

*Charter members \$2.50  
starting Jan 1, 1963,  
Sustaining membership  
waived.*

HISTORY SOCIETY FORMED

Interested residents of Sonoma County have recently organized the Sonoma County Historical Society, with the goals of collecting and preserving historical materials, maintaining a museum for these materials, and perpetuating historical landmarks. Organizational meetings of the Society were held in June and July of 1962, and the first general meeting was held on September 28, 1962.

Officers of the Society are; Mrs. Edward H. Connor, President; William S. Borba, Vice President; Mrs. Jeanne Thurlow Miller, Recording Secretary; Mrs. William Lippincott, Corresponding Secretary and Curator; Burton Travis, Treasurer. Additional directors are Edward Fratini, Harvey Hansen, and Edwin Langhart. A charter membership drive is being conducted now, with annual dues for active members set at \$2.50 per year.

"It is appropriate that the Sonoma County Historical Society has been formed during this particular year," states Mrs. Connor. "The recent observance of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Russians at Fort Ross, together with the work begun this year on the restoration of the Carrillo Adobe in Santa Rosa, point up the wealth of local historical materials which are available, and the important part Sonoma County has played in the settling of the west."

To date, the Society has 53 charter members who meet the fourth Friday of every second month at 8:00 p.m. The November meeting will be on Thursday, November 29, at Petaluma High School, 8:00 p.m. as guests of the Petaluma Historical Society. Robert Parmalee of Sonoma will be the speaker. Mrs. C. E. Mannion is President of the Petaluma group.

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LOCAL STORIES WANTED

Do you have stories or recollections of Sonoma County's past? Will you share them with other members of the S. C. H. S. through future issues of this Journal? It is our hope that each issue of the Journal will contain accounts of Sonoma County history based on the research or memories of our members. What may seem to you a small matter may be of much interest to others who are not familiar with your particular information.

Do you have information about early-day settlers in the area, your family or others? Railroads? Logging? Churches? A city? Land Grants? Agriculture? A business? Old buildings? The Russians? The Spanish? The Mexicans? Missions? Other subjects of local historical interest? We will be most happy to receive your account. Don't hesitate because you don't think you're an author. This is your Journal. Ideas are always wanted for the constant improvement of the organization.

Present plans are to publish the bulletin quarterly, with more frequent publication a possibility for the future.

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THE LETTER CORNER

To the President:

I enclosed \$5.00 in payment for a sustaining membership. Not being a long-time resident of Sonoma County, I cannot make such contributions as those who are,

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but hope to take some worthwhile part in its activities.

One particular interest related to my work (Public Health Analyst-Statistician) is that of the County's population and its development in the course of time.

Sincerely,  
Barton Oliver

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To the President:

Thank you so much for informing us of the officers and details concerning the Sonoma County Historical Society. The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce is pleased to know that efforts are being made to retain and preserve the County's historical background for future generations.

If our Chamber can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,  
Mrs. Margaret Huffman, Office Manager

P.S. Enclosed is my personal check for membership.

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Major and Mrs. George Adamson, members from Cotati, send word from Pennsylvania of their tour last month through the Old Germany Settlement of the Harmony Society in the town of Old Economy, Pa. and of the restoration being done there and in other historic places in Pennsylvania.

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Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Walker of Bennett Valley on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. Residence of the Walker family in Sonoma County goes back to General Vallejo's time.

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Mrs. Edward H. Connor, president of the Society, is currently preparing for publication a booklet of information about the Society. It will contain an account of the founding of the organization, information about the founders, a list of Charter Members to date, a history of the Melita area (compiled by Mrs. William Lippincott), and the biography of Professor Alexander Campbell McMeans, grandfather of Edward Connor and a pioneer educator in Sonoma County at the turn of the century.

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The latest word on the museum, according to Mr. Hugh Coddington, is that construction will begin as soon as the extension of Farmer's Lane is completed, about the first of the year - - the building to be ready for occupancy by July, 1963.

Prospective donors are urged to preserve materials of historical value if they wish to present them at a later date. However, excellent storage facilities are available in the meantime in the Empire Building, courtesy of Mr. Henry Trione. Each article donated will bear a tag showing the donor's name.

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THE JOURNAL  
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The Journal will be published quarterly in Santa Rosa, California and will be distributed only to members of the Sonoma County Historical Society, Inc.

The Society does not assume responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors. All correspondence should be addressed to 1225 Bertha Lane, Santa Rosa, California.

Richard R. Moore  
Editor  
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CHARTER MEMBERS TO DATE (12-1-62)

Mr. William S. Borba	Sebastopol
Mrs. William R. Lippincott	Santa Rosa
Mr. Edward Fratini	Petaluma
Mrs. Jean Thurlow Miller	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Edward H. Connor	Santa Rosa
Mr. Burton Travis	Forestville
Mr. Harvey Hansen	Santa Rosa
Mr. Hugh Coddling	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Ruby Jewell Coddling Hall	Santa Rosa
Mr. Edwin Langhart	Healdsburg
Mrs. Barbara Rosasco	Santa Rosa
Mr. John Fitzgerald	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Walter Nagle	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Gladys Winters	Santa Rosa
Major and Mrs. George Adamson	Rohnert Park
Mr. Barton Oliver	Santa Rosa
Mrs. John Muzio	Santa Rosa
Mrs. C. J. Phillippi	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Ben Cummings	Suffern, N.Y.
Mr. Hugh Harrell	Sebastopol
Mrs. Hugh Harrell	Sebastopol
Major Robert L. Howard	Sebastopol
Miss Ruth Ridgway	Sebastopol
Mr. Charles E. Lucas	Santa Rosa
Mr. C. Raymond Clar	Sacramento
Mrs. Mary R. Lichens	Sebastopol
Mrs. Margaret W. Huffman	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Baxter M. Kavanaugh	Santa Rosa
Mrs. V. L. Richardson	Petaluma
Miss Frances G. Murphy	Santa Rosa
Mrs. C. E. Mannion	Petaluma
Mr. George Samuels	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Ruth M. Deeds	Santa Rosa
Mr. Bradford Champlin	Petaluma
Mr. Richard R. Moore	Santa Rosa
Mr. William D. Harrell, Jr.	Petaluma
Mrs. Lura Frati	Petaluma
Mr. Gilbert Walker	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Gilbert Walker	Santa Rosa
Miss Linda Lucas	Santa Rosa
Miss Margaret Hanson	Sebastopol
Miss Sharon McCausland	Sebastopol
Mr. Robert J. Miller	Santa Rosa
Mrs. James Weed	Monte Rio
Mrs. James Prince	Oakland
Miss Edna L. Wright	Healdsburg
Mr. Hugh D. McKell	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Margaret Collier	Santa Rosa
Mrs. James P. Maguire	Santa Rosa
Mr. Harry B. Fetch	Santa Rosa
Miss Martha E. Erwin	Santa Rosa
Mr. Burt Chadwick	Cotati
Mrs. Hazel F. Stitt	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Charles W. Reinking	Santa Rosa
Mrs. Edith Mortensen Pierce	Santa Rosa

(Future communications may be addressed to the Editor)

Richard R. Moore, the Editor, hails from up Oregon way. He has resided in Sonoma County for nine years and is an instructor of English and Spanish at Montgomery High School. He, his wife Virginia, and their children Kathleen 7, Jacqueline 5 and Nadine six months, live in Mayette Village.

Mrs. E. H. Connor

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#### FIRST GIFT TO MUSEUM

The Society has received many offers of historical items for the museum upon completion of the building. It was most gratifying to receive the first donation from Mr. Hugh McKell of Santa Rosa. It is a very interesting old spur, which was found on the site of a house which was torn down in 1958. The house was located at Four Corners, Sonoma, being one of the earliest constructed in that section, and known originally as the Wilson home more than 70 years ago. (More information is being sought on the possible origin and history of the spur.)

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Mr. Raymond Clar, a member vitally interested in the preservation of historical landmarks, writes from Sacramento (where he is Assistant Executive Officer at the State Board of Forestry) that in his opinion Sonoma County can boast of a history equal to any county in the State, and that the outstanding landmarks should be preserved by proper marking. Some of these landmarks are:

1. The site of the first steam operated engine in California at Bodega (Corners). This was the site of Captain Stephen Smith's lumber and flour mill 1843-53.
2. At the approximate same spot - the Smith Adobe (and the alleged "Russian Flagpole" at the questionable Kuskoff Ranch.)
3. The first water-powered commercial sawmill in California, built by John R. B. Cooper in 1834, on the wild frontier at present Mirabel Park where Mark West Creek meets the Russian River. Possibly an original foundation pile may be found. (Mr. Clar theorizes that this mill was established at the instigation of brother-in-law M. G. Vallejo, primarily as a buffer to Russian occupation of the Santa Rosa Valley, as well as to furnish lumber for the Petaluma Hacienda and the proposed City of Santa Anna y Faries\*.
4. The Sonoma Embarcadero, an important link in the settlement and control of that small portion of the Northbay area held by the Mexicans.
5. The Russian era ranches of Kostromitinoff, at the (south side) mouth of the Russian River, and the Gorgy Chernick ranch about at Duncans Landing.
6. \*The intended site of a Mexican buffer settlement to be called Santa Anna y Faries (1834) where Mark West Creek leaves the hills east of Santa Rosa Airport.

(Regarding items 1 and 3, Mr. Clar authored a book called California Government and Forestry (1959), (State Printing Office), in which these items are discussed.)

Mr. and Mrs. Clar recently enjoyed a vacation trip to Canada, (a honeymoon trip delayed for 34 years, according to Mrs. Clar.)

The speaker at the September meeting was Charles Lucas, a young student of history at the new Sonoma State College, and a charter member of the Society. His topic was the Carrillo Adobe, first dwelling the Santa Rosa and the home of Senora Maria Ygnacia Lopez de Carrillo. Due to many requests from members unable to attend, and others who were present, the report is hereby reprinted by permission of the author.

(From the Press Democrat - about 1905)

### THE SORORITY GIRL HAD A JOLLY TIME

A "progressive dinner" the feature of delightful entertainment last night -

Many courses of dinner and each one was served at the home of a member -

An initiation and above all a "progressive dinner", served in courses at the houses of a number of the members, furnished a delightful evening of entertainment for the girls of the local Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi sorority last night, and for its pleasure the occasion has never been excelled in the life of the Chapter.

The young lady to be initiated was Miss Gertrude Bell and after the initiatory work the progressive dinner was in order.

The first course was served at the residence of Miss Irma Woodward. The next was enjoyed at the residence of the Misses Helen and May McMeans, the third at the residence of the Misses Clara and Alma Einhorn. The fourth course was served at the residence of Miss Hazel Farmer. The next was at the residence of Miss Nellie Hall and the next at the residence of the Misses Marion and Jean Geary. The girls drove to the different residences in a carryall drawn by a spanking team. At each place a dainty part of the menu was served, and the entire evening was the greatest kind of a success. Those participating in the pleasure were the members of the Sorority and several of their girl friends. The party included the Misses Irma Woodward, Helen and May McMeans, Gertrude Bell, Clara and Alma Einhorn, Hazel Farmer, Ida Meyers, Marion and Jean Geary, Grace Hoffer, Jessie and Jimmie Robertson, Nellie Hall, Genevieve Stone, Edith McDonald, Esther Rhodes and Beatrice Overton.

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(From the Santa Rosa Times - August 10, 1876)

### BREVITIES

If Terry kills half the Sioux and routes the other half, the burying ground might be Sioux - tably called a semi - Terry.

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The more gathered, puckered and a'together "mussed up" a lady's overskirt is, the more fashionable may it be regarded.

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Keeley has had time, and time, and now his time is up. Slap-dab goes his name right alongside of Sergeant Bates and Dr. Mary Walker.

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The peaches grown on John Flack's Magnolia Farm, and noticed by us last week, measures twelve inches in circumference, instead of eight and a half, as erroneously stated by us.

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An old pauper in San Rafael obtained an order from the Board of Supervisors for \$15. to pay his board for one month. The old begger went out and got gloriously tight, and returned and asked the Supervisors out to take a drink.

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