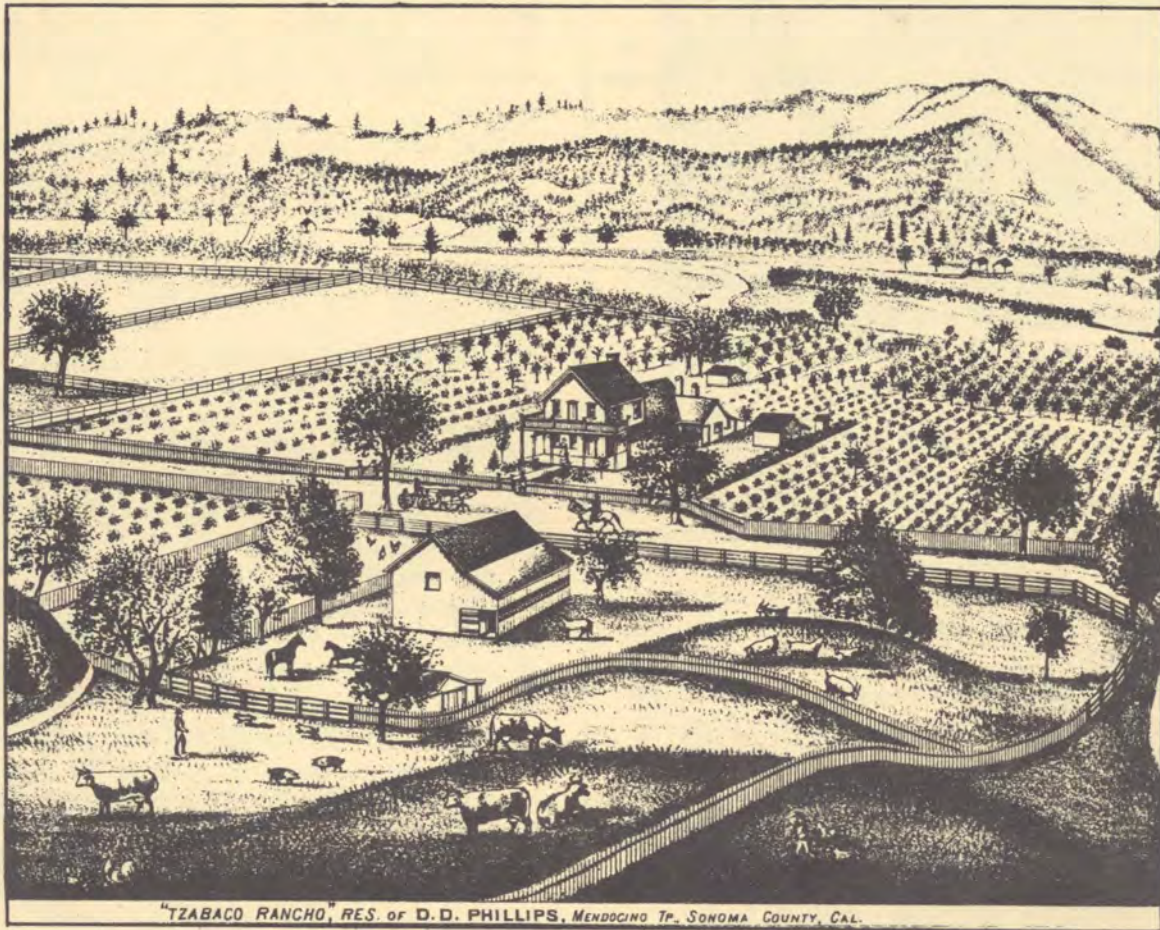


RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

summer 1985 issue 30



"TZABACO RANCHO," RES. of D.D. PHILLIPS, MENDOCINO TP., SONOMA COUNTY, CAL.

Special Dry Creek Valley Issue

Healdsburg Museum and
Historical Society

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This is a special issue covering the early history of Dry Creek Valley, to some of us a very special place.

We asked a man who knows the area well, Major S. Phillips, to remember the Valley on paper. Major's grandfather settled there on a ranch in 1856, and Major lived and worked there off and on for most of his 83 years.

Major thought his memoirs were "silly and boring", and he wasn't anxious to be published. But we finally convinced him using persistent - and frequent - friendly persuasion.

Moreover, some intriguing information in Major's article inspired the "rabid researchers" at the museum to dig a little deeper into the early history of Dry Creek Valley.

We made some surprising "rediscoveries" about the first non-Indian family to settle there. Some of this information is published here for the first time.

Since this issue is expanded and required many hours of research, it is a double issue. An expanded newsletter will be sent to members in the late fall.

The "Recorder" welcomes articles about local history. Your memories or knowledge about this area are important to us!

EDITOR.....Hannah M. Clayborn

DRY CREEK MEMORIES

by

Major S. Phillips

During these last few years, I have found that the years pass by more quickly. There are so many things we know we will never accomplish; the friends we have known for many years and meet on the street whose names we can't recall. We are not as ambulatory, can't carry our golf clubs and play 18 to 27 holes a day. Now we must resort to a cart "with the fringe on top".

But such is life. I like to think it's not senility, it's just that we aren't as young and agile and full of vim and vigor as we used to be. I was asked to recount some of my recollections of the "good old days". My arm was twisted. So here goes.

I was born in Oakland, California, August 25, 1902, the fourth son of Phillip Walton Phillips and Mary Jane Miles Phillips, grandson of Duvall Drake Phillips and Mary Terry Phillips, and John A. Miles and Jane Allman Miles, all of whom finally resided in Dry Creek Valley.

My grandfather, "D.D." Phillips, met the famous Indian scout, Kit Carson, in Missouri and was a front rider for Carson, carrying dispatches to General Kearny in California during the War with Mexico. Later he enlisted in the Fourth Missouri Cavalry and was with General Scott and General Taylor in the Battles of Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Vera Cruz, Cherubusco, Chapultepec, etc.

I recently donated my grandfather's medal of valor for these battles to the Healdsburg Museum.

Lords of the Land

My grandfather and grandmother Phillips crossed the plains by wagon train from Missouri in 1849, after D.D. was discharged in 1848. After several years in the gold mines near Georgetown in the Placerville area, having suffered severe losses constructing two dams for sluice mining in the flood winters of 1854 and 1855, his group moved westward to the Healdsburg area, bringing my six month old father with them.

Here they purchased acreage from the "Lords of the Land", the Jose German Pena family, owners of the Tzabaco Mexican Land Grant.*

They moved into the old Pena adobe, which had been the headquarters for the Tzabaco Rancho of about 17,000 acres, even including the Geyserville area to the east. Boundaries in those days, as now, start from the north-east corner of the old adobe, from a ravine on the east side of Dry Creek Road, where there is evidences of an old wagon road leading to the site where the adobe clay was dug and put into wooden forms, sun-dried, and used to build Pena's original ranch house.

My grandma's brother, Uncle Jim Terry, was a shipwright, and after the purchase in 1857 he put flooring in, cut out the low narrow openings in the two-foot thick walls, and cased in frames for doors and windows using 12" x 12" rough hewn redwood for beams. The original adobe only had small openings with no glass for windows, and the door was hung with a hide covering and was so low that you had to stoop to go through it.

He built two upstairs bedrooms with the staircase near the front door in the entry hall, all of this with wooden dowells instead of nails. A large kitchen was added as an ell to the structure which was originally designed as a fort; protection against the Russians and Indians back in 1834 (which date is not authenticated).

A six foot veranda was also built around the three sides of the building. I can remember Grandma Phillips resting in the rocking chair smoking her corn cob pipe, or just napping, and brushing away a fly, which was me tickling her with a chicken feather. Uncle Jim Terry also built an open gallery outside the two upstairs bedrooms where the family could sit and rock and wave to friends as they rode or drove by in their buggies or surries.

Originally the adobe had two small adobe outbuildings, one for food storage and one for ammunition." One of those buildings is still there on the ranch.

My grandfather, D.D. eventually had one of the most productive farms in the country in the early days. He was also a member of the Sotoyome Lodge #123 F. and A.M. and a county Supervisor in the 1870's. D.D. Phillips died in 1904, his wife in 1907.

My maternal grandparents were John A. Miles, from Indiana, and Jane Allman Miles. My grandmother immigrated from County Cork, Ireland, as a young girl with her family and lived in Boston for several years. One of her brothers got established in San Francisco when he sent for her in the early 1850's. There she met and married my grandfather. In 1858 they bought 60 acres of bottom land in



Duval Drake Phillips and Mary Terry Phillips, circa 1880

beautiful Dry Creek Valley, built their home and planted orchards, vineyards, and fields of grain - a very productive farm. My mother, the youngest of one sister and two brothers was born July 10, 1865, six months before her father died of "apoplexy" (stroke).

Neighbors were there to help

Besides the few settlers in the neighborhood, my mother recounted about her girlhood, there were Indians and occasionally Gypsies on the road, begging and "borrowing". In those days if a farmer was cooperative and friendly, which they all were, he had no problems. If he needed help for whatever cause, lambing, shearing, plowing, planting, harvesting, summer fallowing, pruning, or whatever, his neighbors were there to help. And so it was during the years when my grandmother was widowed.

My Grandmother Miles finally married a John Snider, with whom she had three daughters and one son.

Another thing, I recall my mother telling of one of her rides to visit the Wisecarvers south of Geyserville. Mrs. Wisecarver and my mother were cousins. Riding side saddle, as the ladies did in those days, on her way home her horse "spooked" and ran away with

her. Will Richards who happened to be riding also that day, spied her plight and flew to her rescue, stopping her horse.

Farming did not appeal to him

My father was the oldest of four brothers and one sister. Farming did not appeal to him. As a young man he attended the Pacific Union College in Healdsburg, one of the first colleges north of San Francisco. After graduating he became a traveling auditor for the Northwestern Pacific Railway.

Although he was acquainted with the Miles family just two miles south of the Phillips' ranch in Dry Creek, and his brother Fred had married Elizabeth Miles, my dad remembered Elizabeth's sister, Mary Jane, only as a girl with pigtails, nine years younger than he. But now he noticed how she had blossomed and bloomed since those days, to be a beautiful black-haired "princess", a stately, talented young lady who had her teaching credentials, but preferred to use her skills in dress-making and millinery.

Both of my parents had beautiful singing voices. I recall my mother saying that as a young lady she sang in choruses with Delia Hartsock (a pioneer family in upper Dry Creek), Will Richards (also of Dry Creek whose family ranch was at the south end of the present Lake Sonoma, now inundated), Ella Flack (whose grandfather established Magnolia Farms, once a fashionable resort, on Magnolia Drive), and Lizzie Livernash (who with her husband edited the Healdsburg Enterprise newspaper). I recently found among a lot of old papers, a letter from Lizzie Livernash expressing her surprise on hearing of her marriage to my dad. I have given that letter to the Healdsburg Museum.

My dad when with the N.W.P Railroad was headquartered in San Francisco and when not on the road, sang in San Francisco light operas like Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pinafore", "The Mikado", and "Pirates of Penzance". For some years I kept his silk and satin-lined swallow-tailed coat and high hat.

Well, my parents were married in Napa in 1893, the same year that my dad became the station agent for the N.W.P at Yountville. They honeymooned in the apartment above the Yountville station, where my mother assisted with the telegraph messages.

In June, 1893, Grandpa and Grandma Phillips drove in their two-horse spring wagon to visit the newlyweds in Yountville. Being in their seventies, that would have been quite a long trip over the Alexander and Knight's Valleys, Calistoga, and St. Helena. So I assume they

were prepared to stop and camp one night along the way. They reported that the "late heavy frosts had burned all the new growth of vineyards along the way."

During the seven years my folks were in Yountville, they became parents of three sons, the youngest of whom died in infancy and is buried in the family plot in the Yountville cemetery, where also my father, mother, and oldest brother Walton are interred.

Oakland - the next thing to a ranch

In 1900 the folks transferred to the Bay Area and rented a home in East Oakland where I was born August 25, 1902. In 1904 they built an eight-room home with a "bay window" on Mitchell St., the Fruitvale district, a short three block street off Foothill Blvd. between 27th and 28th Avenues. There were about six houses already on this street. One of our neighbors had a good well and water tank and had supplied the neighborhood with water. But by 1904 the street had been paved and gas pipes and city water had been connected.

Living in Fruitvale district of Oakland was the next thing to being on a ranch. I remember climbing the trees and swiping cherries, filling my "blouse" in nearby orchards. We had a stable with two horses and a cow, with pasture, chickens, garden, etc. with a sidewalk in front of the house. We had running water with flush toilets, the water tank was fastened about five feet over the bowl and was operated by a pull of the chain. At that time we had no electricity, with gas jets for lighting, gas for cooking and for heating the water tanks, which were similar to our present-day water heaters. Manually operated washing machines were replacing the old "scrub" board. I remember the clothes lines with pulleys, and also the frames for straightening and drying lace curtains, how the sheets were used to carefully cover the parlor furniture, to be uncovered only for company.

My first remembrance was falling off the back porch about ten feet and landing on my feet at age three while the carpenters were still building.

In 1904 my Grandpa Phillips passed away at age 82, in his home in town at 527 Fitch Street, which is still standing.

On April 18, 1906, the earthquake was my next recollection. I remember the bed in which I slept upstairs was rolling from one end of the room to the other. Our house faced the west, and from the upstairs gable window we could see the fire and smoke of San Francisco across the bay. Our only loss was part of a brick chimney.

Life on Dry Creek

Later that year Grandma Phillips persuaded my dad to move up from Oakland and run the Dry Creek ranch. The "old adobe" ranch house remained much the same as it was when my grandparents first lived there.

Across the road there was a huge barn with stalls to accommodate 12 horses with hay loft and storage for equipment and rigs. There was a spring about one-half mile back in the hills which had been dammed and pipes layed for the watering troughs in the barn yard. A big tall pepperwood tree, a hundred or more years old shaded most of the barn. Both have been eliminated in the last 40 years.

Ranchers from Skaggs Springs and the coast would herd their sheep down Dry Creek Road, and they would always stop at our barnyard and camp overnight.

My two older brothers, Walton and Eddie, attended the Dry Creek school in 1907 and 1908. They also had the usual ranch chores to do: feed the pigs and chickens, milk the cows, clean the barns, fill the mangers with hay, etc.

For diversion they conceived of the idea of "jousting". We used to have a lot of wooden barrels (I can't remember what came in them). The boys took the barrel heads, reinforced them with boards nailed crossways, nailed on pieces of old leather harness for arm and hand straps and they had their shields. Long, straight branches of trees, stripped of the leaves, served as jousting poles. Most of our horses were used for plowing, and I don't recall the type of horse they used for "jousting". Mounted, each would ride to opposite sides of the corral, at a signal they would gallop their steeds towards one another, each intent on dismounting the other. This sport was short-lived when my folks became aware of its possible consequences.

One day I was in the barn yard, and being thirsty I leaned over the old wooden watering trough to drink some from the pipe. The troughs sometimes accumulated green moss on the inside wood. It's slippery, and I slipped into the full trough. One of our hired help, a Mr. Yoakim, heard me splashing and yelling and pulled me out. Thanks, Charlie. He passed away about 15 years ago.

More excited about the colt

On the 21st of March, 1908, my folks celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. There was a lot of hustle and bustle in the preparation. In those days Klingle's Bakery, now the Home Bakery, had a weekly

horse-drawn route through Dry Creek, and one of the butcher shops had a weekly route also. Miscellaneous items had been ordered the week before. Of course, that was in the time that a "baker's dozen" meant 13.

Our next door neighbor one-fourth mile to the south, Marie (Mrs. Sam) Heaton, and Mrs. James Hendricks, one-fourth mile to the north, helped with preparations. On the appointed day all neighbors and friends came and enjoyed the festivities, and went.

Ten days later the "Stork" delivered a baby girl to my mother. A Mrs. Rose from Geyserville (whose grandsons Milton and Roger Rose still reside in Geyserville) was the midwife. That same day one of our mares gave birth to a slick little baby colt, "Alberta". My brothers, when they came home from school, were more excited about the colt than their little sister.

My mother had carried the baby so high that most of her friends, even her mother, were not aware that she was pregnant. I recall we had a Chinese lady cook filling in as a housekeeper.

I wore dresses

Up to the time my mother became pregnant, I had filled in as a substitute for a girl. Pictures show that I wore dresses (which was not uncommonly done in those days) with white lace collars, curls and buttoned shoes.



Major S. Phillips, Age 2
August, 1904

Grandma Phillips died in 1907, and in the fall of 1908, the ranch was divided, one-third for each of the surviving sons of D.D. Phillips, Walton, Ed, and Fred. My dad, who was not inclined towards farming, leased his 72+ acres to two Italians, Adamo Michele and his brother, and we moved back to our home in Oakland.

In 1909 I was enrolled in Fruitvale Grammar School four blocks from my home. My mother was still making my clothes, dark blue breeches and corduroy blouse with white "Lord Fauntleroy" collar, and of course black stockings and high buttoned shoes.

In our school there was only one black boy in the eight grades - he was in our class - George Cassidy by name. He was one of us, a nice, likeable kid. Each class in those days held about 35 to 50 kids, and there was respect shown with practically no disciplining necessary.

Back to Dry Creek

Well, in 1912 the lease on the Dry Creek ranch expired so my dad decided to try ranching again and back to Dry Creek we again moved.

My lifestyle changed. I now wore a shirt and bib overalls, milked the cows, fed the chickens, and walked 1½ miles to and from Dry Creek School. The same old one-room, one teacher, and eight grades. It hadn't changed since my folks attended there in the 1860's and 1870's. Same old wood stove and desks, same old salute to the flag, same old slate boards with chalk and erasers. Eight classes reciting the 3 R's with a little history and geography thrown in and a spelling bee every Friday afternoon. Oh yes, and a 1900 revision of all the old songs our parents sang plus a few modern tunes like "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree".

Both of my parents had attended, and graduated from the Dry Creek School. It was situated on the top of a hill covered with oak trees with a shed and stall for the teacher's horse.

In the early days one-room school houses were located about four miles apart so no kid had to walk over two miles to attend, unless some family was way up in the hills. On Dry Creek Road, the most northerly school was Hamilton, then Dry Creek, Lambert, and Manzanita Schools. They also served as meeting halls, etc. Each had its own bell and belfry, a wood stove and a "Chick Sales" outhouse, one or two-holer type with a crescent shaped sawn hole on the side and the old Sears Roebuck catalogue hanging on the inside wall in lieu of toilet tissue.

People could spend a lot of time in the outhouses - getting an education from those catalogues. Those catalogues were studied cover to cover, many times over.

I had a little trouble in adjusting myself to this new environment. I never was very large and although nearly half of the kids were my cousins, there were some bullies who tried to make life miserable. I don't have a belligerent nature, but I can take just so much. My two brothers were boxers and good wrestlers, and I had learned a few tricks. This one day, the big bully went too far. I grabbed him and threw him to the ground before he knew what happened. That ended the harrassing.

Farmers were self sufficient

Back in the 1850's and 1860's most of the Dry Creek area was planted to hay and grain. My dad told about farmers and later their sons forming crews and going from ranch to ranch mowing, windrowing, and harvesting the hay, also working on threshing machines readying the grain for the mill or mills in town. It was a cooperative sort of deal.

The average farmer was pretty much self sufficient, raising his own garden, family orchard, cattle for milk, butter, and beef, and pigs for lard. Lard was used to make soap in large iron cauldrons and was mixed with wood ashes. They salt-cured the pork and dried it in well insulated (thick rock or adobe walled) smoke houses. The farmer made his own sausages, pickled pig's feet, ears, etc. Some of the beef was corned, by what method I am not sure.

There was always a flock of chickens and turkeys. When unexpected company dropped in, either the wife or kids would run out, grab a couple of cockerels, ring their necks, dip them in hot water to loosen the feathers and pluck them clean using a piece of burning paper to singe the feathers. Then we had a quick entree for the dinner, with potatoes and gravy.

Saturday was barter day

Then, of course, there was bartering of produce for groceries, such as salt, pepper, sugar, spices, beans, and flour, with the stores in town.

My Grandma Miles Snider was a very frugal, proud lady, who when I knew her in my teens, leased the farm to her son, George Snider, who with his family of Aunt Annie and their 7 children lived in a house on the ranch.



The kids at Dry Creek School - 1914.

(L. to R.)

top: Jimmie LeBaron, Ruth Snider, Clarence Meeks, Kathleen Snider, Geraldine Phillips, Emmett Phillips, Marion LeBaron, Maude Snider, George Snider, Mary Reiners, Major Phillips, Myrtle Woodward, George Reiners, Lester James, Walter Barrett, Eddie LeGaron, Miss Grace Butler, Paul LeBaron. seated: Leslie Woodward, Eloise Belvail, Esther McGinnis, Lewis Cook, Dan McGinnis, Bernard Woodward.

Every Saturday, rain or shine, she would drive to town in her black covered buggy drawn by gentle old white "Dobbin". Rainy weather did not deter her, for she had side curtains and a heavy robe covering her lap and legs. Saturday was her barter day. With her eggs and butter she traded for other staples at the grocery store. First it was at A.F. Breiling's store on the corner of Healdsburg Avenue and North Street (later owned by J.C. Penney Co. and now the Arctic Circle).

When Breiling retired she traded with the Gromo Brothers, both friendly, likeable men. Sometimes John Gromo would slip an extra, like a banana or some other goody, in her grocery bag.

If she should see me in town Grandma Snider would give me a quarter to squander. With that I could see a movie and maybe buy an ice cream cornucopia after my music lesson from Mrs. Lansing, who also played the piano at the nickelodeon. Her studio and living quarters were in the upstairs of what is now the Healdsburg Inn.

One long, two short

During my early years on the ranch we had no electricity in the Valley. Although electricity first came to Healdsburg in the 1890's and service to town homes came in 1904, the rural valleys didn't have any kind of electricity until 1910 and then some ranches did without until the 1920's.

The electrical line eventually came from Healdsburg to just one mile south of the ranch. Another one came from Geyserville down Canyon Road and then turned north. It wasn't until 1925 that my uncle and I had the line extended to the ranch.

We did have a community telephone line for communication to neighbors. Each family had a different ring. The phone box contained a magneto, a set of bells similar to the ones in old mantel clocks, and a crank. With the receiver off the hook, one long crank alerted the telephone operator who would take the needed number for town or long distance calls and make the connection for you.

Our number used by people on our line was one long and two short rings. Different combinations of the long and short rings were used for those on our community line.

I'm not saying that neighbors did, but they could listen in on any or all conversations. It was pretty well known that one lady, having nothing better to do, would lie on her couch near the phone and listen to all conversations. It was said that she was known to snore and sometimes if there was nothing spicy, she would fall asleep and could be heard snoring.

The "Farmer's Walk" and "Bunny Hug"

The only other means of diversion were teas, where the neighbors club members could get together for gossip. The men usually had to wait until they went into town to get caught up on the news.

Driving into town, in buggies, surries, on horseback, or later in Fords or Buicks, on Saturdays was an event. We would go to the Nickelodeon and stay for the evening band concert in the Plaza.

That was the day; everyone from all over the Dry Creek area, Geyserville, Alexander Valley, and Windsor merged to listen to the Salvation Army Saturday night concert. Some, of course, had to stay home to do the chores, and later go to some dance, either the Odd Fellows in Windsor, the Odd Fellows Hall in Geyserville, a barn dance at Simmons', Wagele's or Plasberg's where the whole family, kids and all, danced until the clock struck 12, then after the midnight potluck we danced again until daybreak when it was then time to go home to the chores of the day.

Those were the days of the "Rag", "Farmer's Walk", "Two Step", "Three Step", "Turkey Trot", and the "Bunny Hug", with an occasional square dance or "Virginia Reel" or tag dance. With accordion, fiddle, and harmonica - it sounded pretty good.

Dry Creek Boys

Now, most of you know me, but there are few, if any, who remember my oldest brother, Walton Duval Phillips, whose forte

was body-building. His idols were "Gentleman Jim" Jeffries, Jim Corbett, and James Fitzsimmons, all heavyweight world champions of the late 1890's. An ex-marine of WWI, he worked for the S.P. but for many years was legislative secretary of his union out of Oakland.

My brother, Philip Edmund, was an avid baseball player. In 1912 he organized the "Dry Creek Cubs". The ranchers in Dry Creek donated their time, horses, and equipment to level off an area on the sand bar on what is now the George Brown Gravel Co. He enlisted Walton and Harold Phillips, Bob Plasberg, Henry and Ernest Witbro, Phil and Pete Ponzio, Walter Block and Louis Belvail, and had a very competitive team playing Healdsburg, Geyserville, Willits, and all comers. I was the bat boy and sold homemade lemonade at the games at 5¢ a drink to help buy uniforms and equipment. "Eddie" went on to play ball in the Marines during WWI, and was a member of the champion service team tournament at Treasure Island in 1919.

Harold Phillips, Patricia Phillips Schmidt's father, and I had a lot in common. Our fathers were brothers and our mothers were sisters. He was master of the Sotoyome Lodge #123 F. and A.M., as was I, 30 years later. He lost his only son, Larry, during WWII. I lost my only son, Thomas, in Vietnam in 1968.

You know, I think "a little bit of heaven fell from out the sky" and settled in and around beautiful Dry Creek Valley. Truly "there's no place on earth that I love more sincerely" than the Valley and our friendly, cozy little town of Healdsburg.

EDITORIAL

Recent events, namely a widely-publicized one-person controversy over this editor's refusal to publish a certain article in the "Recorder", warrants some comment about what local history is, and what is the purpose of publications like the "Recorder".

Each local historical publication sets out its own scope and goals. Since its founding by the Healdsburg Historical Society in 1976 with Edwin Langhart as its editor, the "Russian River Recorder's" purpose has been to record and research the history of the Healdsburg area.

This means, basically, that we put the time, money, and effort into publishing what most others outside of the area have little interest in - our local history. Further, that we strive to record the "facts", whenever possible, and make an interpretation only when those facts clearly warrant it.

This editor believes that there is enough of interest in our own northern Sonoma County area to fill every "Recorder" we might publish, and then some. I also believe that a one-page first-person account of local history by someone who lived it, or one page of solid local historical research, is worth 50 pages of historic interpretation, especially when that interpretation has a clear political axe to grind. I also believe that events and situations in other parts of the state or nation are not necessarily applicable to situations in the Healdsburg area.

In fact, that's what makes local history so important. We tell this story, not any story.

The "Recorder" welcomes comments on these views or any others that appear in its pages.

Teenage Rancheros on the Tzabaco The Piñas of Dry Creek

by Hannah M. Clayborn

In 1843 a 14 year old boy was legally granted about 17,000 acres of prime land in what is now northern Sonoma County. If you find that hard to believe, just consider the fact that he first scouted out and chose the land at about age 11, and had a residence and the foundations of a large cattle ranch there by the age of 12.

The misspelling of that boy's name in a seminal 1888 history of California (Bancroft), and an 1862 report of court cases involving land grants in California (Hoffman's Reports), has left this surprisingly precocious early California rancher in the dim dustbin of history - until now.

With a little luck and perseverance, it was not difficult to unravel the century old mystery of German Pina (a.k.a. "German Pena"). Just as interesting is the history of his large family and their fate on the land "known as Tzabaco".

Before the Piñas

The original inhabitants of Dry Creek Valley were a group known by different names by different people. The group probably referred to themselves as the Mihilkaune for their proximity to a creek (now Dry Creek) which they called by the same name. These people may have originally numbered up to 800 individuals, and had a principal village at the confluence of Pena and Dry Creeks, most likely known as "Cawako" or "Amalako" (Theodoratus, Peri, et al 1975)

The Mihilkaune had a complex culture which probably began to be disrupted soon after 1817, when the Mission San Rafael was founded by the Spanish colonial clergy. European diseases brought to California by the Early Russian and Spanish/Mexican settlers as well as kidnapping or recruitment and military campaigns by the Spanish/Mexican military and clergy, reduced the original Mahilkaune population considerably by the time young Jose German Pina arrived in the valley in about 1840.

Son of a Soldier

German (Spanish for Herman) Pina was the son of Lazaro Pina who was born in Mexico City in 1797. Lazaro Pina came to northern (Alta) California with the Mexican military in 1819, and in 1823 married Maria Placida Villela at Mission San Francisco de Assis (now Mission Delores).

Placida Villela was a Californian born at Branciforte near Santa Cruz in 1805. Her father, Juan Manuel Marcos Villela, born in Real de Tecuache, Mexico, came to California with Anza in 1775 and was one of the original settlers at San Jose in 1777. In 1786 Juan Manuel married an Indian neophyte, Maria Carrillo Virediana, who had been baptised at San Carlos Mission near Monterey in 1774. Placida was the youngest of seven of their daughters, six of whom had "Maria" as a first name. (Pina family records; Bancroft i p. 312,744; Espediente #229)

Lazaro Pina played a small but significant role in California history and first appears in Bancroft's history in connection with the revolt of the Mexican military in California against the regime of Governor Echeandia in 1829.

The leader of this revolt to put all government offices in the hands of Californians was Joaquin Solis, a convict ranchero living near the Presidio at Monterey. Solis was serving a sentence in California for committing "brutal crimes". After Solis' campaign in Alta California, he headed back south to defend Mission Santa Barbara. A 32 year old corporal stationed at Monterey, Lazaro Pina, accompanied Solis as an artillery officer on the trip south. (iii,p.76)

In the same year that Lazaro rode with the rebel Solis, his second son, Jose de German, was born at the Mission San Francisco de Assis. Another son, Jose de Jesus, had been born in Monterey in 1826.(iv,p.780)

Lazaro and Placida and their growing family moved frequently between Alta California presidios. In 1832 Lazaro, now a sergeant stationed at Mission San Rafael, was sent out in charge of a retaliatory expedition when that mission was "attacked by savages". (iii,p.716)

In 1837 Lazaro was made corporal of a cavalry company at San Francisco, but by 1838, Pina was under the command of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. Pina appears to have served as the General's right hand man, and was sometimes in charge of the fort at Sonoma while Vallejo was absent. (iii, p.780)

Vallejo even sent Pina to kill an Indian neophyte named Roman at Mission San Rafael in 1838. Roman had allegedly confessed to the 1828 rape and murder of a young Mexican boy and girl while their parents had left them alone to attend a fandango at San Francisco. A young Mexican military man, Francisco Rubio, had been charged and executed for the famous and controversial crime in 1831. (iii,p.193)

In 1840 Alvarez (second lieutenant) Pina was instructed to serve as General Vallejo's mouthpiece in a ticklish political situation involving the Russians at Bodega. An American ship, the Lausanne had landed at Bodega, then occupied by the Russian trading company under manager Rotcheff. The ship's captain had hoped to find an "open port", trade with the Russians, and land his passengers without paying anchorage dues or duties to the Mexicans.

Hearing of the landing, General Vallejo sent Alvarez Pina with soldiers to Bodega to collect fees and inform Rotcheff that Bodega was a Mexican, not Russian, port. When Rotcheff received Pina's message he was enraged, accusing Vallejo of insulting behavior (through Pina), and raised the Russian flag in defiance. Rotcheff also helped five or six foreigners (Americans) from the ship to reach safety in Sacramento. Vallejo ordered Pina not to retaliate but to warn Rotcheff that he would be held responsible for the entrance of the foreigners. (iv,p. 172)

By 1840 Lazaro Pina was the father of six sons and one daughter, Clara. In that year he applied for, and was granted, about 2,800 acres of land near Sonoma which he named "Agua Caliente" (hot water).

There is some question as to whether Pina was acting for himself or as a frontman for General Vallejo in petitioning for this grant. In 1854 Vallejo claimed that the land was sold to him by Pina before it was even officially granted, and the court confirmed the largest part of the land to Vallejo in 1859. Vallejo would have been trying to circumvent the Mexican law stating that no individual or family could be granted more than 11 square leagues (about 27.5 square miles) of land. Vallejo already owned two other grants in the county. However, Pina never received any money from Vallejo for that land. (Hoffman Reports p.100; Expediente #229; family records)

Adolescent Settler

It was about this time, 1840, that Lazaro's second son, Jose German Pina, then 11 years old, began to visit northern Sonoma County. At that time it was known as the "Frontier of Sonoma".

According to the later testimony of Cyrus Alexander, who was managing the Sotoyome Rancho belonging to the San Diego sea captain Enrique Fitch by 1840, German "in the first instance" tried to settle on Fitch's 48,800 acre rancho. When Alexander told the adolescent Pina that the land was already claimed, Jose German moved farther north, settling in what is now Dry Creek Valley, and soon after built a residence.

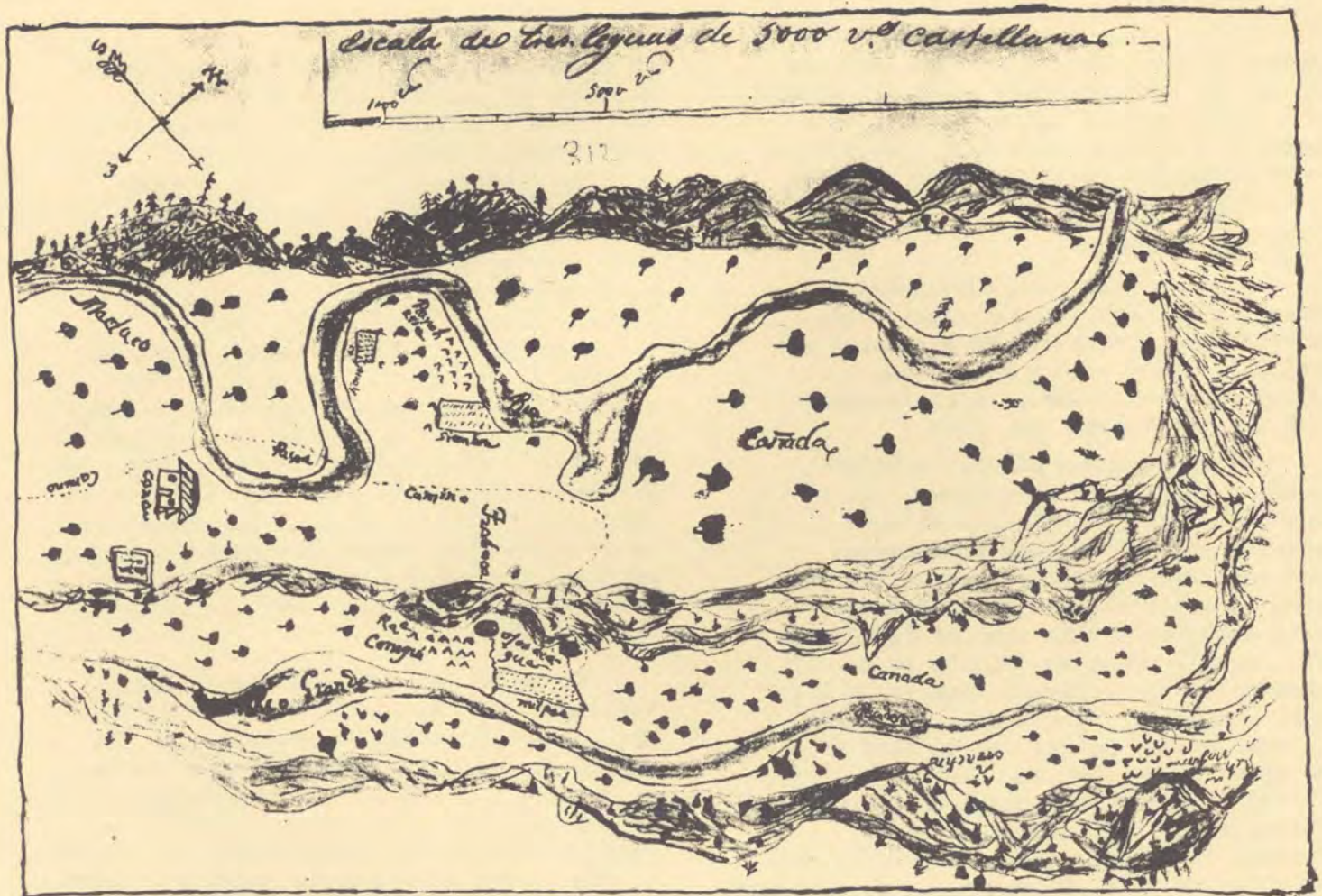
Jose de Jesus Pina, German's older brother, testified that he joined German in the "valley known as Tzabaca" in 1841. (Land Claims Commission, 1858)

It is presumed that this was the year, 1841, that the brothers built the "Pena Adobe" which still stands on Dry Creek Road, and which shall hereafter be properly called the "Pina Adobe".

Some sources, as yet undocumented, indicate that the adobe was built as a fortification against the Indians (Tuomey p.424; Finley p.92) with an adobe storehouse outbuilding and surrounding both of these, a defensive adobe wall. Some sources (Major S. Phillips) suggest that oral tradition maintains that the adobe was built by the Mexican military in 1834, and that later there were two adobe outbuildings, one for food storage and one for ammunition.

This last is interesting in that 1834 was the year of the almost legendary "Indian campaigns" of Governor Juan Figuero and General Vallejo against the "Satiyome" Indians (as Vallejo called them) of northern Sonoma County led by Chief Succara. Bancroft doubts the truth of Vallejo's and other's accounts of these wars, which allegedly caused the death of seven soldiers and hundreds of "Satiyomes". (iii,p.256,360,721)

It is established that there was a cannon on the property in the early 1900's, probably a small cannon that shot 2 pound balls. (Major S. Phillips) Several 2 pound cannon balls have been dug up in the vicinity of the adobe and are in the Healdsburg Museum collections. The cannon's whereabouts are unknown, so proving its origin would probably be impossible.



1843 Diseno map that accompanied German Pena's 1843 petition for approximately 17,000 acres of the Tzabaco Rancho

This crudely drawn map was not drawn to scale and is oriented incorrectly. The river at top marked "Ria" is the present Dry Creek. The river at bottom marked "Rio Grande" is the present Russian River. Healdsburg would be off beyond the left of the map. The area marked "ojo de agua" on the Russian River would be at the present site of Geyserville. The house shown on the map is the original Pina adobe, still standing on Dry Creek Road.

Key: "Escala del tres leguas de 5000 vs castellanas" (Scale of three leagues [2.5 miles] to 5000 Castillian varas); "Madaco": uncertain, may be misspelling of "Madera" or lumber. "Pasos": river crossing at Dry Creek. "Camino": road which once crossed Dry Creek and roughly followed Canyon Road to northeast of the present Geyserville. "Caza": misspelling of casa, house. "Rancheria": Indian village with Indian dwellings shown as inverted "V's". "Siembra": grain fields. "Tzabaca": name given to rancho. "Ra'c Canogia": meaning Rancheria Canogia, an Indian village. "ojo de a-gua": spring of water. "milpas": cornfields or kitchen garden. "Canada": valley. "Pescadera": fishery, fish dam of Wappo Indian tribe that lived in that region of Alexander Valley. [inverted] "orrachno": apparently an Indian village. "Rch'a Mogamos": Rancheria Mogamos, an Indian village in the vicinity of the present Cloverdale area

Note: some of the words are almost illegible and subject to interpretation; part of the above interpretation by C. Raymond Clar, 1971; map from California State Archives.

What the young Mexican boys, aged 12 and 14, found when they first settled in the valley were no doubt several well established "rancherias" (Indian villages). The largest of these was situated at the confluence of Pina and Dry Creeks, as previously mentioned.

There is good evidence that the Dry Creek area, known then as the "Tzabaco" or "Tzabaca", was a center for the local Mihilaukne population and that that population did not always approve of the presence of the Pina boys. The Pinas apparently displaced one of the main rancherias

in the valley. (Revere,p.116) Although all of the early ranchos used the Indians as a cheap form of labor, the Indians working on ranchos were also less likely to be kidnapped by the Mexican soldiers or herded to reservations.

Teenage Grantee

In 1843 German Pina considered it necessary to petition for legal title to the Tzabaco Rancho. He presented a petition, along with a diseno map (see page10) to Governor Micheltorena in Monterey on Sept. 14, 1843.

The whereabouts of that original document in Spanish is unknown. A copy of a later translation of the petition and the various communiques from government officials about the grant is available at the California State Archives. This copy of Espediente #312 spells the name "Pina", as do all other original documents, including all legal documents, that I have uncovered.

Jose German petitioned in 1843 "To the Senor Commandant and General and Political Chief of both Californias". The illiterate 14 year old was probably assisted in the petition. He states that he is "a resident of Sonoma and established in said place." This may mean anywhere in the vicinity, the entire region being known as the Frontier of Sonoma. German continues, "that finding myself with my Father, advanced in years, and engaged in the military service as an artilleryman" (artilleryman Lazaro Pina was 46 years old) "has himself some stock and needing a place for the security of the same, I pray Your Excellency, to be pleased to grant me a tract of land of four square leagues (approximately 17,000 acres) bounded by the lands of Don Enrique Fitch; for which purpose I present the accompanying map of the lands petitioned for, known by the name of Tzabaco; Your Excellency, contributing in this manner to the happiness of my large family, which is now without any security for its interests and for its support and welbeing."

In 1843, when this petition was presented, the Mexican government was anxious to grant tracts of frontier land to Mexican citizens in order to halt the perceived threat of foreign occupation. According to Bancroft the "original Spanish occupation of 1769 was a colonization scheme ...ultimately, and soon as was vainly hoped, California was to be a country of towns and farms occupied by descendants

of the soldiers, civilized Indians, and settlers of various races from abroad, the whole a community of tribute-paying, God-fearing, Spanish citizens.(vi p. 530)

The scheme continued after Mexican Independence in 1822, especially after 1833, when Governor Figueroa instituted two colonization measures that brought about the granting of an average of 53 tracts of land a year until 1846.

Under Mexican law and regulations any citizen, or family, could petition for up to 11 leagues (approximately 27.5 square miles) of vacant, unclaimed land, providing he had good character and an ability to use the land. Certainly, as our case attests, age was not a critical consideration. It is possible that German waited two years to petition for the grant so that he could reach the age of reason under ecclesiastic law, the age of 14.

No doubt German's soldier father, Alfarez Lararo Pina, right hand man of General Vallejo, had an influence in the speedy granting by Governor Micheltorena, on October 14, 1843, of approximately 17,000 acres to a teenager. General Vallejo's report to Micheltorena on October 9, 1843, confirms that the land petitioned for is "vacant and does not belong to any individual...and is not included within the twenty leagues bordering on a foreign (Russian) territory; the petitioner is a Mexican by birth and owns sufficient stock to put on such place and has the means of cultivating the same". Y esto era todo.

The wording of German's petition is also good evidence that Lazaro Pina had already sold (or given away) the Agua Caliente grant near Sonoma, as Vallejo later claimed.

"Fundacion" of a Rancho

As the 1843 diseno map shows, the Pina family had already built an adobe house and what appears to be an adobe corral - or had the Indians build it for them. They had planted orchards and "milpas" (kitchen garden or cornfield) and "siembra" (grainfields), and may have had some kind of lumbering operation, "Madaca" meaning probably "Madera" (lumber).

The family may also have built another adobe house on the west side of the Russian River at the spot marked "ojo de aguas" (spring) sometime in the year 1842 or 1843. This would be at the present site of the town of Geyserville. The Pinas, along with hired vaqueros and Indians, cultivated and enclosed vineyards, grainfields and orchards

on the east side of the Russian River opposite the spring. The hired help apparently lived in tents or other dwellings near these fields.

The rancho was primarily a cattle ranch, however, run with stock belonging to German and his father.

Naval officer Joseph Revere's account of an 1846 journey in Alta California tells us something of the probable lifestyle of the Pinas of Tzabaco Creek.

According to Revere rancheros generally chose the month of March for the "fundacion" or establishment of their farms. First building himself a "house of boughs" the rancho steadily improved his estate. He purchased about 100 cattle initially, 30 or 40 horses, and usually sheep and poultry. These herds and flocks would then increase year by year.

"Ganada Bronco" at the "Matanzas"

Revere, the grandson of famed Paul Revere, was quite taken with the "buxom and robust" rancho ladies, and the vastness of the California ranchos. He found romance in the weekly "r6deos" when "ganada bronco" (wild cattle) would be gathered and counted. Neighboring rancheros would attend to pick out their own "fierro" (brand) and "senal" (ear mark), and take their wandering cattle home.

Every rancho had a kitchen garden usually fenced with brush, or protected from livestock by a group of Indian dwellings. Revere found the sun-baked clay brick "casas" of the rancho "primitive and patriarchal", and essentially very similar to each other. He was also plainly awestruck at the skilled horsemanship of the Indian and Mexican vaqueros, especially at the yearly "matanzas" (slaughter) when stock was killed for the hide, tallow, and meat. This served as the rancho family's yearly income.

"Thus amidst clouds of dust, through which might be caught indistinct glimpses of agitated horns, fierce-rolling eyeballs and elevated tails - an occasional wild-looking, naked Indian vaquero, with his hair and top-knot streaming out, or a Californian vaquero, known by his fluttering serape - the bellowing, rushing herd approached the corral" (Revere, p. 117)

Chief Colorado Confronts Pina

Revere actually visited the Tzabaco Rancho in 1846. Coming down the mountains from Clear Lake he first stopped at the rancho of Don Fernando Feliz and his family (now Hopland area) Feliz's son joined Revere's party as they travelled down the Russian River.

"A certain Indian chief named Pinole Colorado", so named for his red skin paint, also joined the party. Colorado had decorated himself with the feathers, head and claws of a bald eagle shot by one of Revere's men. The chief wanted to make an impressive entrance to his rancheria on the Pina rancho.

On the way the party also captured and killed a grizzly bear, and saw an abandoned Indian rancheria. The chief Colorado told Revere that the Spaniards had killed or captured the inhabitants.

When the party reached the Pina rancho Chief Colorado surprised Revere. "It appeared that old Colorado had accompanied me thus far to make use of my authority to reinstate his tribe in their rancheria and territory lying in the very center of Chino Pina's rancho." Revere refused to interfere and "Colorado laid all the blame of my refusal to young Chino, and insulted him before my face; whereupon to avoid bloodshed...I had him taken into custody ...with orders to make him ride on before, and if he attempted to escape, to shoot him."

Chief Pinole Colorado did escape, however, without being shot.

Revere and his party then went on to the Sotoyome Rancho near the present site of Healdsburg where they witnessed a matanzas in progress, supervised by Moses Carson (brother of Kit Carson) who was now managing Captain Fitch's cattle ranch.

The family falters

By 1846 "young Chino" Pina (Mexican nickname meaning "curly") was apparently having trouble with the original inhabitants of his rancho. Now 17 years old, Chino (Jose German) and his brothers, 20 year old Jesus (Jose de Jesus), 15 year old Antonio, 14 year old Pancho (Francisco), 12 year old Luis, and another 11 year old relative, Juan, were running the rancho.

Another brother, Feliciano, born in Monterey in 1832, was probably dead by that time. Clara, a ten year old sister was also living on the ranch.

Placida Villela Pina, the children's mother, had died in 1844. Lazaro had remarried soon after a teenage girl, "Maria Ignacia Potcheco". Her sons, Lorenzo and Natividad, were living on the ranch. Lazaro and Maria Ignacia may have had one daughter, also named Clara. (Probate #17,71; family records; Bancroft iv p.780; 1850 census)

Alvarez Lazaro Pina, the patriarch, left California soon after the United States went to war with Mexico in 1846. He fought with Santiana in Mexico and died at the Battle of Cerro Gordo in 1847. (family records; Bacroft iv, p. 780)

One note of irony is that D.D. Phillips also fought in the battle of Cerro Gordo on the side of the Americans. He bought Pina's adobe and land just a decade later.

In 1847 Jose German (a.k.a. Chino) Pina became ill. It is difficult not to imagine the scene, an 18 year old, soon to be forgotten by history, lying on a cot at Mission San Francisco de Solano in Sonoma. His last will and testament, witnessed by two Mexican officials at pueblo Sonoma, and written out in Spanish by the parish padre, Presbitero Prudencia Santillon, is dated June 17, 1847. He died a few days later.

"Yo German Piñon"

This document must be one of the most devout, thoughtful, and revealing documents of its kind in the county. Fully one half of the lengthy text is devoted to the statements of his religious beliefs and invokes the entire saintly hierarchy of the Catholic religion including, "the whole of the Saints, male and female" to aid his soul on its journey to heaven. The fear is almost palpable.

The rest of the text contains a detailed accounting of all that he owed to, and all that owed him. The list of debtors and debtees includes many of the prominent rancheros in the county including, "Don Manuel Torres, Don Natan Espear, Moises Carson, Marcos West, Don Mariano Vallejo, and Don Juan Cooper." It also points out what must have been a common practice in the area in the 1840's, namely that often a rancho would graze another's cattle on his land in exchange for one half the increase in the herd per year.

While colts and cattle were meticulously listed only passing mention is made of the 17,000 acres of the Tzabaco Rancho, which was divided equally between his four surviving brothers and one sister.

Land was cheap. It was appraised a few years later at \$.18 an acre, but one cow was worth \$25.

German thoughtfully provided for the cost of his burial by the trade of the horses that would be used to pull his hearse.

The estate that the teenage rancho left in 1847 would be worth today something in excess of 31 million dollars.

Squatters and Squabbles

With the death of Lazaro Pina and his son German, the fortunes of the Pina family on the Tzabaco Rancho go slowly into decline. When Lazaro left California to fight in the Mexican War he left his family in the care of his old commandant, General Vallejo. (family records) Vallejo had an odd way of caring for them. It is a long and disheartening story, but so typical of the fate of California families after the Mexican War, that it will be summarized here.

None of the Pina family could read or write, or even sign their name, in Spanish or in English. Since all of the Pina boys had been busy running a large cattle ranch since adolescence, this is no wonder. The oldest boy, Jose de Jesus, was named executor of German's estate in the will.

The remaining four brothers at the time of German's death, Jesus, Antonio, Luis, and Francisco, and his sister Clara, continued to live on the rancho. By 1850 Antonio had a child by Maria Silvas, an Indian. The child was named Maria Antonia. (Probate #229). It is probable that other of the brothers, including German had common law Indian wives.

By 1849 Americans were swarming into California and by the early 1850's settlers were approaching the Pina heirs to sell them land on the Tzabaco. John Knight offered to buy land in 1852, D.D. Phillips inquired in 1855. Both were turned down.

A problem was developing for the Pinas. Squatters were beginning to settle in one area of the rancho, later known as Geyserville, and these squatters were contesting the boundary lines of the original grant. Elisha Ely and Davenport Cozzens both came in 1851. By 1854 Archibald Godwin supposedly built a store indicating the presence of other settlers.

There are no records of actual disputes between the Pinas and the squatters at this time, however.

To further complicate matters for the Pinas a survey by Deputy Surveyor Whitacre, under Surveyor General John Hays in 1853, seemed to indicate that the upper Alexander Valley bordering the Russian River near the present Geyserville was not part of the Tzabaco. (Clar, p.118)

The hearings before the Land Claims Commission regarding the legality of the Mexican grant were conducted between 1852 and 1855. On January 30, 1854 General Mariano Vallejo testified that he was familiar with the area, and that the Tzabaco Rancho only included the Dry Creek Valley, extending from hill to hill on each side of the "Tzabaco Creek" and did not include any part of the Russian River valley. (Clar p.117)

As the most influential Mexican in this part of the new American territory, this was damning testimony by Vallejo. Despite his testimony against the Pina heirs, the Commission confirmed the Tzabaco grant to the Pina heirs on June 26, 1855 and final decree given by District Court on April 2, 1857.

The boundaries of the confirmed grant were ambiguously described as "the boundaries called for within said grant, and the map to which the grant refers", meaning the original 1843 diseno and petition. (U.S. Patent Tzabaco Rancho) That 1843 map clearly shows the upper Alexander Valley bordering the river as part of the rancho.

An Expensive Executor

Meanwhile, back at the rancho, the Pinas were having other problems. German's younger brother Antonio died on April 16, 1853. In his will Antonio named General Vallejo as executor of his estate, and left that estate to his brothers and to "my daughter Maria Anta." (Probate #71)

Jesus had never officially executed German's 1847 will and so the original 17,000 acre grant had never been officially divided into fifths. This is not surprising, as ranchos were viewed as extended family operations by the Mexican Californians.

General Vallejo served as executor for both Pina estates after April, 1853. At the same time he was executor for the estate of Mark West.

It is interesting to note that Vallejo, in a letter to the probate court April 20, 1853, summarily dismissed Antonio's half Pomo daughter, Maria Antonia's claim to the estate because she was illegitimate, even though she is named specifically in her father's will. She was only three years old at the time.

On June 30, 1853 Vallejo submitted an inventory and hired appraisal of Antonio's estate, excluding the land, which amounted to \$177 worth of belongings (one each trunk, hat, rifle, saddle, whip, bit, serape, mule, and three horses).

On August 4, 1853 the same appraisers inventoried German's estate, consisting of four square leagues of land (\$20,000), and \$5,075 worth of livestock (9 oxen, 79 head of cattle, 40 horses, 70 mares with colts).

Vallejo reported the sale of 61 head of cattle to the highest bidder (M.E. Cook) at \$17 a head) and nine oxen to Jesus Pina at \$25 each on Oct. 24, 1853. The document was notarized by M.E. Cook the "highest bidder".

Vallejo reported on German's estate in July, 1854, stating that he personally, had received \$21.15 from the proceeds of the estate, had expended \$610 for administration, and had advanced \$1,615 to the heirs, "for which I have receipts". That last was interesting since the Pinas were illiterate.

On court order Vallejo finally reported one year later regarding German's estate (both estates become one to the court after 1855). Vallejo stated that of the original \$5,075 worth of livestock, \$3151 had been received from sales (18 cows and 21 horses were unsold). \$1,625 had been advanced to the heirs, and \$609.81 had been spent on administration, a total expended of \$2,234.81.

The very next day William Fitch, husband of Clara Pina Fitch, an heir, petitioned the court for removal of General Vallejo as administrator, charging that he had never settled with the heirs, and also charging mismanagement. Vallejo entered a hastily written letter that same day stating, "I have not received any money or property of said estate. There is not sufficient property of said estate to pay costs of administration and...I have paid of my own money about \$200 of debts against estate." Vallejo also asked to be released from his duties as executor.

The numbers don't add up. Even with the unsold stock, the estate should have had about \$1,000 unexpended funds.

Here the file breaks. According to one later account Vallejo was released from executorship and the estates were declared insolvent. Another account says that Vallejo died in 1890 leaving the estate unadministered.

Vallejo's involvement with the Pina estate makes his 1854 testimony to the Land Claims Commission even more puzzling (or less).

In the matter of the
Estate of German Pina Dec'd. }
I do hereby apply
for authority to sell all
the personal property of the
Estate of German Pina -
This application is
made on the ground that
said Estate is indebted to
various persons
That said property
consists of Horses, Cattle
The expense of taking of
which will be very expensive
to said estate
Date Aug. 12, 1853 -
M.G. Vallejo

"In the matter of the Estate of German Pina Dec'd. I do hereby apply for authority to sell all the personal property of the Estate of German Pina. This application is made on the ground that said Estate is indebted to various persons. That said property consists of Horses, Cattle, etc. The expense of taking of which will be very expensive to said estate.
Date Aug. 12, 1853 M.G. Vallejo"

Why did Vallejo testify that the Pina rancho only included Dry Creek Valley? An attorney in a later land hearing (1858) suggested that Vallejo had designs on the upper Alexander Valley lands. (Clar, p.118)

The Pinas Depart

After the 1855 estate debacle and Land Commission decision the Pina heirs began to sell off parts of the Tzabaco. Financial and settler's pressure probably both played a part. D.D. Phillips bought the adobe and surrounding 250 acres in 1856. The brothers waited until 1858 to sell the remainder of their interests to Captain John B. Frisbee for \$29,000. Clara Pina Fitch sold her one-fifth interest in the rancho to Jose Luco, who resold it to Frisbee six months later for \$16,000.

Frisbee had married General Vallejo's daughter, Epifania, in 1851, and his brother, L.C. Frisbee had married another of Vallejo's daughters.

Now, with Frisbee as claimant, sworn testimony was once more taken by the Land Claims Commission and several prominent early settlers and officials including Cyrus Alexander, Jasper O'Farrel, and Jacob Lesse, all agreed that the upper Alexander Valley on both sides of the Russian River was a part of the Tzabaco Rancho, and further that all neighboring rancheros had always agreed on that point. (except Vallejo in 1854).

An April, 1858 survey by Deputy Surveyor, C.C. Tracy confirmed the testimonies, and the case was finally and irrevocably settled by United States Land Patent, with Tracy's survey map attached, dated October 4, 1859, and containing exactly 15,439.32 acres.

Some squatters ignored even this patent, and Frisbee had his own problems in the Geyserville area, finally solved by attorney L.A. Norton. Or so Norton says in his autobiography.

But what of the heirs of the 14 year old grantee of 1843?

By 1860 only Francisco (Pancho) Pina lived in the Valley, but he owned no land. Some accounts say he married a Pomo, Juana Cook, and that he helped her family escape the death march to Mendocino reservation in the late 1850's. (Theodoratus et al)

Antonio's illegitimate daughter, Maria Antonia, filed a claim to her part of her father's estate through her guardians William and Clara Pina Fitch in 1862. The courts denied the claim. William Fitch made a final claim to Antonio Pina's estate in 1891, even though his wife, Clara, and Maria Antonia were

both long dead by that time. The courts again denied the claim.

Luis Pina married Beatrice Cecelia Feliz, whose father owned the large Senal Rancho near Hopland. They lived near Hopland until their deaths. Their daughter Josephine Grace Pina, married a Peter Isham McCain and their descendants now live in Visalia.

Almost everyone including major historians forgot the Dry Creek Pinas. But in 1895 about 250 Dry Creek ranchers suddenly remembered them. In that year Luis Pina, the last surviving brother, tried to name his friend, Joaquin Carrillo, administrator to his brother Antonio's "unadministered" 1853 estate. This would have put the ownership of one-fifth of the original rancho land in question.

Attorney E.M. Norton and others jumped to the defense of the approximately 250 Dry Creek landowners that would be effected, charging Luis Pina with "improvidence and want of understanding and integrity" among other things.

The court agreed that the Antonio Pina estate was long since conveyed to others, and that therefore the estate did not really exist.

And thus ended the existence, even on paper, of the Tzabaco Rancho. The "four square leagues of land" that was to be the livelihood, estate, and "security" of the Pina family of California for generations to come, in reality lasted less than 15 years.

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Special thanks to C. Raymond Clar, formerly of Sonoma County, a generous man of true investigative spirit - and a great help.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

A Walk through Time

The Society's recent walking tour of historic houses on Johnson Street was a wonderful event. We enjoyed fine performances by the cast of historical characters in front of 12 different homes and were able to view the interiors of two homes.

Some of the highlights included Sherriff "Sunny Jim" Petray (John Ballachey) brandishing his gun and warning us to "stay off the posies", a delightful sea chanty sung by whaling captain William Kelley (Richard Ward) and his wife Jane (Hannah Clayborn), and the history of the Gridley Clement home told by Mrs. Clement herself wearing her 1930's wedding dress. Other performers not already mentioned were Dr. and Mrs. Swisher (Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Ritz), John King (Dr. Francis Ritz), Mr. John Cook (Terry Baucher) and Maggie Cook (Robin Wood), Mrs. Meisner (Frances Etchell), Mrs. Jim Petray (Carla Howell), and Ellen White (Barbara Ward).

The event ended on the lawn of the Grape Leaf Inn where wine and cheese were served.

Buy Healdsburg - in 1884!

The Society and Mariner Graphics have recently produced two poster-size mementos of early Healdsburg. One is a wonderfully detailed lithograph of Healdsburg in 1884, entitled, "A Bird's Eye View of Healdsburg". Almost every home and tree was drawn with care as if from aloft in a hot-air balloon overlooking the town.

The other view is a copy of a photo of a Floral Festival held on the plaza in 1895. The old belltower is bedecked in boughs and it looks as though the whole town is out and dressed to the nines.

Both of these poster-size views are suitable for framing and both can be yours for just \$2.50, on sale at the Museum.

Memorial donations to the Society have been received in memory of:

Doug Badger Marjorie Eachus
Thomas Phillips

MUSEUM NEWS

Now Showing

Without a doubt, the most popular exhibit that the museum has ever had is "We Came to Healdsburg, Collections that Survived the Journey to California". This show, which will last through October, has been a hit since it first opened. Held over the summer by popular demand, you still have time to see it if you haven't already. From the comments we have received from the public we think we have successfully recreated the mood, concerns, and adventures of the 1850's.

Behind the Scenes: What a collection! The museum's artifact collection continues to grow. Although storage areas are slightly overcrowded now, these new items will be of great importance in our new old library building. Cataloging has been the main work at the museum in the past two months. Not so exciting? We think so.

Donations

Artifact donations to the museum have been received from:

April McDonald	Lucille O'Conner
Cecil Petray	Major Phillips
Sue Gill	Evelyn Iversen
Frank Johnson	Barbara Rosasco
Larry LeGallee	Alice Burgett
Pat Schmidt	Mr. & Mrs. Zobel
Gary Rosenberg	Inez Bell
Marie Ross	Ida Mayburn
C. Leon Hendricks	

Welcome to new museum and Historical Society members:

Dorothy Buechy	Veda Ousley
John Pallette	Amelia Rogers
Ruth Siminini	Dorothy J. Walters
Brad Withereil	John Youngblood
Healdsburg Optometrists	

We acknowledge with regrets the following Historical Society members who have passed away in recent months:

Marjorie Eachus Doug Badger

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Healdsburg Historical Society

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Untangling a Web of Mystery

In the Spring, 1985 issue of the "Recorder" we published a 1914 "mystery". On Oct. 15, 1914 long shreds of a gauze-like material fell all over downtown Healdsburg.

Dr. Francis Ritz was able to correctly identify the mysterious stuff - spider webs! A tiny species of spider spins long strands of web. A strong wind carries the web, along with the tiny spider clinging to it, sometimes hundreds of miles. That is how the spider migrates.

One strong wind in 1914 carried hundreds of these fellows to downtown Healdsburg. Sort of a group tour. But the little fellows knew a good place to live when they saw it.