

Letter from Healdsburg by 'S'

[Letter which appeared in *The Sonoma County Journal*, Petaluma, November 30, 1857 - the first appearance in print of the town called Healdsburg (Holly Hoods)]

"Mr. Editor:- Agreeable to promise, I will endeavor to give your numerous readers a faint idea of this most flourishing village:

Healdsburg is situated on Russian River, about 80 miles from Petaluma, with which place it is connected by a daily line of stages driven by skillful and experienced drivers. The population of Healdsburg is about 500, consisting of the bone and sinew of our country-sober, quiet, and industrious-among whom are many families; and the sight of neat cottages and dwelling houses, reminds one of our country villages in the East. We have also two brick stores, erected by Mr. Rathbun, which will compare with any in the country. There is also an Academy in course of erection, which, when finished, will be capable of accommodating 125 scholars; together with a Fire Company, well supplied with hooks, ladders, buckets, etc.; a Masonic Hall, Sons of Temperance Hall, and concert Hall; three Livery Stables, one Paint Shop, a Billiard Saloon, etc.,-together with about twenty large business firms. Nothing, Mr. Editor, can prevent this place from becoming the most flourishing, as well as the largest inland town in the county, and being in direct communication with the Geysers, and adjacent towns, renders it a favorite stopping place for gentlemen of leisure, and those inclined to sport.

More anon.

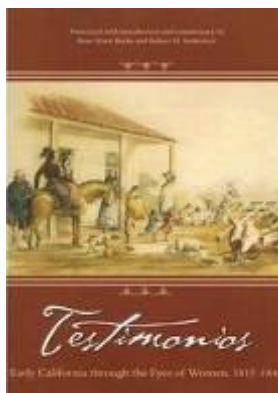
Yours, S"

[Editor: What a Town! One wonders why our correspondent was anonymous; perhaps he was one of the local 'sporting gentlemen'?]

Scholars to Speak on History and Archaeology

by Daniel F. Murley

In May the Healdsburg Museum in coordination with the Healdsburg Library will begin *The Spring Scholar Series* featuring speakers addressing topics of historical and archaeological interest. I am pleased to announce that the following friends and colleagues have agreed to present:



May 2, 2007 - Rose Marie Beebe, Ph.D. and Robert M. Senkewicz, Ph. D., Santa Clara University professors, will discuss early California life as featured in their book, *Testimonios*. In this volume is an interview with **Josefa Carrillo Fitch** conducted at the Fitch residence in Healdsburg in 1856.

Testimonios: Early California through the Eyes of Women, 1815-1848

May 16, 2007 - Kent Lightfoot, Ph. D. Professor of Archaeology at University of California, Berkeley, will discuss culture contact among the Native California People of Sonoma County with the Colonial Russians and the Spanish.

May 30, 2007 - Daniel F. Murley, M.A. Curator of the Healdsburg Museum, will discuss the early settlement of Sonoma County sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

Continuing into June we will have more presentations on other historic topics. I will keep you informed as to the times and dates. For more information please call me at the Museum at (707) 431-3325.

Calendar

APRIL, 2007

- 4 H MVA Meeting, 9:30 am
City Hall Council Chambers
- 18 Board Meeting, 9:30 am
City Hall Council Chambers
- 22 17th Annual Healdsburg Historic Homes Tour, 1-4:30 pm

MAY, 2007

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
City Hall Council Chambers
- 2, 16, 30 Library-Spring Scholar Series
7 pm, (see above right)
- 9 Langhart Dinner (Vintner's Inn)
- 16 Board Meeting, 9:30 am
City Hall Council Chambers

Healdsburg Museum

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Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325 - Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
HealdsburgMuseum@sbcglobal.net
Museum Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 pm
Tuesday – Sunday, CLOSED MONDAY
Research Archives open by appointment:
Thursday – Saturday

Curator's Comments

by Curator Daniel F. Murley

Greetings from the ground floor!

*We investigate the past,
And document the present,
To be preserved for the future.*

With these lines in mind and inscribed on their award certificates, the awards for the Family History Essay Challenge were distributed to the nine deserving winners. The topic of family history brought generations together as sons and daughters diligently researched their father's and mother's ancestry. The lives of the families' famous and not quite so notable were presented in a wide variety of writing styles. Truly all entrants were winners, but the following were chosen as the tops in their classes among the hundreds of entrants:

Grades 3&4

1. Julie Yparraguirre - Westside School
2. Emmanuel Alcala – Fitch Mountain
3. Bailey Meza – St John's School

Grades 5&6

1. Gina Safford – Westside School
2. Lily Cox - St John's School
3. Cody Trimble - Fitch Mountain

Grades 7&8

1. Elia Rodriguez – Healdsburg Junior High
2. Jordan Walker- Healdsburg Junior High
3. Gabriel Driver-Wilson and Kirsten Smith



Mary Cooperider Ferguson with her daughter Martha Jane Ferguson Watson - Born 1846

Darla's ancestors, the Ferguson Family, joined the Iowa Company wagon train after crossing the Missouri River from Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1849. They traveled to California by ox-drawn wagon. After spending time in the gold fields near Marysville and Yuba City, the family finally settled in The Alexander Valley in 1857. There are other photographs and memorabilia of the Ferguson family on loan from another relative and member John Lawson.

Research Report by Holly Hoods

I have been so immersed in the history of pioneer Healdsburg that I actually dreamed about it the other day! Hope the upcoming deluxe issue of the *Russian*



Families gather in front of the Museum after awards.

On that same day the family history of longtime volunteer and Museum member Darla Williams Budworth was highlighted in a display of pioneer artifacts from her family's collection. On loan to the museum for display is a hand-woven, hand-dyed coverlet made by Mary Cooperider Ferguson.

A set of pink glass berry bowls, ceramic butter dishes and some silver spoons accompanied by some charming family photographs are also on display.



Healdsburg Academy, 1868, construction underway in 1857 (front page letter)

River Recorder transports you back in time as it did for me, working on it. Editor Arnold Santucci recruited June Smith, Charlotte Anderson and Darla Meeker to join curator Dan Murley and me to present a range of articles, map and artifacts from 1857 Healdsburg and earlier. We

will also be including some of the earliest local images we have, dating to 1859-1872.

Dan and I enjoyed it so much that--despite our full schedules--we couldn't resist Kent Mitchell when he asked us to update and prepare a new Healdsburg history commemorative booklet for the 150th Birthday celebration this August 2007.

After finishing the research and architectural descriptions of the six houses on the upcoming House Tour, I am now jumping back into other interesting subjects, including the Magnolia Cannery, the Palomar on Fitch Mountain and the Cerri warehouse building. Darla Williams Budworth just helped me answer a query about the history behind the Rotary Club's Garrison Scholarship. It was established in honor of Bill Garrison, the 20 year old son of William and Hazel Garrison of Westside Road, who died in a car accident in 1953.

I have also been researching the former LeBaron Ranch in Dry Creek for Chateau Diana Winery. Thanks to Norma Passarino, Susan Andrade and Kay Robinson for helping me find pertinent people, photos and dates to help educate Chateau Diana about the history of this Dry Creek Road property. In local history research, it's frequently not *what* I know, but *who* I know that helps me track down answers.

Congratulations to Clarence Ruonavaara and all who worked so hard to help make the History Lives event a success. Thanks to Clarence for expressing so well what the old timers know: "Some people say that Healdsburg has been *discovered*; I say we were never lost!"

HMVA News by Charlotte Anderson



Thanks to many of our loyal volunteers, Founder's Day was a success. The upstairs was filled with history buffs as well as the winners of the Museum's essay contest and their families. Downstairs, Holly had books, maps, and papers about the 1850s put out for perusal. Judy Johnson provided a "living history," by spinning wool and displaying materials

from fleece to woven material.

Cilla Marshall has volunteered to be "Gallery Mom" for weeks 1 and 3 during the month. We need someone for weeks 2 & 4!

Our first HMVA meeting at the City Council Chambers was held on April 7. It was great to have lots of room and comfortable chairs! Doreene Zanzi even had a new coffee dispenser to celebrate the occasion!



First HMVA meeting in City Council Chamber

The floral arrangements adorning the table in the foyer are bringing a lot of color to that section. Thank you Meredith Dreisback for the March arrangement. The April bouquet was arranged and donated (including a new vase!) by Tzong Ly, of Flaky Cream Coffee Shop! We appreciate your flowery efforts, ladies!

May looks to be an exciting month for the Museum and for Healdsburg. (See the Calendar on page 1) A call will be going out for refreshments for the May 2 and May 16 "lectures" at the Library. If anyone would like to volunteer to "host" (read: coordinate!) one of these dates, it would be appreciated. Happy Easter to all!

Meet Your Members by Bob Rawlins

At the January annual meeting election a number of jobs changed hands. Replacing Chris Baldenhofer, meet Stan Becker, our new Assistant Treasurer, the man now responsible for receiving and keeping track of HM&HS income.

Stan was born in Brooklyn, NY, growing up there and in Queens and attending Rensselaer Polytechnic in



upstate NY. Graduating with a BS in electrical engineering, he received a commission as a Lieutenant in the Army Reserve. After a stint with the Army Signal Corps, he joined Western Electric Corp as a field engineer working in White Sands, NM. He spent 18 months in Korea establishing a number of Nike missile sites and later managed the development of instrumentation for the Nike-Zeus missile system. Thereafter Stan had a fascinating career in television and broadcast design and product development of videotape recorders, editing, equipment, video cameras and multi-channel broadcast automation systems. In 1995 Stan began his own consulting business specializing in system design and management. He designed digital upgrades for TV broadcast stations and operations centers for direct broadcast satellite systems.

In the 1960s Stan joined Ampex in Redwood City, delighted with the prospect of living in California. It was

during his work with Ampex that he met and married Blanche Morrow, a nurse working in San Francisco. Both Stan and Blanche were familiar with the wine country of Napa and Sonoma counties; in 1992 they bought a house on Tucker Street in Healdsburg which they rebuilt and used as a vacation and rental property. They moved in permanently in 2001.

Along the way Stan met Al Loebel and volunteered to work on the photo preservation scanning project. With input from Al, Kay Robinson and Dan Murley, Stan designed a virtual photo archive which can be accessed online at the Museum web page. Presently, 1000 photos and artifact records in five searchable categories are available for viewing. If you have not accessed this fascinating archive, I urge you to do so. Thanks, Stan for your able assistance to this very impressive project.

Wrap-Up of History Lives Dinner

by Barbara Baxter

If you weren't there at the Villa on Thursday night the 15th for the ninth annual History Lives/Pioneer Award Dinner, you missed an evening filled with warmth, respect and nostalgia—all due, of course, to our honoree, Clarence Ruonavaara. His Kiwanian friends, his Community Church friends, his academic friends, his sports friends, his German foreign exchange student Dr. Günther Beer, and his many family members all added to the memorable evening. Mark Gladden once again did a splendid job as master of ceremonies. Sue Borowicz of Trends catering served us a great meal, Bonnie Z of Dragonfly Farms gave us the large floral arrangement, Nancy Perez of Papitre supplied our place cards, Dan Murley our curator, skillfully presented a pictorial display of Clarence's life. Vince Dougherty of Redwood Empire Computers and his crew took care of the valet parking for us. And none of this could have been possible without our generous and loyal sponsors, namely: Alexander Valley Vineyards, Rose Benson, Brandt Insurance, the Vince Ciolinos, Catherine Curtis and Bob Rawlins, the John Daytons, Furth Family Foundation, Gallo of Sonoma, Healdsburg Community Church, Healdsburg Realty, B.J. and Russ Green, the Warren Kitchens, Passalacqua Mazzoni Gladden Lopez and Maraviglia law firm, Pedroncelli Winery, Reedy Vineyards, David Riley and Nicole Mummenhoff, Rochioli Winery, Jane Rosenberg and Steve Deas, the Robert Salisburys, the Arnold Santuccis, Sausal Winery, Silveiras, the Temple Smiths, the Nelson Wellers, the Joel Wrights and Robert Young Winery.

Wine was generously donated by the following wineries: Silver Oak, Dry Creek, Limerick Lane, Seghesio, Mauritson, Rueds, Mill Creek, Fieldstone, Deux Amis, Geyser Peak, Hafner, Rodney Strong, Kendall-Jackson, Simi, and Alison Green Doran. Our thanks go to all of them, and lastly our heartfelt thanks to

the over 250 people who purchased dinner tickets to honor Clarence and support the museum. Thank you, Clarence, for being the center of, and reason for, such a memorable evening.

Healdsburg's First Post Office

by Charlotte Anderson

From the *Healdsburg Tribune*, November 30, 1899: "LANDMARK DEMOLISHED. Healdsburg's Oldest House Is Torn Down to Make Room for Improvements."

"In making improvements in the rear of the Union Hotel, the first house built in Healdsburg has been demolished. Historically the first house built on the present site of Healdsburg was a clapboard building erected by Harmon Heald in 1852, in which Mr. Heald established a small store. In the winter of 1853-54 Mr. Heald associated with himself H.M. Willson and A.B. Auld, at which time the building was enlarged. In 1854 the first post-office was established in this building. The first building was of clapboards, but the addition was of sawed redwood lumber, which was the building just demolished, so the age of this latter building dates from 1854."

The first post office was called "Russian River" and was a "fourth class office" from 1854 to 1857. When it was changed to first class on April 14, 1857, the name was changed to "Healdsburgh." Harmon Heald became the first of the county postmasters to serve as first postmaster of two offices, and the first to serve in an office bearing his name.



'Healdsburgh' postmark in 1889

"Study of the postmarks from this office show that it was 'Healdsburgh' from 1857 to 1860; 'Healdsburg' from 1860 to 1874; 'Healdsburgh' from 1874 to 1894; and 'Healdsburg' ever since." The reasons for earlier changes are unknown, but the final change was a result of a report sent to the U.S. House of Representatives by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891. This report recommended that "the final 'h' in the termination 'burgh' be dropped for all U.S. Post Offices. For Healdsburgh this change occurred on or about 15 November 1894."

Endowment Fund Contributions:

Generous Contributions from:

Barbara Epstein

In honor of:

Jerry Goodyear on his 85th birthday and the 40th anniversary of Goodyear Hay Mart from: Mary Brandt

In Remembrance of:

Rosalie Pourroy - Norm & Peachie Dunlavy

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Eugene Cuneo - Mary Anne Batt Gilles

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Welcome New Members:

Robert Taylor, Joe & Holly Sobolewski, Nancy Leavens, Harold B. Davis

After Heald's death in 1858, post office duties were taken over by others including Albert Wright, 1877-1882, Leslie Jordan, 1883-1886, editor and publisher of the *Russian River Flag*, and Henry Fox, 1886-1899+, a druggist and bookseller. It was during Fox's term as postmaster that "a sketch was made of the building and a history of the post office up to Mr. Fox's term was written by George Madeira. Judge H.M. Willson, at that time President of the Healdsburg Bank, accompanied Mr. Madeira and pointed out the building in which the first post office was located. The history and sketch of the building was forwarded by Postmaster Fox to the Post Office department at Washington, and is now filed in archives of that department. All the data obtainable from all sources was incorporated in the history."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone could obtain copies of that history and sketch for the HM & HS archives?

SOURCES: *Healdsburg Tribune*, November 30, 1899. Papp, Richard Paul, THE BEAR FLAG COUNTRY



Bath cabinet anyone (1899)?

Wanted Items For Plaza Antique Fair - May 27

Antiques, collectibles, furniture, odds and ends and the like.

Time to clean out the closet, attic and garage. Drop off at the Museum or call Bob Rawlins, 431-1109 for pickup. Your donation will help keep the Museum's budget in the black!

Board of Directors: Ann Mahoney (President), Jim Brush (Vice President), Al Loebel (Past President), Kay Robinson (Recording Secretary), Chris Baldenhofer (Treasurer), Stan Becker (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Charlotte Anderson, John Cross, Anna Darden, Vince Dougherty, Mark Gleason, Lois Grace, Dan Maraviglia, Kent Mitchell, Joe Norton, Jan Pisenti, Keith Power, Frank Zak.

The mission of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is to record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of all historical materials; to actively foster the appreciation of local history through programs and activities; and to provide finances for and to operate and manage the Healdsburg Museum.

Membership Dues:

Harmon Heald: \$1000 Josefa Carrillo: \$500 Edwin Langhart: \$250 Gold: \$100 Family (2 or more): \$40

Business: \$75 Individual: \$25

Newsletter Editor: Barry Stallard, Printing by Amoruso