

UNDER THE GABLES

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Summer 2026



BERKELEY AND INVERNESS IN CONVERSATION

A new exhibit on display July through September 2026

JACK MASON MUSEUM OF WEST MARIN HISTORY

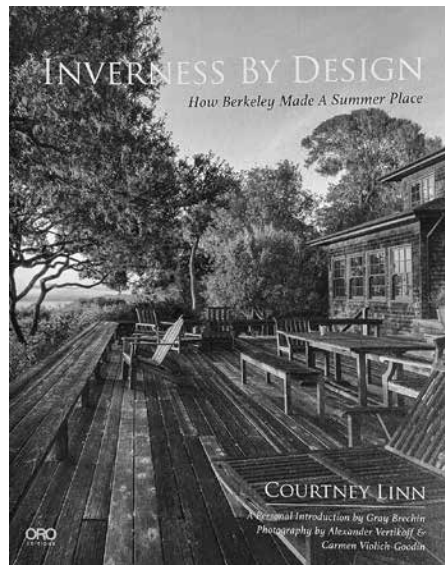
Inverness Way at Park Avenue, Inverness Phone 415-669-1099 www.jackmasonmuseum.org

NEW EXHIBIT:

Berkeley and Inverness in Conversation

We are pleased to invite you to see a new exhibit entitled *Berkeley and Inverness in Conversation*. The exhibit takes its name from a chapter in the recently published book titled *Inverness by Design: How Berkeley Made a Summer Place* by Courtney Linn. The book and the exhibit explore how Berkeley families, across generations, have helped shape Inverness into a model of environmentally sensitive, locally guided planning where houses and landscape are designed in mutual respect. The book includes a personal introduction by geographer Gray Brechin, photographs by Carmen Violich-Goodin, and watercolor paintings by Blair Peters. It is published by Oro Editions and is available for purchase at Point Reyes Books and through various online sellers.

In the words of architectural historian Daniella Thompson, Inverness is the “least disturbed” among places in the Bay Area where Berkeley Brown Shingle houses were once built. It is a tradition of house and neighborhood design linked to Bernard Maybeck and Berkeley’s Hillside Club. Inverness was where generations of Berkeley families, including architects, planners, and environmentalists, worked out their ideals. The exhibit highlights the nexus between Berkeley and Inverness--two places that share a deep architectural and moral lineage.



Do you have old pictures or documents to share with the Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History? All subjects and periods are welcome, especially those from the 1960s on. Your photos will be carefully preserved and you will receive nice sharp copies in exchange. As an alternative, we would be happy to scan your photos and return them safely.

RESEARCH IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

Email research questions to research@jackmasonmuseum.org.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

If you are not sure whether you are up to date, please leave a message on the Archives phone 415-669-1099. You can renew on our website or by mailing your check to Box 94 Inverness, CA 94937.

ON THE COVER:

A 1931 sketch of hillside houses in Berkeley by Dudley Trudgett. Trudgett was a planner, landscape architect, and, along with Jack Kent and Francis Violich, an early member of Telesis. Courtesy of Carmen Violich-Goodin.

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This edition of
Under the Gables
is edited by Lynn Axelrod
and written by Courtney Linn,
Carmen Violich-Goodin, Carol
Acquaviva and Dewey Livingston
and designed
by Dewey Livingston.

Inquiries:

415-669-1099
info@jackmasonmuseum.org
www.jackmasonmuseum.org

BERKELEY AND INVERNESS IN CONVERSATION

An excerpt from the new book, *Inverness By Design: How Berkeley Made A Summer Place*

by Courtney Linn

A UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER HOME

*Come with me to my canyon.
Let us climb down, down.
Parting the laurel and the
wild bank rose, riotous in its beauty.
Down to this still spot.
This bed of a mountain stream
in winter. This place of rejoicing
birds in summer. And in spring, —
this place for the dancing
of our souls.*

—Margaret Erwin Schevill,
Canyon Garden



THE BERKELEY INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY that spent summers in Inverness was divided into two generations. The first generation included prominent pre-World War II academics who came to Inverness beginning around the early 1920s.

They were patrons of an architectural tradition linked to Bernard Maybeck and the Hillside Club, and they brought to Inverness the brown-shingle culture. Their children formed the second generation. The children spent formative summers in Inverness.

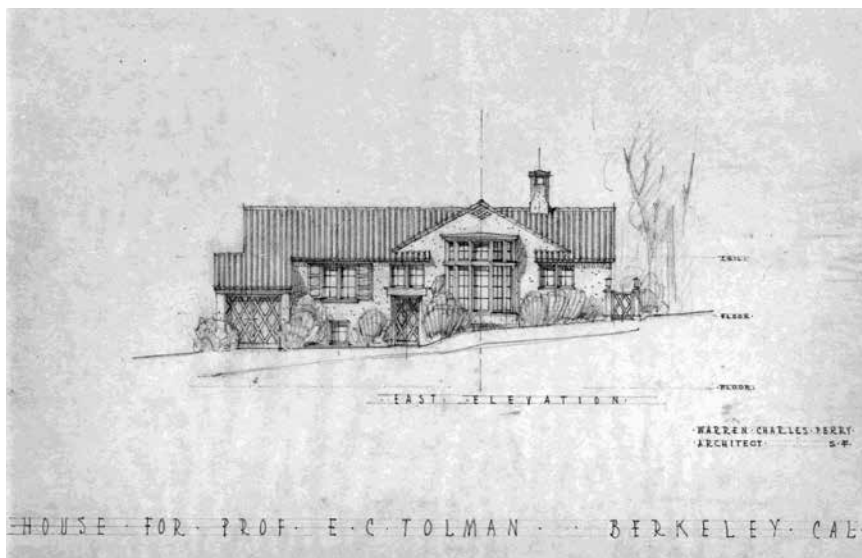
THE MAKING OF A UNIVERSITY

Before 1900, the University of California was little more than a regional college. Willis Linn Jepson's PhD in botany in 1898 was only the tenth PhD the university had conferred in any subject since its founding 30 years earlier. Benjamin Ide Wheeler's presidency, which began in 1899, marked a change. He quietly lifted academic expectations for students, sometimes visiting fraternities to encourage those with poor grades to work harder. He also reset expectations through the hiring of new faculty. By his time, many pro-

fessors who had been around since the university's founding in 1868 had died or retired. It was through Wheeler's influence that the University began to attract faculty from the East Coast.

The Berkeley-Inverness families who joined the university faculty in Wheeler's era were part of this pattern. Gilbert Newton Lewis was lured from MIT to chair the university's chemistry department in a period so linked to his talents that two Nobel Prize laureates referred to it as the "G.N. Lewis era." Lewis's colleague and friend George Ernest Gibson arrived in Berkeley from the University of Edinburgh in 1914. Rudolph Schevill was brought from Yale to start a department of Romance languages. He was a leading Cervantes scholar whose definitive edition of the Spanish writer's complete works would be underwritten by Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Ivan Linforth came from Harvard and was the greatest Hellenist of

At top: The Griffiths' house in Inverness's Second Valley circa 1910. The family still uses it as a summer house. Photograph courtesy of the Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History.



Top: A rendering of the Tolman family house on La Loma Avenue, designed in 1924 by Warren Charles Perry. After Edward Tolman passed away, his wife, Kathleen, lived at 74 Tamalpais Road until her death. Courtesy of Thayer Hopkins. Bottom: Tamalpais Road in the Berkeley Hills during the summer of 1920. Rudolph and Margaret Schevill's brown-shingle house is pictured on the right side of the road. Courtesy of Robert and Vanessa Sinai and the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.

his time. Edward Tolman also came from Harvard. In a mark of Berkeley's growing academic stature, Harvard tried to lure Tolman back in the 1930s, but Tolman, in an unprecedented move, turned Harvard down. By the 1930s, Berkeley had emerged as a first-rate national university, taking its place alongside the great academic institutions in the Northeast.

ON TAMALPAIS ROAD

The university families were close friends. In Berkeley, many of the professors' spouses belonged to the same lunch club and were early members of the University Section Club. Their children socialized and attended school together. When the Hillside School burned down in the 1923 Berkeley Fire, the Tolman, Schevill, and Linforth children attended a makeshift kindergarten in the basement of the Schevill family's house on Tamalpais Road.

That road runs along the edge of a canyon filled with bay laurel and pine trees atop Codornices Park. It is bounded by steep terrain at its ends, making the street into a long collecting space that invites social interaction among neighbors. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Tamalpais and Shasta Road neighborhood was a hyper-intellectual enclave. Within this small area lived the two physicists who later formed cornerstones of the Manhattan Project: Ernest Orlando Lawrence and his family lived at 111 Tamalpais Road, and from 1929 and until his marriage to Kitty Harrison and a move up to Eagle Hill in 1940, J. Robert Oppenheimer lived a street over at 2665 Shasta Road, in Apartment B.

In 1922, Ivan and Kate Linforth and their children, Peggy and Ted, moved from their 1907 Julia Morgan-designed house on Berkeley's Derby Street to a brown-shingle house at 85 Tamalpais Road. Perhaps reflecting a preference for women architects, the Linforths selected Edna Deakin to design their new house. Deakin, who was a year older than Morgan, apprenticed with John Galen Howard and would later collabo-

rate on the 1924 redesign of Maybeck's "Temple of the Wings," atop Nut Hill.

Next door to the Linforths, at 77 Tamalpais Road, lived the Schevills. They moved into their brown-shingle house in 1915. Seven years later, they commissioned preeminent Arts and Crafts architect Charles Sumner Greene to design a studio addition to their house. Greene undertook the project shortly after splitting off from his brother and business partner, Henry, and moving north from Southern California. Rudolph Schevill wrote to Greene in Carmel in 1923, thanking him for a "singularly beautiful addition to the house." James Schevill remembered that his mother decorated the addition, which the family called the "Big Room," with "Chinese scrolls on the immensely high walls."

The Schevills used their Greene-designed addition as a kind of salon, hosting concerts, lectures, and poetry readings. In 1924, Rudolph's close friend Pablo Casals performed there. Schevill had befriended Casals during sabbatical visits to Spain and stayed with Casals in Barcelona throughout the 1920s. Casals referred to Schevill as "mi hermano del alma (my soul brother)."

Edward Tolman and his family lived a few blocks away from the Linforths and the Schevills, not far from where La Loma Avenue and Buena Vista Way intersect. Their 1924 Spanish Revival house was designed by Warren Charles Perry, later the dean of the University of California's School of Architecture. The Tolmans' original brown-shingle house on La Loma Avenue was destroyed in the 1923 Berkeley Fire. Their choice of a stucco-clad exterior for the design of their new house illustrates just how abruptly the fire had ended the brown-shingle era of residential design in the city. Deborah Tolman Whitney recounted in an interview how everything in the Berkeley Hills was built of stucco after the fire.

AND THEN THERE WAS INVERNESS

"And then there was Inverness," Mary Tolman Kent wrote in her memoir, *The Closing Circle*. Even before she was born in 1921, Mary's parents had begun searching for a place near the sea to spend their summers. Initially, they stayed in Bolinas, but her father liked to sail, and there was no real sailing there. Soon they began renting cabins along the shore of Tomales Bay.

Excerpt from "Inverness By Design" courtesy of Oro Editions, Novato, California.



Top: Margaret Schevill's painting of Black Mountain, with houses on the Point Reyes Station mesa in the foreground. Courtesy of James and Elizabeth Whitney.

Bottom: The Margaret Schevill Link House at 10 Inverness Way North, formerly occupied by the Eastman family. The Eastmans managed the Shafter family ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula into the 1930s. Photograph by the author.



The Gibsons' Inverness house on Cameron Way. Photograph by Brian McCloud.

George and Edith Gibson preceded the Tolmans' arrival in Inverness. In 1919, the Gibsons purchased a cottage at 5 Cameron Way, a brown-shingle house with a large and inviting front porch. George had recently been promoted to assistant professor but was not yet financially secure, so he borrowed money to purchase the house. Inverness resident Gertrude Simmons loaned the \$1,800 with 2 percent interest, payable only when the couple could afford to make payments against the principal. In a 1978 letter to historian Jack Mason, the Gibsons' son John made mention of Mrs. Simmons's kindness to his mother. World War I was over, but an anti-German sentiment lingered. Few in Inverness invited John's German-born mother to tea or bridge parties. There was an exception: Gertrude Simmons. One afternoon she appeared on the front porch of the Gibson's cottage with a coffee pot in one hand and a coffee cake in the other, saying to Edith, "Won't you have a cup of coffee with me?"

In Inverness, the Schevills lived a street over from the Gibsons at 150 Douglass Way. Theirs was a board-and-batten house designed by Margaret Schevill. James Malmstrom, who had built several houses on Berkeley's Tamalpais Road, assisted in the design and construction. The Schevill's Inverness house was later sold to Jack and Mary Kent and later still destroyed by a burst water pipe.

It "was of the most beautiful old, dark redwood inside and out," Dave Kent recalled. "The studs were exposed, and the house had smooth wood paneling inside."

A few years after her divorce from Rudolph in 1939, Margaret remarried. She and her second husband, University of Chicago professor George K.K. Link, purchased the house at 10 Inverness Way North that had been occupied for many years by the Eastman family. The house would remain in the Schevill-Link family for years. James Whitney, Elizabeth and James's grandson, remembered meet-

ing Margaret once or twice, and he recalled her sitting on the porch of the Whitney family's Chicken Ranch house bedecked in Navajo jewelry. Present-day Inverness resident Carmen Violich-Goodin grew up on Tamalpais Road and was childhood friends with Susie Schevill, Margaret Schevill's granddaughter. She remembered visiting 10 Inverness Way as a young girl and hearing Susie address her grandmother as "Noni."

The Lewis family followed the Gibsons to Inverness, staying with them until their house on Balmoral Way was completed. They paid \$2,700 for the one-and-a-half-story shingled house in 1921, and they held onto it until 1973, when they sold it for \$37,000. In an oral history, Richard Lewis said that in the early years, his family lived year-round in Inverness, where he and his siblings were homeschooled by their mother, their father, and a local woman who taught them French. The Lewis children never went to a proper school until they reached high school. Richard's brother Edward similarly recalled that the "Lewis family was mostly brought up in Inverness, together with initially short periods in Berkeley." The family rented houses in Berkeley but owned their cabin in Inverness.

Professor Gilbert Newton Lewis commuted between Inverness and Berkeley during the school year, staying on the top floor of the Faculty Club

during the week and coming out to Inverness for long weekends. He was urbane, influential in university affairs, and extraordinarily well-regarded. Professor Stephen Pepper remembered him as politically very liberal but autocratic in his bearing. He was one of the “oligarchs” who for a time governed the university’s academic senate. Jacomena Maybeck, Bernard’s daughter-in-law, explained how in the 1920s, her sorority would invite to dinner faculty whom everyone liked and admired, and Lewis was among them. In his first public speech after becoming president of the university in 1930, Robert Gordon Sproul identified Lewis in chemistry, along with Charles Kofoed in zoology and William Campbell in astronomy, as among those who “hold high the lamp of learning.”

NEW ENGLAND ROOTS

If Inverness has an East Coast feel, it may be in part because so many of the early Inverness summer families had grown up in New England. UC Berkeley professor Arthur Gordon grew up in Vermont, graduated from Dartmouth College, and joined Berkeley’s classics department in 1929, remaining active at the university for 40 years. He and his wife, Joyce, who was co-author of many of his scholarly works, were longtime Inverness summer residents and later became full-time residents. Edward Tolman grew up in West Newton, Massachusetts. Gilbert Newton Lewis was raised in Weymouth, Massachusetts and his wife, Mary, was the daughter of Harvard professor Edward Stevens Sheldon. The Schevills also came from the East. Ivan Linforth was a Californian but had spent his formative graduate school years in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mary Tolman Kent wrote that her family returned to New England in the summers throughout the 1920s, staying in summer houses in New Hampshire and Martha’s Vineyard. When her parents searched for a summer place in California, they sought to replicate their experiences in New England’s summer places. Comparing her honeymoon pictures with those of her parents, Mary reflected: “There are pictures like that of my parents on the beach at Annisquam in Massachusetts. There are pictures like that of Jack and me on Ten Mile Beach in Point Reyes.”

In an oral history, Berkeleyan Newton Bishop

Drury remarked on his wife Elizabeth’s upbringing. Her father, Hugo Karl Schilling, was a professor at the University of California. Before coming to Berkeley, Schilling was an assistant professor of German at Harvard from 1891 to 1901. During that time, the family spent summers at the colony at Northeast Harbor on Mount Desert Island, Maine, at the invitation of President Eliot.

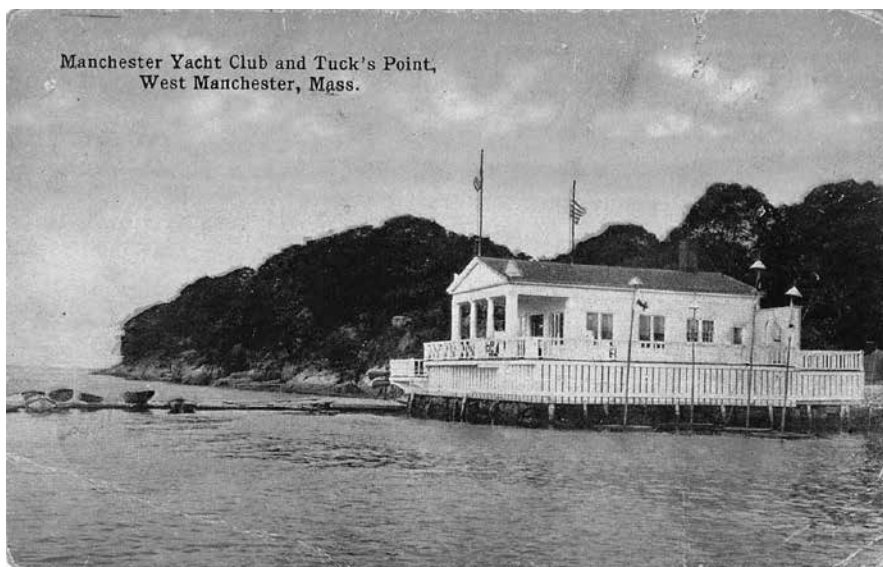
Drury said that after the Schilling family moved to Berkeley in 1901, they lived during the school year on Euclid Avenue in the Berkeley Hills and spent summers in Inverness. In fact, Schilling was made the Inverness Yacht Club’s first commodore when the club was organized in September 1912. Early meetings of the yacht club alternated between the Schilling family’s Berkeley home and the Berkeley homes and offices of other yacht club founders. It is likely that Schilling brought with him from New England a vision of what the yacht club should look like. Architect Hans Baldauf observed that the design of the club shows the influence of over-water yacht clubs that were being built in New England around the turn of the 20th century.

INVERNESS VISITORS

The intellectual character of Inverness was influenced by its summer visitors. UC Berkeley philosophy professor Stephen Pepper was in the same friend group as Tolman, sharing New England backgrounds. Pepper and his wife, Ellen, lived on Buena Vista Way and were neighbors of the Maybecks.

Inverness was a place where university faculty and administrators became better acquainted. Stephen Pepper recalled trips to Inverness for picnics and such things, and the influential University Arts Club he helped found in 1935 met more than once in Inverness after World War II, chancellor Ed Strong remembered. The Small Group, which counted Ida Sproul among its members, met regularly in Inverness.

The university families also brought distinguished visitors from outside Berkeley. Edward Lewis remembered when, as a small boy in Inverness, “my father woke me up in the late evening and introduced me to professor Niels Bohr, saying that I would probably be grateful later for having met him.”



Top: Manchester Yacht Club, Manchester-By-The-Sea, Mass. Constructed in 1895. Public domain. Bottom: The Inverness Yacht Club was constructed in 1914 by John Rasmussen. The modified pediment, gabled roof, and columns recall over-water yacht clubs built in New England. Courtesy of the Inverness Yacht Club.

Lewis also recollected that professor Abraham Feodorovich Joffe of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union came to Inverness and had a picnic with his family by the ocean. Linus Pauling was a frequent visitor to the Lewis cottage in Inverness. In 1984, he wrote in a tribute to Lewis, "During these extended visits to Berkeley I had the pleasure of talking with Lewis for many hours, in his office, his home, and his Marin County country place."

Margaret Schevill hosted prominent guests in Inverness. Indologist and linguist Heinrich Zim-

mer visited Inverness in the spring of 1941 to attend one of the Jungian seminars at Dr. Elizabeth Whitney's cottage above Chicken Ranch Beach. "On a terrace overlooking Tomales Bay, Zimmer talked for two days about all of his enthusiasms: tarot, Arthurian legend, the religions of India, the Arabian Nights, and Jung."

J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER AND INVERNESS

After her first husband, Dr. James Whitney, passed away in 1935, Elizabeth married Professor John S.P. Tatlock in 1939. Tatlock had come to Berkeley from Stanford, and before that, Harvard. He was a noted medievalist, focusing on the works of Chaucer. He was also "one of the few faculty members outside of the physics department with whom Robert Oppenheimer had more than a casual acquaintance." Tatlock's daughter, Jean, was romantically involved with Oppenheimer from 1936 to 1940, a relationship that nurtured the leftist activities for which Oppenheimer would later be questioned at his security clearance hearing in 1954. Others

in Oppenheimer's orbit included Edward Tolman and Rudolph Schevill. Edward was Jean Tatlock's psychology professor and, according to Haakon Chevalier, Tolman, and Oppenheimer were part of a group that met regularly to discuss psychoanalysis. While most faculty members in the 1930s refused to be part of unionizing activities, Tolman joined Oppenheimer in donating time to Local 349 of the East Bay Teachers' Union. Schevill, Tatlock, and Oppenheimer were all part of a committee that raised funds for the Republican side in the

Spanish Civil War. Oppenheimer made his way out to Stinson Beach to visit Haakon and Barbara Chevalier at their Willow Camp estate, and was likely a guest of the Whitneys, Tolmans, or Schevills. In Inverness, he would have sailed on Tomales Bay, a body of water not too dissimilar to the Great South Bay separating Long Island from Fire Island in New York, where he learned to sail as a boy.

Professor Gordon Griffiths was a longtime Inverness summer resident who for a while was also part of Oppenheimer's political circle. Griffiths attended UC Berkeley in the 1930s and returned to complete his graduate work in 1940. He stayed on to teach, and from 1940 to 1942, he served as a liaison between the Communist Party and the handful of Communists on the faculty. Griffiths wrote in an unpublished political autobiography that out of the hundreds of faculty members in that era, he believed only three were communists: Arthur Brodeur, Haakon Chevalier, and Robert Oppenheimer. This small faculty group met regularly, usually at Chevalier or Oppenheimer's house. "I cannot testify that Oppenheimer was a member, but I can say, without any qualification, that all three considered themselves to be Communists," he wrote.

Gordon Griffiths was close friends with Jack Kent. As undergraduate students, they were a year apart at Berkeley. Years later, it was Kent who encouraged the Griffiths family to make Inverness their summer home. Griffiths had grown up on La Vereda Road in the Berkeley Hills, one block from the Tolmans' house on La Loma Avenue and not far from the Kents' eventual home on Tamalpais Road. Gordon's father was Farnham Griffiths, an advisor to University of California President Benjamin Wheeler, later a regent of the university and a Hillside Club member. "We came to Inverness for a unique reason," Gordon's son, David Griffiths, remembered. "My sister had a dislocated hip. It was a congenital defect from birth. She had sur-



Professor Gilbert Newton Lewis in his laboratory at UC Berkeley. Lewis was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry at least 34 times by 20 different nominators, but never received the award. Prize recipient Glenn Seaborg wrote: "And, somehow, the Nobel Foundation made one of their rare mistakes by not awarding him the Nobel Prize in chemistry." Courtesy of Alamy.

gery, and part of the recovery involved walking regularly on flat sand. So, my father and mother looked for an affordable place to rent for the summers. They had known about Inverness from the Kent and Whitney families with whom they were friends in Berkeley."

The Griffiths family rented a house in Second Valley and later purchased it in 1950. "We could stay there the whole three months of our academic vacation, and since it was only an hour and a half from Berkeley, we could also get away for many weekends," Gordon wrote. In the years when the Griffiths were away from California, their Berkeley friends Sidney and Hazel Roger cared for the house. Gordon and Sidney were friends from their undergraduate days at UC Berkeley and were active in Bay Area leftist politics in the ensuing years.

THE CHILDREN'S GENERATION

Successive generations of these UC Berkeley families would return to Inverness. Mary Tolman Kent and Deborah Tolman Whitney and their respective families were longtime summer residents, as was Richard Lewis. The Kents acquired the house on Douglas Way that Margaret Schevill had designed, and later acquired a second house in First Valley. James and Deborah Tolman Whitney built a house designed by architect Theodore Bernardi in the Seahaven neighborhood north of Inverness's central village. James Schevill later returned with his children; his daughter, Susie, remembered that they stayed at her grandmother Margaret's house at 10 Inverness Way. Karl Schevill and Janis Kent Schevill acquired from the Kent family a 1910 cottage on Argyle Street.

The children of these summer families often ended up marrying one another and forming part of the second generation of University of California families in Inverness. Mary and Deborah met their husbands during summers in Inverness. Deborah married James Whitney, the son of Drs. James and Elizabeth Whitney. Mary married Jack Kent, while Janis Kent, Jack's sister, married Karl Schevill, the son of Rudolph and Margaret. Karl was the director of foreign language teacher training at the university from 1952 until his death in 1981. Describing the pairing up of this generation, Edward Lewis recalled, "There was a good deal of intermarriage among these summer residents, although neither my brother nor I married Inverness girls."

Rudolph and Margaret Schevill's son, James, had a formative teenage experience one summer in Inverness. In 1934, his parents arranged for "an attractive teenage girl with theatrical ambitions" to work as a babysitter for family friends who were guests of the Schevills that summer. The babysitter's name was Olivia de Havilland, whose family the Schevills had become acquainted with during stays with the Goodrich family of Los Gatos. The arrangement might have been a bit of a subterfuge. Olivia, then 17, had become engaged to Peter Whitney in 1932, the summer before Peter left to start college. The summer babysitting job enabled them to be together.

In Inverness, Olivia and Peter led a group that read Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." They cast

OPENING RECEPTION Berkeley and Inverness in Conversation

Please come to a reception honoring author Courtney Linn and photographer Carmen Violich-Goodin on August 15 at 2-4 pm at the Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History, in the Inverness Library. Books will be for sale.

13-year-old James Schevill as Feste, the clown, and young Edward Lewis had a part, too. "I guess I could claim to have read a play with Olivia de Havilland," he said many years later. As James related in his autobiography, the experience set his direction in life. Though his parents had hoped the Shakespearean venture would coax James into returning to boarding school in Colorado that fall, it had the opposite effect. "I, Feste, would not be subdued, even though I would have submitted gladly to Olivia, as she read her lines with melodic ambitious fire," he wrote. Many years later, James became a prominent poet and playwright and taught both subjects at San Francisco State and Brown universities.

The children were drawn to Inverness for the same reason as their parents—to be in nature. "What I remember most upon arriving were the smells, the smell of the salt water on the Ferry ride from Richmond to San Rafael, and the smell of laurels and Queen Anne's Lace upon our arrival in Inverness," Dave Kent said. "And I remember my brothers and I racing into the cabin when we first arrived and rifling through drawers hoping to find nests of baby mice." James Schevill described watching a sunrise from the top of Mount Vision in the summer of 1937: "The view from east to west on top of that mountain was infinite, and we couldn't help feeling there the full majesty of space." Reflecting on his own family and their attraction to Inverness, John Gibson wrote: "They came to Inverness, not because it was a great vacation ground, but for the spiritual nourishment it could give a growing family. We were unanimous in our devotion to the mysterious and untouched beauty of Nature we felt at Inverness. These years set the theme of our lives."

WHY WE SAVE “ORDINARY” THINGS

By Carol Acquaviva, Archivist

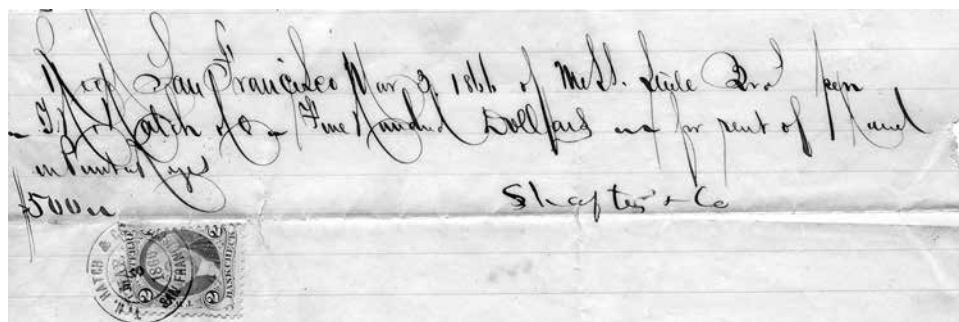
WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF ARCHIVES, they often imagine artifacts or dusty books behind glass. While those objects have their place, local history museums and archives often treasure something else: the ordinary.

A plane ticket, handwritten recipe, or grocery receipt may seem unremarkable today. Yet these everyday items reveal how people lived, worked, celebrated, and connected in ways official records rarely can. As an archivist, I’m sometimes asked, “Why would anyone want to save this?” The answer is simple: today’s ordinary objects become tomorrow’s primary sources.

Recently, I came across an 1866 receipt from Shafter & Co. documenting rent paid by Isaac Steele. At first glance, it was just a small slip of paper. But in context, it became something far more significant. The Steele family helped establish Marin as one of California’s leading dairy regions. Al-

though they farmed the land for years, the Shafter family refused to sell it to them, forcing the Steeles to lease the property beginning in 1857 through changing landlords and years of legal disputes. This receipt may represent one of their final rent payments before leaving Marin to build another successful dairy operation on the central coast. A seemingly ordinary receipt became an important piece of a larger story.

History is built not only from famous people and dramatic events, but from the everyday lives preserved in photographs, letters, maps, receipts, and keepsakes. What seems ordinary today may one day help future generations understand the community we leave behind.



History Book Sales Hit the Roof!

The museum’s publication efforts have seen success with its first book, Dewey Livingston’s 600-page *Point Reyes and Tomales Bay: A History of the Land and Its People*. Released a year ago, we have sold out its initial print run of 2,000, and have reprinted another 1,600. The book sales have added to the museum’s coffers and its contents have been the “talk of the towns” for the past year.

Oral History Projects

The museum has embarked on two important oral history projects this spring and summer. The first is called *Growing New Food Systems: Innovative Agriculture and Land Conservation in West Marin County, 1970-Present*. This will collect the stories and insights of longtime and current farmers and animal ranchers, value-added food entrepreneurs, land preservation activists, as well as the support-

ing organizations, institutions, and individuals who helped grow our local food industries.

The second oral history project is titled, *Building Community: Young People Transform West Marin in the 1970s, Bringing Permanent and Positive Cultural Change*. We believe in the power of the stories and insights of longtime current residents (and some who now live elsewhere) who had a part in the creative and fulfilling “revolution” in West Marin.

Under guidance from Dewey Livingston, the museum has contracted Sadie Barrett, a recent graduate of UC Berkeley, and Inverness native and history graduate Bay Whitney, to perform the interviews and edit the transcripts. They are both at work recording interviews. And, local native Cedar Nordbye traveled to New Mexico to interview a group of West Marin expats.

Both these projects are locally funded by donations and a generous grant from the West Marin Fund. If you’d like to contribute, please contact us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.jackmasonmuseum.org

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www.invernessassociation.org

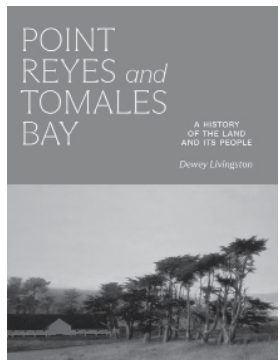
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BERKELEY AND INVERNESS IN CONVERSATION

*A new exhibit on display July through
September 2026*

Reception and Talk on August 15, 2-4 pm

**The exhibit can be enjoyed
during Inverness Library hours.**