

HMBHA E-NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2019

JAIL MUSEUM CELEBRATION A SUCCESS!

In June, we celebrated the One Year Re-opening of Half Moon Bay's historic jail as a small history museum. We also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the building of the jail. The jail is our first endeavor to bring the Coastsides history to visitors far and wide.

Hundreds of people attended the festivities. Music was provided by the Lighthouse String Band who generously donated their time. An array of special foods were offered, including root beer floats, popcorn, tacos and paella. Children enjoyed a variety of activities and local vendors showcased their wares.

The event also marked the kick-off for the community campaign to create a Coastside History Museum. This major project expands upon our efforts at the jail by converting the Johnston Barn into a museum. Located just behind the jail building, the barn will provide additional space to share stories of our remarkable history.

In the photo, Capital Campaign Chair Clyde Beffa, Jr. (left) and HMBHA President Robin Kirby are shown with the thermometer indicating that the organization has raised more than \$1 million.

Special thanks go out to our docents and all the numerous volunteers who helped make our anniversary celebration and community campaign kick-off a huge success.

If you would like to join our team as a docent or a volunteer, please contact us at: info@halfmoonbayhistory.org



NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTED

We want to update everyone on a few important organizational changes on the Half Moon Bay Association Board.

When Robin Kirby accepted the role of President, she agreed to do so on an interim basis. Robin has done an amazing job this past year in helping our leadership team become more cohesive. She will continue working with the Capital Campaign Committee to bring a complete Coastside history museum to fruition. Robin hands over the role of HMBHA President to Juliette Applewhite who has been serving as the board's Secretary and Chair of the Education Committee.

Also moving on to pursue activities with other Coastside organizations and volunteer groups is Barbara Dye, the association's Development Committee Chair. Barbara has been a vital part of the dedicated cadre of community leaders who successfully launched

HMBHA's capital campaign, "Our History – Our Museum," to create a Coastside History Museum. She worked tirelessly to organize many events and coordinate a great team to launch an amazing and successful campaign.

Stepping in as the board's new Secretary is Julie Barrow. Julie serves as one of the association's Collections Managers and is Co-Chair of the Communications Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

"Our Land Grants: The Coastside's Mexican Years"

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

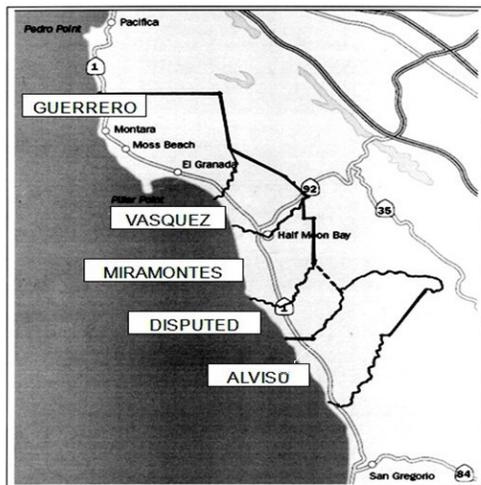
Place: Portuguese Culture Center, 724 Kelly Street, Half Moon Bay

Time: 5:30 p.m. doors open – finger foods and refreshments

Meeting begins: business at 6:00 p.m., program about 6:20 p.m.

The public is welcome – no charge – bring a friend!

The Half Moon Bay History Association is pleased to present a special event featuring Dave Cresson, the association's past president and founder. Cresson will focus on how Coastside property and land issues were sorted out during Mexican rule. Four land grants were the most interesting and important to our Coastside.



When Mexico achieved independence from Spain in 1821, California came under control of the Mexican government. For a time, missions kept control of vast land holdings. However, in 1834, the Mexican Congress passed a new law ordering the secularization, or "disestablishment," of California's missions. Large land grants called ranchos were granted to individuals who had served as soldiers or government officials.

The ranchos covered valuable land along the California coast, including Rancho Corral de Tierra which resembled a great natural corral. In 1839, the north side of the area near Pillar Point was granted to Francisco Guerrero y Palomares. He was the alcade or presiding officer at Yerba Buena (later San Francisco).

The south side was granted to Tiburcio Vasquez who served as supervisor of the Mission Dolores livestock. The property extended from Pilarcitos Creek north to Medio Creek. His neighbor was Candelario Miramontes, an officer at the San Francisco Presidio who was granted Rancho Arroyo de los Pilarcitos in 1841. The two families formed the nucleus of a village called San Benito, which was later dubbed Spanishtown. By 1874, it was known as Half Moon Bay.

Miramonte's other neighbor was Jose Alviso, a military officer of San Jose. Alviso was granted Rancho Cañada Verde y Arroyo de la Purissima in 1838. The grant extended along the coast from Purisima Creek south to Tunitas Creek. Miramontes argued that Alviso laid claim to land that was rightfully his. Because of their quarrel, a strip of land existed to which neither had title.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 for an evening that promises to be interesting, provocative and fun. Doors open at the Portuguese Culture Center at 5:30 p.m. with finger foods and refreshments. The event is free and open to the public.