

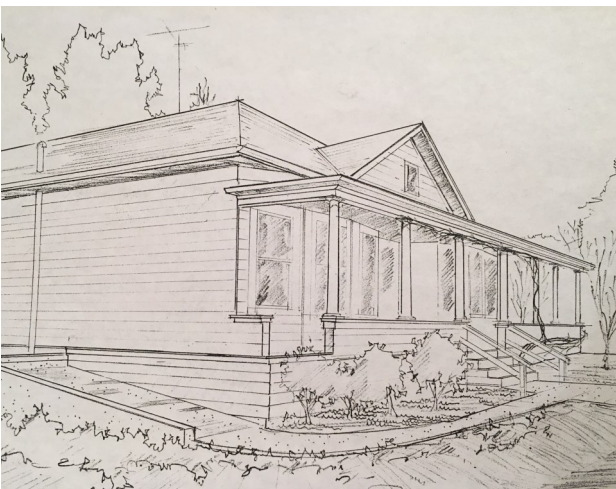
The Novato Historian

Spring 2023

Volume 47 Number 1



New Novato Historical Museum?



President's Corner
Nurse Doris Benedict
Novato's New Museum
Novato—50 Years Ago
The Hamilton Theater

Mrs. William Hanen
Frank Valim
Hamilton - The Early Years
Ancient Traders: Novato's Coast Miwok
General Meeting March 11

The Novato Historian

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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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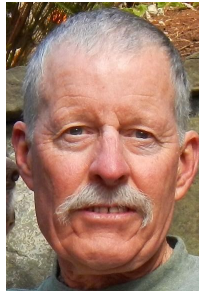
Deadline for the Summer 2023
issue is May 1st

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Drew Bendickson

Address Changes

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President's Corner

Jim Crumpler

President, Novato Historical Guild

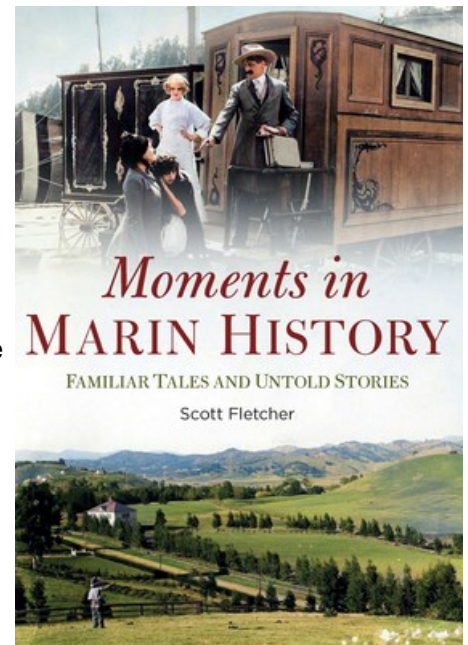
Hope you all are having a terrific New Year. The Guild ended the year with an excellent speaker, Teresa Saltzman, at it's final Membership Meeting. Teresa shared her vast knowledge of the local Miwoks with pictures, maps and interesting displays.

The speaker for our March Membership Meeting will be local Marin historian Scott Fletcher discussing his new book "Moments in Marin History, Familiar Tales and Untold Stories". This book is a collection of short stories of Marin County's amazing history. I'm sure that there are more than a few stories out of the 58 presented that will be new to you. Scott will have copies of his book available for purchase after his talk.

This past January, the Guild hit a new mile stone of "400 members" thanks to the special effort by Board members Gary Bramon and Lane Yee. I have always believed that the more members we have the more we can do. Considering on average that about one out of ten members volunteer, then for every hundred members we get 10 volunteers. And it takes about ten volunteers to open our two museums one more day a month. Hopefully if we get a few more members we will be able to open our two museums more than three days per week.

In the coming months you will be hearing about the Novato History Museum relocating to the Simmons House across from City Hall. This is not a new idea. The Guild and the City have been in discussions on this topic for many years. The City, for the most part, has been in favor of the move but lacked the funds to make it happen. Now a new contingent of supporters for the move have brought fourth a plan to raise the funds for the relocation. The plan is detailed in this issue. Hopefully this plan will succeed and the Novato History Museum will flourish in its new larger more convenient location.

Jim



Looking for Docents

The 3rd grade history tour program is excited to once again host students in person at the downtown History Museum. If you are interesting in joining this program as a tour docent please contact the Novato History Museum at 415-897-4320 or NHG1850@yahoo.com. This is a fun way to share Novato's amazing history.

Nurse Doris Benedict

By Barry Smail

Many people who visit the Hamilton Field History Museum come because a family member once served at the base. That was the case last September when Novato resident Diane Dito walked in carrying her mother's World War II medals and other mementos. Doris E. Benedict, who passed away at age 99 on August 12, 2021, served as an Army Air Force flight nurse from 1943 to 1945.



Museum Manager Ray Dwelly determined that a special exhibit should be created honoring Doris' short but decorated military career, which concluded at Hamilton Army Air Field in November, 1945. A "shadow box" exhibit was assembled by Museum Docents Nancy Peters-Janover, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.) and Marcia Dontje, Colonel, USAFR (Ret.) and is on display in the main

exhibit hall.

Doris was born in 1922 on a farm in Lambertson, Minnesota. She graduated as a registered nurse from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Minneapolis in 1943. Later that year, Doris applied for appointment to the Army Nurse Corps, and on November 4, her application was approved by the Chief of the Nursing Section of the Office of the Air Surgeon in Washington, D.C. Doris was assigned to the Army Air Force Nurses' Training (Detachment 2) at Hammer Field, Fresno, California.

During graduation ceremonies at Bowman Field, Kentucky, Doris met First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who had pushed for the incorporation of flight nurses into the military. "Meeting the First Lady was a thrill for Mom," Diane recounts. "She was one of her heroes."

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Doris was assigned to the 831st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron for service in the Pacific Theater. Flying in C-46s, Doris' mission was to tend to medically evacuated personnel.

She flew missions to and from the Philippines, Ryukus, Guam, Okinawa and Saipan. Between deployments, she was stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii and Hamilton Field. Doris' decorations and citations include the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon (with three



Diane Dito with her mom's mementos

Bronze Stars), and a Victory Medal. In November, 1945, she finished her career at Hamilton Field as a First Lieutenant. Returning to Minneapolis, Doris resumed working as a registered nurse. Soon thereafter, she met Joseph C. Guzik. They married in 1948 and were together for 64 years. Diane has a brother, John and a sister, Charlotte. They reside in Minnesota.

Doris was an active member of the World War II Flight Nurses Association and the Society of Air Force Nurses. "Mom was one of a kind," says Diane. "She had a heart of gold, and during her 50-year nursing career always put her patients first."

According to "The Story of Air Evacuation 1940-1989," a book published by the World War II Flight Nurses Association in 1989, "the flight nurse emerged as the counterpart of the flight surgeon. Credit for the original idea of the flight nurse belongs to Miss Lauretta Schimmoler, who as early as 1932 envisioned the Aerial Nurse Corps of America. There was an exchange of letters between Miss Schimmoler and Gen. "Hap" Arnold, then Chief of the Air Corps. In her letters, she sought recognition of her organization. Gen. Arnold advised her to coordinate her project with the Red Cross. She replied that she had contacted the Red Cross in previous years and the personnel in that office were not air-minded and could not see the need for nurses to be so educated. The Red Cross maintained this attitude until 1940. By then, the activities of the Aerial Nurse Corps had been publicized and many inquiries were being directed to the Army Nurse Corps and the Red Cross Nursing Service. Answers to these inquiries reveal an official attitude of opposition to the organization and a lack of imaginative foresight concerning the possibility of the future use of the airplane in the evacuation of the wounded.

"On February 18, 1943, the first formal graduation of nurses of the 349th Air Evac Group was held at the base chapel at Bowman Field, Ky. The 30 members of this group had completed a program of instruction that was definitely in the experimental stage. The four-week course included classwork in air evac nursing, air evac tactics, survival, aeromedical psychology, mental hygiene in relation to flying, training in plane loading procedures, military indoctrination and a one-day bivouac."

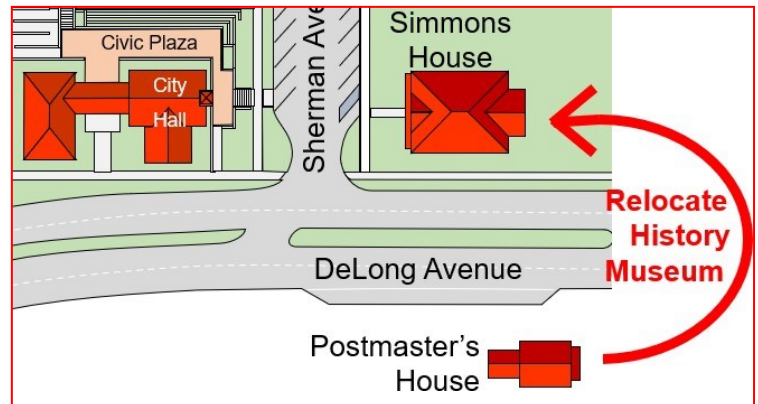
More than 110,000 wounded soldiers were transported out of the Pacific Theater from March 1943–October 1945. In May and June of 1945, more than 20,000 soldiers were evacuated.

Source: archive.org/details/TheStoryOfAirEvacuation

Novato History Museum

A Case for Relocation

Introduction A group of Novato residents believes the Novato History Museum should be relocated from its current location in the historic Postmaster's House to the historic Simmons House in the Novato Civic Center. Both houses are owned by the City of Novato. The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the barrier DeLong Avenue represents to museum visitors — especially children. Next, we compare the two houses. Finally, we describe the four steps required to relocate the Novato History Museum to the Civic Center where it will become a vital part of Civic and cultural Novato.



The DeLong Avenue Barrier

By far the biggest challenge for the current museum is that it is cut off from the Novato Civic Center by busy DeLong Avenue.

One of the best Museum outreach programs is giving every Novato third grader a tour of historic Novato led by docent volunteers in period costumes.

But crossing DeLong Avenue is dangerous for the schoolchildren, docents and other visitors.

The Novato History Museum will flourish if it is relocated to the much larger Simmons House opposite City Hall in the Novato Civic Center. In that location the Museum will be at the center of civic and cultural Novato – instead of across busy DeLong Ave.



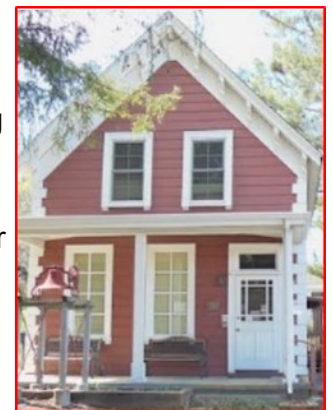
Comparing Postmaster's House and Simmons House

Postmaster's House was relocated from its original location near the Novato Post Office to its current location on the South side of DeLong Avenue in 1972. It is historic and attractive — but on the wrong side of DeLong Avenue for pedestrians — with difficult auto access from an obscure lot with only two parking spaces.

The ground floor is a cramped 700 sq. ft, and the upstairs is even smaller with sloping ceilings with a steep stairway for access.

The Museum staff has made the most of the limited space, even using a porch for display.

Simmons House is perfectly located opposite Novato City Hall and the Civic Center, with safe pedestrian access, plenty of parking and no need to cross DeLong Avenue.



Simmons House is much larger, with 2085 sq. ft. on one level, making it a much better home for the Novato History Museum.

A large, flexible display area *three times larger* than at the Postmaster's House may be converted to seating for 50 people for history lectures or large meetings. Other rooms will contain the museum store, office and archives.

Simmons House back garden is a perfect place for outdoor meetings and a superb setting for an historic garden. Third graders could assemble for lunch in the garden before docent

tours of the History Museum, City Hall and other historic buildings.

In this location, the History Museum will become a vital part of the many social and civic events taking place at City Hall, Civic Center and Sherman Avenue, including Tree Lighting, Concerts on the Green and much more.

History of the Nielsen/Simmons House

Mr. Hans Nielsen was born in Slesvig, Denmark (Now Schleswig, Germany) in 1852. He was at one time a sea-faring man and came to the United States in 1868. He was a dairy laborer on Frazer/Hansen dairy in 1870 and was naturalized in Marin County on July 15, 1875 from Germany. He was registered to vote in Novato in 1878. Nielsen was a prominent rancher in the Ignacio area. Hans was married September 8, 1880 to Susanna Mayble. She was born in Nieder Weisel, Darmstadt Germany on June 22, 1848. She came to California at the age of 17, at the closing of the Civil War. Hans would buy the George E. Ring dairy business on the Augusto Pacheco Ranch also in 1880. The Nielsen ranch land would be sold to Matt Perotti for \$13,900 on October 1898. Hans would retire from ranching sometime after this, because Hans Nielsen would move to the Conrad house (Hilltop – called the ‘Heights’ back then) in October 1902. In June 1906 they still lived at the “Heights.”

Hans would buy Lots 27,28,29 and 30 block G (his future house site) from Leon Greenbery of San Francisco and lots 23,25,26,27,28,29 and 30 Block H (Community Club house) from J. Baccaglio in December 1905. Hans would sell the H Block lots to Fred Hildebrand and Lot 47 Block J on August 17, 1912 and in February 1919 the estate of Susanna Hildebrand would give the lots back to Nielsen.

In 1906 she and Hans retired and moved into their new home at the corner of DeLong and Sherman Avenues. There they took an active part in the community and entertained extensively.

They were both prominent figure in the community until his death December 6, 1920 and hers on January 2, 1931. They are both buried in Olivet Memorial Park.

December 7, 1920 Petaluma Argus-Courier - “Hans Nielsen, a prominent resident of Novato met with a fatal accident at the old town of Novato, when he was thrown from a wagon.

He was accompanying Rev. Chas. Christiansen, who was driving, when the horse became frightened at an automobile and bolted. Mr. Nielsen was thrown from the wagon and received a fractured skull when he struck the pavement.

Mr. Nielsen was removed in an automobile to Novato where he was given first aid after which he was removed to San Rafael by Dr. Kuser. Mr. Nielsen never regained consciousness and died the next morning.”

Simmons

William Trethowan Simmons, was born in Nevada City, California in 1885, where his father was engaged in mining. The family moved to Arizona when he was quite young. W.T. Simmons was reared and educated in schools in the Tombstone and Pearce, AZ., areas.

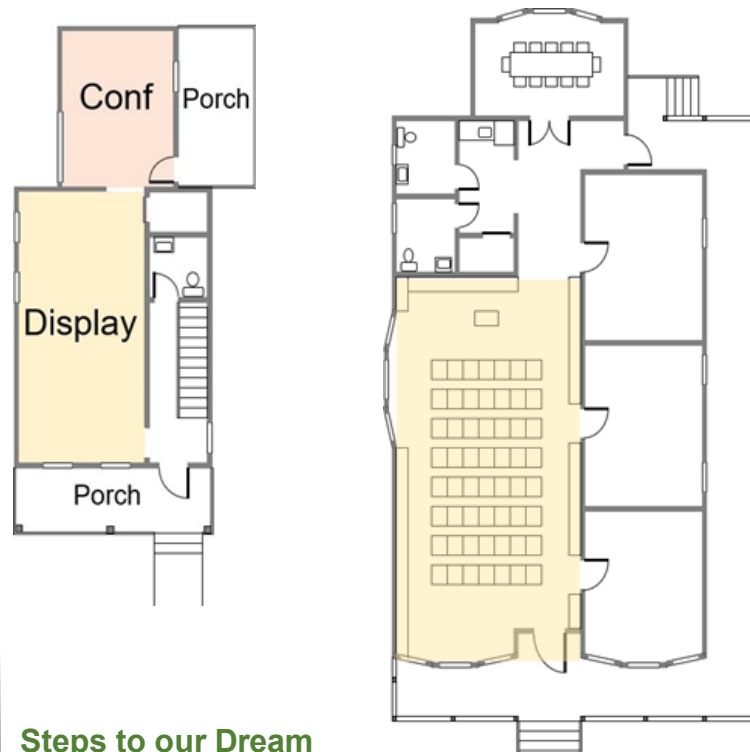
Mr. Simmons and his family moved to San Francisco from Arizona and he was living there during the 1906 earthquake. He was engaged in the butchering profession in that city.

In 1921, he moved to Novato where he would be the butcher for New Marin Market on Grant Avenue. He would rent the Hirabarren home on Railroad Avenue.

In June 1924, Simmons and Joseph DeBorba would buy from Mrs. Edsberg the New Marin. He and Joseph would end their partnership in 1934. Simmons would continued

Current Museum vs Simmons House

700 sq. ft. vs 2085 sq. ft. on one level



Steps to our Dream

Step One: Novato Historical Guild Approved Jan 10, 2023

Step Two: City of Novato Approval

Step Three: Program, Design and Cost

Status, Simmons House construction is anticipated to begin in 2024 and the relocated Novato History Museum open in 2025

Step Four: Fundraising—A conservative \$2 million budget for all costs has been established. This amount will be adjusted as more becomes known.

Pledge Status: 1. \$250k pledged by the MacLeamy family

2. \$250k pledged by (anonymous) Novato family

3. \$250k pledged by the Novato Historical Guild

Five more Novato families are needed.

Pledges will convert to donations over a three-year period

to own this business until 1954 when Phil Ritter took over the meat business and William retired.

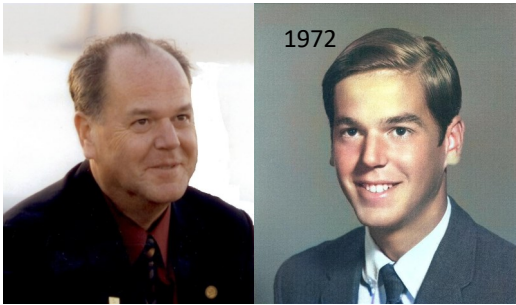
The Simmons would acquired the fine home of the Nielsen’s in August 1931.

Aug 1944 - W. T. Simmons has purchased the 4 stores on Grant Avenue built by the late Jose Gambetta Sr. and sold after his death to Mr. Crane of San Rafael. The property comprises the meat market, Rayburn grocery store, the Stout feed store, which at one time was the site of the Post Office and Fragoza department store.

August 6, 1969- William Trethowan Simmon, 84, of 900 Sherman Avenue died at Novato General Hospital after a short illness. He was survived by his wife, Laura, and a daughter, Mrs. Alice Roth of Novato.

Mr. Simmons was a member of the Board of Directors of the first sanitary district for Novato and was active in civic affairs. He was also a member of the Novato Volunteer Fire Department and was a 42-year member of the Elks Lodge of Petaluma.

Laura Simmons would die in 1982 and the City of Novato would buy her home the same year and use the house as administrative offices until 2005. It has remained vacant since that date.



Novato – 50 Years Ago (January, February & March 1973)

by Michael Read

Go to <https://novatoadvance-ca.newsmemory.com/>
For 50 years ago stories weekly in the Advance

Floods of 1973



“Pictured here is the New DeLong Avenue overpass. Work on the Novato freeway bypass project has been moving along at a slow, and not particularly steady, pace during the past few months because of some of the worst weather in the city's history.”



“A rescue worker pulled a rowboat to higher ground on Center Road. Cala Foods market is at the left in the picture, and an apartment complex is planned for the flooded area in front of it.”



“Southbound drivers on U.S. Highway 101 would have made their pioneer forebearers proud when they successfully navigated a flooded section of Highway 101 near the Sportsman Lodge. The traffic backed up as far as Rancho Olompali, as cars moved slowly toward the flooded area and then, like covered wagons, forded the shallow river.”

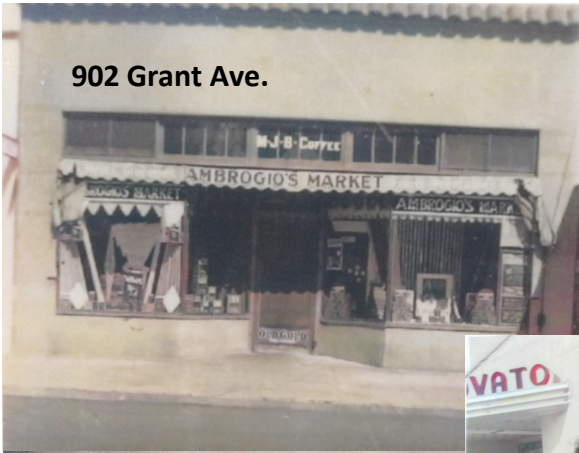


“Water lapped at the doors of the Novato Advance during the heavy squall that flooded intersections and swamped the city's overloaded drainage system. A passing truck sent a wave to splash under the doors of the Advance. Water entered the editorial department. If some of the stories in the Advance appear to be all wet, blame the weather. Some 1.82 inches of water fell yesterday, bringing the season's total to 40.95 inches. However due to a lack of high tides, creeks did not overflow their banks.”



“Two Lauren Avenue residents slowly pushed their car toward South Novato Boulevard and hopefully to higher ground. The car began to float, and the men had to force the rear wheels to the ground to get traction. They finally got it out.”

All photos and captions from the Advance



902 Grant Ave.



1938



1973

The Hamilton Theater. A Plan to Restore it.

Hamilton resident Laura van Galen drives by the shuttered Hamilton theater daily, thinking something should be done to save this deteriorating historic building. So she has put a plan together to do just that.

The Base theater was constructed in 1938 as a 320-seat Spanish-styled theater serving the armed forces stationed at Hamilton Field. The Theater is listed as a historic building by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

In February of 2022, van Galen contacted the City of Novato and after describing her plan, she was able to enter the building and look around. After 30 years, vandalism, graffiti, and general neglect have taken their toll. An early cost estimate to restore the building is six million dollars.

Van Galen, the former owner of the Fenix Live Stream and Music Club in San Rafael, plans to restore the old theater and transform it into a Performing Arts Venue. Her vision is to make the building a Live Stream Theater and Performing Arts venue that features musical performances, comedy shows, school performances, movie screenings, and private events.

There are challenges. If the city should decide to sell the land surrounding the theater, the 2019 Surplus Land act requires cities to give priority to developers that will build affordable housing. However, leasing the property is an option.

Van Galen says, "community involvement is essential to the project's success. Not just for fundraising but also to show that people in the community support the renovation."

To obtain the necessary money for the lease, around ten thousand dollars, van Galen has formed the Hamilton Arts Foundation with a board of directors and 50 volunteers. The foundation has sponsored fundraisers such as Christmas caroling, featuring four singers from the Marin Chorus, beginning at the Hamilton Amphitheater and strolling to various historical points in the area. A "Roaring Twenties" celebration is scheduled in February to observe Hamilton's 94th birthday.

There is an ongoing raffle on the foundation's website which is being supported by donations from the business community. Once a lease is secured, it will allow the foundation to apply for state and federal grants that are available to restore and transform historic buildings.

Over the years, there have been previous attempts to renovate Hamilton Theater. After reviewing the previous attempts, van Galen found that although well-meaning, some lacked sufficient funding plans, and some developer proposals were too narrow in scope for the community.

Van Galen is very confident that her vision can be realized. She says, "Hamilton Arts Foundation has taken everyone into consideration in their thoughtful plan. Let's not let another good community project slip away."

For more information about the project, go to the Hamilton Arts Foundation website at www.SaveHamiltonTheater.org

"Five generations are represented in this family portrait. The members range from little Lorraine Juanita Lint, born Feb. 20, to the great-great-grandmother, 92-year-old Mrs. Sadie (Sally) D'Ambrogio, seated. Lorraine Juanita, who has been nicknamed Baby Lorie, is being held by her mother, Mrs. Wayne (Janice) Lint. On the right is Mrs. Rex (Jeanette) Harkey, Baby Lorie's great grandmother and on the left is Mrs. Jack (Lorrie) Kidder, Baby Lorie's grandmother. Mrs. Lint and her daughter are living in Oxnard and the other three are Novato residents."

Mrs. William Hanen—Novato Advance

April 4, 1957

SET TYPE BY HAND

Advance Founder's Widow Repository Of History

By ALICE YARISH

A "close relative" of the Novato Advance and a real repository of Novato history is Mrs. William Hanen, whose late husband founded the Advance in 1922 and published the paper until 1940.

From the time she married her husband here in 1923 until the sale of the Advance to Jack Sparrow in 1940, Mrs. Hanen played an important part in the weekly chore of getting out the paper.

She wrote the society items, the club news, and performed the most tedious job of old-time publishing, the setting of type by hand.

From 1922 until 1928, when they bought a type setting machine, she and her husband set every line of type in the 12-page, five-column paper by hand. Sometimes they were assisted by Mrs. Evelyn Clark.

Mr. Hanen covered the major news events of the day, what there were of them, and together they put out a neat little paper which became an internal and indispensable part of the community life.

Poultry, Dairy Articles

The old Advance carried, besides its social and local news, four pages of outside news supplied by the Western Newspaper Association. It carried poultry and dairy articles, children's bedtime stories, adult fiction serials ("Sylvia of the Minute," "The Green Cloak" and others) recipes, comics, sports, fashions and many other imported features.

Mrs. Hanen was an English girl, slightly bored with the British Isles and itching for adventure when she came to America on

an exploratory visit to the present Mrs. John Irons, whom she had known in England.

Mrs. Irons was living in Novato when the young English girl who was to become Mrs. Hanen arrived here to visit her in 1922.

She met Mr. Hanen here and married him about a year and a half after her arrival.

Mr. Hanen had but recently established the paper here, having come here from Mendocino County, where he published a paper at Point Arena and from which district, he was the state assemblyman. He also had part interest in a newspaper in Guerneville.

Job Printing Shop

He came to Novato primarily to open a job printing shop.

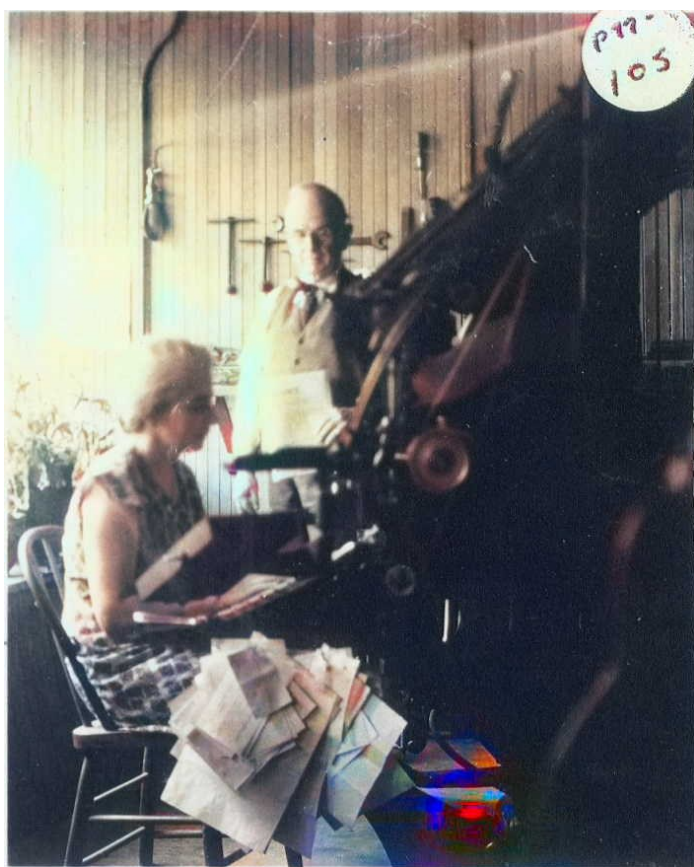
However, he found that the people here greatly missed the old Novato Banner, Novato's first newspaper which had folded about five years earlier, and he was induced to start a weekly paper here.

The merchants were pleased to have a newspaper and gave him liberal support with their advertising even through the depression days, Mrs. Hanen said.

She was asked if her husband was a militant editor, "No," she replied, "there was nothing to be militant about here in those days. Whatever political races they had were always friendly and good humored and this was a peaceful community."

Hanen did like most others in Novato, worked hard to raise funds to build the Community House. And he was a diligent member of the County Fair committee which staged a full-scale agricultural fair in Novato in 1925 and 1926.

"He used to boast that the Advance had world-wide circulation." Mrs. Hanen recalled, "because we had subscribers



SET TYPE BY HAND—with husband William

in Australia, one in Austria, the late Judge Rudolph's daughter, and a few in Scotland and England"

First Home

The Advance's first home was in the old flatiron building which still stands at the corner of Grant Avenue and Scott Street. In 1923 the Hanens built the next Advance headquarters at 868 Grant Avenue, where a floral shop now stands and where the paper remained until 1953 when former publisher James Cuzner moved it to its present location at 1068 Machin Avenue.

The 1923 Advance building was at the westernmost edge of the Novato business district. Only the telephone company at the corner of Grant and Machin and the fire house at the site of the present Novato Theater were west of the Advance. There were no business houses at all west of Highway 101, Besides being a full-time newspaperwoman, Mrs. Hanen found time to take a position of leadership in the church and social affairs of the community. She served as president of the Ladies Aid Society, now known as the Woman's Association of the Presbyterian Church, for three terms and was president of the women's auxiliary of the Volunteer Fire Department. The Ladies Aid Society had charge of the refreshment booths at the county fair held in Novato in 1925 and 1926, a major event to which contestants came from all over the North Bay to compete for the many valuable prizes.

Music Chest Chairman

She was also Novato chairman of the Marin Music Chest for 20 years, a post which she relinquished just two years ago.

She has made two trips back to England and the continent to visit friends and relatives, one in 1930, the other in 1953, but she has no desire to return to her native heath permanently as she feels Novato is her home.

She was asked what she regarded as the most exciting news events which occurred in North Marin during her years with



Marian Hanen whose husband was the publisher of the Novato Advance for 18 years, has a host of memories of Novato in the twenties and thirties when she was her husband's "right hand man" in publishing the paper. She came to Novato in 1922 from England and has been active in community affairs ever since. Needlework is one of her hobbies. (Advance Photo)

the Advance. She was able to recall very few really eventful occurrences in this then quiet little town. Perhaps the biggest thing that happened news wise was the establishment of Hamilton Field Air Force Base in 1933 she said The Advance carried a special banner headline at the bottom of page one for several weeks prior to the event and the leading article for several weeks concerned the opening of the field which was to mean so much to Marin. The Novato Businessmen's Club, forerunner to our present day service clubs, went to the airport to meet the incoming VIPs from Washington, D. C. in the first planes to land on the air strip on the official grand opening day and later entertained them and the Army brass at a dinner at the Community House which was cooked by Salvatore Galli of Galli's restaurant and served by the women of the Community Club (then Novato Community. Inc.)

Other major news events which Mrs. Hanen recalls are the burning hills of 1923 when all of the hills around Novato caught fire and burned for days, endangering trees and homes. She remembers the flood of 1925 when the heavy rains combined with the water in the Bay to flood the creeks. Water flowed from the creeks and the hills to cover Grant Avenue "up to the hub caps," Water entered some of the stores on the lower part of Grant Avenue and came up to the door of the Advance but didn't enter.

"The elections were always exciting," she said. We used to go around to the polling places at night to see how the vote count was coming and we would take hot coffee and sandwiches to the election board members."

Inaugural Broadcast

She remembers hearing the first radio broadcast of a presidential inauguration, that of Calvin Coolidge, when friends gathered at the home of the Al Cains to hear the faint broadcast over headsets attached to the radio set. "You could barely hear it," she said.

After her husband's death in 1951 she idled a while and then went to work as a telephone operator for the Novato Telephone Co., a post which she held till 1955 when she retired for good.

Now she lives quietly, spending much of her time gardening, much of it working on a set of handsome petit needlepoint covers, and some of it sharing a moderately active social life with the many friends whom she has made here since she arrived from England 35 years ago.

Marian Eva G. Hanen, 78, died October 29, 1967 at her home at 908 Sherman Avenue, after an apparent heart attack. Born May 18, 1889, in Northhampton, England, Mrs. Hanen came to San Francisco in 1921. She was married to William Hanen on September 1, 1923, Mr. Hanen, who died in 1941, reported the wedding in the Advance under the headline, "Takes a Life

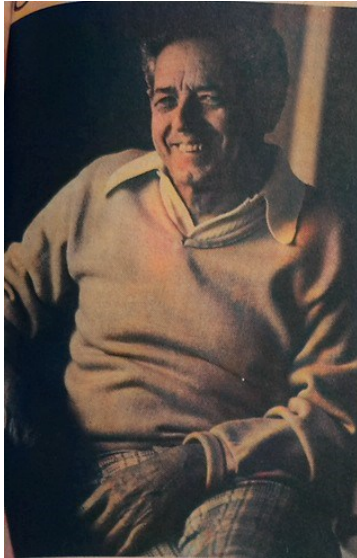


Frank Valim

Novato Advance Obituary

His grandfather came to Novato in 1888 to work on a ranch on Deer Island in Black Point. He built many homes and commercial buildings in Novato, served on the city Planning Commission and was a mainstay of several organizations.

Frank Cunha Valim died Jan. 12, 1992, at Novato Convalescent Hospital at the age of 77. He had battled cancer for eight months.



Mr. Valim came by his love of history naturally.

He was a first-generation Portuguese American. His maternal grandparents, Manuel Branco and Marianna Azevedo Branco, came to Marin County from the Azores in 1880 and lived in the Sausalito area before coming to Novato eight years later. By 1892, Manuel Branco was manager of one of four ranch holdings on Deer Island.

The following year, he and Antonio DeBorba formed a partnership and took over the operation of the California Creamery, renaming it the Black Point Creamery. Located a mile and a half east of the railroad tracks off Olive Avenue, the creamery produced fine, rich cheese; it found a ready market in rapidly growing San Francisco. The two dairymen shipped their cargo by sloop or barge from a dock on Novato Creek just west of the road that is now Highway 37.

The couple's only child, Maria, was born on Deer Island. Manuel Branco died in 1908 and Marianna and Maria moved to a small dairy ranch on Olive Avenue. Manuel had purchased the property eight years before. In 1895, he had acquired a parcel bounded by Olive and Railroad avenues and Orange and Chase streets.

In 1913, Maria Branco and Joseph Valim were married in Oakland. He had emigrated from the Azores in 1904 and found work on the dairy ranches of Point Reyes. After their marriage they continued to live with Marianna Branco in her home on the Olive Avenue ranch. Mrs. Branco died in 1933.

Joseph and Maria Valim were the parents of six children: Frank, Minnie, Joe Jr., Carl, Leaneore and Tony.

Frank Valim was born Aug. 22, 1914, in Novato and grew up on the ranch on Olive Avenue near what is now Robin Hood Drive. He attended Novato Grammar School and San Rafael High School. He was a fine athlete and was a member of the high school track team. Even more impressive, he once placed seventh in the grueling Dip sea race.

After graduating from high school, he went to work for a hardware store in San Francisco. He then joined the

Merchant Marines as a purser for the New York-based U.S. Lines. Mr. Valim served in the line's San Francisco office before being assigned to a freighter for service in the South Pacific during World War II. (Below is Frank's WWII Draft Card)

SERIAL NUMBER 705	1. NAME (Print) FRANK - VALIM		ORDER NUMBER 759
2. ADDRESS (Print) RED # 329 NOYATO MARIN CALIF			
3. TELEPHONE —	4. AGE IN YEARS 26	5. PLACE OF BIRTH NOYATO	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U. S. A.
DATE OF BIRTH AUG 22 1914		7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS MARIA BRANCO VALIM	
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER		9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON RED # 329 NOYATO MARIN CALIF.	
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME WILLIAM J DONNELLEY			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 75 # ST. SAN FRANCISCO CALIF			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1		10-17105 <i>Frank Valim</i> (Registrant's signature)	

In 1948, he earned his general contractor's license. For 35 years, Mr. Valim built homes and developed commercial properties in Novato. One property, Valim Plaza, took in the entire block from 1066 to 1072 Machin Ave. The property included the old Novato Post Office building and the Novato Advance office.

He built homes on Orange and Olive avenues, on Plum and Peach streets, and on Kenwood Court. He also built his own home.

In 1953, Mr. Valim married Marjory McNally of San Rafael. Mrs. Valim died in 1970.

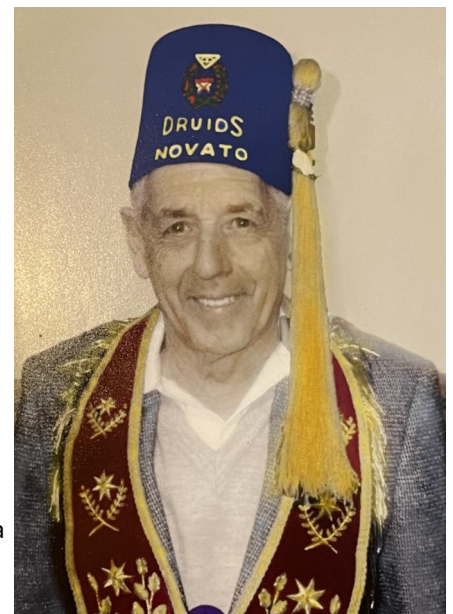
As a prominent member of the community, Mr. Valim served on the Novato Planning Commission in the 1960s. But his community involvements extended far beyond that.

Mr. Valim was a member of the United Ancient Order of Druids, one of the oldest fraternal organizations in California, for 50 years. He was a past Noble Arch of the lodge and had served as its secretary and scribe for 32 years. As scribe, he contributed

articles to the Druids statewide magazine, California Druid. He also served on the lodge's finance committee.

"Frank was a fantastic gentleman," said Joe Giari, a fellow Druid and member of the Novato Historical Guild. "He is going to be missed by a whole lot of organizations."

Mr. Valim was "quick to praise and slow to criticize, very diplomatic," said John Eyler, also a member of the local lodge. He was a positive man who always looked for the good in people. Everybody admired him.



Frank was Novato Noble Arch in 1950

Frank was a mediator, a guide. He had good common sense. He was also a meticulous man who knew what he wanted to do and did it. He was very dedicated."

Not long ago the Druids presented him with a plaque for his many years of service.

Mr. Valim loved Novato and its history. He was a longtime member of the Novato Historical Guild and was instrumental in the publication of May Rodgers Ungemach's local history, *Novato Township: Land Grant to World War II*. He served on the Guild's book committee, which raised the funds necessary to publish the book.

He served as president of the Novato Historical Guild in 1990. "Frank was a wonderful fellow and I considered him a good friend," said May Ungemach. "He took his responsibilities seriously. He was there when people needed him. People could depend on Frank."

Frank Valim, she says, was one of a great breed. "He was one of the 'old-timers' who are great because they don't take themselves too seriously. They can laugh at themselves. They're the greatest group of people I've ever met. They're real. They don't put on airs."

As an "old-timer" himself, one of his favorite projects in recent years was the annual Novato Old-Timers reunion at the Novato Community House. As master-of-ceremonies, he interviewed longtime Novato residents about their recollections of the town's early days. It is a very popular event.

He also was one of the original organizers of the Novato Art & Wine Festival.

He also was a member of two Portuguese organizations, the I.D.E.S.I. of Novato and the U.P.E.C. Council No. 19 in Novato. Mr. Valim could build or fix just about anything. He often stopped by the Novato Advance, where his son Ron is circulation manager.

"If I ever needed help, I could count on my dad. For several years he did quite a bit of rack repair," for the newspaper, Ron said.

Mr. Valim leaves his sons, Ronald and Joseph, of Novato; his two brothers, Carl Valim of Novato and Joe Valim of San Francisco; and his sister, Lee Weilo of Novato. He was preceded in death by his sister Minnie Heron in 1977 and by his brother Tony Valim in 1984.



Frank Valim shows off a bit of history –June 15, 1988 Advance



Some 50 years ago Mr. and Mrs. Q. J. Boone, prominent Novatans, decided to build a home on a knoll south of where Novak Square now stands. They commissioned Jack Wisby, a Bolinas artist, to paint the view they would have. A 2 by 3 foot oil (pictured above) was the result. If the same scene were painted today it would include housing tracts and Sinaloa Junior High School, not to mention streets and cars. The Boones never built their dream house but for many years their "view" hung in their old home on Novato Boulevard. About twenty years ago the Rev. Frank Raney, retired pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Petaluma, recalls he was visiting Mrs. Boone who was by then a widow. He admired the painting and Mrs. Boone told him: "If you like it, it's yours." That was the last Rev. Raney heard or saw of the painting and by the time Mrs. Boone died about four years ago, he had forgotten all about it. Then, two months ago, a nephew of the Boones arrived at the Raney home at 1414 Dawes Street, knocked on the door and handed Rev. Raney the painting. "I don't know why they never built that house," says the Reverend.



New Post office being built on the corner of Machin and Vallejo. Sign says "Frank Valim General Contractor Novato New Post Office" Novato Advance - September 28, 1951

Hamilton—Its First Thirty Years

By Ruth Wampier — Historian, 28th Air Division—November 20, 1964

THE EARLY YEARS

In the period following World War I, the general public could see little reason for supporting a strong military establishment. With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, there was even less concern for strengthening of the Armed Services. Mortgage foreclosures, bank failures, and unemployment were dangers that overshadowed the more distant threat from dictators aboard. World War II was a decade away; hunger and despair were already present.

That Hamilton Field was ready when World War II came was the result of economic pressures rather than military foresight. Jobs, not defense, motivated the Marin County Board of Supervisors when they offered to buy 776 acres of land and give it to the Army for an air base site. The land in question, known as Marin Meadows, lay about six miles north of San Rafael and belonged to the California Packing Company. It could be bought for \$175 an acre.



May 1929 -Col. Gerald commandant at Crissy Field, accompanied Sec. Davison and were served a barbecue at the E. B. McNear estate, which was also attended by one hundred representative citizens of the county, chambers of commerce, etc.



The supervisors had little trouble in interesting the Army in the site for a bomber base. Such a base, supported by an air depot to be built at Alameda, would immeasurably strengthen the Pacific Coast defenses. If these two army installations were built, and the Navy added a dirigible base at Sunnyvale, the San Francisco Bay area would have a powerful defense complex.

For once, military and civilian interests coincided perfectly. With the voters back of the plan for an air base, Florence P. Kahn, Congresswoman from the local area, introduced a bill to secure funds for construction of an air field at Marin Meadows. The bill passed and was signed into law by President Herbert Hoover in 1930.

Having offered to buy the land, the people of Marin County were asked to raise the \$121,000 to obtain the acreage from the California Packing Company. An increase in the tax rate was voted in order to secure the funds.

By 1931, everything seemed to point to an early start of construction – with all the economic benefits anticipated by the county. There was only one problem – the Army wanted an additional piece of ground for the base. This was about 161 acres of pastureland belonging to Dr. P.T. Bodkin and his wife, Julia.

Instead of the \$175 an acre accepted by the California Packing Company, the Bodkins valued their land at \$600 an acre. Although this price was considered to be outrageous in those times, they refused to sell for less.

People were incensed by what they considered an unreasonable attitude, but no one anticipated any great delay in securing title to the Bodkin land. After all, the government could condemn the land and force its sale.

F. Trubee Davison, the first Assistant Secretary of War for Aeronautics, shared this optimism when he visited the Bay area in May. Arriving in a Lockheed Altair piloted by Captain Ira Eaker, Secretary Davison stated that everything was progressing satisfactorily with regard to the Bay area defenses. He announced that the Army had \$1,250,000 available for the Marin County project and that work would start just as soon as the condemnation suit was settled – “Just a question of a few weeks.”

The Army Makes Plans

With money already appropriated for the air base, the Army selected Captain Howard B. Nurse, an able and experienced engineer, to serve as constructing quartermaster on the project. Captain Nurse arrived in San Rafael in late April, 1931, and immediately outlined the basic plan for the field.

The Base Gets A Name

On May 28, 1931, Captain Nurse was notified that \$258,000 was available to him to begin work at the base – as soon as the title to the land was obtained. The notice to Captain Nurse used the name “Hamilton Field” in referring to Marin Meadows. On the same day, the press had been told by the Secretary of War that the base was to be named in honor of Lt. Lloyd A. Hamilton, an Air Corps pilot killed in action in France during World War I.

There was some disappointment over the choice of the name.

The local people felt that some one associated with the Bay area should have been honored. While the heroism of Lieutenant Hamilton was not denied, he was from Troy, New York, and had no connection with California or the Bay Area. Congresswoman Kahn proposed that the field be named "Derby Field" (Captain Richard S. Derby) in honor of a local World War I pilot who was killed in 1923 during a test flight near Dayton, Ohio. For some reason, this and other suggested names were ignored. "Hamilton Field" was to be the name so long as the Air Corps was part of the Army. (Hamilton Field became Hamilton Air Force Base in September 1947, when the United States Air Force was established.)

The Bodkins Throw A "Monkey Wrench"

Any concern over the naming of the base was lost sight of in a more serious problem that arose. The early optimism with regard to settlement of the Bodkin land problem proved to be ill-founded. With prosperity almost within their grasp, the people of the surrounding area were to be subjected to months of alternate hopes and despair as the problem dragged on. Each time a settlement seemed to be near, either government red tape or the reluctance of the Bodkin interests to come to an agreement frustrated the effort. When there was serious danger that the base might be lost to Marin County, Dr. Bodkin agreed to abide by the decision of a three-man arbitration board as to the price for his land.

More frustrating delays followed while the board was being selected, but at last on 30, November 1931, a price of \$300 an acre was fixed by the board. Dr. Bodkin was to receive \$50,000 of which \$500 was for a right-of-way for the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) power line. The line had to be moved as the right-of-way in use was on land that would become a part of the base.

Negotiations were finally completed on all aspects of the land problem and the way seemed to be cleared for work to get underway at last at Hamilton Field.

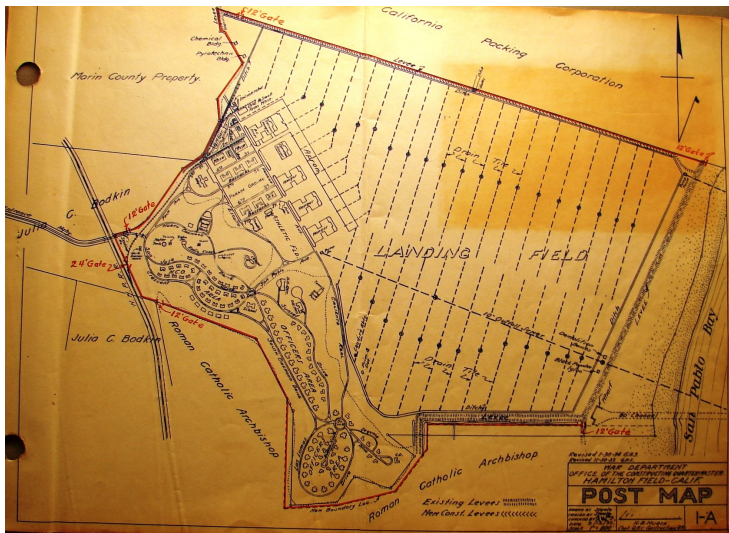
Three more months were to elapse before the land was accepted by the government. The reason for the delay was the need for an additional \$53,400 to pay the \$300 an acre for the land. This problem almost proved to be the downfall of the high hopes of the community. The Marin County taxpayers could not be asked to do more than they had already done. The additional money would have to come from the surrounding communities who also stood to profit by having the air base built.

The amount of money each group or city was asked to give was relatively small. But that did not make the raising of the funds any easier in those depression days. Fear of losing the plum which Hamilton Field represented led the Marin County Board of Supervisors to enter into a secret agreement with a San Francisco real estate promoter. This man promised to get the San Francisco Downtown Association to make a donation – for a fee for himself.

While the arrangement with the promoter seemed to have been within the law, the ethics of the case were open to debate. A storm of anger and recrimination followed the disclosure of the "deal," but eventually the matter was generally forgotten.

The Land Becomes Government Property

After all the tremendous effort to raise the money to buy the land, the community had a right to celebrate when the checks were handed over on 17 March 1932, and the deeds were sent



to Washington. Henry Greer, Marin County District Attorney, who had labored unceasingly for the base, had the privilege of handing over the checks. Formal acceptance of the site by the Army came in April.

The Plans Are Ready

During the months of waiting, Captain Nurse had completed plans to make Hamilton Field, not only the best operational air base in the Air Corps, but also one of the most beautiful. Wherever functionally suitable, the buildings were to be of white stucco with red tile roofs. They were to be placed in beautifully landscaped surroundings. The lovely rolling hills and the magnificent oaks of the residential area were to be an important part of the unique beauty of the field. Thousands of trees and shrubs for the landscaping were donated by the community to insure that landscaping plans could be carried out.

Since the base was to support the operations of a bomber group and its support units, plans were made for the hangers, runway facilities, maintenance and storage areas, medical facilities, a headquarters building and such supporting facilities as a fire station, radio building, photographic laboratory, a boat house and an incinerator. Family quarters for married officers and enlisted men, and barracks for the unmarried were to be included. An officers' mess, and a non-commissioned officers' club, a gymnasium and theater, an athletic field, a post exchange, a school, a chapel, and a laundry were among other structures to be built. In addition, there would be miles of paved streets, and gas, electric and water systems to support base needs. A requirement that surely must have been unique was for a pumping station to lift drainage water over the dike into San Pablo Bay. This facility was necessary because the operational portion of the field was below sea level.

Work Begins At Last ---- **to be continued in next issue**



Phillip L. Bush, left, of the California Packing Corporation, is shown here presenting to District Attorney Henry Greer, papers bearing title to the Marin bombing base site, while Mayor William B. Nock of San Rafael looks on. Green in turn presented the title to army authorities.

Ancient Traders: Novato's Coast Miwok

By Mary Jane Schramm

The woman emptied the ground acorn meal from the stone mortar into a basket, whispering her thanks to the black oak that provided this vital food; she leaned the mortar against the tree, signifying her ownership. Taking a moment to rest, she gazed at her children playing at hunting and netting birds that migrated through each fall. Nearby was the family's conical bark and reed "kotca" dwelling where she'd put aside acorns, cured meats, dried fish and roots for the winter. Her husband, fluent in several native languages, was on a trade mission to Napa to purchase precious volcanic obsidian for arrowheads, speartips and blades, and other goods and materials for their tribelet. He would pay in the common currency: strings of clam shell disc beads, and sell or trade his salt, seashells, baskets and fish.

Such scenes played out over the millennia for the native tribes of the Novato area, the Olompali and Omiomi Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Indians who settled in the



region around 10,000 years ago. At the December 10 Novato Historical Guild membership meeting, archaeologist and former Director of the Museum of the American Indian, Teresa Saltzman, M.A., presented "The Coast Miwok and their Trading Networks in the Novato Area." She reviewed their culture and history, and displayed artifacts and trade items such as projectile points, baskets and currency.

Continued on Page 16

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report March 2023

Individual Membership

Larry Baten
Kathie Rousseau
Robin Sterling
Jo Ussery
John N. Dowden

Family Membership

Brian Cooley & Stacy O'Connell
Jim & Carolyn Filippo
Jim Mueller & Shari Chulak
Paula O'Connell
Elizabeth Keith
Suzanne Bales
Lisa Johnson

Mark Milberg &
Lauren Sugarman

Mike Morrissey &
Jacqueline Janssen

Life Membership

Henry Hautau
Steve & Renee Nash

If you have questions about membership, call Lane Yee, Membership 415 – 898 – 0444

Please support our Guild Business Members:

Aero Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc
A.D. Scott Building
Alders Financial Solutions
Andrew McAgnon Landscaping
Anixter & Oser, Inc.
Insurance Agents & Brokers
Bank of Marin
TOPO Chiropractic
Elegance Hamilton Hill
Memory Care and Assisted Living
Goltermann Real Estate
and Construction
H & J Tire
Indian Valley Golf Club
Marin Color Service
Marin Landscape Materials
Marin Volvo/Saab
Mclsaac Dairy
Nave Enterprises
Novato Builders Supply, Inc.
Novato Grove Druids #113
Pini Hardware
Planet Home Lending-Bill Hoopes
Trumbull Manor Inc.
Valley Oak Wealth Management
Valley Memorial Park Cemetery
& Funeral Home

First Annual Marin Powow

Sunday, March 19, 11am to 6pm
Miller Creek Middle School

2255 Las Gallinas Avenue, San Rafael

All are welcome to the 1st Annual Marin Powwow, a celebration of the Indigenous communities of Marin's ancient Coast Miwok lands. The Marin American Indian Alliance serves the native American Indian community for education, information resources and support. The Indigenous peoples invite all to share their and other tribes' traditional celebrations of springtime with songs, drumming, prayers and dances. Details at <https://marinamericanindianalliance.org>

LIST OF HAMILTON BASE COMMANDERS

Col Don L. Hutchins	Jun 27, 33 to Dec 4, 34	B/G George L. Usher	Oct 10, 47 to Mar 31, 50
M/G Clarence L. Tinker	Dec 05, 34 to Dec 06, 36	Col George H. Steel	Apr 01, 50 to Mar 11, 51
M/G Davenport Johnson	Dec 16, 36 to Feb 25, 38	Col Brian O'Neill	Mar 12, 51 to Jun 30, 51
M/G John F. Curry	Apr 12, 38 to Oct 27, 40	B/G James W. Andrew	Jul 01, 51 to Feb 01, 52
L/G Millard F. Harmon	Nov 22, 40 to Jan 16, 41	Col Fred D. Stevers	Feb 04, 52 to Jul 10, 52
B/G Michael F. Davis	Jan 17, 41 to Jun 16, 41	Col George F. Anderson	Jul 10, 52 to Jul 09, 55
M/G William O. Ryan	Jun 17, 41 to Jul 24, 41	Col Wilton H. Earle	Jul 27, 60 to May 12, 62
B/G Latha A. Smith	Dec 04, 41 to Mar 31, 43	Col George F. Ceuleers	Jul 27, 60 to May 12, 62
Col George F. Kinzie	Apr 01, 43 to Apr 31, 44	Col Harvey E. Henderson	Jul 27, 60 to May 12, 62
Col Charles R. Melin	May 01, 44 to Oct 01, 45	Col William F. Barns	May 12, 62 to Jul 01, 62
Col Howard E. Engler	Nov 02, 45 to Aug 16, 46	Col William S. Harrell	Jul 01, 62 to Apr 01, 63
B/G Wentworth Goss	Aug 12, 46 to Oct 10, 47	Col Bryant Y. Anderson	Apr 01, 63 to Jun 25, 64

2023 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM

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

Membership Meetings

March 11	10 – 11:30
June 17	10 – 11:30
Sept. 9	10 – 11:30
Dec. 9	10 – 11:30

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Jim Crumpler at (415) 897-5705, 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 their 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.

In Memoriam

Larry Mersereau
Gladys Pimentel
Stephen Taylor
John Thorsson
Mary Ann Schnell Varner
Robert Leveroni
Carol Edwards
Natalie "Tali" Sundberg

THE GUILD EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO

The Mersereau family on the loss of Larry Merereau
The Pimentel family on the loss of Gladys Pimentel
Carole Taylor and family on the loss of Stephen Taylor
Frances Thorsson and family on the loss of John Thorsson
The Schnell and Varner families on the loss of Mary Ann Varner
The Leveroni family on the loss of Robert Leveroni
Gary Edwards and family on the loss of Carol Edwards
Rob Sundberg and family on the loss of Tali Sundberg

Contact Us

Hamilton Field History Museum

Manager: Ray Dwely
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: info@novatohistory.org
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

Membership Levels

As of 1/1/2023, the Board has simplified the Guild's membership structure to the Individual, Family, Business and Life-Individual and Life-Joint categories.

For any amount received over and above the chosen membership rate, an acknowledgement will be sent for your generous donation.

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

Individual membership \$20 year

Family membership \$30 year

Life membership, individual \$350

Life membership, joint \$500

Business membership \$50 year

Free for 90+

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Additional donations? _____

Interested in volunteering? _____

Email address: _____

Continued from Page 14

Before Europeans arrived, these tribes had stewarded the rich and bountiful lands of Marin and southern Sonoma counties. Their lifestyle and economy were based on gathering, fishing and hunting. They established villages near streams and rivers where fish, wildlife, fruiting trees and shrubs were plentiful and deer and elk grazed the hillsides. The bay, wetlands, streams and outer coast offered shellfish, salmon, abalone and crabs. Since some resources - fruits, nuts, seeds and fish were seasonal, the tribelets were semi-nomadic,

relocating or establishing camps as needed. Evidence dating back 3,000 to 4,000 years shows that two tribelets, each numbering from 50 to 100, settled near Novato Creek, one at present day Novato's Miwok Park.

To supplement food stores during lean months and secure materials unavailable locally, the Miwok sent envoys to sell and barter meat, furs and goods, following traditional trade routes. Items were hauled or dragged on foot or by horse. Canoes constructed from tule reeds were used for transport, and for fishing.

Basket weaving was an essential craft, for carrying burdens and babies, and as cooking utensils. They were a prized art form, too, decorated with beads, feathers, and pigments brought from many miles distant: red cinnabar from Santa Clara, green serpentine from Deer Island; pearl-white diatoms and colorful shells from the coast.

Ms. Saltzman recounted how the 16th Century arrival of Spanish Conquistadors and missionaries, and subsequent rule by the Mexican and United States governments brought disaster to native peoples. Subjected to virtual slavery, decimated by European diseases, and dispossessed of their lands by broken treaties, their population declined sharply. By 1870 only 30 full-blooded Coast Miwok remained. Most who survived intermarried with Spanish and Mexicans.

Today, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo conduct their federally recognized government as the Federated Tribes of Graton Rancheria, nearly 500 strong, keeping alive their culture and traditions. Learn more at, <https://gratonrancheria.com/> and <http://www.coastmiwokofmarin.org/>



L'eth. de Longuevue, vue de l'Albany 1764

Le port, Vieux et Gros Cap.

Bateau du port de S.^e Francisco.

◆ YOU ARE INVITED ◆

General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 to noon

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

The speaker will be Scott Fletcher, Marin Historian, discussing his new book "Moments in Marin History: Familiar Tales and Untold Stories"

Hope you can make it. Bring some friends. Looking forward to seeing you there. Guild Members and anyone interested in Novato History is 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 open three days a week -- Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday - Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Major Holidays