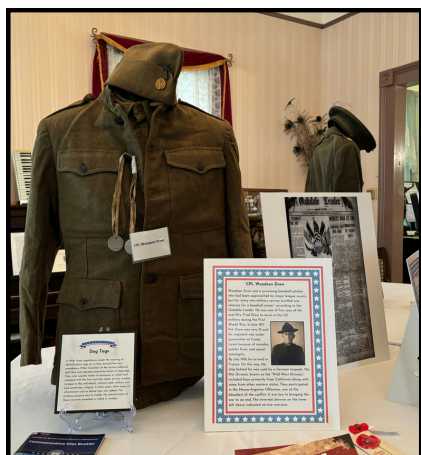




# MUSEUM MATTERS

## BOARD NEWS

In late 2024, Barbara Torres and Suzanne Lauzon submitted their resignations from the board. Both have been integral to the success of the museum. They have volunteered countless hours over the past 15 years from the time the Friends of Oakdale Heritage formed in 2009 to save the Oakdale Museum and History Center. Barbara served as Board President and tirelessly as master-of-all-activities for more than 13 years. Suzanne, as curator, organized and cataloged the extensive collection of artifacts, furniture, images, and documents. THANKS is too small a word for their faithful and tireless dedication!



NOVEMBER 2024

CELEBRATING VETERANS' DAY



## VISIT US!

THURSDAYS 1-4 PM

FRIDAYS 1-4 PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT



FRIENDS OF  
OAKDALE  
HERITAGE

IN 2024 WE WELCOMED

MORE THAN

350 VISITORS!

212 WEST F STREET

WWW.OAKDALEMUSEUM.ORG

209-844-5161

OAKDALEMUSEUM95361@GMAIL.COM

## 2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Daniel Kelly - President

Don Riise - Vice President

Diane Korupp - Treasurer

Holley Coppetti

David Cross

Vernon Gladney

Mike Moore

## A LOOK BACK AT 2024

- May 15 we welcomed the talented musicians from Brennan's Parlor. They played traditional Irish tunes on the front lawn while we served root beer floats as part of the Chamber of Commerce's Sip & Stoll event.
- June 15, we were the featured non-profit organization at the Saturday Morning Market where we sold our Oakdale history books and challenged willing citizens to answer a short fun history quiz.
- During November a special exhibit celebrated the many and varied contributions of Oakdale's veterans.
- In December another special exhibit featured children's toys from the past. New displays are planned for 2025.

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SYDNOR/PROWSE HOUSE

The 150 year old home of the Oakdale Museum and History Center is named for its first and last residents. The house was built in about 1870 (reports of the actual date vary) on a five acre plot on the dirt road between Langworth and Knights Ferry. It was constructed on what would become F Street for Robert Sydnor, his wife Salvenia, and their three daughters. Sydnor, originally from Virginia, also built a general merchandise store on the site that is now the iconic First National Bank building. Sydnor was the town's first postmaster, but he died at the young age of 57 in 1877.

The house was purchased by William Rutherford, a Scot immigrant, in 1892. His family occupied it for two generations. Rutherford was a cattle rancher and businessman who had driven cattle overland from Missouri to Stanislaus County in 1854 and eventually owned large tracts of land in the area.

In 1933, Tom and Estelle Prowse bought the house for \$1,000 and Tom lived in it until his death at the age of 101 in 1978. The City of Oakdale obtained the building for a museum which opened in 1985. In 2009, during an economic downturn, the city considered closing the museum and disposing of the property. The Friends of Oakdale Heritage was formed that year to acquire the house and save the museum. **Under those agreements, the museum receives no financial support from the city.**



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOINING TODAY

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL\_\_\$25

FAMILY\_\_\$50

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