

The Novato Historian



The Quarterly Publication of the Novato Historical Guild, the Novato History Museum, and the Hamilton Field History Museum



Preserving Novato's History
News Section

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January - March 2021

The Novato Historian

Volume 45, Number 1

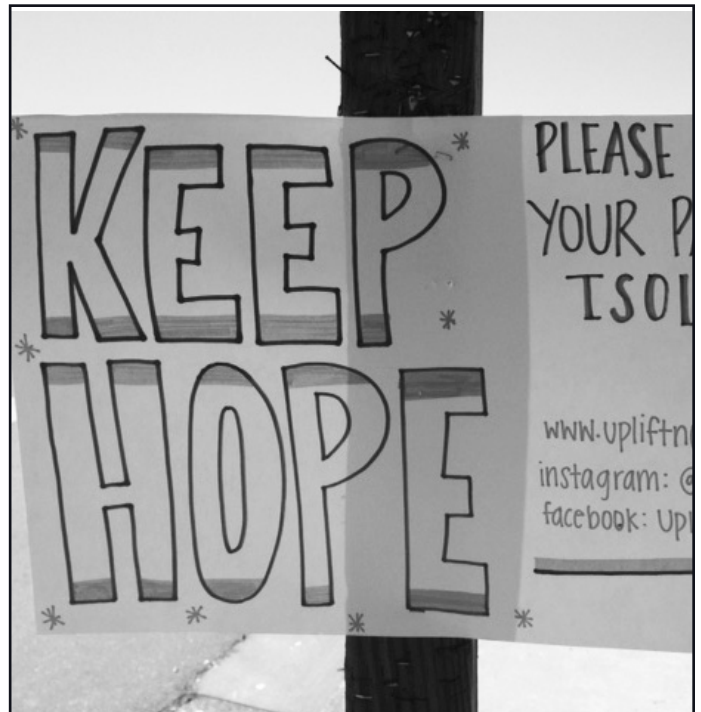
#NovatoProud: Novato's "Brick Lady" Elayne Miller



Congratulations to Elayne Miller, the Guild's past Board President (2005-2006).

The City of Novato is #NovatoProud of Elayne Miller, who has volunteered her time to help grow the City's "Buy A Brick" Program since 2010—which includes installing the bricks herself with a team of volunteers!

The program commemorates Novato's amazing people and businesses with specialty bricks installed around City Hall. You can order your own personalized engraved brick at <https://www.novato.org/i-want-to/buy-a-brick>.



The Novato Historian

Published March, June, September and December by the Novato Historical Guild, a California 501(c)3 non – profit corporation formed on November 18, 1976.

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Guild Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, and make reasonably available to the public, exhibits and information related to the history of the Novato area..

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Vice President	Kate Johnston
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Treasurer	Mike Read

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Deadline for the June 2021 issue is May 1st

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Address Changes

The Novato Historian is mailed by bulk mail and will not be forwarded by the Postal Service. Please notify us promptly of your address change at Novato Historical Guild, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.



President's Corner

Kathryn Hansen
President, Novato Historical Guild

Continuing Our Mission During Covid

The Board elected officers for 2021 as follows:

President- Kathryn Hansen
Vice President - Kate Johnston
Treasurer - Mike Read
Secretary – Sharon Azavedo

The Guild ended 2020 with a very successful Zoom quarterly meeting. Twenty nine members attended. This included Joan Marzell Quinn who signed in from Cary, North Carolina. Our speaker, Mike Corlett did a terrific job telling us the WASP story and their struggles to receive recognition for their contribution to the war effort.

The Guild started 2021 with a special contribution to the City of Novato's Paint the Town Red Birthday Party. The COVID 19 Committee submitted articles and pictures honoring Novato volunteers for the Kindness Project. You can view the event on <https://youtu.be/LY0HM8mujac>.

This year the Guild plans on reviewing the strategic plan and updating it for the next decade. The focus will be on six goals:

1. Increase Membership
2. Increase Volunteers
3. Increase Community Involvement
4. Increase the use of new technology
5. Enhance the Museums
6. Enhance the Website

Three examples of fulfilling the goals are:

- Gary Bramon, a Board member, suggested and volunteered to contact new members. This has been a great success. New members were very excited about being contacted and are enthusiastic about getting more involved in the Guild.

- Anne Russell, a Board member has been reaching out to the local businesses. She made a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce this quarter.

- Bill Damon, a past Board member answers inquiries that are sent to info@novatohistory.org. There are approximately twenty inquiries per month. An example is someone looking for photos of their neighborhood before the houses were built. They live on Corte Sur (Loma Verde).

The work of the Guild to preserve and share Novato's history takes all of us working together.



March 2020 - North Marin Community Services Food Bank.



Novato – 50 Years Ago

(January, February, March 1971)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

Dear Fellow Guild Members & Readers,
It's a new year thank goodness, 2020 was a very trying year for most of us. I hope that this year improves. Science has come up with vaccines, my hope is that we all can get vaccinated & continue our use of masks & social distancing for a little while longer so by the time the next issue of The Novato Historian is printed we will be able to have some normalcy. 1971 May not have had the difficulties of 2020, but there was plenty of news & events to make it interesting. Please enjoy the following & I hope it will bring you many memories, & remember that these articles were taken word for word & spelling from the Novato Advance issued in Jan, Feb, & March 1971. Stay well,

Yvette Borloz Jackson

FIRST BABIES OF 1971: Novato's first baby of the year was one of twins. Timothy Walker Miller arrived at 9:25 AM Friday at Novato General Hospital, followed seven minutes later by his sister, Tracey Ann. The babies parents are Mr. and Mrs. William M. Miller, Posada Del Sol. Timothy arrived well ahead of the next contender for the first baby honor the baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Anderson, Clousing Avenue. She was born at 12:37 PM at Marin General Hospital.

1970s WOMEN DISTINCTION: The Novato advanced selections for distinguished women of the year for 1970 are three women who have made significant contributions to the community: Mrs. Bea Carpenter, who has worked to beautify the city; Mrs. Beverly Ehreth, who has acted on the city planning commission as a guardian of the city's natural beauty, and Mrs. Carolyn Crabtree, who has contributed to Novato schools as a PTA member and a member of the school board. This is the second year the Advance has awarded this honor it

is a recognition reserved for women who have been outstanding in civic work, the arts, or their careers. The selection is made by the advance staff.

NINE TO COMPETE FOR TITLE: Nine pretty high school seniors will compete for the title of Novato Junior Miss in a pageant to be held at 7:30 PM Sunday at the community house. The candidates are: Cynthia Ann McMillen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McMillen. Laurie Glenn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glenn. Mary Jette Littler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Littler. Dawn Fiala, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fiala. Carol Parker daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Parker. Cindy Robyn Lehan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lehan. Rosemary Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davidson. Donna Richardson daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson. Gayla Gargiulo daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gargiulo. Cindy, Rosemary, and Donna are San Marin High students. The other six attend Novato High School. All nine are 17-year-olds.

TOWNHOUSE SITE: Plans for a 215 unit townhouse project on the former Oliva ranch at 2100 Novato Blvd. have been approved by the city. The townhouse units are to be concentrated in the flat area between two hills. The hill to the right covering 10 acres is to be reserved for private open space; a hill to the left covering 20 acres is being dedicated for public open space. The development is a Boise Cascade Building Company project. (Parkhaven)

McCOY MEMBER OF RECRUIT CLASS: James L. McCoy, formally of Novato, has completed a 12 week recruit class with the Executive Protective Service at the U.S. Secret Service training center in Washington DC. During the training session McCoy participated

in classroom study which included such subjects as police community relations, psychology and criminal law, as well as training in firearms, first aid and physical education. The Executive Protective Service was established on March 19, 1970, expanding the responsibilities and size of what was formerly the White House police. The new security force, supervised by the secret secret service, protects the White House buildings in which presidential offices are located, the president and his immediate family and foreign diplomatic missions located in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia. Officer McCoy is a 1963 graduate of Novato High School.

RUBELLA MAKE-UP SLATED JANUARY 21: During January a number of special rubella make-up clinics will be held for children who missed the vaccination during the program in the schools in November and December, Dr. Carolyn Albrecht, county health officer, has announced. A clinic is scheduled for 4 to 7 PM January 21 at the Novato Community House. Clinics are also slated for every Monday in January from 1:30 to 4 PM at 920 Grand Ave., San Rafael. The clinics are an extension of the school vaccination program and are for children from 1 through 11 years of age, Dr. Albrecht explained. There will be no fee charged for vaccination, but donations of up to a dollar to the Marin Medical Society Rubella Fund would be appreciated. On a county-wide basis almost 42% of eligible children were vaccinated in the school program. In one school in Novato, Loma Verde, the combined number of children immunized in the public program and by private positions reached 85%, Dr. Albrecht said "this is exceptional, and is a goal for the rest of the community."

50 Years Ago

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KGO-TV MANAGER: Business Less Fun, losing a "nice round figure of say \$1 million in revenue" seems a gloomy way to start off 1971. Still, Don B. Curran, vice president and general manager of KGO-TV thinks the coming year will be a "healthy" one for channel 7. And since the lost million bucks would have come from now-banned cigarette commercials the term "healthy" may be an apt one. Curran, interviewed at his home on Olympia Way in the Marin Country Club Estates, says KGO was particularly hard-hit as two other San Francisco stations (KRON & KPIX) had banned ciggies from their airways previously and most of the tobacco money had been funneled into channel 7 and 2. Curran himself kicked the habit "15 years ago in St. Louis" (suggesting the memory burns on?). And he thinks the government should either outlaw cigarettes altogether or allow them to advertize in whatever medium they choose. "As it is we have a government subsidizing the tobacco industry on one hand and banning it from TV and radio on the other. It doesn't make sense, and to me it's personally upsetting."

VIETNAM DEATH NO. 12: "We have to work for peace" is the reaction of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher H. Bethards, after learning the tragic news last Wednesday that their son Edward Wayne Bethards, 20, was killed in Vietnam on January 12. The 1968 graduate of Novato high school was the 12th Novatoan to lose his life in the south east Asian war. Drafted May 5, 1970, private first class Bethards was a rifleman with Company D, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, America Division. He was shipped out to Vietnam last October 11 from Ft. Lewis, Washington, after training at Fort Ord, was in combat for nearly 3 months, and reportedly died in an accidental explosion when an explosive device blew up in the same truck that was transporting him. No information is available on the total number of victims in the explosion. "Wayne never picked up a gun until last May when he was drafted," said his father, "and then it wasn't the Viet Congress that killed him, it was our own

ammo that blew up." "It's so ironic," his mother said "that our whole life in this home is involved with working for peace and love, getting people to care for one another, and Wayne, who is so against the war over there and drew a piece sign on the top of every letter and a cross at the bottom, should he be killed.".... Mr. and Mrs. Bethards are active in the Inner Light Foundation....Wayne's parents say they are going to establish a Novato Little League memorial fun in Wayne's name and they are encouraging contributions to that fund instead of flowers.

MRS. HARTMANN BEQUEATHS \$5000 FOR CITY FOUNTAIN: Mrs. Mabel Hartman, an early Novato resident, bequeathed \$5000 to the Novato Garden club for a fountain to be erected at Redwood Highway and Grant Avenue. That was announced last week by Mrs. John Van Horn, Garden Club president. Whether Mrs. Hartman intended the fountain to be placed in the parkette"called Cavallero Corner or in the center traffic Island has not been determined. "We are delighted to learn of this bequest, and we will do our best to carry out Mrs. Hartmann's wishes," Mrs. Van Horn said. City beautification is one of the Garden Club's projects. The club keeps several "parkettes" planted with flowers.

OIL CLEAN-UP ON BEACH: YOUTHS FINEST HOURS: two busloads of volunteer Novato High School students helped remove oil soaked hay from Agate Beach near Bolinas lagoon last Wednesday. Armed with rakes, pitchforks, and shovels, owned by themselves or provided by Hamilton Air Force Base, the 150 students were dispatched to West Marin by the Marin Ecology Center. The students had volunteered after school administrators had organized the trip and arranged for transportation. Student body funds were used to pay for the two school district buses. Because of semester examinations, the students were on minimum days and did not miss school... at San Marin High School, students there both individually and in groups helped in cleanup operations and saving birds. The San Marin Ecology Club on Thursday and Friday spent some \$130

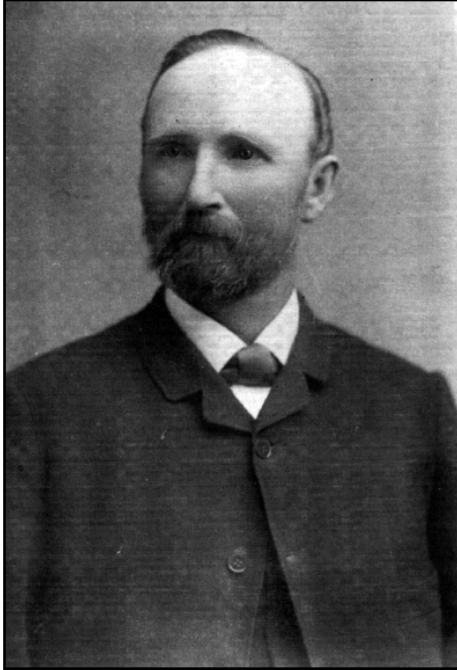
on food to prepare sandwiches to take to volunteer workers on the beaches. On Sunday physics teacher William Graves again lead a group of students to West Marin.(The massive oil spill resulted when two Standard Oil of California tankers collided Monday 01/18/1971 morning west of the Golden Gate).

WEDDINGS:

Bonnie Jean Bell - Robert A. Schroth
Cathy LaVerne Hanaway - Seaman Michael James Studley
Debra Lynn Nicholes-Robert Louis Lawrey
Pamela Jean Rollins - Gerald William Schaefer
Hon Chu Kim - Stephen E. Hansen
Barbara Wedge - James Hollingsworth, Jr.
Janet Thomas - Phillip Barnett
Vickie Karen Sanovich - S/Sgt Thomas E. Sullivan
Mary Wallace - Roy Graham
Patricia Lee Pilotte - Seaman 1c William N. Henderson
Dusteen Rhodes - Sgt Barry Lee Seay
Julie Ann Graham - Ralph A. Worden
Linda Marie Johnston - James W. Reents
Carolyn Curley - Glenn Kabanuck
Marsha Ann Kegg - Glen B. Eddings, Jr.
Shelly Croughan - William Earl Booth
Mary Hunter - Lars Theodore Larsen
Kathryn Louise Murray - Terence W. Young
Kathi Irene Davis - Lyle E. Radtke
Cheri Caldwell - Seaman Steve Wick
Cynthia Anne Hiatt - Sgt H.E. McFarland
Pamela Lynn Ehemann - David Hunter Jensen
Debra Carole Gotelli - Allen Frank Wilcox
Pamela Varner - Bruce Byers
Melinda Smith - Dan Hamilton.

Novato Pioneer Families

May Ungemach



John William Atherton

The Guild is now featuring the stories of the pioneer families of Novato with each segment taken from the book “Novato Township” by May Ungemach.

After four months at sea, he reached his destination and came directly to Marin County. Deciding to quit the sea and become a farmer, he sent for his bride, who made the long journey via the Isthmus of Panama. Accompanying her were her sister, Lois, and her brother, Rufus Warren Osgood, and his wife. Mrs. Ellen Atherton’s twin brother, Luther Edward Osgood, remained in New England.

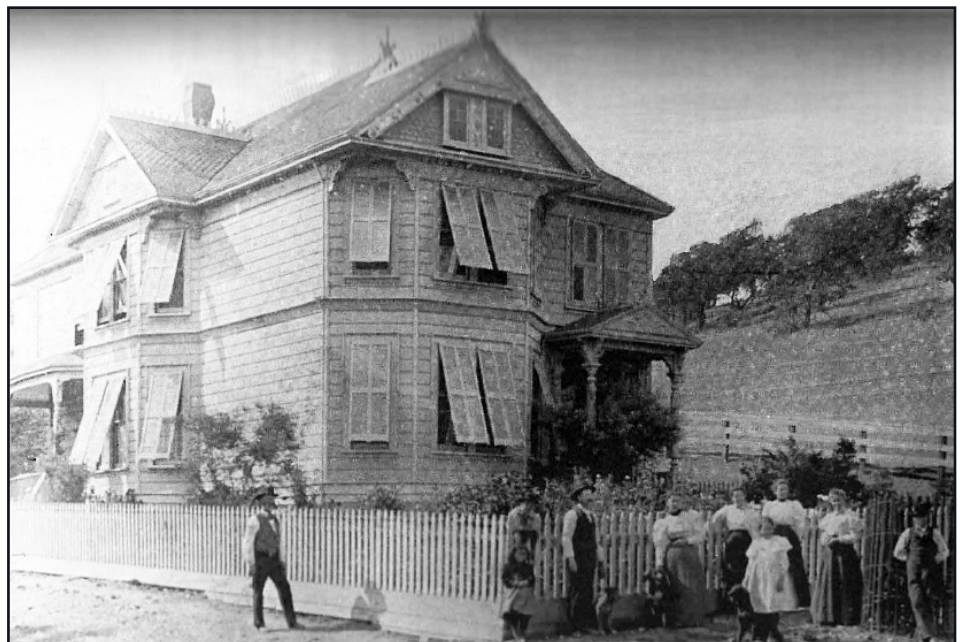
Records state J. W. Atherton worked at farming for the next five years until “by industry and economy, he saved some money,” allowing him to purchase “for 5,166 67/100 gold coin

... 333 33/100 acres” from Francis DeLong and Joseph Sweetser, partners and owners of the Rancho de Novato. The deed was recorded March 9, 1865. The home he had built for his family in 1893 still stands on the west side of Redwood Boulevard north of Vallejo Avenue.

By implementing all of the latest scientific advancements for improving his land, John Atherton proved to be more than just an ordinary farmer. His wife, sons George and Clarence, and daughters Carrie and Hattie, were well provided for.

Born in Blue Hill, Maine, March 19, 1835, John William Atherton was the son of John and Abigail (Grant) Atherton. As the third child in a family of seven sons and two daughters and growing up on a farm, John worked hard and had little opportunity for leisure activities. He went to sea at the age of 18 and was shipwrecked off the Florida coast by the time he was 20. Undaunted, he sailed again—first on the bark *Whistling Wind* (destroyed during the Civil War by the privateer *Sumter*), then as second mate on the *John Wesley*. During the latter voyage, he and the Captain were the only native Americans on board.

John returned to his home in Maine the summer of 1858, to marry Augusta Ellen Osgood. In November of that year, he shipped out on the *Herald of the Morning* from Boston to San Francisco, via Cape Horn.



Atherton home as it looked about 1900 when it stood in what is now the southbound lane of Redwood Blvd. north of Grant Avenue. At far left is John Atherton; young Clarence is sitting on the fence and his sister Carrie is just below him; Hattie is the child at right with a dog; George is at far right.

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Novato Pioneer Families

Continued from Page N – 5

Few Novato residents equalled Atherton's participation in community service. He was a Trustee on the Novato School Board from 1869 to 1886 and served in the 27th, 28th and 33rd sessions of the California State Assembly between the years 1887 and 1903. As an Assemblyman, he was a member of a number of committees including County Boundaries Committee, Enrollment Committee and Chairman of the State Prison Committee, among others.

Ellen Atherton died July 3, 1897. Three years later, the widower married Miss Carolyn Collins, a native of Novato who taught school in Novato and Black Point. In 1901, they had a daughter, Doris Viola. In a 1963 issue of the *Novato Advance*, Frances Bond McGlaufflin, who knew Atherton when she was a child wrote: "In Sacramento they had dubbed Atherton 'Petticoat Bill' because of his diplomatic charm with the ladies while in office at the capitol." Mrs. McGlaufflin also recalled that "there was always a beautiful garden blooming around the old Atherton place."

John William Atherton died June 27, 1911 and is buried in Novato's Pioneer Cemetery. In his obituary he is described as "a stalwart citizen, a sincere friend and an honest and upright man." The house and the avenue that bears his name remain as reminders of one of the leading citizens in early Novato.

The Atherton home was sold to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Andersen in 1918. Their son Gordon inherited the home and in 1927 sold it to Manuel Soares who operated a dairy on the property. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pinheiro acquired the place in 1940. The home was "rescued" in 1946 when the Pinheiros had it moved about a

block south and back off the highway right-of-way to its present site on Redwood Boulevard north of Olive Avenue.

Notes on the Atherton children:

George Allen Atherton was born November 4, 1860 in Novato. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1880 with a degree in Philosophy. George became a Civil Engineer in 1883, was a City Surveyor and the Manager of California Delta Farms, Inc. He married Hattie Weller September 22, 1887. Their four children are: Edith, married to Lester O. Wolcott; Helen, married to Joseph D. Malloy; George Weller, who married (1) Arline Boulware and (2) Ethel Simmons; and Grace, married to John Budd Hodgkins. Mr. and Mrs. George Atherton made their home in Stockton. George Atherton died March 11, 1943.

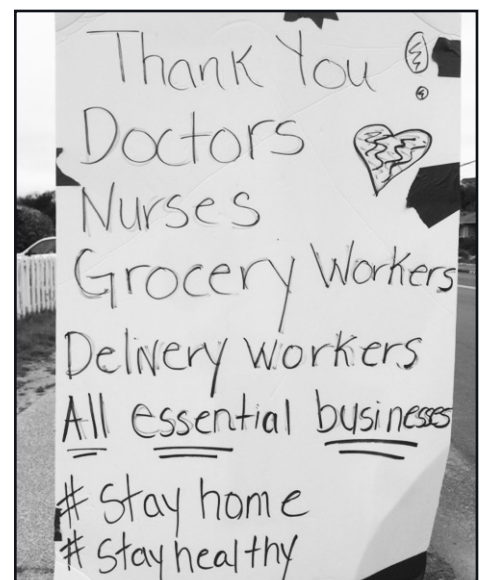
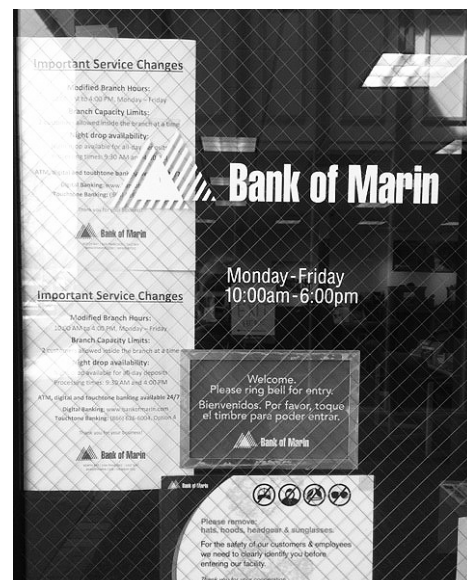
Carrie Atherton was born August 2, 1862 in Novato. She was a schoolteacher before she married Erastus P. Matteson who was also born in Novato and was a Federal Customs Inspector in San Francisco. Carrie died July 25, 1951 in San

Francisco. No children were listed in her obituary.

Hattie Atherton was born in 1865 in Novato. She was an artist and a musician. Hattie taught school, being the first teacher in the San Geronimo School when it opened March 5, 1888. She married Hyland E. Barber. Hattie Atherton died in Oakland on October 17, 1920, and is buried in Stockton. There were no children.

Clarence Atherton was born January 8, 1871 in Novato. He attended San Francisco Polytechnic High School and acquired a "good position in one of the leading manufactories of San Francisco." In 1898, he married Anna Catherine Dahl of Novato and two years later they opened a grocery store in Tahoe City, California. Clarence died October 17, 1943 at Fallon, Nevada. Mrs. Atherton passed away in 1948. Clarence and Anna Atherton had no children.

Doris Viola Atherton, who was born in 1901, was the daughter of John W. Atherton and his second wife, Carolyn Collins. Doris and her husband, Arthur C. Chapman, became the parents of one son, Richard Eugene.



NOVATO'S TREASURES

1010 Grant Ave. Andersen Motors Co.

MIKE READ

Gordon H. Andersen was born in Petaluma on September 28, 1906. He came to Novato in 1918 with his parents who farmed on property known as the Atherton Ranch on Redwood Blvd.

In **May 1926**, 19-year-old Gordon accepted a position in the service department of Peoples Motor Co. at 870-872 Grant Ave., now Pete's Barber Shop.

In **January 1927** Gordon went into a partnership with A.S. Peoples specializing in Chrysler and Chevrolet cars. By August of that year, they took over the Novato Motor Service at 7388 Redwood Blvd. This shop was started by Joseph Peoples, A.S.'s father, in 1922, who later sold the shop to L.F. Sanderson in March 1925.

January 1928 – A.S. Peoples sold his interest in the Peoples Motor Sales Co. to Gordon who then changed the name to Andersen's Motor Co.

October 1928 – Gordon married Miss Elsie Surtman.

June 1942 – Gordon bought the house and lots 1 and 2 Block of the C. Sweetser Ranch from Mrs. A.H. Anderson.

June 1944 – Gordon bought the rest of the block from Mrs. May D. Smith.

December 1, 1944 – After 16 years ownership of the garage, Gordon sold his shop to Alvaro Braz. Alvaro called his new shop the "Novato Garage."

October 1945 – The Anderson's moved to San Rafael where Andersen was foreman in Castro's Garage. Mrs. Andersen commuted daily to Novato as bookkeeper in the Pini Hardware store.

Feb. 13, 1948 – *Novato Advance*:

"Gordon Andersen Building Garage And Showroom - Gordon Andersen, former resident and garage owner, started construction this week of a new one-story building which will house a general auto repair shop and a showroom for new autos.

The building will be 40 feet by 100 feet and will be located at the northeast corner of Grant Avenue and First Street. Of modern design the building will be ready for occupancy in about three months.

Louis Bermolini & Son are the contractors in charge of construction. The building is to be wood framed with a stucco finish."

March 18, 1964 – Gordon H. Andersen, 57, died of cancer.

August 1964 – Elsie Andersen would incorporate Andersen Motors.

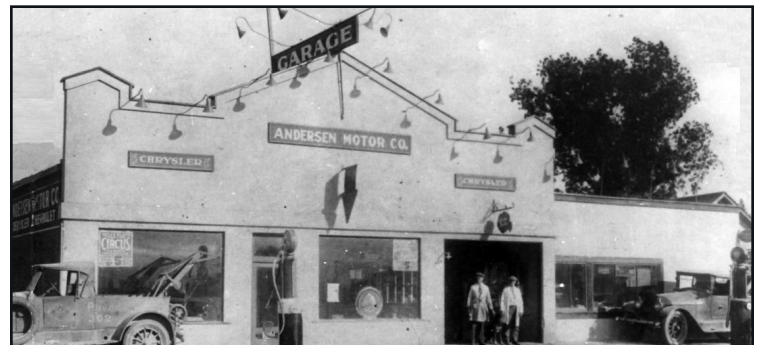
September 1964 – Mrs. Andersen learned from General Motors that she did not automatically inherit the franchise. It expired on Mr. Andersen's death. GM seldom approved a franchise for a woman.

December 1964 – Ted Schuman Chevrolet opened at 1010 Grant Ave.

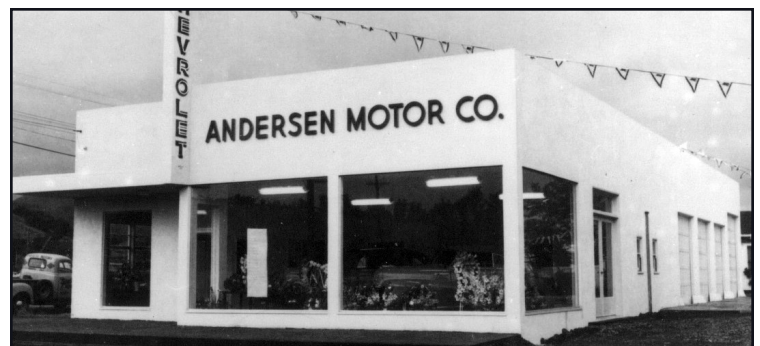
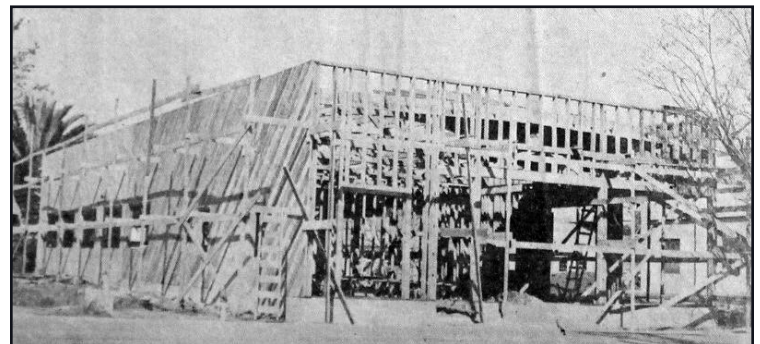
August 1965 – Andersen Motor opened for business at 1117 Grant Avenue.



Peoples Motor Co. on Grant Ave. from 1925 to 1927.



J.S. Peoples built this shop in May 1922 as Peoples Garage. He sold it to L.F. Sanderson on March 1925. It was called "Novato Motor Service." Aug 1927 A.S. Peoples and Gordon took over the building as "Peoples Motors Sales Co.



February 1948 - The building of Andersen Motor Co. opened in June

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Novato Treasures

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October 1966 – Andersen Motor is back at its former location at 1010 Grant Avenue and in possession of an International franchise. The company returned there after Schuman Chevrolet moved from 1010 Grant to its new headquarters on Redwood Blvd.

January 1971 – Elsie Andersen, went into “active retirement.” George T. Dexter succeeded Mrs. Andersen as president. Mr. Dexter was a veteran Marin automotive retailer, heading Annex Motors and Dexter Toyota, both on Francisco Boulevard in San Rafael. Annex Motors featured Volvo and Datsun vehicles. Mr. Dexter formerly operated Dexter Pontiac GMC and Dexter Rambler in San Rafael.

November 1, 1972 – Novato Datsun would take over the premises formerly occupied by American Motors. The owner was Joe Allegra, who had been in the automobile business in San Francisco since 1945.

March 1991 – Elsie Andersen, 83, bought



1955 arial picture: Grant and 1st - Garage is in center, fire station at bottom, Pini's top left, Mike's Liquor's top right

the city's old fire district headquarters property for \$235,000. She was the only bidder.

Around 1997 – Novato Nissan moved to Petaluma and Redwood Credit Union would move into the building.

Elsie S. Andersen, a pioneer Novatan, died Dec. 26, 1996 at age 88.

She was born Elsie Surtman March 12, 1908 in San Gregorio, Calif. to August Surtman, originally of Denmark, and Babbette Branz Surtman, who was born in England. Elsie moved with her family to Petaluma as a small child.

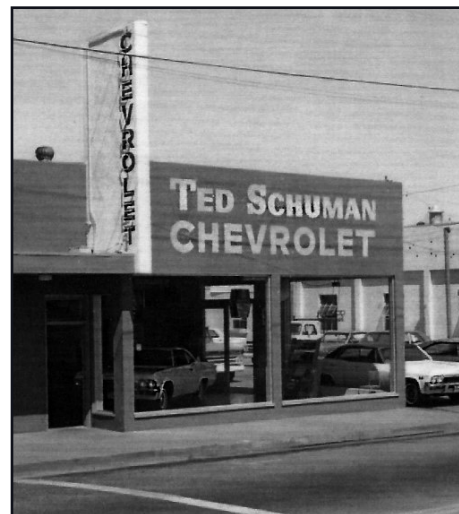
In 1928, she married Gordon Andersen in her sister's Petaluma home.

Gordon owned the Anderson Motor Co. on the southeast corner of what is now Redwood Boulevard and Sweetser Avenue in Novato. It was the first Chrysler franchise and the first auto agency of any kind in Novato.

Elsie worked alongside her husband at his AAA towing service. It wasn't unusual for her to run out in the middle of the night to give someone a tow.

The young couple's first home was located on Pine Street in Novato, the Regalo cottage. Then they moved to a house owned by Judge Rudloff on Railroad Avenue, where they lived for seven years. After that, they moved to an apartment upstairs in the Nave Building at Grant Avenue and Redwood Boulevard.

Soon the Andersens purchased a home at 1010 First Street in Novato. During the second World War, they rented out their house while living in San Rafael.



Schuman Chevrolet 1964 to 1966 when the dealership move to the Andersen property on Redwood Blvd.



Gordon and Elsie on their wedding day - October 21, 1928

The couple also bought Judge Rudloff's Railroad Avenue home that they had lived in as newlyweds.

The Judge and Mrs. Rudloff had died and the house had been converted to apartments. The Andersens owned the building until 1955.

From 1960-1964, Elsie and her husband lived at 1811 Novato Boulevard. After selling their home, they purchased 10 acres on the present Redwood Boulevard, beginning at the southern boundary of the Novato Fair Shopping Center and extending past the new fire station.

The couple's dream was to build a new agency on the land.

Shortly after the agency was built, however, Gordon learned he was terminally ill and passed away March 18, 1964.

Elsie managed the business until September, 1964. She then sold it and opened a real estate office on Grant Avenue.

Mrs. Andersen was employed as a librarian for the Marin County Library System for over 20 years. She was a member of the Ladies Aid Society and was a charter member of the Novato Historical Guild.

She also worked as a notary public.

Mrs. Andersen was survived by her sister, Alma Friis of North Sacramento.

Captain Howard B. Nurse, Planner & Architect



Hamilton Field Architect Captain Howard B. Nurse bust by sculptor Howard Lazar

By Mike Corlett

Planner, Architect, Visionary.

The Hamilton Field History Museum has a new display, a bust of Captain Howard B. Nurse, who designed and oversaw Hamilton Army Airfield's construction.

In 1931, the Army selected Marin County as the new West Coast Air Field location. Captain Howard Nurse was appointed to design and oversee the base's construction. Nurse was an architect in private practice in New York and decided he wanted to make the military his career. He became a member of the Army Quarter Master Corps in 1917.

Nurse brought to Hamilton construction ideas that were a departure from Army tradition. He felt

that installations should be more like planned communities that reflected the regional landscape. As a result, site plans placed structures to blend in with the land's contours. There was a post exchange, chapel, library, and theatre. For recreation, there were handball courts and swimming pools. Captain Nurse had lived in California for a few years early in his life and admired the Spanish Mission Style of construction. Many buildings and homes on the base had arched entrances and corridors, tiled roofs, and wrought iron railings. As you drive around the area, the remaining buildings reflect the Spanish Mission influence. Building 500, which is now the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, was originally the base headquarters building. The building is reflective of Nurse's vision.

Nurse's incorporation of California's mission heritage and "dramatic departure from military architecture"⁽¹⁾ resulted in a number of the buildings on the former base being listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

In May of 2020, local portrait and history sculptor, Howard Lazar, donated a bust he created of Lloyd Andrews Hamilton to the museum. During that visit, Museum manager Ray Dwelly asked Lazar if he would do a sculpture of Howard Nurse, and Lazar replied that "he would be honored to."

Lazar needed photos of Nurse, especially three-quarter views, to determine the bone structure, skin texture, and expressive character of his subject.

Museum curator Jim Davenport worked closely with Lazar and located some personal photos of Nurse. Because all of the images are in black and white, Davenport researched the colors and meaning of Nurses' 90-year-old service insignia worn on his uniform.

Lazar sculpted the bust and delivered it to the museum on December 19th of last year.

Thanks to Howard Lazar's generosity, the HFHM now has busts of the two most prominent figures associated with Hamilton Field's history.

Sources:

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey, www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ca2694

Abraham Lincoln’s Leadership Style”

Zoom Talk on March 13th,
10 a.m.

Mick Chantler will give an approximately 50-minute talk entitled “Abraham Lincoln’s Leadership Style” followed by Q&A. Mike Read already nicely set up the zoom link (below).

Mick Chantler has been an instructor of American Studies for over 40 years. He currently teaches at several Bay Area OLLIs (Osher Life-Long Learning Institutes) including Dominican, Berkeley, and Santa Clara.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88277720084>

Meeting ID: 882 7772 0084

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild
Membership Report
March 2021

Individual Membership

Mathilde White
Katherine Henderson

Family Membership

John and Molly Griffin
Steve Callahan & Stella Huddleston
Howard & Patricia Lazar
Daniel & Kate McNear
Peter & Mary Tiernan

*If you have questions about membership,
call*

*Lane Yee, Membership Chairman,
415 – 898 – 0444*



Please support our Guild Business Members:

Aero Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc
A. D. Scott Building
Andrew McAgnon Landscaping
Bank of Marin
Goltermann Real Estate and
Construction
Indian Valley Golf Club
Marin Landscape Materials
Marin Volvo/Saab
Mclsaac Dairy
Nave Enterprises
Novato Builders Supply, Inc.
Pacheco Ranch Winery
Pini Hardware
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato
Valley Oak Wealth Management
Zenith Instant Printing



Novato Historical Guild member Lee Pogetto’s cardboard cutout (circled) at Giant’s baseball game - September 2020.

2021 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month

Zoom Meetings

until further notice

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Jan. 11	July (no meeting)
Feb. 9	Aug. 10
March 9	Sept. 14
April 13	Oct. 12
May 11	Nov. 9
June 8	Dec. 14

Membership Meetings

March 13	10 – 11:30	Zoom
June 12	10 – 11:30	Zoom
Sept. 11	10 – 11:30	Zoom
Dec. 11	10 – 11:30	Zoom

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Kathryn Hansen at (415) 898-0467, in case a meeting has been changed.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

You may make a gift of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) to the Novato Historical Guild. Your gift is not only tax – deductible, but if you have held the shares for more than one year, your tax deduction will equal the full value of the securities on the date of the gift.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE GIFTS

You may honor a friend or loved one by having his or her name engraved on an individual brass plate on the Memorial Plaque in the History Museum. Please call the Museum at (415) 897- 4320. All contributions are tax deductible. Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

Contact Us

Hamilton Field History Museum
 Manager: Ray Dwelly
 Museum phone: 415-382-8614
 Email: Hamilton_museum@att.net
<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonFieldHistoryMuseum/>

Novato History Museum
 Manager: Susan Magnone
 Museum phone: 415-897-4320
 Email: NHG1850@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

In Memoriam

In Memoriam
Jeff McAndrew
Ann Ramsay

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The McAndrew family on the loss of
 Jeff McAndrew
 The Ramsay family on the loss of
 Ann Ramsay



Membership Form

Please mail checks to Novato Historical Guild. P.O. Box 1296. Novato. CA 94948.

Yes, I want to join the Novato Historical Guild and help preserve Novato history! new renewal

- | | | | |
|---|--------|------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$10 | year | Name _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$20 | year | Address _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$30 | year | City _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership | \$100 | year | State _____ Zip _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership | \$200 | year | Phone _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual | \$350 | | Additional donations? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint | \$500 | | Interested in volunteering? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000 | year | Email address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership | \$50 | year | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership | \$1000 | year | |



Novato Historical Guild
P.O. Box 1296
Novato, CA 94948



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TIME VALUE



YOU ARE INVITED

General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, March 13, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Zoom Meeting - Login Info on Page 10

Join us for a talk entitled "Abraham Lincoln's Leadership Style."

Guest speaker Mick Chantler has been an instructor of American Studies for over 40 years. He currently teaches at several Bay Area OLLIs (Osher Life-Long Learning Institutes) including Dominican, Berkeley, and Santa Clara.

Guild members and anyone interested in Novato history are welcome.

Novato History Museum

Hamilton Field History Museum

815 Delong Avenue

555 Hangar Avenue

(415) 897-4320

(415) 382-8614

COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!

The Museums are closed until further notice.