THE GATE HOUSE
1879
THE MARIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM BUILDING
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The Marin County Historical Society Museum Building
1879
By Helen Van Cleave Park

"Remains To Be Seen" Historic California Houses Open to the Public By Elinor Richey, Howell North Publication 1973 - establishes the Marin County Historical Society Museum in the Who Was Who roster of important buildings in California.

Page 171 shows a picture of our Museum and the name "Ira Cook House" 1879. The style of architecture is described as "Gothic Revival." Included is a brief history and the days and hours it is open.

Elinor Richey's book is an example of the new type of history appearing with increasing frequency today, that is history written by experts in the field of which they write.

The true story of our museum building has been so eroded by error that the truth is refreshing and new. An often quoted source states that Robert Dollar gave Boyd Park to San Rafael. Captain Robert Dollar gave twelve acres to the Park in 1920, fifteen years after the Boyd family made the original gift in 1905.

Another publication states that the "Gate Cottage" was moved to the present site in 1924. This error has been frequently repeated.

Louise Boyd, due to her interest in Music, Arctic Explorations and patriotic work in World War I and II enjoyed a press that overshadowed Boyd Park.

At the request of the Board of Directors of the Marin County Historical Society the Bulletin has made an effort to publish a "Fact Sheet" about our Museum Building.

It is fitting that our Museum and the City of San Rafael receive this recognition. "The Gate House" serves to remind us of many phases of history of our State and County.
In the beginning, the land was a hillside meadow of flowers and grasses that knew the tread of bare-foot Indians. Across its fields echoed the bells of Mission San Rafael, and in the spring, when the south wind blew, the white blossoms of the Mission pear orchard drifted among the grasses. Below in the Bay of San Rafael floated the Mission barges and sometimes Timothy Murphy rode down the sloping hillside. Perhaps it was that the early rancheros pastured their horses when visiting the Mission San Rafael.

Then came a mid-summer day in 1846 when the reflection of the bright lances of the California troops of Captain Juanquin de la Torre flashed across the fields. A few days later three shots echoed and re-echoed over the meadow that killed the De Haro twins and Papa Berryessa when Fremont came to San Rafael.

Twenty years later in the spring of 1866, Thomas Hawkins Hanson sold a portion of the land to Sidney V. Smith. Thomas Hawkins Hanson is not a stranger to those of us who are amateur historians of the county. Hanson an attorney, was County Treasurer from 1855 to 1861, and served as District attorney, 1869 to 1871.

In our map collection at the Museum is the 1879 James H. Wilkin's map of San Rafael. It shows Hanson owned the block below our Museum and the street is named "Hanson Street." For many years this name was retained and appears in land descriptions in the area.

Sidney V. Smith Sr. according to Oscar T. Shuck was a Philadelphia lawyer who came to San Francisco in 1852 and "was in the full tide of prosperity at the San Francisco Bar for over thirty years." "His prosperity" is attested by the frequency his name appears in the Index of early records at the Recorder's office. Smith was elected a director of the San Rafael and San Quentin Railroad at the first meeting on Feb. 19, 1860. "Young Sid" was elected one of the trustees of the Town of San Rafael on April 6, 1874, at the first election after incorporation.
Margaret Kittle Boyd, in her day a director of the Marin County Historical Society, in her valuable un-numbered page booklet of the early gardens of Marin writes of "Maple Lawn," "The property was bought originally by Mr. Sidney V. Smith, and later owned by 'Mr. Hellman."

5. The map collection of the Marin County Historical Society contains the rare historical important map of Hiram Austin of 1873, drawn by F. Whitney. In the lower left corner is a plat of the town of San Rafael. This shows Hellman, Angelloti, and Hanson as land owners in the area.

Book J of Deeds pages 217-219 dated July 1871 records Sidney V. Smith grantor and Richard Hellman as grantee. To date all that we know of Hellman is his first name of Richard.

Our Museum was given the genealogy of the Cook and Boyd families, prepared by Louise Cook Armer Boyd, that goes back to pre-revolutionary times and assists in verifying records.

The map collection at the Museum contains the 1879 James H. Wilkins map of San Rafael. This map shows the land as the property of Seth Cook.

Our President, Mrs. Elsie F. Mazzini, obtained a copy for us, of the "Boyd John F. et ux to the City of San Rafael" Book 92 page 369 of Deeds dated April 20, 1905, which is the record of the transfer by gift to the City of San Rafael of the Boyd Park Land.

Strange is the fact the Recorder's office lacks any record of the sale between Richard Hellman and Seth Cook. Our Recorder Mr. Noel Giacomini made a time consuming search for the transaction.

The gift deed in the title history refers to the "plat of the town site of San Rafael" in the 1873 Austin Whitney map we have mentioned.

Ira B. Cook born in Skaneateles, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1799. On Oct. 4, 1825 he married Louise F. Church, born Sept. 25, 1806. She died in Rochester, N.Y. April 22, 1858, three of their children were to be a part of the history of
California and Marin County.

Seth Cook born June 12, 1830 and his younger brother Dan born April 9, 1837; according to legend came to California in 1850. Seth was twenty and Dan fifteen but they had unusual success in the mines. They were among those who acquired fortunes in the Comstock and later at Bodie.

Sometime in 1873 or 1874 they acquired the hillside land and built a luxurious home upon it and established a garden.

Margaret Kittle Boyd confirms the legend that Seth and Dan Cook sent to Boston for "a celebrated landscape architect, the first to come to San Rafael." Evidently Boyd accepted the legend without question. It is true that it was a "celebrated" landscape architect who came to San Rafael to take charge of the gardens and he came from Boston.

He never returned to Boston. He was a landscape architect from Scotland who had settled in Boston and opened a florist's shop with his wife Emma. His name is familiar to us as John Frederick Jordan. His wife was Emma H. Jordan who appears in old directories as "Mrs. E. H. Jordan, proprietor of Albion House, the New England Villa and Jordan House."

Sometimes those of us who excavate history, do have a reward that comes unexpectedly. The ceremony of the dedication of Boyd Park in 1905 gives the name of the speaker who represented the Boyd family at the dedication and gave an oration devoid of the tedious phrases so often employed at that time as E. B. Martinelli.

Desiring to confirm the news clip, a phone call to Judge Jordan L. Martinelli, not only confirmed the story but gave the name of the Boston Landscape Architect, his maternal grandfather, John Frederick Jordan.

"Grandfather had forty five Chinese laborers pushing wheel barrows all over that hill in establishing the water system for the garden. There was only one water source north of the garden and an elaborate system had to be installed."
said Judge Martinelli.

It was John Frederick Jordan who selected and planted the Japanese maples that gave the name to Maple Lawn. It was John Frederick Jordan who selected the rare exotic plants that Boyd tells us "annually hold court to visitors from all over the world."

Jordan continued to be in charge of the garden after John Franklin Boyd came to San Rafael in 1883.

As we said, occasionally the history buff is unexpectedly rewarded, for not only did we gain valuable history but we obtained the impressions of an eight year old boy who attended the dedication ceremony and whose grandmother Emma contributed a valuable part of the program—of this, more later.

Seth and Dan Cook had a sister Louise Theodosia Cook born April 26, 1832. She was eighteen when her brothers left for the west. She married Dr. Thomas Arner on June 29, 1859 and they were the parents of Louise Cook Arner born June 2, 1861. Dr. Arner served and died for the Union. The loss of her husband and the war aftermath left Louise Theodosia Cook Arner an invalid. Ira Cook, her father, had established a barrel stave factory at Rochester, New York and his business prospered. The business was successful but an accident in the factory resulted in the loss of an arm for Ira.

The failing health of his daughter Louise and his handicap persuaded Ira to sell his business and escort his ailing daughter and thirteen year old granddaughter Louise to join his sons Seth and Dan in San Rafael. Ira was seventy-five when they came west.

They arrived in 1874, the year of San Rafael's incorporation. Seth and Dan, preoccupied with a mining operation had left the house with caretakers. Ira Cook, his daughter Louise and grand-daughter Louise established their home in the elegant house of Seth and Dan. Ira had hoped his daughter would improve in the climate of San Rafael. In spite of the care of her father and her brothers,
Louise Theodosia Cook Arner died in San Rafael on June 29, 1976.

Louise Cook Arner, an orphan now, but secure in the affections of her
grandfather and her uncles' Seth and Dan, provided a governess and private
tutors and later sent her to an eastern school.

The Marin Journal of June 24, 1876 reports "Seth Cook, millionaire had
suffered an accident, resulting in a broken thigh. Seth Cook is the son of Ira
Cook of San Rafael."

The accident did not prevent Seth from joining his brother Dan in
investing in the Bodie. In September of 1876 they sent their friend, John
Franklin Boyd to investigate the mines. The 1872 Diamond Hoax was of too
recent memory to risk another "Salted" mine. Boyd had been associated with
that incident. Boyd was cautious but encouraging in his report.

Loose informs us that the Standard Mining Co., incorporated by Seth and
Dan Cook, John Franklin Boyd and others paid a dividend of $50,000.00 a month
for thirty months. In 1880 this was raised to $75,000.00 a month.

To-day we can only speculate that the success of the Bodie was the reason
that in the fall of 1879 Ira Cook built the Gothic Revival house which is our
Museum to-day.

The Marin County Journal of Thursday, October 16, 1879 — records the
construction. In 1879 present day Mission Street was known as "Sixth Street."

"A MAGNIFICENT IMPROVEMENT: The work being done by Mr. Ira Cook, at the
corner of Sixth and B. Streets, San Rafael, and on the face of the hill to the
north, is unique and grand, and when completed, the place will be one of the
most beautiful to be found on this coast. The Park Lodge which stands at the
head of B. Street, and on the corner of Hanson or Sixth, is after the style of
a Swiss Chalet, and will be the most perfect and costly structure of its size,
in the town. The basement floor is of artificial stone, made on the place. The
building is chaste and comely in design, and rich in finish and ornamentation.
IRA COOK'S GOTHIC REVIVAL GATE HOUSE 1879

The cost will approximate $10,000.00. It will be enclosed with an iron fence, having granite piers, and the large gate, forming the main entrance to the grounds, will be very imposing. The work includes a greatly improved grade to both streets, which is now taking shape. A sinuous Avenue leads up the face of the hill, which will cross the ravine below the quarry on a neat suspension bridge, the ravine has been confined to a cement water course, with graceful banks, which will be florally ornamented, and terminate in a small lake near the lodge. Two reservoirs are to be built, one above and one just below the quarry. The face of the hill will bloom with fruit and ornamental trees, and the whole, when complete, will form one of the most perfect beauty spots of nature and art to be found in our country.

As an ornament to the town, it will have the significance of a grand and costly park. The residences adjoining it are those of Dr. Powers, E. B. Mahon, Esq., Mrs. McCrea, and the latter's new house, occupied by Dr. Younger.
The work gives employment to at least thirty men. Mr. William Webster is the landscape engineer, and Adam Murray is the builder of the lodge, of which Mr. Barr is foreman.

The Thursday August 19, 1880 Marin County Journal reported the death of Ira Cook, "the father of Seth and Dan Cook," on Sunday August 15, 1880. His death was the result of a fall from one of the reservoirs he had built at the time he was building the house in 1879. His obituary gives important clues of history. Ira Cook's honorary pall bearers were men prominent in San Rafael in 1880: Robert Watt, J. D. Walker, Sidney V. Smith, J. W. Stillwell, Tom O'Connor and William T. Coleman.

Louise Cook Armer returned to San Rafael after graduation. Things had changed in the house on the hillside. Her grandfather was gone and her Uncle Dan had married Carrie Colton, the daughter of David D. Colton. The name of Colton focuses the spotlight on some of the most exciting events of California History on our Museum Building.

According to Guddie Colton was the name sake of the town of Colton in Ventura County. As General Manager of the Central Pacific, Colton was successful. He acquired the six thousand acre ranch near Danville in Alameda County. Eventually the property was inherited by Louise Cook Armer Boyd.

Ashbury Harpending reveals Colton's association with the famous "Diamond Hoax." Amelia Ransome Neville in "The Fantastic City" gives a revealing picture of Colton's Nob Hill house later acquired by Huntington, and its gardens are now "Huntington Park" in San Francisco.

Upon her return to San Rafael Louise Cook Armer met her uncle's friend and associate, John Franklin Boyd; nineteen years her senior, he was born October 20, 1842, Chester County, Penn. They became engaged in the summer of 1882. A fall wedding was arranged. As the niece of her wealthy uncles, the plans were elaborate. All this had to be postponed: for the fourth time the life of
Louise Cook Arner was to be changed by the death of a loved one. Her uncle Dan Cook died October 9, 1882. The marriage took place in the spring of 1883 on April 25.

The "John F. Boyd et ux to the City of San Rafael" deed of 1905, records in three lines that are poignantly significant to the informed ---" described in a deed from Carrie Colton Cook and Seth Cook to Louisa (sic) Cook Arner, dated April 23, 1905, and recorded in said Recorder's office in Liber Y of Deeds at page 291."

So it was that Carrie Colton Cook, the widow of Dan and her brother-in-law Seth Cook gave Louise Cook Arner for a wedding gift the hillside property that had been her uncles, and was associated in memory with her grandfather, and her mother and for eight years had been her home. The deed was dated two days before her wedding day.

The prediction of San Francisco stock broker in 1877 "that Dan and Seth Cook and John Boyd and other stock holders will be the next "Bonanza Kings" --- evidently became true. Shortly after his marriage John Franklin Boyd retired from business, In the San Francisco Directories and Society Blue Books he is listed as a "capitalist" with offices in the Nevada Block. Upon the death of Carrie Colton Cook, at an unknown date, he took charge of the six thousand acre Oakwood Park Stock Farm near Danville, inherited by his wife. He was a member of the Pacific Union Club and Louise was a member of the Century Club.

In April of 1895 the Marin Journal informs us "A Memorial Window was placed in the new Presbyterian Church by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Boyd in memory of Mrs. Boyd's grandfather Ira Cook." 14

Two sons and a daughter were born, Seth Cook Boyd - August 1, 1884, John Franklin Boyd, Jr., May 21, 1886 and Louise Arner Boyd, September 16, 1887.

The Boyds' regretted the passing of Seth Cook, February 26, 1889 - at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

Florence had a genius that lifted people and events from the shadow of obscurity and made them live. In this interview she was able to get Miss Boyd to recall her childhood. "The children had a happy time, Miss Boyd began; "I was a tomboy, I rode horse back with my brothers. Often we would pack our saddle bags and ride all day through the hills. Miss Boyd said at Maple Lawn there was an Irish cook, a Scotch governess and a Chinese Laundryman; the remaining staff consisted of a maid, a coachman and stable boys. For transportation there was a pair of carriage horses a single horse for the buggy and three saddle horses.

After the governess stage the children attended Miss Stewart's School in San Rafael. Later the boys attended the Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy and Louise went to Miss Marison's School in San Francisco.

John did not thrive in the climate of San Rafael and sometime before 1900 the decision was made for him to be enrolled in a Military School at Nordhoff in Ventura County. Miss Boyd concluded her recollections of her girlhood by saying, "and we had such good times at home, Mother and I both played the piano, so did my brother Seth, and Jack played both the banjo and the guitar."

The morning of August 14, 1901 was typical of any late summer morning in San Rafael, zenas and dahlias rivaled the colors of the maples on the lawn. John Franklin was to leave soon for the fall term of school at Nordhoff. Breakfast waited on the table and someone was sent to summon Seth. But according to the Toisan of August 17, 1901 Seth was found dead of asphyxiation from escaping gas of a jet kept in his room for the purpose of heating milk to revive him from night fainting attacks. Dr. H. G. Howitt and Dr. W. J. Nickham
made every effort to revive the seventeen year old boy. The autopsy conducted by Coroner Edward Eden revealed that Seth suffered from advanced heart disease. The Coroner's Jury gave a verdict of accidental death.

There were no more musical evenings and the family was still in shock, when a telegram arrived from the school at Nodshoff informing them of the death of John Franklin Boyd, Jr., on April 28, 1902. To-day the boys sleep side by side in the Boyd family Mausoleum, Lot 5 Section A of the Tamalpais Cemetery.

The Boyd family, John and Louise mother and daughter emerged from grief resolved to find a memorial for Seth and John. They wanted something that would perpetuate their memory in a way that for all time there would remain something of their love of life and joyousness. They inspected many forms of memorials but cold marble for them did not relate to the boys. No one knows who suggested the garden and the Gate House where legend tells us the three sometimes played when children, on rainy days, as a forever living memorial.

So it was that the Boyd family appeared at a meeting of the City Trustees of San Rafael in December of 1904 and offered the garden and the Gate House for a Park to be a memorial for Seth and John.

The City was enthusiastic at the generosity of the Boyds. The press devoted columns in praise of the gift. At a January 1905 meeting of the trustees, San Rafael formally accepted the gift of Boyd Park and the Gate House. A date in the following April was decided upon for the dedication.

Now that San Rafael was to have a beautiful City Park, at the April meeting of the City Trustees, an ordinance was passed creating a Park Commission. As compliment to the benefactor, John Franklin Boyd was appointed chairman. The other members were William Babcock, Leon Schlose, Robert Dollar, and A. W. Foster.

Saturday April 29, 1905 was decided should be the day of dedication. The public and the school children were invited.
former District Attorney (1895-1899) State Senator (1909-1911) would represent the Boyd family at the ceremony.

Four additional small parcels of land were purchased by John Franklin Boyd creating an area of seventeen and one-half acres. The Garden received special attention to bring it to perfection for early spring and bulbs were planted to blossom in April. A seventy foot flag pole was erected and the paths and lawns given special attention. The Silvio Cheda family had been renting the Gate House and they vacated it for the first floor was to be the residence of Albert K. Knowles and family, a former British Navy man, who was to take charge of Boyd Park for the City of San Rafael.  
The Gate House was painted and in a long forgotten closet, children's toys were found, recalling the days that the three Boyd children had played there on rainy days.

The dedication of Boyd Park took place on Saturday, April 29, 1905. The
Marin County Journal of the following Thursday, May 4, 1905 Vol. 46, 49 devotes one whole page and part of another to the dedication.

A copy of this page is framed and on exhibition at our Museum. The Marin County Historical Society's collection of newspapers also contains a copy.

The day was a holiday, not by enforcing a declaration, but by the spontaneous reaction of the citizens of San Rafael to the occasion. Not a store, place of business or saloon remained open, but closed of their own volition. It was a day of memory and unostentatious ceremony. At two o'clock the procession formed on Fourth near E. Street. Charter member of the Marin County Historical Society Major Newell Vanderbilt, was Grand Marshall of the day. Leading the procession was the Mt. Tamalpais 5th Regimental Band. After them came Co. D., of the National Guard, the paper said "an imposing array of infantry and cavalry." This was followed by the Hitchcock School Military Band and cadets from both schools. Next came the San Rafael Fire Department, followed by the city officials and speakers of the day in carriages. Behind them marched the St. Vincent Orphan Asylum Band leading the School Children's portion of the ceremony. It was estimated that twelve hundred children, representing every public and private school of the City, were in the parade. Nine schools were represented; San Rafael High School, Mt Tamalpais Military Academy, South Side Primary, Hitchcock Military Academy, Fourth Street Grammar School, B. Street Primary, Dominican College, St Raphael's School and Miss Stewart's School.

Down Fourth and up B. Streets they marched, the three bands playing. Each child carried a spray of foliage and the paper declares; "Such a sight was never seen or heard before in San Rafael." The sidewalks were lined with spectators. Slowly the great throng of four thousand passed between Ira Cock's Granite Gates, erected twenty six years before. They made their way along the drive and paths to the Pine shaded lawn, where a temporary stage had been built. Soon the chairs and benches were filled and the paper tells us; "The
dainty parasols vied with the pine trees to provide shade." The people remained silent as a tribute to John Franklin Boyd, his wife Louise Cook Arner Boyd and daughter Louise Arner Boyd, as an expression of sympathy and appreciation of the gift of Boyd Park and the Gate House.

The National Anthem was played and Rev. Dr. Arthur Crosby delivered the invocation. Children gathered about the flag pole and the late Parker Wood, our former curator, at that time a high school student raised the flag. The children sang "America" and Ex-Mayor S. P. Moorehead, President for the day, introduced Luther Burbank, the Wizard of Horticulture who spoke of the importance of the occasion.

John Franklin Boyd and Louise Cook Arner Boyd acknowledged their introduction and indicated that Ennio Baptista Martinelli would speak for them and present the deed to the City.

Ennio Baptista Martinelli was an orator and Greek and Latin Scholar. His speech is interesting reading today for he expressed, better than any other, the sentiments of the occasion.

He said, "Here the children of the Boyd's played with their friends." He emphasized that there were many present who had played with Seth and "Jack" and their sister Louise in the garden. When the boys passed away the garden and Gate House became a happy association which the Boyd family generously determined to perpetuate their enjoyment for all times.

Martinelli gave the exact dimensions of the Park and the twelve stations where rare views of the valley and the bay in the distance could be seen.

"It extends from Hanson on the South to the Summit of San Rafael Hill on the north. This includes the Lodge near the Gate. This Lodge, will doubtless become the Foundation of a Museum."  

He continued to speak of the beauty of the Park, emphasizing the fact that few cities of the size of San Rafael had such a Park. He traced the growth
of the City Park system; referring to the Mt. Royal Park in Montreal, Canada
with its view of the St. Lawrence, and concluding with reference to the famous
Park system of the City of Boston.

Then he addressed himself to the children and told them the Park and the
"Gate House" was for them to enjoy, but to respect and care for.

When the deed was presented, Judge Thomas A. Lennon accepted for the City.
To the melody of the "Tree Planting Song" children of the different Schools
planted trees.

On either side of the drive way, tables had been laid, and all were
invited as guests of the Boyds to partake of the refreshments of sandwiches,
cakes and lemonade.

In discussing the occasion with Judge Martinelli, he said, "My grandmother
Emma Jordan made five thousand sandwiches for Mrs. Boyd to be served that day.
It was a tremendous effort and Mrs. Boyd gave grandmother a sunburst pin of
diamonds in appreciation. As a boy I recall it looked very large to me." When
we asked what he recalled as the most impressive he laughed and replied, "The
music! It was fabulous, I shall always remember it." The sprays of foliage
carried by the children evidently did not impress eight year old Jordan
Martinelli. This is not surprising for his father was the orator of the day
and his grandmother had been responsible for five thousand sandwiches.

The newspaper mentions the fact that there was no litter or destruction
of plants and flowers.

Here we prefer to close the story of our Museum at the Dedication Ceremony
of Boyd Park and the "Gate House" on April 29, 1905.

We like to remember the vision of two small boys and a little girl in the
garden or at play in our Marin County Historical Society Museum on a rainy day.

2. 1900 History of Marin County – pages 232-233-234

3. "History of the Bench and Bar of California" by Oscar T. Shuck, Commercial Printing House, Los Angeles 1901, page 555. Sidney V. Smith Sr., died at his San Rafael home, September 25, 1885. In the "Black Will Case" he was one of the three attorneys for the widow.

4. "Reminiscences of Early Marin County Gardens" by Margaret Kittle Boyd – Published San Francisco Garden Club 1934 – Published by Marin Garden Club 1954.

5. An unrecorded Map, "The Historians Map" due to the detail of early land ownership, historians frequently consult it. A copy is in the map collection of the Marin County Historical Society at the Museum.


7. An error frequently made, even by Richey – says Stove Factory, Barrels were an important part of the mid 19th century economy. The War between the States stimulated the business due to the use of barrels for ammunition, advertisements exist of "Ira Cook's Barrel Stove Factory of Rochester, N.Y."


9. "Swiss Chalet" is an error – Perhaps local uninformen gossip is responsible "Gate House" refers to its location, "House by the Gate" and not to a Gate Keeper's House.


16. In discussing the death of the Boyd sons at age 15 and 17, Dr. Scott Polland said, the coroners reports indicated the fact that both boys had rheumatic fever in early childhood. Today medicine has advanced and surgery corrects the situation.
Interview with Judge Jordan L. Martinelli.

Our curator Mr. Philip Wolteni, and volunteer Museum Assistant Curator Barbara Smith, recall hearing former curator Parker Wood making this statement. Judge Jordan L. Martinelli confirmed the fact.

The Marin County Historical Society has fulfilled this prediction since the end of World War II, when the Gate House was vacated by the U.S.O.

The Marin County Historical Society Bulletin is published quarterly. Individual memberships ($3.00 a year); Family ($5.00); Young Adults ($1.00)

Make checks payable to the Marin County Historical Society and mail to: Mrs. Elsie T. Mazzini 62 Hillcrest Drive San Rafael, Calif. 94901

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IN MEMORIAM

Miss Elinar Burt Oct. 19, 1975

SAN RAFAEL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Plans are being made for the Centennial Celebration by the City of San Rafael. Mrs. Elsie Mazzini, President and Mrs. Earl Grady, Director of the Marin County Historical Society, are serving on the Committee.

Dates have been suggested for a week long celebration in 1974. Our next Bulletin will give more details on the Celebration plans.

Members wishing to contribute to the Centennial Celebration of San Rafael, please contact Mrs. Elsie Mazzini, 62 Hillcrest Dr., San Rafael, Ca. 94901

MARYAGENET BLACK BURDELL'S RECIPE FOR MINCE MEAT.

as it appears in the Cook Book of Mrs. James Black Burdell (Josephine Sweetser)

To one beef tongue, boiled and finely chopped add: 3 pounds each of beef suet and currants; 6 pounds each of unchopped Sultana raisins, seedless raisins and pippin apples; 1 pound each of blanched sweet almonds, chopped coarse, white powdered sugar, citron, candied orange peel, candied lemon peel, and coarsely chopped walnuts; 2 large tablespoons cinnamon juice and grated rind of four large lemons.

One half pint of Rose Water, Two dozen beaten cloves, One dozen blades of mace.

Cook apples and suet together until tender. Beat two quarts of Sherry, one quart of Port, and one pint of Brandy and add the ingredients. Note the use of "large lemons" These would be the famous "Burdell" lemons, developed by Dr. Burdell at Opolisp. According to his great-granddaughter Charmaine Burdell Veronda, these lemons were the size of grapefruit. The severe cold of last winter, damaged the remnants of the trees extensively.

Among the Legends of Opolisp is the one that in the days of Mary and Dr. Galen Burdell, there were always between fifty and one hundred Indians employed on the Ranch. No doubt, before the Holidays, many of them assisted in the preparation of this recipe.