



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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TREASURES



From the
Museum Collection



In This Issue

This issue of the *Russian River Recorder* accompanies our current Healdsburg Museum exhibition, "Treasures from the Museum Collection," which is on display through May 14. Instead of focusing on the historical objects in the exhibition, however, we decided to feature a few of the more hidden treasures in the Museum Collection. The historical ephemera and textual artifacts in this issue are not necessarily visually stunning; in fact, several of them are quite drab in appearance. These record books, pamphlets, scrapbooks and photo albums are research gems nevertheless.

Our writers took a personal approach to the articles they wrote. Museum Board member Ann Howard delved into the intriguing history of the earliest Webster dictionaries, two of which we have in our Collection. Museum Office Manager Jane Bonham showed how the "First Records of Healdsburg Public Schools, 1854-1867" gave her insight into her Bonham family Healdsburg pioneer roots. Jane also wrote about her childhood choir director Smith Robinson's scrapbooks from Healdsburg's Adopted Battalion campaign of the 1950s. Museum Assistant Curator Whitney Hopkins shared her interest in a locally owned church cookbook full of vintage advertisements and

recipes from prominent local women. Whitney also wrote about the 1924 Healdsburg City Slogan Contest. Museum Board member Phyllis Chiosso Liu, who moved to Healdsburg in 1971, enjoyed writing about the familiar businesses featured in "The Game of Healdsburg," a fun trip down memory lane. Museum Intern Lauren Carriere wrote fondly about the fascinating Healdsburg Tax Assessment records, so valuable to historic house researchers at the Museum. Executive Director/Curator Holly Hoods described how a brochure in our Collection led to a heartwarming connection with the daughter of a former Lytton Home child "inmate."

We have also included a precious 1904 photo album of local buildings and scenes, the first-known drawing of Healdsburg, and a historically priceless "Diamond Jubilee" edition of the *Healdsburg Tribune*.

We hope you enjoy this glimpse into some of the hidden gems of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society Collection. Our goals are to carefully preserve these historic treasures, catalog them and make them ever more accessible to the public.

Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator
Pamela Vana-Paxhia, Editor



RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

The Official Publication of the
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Edwin Langhart, Founder

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It was not until the 1930s that the assessor switched over to using a typewriter. Though the typewritten information is easier to scan for information, it is interesting to see how much effort was put into writing the cursive entries.

TAXPAYER-NAME OR CORPORATION OR TRUSTEES OF TRUSTED PROPERTY	Value of Land and Improvements	Value of Personal Property	Total Value of All Property	Total Tax
Jones, Edwin	200	1600	1800	1880
Smith, J. W. Horse, Cattle Furniture & Piano	300	2000	2300	4600
Team, G. N.	100	1000	1100	2600

Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Sample from 1934 Property Assessment Book

Upon inspecting the assessment rolls more thoroughly, you may notice that addresses are absent from the property tax books. In Healdsburg's early years, properties did not have addresses. Instead, they were often distinguished by referring to the family that owned it.

For tax purposes, the assessor needed to distinguish the properties by where they were on the land, not by the families who owned them. The assessors used a system of describing the property's location by the streets and neighbors surrounding the property. This system is also more useful for research purposes because the street numbers in Healdsburg have changed over the years. With descriptions, properties can be found on a map using street and property owner names instead of wondering if the property is the same as the one listed on a previous assessment roll.

Assessment rolls are a great resource for historic research, but they can be difficult to use. The assessors tweaked the assessment rolls over time. The early assessment rolls organize the properties by the owners' last names. All the last names that start with "A" are grouped together, and so forth, through the alphabet. As time went on, the assessor switched over to a numbering system. While the assessor likely found this numbering system to be easier, it makes tracking properties more difficult for the

researcher. Things get even more confusing because the property tax numbers changed periodically. (Luckily, some of the assessment rolls have indices sorted by the property owners' names to aid in finding the changed tax number.)

While the Museum's assessment rolls are essential for much of the historic research we perform, the books themselves have an even larger role in Healdsburg history. In the 1960s, the job of tracking and assessing property taxes came under the purview of the County of Sonoma. Because the City of Healdsburg was no longer in charge of tracking property taxes, the assessment records became obsolete.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Jon Eisenberg using tax records for Tucker Street house research, 2016.

Edwin Langhart, Healdsburg's City Manager and unofficial historian, realized that the City intended to throw away the old assessment rolls that they no longer used. As the story goes, Langhart discovered tax assessment rolls in the dumpster one day. Knowing their historical value, Langhart retrieved the books from the dumpster.

After saving the assessment rolls, Langhart became determined to save Healdsburg's historically significant documents and materials from destruction. One result was the creation of the Langhart Museum (now the Healdsburg Museum), which has continued to strive to preserve the rich history of Healdsburg to this day.

A Pearl in the Collection

by Jane Bonham

My favorite treasure from the Collection holds an unexpected personal connection. It is a small, unassuming bound notebook which shines light on the first schools in this area which were then a part of Mendocino Township.

There are few primary sources descriptive of the 1850s in what became the town of Healdsburg. Chroniclers of that time must turn to secondary sources, reflections on those times as told by early settlers and family stories, as well as newspapers and historical collections published at later dates.

In my perennial search for more information about the pioneer Bonham brothers (one of whom is my 2nd Great Grandfather), I was delighted when I encountered the following scrap of information in Hannah Clayborn's *History of Healdsburg: The Schools*:

The real centers of population in those early years were the fertile river valleys of the north Bay Area. Venturesome farming families and failed goldminers fairly stampeded into the Russian River Valley between 1850 and 1860. By mid-decade all the good lands had been "taken up," mostly by squatters. And those squatters begat many little squatters...So it is not surprising that all three of the first School Commissioners who met to decide the fate of Mendocino Township schools in April 1854, were farmers...H.P. Mollison, Isaac Laymance, and William Kinkaid carved the township into two huge districts...Teachers at the rural schools during its first years include a Mr. Fitzgerald, R.J. Yancey, G.T. Espy, N. Eaton, E.L. Taner, R.A. Johnson, E.L. Green, B.N. Bonham, M.B. Harrison, a Mr. Willson, and William Byrd.

How intriguing: When and where did Baxter Newton Bonham, my 2nd Great Grandfather teach?

There were two additional pieces in the article that also called out for further clarification: One was the distressing piece from former student Frank Sparks' *most vivid memory of his early school years...of the "lickings" he received at the hands of his teacher, apparently so severe that for many years he harbored the wish to return them in kind.*

Without more detailed information, there remained a one in ten chance, statistically, that the abusive teacher was Baxter Newton Bonham!

The second piece posed a challenge: was Baxter Newton Bonham actually the teacher as listed?

Genealogists trying to build a family history learn that even formal reports such as a census will have errors and inconsistencies. In this instance, sometime in the past, writers of local history have confused Baxter Newton Bonham with Benjamin Blackman Bonham, his elder brother and my 3rd great uncle.

As an example, this error was repeated in a footnote of an article authored by Edwin Langhart. *One source lists Baxter Bonham as the original founder of the school. He was at that time the first County superintendent of common school, later becoming the first medical practitioner in Healdsburg, which may account for this confusion.*

Actually, it was Benjamin Blackman Bonham (not Baxter) who, from his office as the first County Superintendent of Common Schools, advocated the establishment of a college in Healdsburg. He actively participated in that vision, serving as agent for the Russian River Institute and Lecturer at the Agricultural and Mechanical University.

I wanted to learn where 2nd Great-Grandfather Bonham had taught. If, in fact, *Baxter Newton* was the Bonham who taught in the first public (common) schools, rather than his older brother, once again misnamed. Would I be able to determine who was responsible for Frankie Sparks' trauma? Would the answers be found in the *Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Mendocino Township* beginning April 3, 1854?

Querying Executive Director/Curator Holly Hoods about the location of the *Minutes* in short order quelled my excitement for discovery. She suggested the book might be in the Bancroft Library located in the East Bay or somewhere in our Collection; she wasn't certain. She encouraged me to be patient. Perhaps it would be amongst the

artifacts and ephemera soon to be moved when the new Collections facility was ready.

Time passed and my enthusiasm for this particular history hunt receded. Then one afternoon Holly returned from moving items out of the Villa storage room to their new location. Smiling, she handed me a dog-eared, legal-sized, paper file jacket. "There may be something that will interest you in there," she said in a manner that immediately piqued my curiosity.

Inside, I feasted my eyes on three aged bound notebooks, each a remarkable diary of the earliest public schools. And, yes, the cover of the smallest of these read, "*First Records of Healdsburg Public Schools.*"



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The 163-year-old journal, "First Records of Healdsburg Public Schools," 1854-1867.

I wondered, as I withdrew the rather scruffy 6 by 7-1/2 inch hardcover notebook, how had it survived. I noticed the numbers on the spine and, opening the cover, the purple Healdsburg Library stamp, which provided a partial answer. Imagine the chain of custody and care that kept it intact, presented it to the library, housed within the Museum's Collection and now, delivered to me.

The Legislature of the emerging State of California, out of policy considerations or simply because the business of the new state was all consuming, delegated the establishment of public schools to the citizens of individual towns and communities. The law stated: "Until otherwise determined and established by the proper

authorities, each city, and each town or township in this state shall constitute one school district."

This pearl of the collection holds the record of citizens establishing and staffing the first public (then called "common") schools from 1854 to 1867.

In 1854, the areas north of Santa Rosa were included in Mendocino Township No. 9. In April of that year, the elected members of the Schools Commissioners of Mendocino Township met to establish a plan to educate the community's children. In addition to the Board, a Schools Marshal was appointed at that first meeting. In accordance with state law, the gentlemen then proceeded to divide the Township into two districts to ensure that a school was within walking distance for all children.

In a second meeting in April of 1854, the Board voted on the locations for schoolhouses to be built in the two districts. The citizens of each district were responsible for funding and building their respective schoolhouse.

For District 1: *The place designated is on Dry Creek at a place called "the Narrows" about 2 miles above Heald's Store.*

For District 2: *The place designated according to law is between H.P. Mullison's and George Story's.*

In addition to establishing the buildings, these Commissioners of Schools (also called Trustees) were elected to manage the public schools. They examined and hired teachers, granting them certificates valid for only one year. Trustees fixed the length of the school day and school year, the fee to be paid the teacher and defined the expectations of teachers.

Apparently District 2 completed its building before District 1, because in January 1855, the Board met at the schoolhouse in District 2 for the purpose of examining Mr. Fitzgerald, an applicant for the teaching position there. Located about five miles from Healdsburg, along Westside Road, the school in District 2 was thereafter known as the Mill Creek School.

I learned about 1854 business and name of the first teacher hired in just the first three pages of the little book, which allowed me to hope that there would also be concrete answers to my family questions.

It was daunting trying to decode the mid-19th century script and conventions (such as no punctuation, rampant capital letters and “f’s for double “s”). I found it required quite a bit of thought and inventive interpretations. Fortunately, finding a teacher’s name linked to a designated school in the beginning couple of pages gave me just the kind of motivation I needed to continue.

By April of 1855, the citizens of District 1 ...have erected a school house 16 x 20 one story high, raised by subscription, whole cost \$200.00.

The Trustees examined and hired G.T. Espy as first teacher at that schoolhouse (later to be named Manzanita School) for the term May 16 to October 16, 1855. It would appear that Mr. Espy was unable to complete the full term. Mr. N. Eaton completed the second half of that season and continued teaching at Manzanita through 1856. Espy did not abandon the public schools, however, for he returned as trustee in 1858. Sometime later he appears to have relocated to Township 8 (Russian River).



Source: *Vintage Memories: Dry Creek, Neighbors and Friends*,
Artist: Rosinda Holmes

Manzanita School

1857 also seems to have been a disrupted year at Manzanita School. R.A. Johnson passed

examination and was certificated, at \$50/month plus board, starting in April. Perhaps the term started late or Mr. Johnson left early after only a month; for on July 6 he received only \$56 for school services.

There appears to have been two replacement teachers for that year: In September, B.N. Bonham received \$100.00, and M.B. Harrison received \$52.20, both for services in Healdsburg Dist. No. 1.

I read that in 1858, the Board of Trustees met at Healdsburg in Mendocino Township District No. 1 for the purpose of examining E.A. Scott for the post at Manzanita School. Mr. Scott was certificated and employed as teacher for the year. Sitting in review were Trustees G.T. Espy, T.W. Hudson and B.N. Bonham.

This brought me to page 13 and the answers to two of my questions! I have explored only 15% of the *Minutes*: quite satisfactory so far. Unfortunately, the “Sparks Mystery” remains.

I plan to continue researching the pioneers of District 1 School (1854 to 1858) found in the minutes so far: A.C. Bledsoe, B.N. Bonham, N. Eaton, Geo. T. Espy, Prof. Fitzgerald, E.L. Green, M.B. Harrison, T.W. Hudson, R.A. Johnson, Wm. Kincaid, I. Laymance, W. J. March, H.P. Mullison, John R. Peck, E.A. Scott, E.L. Tanner and R.J. Yancey.

Next, I shall return to the pages of this pearl from the collection. What might the years 1859 to 1867 hold?

Sources:

“Agricultural and Mechanical University,” *Sonoma Democrat*, December 8, 1859.

“Catalogue: Officers and Students,” Russian River Institute, 1858.

First Records of Healdsburg Public Schools, 1854-1867

Hannah Clayborn’s *History of Healdsburg*, OurHealdsburg.com/history/schools.htm

History of Sonoma County, California, Its People and Its Resources, 1937.

“Oaths of Public Officials, Bond, Sonoma County, California, 1854-1894,” October, 1986.

Tuomey, Honoria, *History of Sonoma County, California, Volume I*, 1926.

Vintage Memories: Dry Creek, Neighbors and Friends, 1979.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Photograph of an India-ink sketch of Healdsburg, 1872.

Rare 1872 Ink Sketch of Healdsburg

by Holly Hoods

Created in spring of 1872, this rare artifact, a retouched and mounted photograph of an ink sketch, is the earliest-known artistic depiction of Healdsburg.

A visiting artist, Stephen Hamnet Shakespeare, made the sketch. Voting records for 1872 reveal that Shakespeare was a native of Newcastle, Delaware. Genealogical research revealed that he had been recently discharged from his army job as a hospital steward at Camp Reynolds on Angel Island from 1869-1871.

Shakespeare was 35 years old when he made the sketch of Healdsburg. His stay here was brief—less than two years.

At the time, the Healdsburg newspaper published several articles about the artist and his activities in the local area. According to a February 1872 issue of the *Russian River Flag*, during Mr. Shakespeare's short time in Healdsburg, he was "engaged for several weeks in teaching a large class in drawing, and is spoken of very highly by members of the class and those who have noted the advancement made by his pupils in so short a time."

Stephen Shakespeare never achieved further recognition as an artist and the artwork has more historical interest than artistic merit or monetary value.

Over the course of his lifetime, Shakespeare worked primarily as a druggist and a teacher. By

1892, he took a teaching position at the Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy where he was known as "Colonel Shakespeare." He taught elocution. Stephen Shakespeare died of pneumonia at the age of 67 in San Rafael in 1902.

Historical newspapers are an invaluable tool for local history research. In this case, the *Russian River Flag* is the sole source of information we have about this early rendering of Healdsburg. We are able to know who did it, in addition to when, where and why. The *Russian River Flag* enthusiastically announced the commencement of the artist's sketch under the headline, "View of Healdsburg," published April 23, 1872.

S.H. Shakespeare, who has been giving lessons in drawing for the past few months in this place, is now engaged on a landscape view, which will include the town of Healdsburg, a glimpse of Russian River, a portion of Russian River and Dry Creek valleys, and the Coast Range in the background. The view is taken from a point on the hills about two miles east of town. Mr. Shakespeare is a first-class artist and this landscape will prove a creditable effort. It is proposed to furnish large-sized photographs of this drawing for framing, to those of our citizens who desire them, providing a sufficient number may be ordered to warrant the undertaking. Mr. Shakespeare is contemplating a trip to Japan in the employ of Eastern parties. During his sojourn in our midst, he has won a host of friends who will wish him well wherever his fortunes may be cast.

Shakespeare evidently took his time on the landscape. The completion of the work was announced in the *Russian River Flag* the following month under the headline, "Healdsburg in India-Ink", May 30, 1872:

S.H. Shakespeare has completed his sketch of Healdsburg in India-ink, and the work has been highly complimented by competent judges. The sketch is taken from a point on the high bluffs to the

south of Fitch Mountain, about two miles southeast of town, and shows all the prominent points of the town, the railroad bridge, portions of the Russian River and Dry Creek, and the Coast Range to the west of the valleys. Mr. Shakespeare is now taking orders for re-touched photographs of this sketch which will be of a large size for framing and will be furnished at five dollars apiece.

The first day after completing his work orders were received for forty copies, and probably not less than one hundred will be subscribed for before the artist will have them ready for delivery. [This suggests that there were probably a lot less than 100 of the copies made.] Mr. Shakespeare has spent several weeks on this work, which is a credit to the place, and our people should appreciate his labors by availing themselves of this their only opportunity of supplying their parlors with such an ornament, and also ordering copies to send to friends in the East.

One of the few copies of the photographed drawing was presented to then-City Clerk Edwin Langhart by Gene (Mrs. George) Warfield in 1962. It was added to the Healdsburg City Archives nearly a decade before a Healdsburg Museum was established.

The artwork measures 10" x 14." The Museum has the only known copy of it in existence.

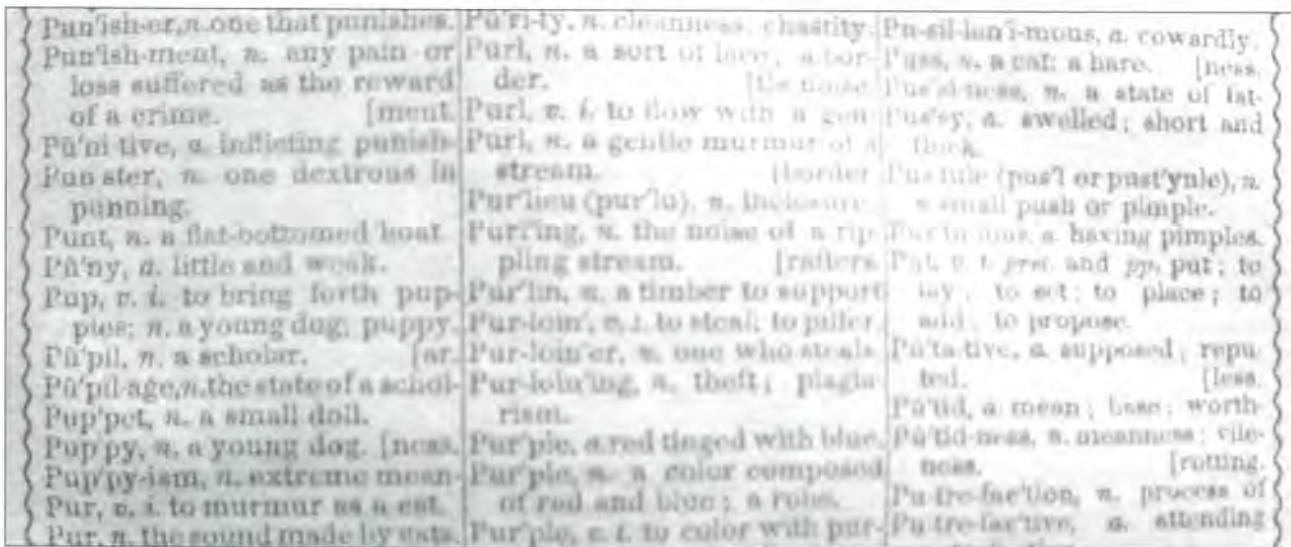
Thanks to John and S.G. Howell, publishers of the *Russian River Flag*, we are able to recognize and appreciate this 1872 depiction of Healdsburg today.

Sources:

Healdsburg Museum subject file, "Art."
Russian River Flag, February 13, 1872; April 23, 1872; May 30, 1872.

Sonoma County Great Register of Voters, 1872.

Stephen Hamnet Shakespeare, by Catherine Goudy, 2013.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Detail from a page of Dr. Webster's Primary School Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language, 1853.

Two Early Webster Dictionaries

by Ann Howard

I clearly remember the statement, "Webster standardized American English spellings by 1850," when I attended genealogy conferences in San Francisco during the 1990s.

Recently, I began making lists of the books stored in the Museum's new Collection facility. We have only a few dictionaries, but I found two of them to be particularly interesting.

Father of American Scholarship and Education

Not surprisingly, both examples of these early dictionaries were developed by Noah Webster.



Source: National Portrait Gallery

Noah Webster portrait by James Herring, 1833.

Noah Webster, Jr., was born in 1758 in New Haven, Connecticut, and died there in 1843. He attended Yale during the Revolutionary War and graduated in 1778.

He did not like American schools. Sometimes 70 children of all ages were crammed into one-room schoolhouses without desks, poor books, and untrained teachers. Their books came from England. Noah thought that Americans should learn from American books, so in 1783, he wrote his own textbook, A Grammatical Institute of the English Language...It was the most popular American book of its time...along with the "Blue-backed Speller" considered the first dictionary.

When Noah was 43, he started writing the first American dictionary. He did this because Americans in different parts of the country spelled, pronounced and used words differently. He thought that all Americans should speak the same way. He also thought that Americans should not speak and spell just like the English... and the rest is history.

Noah Webster became an American lexicographer [author of dictionaries], textbook

pioneer, English-language spelling reformer, political writer, editor and prolific author. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education." His blue-backed speller books taught five generations of American children how to spell and read, secularizing their education. (Secular education is a system of public education in countries with a secular government or separation between religion and state.)

In the introductions to these two dictionaries there is a great deal of information about the contents of Noah Webster's early dictionaries and his reasons for compiling the American English spellings and pronunciations.

In the introductions to these two dictionaries there is a great deal of information about the contents of Noah Webster's early dictionaries and his reasons for compiling the American English spellings and pronunciations.

A Pocket Dictionary

One is a well-used, palm-sized "Pocket Dictionary of the English Language" by Noah Webster, L.L.D. (Doctor of Law) with an ornately-pressed-paper cover. It was published in New York in 1858.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Pocket Dictionary of the English Language, 1858.

The body of the dictionary includes the anticipated alphabetical listings of words with

pronunciations, parts of speech and definitions. The introduction, however, contains some interesting tidbits including segments on Rules for Pronunciation; Words and Phrases from the French with English Translations; Proverbs and Phrases from the Italian, Spanish and Greek; and Mottos of the United States.

The 1858 dictionary in our Collection, with Noah's son W. G. Webster as editor, was a later version of Noah's first dictionary published in 1828. It had taken Noah twenty-eight years to complete when he was seventy years old. *To evaluate the etymology [meaning] of words, Noah learned twenty-six languages, including Old English (Anglo-Saxon), Greek, Hebrew and Latin.*

Searching the Museum's Copy

On the front and back covers was written "W.T. Allen's Book Presented to him by S.U. Wilson."



Source: FindAGrave.com
William T. Allen (1818-1891).

A lucky search on ancestry.com found Wm. T. Allen, age 51, living with his wife Telitha A. Capell Allen, three children and his mother-in-law Elizabeth Capell, age 66, in 1870 in Mendocino Township, Sonoma County.

Quickly distracted, I realized this extended family is a favorite of mine. Daughter Elizabeth M. Allen, age 15 in 1870, later became the wife of James M. Hendricks and lived in a Victorian home

at the junction of Dry Creek Road and Canyon Road in upper Dry Creek Valley. (Elizabeth and her two daughters, Estella Hendricks Traub and Mayme Hendricks Adams, were founding members of the Dry Creek Neighbors Club in 1909 of which I have been a member for ten years).

Many of these early settlers are buried in Oak Mound Cemetery. Joseph, a year-old son of William and Telitha Allen died in 1855, a very early burial in Oak Mound.

Descendant Leon Hendricks later donated many photographs and family heirlooms to the Museum.

Primary School Pronouncing Dictionary

Another dictionary in the Collection is *Dr. Webster's Primary School Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language*.

First published in 1833, this copy is from the 1853 revision. Released 13 years after the death of Noah Webster, this version was edited by his son, William G. Webster. In his introductory notes, he emphasizes that the many improvements made to the dictionary and that it is "essentially a pronouncing dictionary for the primary schools of our country."

The publisher, F.J. Huntinton and Mason & Law, proudly announces the many variations of Dr. Webster's dictionary: the University edition, the Academic Quarto, the High School edition, the Primary School edition and the Pocket edition. The Primary School edition is touted as the edition designed for "our Common Schools, containing 10,000 more words than Walker's Dictionary."

Like the pocket version, this edition also includes some unexpected additions. This one contains Pronunciations of Greek and Latin Proper Names and Pronunciations of Scripture Proper Names.

The names handwritten in the front cover are "Mers. [sic] E. L. Briggs Dictionary Nov 3 /67" and "James M. Briggs." Again a quick, lucky search found Elizabeth L. Briggs, a widow, age 49 and a glove maker, with ten-year old son James, living on Sheridan Street in Healdsburg in the 1880 Federal census. (An older daughter was living in the same household with her husband, a brick mason, and their infant daughter. Sonoma County marriage records prove that this daughter's maiden name was

Walker, certain to be a child of Elizabeth's first marriage.)

Another name, "C. A. Briggs, Healdsburg," is stamped on the second page. Clement A. Briggs married Elizabeth L. Walker on November 27, 1866, in Sonoma County. Public family trees posted on ancestry.com with sources verified this family. Clement Andrew Briggs died of apoplexy at age 40 in Oregon in 1879.

A Healdsburg Connection

Remarkably, both dictionaries are related somehow in this complex network of Healdsburg families. Mayme Hendricks married William Arthur Adams before 1920 and their daughter Wilma, fondly known as Willie, married Harry M. Briggs. Unfortunately, I do not know how Harry is related directly to this Clement and Elizabeth Briggs family—Harry as a final link in this detective work is a kink in the Briggs family chain. But, thank you all for leaving so many clues!

Times Change

Alas, a dictionary is no longer close at hand on my desk with spell check so easily available on the computer.

Twenty-five years ago, when I attended genealogy conferences in San Francisco and purchased one of the first family tree softwares, I was still cranking miles of microfilm at the Sutro/California State Library. I would write letters with one question to county courthouses around the country hoping for a fruitful answer. When we moved to Geyserville in 2001, I worried that I was so far from Sutro Library, but about that time on-line research slowly became available. Now Wow! We have so many options available to search online with claims of "thousands of records added daily."

Amazing the number of threads pulled and the web woven as a result of clues found by opening two small dictionaries 160 years later!

Sources:

Ancestry.com.

California Census, 1870, 1880.

FindAGrave.com.

NoahWebsterHouse.org.

Sonoma County Marriages 1847-1902.

U.S. Federal Census, 1880.

1904 Shinkle Photo Album of Healdsburg

by Holly Hoods

This historically priceless photo album was donated to the Healdsburg City archives in the early 1960s, prior to the establishment of the Museum. Unfortunately, the donor information has been lost to time.

The small, hand-tooled leather volume contains black and white photos of Healdsburg, taken in 1904 by J.C. Shinkle, a traveling photographer.

John Clark Shinkle (1854-1938), a native of Ohio, was a professional photographer who lived and worked in Woodland, Yolo County when he visited Healdsburg.

Shinkle had a thriving photography studio and postcard photography business near Sacramento. Most of the photos in this album were printed and sold as postcards.

The album of Shinkle photographs is so important because the photos were taken just two years before the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The earthquake had a devastating impact in downtown Healdsburg where many of the buildings sustained major damage. Several of them were never rebuilt.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Matheson Street 1900 Kruse Building, now Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza, view Southeast from Plaza.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Red Men's Hall at Northwest corner of Plaza and Center Streets.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Healdsburg Railroad Depot, view looking Southeast.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

1900 Ladies Improvement Club Fountain in Plaza, view toward Northeast.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

West side of West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) businesses.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Northwest corner of Plaza, view of City Hall.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

City Hall built 1884, Southeast corner of Matheson and Center Streets.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Student Residence Hall for Healdsburg College.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

West side of West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) looking Northwest from Plaza.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Matheson Street at West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) looking East toward Fitch Mountain.

More Than a Collection of Recipes

by Whitney Hopkins

While cataloging our Collection at the new storage facility on Kennedy Lane, a small, but fascinating, cookbook turned up. The book is titled *The Re-Appear: A Book of Choice Recipes Compiled by The Ladies' Aid Society of the Fulton Presbyterian Church*. The price of the book, printed in 1908 by C.A. Wright & Co. of Santa Rosa, was 50 cents.

Although seemingly unremarkable from its simple green cover, this book is fascinating on many levels, including its owner, Mrs. Luella Prince of Healdsburg, the vintage recipes submitted by prominent local women and the historic advertisements from various Sonoma County businesses. It is also a great example of textual artifacts, such as books, as valuable research tools.

JUGGED PIGEONS—Mrs. Chas. Hoffer

Clean and wash well and stuff with a dressing made of the giblets boiled and chopped, a slice of fat pork, the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs rubbed to a powder, some bread crumbs, pepper and salt, bound with a beaten raw egg. Tie the legs and wings close to their bodies and pack the pigeons in a tin pail with a tight top. Plunge this into a pot of boiling water, put a weight on top to keep it steady, and cook two hours and a half. The water should not boil over the top. Drain all the gravy into a saucepan, thicken with a tablespoon of butter rolled in flour, season, boil up, pour over the pigeons, cover again, and leave in the boiling water ten minutes before serving.

Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

A sample recipe from The Re-Appear: A Book of Choice Recipes Compiled by The Ladies' Aid Society of the Fulton Presbyterian Church, 1908.

The cookbook belonged to “Mrs. J.B. Prince” whose name was written in cursive on the first page. It was donated to the Museum in 1977 by Mrs. Prince’s daughter, Eloise Prince Liston.

Mrs. J.B. Prince was Luella (Wolcott) Prince. Luella Wolcott was a pioneer Healdsburg resident. She was born in the mining town of Mokelumne Hill in Calaveras County in 1854, where she spent her earliest years. In 1862, Luella moved to Healdsburg with her mother Caroline and brothers Guy and Frank. Luella’s father Russell Wolcott stayed behind to work in the mines. He died just three years later in 1865.

In 1868, Luella’s mother married S.W. Beeson of Alexander Valley. Luella attended school at the Alexander Academy and was known for her

singing and piano playing. She frequently performed at community events in Healdsburg.

In 1891, Luella married Joseph B. Prince, who had also grown up in Healdsburg. Their home was located at 214 Piper Street, between Johnson and Prince Streets (which was named for the family). J.B. Prince worked as a grocer, Healdsburg postmaster, lumber merchant and City Trustee.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Joseph Bucknam Prince and Luella Wolcott Prince and their children, Eloise and Joey, ca 1902.

The couple had two children, Joey and Eloise. Sadly, Joey died in an accident as a little boy. J.B. died later in 1915.

After losing her husband and son, Luella Prince spent much of her time with her daughter Eloise. She moved to Berkeley to live near her daughter who attended the University of California, but regularly returned to Healdsburg to visit friends and family. She died in San Francisco in 1938.

It’s difficult to know from whom Luella Prince obtained the Fulton Presbyterian Church Ladies’ Aid Society Cookbook. Was she given it? Did she buy it? She probably knew someone who was a member of the organization. Luella had participated in a Ladies’ Aid Society event at

Healdsburg's Presbyterian Church on the Plaza, and was married by a Presbyterian minister. In fact, in 1897, she had contributed recipes to *Our Cookbook, Compiled by the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Healdsburg*. (This 1897 cookbook is also part of the Healdsburg Museum's collection.)



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Healdsburg's Presbyterian Church on Matheson Street, 1870s.

Many churches at that time had Ladies' Aid Societies. These groups met regularly, serving as a social outlet and a means for the women to contribute to their community and raise funds to support their church.

In February, 1898, the *Healdsburg Tribune* noted that The Ladies' Aid Society of Healdsburg's Presbyterian Church was holding its next meeting at the home of Mrs. J.B. Prince, who was the Secretary of the group at the time. The Ladies' Aid Societies at the various Presbyterian churches probably tried to support each other, so it is not surprising that Luella Prince, who had ties to the Presbyterian Church, owned this cookbook.

Similar to the Healdsburg Ladies' Aid members, the Fulton Presbyterian Church Ladies' Aid was frequently organizing bazaars and entertainment events as moneymakers to support their church. They also created this cookbook to sell as a fundraiser and had created at least one earlier version.

Fulton was, and still is, a very small town situated south of Windsor and north of Santa Rosa. Laid out in 1871 by Thomas and James Fulton, the town derived its importance in the 19th century from being the junction of the main railroad line and the Guerneville branch of the S.F.&N.P.R.R. It was an important shipping center for charcoal, lumber, farm

products and wine on the railroad. Many of the members of the Fulton Ladies' Aid Society lived on large farms surrounding Fulton and the church. The Ladies' Aid Society played an important role in their social lives.

Locally familiar names of residents who lived around Fulton, and contributed recipes to this cookbook, include Mrs. A. Faught (Faught Road), Miss Annie Laughlin (Laughlin Road), Mrs. W.P. Slusser (Slusser Road) and Mrs. W.E. Woolsey (Woolsey Road).

The book contains recipes for bread, soups, fish, entrees, meats, vegetables, salads, meat sauces, puddings and desserts, pies, frozen dainties and beverages, cakes, pickles, confectionery, breakfast and luncheon dishes and food for the invalid. Some interesting examples include: Jugged Pigeons by Mrs. Chas. Hoffer; Prune Pudding by Mrs. Eldredge; Banana Snowball by Miss Irma G. Slusser; World's Fair Cake by Mrs. John Clay and Pickled Grapes by Mrs. A. Faught.

Luella Prince appears to have used the cookbook often. She added many handwritten notes and additional recipes especially for baked goods, including nut cake, muffins, gingerbread, graham fruit bread, infallible molasses cake, railroad cake, chocolate cake, whipped cream pie, sour milk pie and date cookies. In some of these extra recipes, she also noted the source.

In addition to the recipes and the contributors being of interest, the cookbook is full of advertisements highlighting local businesses. These advertisements would have helped the Ladies' Aid Society finance the printing of their cookbooks. While the cookbook includes ads predominately from Santa Rosa businesses, it also has a few Windsor area businesses represented. Ads included dentists, doctors, undertakers, clothing, shoes, groceries, automobiles, bicycles, paint and incubators. For example, F.A. Emery, Butcher and Liveryman from Windsor offered beef, mutton, pork and veal delivered to Mark West, Fulton, Trenton, Mt. Olivet and the surrounding country.

With its mix of local names, recipes and advertisements, Mrs. Luella Prince's copy of the *Fulton Presbyterian Church Ladies' Aid Society Cookbook* is a truly fascinating and unique piece of Sonoma County history.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Children playing “Ring Around the Rosie” at the Lytton Home, c. 1910.

Chickens in the Sunshine: ***A Story of the Lytton Home and Museum Serendipity*** *by Holly Hoods*

It was a promotional brochure in the Museum archives that yielded my most memorable research connection with a visitor. Six years ago, Gloria Thomas from northwest Florida visited our Museum in hopes of finding information about her mother and two aunts who had, as children, resided at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Home and Farm at Lytton. Gloria had that wistful, hungry look I have come to recognize in Museum visitors whose genealogical trail has led them to the “Orphanage and Children’s Farm” operated by the Salvation Army at Lytton. The children’s historical placement records are brief in the Salvation Army archive in Alexandria, VA. Local newspaper articles rarely mention names of the incoming orphans and “half-orphans” (one deceased parent). Surviving historic photos are mostly unidentified and/or undated. Unfortunately, most of these visitors leave the Museum archives still hungry.

In over 20 years of helping researchers look for traces of a family member at Lytton, I had never found one—until Gloria Thomas came to visit the Museum in May, 2011. She was seeking any information about her deceased mother who had lived at the Lytton Orphanage from 1913-1920. Gloria knew that her mom, Agnes Mae Hill (b. 3/24/1908), along with Agnes’s two older sisters, Violet Eugenia (b. 2/8/1905) and Edith Elvira (b. 5/28/1906), had at one time resided at the Home. According to the Salvation Army archives: “The Hill girls were admitted to the home on September 9, 1913. King’s County, CA paid their board of \$11 per month.”

As adults, Gloria’s mother and Hill aunts had declined to talk about surviving the turmoil of their difficult childhood. According to family accounts, their mother had abandoned them, leaving them with their father on a farm in King’s County.

Their father was 15 years older than their mother. Court documents declare that the father failed to provide the “common necessities” of life for the cause of “idleness, profligacy and dissipation.” Two babies born of their union died in infancy. The mother had separated from her husband on May 10, 1913 in King’s County, CA.” This was all that Gloria knew about her mom’s rough early years.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The Hill family (Violet, Agnes and Edith seated in front of their parents) in hard times, c. 1912.

It was Gloria’s hope to discover something about what their lives had been like at Lytton. Was it a kind place? Were the kids mistreated there? What were the living conditions like? Smiles and tears ensued when I found not only detailed history about the years that Gloria’s mother lived at Lytton, photos of the grounds and facilities, but there were TWO photos of her mom as a resident! The photos showed Agnes looking freshly washed and neatly dressed, feeding chickens in the sunshine with other children at the orphanage. Best of all, she was looking right at the camera and smiling!



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Agnes Hill in front with unidentified girls at Lytton.

We focused our research on the years 1913-1920. The oldest sister, Violet, was discharged September 30, 1919. Edith and Agnes on April 9, 1920. Gloria later wrote that she was “grateful beyond words or actions. This research provided some illumination of Mom’s time in the Lytton Home. I’m still tingling over our find in ‘your’ Healdsburg Museum. There is just no adequate way to thank you for all of your time and effort on behalf of Mom’s early history, the one the ‘girls’ would never talk about.”



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Edith, Violet and Agnes Hill (left to right).

I will never forget this wonderful research connection with Gloria Thomas and the Hill girls. It further adds to the serendipity that I am writing this article on the 97th anniversary of Gloria’s mom’s discharge from the Lytton Home, April 9, 1920.

Lytton the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Home & Farm

The undated ten page, photo-packed brochure gives an overview of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Home and Farm, presented in the form of commonly asked questions with brief answers provided:



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Brochure front cover.

Who are these children?

They are the victims of unhappy circumstances over which they had no control. Sordid beginnings, death of parents, broken homes resulting from incompatibilities, desertions or infidelities on the part of parents have robbed these children of home with all the happiness, security and promise of a home should afford.

Where do they come from?

Practically every county in the State of California is represented at the present time.

How are these children discovered and admitted to Lytton?

Through the Army's multitudinous contacts with the unfortunate, thorough welfare agencies both public and private, through the courts, through clubs, lodges and other organizations; through newspapers and through the multitudes of people who know of Lytton and its purposes.

What are the age limits for admission to Lytton?

From 6 to 15

How long do they remain at Lytton?

Until they finish High School or until some happy solution of their problem is made.

Where do they attend school?

Children of Grammar School age are cared for in a five teacher school owned by the Home, but operated as a public school under the County superintendent of Schools. Those in High School attend the Healdsburg High School four miles away. A school bus carries them to and from school each day.

How do children in the Home compare with other children in High School?

Splendidly. For many years Lytton boys and girls have made enviable academic records. Many have distinguished themselves in athletics, music, art, drama and good citizenship.

What becomes of the boys and girls when they leave the Home?

The Home assists them to find such employment as training has fitted them for. There are always plenty of positions open to Lytton graduates. As a rule they give good service.

Where is Lytton?

Eighteen miles north of Santa Rosa, on the Redwood Highway [Highway 101]

What physical equipment does the Home own?

The Home owns and operates a farm of eight hundred acres, comprising meadows, pastures, orchards, and vegetable gardens. Improvements on the land consist of the main building of concrete and steel which houses the administration offices, reception rooms, dining room, kitchen, library, music room, clothing department, and girls' dormitory.

Scattered around this center are thirty other buildings. These comprise school, hospital, boys' cottages, cottages for the staff and employees, gymnasium, plunge, laundry, engine and boiler house, carpenter shop, warehouse, commodious

dairy and beef barns, horse barns, hog and chicken pens. There are also barber, shoe and print shops.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
From the brochure, "Each child has a pet."

What livestock is kept?

A herd of one hundred registered, purebred, and tuberculin tested Holstein cattle provide an abundance of milk for the children—an average of two quarts per child is consumed each day.

A splendid herd of Aberdeen Angus (beef) cattle has brought much fame to the Home. There are also some excellent Hereford and Shorthorn cattle. Outstanding individual calves of these breeds are assigned to the boys for raising and fitting for the show. The success attending their efforts is well known. It has been bringing premiums and fame to the Home for many years.

A fine herd of registered Berkshire hogs furnishes pork in abundance.

Two thousand White Leghorn and New Hampshire chickens cackle over their ability to furnish eggs for the children.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Agnes Hill (in front) at the Lytton Home.

In what are the children given training?

Dairying, beef cattle raising, hog breeding and feeding, poultry management, general farming, such as hay and grain production, fruit production, market gardening, and handling of both tractors and horses in these. Instruction is also given in care of steam boilers, motors, water supply, care of buildings, and grounds. Barbering, painting and printing are taught. Both boys and girls may learn the laundry business. Both may learn kitchen and dining room work.

Girls are trained in the art of housekeeping in all its ramifications.

Music is taught those desiring instruction. A fine Boys' Band gives much pleasure to the Home and surrounding community, as well as providing a wholesome outlet for boyish energies.

Each boy and girl has some specific work to do, and is obliged to do it promptly and thoroughly.

What recreational privileges do the children have?

Fully equipped gymnasium, plunge, fields, diamonds and courts afford opportunity for basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, tennis, swimming, diving, running and jumping.

Pleasant and well-wooded hills invite wholesome hiking.

What is the program of religious activities?

Sunday School and divine services are regularly conducted. A midweek service is held and morning and evening prayers are said daily in the dining room.

What is the average daily program at Lytton?

The regular day starts at 6:15 a.m.; for boys on barn duty, at 5 a.m. The 6:15 siren blast indicates it is time to turn out—and no loitering please. At 6:45, cows milked, and cattle, horses, hogs and chickens fed, the siren calls to breakfast. In five minutes the children and staff are seated, and breakfast is on the way. At 7:15 it is over, and morning prayers said. Chores are attended to immediately.

Promptly at 8:10, a bus stops at the door, and sixty boys and girls are on their way to High School. At 9:00 a.m. the Grammar School opens its day.

A good clean movie once a week, social gatherings of mixed groups twice a month, together with plenty of opportunity to take part in or watch competitive games makes for continual recreational privileges.

Lunch at 12:00 noon; dinner promptly at 5:30 p.m. There is always a sing-fest and a prayer following the evening meal. The meal out of the way and chores attended to, the evening is spent in organized activity, or in doing of home work.

The day is over at 9:00 p.m.

Lytton must be an orderly, active and happy place.

It is. The day moves with precision. Hence, destructive irritations born of disorderliness are not allowed to occur. This is one of the secrets of success in running the Home.

How large a staff is employed?

The Superintendent and his wife have a staff of 33. These give oversight and instruction to the children in all the activities mentioned.

What does it cost to operate the Home?

\$1.10 per child per day, or approximately \$90,000.00 yearly.

Is the Home endowed from any source?

None whatever.

How, then, are the children supported?

Partially by counties, relatives or guardians. Actual paid support of children from all sources, however, amounts to about three-fifths of actual cost of their care. The Home must, from other sources, make up the difference of \$36,000.00 yearly—almost \$100.00 per day including Sundays and holidays.

Continual anxiety and embarrassment is given the administration by inadequacy of income coupled with ever increasing demands upon resources.

Stress and strain of effort to find funds for necessities—food, shelter, and clothing—seriously limit the work of the Home. At present much needed new equipment and renewal of old cannot be thought of because of financial straitness.

From what sources must income come?

From voluntary contributions and Community Chests.

What are some pressing present needs?

- 1. New and modern cottages for boys. The present cottages are old, and seriously lacking in both convenience and comfort. Erection and gift of a new cottage would stand as a worthy monument in memory of some friend of friendless children.*
- 2. 500 new blankets. Winter nights at Lytton are cold, and present dormitories are unheated.*
- 3. Overhauling of heating equipment. Present systems are obsolete, inadequate, expensive, and uncertain.*
- 4. Dining room. Should be completely refurbished. Three hundred new chairs and fifty small tables are sorely needed.*
- 5. Funds for dental supplies and service.*
- 6. A carload of cement with which to replace and repair badly broken and dangerous walks and foundations.*
- 7. Road oil. A carload is an urgent present necessity.*
- 8. A revolving fund to provide boys with young animals to prepare for exhibition at Stock Shows.*
- 9. A number of instruments for the Boys' Band.*

From what source must these things come?

From the freewill gifts of friends of the Home.

Operation of the Home and Farm appears to impose heavy burdens and constant anxieties; is it worth the trouble and expense?

One look at the 220 children, and a comparison of the environment and condition from which they were taken with their present lot in the Home should be all the answer needed. Further affirmative answer is given by the hundreds of successful men and women who got their start as boys and girls of the Home. Yes, it is abundantly worthwhile.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Parade float of prune goblet and goddesses depicting City slogan, c. 1933.

Buckle of the California Prune Belt

by Whitney Hopkins

In 1924, the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce decided to hold a contest to see who could come up with the best advertising slogan for the city. According to the *Healdsburg Tribune*, 2,500 slogans were suggested.



Winning Letter

The winning slogan, "Healdsburg, the Buckle of the California Prune Belt," came from Merrill Miller of Visalia, California. Miller, a former resident, won a prize of \$100.

The Museum has Merrill's original letter sent to the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce with the winning slogan on April 8, 1924. It was written on Hotel Hughson

stationary from Modesto, California. Miller also suggested several other slogan ideas: "Healdsburg, California's Choicest Spot!" and "The Garden of the Gods, Healdsburg!"

Also in the Museum's Collection are several other letters with slogan ideas submitted to the Healdsburg Chamber for the competition.

Most amusing in our Collection is the letter from Duke Blair of Skaggs, California, sent to the Chamber on May 7, 1924, after the winning slogan was already announced. He wrote: "I know the Slogan Contest has closed, but I have one I believe you may find more appropriate in the near future, than the prize winner: 'The prune belt that buckled.'"

Mr. Blair was already forecasting the demise of the prune industry in Healdsburg, which would take place 50 years later.

Smith Robinson's Scrapbook

by Jane Bonham

The glass cases along the west wall of the Museum gallery hold many mementos and pictures of bygone years. Amongst these are several photos and an empty coffee can, paying homage to the town that adopted a battalion. The topmost picture shows a sign from the Plaza: "HEALDSBURG: THE CITY THAT ADOPTED THE 1ST BATTALION 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD DIVISION, MARCH 1951." The photos are accompanied by a brief summary of the town's contributions during the Korean War.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Sign erected in Plaza, 1952.

In our Collection are a number of scrapbooks compiled by Smith Robinson, Chair of the First Battalion Committee. Through newspaper articles, letters, and photos, the first of these scrapbooks documents the first two years of this extraordinary time.

Samples from these pages invite us to share the story as this endeavor grew and instilled mutual trust and appreciation between the soldiers and the townsfolk.

Thousands of troops in Korea hope the movement begun by little Healdsburg, Cal., will never stop—at least as long as war keeps them away from home. Healdsburg (population 3,184) adopted a battalion of troops. Now the battalion is the best-supplied outfit in Korea. Who else gets so many air-mail envelopes? And mirrors? And washrags? And combs? And books and magazines? These things are more precious than gold in Korea. It all began when the battalion's commanding officer, Lt.-

Col. Fred Weyand, wrote his wife how short the men were of 'little things.' His wife, Arline, mentioned the letter at a Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce meeting. "Someone got the idea of adopting the battalion," Weyand said. The whole town liked the idea.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
Smith Robinson (second from right) and Col. Fred Weyand (far right) find support for the First Battalion adoption plan at Rotary Club

Smith Robinson raised the standard and due to his organizational skills and commitment to this venture: *Schools and churches and every service or volunteer group in town contributed time, labor, gifts, and money. [Within three weeks] more than 53 cartons of magazines, candles, battery radios, note paper, sewing kits and toilet articles were shipped to Korea [along with] snacks, dried fruit, tobacco and cookies...almost anything a frontline soldier would appreciate.*

Weyand recounted: *The first shipment arrived in Korea around May 1 [1951], just as the weary doughboys came off the line after the Chinese offensive. We'd had a rough week and were really beat out. The very last day—after a week of fighting and digging and no sleep—we had a 15-mile march with full pack. It was the finishing touch, and everyone was down in the mouth. We got into our area and found the first packets had arrived. They*

were full of reading stuff and things like mirrors and washrags and combs...Maybe that doesn't sound very much, but, believe me, it was.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Packages from Healdsburg (alphabetically, Cpls. Baker, Clark, Hasty, Heyer, Pfc. Sainato, Sawyer)

After Christmas packages reached the troops in 1951, heartfelt thanks were returned from the companies of the First Battalion: *The First Sergeant lost no time in allotting each platoon in the Company their proportionate share of the cake, candies, books and magazines. Needless to say, there was much excitement as the various boxes were broken open. Each was filled with new and pleasant surprises. We are well aware of the time and expense involved in a project of this kind as well as the planning required. If you could have viewed the expressions of pleasure on the faces of the men as they munched a piece of that delicious candy or relax with a good book, you would know that your efforts were well rewarded.*

We are always pleased to find the names of some of you who have played a part in sending the packages to us. Many of the men in the Company are anxious to write and personally express their thanks for what you are doing.

From SFC Wilburn Williams of Company C: *Hello Betty: I received the most welcome letter with your name and address. I know you would be surprised to know how glad I was to receive such a nice letter. There was a lot of appreciation shown also by the boys who read it. I would like very much for you to tell your brother and the one who helped him write the letter how greatly it was appreciated. Tell Eddie thank you for the picture. I and the boys*

of the 4th platoon sure did enjoy the gifts and packages we received from Healdsburg. The stuffed prunes were real good. The candles would help although we hate to ask favors because we're so indebted to the people of the little town now.

After Williams' letter was received, another shipment of candles, magazines and soup mix from the 4-H Club with 196 candles made by Betty's 4-H group was sent. It may also have initiated a campaign called "Operation Candles" to bring light in the night to the adopted Battalion.

A reciprocal relationship was building between the men in Korea and the people of Healdsburg. This was demonstrated not only in the letters they exchanged, but in the first of many donations made in return by the soldiers.

In December, \$175 from Company A officers and men was received with a "recommendation" that *it be turned over to the 4-H Club for use in promoting their various projects, since they had reason to believe that the 4-H Club had quite a lot to do with preparing the holiday packages.* The 4-H Club sent many packages at Christmastime as one of their projects, with 500 lbs. of comics and 50 lbs. of fondant-stuffed Healdsburg prunes prepared by the club. Mrs. Starmer, one of the 4-H leaders, reported the money would be used to purchase a good calf for the club's project, to be housed on the Lindstrom's ranch on West Dry Creek.

Another \$200 was received from the men and officers of D Company *to help to purchase a piece of recreational equipment to assist in increasing the happiness of the children of Healdsburg.*

Between March and December, 1951, Companies A and D donated \$1,400 in "Gifts of Appreciation."

A critical need was addressed with "Operation Candles:" *The campaign asks community members to gather old and new candles, melt them down and place them in milk cartons with string as a wick, finished candles to be left at the Fire Department.*

In January of 1952, three wooden crates of candles were sent to the adopted First Battalion, the first shipment of Operation Candles. The troops responded with gracious and heartfelt letters of thanks.

From Company Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry: *During these past months the morale of this Company has steadily [sic] increased due to the thoughtfulness and hard work of the people of Healdsburg, California. Many long and dreary hours have been made much more tolerable through the reading of books and magazines sent to us by you thoughtful people. It would be extremely difficult to express just how deep an impression your fine packages have made on the Officers and Enlisted men of the Company. The many candles sent us have done wonders in providing light by which to read and write letters. Even more, a great deal of work is accomplished at night by using these very candles. The candy, walnuts, prunes and numerous other eatables you fine people shipped were received with much enthusiasm and very greatly appreciated. It is with deep pride that I, as well as all the men of my Company, sincerely thank you worthy people of Healdsburg, California for the kindness and generosity [sic] you all have shown toward us. Sincerely yours, Lunsford V. McDugald, Capt.*



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Cpl. Hasty test firing machine gun while Sgt. McCauley directs fire

From D Company: *We of D Company, being away from our loved ones, need something to keep us going over in this war-torn land. You have supplied that extra something that has seen us do our job and yet keep our morale as high as if we were in our beloved country one again. This is only a letter and yet, in this letter, I try to express for the men and myself, all the gratification, enjoyment and satisfaction, your packages have brought us. I hope this letter expresses our thanks and gratitude to you.*

This letter is small but the thought behind it is enormous. George F. Gaebler, 1st Lt., Commanding

From B Company: *"Operation Candles" reached Baker Company, of the first Battalion, and were received with great enthusiasm by all men of the Company. The candles are perhaps the most practical and sought after item in Korea today, aside from rotation, of course. The candles have proven very useful for the lighting of bunkers on the front line, as electricity is unavailable. The men write letters to their families and loved ones at night by candle light, which was made available only through the thoughtfulness, understanding, and time devoted to the making of the candles. The magazines and pocket books also have proven to be morale boosters, as they offer many hours of relaxation to the men of the company who enjoy reading. Cordially 'The Soldiers of Company B,' Constantine L. Lagakis, Captain Commanding"*

From A Company: *The officers and men of Company A were pleased and overwhelmed recently when they were the recipients of numerous containers of candles, magazines, and dehydrated packets of soup. The candles and other items were perhaps the most sought after items a person could want here in Korea as there are no electric lights and the important matters of writing home and of reading are accomplished by the light which comes from the candles which evidently took long hours to prepare and to ship to Korea. The thoughtfulness of the good people of Healdsburg will never be forgotten by the men of this Company no matter where they may be. The magazines and books offer much relaxation to the men in their free moments and with the candles sent by such organizations of Healdsburg as the 4-H Club and other groups the men have an opportunity to read both day and night when the time arises. The company has been receiving a subscription to the Healdsburg Tribune and we sincerely wish to thank whomever made it possible for us to receive the paper as it is passed from platoon to platoon and read eagerly by both the officers and men. Wm. F. Hartman, Captain, Commanding. (Subscriptions were sent compliments of the Publisher.)*

The "OPERATION Candles" project came to a successful conclusion with the shipment of 20 cartons of candles to the "adopted" First Battalion in Korea. The committee mailed 20 coffee cans

filled with candles to Healdsburg servicemen stationed in Korea. Most of the candles were made by melting down old ones...[The] champion [individual] candle-maker...made over 180 cartons of candles. Groups making them were the 4-H clubs, Women's Gold and Bridge Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Cub Scouts and members of the Healdsburg Elementary School..., the Key Club and Home Economic Department of Healdsburg High School..., and the Lincoln Park Women's Club in San Francisco...who became interested in "Operation Candles" through Healdsburg friends.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Volunteers hard at work filling coffee cans for shipment to soldiers of the First Battalion.

Operation Easter 1952: The "First Battalion" Committee met Thursday, January 31, at the Chamber of Commerce office to make plans for their new project, "Operation Easter." The Committee drafted a letter to all organizations and clubs in the city asking for their support and participation in "Adopted First Battalion" project. Plans were made to send such items as snacks, cookies, candy, popcorn balls, stuffed prunes, candied walnuts and current magazines to the First Battalion in Korea. The Committee stressed the immediate need of empty 2-pound coffee cans which are being used for shipments of goods to Healdsburg service men...walnuts for baking will be welcomed. Other organizations are planning baking sessions. The committee recommended that all cookies be packed in popcorn. Packing for "Operation Easter" will begin March 1. All items

when ready for shipment should be brought to the Healdsburg Fire Department.

Feb. 1, 1952: TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE FIRST BATTALION: This is a wonderful opportunity for service by the whole community, and has given our city and area world-wide publicity. We know that your organization will want to participate to the extent of \$5.00 or more. Kindly make out a check or send cash to ... Chamber of Commerce, Secretary, First Battalion Committee, at your earliest opportunity as this shipment must be sent by March 1st, to arrive in time for Easter. Gratefully yours, **FIRST BATTALION COMMITTEE**, Smith Robinson, Chairman

Adding their effort to "Operation Easter," Healdsburg's current project in behalf of its "adopted" First Battalion, the local 4-H Club is in the midst of wrapping popcorn balls... 5 club members wrapped 212 popcorn balls—equal to 2 30-pound cans of popcorn—in one afternoon after school. Leaders... expect to equal [three times] that amount in their homes this week. That's a lot of popcorn, but it's considered about right for 800 men in Korea. The 4-H group has come out in full force to assist in all the other preparations for the project—stuffing prunes, baking cookies, packing articles for shipment as well as collecting them...Those on the outside looking in find it commendable that these young people can find time to accomplish so much for so many others as well as for themselves.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Rosa Rotlisberger tests cookies baked as part of the Healdsburg Elementary School effort

More "Operation Easter" Cartons Shipped: 172 cans of cookies and candy were shipped to the Healdsburg servicemen on Tuesday and...5 cartons of candles and 30 wooden boxes filled with cans of cookies, prune candy, popcorn balls, candied walnuts and candy packed in magazines were shipped Wednesday morning to the First Battalion in Korea. Many organizations and church groups brought cans of cookies, popcorn balls and candy...for packing. The Committee plans to have one last shipment in the mails on Saturday. Two cookie bakes...were held at the high school home economics department...The Healdsburg American War Mothers, Chapter 65, baked and packed 60 cans of cookies, as well as making a donation.

To date \$267.45 has been collected... recently from St. John's Mothers' Club, Order of De Molay, Dry Creek Neighbors Club, Pythian Sisters, Sotoyome Literary Club, The Footlighters, American Legion Auxiliary, 20-30 Club, Y.L.I., Folk Dancers, Kiwanis Club, I.O.O.F., Healdsburg 4-H Club, Friendly Circle of the Christian Church, Healdsburg Garden Club, Rotary Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Greyhounds.

"Operation Easter" came to a successful conclusion with the shipment of 21 wooden boxes and one carton of candles Monday, March 10, bringing the total shipment to 57 boxes. The boxes contained candied walnuts, popcorn balls, candy, cookies, stuffed chocolate dipped prunes, walnuts, snack items, and candy Easter eggs. In addition, 25 cans of candied walnuts and Easter egg candies were mailed to the Healdsburg service men now serving in Korea. In addition to dozens of individuals—one of whom candied over 80 pounds of walnuts—The American Legion was named for contributing along with Miller Fruit Co. which donated apple boxes.

Remarkably personal relationships were established and cherished. Scrapbooks were created in Healdsburg and shipped to Korea, along with new scrapbooks to be used by the service men and women.

South Korea, 9 May 1952

Dear Friends: We have received the album prepared by the Healdsburg Elementary School. It was very interesting and brought us even closer to your wonderful city and wonderful people. The album is almost completed. I am sure it will present

our activities very graphically. It will be mailed to you in a few days. Captain Hughes has been transferred to Division Headquarters and at the present time I am taking his job a Battalion Adjutant. I hope we may continue to carry on the good will and the correspondence which existed between yourself and Captain Hughes. Sincerely, Marvin C. Makings, WOJG, Hq, 1st Bn. 7th Inf. 3rd Inf. Div.

October 6, 1952: TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE FIRST BATTALION, AND OF OUR OWN LOCAL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: The First Battalion Committee is making immediate plans for "Operation Christmas," instrumental in collecting and sending to our Adopted Battalion and to our own local service men and women current magazines, comic books, pop-corn balls, candied nuts, cookies, cakes, candies, stuffed prunes and other snack items. This shipment will be another of a series that have been gratefully received, something we know that they look forward to.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Committee members show and tell: When asked, both Folgers and Hills Brothers companies gave a total of 288 empty, 2 lb. cans to the cause.

The community again stepped up to support the service men and women, including the following clubs and service groups who funded the effort: Dry Creek Neighbors Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Women's Golf Club, Sotoyome Literary Club, American War Mothers, Healdsburg Sewing Club, Healdsburg Garden Club, Healdsburg Lion's Club, Friendly Circle (Christian Church), Alexander Valley Ladies Aid, Federated Ladies Aid, F.O.E. (Aerie #1673), young Ladies Institute, Business & Professional Women's Club, St. John's Mother's

Club, Healdsburg Kiwanis Club, Order of De Molay, Italian Catholic Federation, Healdsburg Rotary Club, Progressive Grange, and Young Men's Institute.

Plans are underway in Healdsburg for another "Operation Christmas." It was decided again this year to send fruit cake, candies, cookies, magazines and snack items to this group of men in Korea who call Healdsburg their adopted home town. For two years now, Healdsburg has been remembering the First Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, United States Army, with gifts of all kinds... all the things that are extras when you are fighting in Korea.

The first series of cookie bakes...will be held tonight in the high school. The making of fruit cakes, as was done last year, has been abandoned this year...due to the fact that canning equipment is no longer available at the high school. Cookies baked at home will also be very acceptable, however, it is requested that all such home baked cookies be of the variety that will pack well. Cookies may be taken to the Elementary School or High School. Donations of money and ingredients for cookies and cans in which to pack them may be sent to Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce or left at the Fire Department. Particularly needed are walnuts for use in candy.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

Soldiers surrounded by packages created from "Operation Christmas," 1952.

In mid-November, a total of 46 boxes were packed and shipped by the American Legion and Auxiliary. The Chief and men of the Healdsburg

Fire Department packed and wrapped 7 wooden boxes of snacks and cookies donated by the American War Mothers, Chapter 65. That made a grand total of 75 boxes that were shipped during 'Operation Christmas' to local service men and members of the Adopted First Battalion, by November 15, the deadline for shipping package overseas.

6 December, 1952

Dear Mr. Robinson,

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the enclosed money orders for \$700.00, a contribution from the members of this Battalion. It is desired that a Trust fund be established for the under-privileged [sic] children of your city and a committee be appointed to use the Fund as they see fit for purchase of food, clothing and other necessities for the under-privileged [sic] children. This Trust Fund is being established in appreciation for the many gifts that the people of Healdsburg have bestowed on this Battalion during the past year. The entire 1st Battalion join with me in wishing the people of Healdsburg, particularly the under-privileged [sic] children, a very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Joyful New Year. Sincerely, John H Blair III, Lt. Cpl. Infantry, Commanding.

What are the circumstances that combined to flame the devotion between a small town and the personnel of the adopted battalion? Memories of the hardship for service men and women in wartime were fresh from World War II when, a short five years later, the United States engaged in the Korean War. Perhaps mobilizing efforts is easier in a small town. Perhaps the Asian theater emphasized the distance from folks at home. All this and more provided the mutual need and caring. Smith Robinson, like the choir leader he was, like the maestro of this human orchestra he became, provided the opportunities and supported the correspondence and commitment that grew into a wonderment and a model for others.



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection

The Game of Healdsburg.

The Game of Healdsburg

by Phyllis Chiosso Liu

Who hasn't wished to be able to buy and sell properties and businesses in and around Healdsburg? Well, in 1982, it was possible to do just that with a roll of the dice! According to an April 7, 1982, *Healdsburg Tribune* article, "Just roll the dice, stay clear of the 'Bamboozle Cards' and the Tip Top Cafe is yours—in the game, that is."

In the early 1980s the Michael Glenn Production Company developed a Monopoly-like board game that could be used as a fundraiser for any city. Local businesses could pay to be represented as squares on the game board.

The Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce was approached by local merchant Carol Lynn Beach to use the game as a promotion. The Chamber agreed to sponsor the fundraiser and the Game of Healdsburg came to town.

Thirty businesses paid anywhere from \$70 to \$200 for a square on the board, depending on its location. The corners were the most expensive, while

the spaces near the fold of the board were the cheapest. If you didn't have a business, but still wanted to be forever memorialized on the board, you could pay \$5 to have your name printed as a "Noble Subject of the Realm." Some of the noble subjects included longtime Museum members and volunteers Jim and Meredith Dreisback.

The Chamber sold the game for \$10.

The Museum recently acquired a copy of this vintage board game from Stephanie Domenichelli Setzer. It belonged to her parents and looks brand new. According to Stephanie, the reason for its pristine condition is because it was only used once. Her mom Patty said that playing the game caused such a big argument that they put it away and never played it again!

After reading the two long pages of directions with little success, I can understand why they gave up. It's pretty complicated.

The game comes with dice, tokens, play money, Bamboozle cards, a commodity and profit calculator and cards with debt on one side and titles on the other. It can accommodate between two to six players. The general idea is that they are "Wheeler Dealers" as they move their way around town. With skill, strategy and the luck of the dice, the players buy, trade and sell local businesses. The game is over when everyone is bankrupt except the most successful "Wheeler Dealer."

A nice addition to the game is an insert with a very good summary of "Historic Healdsburg" including descriptions of the first Pomo inhabitants, rancho days, the founders, the Plaza, historic and "recent" economy, the Russian River and our own wonderful Museum!

Having moved to town as a newcomer in 1971, the game brought back many memories of "old" Healdsburg when the downtown businesses were there to basically serve the local population. After checking out all the game squares I realized that only a handful of businesses are still operating, and even fewer in the same location. Car dealers Sanderson Ford and Silveira Buick GMC, Healdsburg Lumber Company, Johnson's Alexander Valley Wines and L&M Motel remain in the same locations. Family owned and operated Brandt Insurance is in the same building, but has moved to the second floor.

Healdsburg Tribune has moved twice. Hansen & Fitzpatrick Attorneys at Law is now Hansen and Miller Law Firm and located in Santa Rosa. The old Italian Swiss Colony Winery in Asti is now part of E&J Gallo Winery.

Curious to see what has taken the place of the rest of the squares, my husband Ed and I decided to embark on a "scavenger hunt" around town using addresses from the game.

The three drugstores, Prescription Center, General Drugs and Healdsburg Rexall Drug, are now respectively Shelton's Natural Foods Market, ÆRENA Gallery and Debbie's Pet Boutique. Salame Tree Deli is Kinsmoke, Chris Decker Florist & Gifts is Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza and Melody Music is Williamson Wines.

The Mitchell Center has also seen a lot of changes. Emilia's Hair Styling was in what is now the bar space of Wildflowers Saloon, Molsberry's Family Super is now CVS Pharmacy, Healdsburg

Clothing Est. is probably where Hardware is located (the address is no longer in existence) and the former Coast to Coast Total Hardware space has just reopened as All Polish Nail Salon.

A little farther afield we found that Mill Street Building Supply is where The Parish Café and the Mill Street Antiques Plaza now reside. SHED occupies the location that once contained Solem's Major Appliances.

Further north on Healdsburg Avenue The Crafty Nook occupied a part of what is now Costeaux French Bakery & Café. Healdsburg Auto Body now houses Antique Harvest and the house where Rubenstein Associates did their architectural work is now used by Russell Harding CPA. Kassin Chevrolet is now McConnell Chevrolet.

The other end of Healdsburg Avenue was once the home of Fairchild Semiconductor, one of Healdsburg's largest companies during the 1970s. Today, it is where you will find Max Machinery and The Healdsburg School.

Some businesses seem to have stayed the same with new owners and names: NorthBay Savings & Loan to Bank of the West; D Mart Supermarket to Big Johns Market and Mid-Towne Realty to Healdsburg Sotheby's International Realty with Eric Drew still part of the team.

A few locations are currently vacant. Tip Top Cafe was last occupied by DiVine Pizza and Cook and Son's Union Service 76 space on Healdsburg Avenue has been empty for many years.

Pacific Sanitary Disposal was the most distant business located on Old Redwood Highway. They appear to no longer be in business.

It was fun walking down memory lane. We relived the days when Healdsburg was such a small agricultural town and you had to explain to your relatives and friends exactly where it was located. The days of being a global tourist destination belonged to a future that many of us could not even imagine.

Thank you, Stephanie, for donating this entertaining treasure to the Museum Collection.

Perhaps some of you will find your long-forgotten game tucked away under a bed or in a closet and will be tempted to play it again.

The "Diamond Jubilee"

by Jane Bonham



Source: Healdsburg Museum Collection
"Diamond Jubilee" front cover

The *Healdsburg Tribune Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Edition* is a real treasure, all seventy-two pages designed to "broadcast the story of northern Sonoma County to the nation." This special 1940 edition celebrates both the Healdsburg Centennial (1840–1940) and the *Tribune's* 75th Anniversary (1865–1940), "Where the Redwood Highway and Russian River Meets."

The issue offers 48 features. It contains a brief review of 100 years of history, including articles lauding local journalism, the "firsts" in building, industry and religion. Next, the topics reach into the 1900s with crops in the "Buckle of the Prune Belt," local sports and highlights of the many local vacation spots (the Geysers, the "Russian River: Playground for World").

Articles commending the region's schools, community organization, housing and ranching are interspersed with ads from local businesses ranging from clothing stores (J. Berger Furs, Shelford's Shoppe, Schwab Bros. and Rosenberg & Bush) to taverns (Mitchell's Hogsback Tavern and The Short Stop "where everybody meets").

This treasure trove of information ends with a two-page invitation to a "weekend of fun at the Healdsburg Harvest Festival." This was a three-day celebration with "many colorful costumes, agricultural and education exhibits."

Third Class



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