

YES! I would like to join the Timber Heritage Association, support the Timber Heritage Museum and receive the THA newsletter about the local history of timber & railroads.

- Individual \$ 25.00
- Family \$ 30.00
- Contributing Member \$ 50.00
- Supporting Member \$100.00

I would like to make an additional contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution to the Humboldt Bay train: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to steam locomotive restoration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a print of historic locomotive (with contribution of \$35 or more)

Your name and address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to THA and mail to:  
THA, P.O. Box 6399, Eureka, CA 95502  
Phone: (707) 443-2957  
[www.timberheritage.org](http://www.timberheritage.org)

## All Aboard!

The Timber Heritage Association invites you to join this exciting and worthy cause! You can conveniently show your support through an annual membership in Timber Heritage Association (a membership application is attached). We have created several membership categories for you to provide increasing levels of support.

You are also most welcome to get involved and help us directly through your volunteer efforts. Whatever time and skills you can contribute will be most welcome. And most of all, please help us spread the message by telling your family, friends and business associates about Timber Heritage Association and our plans for the Timber Heritage Museum. Our vision can only be achieved with broad-based community support. On request, THA will happily provide a spokesperson to present the Timber Heritage Museum and Excursion Train project to your business or community group.

Please take a few moments to complete the membership application with your check made payable to THA. The train is speeding up and gathering steam—don't be left behind!



All photos courtesy of Humboldt State University Library

Timber Heritage Association  
Former Northern Counties  
Logging Interpretive Association

# TIMBER HERITAGE

m u s e u m



Celebrate Our Working Past...  
Help Build a Prosperous Future

Sponsored by



# A History of Innovation and Adventure

They came to seek their fortunes in the California gold fields, but they stayed to wrest wealth from the mighty redwood forests. At first, the early settlers on the Redwood Coast were confounded by the huge trees, which resisted any known technology to viably cut, transport, and mill them into lumber. But before long the foggy woods were alive with the ring of axe and saw, and the huff of oxen tugging on strings of logs. Then came the steam donkey and the chug of locomotive.



Mills sprang up around Humboldt Bay, built on a scale to match the timber they were sawing, incorporating ingenious new technologies for handling logs 15 feet in diameter and greater.

It was indeed a time of giant trees and giant men like William Carson and John Dolbeer, who bequeathed an extraordinary legacy. The empires they built, the machines they invented and the tools they left behind all tell an incredible story—an American story—of perseverance & accomplishment on the edge of civilization. Dolbeer's invention of the steam donkey is credited by historians as the start of mechanization and the beginning of the modern timber industry.

# The Timber Heritage Museum

For over 25 years, the Northern Counties Logging Interpretive Association, now Timber Heritage Association, has been rescuing, restoring and sharing historic pieces of timber and railroad technology. Our display of equipment at Fort Humboldt and public “steam-ups” have been widely popular, but these reveal just a fraction of the history and artifacts needed to truly tell the story of logging on the Redwood Coast.

The time has come to combine these artifacts, along with many, many others now in storage, into a world-class museum that definitively interprets the history of timber in Humboldt County and across the United States. A centrally located museum in Samoa, perhaps in a complex with other museum entities, would provide the North Coast community with a source of learning and pride, and also create a tremendous tourism draw to the region.

And because the Redwood Coast's timber heritage is so closely linked with railroads, a Humboldt Bay Excursion Train is seen as a necessary and highly desirable component of a Timber Heritage Museum. A passenger service between Samoa and the redwood forests of the Eel River valley is a feasible and attractive project that will make an excellent addition to the Museum's development.

## Laying Tracks to the Future

Fall 2004: Timber Heritage Museum feasibility study completed. Excursion train feasibility study and business plan completed. (Fundraising dinner and auction held each February.)

2008-2009: Museum design phase. Create blueprint and solid project costs for Samoa site. Efforts ongoing to find major funding sources.

2010: Railroad to be operational, start excursion train services.



## Full Steam Ahead

Out of crisis can come opportunity. The property, where our collection was stored for decades, was sold. There was a real danger that the collection would be scrapped. For the first time, the public was invited to see these timber machines, all local, that had been saved from the scrap torch through the years. Over and over we heard, “I had no idea all of this stuff still existed.” Public support opened the door to negotiate moving to our desired museum site: the 1890's Samoa Shops buildings from the Vance/Hammond Lumber Company. They include a rare wooden roundhouse. With our collection of tools, machines and steam locomotives, including two Hammond locomotives, we can recreate the authentic shops as our museum. The shops will be a real working museum restoring, operating and maintaining equipment and excursion trains. Our goals are a long term lease for the site at a nominal fee from the Harbor District, obtain grants to build the museum, and raise money to own the site. This would guarantee that the collection would never again be threatened by the scrapper's torch. Please consider joining our efforts

