

DECEMBER 2022

Oro Valley Historical Society Winter News Letter

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Saturday, December 10 & 17 Pusch House Museum
Exhibit: Traditions, Toys, and Trains – from 9 to Noon.
Check out the ornaments in the gift shop and **bring letters to Santa to drop off in his mailbox.** (Writing materials also available on site.)

Saturday, December 17 from 10 to Noon. **MEET PAPA NOËL** (aka Santa Klaus) at the Pusch House Museum!

Saturday, January 7 from 9 to Noon. New exhibit at the Pusch House Museum: "Cowboys, Cattlemen, and Ranchin". The exhibit continues on January 14 and 28.

Saturday, January 21 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Docent guided walking tours of Steam Pump Ranch Historical Park. Meet at the OVHS booth at the south end of the Farmer's Market.

Wednesday, January 11 at 2:00 OV Branch of the Pima County Library. Allen Denoyer, professional archaeologist will give a talk on Native American Cultures. Allen is a highly regarded expert who has worked in the Southwest since the early 1990s.

Other upcoming exhibits and events:

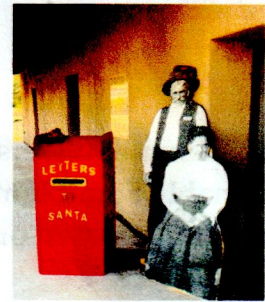
February Exhibit/Pusch House Museum – The Road to Arizona Statehood

February 19, OVHS Fundraiser – See separate article for details!

March Exhibit/Pusch House Museum – Courageous, Resilient, Determined Women of OV and Beyond!

Monday, March 13 @ 2:00 – Author Jan Cleere will present "Following the Bugle", a history of military wives in AZ in the 1800's at the Oro Valley Pima County Library.

*Thank you to Jim Williams for setting up our Speaker's Bureau events!



Happy Holidays to All

Please note the Pusch House Museum will NOT be open Saturday, December 24 and 31.

Thank you to Denzil Walker, OVHS volunteer who crafted our "Letters to Santa Mailbox"!

Thank you to Tom Moulton aka Papa Noël for bringing the joy of the holidays to OV children!

Start the New Year off by renewing or beginning a 2023 annual OVHS membership! Annual Memberships are \$20 for Individuals and \$30 for families. You can renew online at:

<https://ovhistory.org/donate/join>

See what your membership supports when you visit OVHS exhibits and tours at Steam Pump Ranch!

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"AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH!"

HOW SARA PLUMMER LEMMON REACHED NEW HEIGHTS

Mount Lemmon towers above Oro Valley but what do you know about its namesake? The indomitable Sara Plummer Lemmon's life will be subject of a presentation given by author Wynne Brown based on her book: "The Forgotten Botanist, Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art".

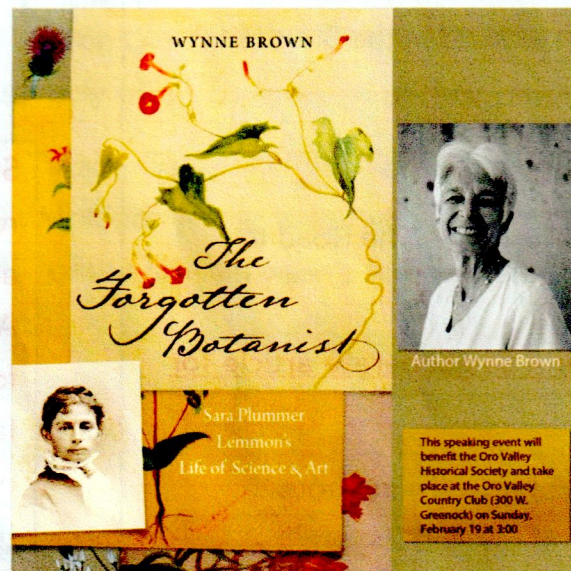
The event will benefit the ongoing programs of the Oro Valley Historical Society and take place at the Oro Valley Country Club (300 W. Greenock) on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 (non-refundable) and include a buffet dinner and a Door Prize raffle ticket. Tickets purchased after February 5 are \$85.

This is a perfect read and outing for book clubs and local history loving groups! Wynne will be available to sell and sign books at the event. (And many thanks to Wynne for taking the time to do this event!)

There will also be fantastic raffle prizes (tickets for purchase at the event) including an overnight stay with spa service at El Conquistador, A Hilton Resort (many thanks to the El Conquistador for their generous donation).

One of the comments OVHS docents hear most often during exhibits and tours: "I had no idea the Oro Valley area has such a wealth of history." Now you can learn the history of our beloved mountain and the woman who reached new heights!



Tickets can be purchased at the Oro Valley Historical Society booth at the south end of the Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 9 to Noon or on the website

(on the home page look for the ticket icon)

<https://ovhistory.org/product/wynne-brown-sunday-february-19-at-300-p-m/>

Wan to be an event sponsor? Contact Teri Colmar at tcolmar@comcast.net

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Board Briefs

- U of A students advised by Kelly Leslie have presented a variety of design plans to enhance our exhibits at the Pusch House.
- OVHS* raised \$850 from the sales of Jim Click raffle tickets. The Board thanks all who purchased tickets in this fundraising event.
- The fire suppression system and security system are active at the Pusch House Museum. Thank you TOV* for the continued improvements at Steam Pump Ranch Historical Park.
- The OVHS board has contacted TOV Community and Economic Development and indicated that we would like to be included for input for the 10-year General Plan that is currently underway.
- The OVHS gave a quarterly report to the TOV Historic Preservation Commission that gave updates of our activities at Steam Pump Ranch and requests for property improvements.
- The OVHS and TOV is framing an agreement for use of storage space in the new Parks and Recreation office space at Steam Pump Ranch.
- The fundraising team for the "Sara Plummer Lemmon book event" has been organizing event details and seeking sponsors to support the event.
- The board is working on the 2023 OVHS budget.
- The OVHS book project with Arcadia Publishing is in its final stages.

*TOV – Town of Oro Valley

*OVHS – Oro Valley Historical Society

December Exhibit "Traditions, Toys, and Trains"



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OV HISTORY TIDBIT

GEORGE PUSCH & JOHN ZELLWEGER & THE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

These two enterprising men likely met shortly after arriving in the United States. George arrived in New York on October 28, 1865 from Echzell in Hesse, Germany. John (Johann) immigrated from Switzerland aboard the Bellona from England in September 1865.

Pusch and Zellweger were partners in a variety of businesses. First was the Pioneer Meat Market at 34 East Congress. Then they established the Tucson Ice and Cold Storage company on Toole Avenue. This operation included the sale of ice, coal, and even beer. Little by little their real estate, businesses and ranching endeavors expanded, fulfilling their hopes of finding prosperity in America.

Besides their businesses in Tucson, they were partners in the Steam Pump Ranch operation and each had ranches to the north; Feldman Ranch (Pusch) just north of Mammoth and the Teacup Ranch (Zellweger) near Kelvin. Both George and John were directors of the Tucson Globe and Northern Railroad. The Steam Pump Ranch was likely to be a depot stop for the train line they were proposing. (The line was originally planned to be a narrow gauge but that project was reorganized and changed to a standard gauge.) It is no surprise that George and John became involved with the Tucson Globe and Northern Railroad. It would have benefited both of them immensely given the location of their properties and businesses.

Unfortunately, the Tucson Globe and Northern Railroad was not able to amass enough funding and folded. Many assets were sold to other railroad companies. Perhaps the demise of the railroad wasn't so bad after all....can you imagine a rail line on Oracle Road?



Could the Steam Pump Building have been a train station?