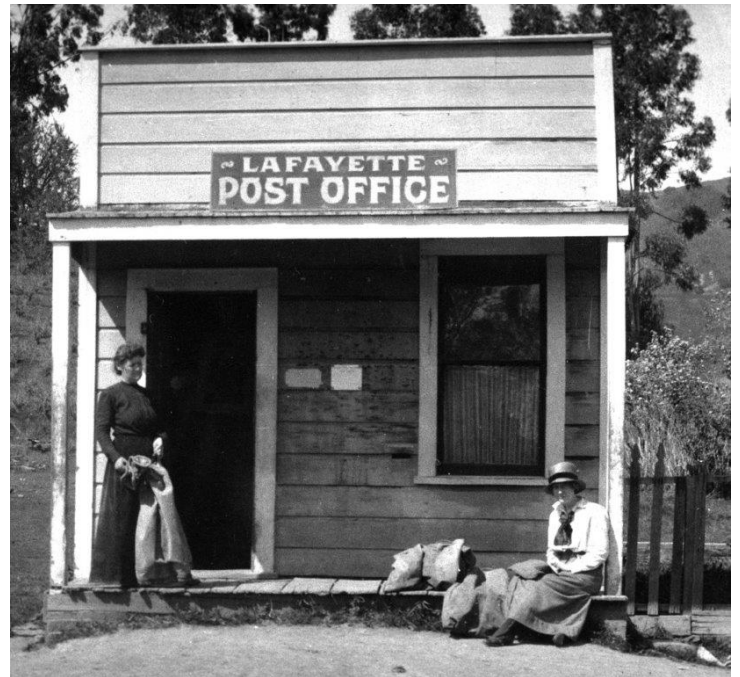


Past and present “Friends” have supported the Lafayette Library since 1860

The Lafayette Library is probably the oldest in the county, having been organized in 1860 by a group of subscribers. From 1913 until 1939 the Lafayette Improvement Club filled the role of Friends of the Library helping to acquire buildings and buildings sites for the Library.

Lafayette’s first Library was located in this Post Office building on what is today the Safeway parking lot.

For a time, the Lafayette Library shared space with a Post Office and Telephone Exchange. The Postmistress was also the Librarian. Today this is the home of Douglass Designs.



In 1939, the Lafayette Cooperative Library Association was incorporated to succeed the Lafayette Improvement Club. At that time the Library was housed in the Lafayette Town Hall. The Library Association worked with the community and the county to construct two libraries on Moraga Road, one in 1940 and one in 1962.



The first Moraga Road Library was built in 1940 using materials furnished by the WPA, and was located near what is now Lafayette Elementary School.

By the late 1950s, the Moraga Road Library had become overcrowded and inadequate. After considerable study, it was determined that the Moraga Road location continued to be the best site for the Lafayette Library and a new facility was completed there in 1962.

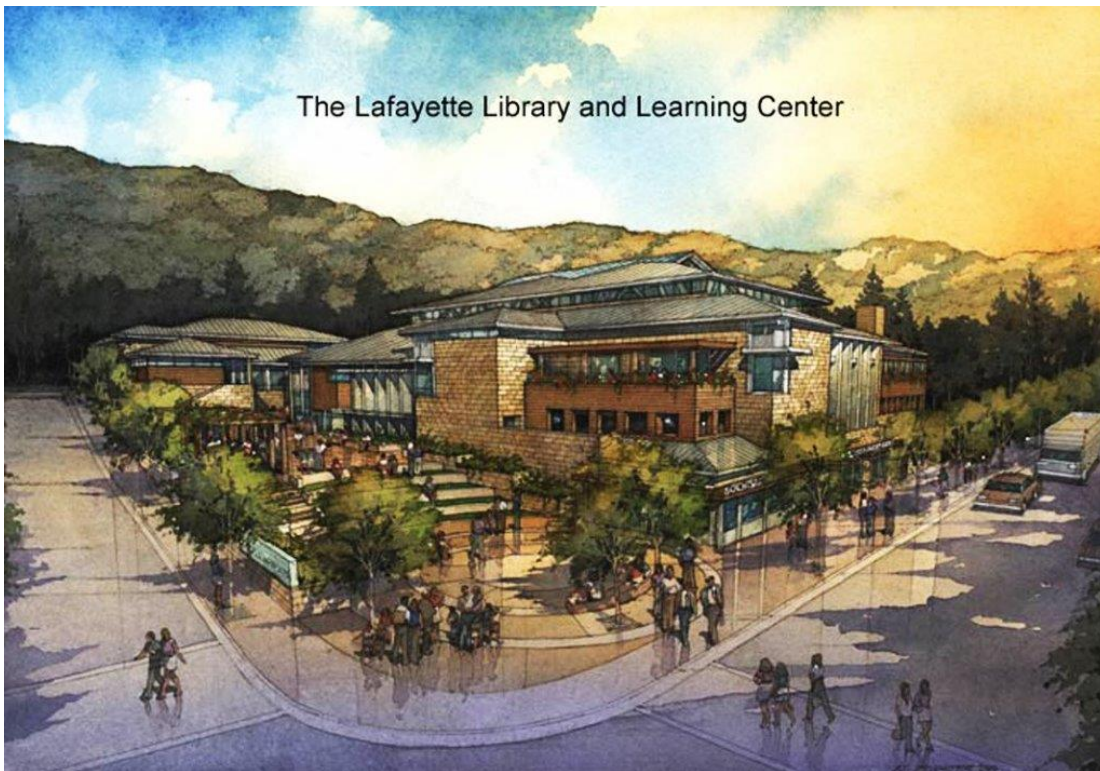


In 1962, the second Moraga Road Library replaced the small 1940 facility what had been situated on what became the new Library's parking lot.

In 1967, a book barrel was obtained as a gift from Gumps and the first annual sale of "gently used books" was held in the Library parking lot. In 1973, the name of organization was changed to the Friends of the Lafayette Library. In 1984, the "Book Room" opened at the Lafayette Community Center on St. Mary's Road in Burton Valley where book sales were held twice a month.



By the 1990s, the Moraga Road Library had become outdated and overcrowded. Library Vision 2000 brought together members of the community to plan for a new modern new facility worthy of the 21st century. Ultimately, through an extensive partnership of the City of Lafayette, Contra Costa County, the State of California, the Friends of the Lafayette Library, the Lafayette Community Foundation (succeeded by the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation), and the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center opened in November 2009. Having saved a substantial portion of the book sale proceeds for many years in anticipation of the new facility, the Friends contributed \$1 million toward the construction of the Library and purchase of new books.



The opening of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in 2009 ushered in a new era for the Friends as the building included over 1,400 square feet of retail shop space. With approximately 150 volunteers, the Friends Corner Book Shop is open six days a week. Book sale revenues are now more than three times than before the Friends Corner Book Shop opened. In 2010, the organization's name was changed to Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.