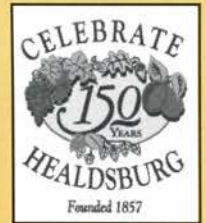
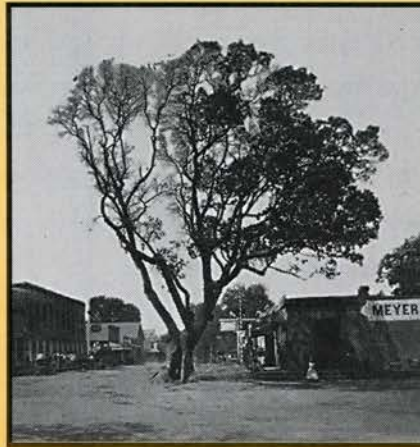
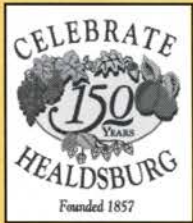




RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

SUMMER 2007 • ISSUE 97

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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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

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When the *Russian River Recorder's* editorial committee met in late 2006 to plan for the editorial content of the four issues which would be published during Healdsburg's Sesquicentennial celebration the committee felt we should try to emphasize what life was like in 1857.

In this issue our research curator Holly Hoods has taken on the task in her article aptly titled "Life in Pioneer Healdsburg." She recounts that Harmon Heald's oldest brother actually was the first to arrive "to fulfill a labor contract to build a combination sawmill and grist mill on the upper falls of Mill Creek." She tells us about the barter economy, the start of Heald's Store, and how the town grew after Harmon Heald offered lots for sale. We also find out that "the 1857 town of Healdsburg had aspirations but few pretensions. Bars and dance halls dotted the west side of West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) while churches encircled the plaza." Among those who came to the area were "adventurers, rowdies and gamblers." I am certain you will find Holly's account of "Life in Pioneer Healdsburg" most interesting and informative.

Curator Daniel Murley in his article this time tells us of the elopement, romance and life of Josefa Carrillo de Fitch (whom he calls Sotoyome's Last Sovereign) and sea captain Henry Delano Fitch. It's a fascinating story and one which he compares with the "other famous romance of colonial California, that ill-fated, star-crossed courtship of the dashing Russian Court Chamberlain, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov and the lovely young daughter of the Commandante of the Spanish presidio of San Francisco, Conception Arguello." He dedicates this article in memory of Addie Marie (Grant) Meyer who passed away suddenly this July. Mrs. Meyer was a descendant of Josefa Carrillo and Henry Fitch and a founding member of the Healdsburg Museum. It's a lovely and fitting tribute.

Charlotte Anderson who gave us a wonderful account of Harmon Heald and his gift to Healdsburg in our Spring edition, continues, in this issue and the following, to give us a better perspective with a history of Harmon Heald's siblings. This issue features well researched and most interesting biographies of George, Samuel and Jacob and their accomplishments. As usual, Charlotte has provided us with information about a special time in Healdsburg's history.

Through diligent research by Holly Hoods, we start out this time with an account about Healdsburg which was published in the *Sonoma County Journal* (Petaluma) on June 26, 1857. I think you will find this most enjoyable.

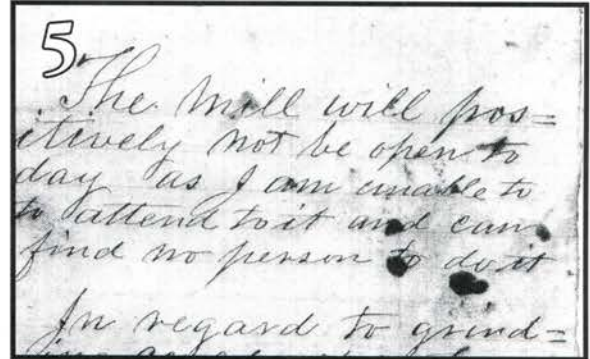
We hope that you will find the Summer edition of the Recorder informative and of lasting value.

Arnold Santucci

Editor



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RUSSIAN RIVER AND HEALDSBURG

as printed in the (Petaluma) Sonoma County Journal

26 June 1857



This 1859-1860 view of Healdsburg by Lawrence and Houseworth shows the north end of West Street. The Livery Stable advertised trips to the Geysers. Next door to the north was a two-story abobe public house operated by Henry Swain, called the Cottage.

Mr. Editor—

Having just returned from a tour of the Russian River, and thinking perhaps that a description of this beautiful stream and country would be of interest to some of your readers, I have concluded to give you a hurried sketch of what I have seen. . . From the time the traveler or the immigrant seeking a home on the shores of the Pacific, finds himself in her valleys, surrounded by noble oaks and firs, and new and diversified scenery, his mind is filled with admiration, such as few other natural scenes are able to contribute. The most remarkable curiosities of the Russian River are the abundance and variety of her mineral waters, the most noted of which are the Geysers, situated in a region bearing traces of long extinguished volcanic fires; a description of which defies both the pencil and the pen, and must be seen to be appreciated. They are beginning already to attract large crowds of visitors from all parts of the State.

Healdsburgh, bearing the name of its gentlemanly founder, is a thriving village, recently laid out, but giving promise of becoming one of the foremost business places north of the Bay. The site of this village is on a gentle elevation, one mile from the river, beautifully shaded and ornamented by a forest of oak. Quite a number of stores and other buildings are in course of construction. Some have opened, and are doing a lucrative business. Town property has risen in the last four weeks to an enormous extent, in consequence of the influx of trade and immigration. The agricultural and grazing wealth of this section of country is far superior to many I could mention that have been longer settled. Money is abundant, and contentment and prosperity seem to light up every countenance. . .

---R.P.G.

(in June 1857 letter written to *Sonoma County Journal*)

LIFE IN PIONEER HEALDSBURG

by Holly Hoods

THE MILL BEFORE THE STORE

The story of the founding of Healdsburg usually originates with Harmon Heald and centers on Heald's Store. However, without the first mill on Mill Creek--and his brother's business there--Harmon Heald might never have come or might have just kept going. Samuel Heald, Harmon's oldest brother, was actually the first Heald to arrive in this area (the Sotoyome Rancho) in 1849. He came to fulfill a labor contract to build a combination sawmill and grist mill on the upper falls of Mill Creek. According to Heald diary records, Samuel began work on the mill on 31 December 1849 under the employ of William March.



March & Healds Mill in 2007 on property of Royce Meyerott, Felta Road.

This mill was Captain Henry Fitch's idea and had actually been in contemplation for a few years. Fitch, the absentee owner of the Sotoyome Rancho, lived in San Diego on his other rancho property. He arranged through Moses Carson (then his rancho manager) to have a combination sawmill/grist mill erected for \$600. Fitch signed an agreement to furnish the necessary hardware and ox carts to haul lumber for the mill and William March agreed to provide the labor and expertise to build the mill. The men contracted to be partners for four years, but their arrangement was cut short. Fitch died in 1849 before ever seeing his 48,880-acre Sotoyome Rancho or the mill. March went months without knowing why he didn't receive the payment from Fitch. Frustrated, March sued him, and eventually learned that Fitch had died. The heirs of Henry Fitch sold the unfinished mill building and 200 acres to March. With Samuel Heald's help--and financial contribution--the mill was completed and started operation in September 1850, being called "March and Heald's mill."

BARTER ECONOMY

The pioneer economy was based on trade and barter of useful goods. In the early 1850s, money was scarce and inconsistent. Cyrus Alexander, who brought the first hogs to the area, used hogs as barter to buy the lumber to build a barn and additions for his adobe house. At the time milled lumber was valued at \$75/board feet and a gelt (a pig that had never had a litter) was worth as much. At the grist mill, the miller would also charge a toll to grind grain into flour, keeping a sizable portion as payment.

About this time Samuel Heald's brothers Thomas and Harmon had their fill of poor health and miserable luck at gold prospecting. They sold their tools and tents and headed for Sacramento, then Sonoma where they learned that Samuel was at "Russian River" building a mill. The Heald brothers found the Russian River valley very appealing and decided to settle. Thomas was hired to operate the saw mill. Harmon sought to recover his health and strength. In 1851 Harmon was well enough to clear ten acres of land and plant wheat, which he then sold at 8 cents a pound. With this money he opened a trading post in October 1852, stocking with merchandise a tiny clapboard cabin that he built on the west side of the main wagon road to the north. This dusty road became Healdsburg Avenue, and his was the first building located within the present Healdsburg city limits.

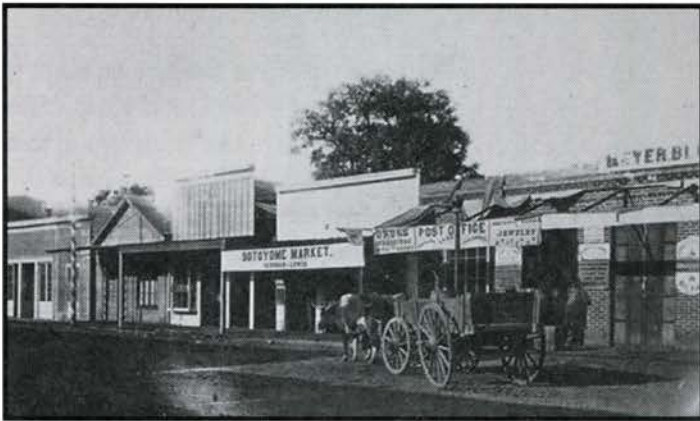
"Heald's Store" ignited the initial spark of commerce that grew into the establishment of a town here by 1857. Thomas Hudson and his wife, friends of Heald's from Missouri, arrived in 1851, boarding with him at first because there was no place else to stay. More Missourians began arriving. A blacksmith named Morse arrived shortly after the Hudsons and established a shop, which was soon taken over by William Dodge and William Dow. August Knaack, built a third house on the west side of West Street, and erected a wheelwright shop next to the smithy. He also made chairs and repaired wagons. "Squire" Henry M. Willson, joined this small group of pioneer settlers in June 1852. Since there was no bridge over the Russian River yet, Willson waded across the river near the present site of the railroad bridge to find Heald and his store, where he soon went to work. Early resident Charles E. Mitchell described Healdsburg in the spring of 1854:

"All there was of Healdsburg at that time was a blacksmith shop, a rawhide chair factory and a small store kept by Harmon Heald and Squire Willson".

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FIRST TOWNSPEOPLE

There were few white settlers in the area, except for Cyrus Alexander and Frank Bidwell (Bedwell) in Alexander Valley. Among the pioneers who had already found their way to the Russian River Valley were William March, William Morrow, Valentine Felta Miller, A.B. Aull, William Walters, Roderick Matheson, John Hassett, Aaron Hassett, Lindsay Carson, Isaac Staly, J.C. Laymance and the A.J. Gordons. An 1852 California census counted—most certainly undercounted—over 100 Indians living in the vicinity of Heald's cabin and 80 more living on the Piñas' Tzabacco Rancho in Dry Creek Valley. They are the ancestors of today's Dry Creek Pomo.



The town grew as soon as Harmon Heald began offering lots for sale in 1857. That year physician Baxter Bonham built a house on North Street; attorney/farmer John Bailhache added another to Center Street. A Presbyterian Church was erected on the south side of the Plaza (present-day Matheson Street). On the west side of West Street just outside the original town limits (at the present site of Silveira), Mr. Snider kept the Ohio House, a two-story boarding hotel. A.J. Forrester, the founder of Forestville (originally spelled "Forrestville"), operated a popular saloon. The Sotoyome Lodge #123 of Free and Accepted Masons was also established in 1857. Still in existence, this Masonic Lodge is the oldest fraternal organization in town.

In 1859, two years after its founding, Healdsburg was a thriving village of 120 buildings. It boasted a (non-Native) population of less than 500. The majority of Healdsburg residents came from the southern United States and what were then considered to be the "southwestern" states (Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas). Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee were the most common birthplaces listed for the residents of Healdsburg in the 1860 federal census.

The *Review*, the town's first newspaper, presented a description of the settlement in April 1860. Of the 458 non-Native American inhabitants of Healdsburg, 288 were male and 170 were female. Of the 288 males, 179 were legal voters. The town was home to 12 merchants, 21 carpenters, 10 blacksmiths, 6 doctors and an uncounted number of farmers. There were two hotels, two jewelry stores, four livery stables, two saddle and harness shops, and two wagon shops. Healdsburg also had a restaurant, a drug store, a printing office, a flour mill, a saw mill, a turning lathe, a "daguerreian saloon" (a portable photograph gallery), a furniture store, a paint shop and a tan yard.

"ADVENTURERS, ROWDIES AND GAMBLERS"

The 1857 town of Healdsburg had aspirations if few pretensions. Bars and dance halls dotted the west side of West Street (Healdsburg Avenue), while churches encircled the plaza. W.T. Heald later described the social composition of the pioneer community of Healdsburg:

"Besides the Indians...there were two classes of people here who made up the population of the town...The one class consisted of those who had come to find themselves homes and to establish a civilized community. The other was composed of adventurers, rowdies, and gamblers. Cowboys, some of them Americans, some Indian, some Spanish...would flock into town and spend their time in gambling and carousing for weeks at a time. Dances would be given at which these would be brought into contact with the young men and women of the town. Mothers would go and take their knitting and knit while their children danced"



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It was impossible in a community with a Euro-American population of 500, for the respectable and the rowdy elements to avoid rubbing elbows. Prostitutes solicited right out in the open. Their drunken street and bar brawls were deplored by the virtuous townspeople, but there was little they could do about it except write indignant letters to the editor, once the first newspaper was established by Alexander J. Cox in 1860. Alcohol and guns also made a combustible combination when many men drank in the saloons and routinely carried firearms.

In such a small town, there were no "bad" neighborhoods-for the first 20 years. The commercial and the residential sections were, in fact, intermingled in the original town. By the 1870s, however, a nefarious neighborhood was well established. The "disreputable district" of bars and brothels was located north of town, on what is today the west side of Healdsburg Avenue between Piper and Grant streets.

THE SLOUGH AND THE TAN YARD

A tan yard (for tanning leather) was located between Center and East streets near the intersection of the two with Piper Street. Erected before any ordinances were envisioned, this business emitted a pungent odor that wafted for blocks. Several early residents who recalled the pioneer town commented on the stench of the tan yard because of the decomposing animal carcasses and piles of waiting deer and cow hides. This area was also near the slough, which acted as the town dump. Early resident Julius Myron Alexander later vividly recalled the setting:

"The extension of Center Street, now between North and Piper streets, was a quagmire of slough water, frogs and tadpoles. Out of the mud grew reeds, cat tails and willows. Into it was dumped the refuse of a pioneer town: old pack saddles, ox yokes, demijohns, woolen shirts, bullet molds, cowhide boots, sun bonnets and straw tick mattresses. Across this Slough of Despond was...a long wooden footbridge...connecting the madrone groves of the Knaack foothills [Johnson, Lincoln, Sherman and Grant streets] with the metropolitan life of West Street."

To fight fires in the pioneer town, a Hook and Ladder Company was established in 1858 with Henry Lee as foreman. Supported through the subscriptions of its members, this fire brigade was primarily a bucket brigade. They were severely hindered by the lack of hydrants of piped water in town. In 1859, a big fire burned most of the wooden buildings downtown. It was fortunate that Ed Rathburn's brick building finally stopped the spread of the flames, since most of the fire brigade's equipment was also burned in the fire. The Hook and Ladder Company then disbanded (for the time

being). Most of the buildings were subsequently rebuilt.

HOPS AND FAIRS

Social life was active in the late 1850s with picnics, dances and debates popular with the residents of town. Literary societies, musical societies, and debating groups all started early. Some men raised and raced prize horses. Social "hops" were also very popular. For the Westside Road and Dry Creek area residents, the old mill on Mill Creek served as a recreational hall. One such hop, described in the *Russian River Flag*, featured a midnight supper of sandwiches, cakes and coffee, after which "dancing was resumed until a late hour." Nearly 100 people were in attendance. In 1859 Healdsburg hosted a huge agricultural fair near the current location of the train depot. Fruits and vegetables of all kinds were displayed.

May Day celebrations were held at what became the present Oak Mound cemetery grounds. Every May 1st from 1857-1860 the people of Healdsburg held a big May Day celebration with decorations, feasting, music and a tournament. People from all over the county attended and enjoyed the festivities. Miss Mary Jane Mulgrew, the daughter of the town blacksmith, was chosen as the first May Queen. John S. Williams recalled a spirit of congeniality and cooperation among the settlers:

"People then had a good time, were sociable and took a great interest in one another-more so than they do today [1914], in my opinion. They were, however, neat and well-behaved toward all with whom they came in contact. Everyone felt at ease and that his presence was just as important as the next one. Selfishness was an entire stranger in those times. People were not afraid to ask you to their homes for fear you would eat some cornbread and bacon. No sir, you were welcome to anything a man had, but his wife. They were good old times, they were."

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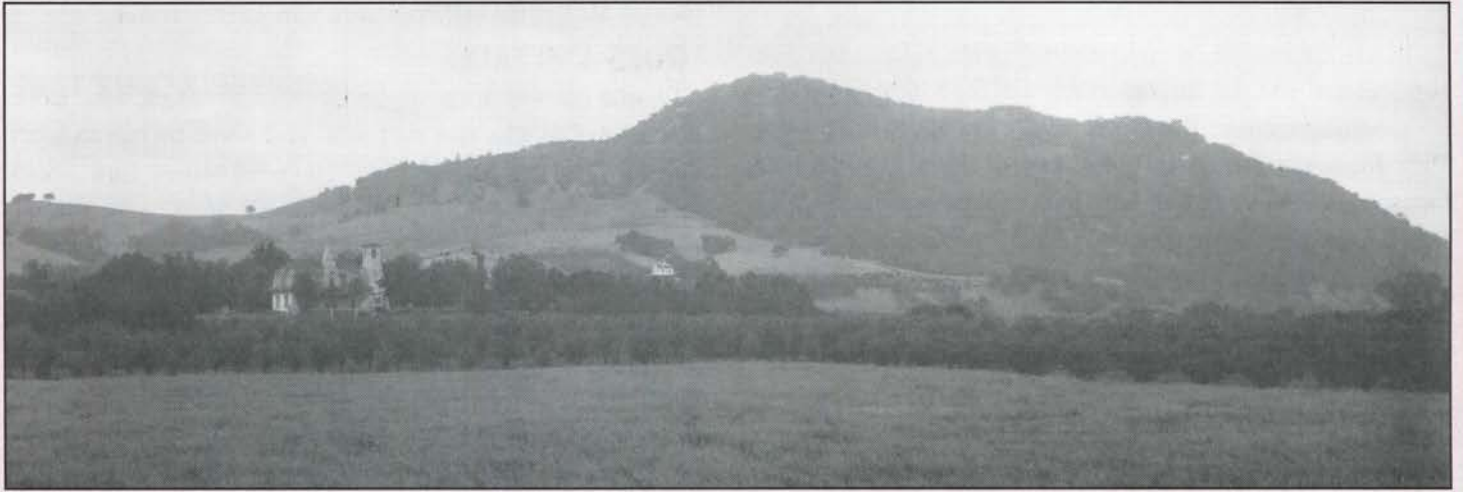
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JOSEFA CARILLO DE FITCH: SOTOYOME'S LAST SOVEREIGN

by Daniel F. Murley

She was baptized Maria Antonia Natalia Elijia Carrillo, daughter of Joaquin Carrillo and Maria Ignacia Lopez of San Diego but due to the difficulty in remembering such a tongue-twisting litany, her godmother dubbed her "Josefa."

Her *madrina*, the Senora Doña Josefa Sal del Mercado, was a member of another *Californio* family who had been the earliest settlers in the Spanish expansion into the land they referred to as Alta California. In fact Josefa Carrillo's grandmother had been a member of the famous Juan Bautista de Anza expedition of 1775, which served as the impetus in the settlement of the northern portions of Alta California. The first Josefa married a soldier guard at Mission San Gabriel and Josefa's mother was born in 1793 at the Presidio at San Diego and there married Joaquin Carrillo, also a military man.

The dusty frontier town and developing port of San Diego in Alta California was Josefa's home and her family's adobe with its orchard of olives, pears and pomegranates was located near the Presidio. These humble beginnings and parochial existence would soon dramatically change as would political and economic affairs of San Diego. Independence from Spain, unstable regional governors and the secularization of the entrenched Franciscan Mission system would lead to times of boom and bust.

For young Josefa, though she would eventually be embroiled in many conflicts of politics and finance, her teenage world would be turned upside down by affairs of the heart. As San Diego and Josefa grew, the port gained the attention of many trading vessels now



Josefa Carrillo de Fitch

Continued on page 9



Mexico 1847

plying the Pacific Coast. These carried cargoes of manufactured goods from New England seeking hides in trade. Not just the hides of the cattle from California Ranchos were sought, but also the luxurious pelts of sea otters and the valuable skins of fur seals which abounded along the coast from Cape Mendocino to the islands off Baja California.

Josefa's matrimonial events rank closely with the other famous romance of colonial California, that ill-fated, star-crossed courtship of the dashing Russian Court Chamberlain, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov and the lovely young daughter of the Commandante of the Spanish presidio of San Francisco, Conception Arguello. Comely Josefa Carrillo's elopement with tall dark-haired ship captain from Massachusetts clearly belongs in the same chapter of California history.

With the pasteboards dealt, any reasonable wagering person would have folded, but this hand would lead each of them into a high stakes game of diplomacy, commerce and family intrigue which would eventually be played out on the high-rolling table toward California statehood.

That cunning, handsome - and by some accounts hard-drinking - American seaman Henry Delano Fitch, the Massachusetts merchant, made his mark in San Diego society and commerce. However his associations and marital connections with Josefa and her younger sister's husband, Mariano Vallejo, placed him and Josefa prominently in the history of Sonoma County. When they married in 1829, Henry, now having been baptized "Enrique Domingo," would be one of a group of prominent early Californians who improved their lot by marriage to connected *Californio* women.



Henry Delano Fitch

The elopement of Enrique and Josefa unfolded when on the day of the planned marriage, the event was interrupted by Josefa's uncle, Domingo Carrillo. He halted the ceremony, which was being officiated by Padre Antonio Menendez, with an order from Governor Jose Maria Echeandia ordering that the union of the two not take place. The real reasons behind Echeandia's last minute interruptive order have been oft disputed. Some, including Josefa, say that the governor was in love with her and his jealousy took hold of his political power. Others with a less romantic bent say that Echeandia was fearful of the intrusion of these "Yankee smugglers" and wanted no familial ties to facilitate opening the doors to the increasingly desirable ports of Alta California. Regardless, Henry and Josefa, not to be thwarted in their quest, sought the assistance of another close cousin of Josefa, Don Pio Pico. That same night he spirited Josefa away to meet her betrothed. Josefa relates in an interview in Healdsburg in 1875, "Pio Pico advised Captain Fitch to board the ship he commanded and prepare to weigh anchor. As soon as it got very dark, Fitch was to send a small boat for



Don Pio Pico spirited Josefa away to meet her betrothed.

Continued on page 10

Josefa. Pico would take care of getting {her} out of the house. At the appointed hour a fine boat was ready and waiting...Together we {Pico and Josefa} rode as quickly as possible to the place where the boat and Don Enrique were waiting for us.”

They sailed on the “*Buitre*” (Vulture) to Valparaiso where they were dutifully joined in matrimony. Their first son, Enrique Eduardo, was born in May 1830 just before they returned to San Diego to face the consequences of their elopement.

They finally settled with Josefa’s father and family and with the government and the church, after only a brief incarceration in Monterey. In fact it was Henry Fitch’s future brother-in-law who was in charge of the Presidio where Henry was held, and Josefa was placed in the home of another brother-in-law-to-be, Juan Bautista Rogers Cooper. In future years these connections demonstrated their power and utility.



Josefa Carrillo de Fitch (pictured, far right) with her daughter Anita (Fitch) Grant, husband John D. Grant and family.

Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo eventually became the military commander of the Northern Frontier at the pueblo of Sonoma in 1836. Through his influence and his accumulation and consolidation of power he oversaw land grants to his brothers-in-law, Henry D. Fitch (Rancho Sotoyome), and John Bautista Rogers Cooper (Rancho El Molino). Another brother-in law, Joaquin Carrillo, was granted Rancho Llano de Santa Rosa. To his mother-in-law Maria Ignacia, he granted Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa.

In 1841 the consolidated grant of Fitch, 48,800 acres of land near his relatives in the “Frontera del Norte” of Alta California, became Rancho “Satayomi,” along the Russian River. With the minimal financial backing and shipments of manufactured goods from Fitch and the assistance of local Pomo and Wappo people, Fitch’s overseer, Cyrus Alexander built an adobe for the Fitches on the southeast side of the Russian River in the shadow of what is



The Bailache Family at Fitch’s castle, circa 1900.

now called Fitch Mountain near present-day Healdsburg.

Henry Delano Fitch died in 1849 without ever having lived on his Sotoyome Rancho. Josefa Carrillo de Fitch and 9 of her children settled on the Russian River rancho shortly after his death. The humble adobe built in 1844 was remodeled many times with lumber from the mills Henry had encouraged and in 1878 the now formidable structure had 17 rooms. “Fitch’s Castle,” as it was called, burned in 1913.

Josefa and Henry and their intricate and influential web of relatives and descendants indelibly marked the pages of California history and are remembered particularly in connection with the colorful years preceding statehood.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Addie Marie (Grant) Meyer, a descendant of Josefa Carrillo and Henry Fitch and Healdsburg Museum founding member.

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Fourth of July, 1857 Celebration in Dry Creek

As published in the *Petaluma Journal*,

11 July 1857

This will give you an idea of the manner in which the citizens celebrated the 81st anniversary of American Independence in the beautiful and fertile Dry Creek Valley. There were from 800-900 persons in attendance—of both sexes—of almost all ages and denominations—all richly attired. After the jubilee had been welcomed and appropriately announced by a salute of 31 guns, remarks by Marshall of the day, Mr. Bird, introduced a young gentleman of Dry Creek who read the Declaration of Independence, then came Mr. Harrison of Dry Creek, orator of the day. Messrs. Gordon and Carson of Russian River [Eastside Road and surrounding Windsor area] were next invited to stand. They also addressed the audience.

The ladies then marched in double file to the table, which was abundantly laden with the choicest products of our rural districts and Russian River, together with a bountiful supply of confections, wines, etc. I am proud to assert that the dinner reflected credit upon those living in the vicinity and will ever be appreciated by their friends and brethren of Russian River. After a sumptuous repast, they again assembled near the stand where they listened with deepest interest and emotion to Messrs. Farset and Argrove; after which the assemblage were favored with a National Glee by the Russian River Oral Club, followed by about two dozen amusing and volunteer toasts. In conclusion, much credit is due Mr. William Capell and others living in the immediate vicinity of the place of our merriment.

--By One of the Participants

Reminiscences of Healdsburg

As printed in the (Healdsburg) *Russian River Flag*, 26 March 1874

Dear Flag—

A letter was put into my hand last week, containing photographs of six persons in Healdsburg and some views of Guerneville and of the building of J.H. Downing's Photograph Gallery. While looking at these, a train of thought was awakened in my mind that recalled many early recollections of the town and people.

Our arrival, in the Spring of '57, was in a four-horse lumber wagon, the only conveyance we could procure to bring us from Petaluma. It was driven by Mr. Page, of the firm of Page and Francis of Healdsburg, so well known to the early settlers. Mr. Page is now [1874] wearing the laurels of a member of Congress. He left us at the only hotel in Healdsburg, which was only partially built, and kept by J.G. Heald. For three days we could secure no room, save to occupy one with the landlord's family, after which a partition was put up that separated us from the household.

Healdsburg then boasted a store, two blacksmith shops, a saddler shop, and I am sorry to add, one or two whiskey saloons, with about a dozen dwelling houses, small and unpretending. These were all nestled among the trees, for the site was then almost a forest; but it was considered a promising beginning for a town. The Autumn following we built a house, and in the very simplest manner commenced housekeeping, manufacturing all our furniture excepting six wooden chairs—these being nearly all the articles of household furniture that could then be bought in town—and gathering moss from the trees to make our first bed. The town grew rapidly, stores and mechanics' shops multiplied; doctors, lawyers and preachers located there. Churches were built; Sabbath and public schools were organized, an Academy was built, and our flourishing little town each month gained new importance. Now it is acknowledged to be one of the prettiest locations in the State—desirable climate, favorable for agriculture, always securing fair crops, and settled by people of enterprise and industry. Healdsburg will always remain a place of great interest and pleasant memories to me.

--John Maxwell

(in March 1874 letter to the *Russian River Flag*)

THE HEALD FAMILY AND THEIR NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

by Charlotte Anderson



Harmon Heald

HEALD FAMILY OVERVIEW

Of the eight children born to George and Elizabeth Tatlow Heald, six plus a niece were in and around Healdsburg beginning in 1850. George and Elizabeth lived in Delaware where their first child, Mary Ann, was born November 19, 1816. Shortly after Mary Ann's birth they moved to "the wilderness of Ohio" where the next seven children were born: Samuel in 1818, William Rankin in 1820, Sarah in 1822, Harmon Gregg in January of 1824, Thomas Tobin in December of 1825, Jacob Gregg in 1827, and George William in 1830. The same year George William was born, his father George was murdered in the Allegheny Mountains on his return to Ohio from a trip to Delaware. His widow Elizabeth managed their 100-acre farm and raised their eight children, making sure they had good work ethics and good schooling.

In 1844 the family, except for Mary Ann, moved to Missouri where they had many neighbors who would eventually move to California. Samuel, Harmon and Thomas came to California in 1849 and to the Russian River area in 1850. Finding the area to their liking, Samuel returned to Missouri, collected all of the family except Mary Ann and William, and brought them to Heald's Store, California. Since Harmon Heald founded Healdsburg (See Russian River Recorder, Spring 2007), it is only fitting that the rest of his family should be recognized, especially as a number of them bought property in the area and made notable contributions.

GEORGE WILLIAM HEALD

The youngest of the 8 children of George and Elizabeth Heald was born on January 5, 1830, in Ohio shortly before his father was killed in the Allegheny Mountains when returning from a trip to his native Delaware. Young George (about 14) moved with the family when they went to Missouri. He and all his siblings were well brought up by their widowed mother. As one of the brothers wrote: "My mother was a brave woman and managed to rear the family very respectably considering the circumstances." George helped his mother with the farm and his brothers with their sawmills.

In 1851 he came across the plains and mountains with his family led by brother Samuel to Heald's Store in California. George mainly worked in his brother Harmon's store but also dabbled a bit in property. He "took up a government pre-emption on some property about 8 miles south of Healdsburg towards Guerneville." Later that year, 1852, he sold his pre-emption to his brother-in-law T.A. Shaw.

George Heald died on January 22, 1853, just past the age of 22. Ironically his death and the first birth, which was that of Henry H. Hudson, son of the Thomas W. Hudsons, were in the same year. (Thomas Hudson had been a good family friend back in Missouri.) George's funeral was the first one in the settlement. He was interred "by the side of a cluster of madrones," in what is now St. John's school lot (s.w. corner of East and Tucker Streets) but then "apparently far away in the back woods." [Note: In 1858, the remains of George Heald, "along with many others, were removed to Oak Mound Cemetery" on land donated by Col. Roderick Matheson.]

SAMUEL HEALD

Samuel Heald, the eldest of the six Heald brothers, did considerably more traveling than the others. Although at first trying to dissuade brothers Harmon and Thomas from making the "gold fever trek" in 1849, he actually was finally persuaded to go by neighbors and caught up to his brothers.

Living on the family farm in Ohio, where in 1818 he was the first of seven children born there, Samuel was often away building saw mills for others and leaving his own mill in Thomas' charge. He also traveled to Wellington, Missouri, where he claimed Matilda Cobb as his wife. Unfortunately she died in childbirth.

Continued on page 13

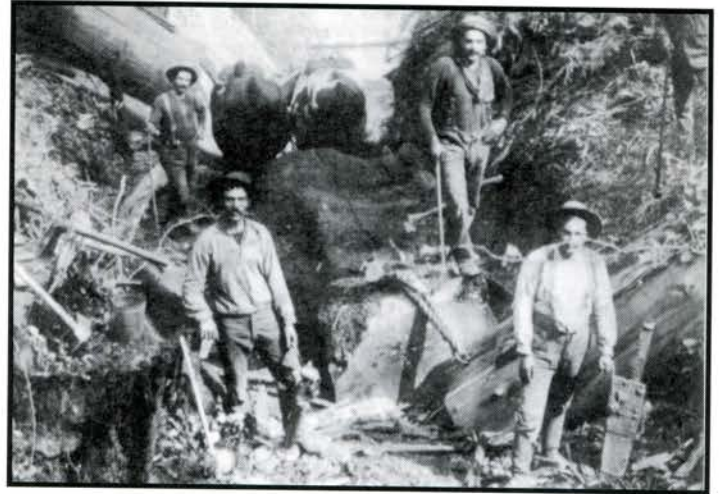
On the trip to California in 1849, Samuel contracted mountain fever (typhoid). He was so ill that the brothers had to "lay over" when they reached Deer Creek. There he was attended to by two doctors from the Lexington Company who, after medicating and watching him for 12 hours, decided that he would not survive. After they left, Thomas and Harmon called for the Government surgeon who was with a squad of soldiers sent to guard the emigrants from the Indians. This doctor ordered the medicine to be discontinued and he be "rubbed well with alcohol." Within ten days Samuel had improved so much that they were able to travel on arriving in Sacramento in early September 1849.

Intending to "winter" in Napa on account of his poor health, Samuel went there where he stayed with a Mr. Kellogg until December. At that time he was "recruited" by William March, March having learned that Samuel was a millwright by trade, to go to "Russian River" to help finish building a saw mill on Mill Creek. [Henry Fitch had recognized that if his Sotoyome Rancho was to prosper, two industries were necessary, a saw mill and a flour mill. He had discussed this with his ranch manager, Moses Carson, who arranged, shortly after the Bear Flag revolt in 1846, for a young man named William March to go into an agreement with Captain Fitch to build a combination saw and grist mill. Fitch had the machinery sent around the Horn from Boston. The location chosen for the mill was a live stream, Mill Creek. Unsettled conditions in the country and the early death of Captain Fitch delayed its completion until March "found" Samuel Heald.]

By September 1850, the mill was in operation and Samuel had become a partner, earning about \$9 a day! When Harmon and Thomas arrived after their short season in the gold fields, Thomas was put in charge of the saw portion of the mill which he ran until 1852.

Samuel, Thomas, and Harmon were so delighted with the "Russian River" area, and its potential, that they decided that the rest of their family should join them. "Traveler" Samuel left in December 1850 for this purpose.

As excerpts from Samuel's diary show, he first rode to Sonoma and then to San Francisco for \$10. On January 1, 1851, he sailed on the steamer *Carolina* bound for Panama, for \$125. Three weeks later the steamer anchored at Panama where on January 23, Samuel and "a Mr. Henry of St. Louis procured a mule and started across the Isthmus." They ate at a halfway house and "arrived at Gargona, a 25 mile trip, about 6 p.m." On January 24, "eight of us procured a boat for \$50 and started down the Chagres River arriving at Chagres about 7 o'clock."



Loggers at Mill Creek

On January 25, 1851, Samuel boarded the steamer *Georgia* from New Orleans and after "waiting for mails for two days hoisted anchor and were off to Havana." On February 2, they anchored in Havana Harbor and of February 3 transferred to the *Falcon* for New Orleans. (Also boarding the steamer were "the Swedish nightingale" Jennie Lind and troupe who were on a 93-concert tour arranged by P.T. Barnum!)

The *Falcon* arrived in New Orleans on February 7 and after "visiting in New Orleans for 3 days" Samuel left on steamboat *Columbus* for St. Louis, Missouri. From St. Louis Samuel continued on to his mother's farm 18 miles out of Independence in Jackson County.

Immediately upon returning to the family farm, Samuel set about arranging for its sale. "A Farm for Sale. Belonging to Elizabeth Heald. Containing 180 A, Situated in Jackson Co., MO., 18 miles E of Independence in the vicinity of several saw and grist mills" (which Samuel had built!). Plantings were described, as were the various buildings with their contents and the livestock. A highlight was "a never ending spring of water." Described as being in "as healthy a location as any in the country, the above farm will be sold low for Cash as the owner desires removing to California."

Selling the farm quickly, the extended family began the trek to California in May 1851. Family members included mother Elizabeth Tatlow Heald, sons Samuel and George, son Jacob with wife Mary Hanna and daughter one-month-old Sarah Josephine, and "granddaughter" 10-year-old Mary. The trip took six months and was accomplished "without the loss of any of their members and free from most of the suffering and privations experienced by so many of the pioneers of those early days."

The family settled in and around the area of the mill where Samuel had built a house and at "Heald's Store." Samuel worked at his mill until the end of 1854 when he again "got the travel bug."



Mill Creek

On February 16, 1854 Samuel left San Francisco, this time on the *Brother Jonathan*. Again going across the Isthmus of Panama, he found the journey much improved from the one three years before. On March 11, he arrived in New Orleans, "once more in the 'Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.'" On March 14 he left on the *Grand Turk* for the 10-day trip to St. Louis. On March 25 he boarded the *Tropic*, going up the Missouri River to Wellington. In Wellington, Missouri, he courted and won the hand of Martha Cobb, the younger sister of his deceased first wife Matilda. Married on June 22, 1854, the couple took an extended honeymoon trip through Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., New York, Niagara Falls, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. They sailed on September 5 for California via Aspinwall and Panama. They left Panama on the *Jno.L.Stephens* September 18 and arrived in San Francisco early October 1854.

Samuel and Martha lived in "Napa City" for 13 years with Samuel building the first flour mill there. They then moved to San Francisco where they raised their two children. Samuel continued building mills in various places including San Jose's first flour mill.

Along his various trails, Samuel contracted consumption (tuberculosis). He was living with his sister, Sarah Shaw, in Cloverdale and building a flouring mill in Lake County when he passed away in 1874 at the age of 56. Samuel's final journey was to the family plot at Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg. Samuel's

wife Martha lived in San Francisco another 14 years, passing away in June 1888. She was buried next to Samuel in Oak Mound.

JACOB GREGG HEALD

Jacob Gregg Heald was the 7th child of George and Elizabeth Heald and was born in Delmont County, Ohio, on December 13, 1827. He was 17 when the family moved to Missouri in 1844. He became a partner in a saw mill with Tom Hudson, one of his closest friends (Hudson later bought and developed a tract of land in the southeast corner of Harmon Heald's plat. Hudson also owned and operated the ferry across the Russian River. He and his wife were the parents of Henry H. Hudson, the first child born in the town of "Heald's Store.")

In 1849, at age 22, "Jake" married Mary Hanna also of Missouri. In the spring of 1851, Jake, Mary and their one-month-old daughter, Sarah Josephine, emigrated to California with Jake's brother Samuel who had returned from California to gather his remaining family members. One morning on the way across the plains, when the bedding and other equipment were being hurriedly stored into the wagons for the day's journey, it was not noticed that Sarah was asleep on one of the feather beds. She was inadvertently rolled up with the bed and thrown into the wagon. She was not missed for several hours and just as a man on horseback was about to be sent back, someone thought of the feather bed and found her!

Upon arriving in California, Jake was quick to see that the greatest need was "products from the soil" so in the spring of



Jacob Gregg Heald

1852 he purchased a large tract of land from David Hopper. (now 1710 Westside Road) This was the first farm located anywhere in the immediate vicinity of Healdsburg. When the grant title was confirmed, Jake settled with the Fitch heirs paying \$468 for his 102 acres (The following year he sold out to A.B. Aull for \$2500).

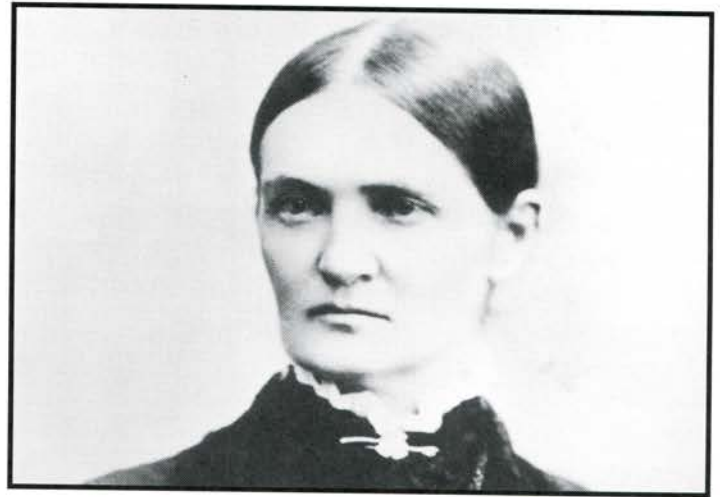
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Jacob Heald then began dealing in property in the new town of Healdsburg not the least of which included buying lots #36 and #77 of the original plat from his brother Harmon on September 4, 1857 for \$75.

The first hotel to be built in the vicinity was not within the limits of the original town, but well within the limits of the later incorporated town. Earlier there had been an attempt to start a town just north of the Heald plat and a hotel had been built called the Sotoyome House. On the 18th of March 1857 J.G. Heald and John Raney formed a partnership and purchased this hotel for \$1287. On May 12 they sold the lot and building to Henry P. Swain for \$800, but they kept the interior furnishings. On the same day Heald and Raney purchased plat lot #9 from August Knaak. Immediately a hotel was built, and, although the building was not completed for some time, meals were being served before the end of the month. Mr. Swain began renovating his building, and in the process of painting, the Hotel sign was removed and piled with some old lumber on the edge of the road. Jake came along and offered money for the pile of lumber; the offer was accepted and off went the used lumber with the sign! Heald and Raney promptly hung up the sign on their new hotel, and thus the name "Sotoyome" passed on and remained. Although Mr. Swain objected, he had to admit that the sign had been fairly bought so his renovated place became "The Cottage" Heald and Raney were in partnership a relatively short time as Jacob sold his interest in the hotel to Raney on September 25, 1860. As it turned out, at that time Jacob had nothing but bare lots to turn over to Raney as the hotel had burned down in October of 1859. [see page 4 of RRR for photo of the cottage]

Jacob Heald and family moved into Mendocino County, settling in Oat Valley just northwest of Cloverdale. He had been concerned with the health of his children who had too often been subject to sore throats. (This was blamed on the slough that ran behind the hotel) For the first 6 years of Jacob's ownership of the farm, he was not very consistently on the place. During that time he made two trips into Oregon to mine on the John Day River. While he was away on his second mining venture, on September 28, 1864, his wife died (probably appendicitis).

Two years later, on July 3, 1866, Jacob Gregg Heald married Rachel Elliott, a widow with 2 sons and 2 daughters. In August 1867, the dwelling on the Cloverdale farm was burned with all its contents, leaving the family with only the clothes on their backs. Jake had a large barn already under construction and immediately started on a larger and better dwelling. In this building, Heald "kept



Rachel Elliot Heald

a regular stopping place" for people living in and traveling to the counties to the north. In 1881, Heald began the vineyard business with the planting of 13 acres. Immediately he saw possibilities of great financial success so he extended to forty acres. He encouraged his neighbors to plant grapes, and soon there were enough grapes to justify a local winery. The first two years the winery was run by DeTurk and Lawrence of Santa Rosa but it eventually turned into a corporation owned by 5 locals including Jacob Heald.

Jacob Heald had never been content to confine his operations to only one venture so besides farming and the winery business he had investments in stock and timber land. He was also a charter member and Corresponding Secretary of the Cloverdale lyceum "who meet in spirited debate every Thursday evening." (*Russian River Flag* 28 January 1869, p. 2:2)

On September 5, 1895, Jake saddled a little pony to ride about the vineyard to ascertain if the grapes were ready to pick. He had been warned to beware of the pony as it was tricky and too quick for him to manage, he being a heavy man. Paying no attention to the warnings, he mounted the pony which immediately reared. Jacob's heavy weight pulled him over backwards. Although his injuries were not life threatening, he contracted pneumonia and died 12 days later. He was buried by the Masons, Jacob having been a past master of the Cloverdale lodge, in Oak Mound cemetery at Healdsburg. He was survived by his sons John Edson Heald and William Thomas Heald and his daughter Sarah Josephine Linville. (Son William Thomas Heald is the one who gathered information for his HEALD FAMILY HISTORY written about 1920 and reposing in the Healdsburg Museum Research Library.)

"The deceased was a man of positive character, and when he thought he was right nothing could divert him from his path of duty. He was a shrewd and careful business man and had accumulated

considerable property. Besides his valuable ranch he was a director and large shareholder in the Cloverdale Wine Co., and holds several mortgages. He was an honored member of Curtis Lodge, No. 140, E. & A. M., of this place and an earnest worker, having filled all the various offices of the Lodge, and particularly the Master, with credit to himself. The funeral service will take place at his late residence in Oat Valley, on Saturday, September 21st, 1895, at 12 M. After which the funeral will proceed to the depot at Cloverdale, and thence by 2:20 train to Healdsburg for interment. The services at the cemetery will be conducted by his Masonic brethren." - from *Cloverdale Reveille*, Sept. 21st, 1895.

"Jacob Gregg Heald was known to almost every pioneer settler in Sonoma county and all who have come in social contact with him are of the single opinion that his efforts in behalf of the county in the march of progress have been extremely advantageous. There never was a move inaugurated for the good of old Sonoma

but what the deceased gave an assisting hand and his death is a loss to his fellow citizens which pierces them keenly." (*Healdsburg Tribune*, 26 Sept 1895 p.1:1.)

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