

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) California corporation Tax ID #30-0421172

Preserving Cotati's Past

P.O. Box 7013 Cotati, CA 94931

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Prue Draper & Connie Martin, Editors

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SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Marie McNaughton
529-0734

Vice Pres.: Yvonne VanDyke

Secretary: Velma DiMeola

Treasurer: Connie Martin

Historian: Prue Draper

Archive Admin: Judy Gustafson

Directors: John Allred
Gary Santero
Sandra Walton

Volunteer Coordinator:

Barbara Jean Veronda 795-4545

Cotati Museum Hours:

Saturday 1 - 4 P.M.

2nd Tuesday of each
month 5 - 7 P.M.

Special times by appointment
Phone 707-794-0305

Our Mission Statement

As stated in our Articles of Incorporation, dated April 11, 2007, the specific purpose of the Cotati Historical Society is to protect and preserve the history and culture of the City of Cotati, California. Our goal is to provide a museum and interpretive programs for the preservation of artifacts, memorabilia and documents illustrating the past and present life of the Cotati community, municipality and its citizens.

New Owner for Historic Washoe House



Photo from Les and Dee Tunzi Collection

Sale of the popular Washoe House Restaurant by the Drew and Jensen families to Larry Peter, owner of Petaluma Creamery has stirred up memories of this establishment, a famous part of the Cotati area.

The Washoe House started life as a stagecoach stop on the busy road between Petaluma, Bodega and Santa Rosa. The road was named Stony Point, in recognition of the quarry, then owned by Michael Reese. The quarry also is still in business today.

The historic building was built by Robert Ayers about 1859, when the intersection of Stony Point and Roblar Roads was known as Washoe Corners and the little community there was called Stony Point. The builder, according to old-timers, was a man from Illinois, who had been impressed by a hotel in Washoe County, Nevada known as Washoe House. He chose that name for the inn, which was built on a foundation of solid rock, with lumber brought down from the redwood forests and put together with square handmade nails.

A handmade European piano was brought by ship around the Horn, and made the Washoe House as popular for dancing as it was for meals and liquid refreshments.

According to a Petaluma *Courier* story on July 11, 1910, W.A. Wilson, the proprietor at that time, held a grand opening for the public, and the hall was decorated with bunting and greens and supper was served to over 200 guests. Professor Schleck's orchestra of Penngrove played for dancing, and the party continued until 3 a.m. That seems to have established the Washoe House as a place to eat, dance and have fun, which has continued until now. The second story had a sturdy redwood floor for dancing, and years ago the upstairs also included bedrooms for travelers.

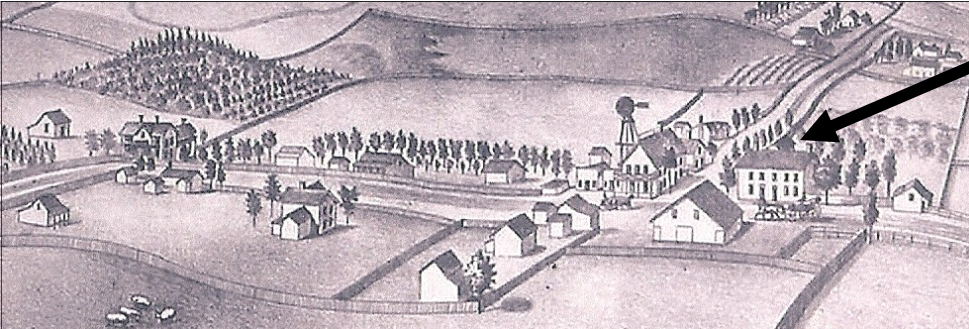
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It was said to be a popular place for gold miners to stop on their way to the mines, and it became their custom to pin dollar bills to the ceiling, in case they had no cash when they returned.

In 1865, following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Sonoma County residents filled with an abundance of Civil War patriotism, began marching north from Petaluma to take revenge on the Yankees of Santa Rosa. They stopped for refreshments at the Washoe House and never got any further.

In 1958, San Francisco's Yerba Buena Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, chose the Washoe House for one of their regular meetings, and produced the handsome monument and plaque that still stands in front of the building, acknowledging its colorful history.



This segment from the 1877 Sonoma County Atlas illustrates the early hamlet of Stony Point surrounding the Washoe House (arrow).

This historic menu was donated to the Cotati Museum by Bev Palm.

Antique Bronze Heirlooms of Page Family Donated to Museum

The Cotati Historical Museum received one of its most exciting, dramatic, historic and valuable donations in October when Mr. and Mrs. William Delano Page donated a pair of antique bronze bull figures to the museum. French artist, Isadore Jules Bonheur, one of the best-known artists of the 19th century, had produced the handsome works of art.

The bulls had belonged to Dr. Thomas Stokes Page, first developer of the Cotate Rancho. William Delano Page had inherited them from his father, Edward B. Page, who had inherited them from his father, Charles R. Page, son of Dr. Thomas Page.

The bulls are now on display in the Cotati Historical Museum, open every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. and the second Tuesday evening of each month from 5 to 7 p.m.



These handsome bronze figures, heirlooms of the Thomas Page family, have been donated to the Cotati Museum and are now on display.



Pamela and William Page, descendants of Dr. Thomas Stokes Page, hosted directors of Cotati Historical Society at their home in Healdsburg.

All photos by Marie McNaughton

First Librarian Honored in Library Display



Circa 1955 photo from Draper Collection

The Cotati Historical Society is preparing a display in the Rohnert Park Community Library honoring Marguerite Hahn. Mrs. Hahn, seated, right was manager of the Cotati Branch, Sonoma County Library. Adelaide McClure, left was her assistant. The library was located in a small building behind what is now the Shultz Real Estate office on Old Redwood Highway.

New Museum Computer

This month we welcomed a new computer, thanks to the skill and careful research of Judy Gustafson, our Archiving Administrator. It is a Dell XPS 8700 desktop model, with Windows 10, Office 365 and our accessioning software, Past Perfect.

Our former computer had been donated to the museum six years ago and was growing very weary.

Many thanks to Judy for locating, obtaining and installing the exciting addition to our equipment.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Lillian Blodgett, Ed & Vi Nordman and Pamela & William Page

WELCOME TO OUR MOST RECENT NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Lillian Blodgett, Stephen Jones, Gary & Louise Petersen & Rhonda Smith

History of Cotati Street Names was Forum Subject

Cotati Historical Society's Fall History Program on Nov. 1 focused on the city's streets - who they were named after and why. The tradition had started before Cotati was even a community, when the Page family chose names of their brothers for the six streets around the Plaza (Arthur, Charles, Olof, George, Henry and William) and one at the north end of the ranch (Wilfred).

Speakers Pamela Wilford, Ken Macklin, Carl Schollmann and Prue Draper explained how our more modern streets got their names.

Pamela recalled that her father, Severa Wilford Jr., first suggested that the newly-incorporated Cotati name its new streets after well-known citizens.

Ken Macklin, son of Jean and Clifford Macklin, recounted the process of subdividing his family's ranch near the corner of Old Redwood Highway and Myrtle Avenue.

Carl Schollmann recalled a well-known butcher

named Walt Jagla whose name was misspelled by developers and the street is known as Jagle.

Prue Draper explained that when the 101 Freeway went through Cotati, West School Street was completely cut off from the Cotati School property - now Cotati City Hall. But the street retained its name.

Esther Lebeck Loveridge came all the way from Sacramento to try to find out why Lebec Lane is spelled that way. Her German grandparents and great-uncle, Andreas, Frieda and Martin Lebeck (spelled with a K) lived for years at 645 East Railroad Avenue, had a chicken ranch and were active in the community. We could only tell her that a mistake had been made, and because people live on the street and maps have been produced for years, it would be terribly difficult to make a correction.

If you have questions about the name of your street in Cotati, please send us a note to Cotati Historical Society or e-mail to chsinfo@sonic.net.



Residents of Cotati and other areas learned about how some of Cotati's streets get their names.

All photos by Marie McNaughton



Panel members were, from left, Pamela Wilford, Ken Macklin, Prue Draper and Carl Schollmann.

Time to renew your dues for 2016

We collect dues every January and you too, can help preserve Cotati's history. **Dues are still only \$10 per person per year.** Please complete this form and send with your check.

Yes I want to renew my membership for 2016 @ \$10 per person

An additional donation of \$ _____ is enclosed

**Please send to:
Cotati Historical Society
P.O. Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931**

Name/s _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

We can save postage by sending quarterly newsletters on-line.

Learn more about Cotati history and
the Cotati Museum at our **website:**
www.cotatihistoricalsociety.org

The Cotati Historical Museum always needs volunteers to welcome visitors on Saturday afternoons, when we are open from 1 to 4 p.m. Docents work in pairs and the duties are basic - unlock doors, turn on lights, open blinds and prepare to be friendly. We have an instruction pamphlet that tells you everything you need to know. If you are interested, contact Barbara Jean Veronda, 795-4545.

**Cotati Historical Society
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*Happy Holidays to All
Mark your calendar for
April 10, 2016
Our Famous Chicken BBQ*