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The following article appeared in the August 22, 1962 Novato Advance. The author was the daughter of John H. Bond, editor of Novato's first newspaper, "The Marin County Banner."

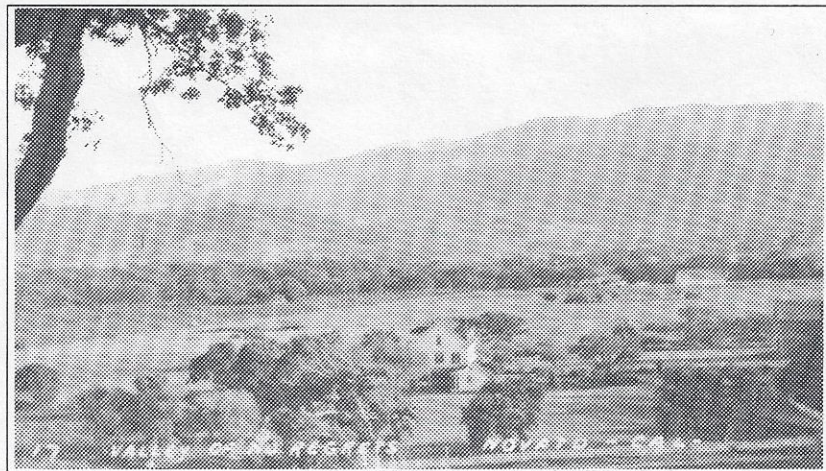
Down Memory Lane**Pioneer Families of Novato**

by Francis G. McGlaulin

While there are always pioneer families in every community, it seems there were more of them when we were children in Novato, than one finds in this changing time of migration from other states.

Standing out in memory are the Burdells, the Trumbulls, the Rudolffs, the Ryans, the Nielsens, the Maggetis, the Porcellas and the Samuels. Of course, there were many others.

The Burdells lived in some seclusion on their beautiful tree shaded ranch about three miles above Novato.



The old estate is now a religious retreat. Mrs. James Burdell had been Josephine Sweetser, as sister of Supervisor Fred Sweetser. Her husband was the son of Dr. Galen Burdell, a country gentleman, in whose library I spent hours as he and my father chatted. James Burdell was a handsome man, olive skinned and dark eyed.

His widow still lives in Petaluma.

In an earlier day, the Burdell ranch abounded with deer, and I clearly remember as a child seeing outdoor-loving Julia Valencia ride into town on horseback with a big buck across the saddle. A group gathered in front of Scott's store for the unusual sight. We'd seen many hunters bring in their kill, but never a woman.

Julia was the daughter of the pioneer Valencia family. If she wore a corduroy hunting coat and

could shoot like a man, she was equally at home as a gracious hostess in the old adobe at Ignacio (now Galli's) or entertaining at the

piano. The rinky-tink performers of today might be considered seconds compared to the way Julia dispensed rhythm at an old upright surrounded by admirers.

One of her sisters was Henrietta Sweetser who lived first
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in the big white house now a rest home, and later built one of the first modern homes facing the road, in what is now known as the Sweetser Tract.

There were three Valencia brothers living when I was growing up; "Valley" or Valentine, Milton and Theodore, called Lola. Lola rode a beautiful Palamino—all were handsome Spaniards and danced so gracefully they were in great demand as partners.

Old Land Company

Robert H. Trumbull has just taken over the Land Company, from Robert D. Hatch, when we were children. Originally this large acreage was the property of the DeLong family, and one of last remaining sons visited often with the Rudolff family.

Robert Trumbull was a fine looking man with old world courtesy. I remember him often wearing a linen duster and gloves. His coachman was named "Shorty" or "English Shorty", and I can recall no other name for him.

Edith Trumbull, the wife of Robert, was a handsome woman who had been a member of the pioneer McBrown family of Petaluma. She sometimes sang in public, and as church soloist, and at least once a year opened her big white house on the knoll for a tea open to the public. There were two children, Helen and Robert, Jr. The white house on the knoll is now the John Novak home.

When the big ranch was subdivided, it marked the first breaking up of the larger holdings in the Novato valley. Surveyors worked for months on the project, all of the crew making lasting friendships in the town.



This is a scene of Tamalpais Avenue (foreground) and Hill Road in 1947, looking to the east with San Pablo Bay in the distance. On the knoll (left center) is the Paxton Place. Note the orchards where Novato General and Hill Road Convalescent Hospitals are today.

(photo courtesy of Will Lieb)

The John Rogers family was one of the oldest in the community. Their 12 children were born on their ranch beyond the Trumbull property. John Rogers, tall and an elegant dancer, used to call the square dances in Loustaunau Hall.

Linked by Blood Ties

Many of Novato's pioneer families were linked by blood ties. This applied especially to those of Span-

ish heritage living throughout Marin County.

The Valencias were closely related to the Pachecos, the Pachecos to the Tanforans, and the Tanforans to the descendants of General Mariano Vallejo.

Among them they owned vast stretches of land, originally Spanish grants, later diminished ranches sub-let to tenant ranchers, and still later converted to housing subdivisions.

Hamilton Air Base was constructed on reclaimed waste march land owned by Dr. Bodkin, who married into the Pacheco family. There were also the Naves, the Gness family, the Silvas, the Bugeias and the Hiribarrens, fine and unforgettable people.

All of the early settlers mentioned, and many more, remain indelibly in memory as I pass through the new town and the old town of Novato.