



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

SPRING 1998 • ISSUE 60

An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society

Artifacts

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Calderwood

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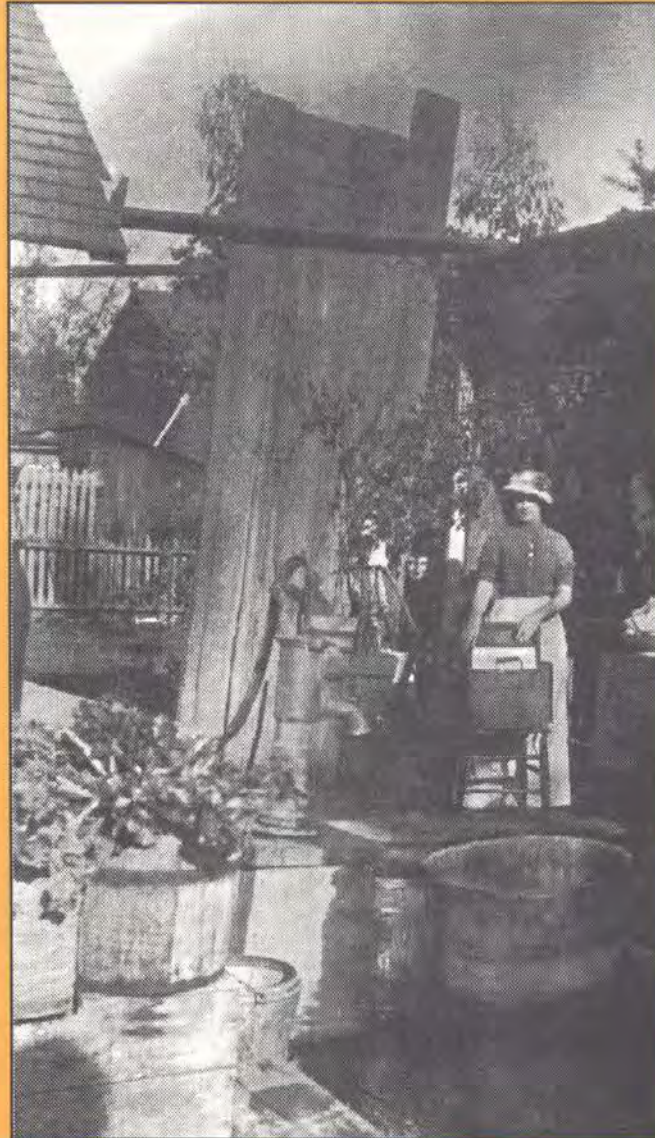
Victorian

Inn

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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

*The Official Publication of the Healdsburg
Museum and Historical Society*

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IN THIS ISSUE

The theme for this issue of the Russian River Recorder is Women's Work in keeping with the new exhibit now on display in the east gallery. Our curator, Marie Djordjevich has written two very scholarly and informative articles about "Women's Work" She tells us about the work women did in the early years - in the home and farm - and how in later years their work expanded into the work place - retail establishments, education, newspapering, agriculture and businesses such as banking. A fascinating report

there were so many facets to the story it was difficult to stay focused on the history of the home.

Also in keeping with our theme, assistant Curator Holly Hoods, in her series on churches in Healdsburg, gives us a profile of a dedicated church member who devoted her life, talents and energies to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. At the same time she also gives us a brief history of the church and its impact on Healdsburg.

And lastly, we hope you noticed that with this issue we have added a spark of color thanks to the encouragement of our board of directors.

Arnold Santucci
Editor

June Maher Smith, in her series on bed and breakfasts in the Healdsburg area, shares, in her inimitable style, the history of the Calderwood Inn, a Victorian home with an interesting background. June told us that

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Hop Pickers
Jessie Leslie, Retta, P., Ben Lowry



Cannery Workers, Magnolia Cannery, started in 1888, T. S. Merchant, proprietor



Sewing Box

Wood with blue cloth interior; two layers (top tray comes up); contains thread, buttons, lace, ribbons and pins.

Healdsburg Museum Collection #404-16

Gift of Annette Downing Brown

May have belonged to Mathilda Prince Burlingame Downing, who opened a dressmaker and millinery shop in Healdsburg before 1873 to support her children after the death of her husband.

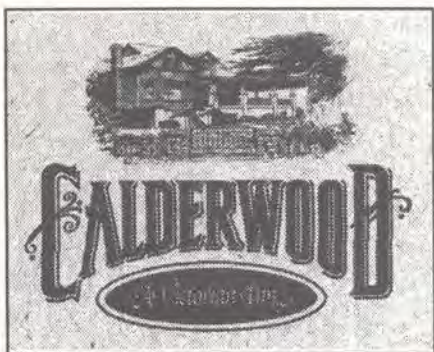
As early as 1871 Healdsburg women were opening and operating millinery shops (hat making), and by 1890 dress making shops were multiple and popular. Women ran these shops for a variety of reasons: to supplement the family income, or to support her family if on her own; to gain economic independence.

Cast or "sad" Irons

from the Healdsburg Museum Collection

The idea of trying to remove wrinkles from clothing has been around for a long time. Early methods consisted of pressure, but by the 16th century heat was being used, usually in the form of a piece of hot charcoal or an iron slug that was inserted into a hollow part of an iron. With the invention of the stove, iron forms changed also. They were cast in a solid piece that could be heated directly on the stove. These irons were often called sad irons, because sad could mean heavy or compact.





by June Maber Smith

Calderwood Inn, located at 25 West Grant Street, was originally the home of John F. and Minnie Miller. Miller inherited the land from his father, George Miller; and, in 1902, builder Samuel S. Kirkham, Minnie's father, constructed the Queen Anne style home for his daughter and son-in-law. Kirkham was a Civil War Union Army veteran who constructed buildings in both Berkeley and Healdsburg. Shade trees and gardens, planned and planted in the early 1900s by Miller and his friend Luther Burbank, surround the inn. These two men shared an interest in the various fruits grown in our area - Burbank created new fruit varieties and Miller dried and packed them for distribution throughout the country.

In 1906, John Miller and his partners built a packing house near the railroad depot. In 1913, Miller and his partner, Hotchkiss, built a packing plant east of his West Grant Street home, along the railroad tracks. In 1917 the plant was known as Miller & Gobbi and employed as many as 100 during the season. Most of these were women. The average weekly payroll was \$1,100.

Miller rebuilt the plant after a fire destroyed it in 1938. During World War II the Miller Packing Co. produced dehydrated potatoes, carrots, apples and prunes for the troops. No longer used for fruit packing, it now houses Evans Ceramics and McIntyre Tile.

Back to the Inn. In 1936 the Millers sold their lovely home to Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Hall and moved to Sacramento. There John became associated with his son Lauren in a fruit and nursery business. Son Harold Miller took over management of the Healdsburg packing plant.

Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Winset bought the home in 1941, moved in with their five children, and lived there until 1952. Daughter Helen Winset Young says, "It was a pleasant house to live in." She believes Mrs. Miller had a lot of input in the design of the home because of all the comforts built into it. Not only was there an indoor bathroom downstairs, but one upstairs as well. A two-bath home was not usual in the early 20th century. Minnie Miller was also a businesswoman. In 1901 she opened a "millinery and fancy goods" shop in downtown Healdsburg.

The Craftsman style front porch, added in the 1920s, features beautiful redwood flooring. Presently, guests enjoy relaxing in the crisp white wicker furniture on this porch overlooking the gardens.

The gardens surrounding the inn include several fruit trees, five holly trees, 65 rose bushes, and a koi pond, in addition to the beautiful old trees.

By 1982 a bed and breakfast inn, L'Auberg de Sans-souci, was operating in the home. In 1985, the new owners were Robert and Christine Maxwell. They extended the back of the house by eight feet and added the gorgeous, colorful, richly-designed reproduction wallpaper to the rooms. The Maxwells changed the name to Calderwood Inn and were open for three years before they sold it to the current owners, Jennifer and Paul Zawodny in 1996.

Upon walking through the front door into the entry hall, the word that comes to mind is "spacious." The beautifully furnished dining room is to the right and the luxurious parlor is to the left. Each morning the guests enjoy a delicious breakfast in the clear redwood-paneled dining room. In the evening, appetizers, dessert, and port greet the guests in the parlor. While relaxing they may choose a game to play, or a jigsaw puzzle to complete, and listen to soft music from the piano. This is not an ordinary piano; it is a one-of-a-kind Chickering hand-carved, Art Deco grand piano. Another interesting feature in the parlor is the floor heater. It is one of the first forced-air, gravity-feed heaters with a heat exchanger.

The inn contains six bedrooms, lovingly decorated by Jennifer, each with a private bath. Paul is a woodworking artist. Two examples of his talent are the lovely display cabinet in the hall and the massive solid maple island in the light, roomy kitchen. The Zawodnys thoroughly enjoy their innkeeping careers at Calderwood, one of our lovelier historic Healdsburg bed and breakfast inns. ❀❀❀



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Northern Sonoma County's Earliest Women

by Marie Djordjevic

Before the gold rush, before California became an American state, before Healdsburg became a town, people lived and worked in Sonoma County. The area's history stretches far back, and includes many different aspects. The women themselves are diverse and have differing histories.

First Women

The Southern Pomo and Western Wappo, two culturally similar but linguistically different Native American groups, inhabited the Healdsburg area, Dry Creek Valley and the Alexander Valley before anyone else. The women of these tribes worked at a variety of jobs. Before contact, the Southern Pomo and Western Wappo were hunter-gatherers. While the men hunted and fished for food, the women gathered such things as acorns, grass, seeds, berries, tubers and greens. Once gathered, the women processed these foods. Both women and men made baskets, but the women generally made the more complex, highly decorated baskets. Pomo and Wappo women also participated in many other areas, such as midwifery, child raising, herbalism, and even held the position of headwoman.

After the Spanish began colonizing California and setting up their mission system in the 1700s, life for Native American women began to change. Through forced acculturation on the Spanish missions, the women learned how to make cheese and butter, harvest grapes and grains, to weave, spin and sew. When the Mexican period began in California in 1822, Native American women, their property and former way of life gone, began to barter their products and labor to support their families. They helped in harvests, sold their baskets, and worked on ranches. On the ranchos they participated in many different jobs. They worked in the fields, carried water, cooked meals, washed clothes, and helped care for children.

The Pomo basketry skills were utilized by women differently after contact. Towards the end of the 19th century a commercial market for Pomo basketry developed, and demand for these small, highly complex, elaborately decorated baskets grew. For Native American women, making and selling these baskets was an appealing alternative to the mostly low paying laborer jobs that were available to them. It was also easier to combine child care and work, and offered a chance to work with other women in groups. The market for commercial basketry lasted until the 1930s. (For a more detailed description please see RRR Fall 1997 Issue 58).



Emma Manuel with cradle basket

Rancho Women

In 1822 Mexico won California from Spain, and the land was converted to large ranches for cattle raising. The economy of Mexican California was based on cattle hides and tallow, therefore the need for large tracts of land to raise cattle was great. Sonoma County consisted of larger ranchos, including the Rancho Sotoyome - which included all of present day Healdsburg and Alexander Valley - and the Tzabaco Rancho, which is the present day Dry Creek Valley.

Rancho women - *rancheras* - had many duties and responsibilities. They presided over what was usually a large household of family, friends, servants and even passing strangers. They oversaw all the domestic work: the cooking, the cleaning, the childcare. They

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also helped with the cattle raising and tending of other livestock; participated in taking care of horses; managed dairies, orchards, vineyards and produce gardens.

The end of the rancho era was also the end of many rights that women enjoyed. While Spanish laws were developed to protect families, and included a women's right to separate property, with American California new laws granted control of that separate property to her husband, as well as control of half of the community property entitled to her by the marriage.

In 1860 women and children lost all rights to property: when a woman died her husband automatically received her property. Only after 1911, when women obtained the right to vote, were married women able to regain their property rights.

Pioneer Women

By 1857 women made up 50% of some of the wagon trains coming West. The journey to California was characterized by hardship and hard work. Women while on the westbound trail cooked meals, took care of children, combatted disease, bore children, pro-



Rufina Alexander (seated) with Alexander family at the Alexander Adobe, Alexander Valley



Typical early settler's cabin in Healdsburg area; Col. Tombs home near Skaggs Springs

tected themselves and their families, drove stock, drove wagons, tended to families and animals, and even continued alone if widowed.

Pioneer women had to devise new domestic techniques in order to meet new conditions and challenges. Because only the most essential household goods and tools could be carried West by wagon, women had to leave behind many of the housekeeping utensils and basic tools they were accustomed to. Even those that were packed were often discarded before the end of the journey in order to lighten the load.

Many of the first women to reach Sonoma County and settle were among the squatter families. These people set up homesteads and were partly responsible for the change from a ranching, cattle raising way of life to a more agricultural way of life. ❦❦❦



*Unknown woman at "Milking Time", 1911
Mervyn D. Silberstein photo*

Women's Work: The Changing Roles and Work of Women in Healdsburg's Early Years

by Marie Djordjevic

Throughout most of history women generally have had fewer legal rights and career opportunities than men. Wifehood and motherhood were regarded as women's most significant professions. In the West, by the end of the 19th century women were entering new professions and businesses, and were finding new roles outside the recognized scope of a woman's place. Then in the 20th century, women won the right to vote, and increased their educational and job opportunities. Perhaps most important, they fought for, and to a large degree accomplished, a re-evaluation of their role in society (WIC).

The history of the Healdsburg area is actually a rich and varied one for a small area. The history of women in this area is also rich and full of changes. Some of it parallels what was going on in America as a nation, other is unique to the area and its circumstances.

The Cult of True Womanhood

The nineteenth century saw rise to a new way of thinking about women. As communities established themselves and men moved into the marketplace, women's economic contributions ceased to be as important. Women were given a new role, that of guardians of the home and hearth.

"Purveyed to the public by various ladies magazines such as Godey's Lady Book, and reinforced by essays, novels, school texts, and sermons, the cult of true womanhood demanded that women be pious, pure, submissive, and domestic. Women were important, not as workers, but as the repository of true virtue and as the moral guardians of the family, and by extension, the Republic. Pushed onto a pedestal, the nineteenth century woman was expected to be modest, submissive, educated in the genteel and domestic arts, supportive of her husband's efforts, uncomplaining, a perfect wife and mother, and an example to all" (Myres).

The reality of most women's lives did not conform to this ideal. And the move west did little to bolster it. Women in the developing West had to assume new roles, tackle new problems and grab new opportunities.

Women Settlers

Life for the early settlers was characterized by work. Before a major growth of towns, families largely produced their own household goods. Division of labor was not as strict as it came to be in later years (though women crossed over into men's work more often than the other way around). For instance, although agriculture was mainly men's work, many women pitched in for plowing, planting and harvesting the fields.

Work inside the home for women included doing the laundry (consisting of splitting and gathering the wood for the fire, carrying the water from whatever source, making the soap from lye and grease, scrubbing the clothes on a washboard, drying them and then ironing them); preparing meals; making jams, jellies and preserves; drying fruit and vegetables; pickling vegetables; planting and tending gardens; raising livestock such as chickens; milking the cows; making butter and cheese; making and mending clothes for the families; nursing illnesses, often relying on homemade remedies (some of the most common ingredients being peppermint, yarrow, senna, Epsom salts, mustard).

Despite the discovery of electricity, electrical appliances were slow to develop. Most power companies did not envision electricity being used for much more than the light bulb. But by the 1920s manufacturers realized that electrical appliances were the future, and the 1920s and 30s saw the development of an amazing variety of electrical household appliances.

The introduction of new technology - indoor plumbing and central heating, electricity, refrigeration, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines - did make chores easier to perform. They did not, however, make for less work. Studies of the amount of time that housewives spent performing household chores show that from 1920 to 1965 the amount of time women spent doing housework did not diminish despite these "labor saving devices".

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Women and Education

The teaching profession became a large field of employment for women. It offered one of the few economic opportunities for women outside the home and domestic sphere. Women argued that since they were the natural educators of children in the home, why not extend that to outside of the home. Also, women were willing to accept lower pay than men for teaching jobs. As a result, teaching became a female-dominated profession by the end of the century. In 1874 California legally established equal pay for female teachers (following Wyoming in 1869). Work in the administrative positions in the education field, however, was slower to open up to women.



*Hamilton School Class, 1913
Gertrude Field, teacher, back row second from right*

Francis McGaughey Martin

Francis McGaughey Martin was born in Gettysburg, PA and grew up in Illinois. She attended the Minnesota State Normal School and trained to be a teacher. After teaching in St. Cloud and Minneapolis she came to California in 1874. She became first assistant in Healdsburg schools, and then in 1875 she was made principal. The next year she married and stopped teaching. Widowed in 1882 with two small children, she went back to teaching, accepting a position near Skaggs Springs. She again became principal, and then in 1886 was elected as superintendent of schools in Sonoma County. She was the first woman to be elected to this position in Sonoma County, and in 1890 she was re-elected. She reformed the Sonoma County school system by starting the practice of graduating pupils from grammar school. This led to more students staying in school, and progressing to high school and then to university. In 1895 Francis Martin retired from office, and began a second successful career as a lawyer in Santa Rosa. She eventually went on to be a leader in the women's fight for suffrage in California.

Women and the Vote

The Women's Suffrage Movement was a long, hard fight characterized by different ideologies. Early suffragists argued that women were politically equal to men through their natural right in common humanity. This thought never completely disappeared, but new ideas arose as time went on. Not only would the right to vote be a natural right, women would bring unique ideas and views to the political arena (LBSC).

The Woman's Suffrage Movement began in the northeast United States, at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It spread across the country, involving individual fights in the states. While a federal amendment for women's suffrage was the ultimate goal, leaders focused on the individual states. When defeat seemed inevitable they pushed for partial rather than full. After a long fight the 19th amendment was added to the Constitution on August 26, 1920.

If women could help establish schools and teach in them, why should they not have a voice in selecting school board members and determining school taxes and bonds; if women could help establish communities and work for municipal improvements, why should they not vote in municipal and county elections; if women's work could help to provide the tax monies for local, state and national programs, why should they not participate in decisions as to how these monies were to be spent? (Myres)

Earlier, California women, including Sonoma County women, had fought for their right to vote. The Sonoma County fight, organized in 1910, was led by two Santa Rosa women, attorney Francis McGaughey Martin and Sarah Latimer. The side for women's suffrage, supported by Governor Hiram Johnson, said that suffrage would make women more intelligent. The opposition declared that suffrage would take women away from the home, their rightful place. (LeBaron and Mitchell, 1993)

In October of 1911 the vote was close. Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Cloverdale approved the amendment. Sonoma, Petaluma and Healdsburg (which turned it down by just 18 votes) did not. Sonoma County approved the amendment by 186 votes. Statewide the amendment won by a scant 2000 votes. California Constitutional Amendment No. 3 gave women their franchise.

In Healdsburg as early as 1870 women were gathering and subsequently formed a Woman's Suffrage Association. Over 40 years later, in April of 1912 the women of Healdsburg voted in their first municipal election. Two balloting places were open - City Hall and Watson. Mrs. Sarah Francis Barnes was accompanied to City Hall by Healdsburg school teachers Ruby Studley, Stella Harmon and Fannie Barnes, who all cast their vote. The first woman to vote at the Watson poll was Mrs. Drury Terry. According to the Healdsburg Tribune the women had no difficulty casting their vote, and seemed to enjoy it.

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A total of 796 votes were cast, and though men's and women's votes were not tabulated separately it is estimated that at least a third were cast by women.



Healdsburg Enterprise office, West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue) north of Matheson Street. Lizzie Livernash, first on left.

Women and the Printed Word

For Western women, journalism was surprisingly a fairly open and accepting field. Women worked in a variety of capacities in the journalism trade. They were employed as reporters and contributors for newspapers and journals, and some women also wrote regular columns. By the end of the 19th century, 1,238 women were engaged in printing and publication, and another 1,127 were employed as compositors, Linotype operators, and typesetters in the eleven far Western states. Healdsburg newspapers had a large number of women on staff. Many area correspondents were female, and there were a large number of women who worked behind the scenes to get the paper out.

Lizzie Livernash

On October 5, 1893 the Sonoma County Tribune announced that a Miss Lizzie Livernash, a manager at the Healdsburg Enterprise had ascended to ownership of that paper. It went on to declare that "it is safe to say that she will soon prove that it is not only men folks who can run a newspaper." Livernash ran the paper for years with great success. She was a compositor and business manager, as well as writer (she wrote under the pen name "Mignonette"). She did all this while being both father and mother to a large family of brothers and sisters, and taking care of an infirm grandmother.

In early 1898 the Enterprise was sold to Mr. W. Harper from Washington State. Lizzie had run the paper for a total of eight years. It was her literary and writing skills that brought much praise. "It is not too much to say that "Mignonette" has performed a task in the last few years that not many men could have carried out," the Healdsburg Tribune wrote at the reporting of the sale. Lizzie left to help her brother manage the California Forester in San Francisco.

Women and Medicine

Women's traditional role as caregivers and nurturers within their families led to an interest in the practice of medicine outside the home. However, during the 19th century women were forced to fight for equal access to training, as well as for respect, in this profession.

In the early 19th century, "doctresses" were tolerated, but never had the same status as their male counterparts. They were barred from medical schools, so in the 1840s women's medical schools and training hospitals were established to create opportunities for women. All along, women still fought for acceptance into male colleges, and finally, with perseverance and money, medical schools opened to women in the 1870s.

At this time, the West was opening up to Americans, and women doctors traveling to this new territory found that while they faced some of the same obstacles and discriminations as their counterparts in the East, they also had less difficulty establishing themselves and gaining recognition of their professional status.

Doctor Margaret Kimball

At the turn of the century one of Healdsburg's most esteemed physicians was a woman. Doctor Margaret Kimball specialized in obstetrics, gynecology and diseases of women. She graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan in 1880, and practiced in Alpena, Michigan for a while. She then spent five years working at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan. She came to Healdsburg in 1888. In 1890 she opened an office on Matheson Street near City Hall with the intention of treating "diseases peculiar to women." By 1896 she and her husband C.L. Kimball - who owned a Healdsburg lumber business - were instructing a juvenile hygienic and temperance class for young boys. After 1900 Dr. Kimball was practicing on Tucker Street.

By 1904 Healdsburg newspapers were extolling the work of Doctor Kimball. Her long experience in both sanitarium work and women's medicine made her services especially valuable and in demand. A December 1904 Healdsburg Tribune article lists the services she offered:

"Her offices and treatment rooms on Tucker Street are fitted with all the latest electrical devices and appliances, including Galvanic and Faradic batteries, everything from the high tension current to the mild and soothing waves of the electric vibratory machine. She also gives hydropathic, or water treatments, and her rooms are fitted up for administering Turkish dry heat, full electric bath, electro-vapor bath, spray or shower bath, sitz bath, etc. She is also prepared to remove moles and superfluous hair by the use of the electric needle."

She did not make house calls, her practice consisted exclusively of office work. But her responsibility in keeping up with modern practices and her apparent attention devoted to each individual patient gave her great success. Dr. Kimball died in 1914 in Healdsburg.

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Women and Business

Because of their similarity to and extension of homemaking matters, dressmaking and millinery shops, as well as beauty salons, were among the first women-operated businesses in Healdsburg. However, soon a number of women in Healdsburg owned and operated grocery and dry goods stores, hotels and restaurants, bakeries, candy stores and other similar establishments. Women also found employment at various types of business throughout the area. Many women were important and integral parts of family-run businesses. Other women were successful in their own endeavors.

Nettie Cole Snook

On December 6, 1923 Nettie Snook was appointed a director of the First National Bank and Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank. The announcement was made in all the area newspapers, for she had the "distinction of being the only woman bank director in this part of the state so far."

Nettie Cole was born in Texas. After the death of her father, her mother took the three youngest of 11 children to Michigan, because she wanted to get treatment for cancer at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Nettie attended high school in Battle Creek, but by the end of 1888 the family had moved to Healdsburg (Nettie was 16).

Once in California, Nettie apparently eventually became quite a business woman. She married Edward Snook in 1892 in Healdsburg, and together they went into the mausoleum business. According to the papers announcing the bank directorate, Nettie Snook was extremely involved in local business affairs, and also had extensive interest in various business enterprises throughout California. This may be why, upon the death of Eli Bush, the First National Bank and Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank chose her to replace him.

Women and Agriculture

Agriculture was very much a part of a woman's life. Women had always spent time in agriculture, whether it was tending a vegetable garden to produce food for family or to sell, or helping out in the fields at harvest time. As Sonoma County grew into a prime agricultural region, women continued to contribute their share of work.

Women could definitely be found working alongside the men in the fields during the various crop periods and seasons. They picked prunes and hops, grapes, apples, peaches and pears. Most worked to earn money for their families, or pocket money for themselves.

A number of Healdsburg women engaged in commercial agriculture on a large scale, and with a variety of different crops. In 1935 Mrs. A.K. Lee's Imperial prunes were judged the best in the district, and among the ten best of the entire state of California (in a survey taken by the California Dried Fruit Association). In 1911 Helen Waldrop was considered the prune queen of Sonoma County, based

on her 30 acres of prunes. Her other 45 acres grew grapes and possibly apples. Jane Snider ran a 58 acre ranch, 10 of which consisted of vineyards, and the rest fruit and hay. Mona Chisolm operated one of the most successful hop ranches in the area.

Women and the Canneries

Healdsburg was once an important part of California's canned food and packing industry. Beginning in the 1880s and continuing until the 1930s, Healdsburg's canning industry shipped thousands of cases of fruits and vegetables. In most of the canneries throughout California, including Healdsburg, women constituted the majority of the workers. In August of 1900 Fontana's Cannery employed 150 men and 450 women and girls. Articles in the area newspapers always stated that the canneries could use more women. Most women working in the canneries were younger and single, hoping to make some extra money. However, there were married women, some with children, that worked in the canneries too.

Conclusion

As the nation stretched West, wage-earning women found wider windows of opportunity than were allowed them in the East. In the early times, women's home production was vital to their families' survival (Mofford). As families and town became more established, women began entering new professions and businesses, and were finding new roles outside the recognized scope of a woman's place. "If they did not glory in their new freedom, they did express pride in their newfound talents and accomplishments" (Myres). ㊦㊦㊦

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Rosalie Sherriffs: A Lifetime of Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

by Holly Hoods

There are many ways that so-called "ordinary" people can make significant contributions to the larger community. Active participation in their parishes is one way that some folks make their big splash in the world. In honor of "Women's Work," the current exhibit at the Healdsburg Museum, this article salutes the life of one such person and how she made her mark in Healdsburg history through her work at St. Paul's Church. As one friend observed in 1967, "To give a resume of Rosalie's life in Healdsburg without giving a short history of St. Paul's as well is impossible, so closely are the two entwined."

Founding a Parish

Rosalie was born in England in 1880 to Robert and Clara Moore. Six months later, the family emigrated to California. They settled in Healdsburg, where the Episcopal Parish was just getting organized. In 1878, it had been founded as a Mission, with T.W. Brotherton serving as Missionary. The Moores arrived in time for Robert to serve as vestryman in the newly-declared Parish. In 1880 Rev. Brotherton became the first Rector. According to the Illustrated History of Sonoma County, published the same year, "the services are held sometimes at Grange Hall and sometimes at the South Methodist Church. The congregation as yet is small, not exceeding some fifty people, but the progress made by the parish, under the guidance of the learned and worthy rector, has been great, and his parishioners confidently expect to be able before long to build a church."



*Rosalie Sherriff's 90th birthday.
Rosalie in the center, with Bess Dennes on the left and Pat Dennes (nephew) on the right*

In 1888, a "guild hall" was constructed at the back of the parish property, facing Matheson Street. A wealthy parishioner had pledged to build a granite church on the front of the property. When the would-be benefactor's circumstances changed suddenly, plans for a new church building had to be abandoned. In 1900, the congregation rotated the guild hall to face East Street, and relocated it to the front of the property. This building became the church, still in use today. In 1913, St. Paul's Church was consecrated by Bishop William Hall Moreland, then Bishop of the Diocese of Northern California.

Years of Dedicated Service

A number of able priests served and left St. Paul's over the next 60 years. Rosalie stayed. Her dedication to the parish took many forms. She served as church treasurer from 1918 until 1964. She cared for the altar and arranged the altar flowers. She played the organ, and officiated on the Vestry. As member and sometime president of the Ladies Guild, she often represented it as a delegate. In service to her church, Rosalie

followed in her mother's footsteps. According to St. Paul's minutes, Clara Moore, "a beloved pillar of the Church," served St. Paul's for over 80 years. In honor of her mother and father, Rosalie donated a grand piano to the Church in 1972. Marvin Bowers joined the parish as pastor the same year.

At age 90, Rosalie was still lively and alert. At her birthday reception at St. Paul's in June 1970, she reminisced about early days at St. Paul's parish. She remembered attending services in people's houses as a girl, before the guild hall became the church. She also recalled the rawhide chairs that were first used in the church before the parish could afford pews. How hard it was to sit through long sermons in those rawhide seats! In 1902, the church paid William Floyd, a local cabinetmaker, \$50 to build the handsome and comfortable pews still in use today. The first thing most people notice about St. Paul's Episcopal Church is the distinctive Gothic architecture. The next thing they see is the wide open front doors. Canon Marvin

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Bowers, Rector of the church since 1972, keeps the doors open—literally and figuratively—to encourage friends and visitors to enter the church. In 1996, the Healdsburg Historical Society recognized St. Paul's parish with a Historic Preservation Award for "lifetime maintenance" of this beautiful church. We know that nobody would be prouder than Rosalie!

The Episcopal church has changed very little since Rosalie's day. The American Episcopal Church is a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of Churches, originally part of the the Church of England. According to Canon Marvin Bowers, the Anglican Church "retains the basic organization of the Catholic ministry of bishops, priests and deacons plus many elements of Catholic doctrine and worship regarding baptism and the eucharist; but it also has been deeply influenced by Protestant concepts of the importance of the individual's faith based upon hearing the word of God preached and upon reading the Bible in one's own language." ❀❀❀



Rosalie Sherriff



St. Paul's Church

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