



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

WINTER 2004 • ISSUE 87

An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society



*The Smith family, circa 1934. Back row, L to R; Russell Smith, Geraldine Smith, Bill Smith.
Middle row, L to R; Marcy Smith, Lucy Lozinto Smith, Steve Smith, Stanley Smith.
Front row, L to R; Douglas Smith, Kathleen Smith.*

The Smith Family Portrait A Pomo Family History

by Daniel F. Murley Page 4

Also In This Issue:

George Madeira, One of Healdsburg's Renaissance Men

by Whitney Hopkins Page 7

Origins and Meaning of "Sotoyome"

by Charlotte Anderson Page 13

The HM & HS Historic Preservation Winners

by Holly Hoods Page 14



IN THIS ISSUE

A portrait of a Pomo family, a fascinating recount of “one of Healdsburg’s Renaissance men”, an interpretation of the Indian word Sotoyome, and an interesting account of the 2004 HM and HS architectural preservation winners. These are the subjects of the Russian River Recorder that the staff has come with for this, the final issue of the year 2004.

It is our 87th issue spanning 27 years. Some years only produced one or two issues but since 1996 the Russian River Recorder has been published quarterly. And we have tried to keep in mind that the aim of the publication is to record in an interesting, professional and informative fashion the various aspects of Healdsburg’s colorful history. We plan to continue this mission in 2005 and commend the staff members who so diligently have supplied the articles for these past issues, mostly on a volunteer basis.

Whitney Hopkins who wrote the article about George Madeira and his family told us that she found so much fascinating material in the archives it was difficult to pick and choose. I’m sure you’ll agree that she did a masterful job.

Our curator (by the way he celebrated his first year with the Museum in October) continues with his series of family portraits, this time spotlighting a Pomo family, Lucy and Steve Smith. He points out how active the family was in the community and illustrates his article with wonderful photos from the Museum’s collection.

Following through on Whitney’s article about George Madeira, Charlotte Anderson uncovers an article by Madeira in the September 27, 1906 issue of the Healdsburg Tribune in which Madeira interviews General Mariano Vallejo. The subject? The meaning of the word Sotoyome. A great sidebar to Whitney’s article.

Research curator Holly Hoods gives us a historic perspective on the two winners of the 2004 architectural preservation awards - the 1915 Craftsman bungalow at 817 Johnson Street, restored by Elizabeth Candelario and the original Firmin Candelot Building at 206 Healdsburg Avenue which now houses the Tesoros and Galleria 206. The photos of the building at 206 Healdsburg Avenue give us an interesting progression of the building which housed a succession of laundries during the 1930s to 1960s.

And lastly, the Recorder staff joins me in wishing all our readers and Museum members a Happy Holiday season.

Arnold Santucci

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Contents

RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

Winter, 2004

Issue 87



Lucy Smith with Uncle Jim Shakley, circa 1907



George Madeira Family, 1915



Sotoyome Bank Savings Box



206 Healdsburg Avenue, circa 2004 by Daniel Murley

4. The Smith Family Portrait: A Pomo Family History in Healdsburg

by Daniel F. Murley

The story of Lucy and Steve Smith and their eight children and their contributions to the community and how they preserved their Pomo heritage.

7. George Madeira, One of Healdsburg's Renaissance Men

by Whitney Hopkins

An artist, house painter, geologist, mining engineer, lecturer and seasoned reporter and an 'eager and observant traveler' George Madeira was indeed a renaissance man as Whitney Hopkins so aptly points out

13. Origin and Meaning of "Sotoyome"

by Charlotte Anderson

Have you ever wondered what the word Sotoyome means? General Mariano Vallejo, as reported in the September 27, 1906 issue of the Healdsburg Tribune gives his interpretation in an interview with author/lecturer George Madeira.

14. The 2004 HM & HS Historic Preservation Award Winners

by Holly Hoods

The Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, at its annual January meeting, presents architectural awards in recognition of the preservation of historic residential and commercial buildings. In 2004 the awards went to the original Dewey house at 817 Johnson Street and the Firmin Candelot Building at 206 Healdsburg Ave (now the Tesoros and Galleria 206 Building).

COVER



STORY

THE SMITH FAMILY PORTRAIT: A POMO FAMILY HISTORY IN HEALDSBURG

by Daniel F. Murley



Lucy Smith gathering basket making material

The small house on 403 Foss Street in Healdsburg was bustling with activity. Steve and Lucy Smith were doing all in their power to corral, cajole, calm, bathe and groom their eight children. Their son Russell had enlisted in the Armed Forces and would soon leave for boot camp. Steve and Lucy wanted a family portrait of the whole lively bunch before his departure. They had arranged with local photographer, S. E. Langhart, to have a sitting at his studio on Matheson Street across from the plaza. Now if only they could get their entourage suited up and out the door. The older girls helped get the toddler Kathleen and baby Douglas into their fine outfits and assisted their mother in ironing the freshly laundered bright

white shirts for their father and brothers. As for the boys, like today's teenagers, they joked and kidded each other about their "duded-up" appearance. Finally the group was out the door and were squeezing and scuttling and shuffling up the dark stairs to the second-floor studio. Old Mr. Langhart, having dealt with many similar families in his years in Healdsburg, set the whole animated group in front of the time-worn and somewhat faded backdrop with the Grecian columns and began to set up the shot. From underneath the black shroud at the back of his trusty old Rochester Optical View camera, he was directing the members of the family with a dismembered arm and a waving pointing hand. He would then emerge from his hiding place occasionally to move his subjects closer together or to encourage a grin. For baby Douglas, this was just too much for the newest member of the family to comprehend. He squirmed and laughed and sometimes just stared in wide-eyed amazement at the funny man who would disappear and then suddenly appear from the darkness of the studio where tiny dust particles floated through escaping shafts of light. Eventually victory was declared and the children were free to scamper about in polite, somewhat muted celebration.

The year was 1942 and soon Russell would be off to the military and it wouldn't be long before his brother Bill would follow in the service of their country. The Smith boys had all been accomplished athletes while attending Healdsburg High School. Russell had played football and Bill, Class of 1946 and Stan, Class of 1950, though participating in many varsity sports, including track, excelled on the tennis court. In fact, in Stan's four years as a Greyhound, he led the school's racquet team to regional and state championships while never losing a league match. They had followed in the footsteps of their father who was also a superb athlete and had played football for Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. While there, Steve had met and threw the football around with the legendary Carlisle alumnus and Olympic champion, Jim Thorpe. Lucy's brother-in-law, Manuel Cordova, with the appropriate nickname, Hummingbird, was another family athlete. Manuel had been a famous local distance runner and Pomo dancer. He was the winner of the Fourth of July Marathon Race at

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Healdsburg in 1927 and frequently interpreted traditional Native Pomo dances throughout California and the western United States. Manuel's lovely sister, Lena, also attended school in Healdsburg and worked and lived for years near her large extended family in the Healdsburg area. In fact, upon graduation, she herself posed for a beautiful photograph in Langhart's Healdsburg studio.

Also a picture of serenity, Lucy Smith was herself a vibrant, cheerful, accomplished artist and fine cook, according to most who knew her. Once the family of eight children was out from under foot, Lucy went back to weaving baskets as she had done earlier in her life. A Mihilakawna Pomo, she was born in Lytton Springs the day after the "Big Earthquake," on April 15, 1906. She had learned the intricate art from watching her mother Rosa

Bill (1877-1961) and her grandmother, Juanita Cook (1837-1927) and her aunt Theresa Lozinto. Lucy fondly recalled her youthful days spent with these talented women gathering willow bark and sedge root along the Russian River and Dry Creek. She also studied and practiced with her friends and legendary Pomo basket weavers, Elsie Allen, Mabel McKay and Laura Somersal. She made many memorable masterpieces of woven dreams, mostly as gifts for her friends and family. Lucy fashioned these traditional baskets "so that they [the family] would have something that I made, something from our culture. Showing them how to make Pomo baskets is one of the ways our culture will stay alive." She and her husband Steve and their daughters Kathleen Smith and June Smith Dollar became valued consultants for ethnographic and ethnobotanical studies for the Warm Springs Dam Project. Through all her cultural work Lucy was supported and encouraged by her devoted husband, Steven Smith, Jr. Steve was also a bearer of cultural history and a

Continued on page 6



Pomo dancers, circa 1920. Back row l to r; Elizabeth Dollar, Maggie Wabo, Jack Wabo, Emma Lozinto, Ruth Cordova, Lizzie Wabo. Front row, l to r; Henry Arnold, Manuel Cordova, Mike Cordova, Alfred Elgin. Mary Lucas in distance on the right.



Healdsburg Tennis Team 1948: Back row, left to right, Mr. Al Worden, C. Wilson, Stan Smith, A. Elgin, R. Pierce:
Front row, E. Nicoletti, B. Mazzetti, J. Brooks.

resource for ethnographic researchers. He was a Bodega Miwok and Jenner Pomo and had the distinction of being a descendent of one of the earliest white settlers to Sonoma County. Steve traced his ancestry back to Captain Stephen Smith, a New England ship's captain, whose Bodega ranch and adobe date to the 1840's. Smith, an American citizen, had successfully petitioned the Mexican government to grant him 35,487.53 acres to be called Rancho Bodega. Smith's Rancho Bodega stretched along the coast from the Russian River in the north to the Estero Americano in the south. This included some of the traditional lands of both the Pomo and Miwok people. He had occupied a ranch vacated by the Russians where Native Alaskans and Native Californians worked for the Russian American Company tending herds and raising and harvesting crops.

Steve and Lucy raised their eight children in Healdsburg and some of the family members, June Smith Dollar, Marcy Smith D'Lara and Nancy Smith Napolitan still live in and around Healdsburg with their families. Kathleen Smith is an artist and writer who examines the cultural traditions of her Native American heritage. Bill Smith, before he passed away in 1992, pursued the study of his family's Native American legacy. He established the Native American Studies Departments at both Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College and designed and set up the Jesse Peter Museum of America Indian Art. His daughter Sherrie Smith-Ferri is the director of the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah and holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Washington with an emphasis on Pomo basketry. All the descendents bear a strong sense of family and fond remembrances of their rich storied ancestry.



Lena Cordova

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HISTORIC



PIONEERS

GEORGE MADEIRA:

ONE OF HEALDSBURG'S RENAISSANCE MEN

by Whitney Hopkins

George Madeira, who resided in Healdsburg off and on from 1875 until 1918, led a long and intellectually progressive life. Madeira, a "renaissance man," was involved in many, often overlapping professions. He was an artist and house painter, a geologist and mining engineer, a lecturer, and a seasoned reporter who, along with his brother Frank, wrote for Healdsburg publications for many years. He took great interest in natural history, and was one of California's earliest amateur astronomers. He established "California's first astronomical observatory of record and operated it" (California State Historic Marker #715, Volcano, California). Madeira's story, particularly the early years, parallels that of many of Sonoma County's pioneers who came west during the Gold Rush; however his life-long curiosity and investigation of the natural world set him apart from many individuals of his time.

Much of what we know about George Madeira today comes from the extensive articles he wrote for newspapers, including the *Amador Ledger*, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, the *Santa Rosa Republican*, and particularly the *Healdsburg Tribune* and *Healdsburg Enterprise* newspapers over a period of over fifty years. In addition to using his own name, he used many pen names, including "G. Whillekins," "Ibex," "Oceani Cus," "In Hoc-signo Vinces," and "Herschel, Jr." George's writing included memories of historical happenings, fiction, travel logs, descriptions of natural history, and reports on current events. With a strong memory and inquiring mind, Madeira was an eager and observant traveler. By the age of 76, in 1912, he had "traveled all over California twenty-seven times, visited all of the States of the Union except six, and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Europe twice" (Hbg. Ent. 19 Oct. 1912).

The following is a reconstruction of the life of George Madeira and his family based on newspaper articles written by and about the Madeiras, United States Federal Census data, and Madeira family bible pages.

Early Years



Left to right, brothers George and Frank Madeira.

George, born in Jo Daviess County, Illinois, October 14, 1837, was the youngest son of Susan and George Asbury Madeira. He joined two older brothers, Francis or "Frank" (1830-1909) and Daniel (1835-1912). George's father, born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, was a lawyer. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1824, early in his career moved to Wisconsin when it formed part of the territory of Michigan, then to Illinois, and finally to Iowa where he was admitted to the bar in 1848.

In 1852, when young George was fifteen, the entire Madeira family (parents and sons) journeyed across the plains from Iowa to California in a wagon train known as the *Dubuque Emigrating Company*. George's intense intellect was apparent at an early age. He later recalled in an 1889 letter to Edward S. Holden, Director of Lick Observatory, "Many times during the latter end of the [wagon] trip, when the stock was breaking down and the load must be reduced, my books and [astronomical] charts were tossed out only to be returned by myself to the wagon. My father, who was a lawyer, knew the value of the books and my devotion to them, finally decided that they and a surveyor's compass, belonging to my brother, must be taken as long as the team held out" (Custer & Birch, 1986).

Continued on page 8

The Madeira family arrived in the town of Volcano, Amador County, on August 30, 1852. George commenced mining on the famous Sutter Creek at once, and on his first day's work netted \$14.50. In 1859, George ordered a telescope from a San Francisco instrument company. When it arrived, in 1860 he set up a primitive backyard observatory at the family home in Volcano using the telescope, a surveyor's transit, and a compass. There, with the assistance of "Professor" Telerand, a local Methodist minister with good mathematical training, George ran the Volcano Observatory day and night (Custer & Birch, 1986). Always entrepreneurial, George charged miners for "peeps" at the moon, stars and planets. These early days of mining and astronomy set the stage for a lifetime interest in these fields.

Family Man

George remained close to his older brothers throughout his life, and it is likely that he first visited Healdsburg and eventually came to reside there because of them. Daniel and Frank Madeira married two sisters, the daughters of William Harrison Dennison and Caroline Ives Dennison Beeson. (Caroline married John Brooks Beeson following the death of her first husband.) In 1857, Daniel married Isadora or "Dora" Dennison, and in 1859 Frank married Dora's younger sister Charlotte or "Lottie" Dennison. The J.B. Beeson family settled in Alexander Valley in 1858. In 1860, at the time of the U.S. Federal Census, both of George Madeira's brothers were living with their wives on the Beeson Ranch in Alexander Valley, trying their hand at farming. That was also the year George first visited Healdsburg.

In 1859, at the age of 22, George Madeira was married. His bride, 15 year-old Louisa "Lou" Eleanor Mitchell, was the daughter of David Mitchell and Jennett Whitney. George and Lou continued to live in Volcano with George's parents until, "caught up in the great silver excitement" of the Comstock Lode the entire family (parents, three brothers, wives, and children) moved to Carson City, Nevada (Hbg. Trib. 19 Aug. 1897). While in Nevada, George Madeira, Sr. died in 1865.

In early 1868, George, along with his brothers, their wives, children, and mother relocated to the town of Santa Cruz, California. While Daniel spent most of his life in Santa Cruz (apart from trips to the mines), his brothers did not. Frank stayed in Santa Cruz for a few years, and then returned to live in Healdsburg - probably to be near his wife's family, the Beesons - and remained there most of his life. George also relocated his

home base to Healdsburg.

Over the period of 1870-1886, George Madeira was constantly on the go. During these years he divided much of his time between Healdsburg, the Mother Lode, and Santa Cruz (where his wife and children resided) - painting, prospecting, and penning articles for various newspapers. There are references to and articles by George in the *Healdsburg Enterprise*, *Amador Ledger*, and *Santa Cruz Sentinel* over this period. Although the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Federal Census data show Santa Cruz as George's home base, by 1886 he and his children appear to have relocated to Healdsburg.

Unfortunately, George's wife, Louisa, died in Santa Cruz in 1879 at the age of 35. She left him with eight children born over the period of 1860-1878. They were Mary Francis, Louisa Ellen or "Lulu," George David, William, James Madison, Delia, Francisco Doria or "Frank," and Chester Ulysses (who was under a year at the time of his mother's death). One by one, all of George Madeira's children made the move to Healdsburg, except for his youngest daughter Delia who remained with an aunt and uncle in Wheatland, Yolo County.

Painter

While in Santa Cruz, George and Frank, needing to provide for their families, entered the painting business - a profession they would continue in Healdsburg. In 1870 the U.S. Federal Census roll taken in Santa Cruz listed the brothers' occupations as "painter" and "house painter." Painting would become a Madeira family tradition continued in Healdsburg for over forty years.

In Healdsburg in 1875 George went into partnership with his brother, Frank, who several years earlier had started a "House, Sign, Carriage and Ornamental" painting business. Advertisements for *Madeira Bros.* ran in the *Healdsburg Enterprise* throughout 1876, listing the contact address as "George Madeira's residence, corner of Piper and University Streets."

After moving to Healdsburg, George's sons, George Jr., William, and James went into painting with their father in 1886. Advertisements for *George Madeira & Sons* could be seen in local papers. In addition to the services offered by *Madeira Bros.* this new business offered "Fresco and Scenic Painting" (Russian River Flag 24 March 1886). In addition to painting buildings and carriages, George was an accomplished artist. As a gift on one

Continued on page 9



Frank Madeira and Ed Beeson at Paint Shop on Center Street across from the Plaza, circa 1878.

occasion he sent his daughter a picturesque painting, "Behind Sotoyome Mountain" (Hbg. Ent. 12 August 1887).

For the next thirty years, advertisements for painting by the Madeiras can be seen in the local papers, as well as references to their jobs. In 1913, for example, George Jr. and James Madeira were awarded the contract to paint the City Hall for \$348 (Hbg. Trib. 30 October 1913).

Mineralogist and Miner

George became interested in rocks and minerals in his teens when his family first arrived in Volcano. From that point on, nothing could keep him away from prospecting activities for long. Others recognized his mining expertise, and he was often called in as a consultant both to locate and develop new mines, and to assess the potential of existing mines. Wherever he traveled or lived he took an interest in the native mineral deposits. His brothers, Frank and Daniel, or his sons, often were involved in these mining projects, but George was the leader. A 1915 tribute said that Madeira had "tramped the mining counties of California from end to end, and [knew] the 'Mother Lode' and the ancient river channels as a Kearney Street policeman knows his beat" (Hbg. Trib. 28 Jan. 1915).

In 1874, George Madeira discovered an immense deposit of red hematite (peroxide of iron) "seven and a half miles south of Healdsburg on Mount Jackson trail" which would become the mine and production center of the *Healdsburg Paint Company* (Russ. Riv. Flag 23 Nov. 1876). "Indian Red, Metallics, Royal Red, and Tuscan Red" paints were first made in 1876, and were still going strong in 1897 when George Madeira described the paint milling and finishing process in the *Healdsburg Tribune* (Hbg. Trib. 13 May 1897). He noted that Healdsburg's paint was being shipped to Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico as well as numerous states. For a time George was an owner in the paint mine, while his brother Frank was Superintendent of the Company.

George spent some time in the mercury mines of Sonoma County during the 1870s. In 1880, he advertised his services as a mineralogist with "three years experience in the quicksilver mines of Sonoma County" in the *Amador County Ledger*. That same year a "Letter from Volcano" written under Madeira's nom de plume, "Ibex," appeared in the *Amador Ledger* describing the town of Volcano, and the Madeira mill and mining company which owned several quartz lodes in the vicinity. The company intended to do custom work – prospecting small lots for outside parties, and develop and dispose of mines. George Madeira was the mineralogist and superintendent of the company, which was also owned by five others, including his brother Daniel (Amador Ledger 3 April 1880).

Some of the other deposits in the Healdsburg area that George was involved in locating and sending to the California State Mining Bureau for analysis include basalt rock, quicksilver, marble, magnesite, and coal oil (petroleum). George was hiking around the hillsides, rocks, and caverns of Sonoma County from the 1870s until at least 1915. (During the years of 1881-1885 George held the position of special correspondent for the *New York Mining Record*, traveling through the coal oil and mining regions of thirteen states and seven territories on the East Coast.)

It is clear that George Madeira's expertise as a mineralogist was highly respected. Beginning in the summer of 1903, at the age of 67, Madeira was employed by the State of California under the Supervision of State Mineralogist, L.E. Aubury, to collect and then take charge of the state of California's exhibit of minerals at the 1904 St. Louis, Missouri World's Fair and Exposition. Leaving Healdsburg, George traveled all over the state of California to the major mineral districts in eleven counties, collecting ores and minerals for the exhibit, often on foot. He supervised the packing,

Continued on page 10

GEORGE MADEIRA & SONS,
House, Sign, Carriage,
Ornamental Painters and Artists.
PAPER HANGING IN ALL BRANCHES.
FRESCO AND SCENIC PAINTING.
AS GRAINERS, WE STAND WITHOUT A
Peer In the County. Shop—Corner Powell
and East streets. Estimates made from plans

Advertisement from the *Russian River Flag* newspaper, March 24, 1886.

shipment, setup and display, and then attended the exhibit to answer questions of visitors. His official title was Curator of the California Mineral Exhibit. Madeira, who was already an established writer for the *Healdsburg Tribune* and friend of publisher F.W. Cooke, wrote accounts for the Tribune on his preparation for the exhibit, as well as the Fair itself. Madeira's World's Fair articles appear weekly in the *Healdsburg Tribune* throughout 1904.

In 1906, Madeira was honored with an invitation to be one of California's ten delegates at the American Mining Congress held in Denver, Colorado. Nominated by the State Mineralogist, he proudly accepted the invitation and had business cards made with his picture, saying "Mining Engineer" and "Delegate to American Mining Congress, Denver, Colo., Oct 16-19, '06" (Lick Archives).

Public Speaker and Writer

George Madeira evidently possessed strong oratory and writing skills from an early age, making him an excellent candidate for membership in the *Healdsburg Literary and Dramatic Society* (Hbg. Ent. 26 Feb. 1887). A popular local fig-

ure wherever he was, George always had new ideas for subjects to speak or write about, and an audience hungry for knowledge.

Orator

Examples of Madeira's public lectures at the Theater in Healdsburg include "A Trip Through the Realms of Space" and "Spectrum Analysis and the Solar System" (Hbg. Ent. 6 March 1889). He first lectured in Healdsburg as early as 1861, when his brothers were living in the area; however, one of his most important lectures was given even earlier, in 1860 in San Jose. While speaking about the stars there, he met the eccentric California millionaire James Lick, and claimed to have encouraged Lick to obtain the largest telescope possible (Custer & Birch, 1986). (Lick's legacy is the University of California's Lick Observatory, founded in 1888.)

A May 1906 article in the *Healdsburg Tribune* claimed that by then Madeira had lectured in twenty-seven states of the Union. (In the early 1880s, while a correspondent for the *Mining Record*, he had lectured in prominent cities all over the East.) Following the great San Francisco Earthquake, Madeira studied the effects of the earthquake by traveling along the fault line from Point Arena to San Jose, and then proposed "to go East and deliver illustrated lectures on the earthquake" with the help of his daughter Mary (Hbg. Trib. 10 May 1906).

He was also selected to speak at various community festivities in the different locations he resided, including the 1880 Fourth of July Festivities in Volcano and the May Day King Arthur's Tournament and Flower Festival in Healdsburg in 1888. He was so highly regarded as a speaker that he was asked to attend and speak at a reception in 1886 at the Sotoyome Hotel organized by Professor H.C. Eastman, teacher of elocution (Russ. Riv. Flag. 8 Dec. 1886).

Writer

As noted earlier, Madeira was a prolific writer, particularly in the *Healdsburg Tribune* where his articles appeared for at least twenty years until 1916. He and his brother Frank, who also wrote for the Tribune for 11 years under the name "Sam the Cheerful Liar", were both close friends with Frank W. Cooke, the publisher of the *Tribune* from 1897-1918. The Cookes and Madeiras had a longstanding relationship. F.W. Cooke's grandparents and parents crossed the plains in the same wagon train, the *Dubuque Emigrating Company*, as did the Madeiras; how-

Continued on page 11

ever, the Cookes settled in Placerville instead of Volcano.

Popular themes in George's *Healdsburg Tribune* writing included astronomy (i.e. meteor showers, eclipses, planets, comets, stars), mining (i.e. camp life, descriptions of mines and mining towns, uses of specific minerals), hunting (i.e. grouse, panther, bear), both local and distant travels (i.e. Skaggs Springs, crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Europe, Lassen Peak, Denver, Up the Mississippi), and miscellaneous natural history items (i.e. petrified oysters, evolution, fossils).

In addition to his newspaper articles George Madeira had other writing projects. He was asked to write the chapter on the "Geology of Amador County" for a book published on the *History of Amador County*, in 1881. George, interested in indigenous peoples, also wrote a manuscript on "Indian Legends and Lore" based on conversations and interviews he had completed. (This manuscript, which has never been edited or published, was donated to the museum by Madeira's great-grandson Harrison Truitt Starr in 2002.)

Later Years

George Madeira's children (except Delia), who moved to Healdsburg in the 1880's, quickly integrated into the community. With the exception of Delia and Chester, who moved away to Kansas, and later Oregon, all of Madeira's children married into prominent Healdsburg pioneer families (Cummings, Fenno, Hall, McLean, Powell, Truitt, and Ward).

In 1887 George's second daughter, Louisa or "Lulu," became the fifth wife of Ransom Powell, a prominent local businessman in Healdsburg since 1856. From 1896 onward, George Madeira made his home in the Powell household with his daughter and son-in-law. The home is located on what is now West Grant Street, and was surrounded by fruit orchards from which the family generated an income during Powell's retirement. George Madeira thought highly of his son-in-law, Ransom Powell, who was more than ten years his senior, and in 1905 published a four page biographical monograph of Powell. The Powell home was the scene of many Madeira family milestones, including the deaths of George's son William Madeira in 1903, brother Frank Madeira in 1909, and Grandson Harry Madeira in 1909. It was also the scene of many joyful parties and family reunions.

In January of 1915, while living with his daughter Lulu, George nearly died from a severe attack of pneumonia. He was so near



Ransom Powell house at 644 West Grant Street, circa 1905.

death that all of his children were summoned to his bedside in Healdsburg, and an obituary prepared. George pulled through and, instead of an obituary, a tribute was published in the *Healdsburg Tribune*. In it Madeira was fittingly described as "the type of man of the late John Muir. Nature is ever a magnet and a mystery to him – a companion and a teacher – and of her 'various languages' he is a student and interpreter" (Hbg. Trib. 28 January 1915). After leaving Healdsburg for San Francisco in 1918 with his daughter Lulu Madeira Powell (who was operating a boarding house on Page Street), George Madeira died there in 1922.

Special thanks to Marshal F. Merriam, Professor Emeritus from University of California, and member of the Stockton Astronomical Society, who has done extensive research on Madeira. Without Merriam's consultation, the following piece would not be possible.

Continued on page 12



Ransom Powell and wife Lulu Madeira Powell at Bartlett Springs in Lake County, July 1912.

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Please consult with the Healdsburg Museum to view a thorough list of George Madeira's articles published in Healdsburg newspapers.

ORIGIN AND MEANING OF “SOTOYOME”

by Charlotte Anderson



General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, courtesy of Sonoma Valley Historical Society.

(General Vallejo in his 1906 interview gives his interpretation to researcher George Madeira.)

Will someone in the Healdsburg area ever name another lodge, organization, publication or a geographical entity Sotoyome ?

Forty years ago, an editorial in the Healdsburg Tribune (3 February 1966) stated: “The more we hear the name, the more it appeals

to us as belonging in the community ‘family.’” We have had , of course, Rancho Sotoyome and then, subsequently the Sotoyome Guard, in 1859 under Captain Norton and 1st Lt. Rod Matheson; the Sotoyome House (Hotel); the *Sotoyome Scimitar*, 1908-1924; the Sotoyome Stables on the corner of North and West Streets; several fraternal organizations with Sotoyome as a lodge or chapter name; the Sotoyome Community Band in the 1890s-1920s; the Sotoyome Bank; the Healdsburg High School yearbook, the Sotoyoman; and, perhaps the most recent, the formation of the Sotoyome Conservation District in 1953.

Over the years there has been much conjecture as to both the origin and the meaning of the word “Sotoyome.” However, as early Healdsburg Museum curator Hannah Clayborn wrote in 1981, after researching many different accounts, “It has definitely been established that no one really knows !”

One of the researchers early in the 20th Century was George Madeira, a regular journalistic contributor to the *Healdsburg Tribune*. In an article written for the Tribune 27 September 1906 while Madeira was collecting “Indian” legends, he included part of an interview with General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. (Vallejo was the brother-in-law of Josefa Carrillo Fitch as he married her sister Francisca.)

In the course of the interview, Madeira asked Vallejo about the name “Sotoyome” and the Sotoyome Indians. According to Vallejo, and as reported by Madeira, “*The Satiyomis, Sotoyomas, Guapas or Wapoes* are the various names given the Satiyomis, from when the name Sotoyome has been derived. Their home was located in Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, and their descendants are the Indians around Healdsburg today “ —”today” being 1906.

Vallejo went on to elaborate about his efforts to “bring peace” among the various Indian tribes of the area: “On the 7th of June 1836, a battle was fought between the Cinameros, who had their home in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, and the Satiyomis. Twenty of the Cinameros were killed and fifty wounded. Vallejo was appealed to to avenge them, and this he promised to do. On April 1, 1837 with fifty soldiers and one hundred Indians, besides the Cinameros force, he marched to the valley of Dry Creek, and a battle was fought with the Satiyomis on the spot, now (1906) the Bloch ranch, two miles and a half from Healdsburg. The Satiyomis were defeated with great loss, and the next day they were pursued into the Maacamas Mountains, where they were again defeated. The expedition then returned to Sonoma Mission, not having lost a man.” Then on June 7, 1837, General Vallejo concluded a treaty of peace with thirty-five tribes.

Madeira went on to say, “The Satiyomis adorned themselves in season with wild poppies, and from this habit undoubtedly came the term ‘Valley of Flowers’. *Satiyomis* is purely an Indian name. Evidently the spelling is Spanish, and if translated into English it would be *Sotoyome*, singular, and *Sotoyomis*, plural.

“As to Sotoyome or Sotoyomis meaning ‘Valley of Flowers’, this might have been the interpretation given it by any practically disposed person who visited in early days, I first saw this valley forty-six years ago (1860) when it was a veritable vale of flowers. Golden poppies and Lupines carpeted the valley presenting a sheen of purple and gold.”

Although the Dry Creek Valley no longer presents the vision described in 1906 by George Madeira, today it has its own beauty in the form of a sea of grape vineyards.

HISTORIC



BUILDINGS

THE 2004 HM & HS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

by Holly Hoods

The Dewey House, 817 Johnson St., and Healdsburg Home Laundry, 206 Healdsburg Ave.

The Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society presents architectural awards annually to recognize preservation and restoration of historic residential and commercial buildings in the community. Nominations are currently under consideration for the 2005 HM&HS awards. This article spotlights the 2004 winners.

The 2004 residential preservation award was presented to Elizabeth Candelario for her Craftsman bungalow at 817 Johnson Street. This house is one of two bungalows built side by side on Johnson Street in 1915. Sierich "Si" Hilgerloh, owner of the White House Saloon, a popular Healdsburg bar, commissioned the houses in the early 1900s. Hilgerloh had one bungalow constructed for himself and his wife. Next door he had this house built as a wedding present for their daughter Helen and her new husband, Victor Dewey. Dewey was co-owner of the Golden Rule Cyclery Shop where he sold and repaired bicycles.

The construction of the two bungalows was part of a 1915 building boom that prompted the Healdsburg Tribune to



The original Dewey house at 817 Johnson, 2004 photo by Holly Hoods. The house is now owned by Elizabeth Candelario.

declare Johnson Street "one of the finest residence streets in Healdsburg." The two houses share a driveway leading to a common garage. The houses also contain some matching design elements, including rustic siding, gable roofs with knee braces, and flared edges on porch supports and window surrounds. The gentle pitch of the broad roof gable is repeated in the gabled roofline of the separate half-width front porch.

The Dewey House retains many original features, including wood floors throughout; double-hung, wood sash windows; and beautiful built-in wooden bookcases and cabinets. The Deweys rented the house to the Herman Boos family through the early 1930s. In 1936, Robert Hassett bought the property and moved into the Johnson Street home. Hassett, son of a pioneer local fam-

ily, lived in the house and worked for the Northwestern Pacific railroad as an express agent for the rest of his life.

Elizabeth Candelario, the current owner, works for Quivera Winery. She fell in love with the house and bought the property from the Hassett estate after his death. She is only the third owner of the attractive bungalow. Elizabeth has maintained the integrity of the 1915 house, while adding a few touches to personalize the home for herself and her two children.

*Helen Hilgerloh Dewey
for whom the 817
Johnson Street house
was built as a wed-
ding present.*



Continued on page 15

Healdsburg (Quality) (Home) (Steam) Laundry

The HM&HS commercial award for 2004 was presented to Royce Meyerrott and Bill Wheeler for their restoration and adaptation of the Firmin Candelot building at 206 Healdsburg Avenue. Built in 1924 for Firmin Candelot, a colorful local figure, this one-storey, concrete block commercial building occupies a prominent corner at Healdsburg Avenue at Mill Street. It was this location at the entrance to town that attracted the interest of owners/investors Meyerrott and Wheeler in 2000. The building had been in continuous use as a steam laundry and cleaners for 75 years under a few different names and a series of owners/managers.

The Candelot building opened for business with a flourish in September 1924. According to the Healdsburg Tribune, more than 125 persons attended the grand opening of the Healdsburg Home Laundry at a reception held at the new building. All the girls employed there attended the reception "in working uniform." The 30-piece Lytton Home band played several selections and marched around the plaza. Harry Spiros was the first proprietor of the laundry in the Candelot building, followed shortly afterward by William A. Ware.

The building housed a succession of laundry businesses after owner Firmin Candelot died in 1935. Ira R. Anthony owned and managed the Healdsburg Home Laundry during the rest of the 1930s. During the 1940s, under the ownership of Timothy O'Gornman, it reportedly became the first Healdsburg laun-



Quality Home Laundry, 1930's



Quality Home Laundry, 1956

dromat. In the early 1950s, Joseph Goldberg took over the business, which he named "Quality Home Laundry." "Quality Cleaners" also operated from the same facility. In 1959, after a brief period of ownership by Waldo Iverson, the laundry was taken over by Jerry and Mildred Hodges, who renamed it "Healdsburg Steam Laundry and Cleaners." The Hodgeses offered free pick up and delivery, and all work was done on site. American Linen also operated from the building.

Bill Wheeler and Royce Meyerrott bought the property of the Healdsburg Steam Laundry in 2000. The industrial building was well built, but had declined somewhat in appearance over the years. After gutting the interior, repairing the building and hauling out all the remaining heavy industrial laundry equipment, the owners have

preserved the character-defining features of the building's exterior: its stuccoed façade, and stepped false front with heavy molded cornice. It is now home to Tesoros and Galeria Two-O-Six, and makes a very attractive entrance to town.

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View of the Plaza and City Hall, Healdsburg, California, circa 1910



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