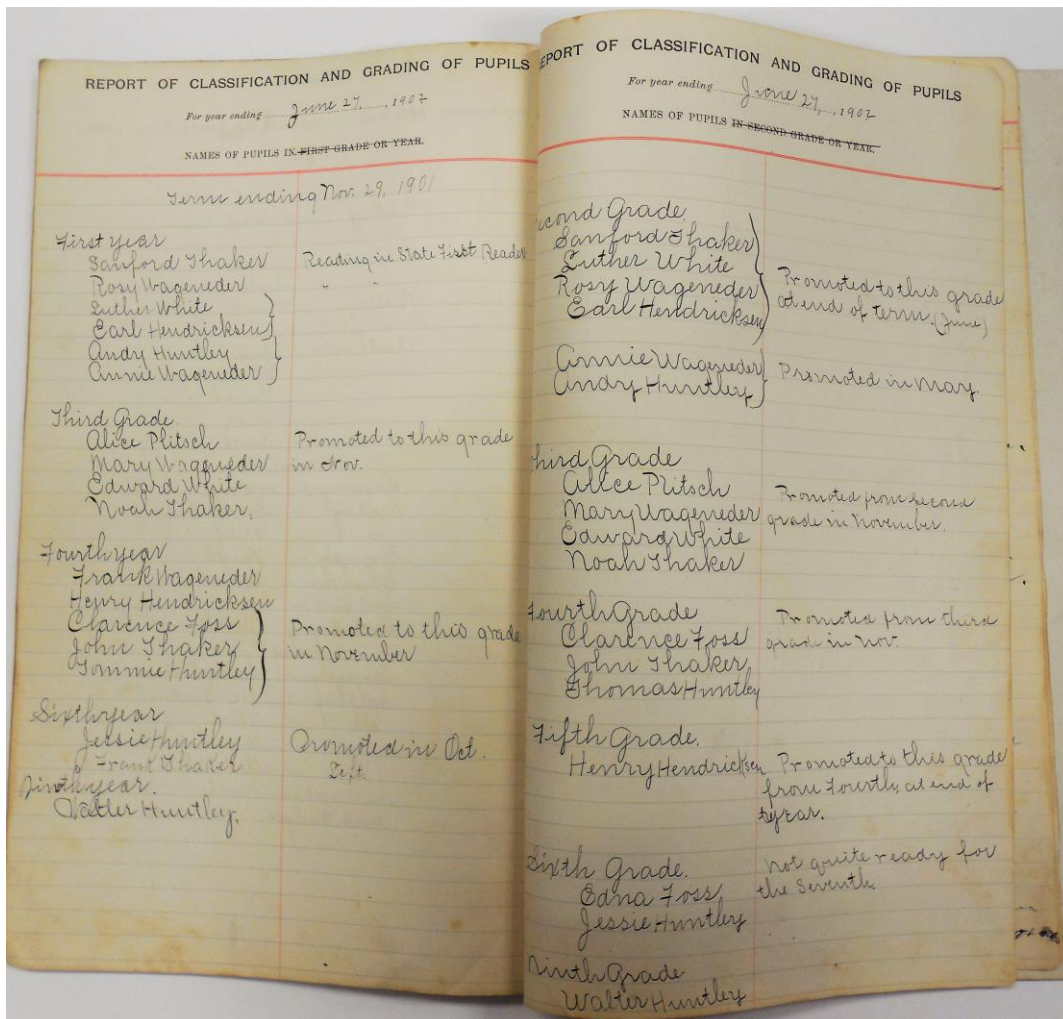
Big Lagoon School District (1881-1919 and Beyond)

Big Lagoon School district was established October 5, 1881. It lapsed as a district on November 12, 1919 into the Stone Lagoon and Patrick's Point District. It was reestablished as a new district in approximately 1957 and is active today serving kindergarten through eighth grade students.

There is no photograph of the first Big Lagoon School and several buildings may have been utilized. The first teacher in 1881 was Nancy J. Stephenson. Her salary was \$70 per month. She taught six boys and ten girls. According to "History of Humboldt County Schools," the "furniture and grounds were adequate; the water supply was good and the ventilation for the school was by the doors, windows and chimney. There was no library, so texts were brought from home or shared. There was no outhouse."

N. Johnson taught for two terms in 1882. She taught eight boys and nine girls in the first term and seven boys and ten girls in the second. "The library increased from 26 books to 30" during the school year.

S.A. Kneeland was the teacher in 1883 for the first term. His salary was \$70 per month. Seven boys and five girls were in his class. "There was still no outhouse." Sarah G. Ellison taught in the 1883-84 second term. Her salary was \$40 per month. She taught six boys and five girls. "The furniture was in poor condition." The Schools & Scholars exhibit features an early 1900s register of students, teachers and trustees.



Big Lagoon School (Stone Lagoon School District)
Class Roster and Visitors' Record Book 1901-1903

Patrick's Point School District (1883-1927)

Connie Shumway was the first teacher at Patricks Point School, first a 26' to 28' by 16' to 18' structure built in 1883. Her salary was \$70 per month. She taught five boys and ten girls. "The water supply was good. The furniture was sufficient. The ventilation was not good. There was no outhouse."

In 1888-89 William Kermode and James Smith were teachers at \$70 per month with the same number of students as Miss Shumway. "The library had 73 books. There were two outhouses." By the end of Smith's term, there were 123 library books.

Marion Parker was teacher for the first term in 1889 at \$70 per month. Four boys and eight girls were in her class. "There was no water supply. The desks were too small for the children." Marjorie K. Smith taught the second term at the same salary with nine boys and four girls in class. The library had increased to 167 books.

Eleanor Ethel Tracy was teacher in 1911. Her salary was \$656.75 for one term and she taught twelve boys and sixteen girls. There were 504 books in the library. Emily Power took over for the second term at \$600. She taught four boys and nine girls and the library had increased to 515 books.

Christine Hilficker was the teacher in 1912; Mary E. Day taught in 1918 with a salary of \$720; Mary MacPherson in 1919, and Muriel McGowan in 1926-27. By then the teacher's salary was \$1,500 and there were 238 books in the library. "The water, plumbing and sanitation were satisfactory" for the nine boys and seven girls in class.

The larger Patricks Point School (still in place at Sounds of the Sea RV Park about five miles north of Trinidad) shown in the 1924 photograph in the exhibit had at least four large classrooms, a large downstairs area and a basement used for the furnace and as a rainy day play area.

The Little River School District (1899-1947)

The ranchers of the Little River Valley and the people on the hills north and south of the valley south of Trinidad formed a school district and built a one-room school about one-quarter mile from the ocean in 1899. In 1901 the teacher was Connie Wilder (or Wilden). There were thirteen primary and seven grammar school students. There were not enough desks for all of the students. The water supply was poor and there were sixty-four books in the library. The building was used until 1909 when the children went to a new school, Bulwinkle, named for a former sea captain who had a ranch at the head of the valley. Bulwinkle sold his land to a lumber company, Little River Redwood, later Hammond Lumber Company. As the lumber town grew, another new school was needed so in 1920 a four-room school was built on a hillside in the town. Platforms were built to serve as a playground.

Some of the teachers of record were: Adrian Anson, Connie Wilders, Miss Morriss, Miss Axe, Miss Gist, Katie Boyle, and John B. Brown, who later became County Superintendent of Schools. Jeanette Clough, William Morehouse and Ledo Matteoli served as administrators in later years. There was no road to the mill and town, so the people had to depend on the railroad for transportation. Between 1947 and 1950, the children were sent to Trinidad School (thus increasing the school enrollment at Trinidad School in this period).

Stone Lagoon School (1899-1958)



The "Little Red Schoolhouse," still observable on Highway 101 opposite Dry Lagoon and Stone Lagoon about thirteen miles north of Trinidad, operated with one teacher for over half a century. It was located across the highway closer to the lagoons until the Brindle family (owners of the former Redwood Trails Campground) moved it to its present location in 1981. School records indicate that there was a school as early as 1893 in the Stone Lagoon area. It was a log cabin and was named "The Blaine School" since the area was known as Blaine (named after a prominent statesman of the time, James Gillespie Blaine).

"Schoolma'am, The Letters of Eleanor Ethel Tracy," was compiled and arranged by Harriet Tracy DeLong in 1978. The charming letters tell of Eleanor Ethel Tracy's life as teacher during 1903-04 when she traveled to the remote school, lived with the Foss family, and began her first day teaching one student, the Foss boy. Tracy wrote in her letters that there were only four families who sent their children to school. She had received her teaching diploma at Dr. Kildale's Preparatory School in Eureka (the same school where Shirley Hannah studied a few years later). She loved the sound of the bell in the school tower and the school organ. Mail delivery was three times a week and Tracy frequently wrote to her Eureka family asking for marbles for indoor play for the boys on rainy days, film for her newly purchased camera, and more books and "Youth's Companions" and "American Boys" periodicals for her eight students, all boys. In November 1903 she wrote to her mother, "Next Thursday is Thanksgiving...I am getting up a concert to give at the schoolhouse. Every family on the Lagoon is asked to contribute one number to the program. I only hope the people won't fight or get drunk. That is all I ask of them. My boys are enjoying the marbles very much. I let them draw two games on the floor with chalk-one for the little boys and one for the older ones. The other morning I played with the little boys and beat! They think I am quite a player." Teachers at Stone Lagoon were required to do everything, including janitorial work. In May 1904, Tracy wrote, "This is the most perfectly glorious day. No wind, warm sunshine, no dust, everything clean and green, and all the flowers seem bursting into bloom and the bees are swarming. I got up early, ate breakfast...then I went to the schoolhouse and gave it a good cleaning. I washed the blackboards, straightened the seats, dusted the wainscoting, and sprinkled the floor and gave it a hard sweeping. Then home to wash my clothes for two weeks... I hung them on the raspberry bushes in front. They look nice and white." Tracy continued, "My boys have been so most exceptionally good for the last day or so! I am expecting Superintendent (George) Underwood every week from now on. I

only hope the good behavior will continue. I don't dread his visit at all; in fact I am rather looking forward to it."

Teachers at Stone Lagoon School between 1893 and 1957 were Alvina Flaming, Miss Murray, J.E. Hodgson, Effie L. Blair, Alberta Franks, Melvina A. Hufford, J.N. Davies, Olive H. Hannah, Ettie Logan, Eleanor Ethel Tracy, Grace McGeorge, Nina G. Lindsey, Edna G. Hill, Edith L. Mitchell, M. Pearl Hepler, Alice M. Gordon, W. Logan Bailey, Zena Witt, Karen Holmes, Hildegard Carlson, Lola McLaughlin, Elna Kring, E.K. Simpson, Susan J. Reynolds, Helen Reas, Aileen McAllister, Elizabeth H. Feheley, Thelma Hufford, Zelma Franzoni, Gail Buchanan,



Moving Stone Lagoon School 1981

Pearl McCombs, Betty Hancock, Nellie S. Milton, Carlene Reager and P. Sjoli. In 1901 there were 10 primary and one grammar schoolers, twenty seats for the children and 213 library books. In 1902 "The water supply was not good and water had to be brought in to the school. There were 237 library books." In 1955, the average daily attendance was ten students.

On view in the Heritage Room are TUGS (Trinidad Union Grammar School) class rings, Trinidad School report cards, class and school photographs, homework and drawings by Mary Thompson and Alice Johnson, early text books, newspaper articles and school memorabilia. The exhibit was curated by Alexandra Cox, Mary Spinus Kline, Scott Baker and Patti Fleischner. HSU Intern Alicia Osmundson painted the Heritage Room in preparation for the exhibit.

Information for this article came from "Country School Teacher Reminisces" by Shirley M. Hannah in "The Humboldt Historian," Volume XVII, Numbers 4, 5 & 6. 1969, "Historic Happenings" by Sibyl Jamieson from "Trinidad News and Views 1980-1985" reprinted by Trinidad Museum Society in 2015; "Schoolma'am, The Letters of Eleanor Ethel Tracy, Stone Lagoon, California 1903-1904" compiled and arranged by Harriet Tracy De Long in 1978; and "History of Humboldt County Schools," Volume I Arcata Area, edited by the California Retired Teachers Association North Coast Section in 1987. Articles, photographs, and other materials have been donated by Thomas Hannah, Mary Spinus Kline, Scott Baker, Don Angst and Mik and Christie Brindle. Jennifer Glueck, superintendent-principal of Big Lagoon School, loaned the 1903 class register and photographs.

Invaluable People

Alexandra Cox-TMS Archivist

Last year the museum received a grant to update their computer systems and software. Alex has served as an intern and researcher and is currently acting as archivist and curator for the museum. She is in the process of updating the museum collection database and conducting a full inventory. She also assists as co-curator for most of the museum exhibits. Alex recently returned from Albuquerque, New Mexico where she attended the Society for American Archaeology conference, thus enhancing her knowledge of preserving and caring for precious historical objects.



Photo of Alexandra Cox

Tabitha Pike-HSU Intern

I am a student at Humboldt State University, graduating this Spring 2019 with a Bachelor's in Studio Arts with a focus in Jewelry, Small Metals, and Graphic Design. I will also be receiving my Museum and Gallery Certificate. I am from Reno, Nevada, but have called Humboldt home since 2015. My plans are to continue working with local museums and galleries, while I build up my own jewelry studio and business. Eventually, I would like to have a casting company that would give access to casting and 3D printing equipment to the many jewelers and artists in the community. I have been working with Jim Webb and Ginny Waters to update the Fungi Exhibit. My focus has been to work with them to create scientifically accurate illustrations and diagrams that can aid in explaining some of the complexities of the Fungi world.

Alicia Osmundson-HSU Intern

I am an Cultural Anthropology and Geography student at HSU and I have been interning at the Trinidad museum during this current semester and have really been enjoying it! I think Trinidad is a really neat community and is set in one of the most beautiful locations possible. I grew up in Berkeley CA and have lived in Arcata for the past 5 years. I hope to apply what I am learn at the museum towards my goals in education and community outreach. I am also an artist and enjoy writing songs, playing a variety of instruments, and doing ceramic pottery. I am very grateful for the enthusiasm and kindness museum board members have shown towards the me, giving me the chance to help with exhibits (the wildflower digital display), update the Docent Manual, organize, and interact with the community as a Docent. I have always been a fan of local history and I feel the Trinidad museum is a thoughtful and informative resource for the community.



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trinidadmuseum.org

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THANK YOU!

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_____ I am interested in volunteering as a museum docent or garden helper.

Contact us at: baycity@sonic.net

Envelope enclosed for your convenience