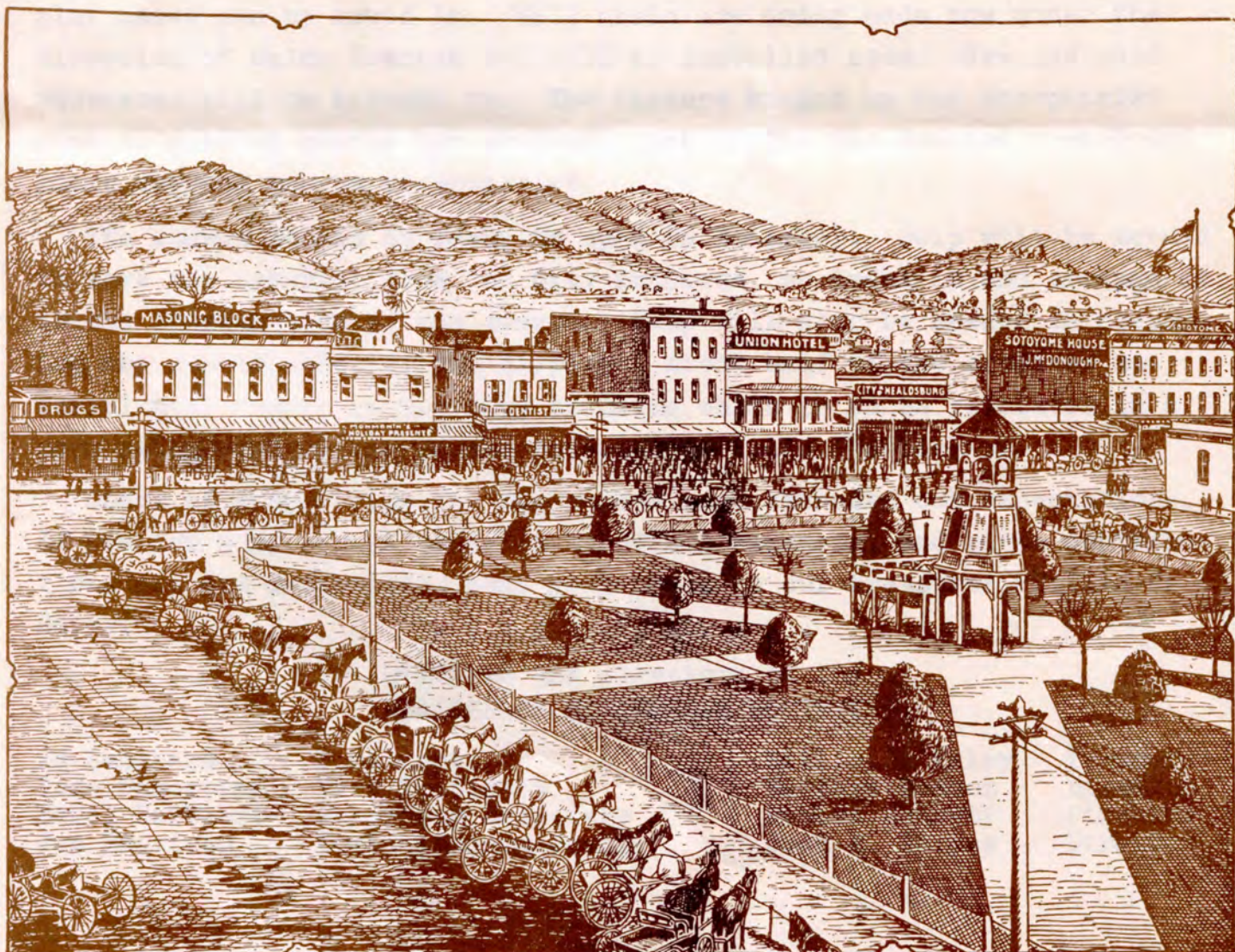


# RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Published by  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1976



Healdsburg Plaza - 1892



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 905 Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

Issue No. 2 October, 1976

PROGRESS AT THE MUSEUM

A great deal of work has been accomplished at the Healdsburg Museum by some of our members expert with saw and hammer, paint brush, or other tools of the trade. New walls are up, shelving is in place, the wiring is finished, a ceiling has been installed, and most of the painting is complete. Ray Masini, a local painting contractor, volunteered his services and that of his crew to do much of the painting. EMCO Electric has donated a large part of the wiring that was done. Our thanks to these local businessmen for their contributions.

A new carpet in one room is yet to be installed and then the display cases can be moved in. Wall cases are being made now under the direction of Waldo Iversen and will be installed soon. New and used showcases will be brought in. The fixture bought by the Soroptimist Club to display photos has arrived. Bob Curtis has donated a desk and chair for the museum receptionist.

The museum should be ready to open in November. Help will be needed to move the material from the City Archives, to index it and arrange it in the storage room of the museum. Help will also be needed in preparing the museum material for display. About half of the archives material will remain in the City Archives which is to be relocated in a room being readied now in the basement of Villa Chanticleer.

Costs of remodelling for the museum have exceeded our expectations. If you can make a cash donation to offset expenses, and these contributions are tax deductible, send your check to our treasurer, Billie Jo Haley.

\* \* \* \* \*

Officers and Directors of the  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ed Langhart	President	Billie Jo Haley	Treasurer
Rose Demostene	Vice President	Barbara Beeson	Director
Carol Barbieri	Recording Secretary	Robert Hassett	Director
Jan Harrison	Corresponding Secty.	Jack R. Relyea	Director



MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED - The operation of the Healdsburg Museum is now under the control of the newly appointed board of Trustees who held their first meeting on September 1st. Brad Witherell was elected President, Alice Grove, Secretary, and the others are Jack Trotter, Bernice Auradou, and Darrell Barbieri. With these members on the board success for the museum is assured.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND

A museum memorial fund has been proposed by our officers for those who would like to make a contribution in memory of a loved one. This fund would also receive donations made in honor of an individual or outright gifts of money. The donor could specify the purpose for which the contribution is to be used. All such gifts to the Historical Society are tax deductible. This will be considered again by the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The next general membership meeting of the Healdsburg Historical Society will be held on Thursday, November 18th at 7:30 p.m., rather than on the fourth Thursday, which is Thanksgiving. The phone committee will notify you of the meeting several days in advance.

This is a good opportunity to thank those on the telephone committee for the good work they have done in keeping everyone informed about the meetings. They are:

Virginia Zobel	Hazel Wilson	Suzanne Gustafson
Ted Kellogg	Carmel Bottini	Bertha Carley
Major Phillips	Clarice Sullivan	Lois Miller
Maxine Bell	Evelyn Iversen	Mary Dowling
Catherine Curtis	Aleta Rulofson	Margaret Luce
		Ethel Gately

\* \* \* \* \*

It appears now that the furnishings from the Matheson family will not be forthcoming for the Healdsburg Museum. Because of this we will have space for other items, particularly those suited to form a room display. Perhaps some member, or a group of persons together, could arrange to donate furnishings to decorate the room. If you have any items to donate to the new museum, call Ed Langhart at 433-2639.



From "The Life and Times of Cyrus Alexander":

"Capt. Fitch came to Aleck and said: you go north of the Bay, take a good look at the country, and if you can find enough unclaimed land suitable for a stock range, I will ask it of the Government, and if I can get it I will stock it, and you can run it on shares.

"This proposition just suited the adventurer, and with his usual readiness, he soon made the necessary arrangements for the trip. He at this time owned five horses, and selecting the best traveler and the hardiest animal of the lot, he collected the other necessary paraphernalia, consisting of a heavy blanket, a saddle, a pair of large Mexican spurs, and the indispensable lariat. He then started for the country north of the Bay.

"As there were Mexican settlements along the coast near the Mission posts, he did not need to carry much provision with him. He took a supply of jerked beef to fall back on whenever he should fail to reach a house for food and shelter. He crossed the Bay above the Straits and pushed forward toward Napa Valley. This he found already granted to Yount, Bale and others. So he passed through this Valley and headed for the Russian River Valley. Here he also found a number of grants and settlements, those of Sonoma, Santa Rosa Ranch, Mark West Ranch, Cooper Ranch, Bodega and others, but north of these further up the river, he found a large and fertile tract still unclaimed, and possessing what he considered all the necessary qualities for a good and extensive Stock Ranch.

"Aleck sent Capt. Fitch a flattering report of this section of the country. Fitch now applied to the Government, and succeeded in securing a Grant. After arranging the preliminaries, he came up to see the tract, and was given possession of the tract, which was known as the Sotoyome Grant . . . .

The Mexican Archives of the State of California contain the papers and maps relating to the early day land grants including the Sotoyome Rancho, the grant given to Henry Delano Fitch in two parcels, an eight league piece in 1841, and a three league tract in 1844. The first entry in the application of Capt. Fitch is this:

To the Director of Colonization of the Frontier of the North

I, Henrique Domingo Fitch, a native of the United States, North America, and a Mexican by naturalization, before Your Honor, in due form of law, represent: That being established in the Pueblo of San Diego since the year 1833, and desiring to remove with my family and property to this frontier, I need a tract of land in which to place my stock, and for cultivation, and knowing that a tract suitable for my purposes called Sotoyomi is vacant, the same being shown upon the Diseno herewith presented, I pray Your Honor to be pleased to order that the



same be granted to me, for my own use and benefit, and that of my family, subject to the laws in relation thereto, wherefore I pray Your Honor, to be pleased to grant me the favor I ask in which I will receive favor, admitting this on common paper since there is none of the Corresponding seal, swearing, and etc.

Sonoma, August 26th, 1841

H. D. Fitch

\* \* \* \* \*

Sonoma, August 26th, 1841.

I concede to the petitioner the land for which he asks, the same being vacant, and not belonging to any person whatever. He shall solicit from the Departmental Government the customary title.

nos  
M<sup>r</sup> G. Vallejo

\* \* \* \* \*

This is followed by the response of Governor Manuel Jimeno approving the request of Capt. Fitch, and setting forth conditions of the grant approval.

Whereas Don Henrique Domingo Fitch has petitioned for his personal benefit and that of his family, the place named Sotoyomi, bounded on the East by Marcos West; on the North by the Sierra, as far as the termination of the Canada situated to the N.W.; on the S.S.W. by the place at which Don Juan Cooper intends to build a mill; and on the South by the Arroyo Seco; the necessary proceedings having been taken and the investigations made, as required by the laws and regulations, by virtue of the authority conferred upon me in the name of the Mexican Nation I have determined to grant him said tract of land, declaring to him the ownership thereof by these presents, subject to the approval of the Most Excellent Departmental Junta and to the following conditions:

- 1st He may enclose the land without prejudice to the crossings, roads and servitudes, devoting it to the use or cultivation that may be most convenient, but within one year, he shall build a house upon the land, which shall be inhabited.
- 2nd He shall solicit the Corresponding Judge to give him Judicial possession by virtue of the title, by which the boundaries shall be marked out, on the limits of which shall be placed, besides the land marks, some fruit trees or useful forest trees.
- 3rd The land of which mention is made is the extent of eight square leagues, as shown by the map in the Espediente.
- 4th If he violates these conditions he shall lose his right to the land and it will be demandable by another. In consequence whereof I order, that this title being held as firm and valid, be registered in the corresponding book for his security and further ends. Given in Monterey on the 28th of September, 1841.

Manuel Jimeno

Jose Q. Fernandez, Secy.



In 1844 the rancho was surveyed, under the direction of Jasper O'Farrell, the surveyor who several years later, laid out the town of San Francisco. Interesting excerpts from these proceedings are the following:

"On the Rancho of Sotoyomi on the 11th day of the month of September, 1844, present the citizen Henrique Fitch and the surrounding neighbors to said land, I caused to appear before me and the assisting witnesses, Gasper O'Farrell and Guillermo Barnes, the measurers appointed, whom I ordered to measure a cord of fifty varas, which they did in my presence, with a vara of the Castellian Mexican measure, said cord being well twisted and stretched. All of which was done before me, the interested parties and the surrounding neighbors, in witness thereof I order this to be entered in the proceedings, and measurements be proceeded with, as ordered, which I certify, signing the same with the assisting witnesses.

Jacob P. Leese

Asst.  
Victor Prudon

Asst.  
Julio Carrillo

\* \* \* \* \*

". . . . . whereupon the measurers declared that said Henry D. Fitch was placed in possession of the land called for in his title and map, which is found at the commencement of this Espediente; whereupon as a sign of said possession, he pulled up herbage and scattered stems and earth in evidence of said possession which he took for himself; whereupon I, the said Judge, ordered for the clearness of said boundaries, that the interested party should construct at his own cost, monuments of lime and stone of more than a vara in height, which should be in all time recognized as the boundaries of said lands by the surrounding neighbors

Jacob P. Leese

Asst.  
Victor Prudon  
German Pina

Gasper O'Farrell

Asst.  
Julio Carrillo  
Guillermo Barnes

\* \* \* \* \*

Notes: Sotoyome: "the home of Soto; i.e., of the chief of a Southern Pomo village near Healdsburg." (Barrett, "The Ethnogeography of the Pomo and Neighboring Indians", p. 218)

A square league equals 4438 acres.

A vara is a Spanish yard of 33.385 inches.



# HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Anderson, Marian	Davis, Donald W.	Haley, Billie Jo
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Arata, Stanley D.	Davis, Kaye	Haley, Julie Ann
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Auradou, Clem E.	Deas, Judith L.	Hansen, Berenice M.
Auradou, William	Deas, M. Edgar	Harmeson, David
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Barbieri, Darrell P.	Deas, Paul A.	Harrison, Frank E.
Barnard, C. H.	Deas, Steven E.	Harrison, Jan
Barnard, Marjorie L.	de Luna, Abel	Harrison, Ken
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Bell, Lea	Demostene, Rose	Henderlong, Mrs. Fred
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Bottini, Louis	Drew, Eric	Herrod, Greg
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Brandt, Mary	Edrington, Horace	Herrod, Suzy
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Caldwell, William E.	Fiege, June	Hill, Melinda
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Cardinal, Nelson	Frost, Robert	Huffman, Florence E.
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Christian, Carolyn	Gately, Ethel M.	Iversen, Neil W.
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Croce, Alexander	Grant, Dr. H. Donald	Jones, June
Croce, Raymonda	Grant, Henry Ward	Keck, H. C.
Cummings, Maude	Grant, Mrs. Ralph	Keck, Mildred
Cummings, Wm. F.	Greco, Sr., Al	Kellogg, Katherine
Cuneo, Irma	Griffin, Martha	Kellogg, Ted
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Miller, Guerdon G.	Ruonavaara, James	Wilson, Hazel
Miller, Norma	Ruonavaara, Thomas	Wilson, Patricia V. R.
Monroe, Maxine H.	Santucci, Arnold	Wilson, Walter
Moranda, Elizabeth	Santucci, Vi	Witherell, Brad
Myers, Michael	Sauers, Carole M.	Witherell, Linda
Nalley, Alex, Barclay	Sauers, Cathy Ann	Woltzen, Al
Nalley, Andree	Sauers, Donna C.	Woltzen, Annemarie
Neely, Frances M.	Sauers, Jeffrey R.	Wood, Mrs. L. B.
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Nelson, David	Sayre, Phyllis S.	Wright, Jo
Nelson, Eucinda	Scalione, Charles	Wright, Jr., Walter F.
Nervo, Julius E.	Scalione, Inez	Wurzbach, Ann
Owen, Addie B.	Schmidt, Don	Wurbach, William
Owen, Allen D.	Schmidt, Patricia Kay	Young, Gertrude
Pearson, Grace N.	Schreiber, Barbara	Young, Robert A.
Perry, Lawrence G.	Short, John E.	Zak, Eleanor W.
Perry, Sherry L.	Smith, Natalie J.	Zak, Frank L.
Phillips, Harold F.	Sobelman, Beverly	Zobel, Dale L.
Phillips, Major	Sobelman, Joyce	Zobel, James
Phillips, Rena	Sobelman, Stuart	Zobel, Virginia
	Soroptimist Club	Green, Pauline B.

(In memory of  
Robert W. Weston)

New Members

Conrat, Richard F.  
Lapham, H. A.  
Magri, Virginia  
Sonoma County Library (Main Branch)



TREATY BETWEEN M.G. VALLEJO AND SUCCARA, chief of the Sotoyomis, made at the conclusion of an expedition against the Indians in the Geysers hills (Black Mountain) on April 4, 1836:

1. Vallejo is to deliver to Succara, chief of the Sotoyomis, weekly, eight steers and two milk cows.
2. Succara each new moon is to deliver to Sonoma two strong bears to fight with savage bulls.
3. As a guarantee of good faith, Succara is to send his brother Cali-Vengo (rough hill) and his sons Ipu Succara and Calpela Succara to live at the Commandant General's house, and to be treated as if they were Russian officers as long as they behave well.
4. Succara promises to surrender runaway Indian criminals (robber or murderer) on pain of shooting of relatives and non-delivery of cattle.
5. Not more than thirty Sotoyomis to Sonoma at a time, and must give notice to Vallejo beforehand.
6. Wives of Sotoyomis may come to the fort as many as one hundred for amusement or trading (no weapons).
7. Vallejo shall not invade Sotoyomi territory with armed force without consent of Succara.
8. Sotoyomis to deliver all the captured children of the Cainameros to Fort Ross, and Suysunes to Sonoma, within a month.
9. For each prisoner brought in, Succara shall get a horse.
10. Both parties, responsible for losses their followers bring upon each other, shall talk over the settlement.

"M.G. Vallejo, Personal and Historical Recollections", manuscript 3, page 224  
Translation from the Spanish, Bancroft Library

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Healdsburg Enterprise - June 13, 1888:

The question of establishing a High School in the Healdsburg School District will be voted upon in this city Saturday, June 30th. A tax is yearly levied upon this District, which goes into a High School fund. We are informed that a new building will not be required, as the room now occupied by the First Grade can be used for that purpose, thus the only added expense being the salary of a teacher for the department.



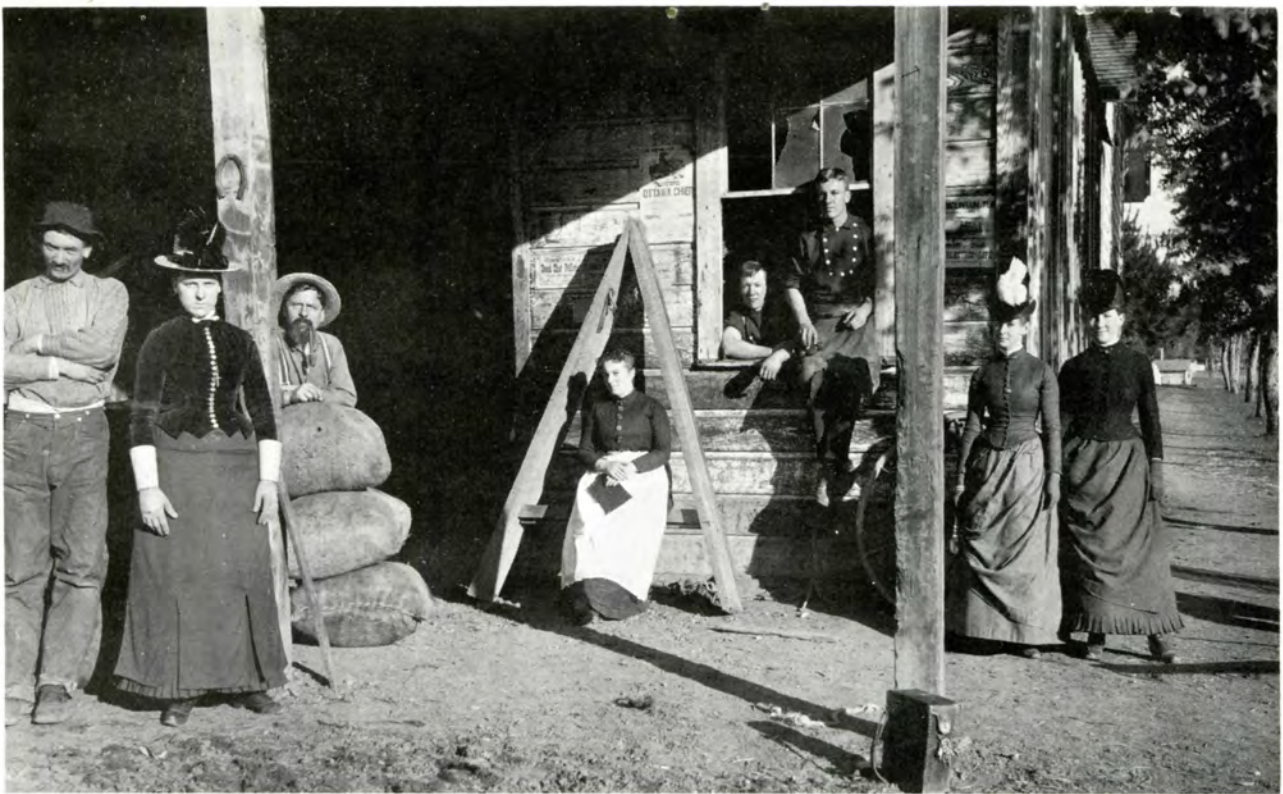
EARLY HEALDSBURG - Harmon Heald, (from whom Healdsburg takes its name) settled on the spot where Healdsburg now stands in 1851. He cleared away ten acres of land, and planted it to wheat, raised a splendid crop which he sold at 8 cents per pound; with the proceeds of this sale he built a small house and purchased a small assortment of goods and started the first store in Healdsburg. This store stood just back of where W.F. O'Leary's place of business now is, and was but a small slab cabin. Squire H.M. Willson, the oldest resident we now have, came here in June, 1852. There being no county bridge at that time he waded the river about where the crossing now is, came over to the store where he found Mr. Heald and our former old townsman, T.W. Hudson and family, who were then boarding with Mr. Heald, they being the only white people here. Shortly after this a blacksmith by the name of Morse put up a small shop about where Mr. Alley's grocery store now stands. Morse finally sold out to Wm. Dodge and Wm. Dow who had started a small shop near the river. The third house in town was built by August Knaak, who erected a small shop in connection with the blacksmith shop and carried on the wheelwright business. From this time on settlers came in faster, and the town began to assume shape and proportion, until now, after a period of thirty-four years, it has assumed the dignity of a city with 2500 to 3000 inhabitants, a public pound, and a town council.

\* \* \* \* \*

Russian River Flag, Aug. 11, 1881:

Burk Miles, who in October, 1852, hauled the first load of goods to Heald's store, in this locality, has come up from Tulare county with his family on a visit and is still hale and hearty. As implied Mr. Miles was one of our earliest settlers. In 1852 he located the place now owned by Mr. Fay just north of Charlie Lambert's, and was soon after married to a lady of that vicinity, Mrs. Fitzsimonds, the ceremony taking place in the residence now occupied by John Peck. He attended the first funeral in Healdsburg, that of George Heald, in 1853. All this will interest such old-time friends as the Hassetts, Miller, Powell, and a hundred and one others, young men then, but passing into the yellow leaf now.





Chas. York's Blacksmith Shop, West & Piper Streets — about 1887



West Street - 1873





A.W. Garrett Hardware, 312 Center Street – 1893



Bank of Healdsburg – 1876 – present site of Bank of America



## THE PHOTOS

Standing in front of York's Blacksmith Shop are Mr. and Mrs. Chas. York on the left, Mrs. Frank Cummings, sitting, and Elizabeth Cummings (Waterman) and Luella Cummings (Smith) on the right. The boys in the window are not identified. The building was later a service station for Bill Miller and a garage for Charlie Jennings.

Al Garrett stands on the left in the photo of his first store. He was previously a partner with Frank Cook in the small building on the southeast corner of Center and Powell Streets, where he learned the plumbing and tinning trade.

The Bank of Healdsburg was the first building built for banking only. Included in the lineup are James A. Mead, second from the left, then H.M. "Squire" Willson, Joel Ragen, a Mr. Cohn, John D. Hassett, and Ben Leard.

The old Plaza Hotel was formerly the Union Hotel shown in the view of West Street. On the right is the Sotoyome House. The White House was owned by Wolf Rosenberg and advertised hats, clothing, boots, shoes, and carpets.

## IN APPRECIATION

The HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY is pleased to have had so much encouraging community support as well as support from persons in other localities far and near. Among members in far away places are Grace Nichols Pearson, Jacksonville, Ore.; Phyllis Mothorn Brasser, Kailua, Hawaii; Ann and Bill Wurzbach, Etna, Ca.; and Kathleen Polaire, Malibu, Ca., a grand-daughter of John Grant.

Closer to home are Mary Y. Hunter, Norma Miller, and Alexander and Raymonda Croce, all of San Francisco; Wardine Grant Herrick of Berkeley; Marjorie Barnard, San Jose; and Tom and Billie Jo Ruonavaara of Paradise.

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed \$5.00\*  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check to  
HEALDSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 905, Healdsburg, Ca. 95448

\*OTHER MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS:  
Sustaining \$25.00      Student \$2.50  
Patron \$250.00

\*\*\*\*\*

To those who can afford these sizeable amounts, know that your deductible donation assists us to pay for publishing the Russian River Recorder.