



# South County Historical Society

## Heritage Press

Volume 12, No 11

March/April 2008



### Looking Forward

By Jane Line, President

Not long ago someone remarked to me, "Oh, your Society doesn't like change...." I smarted a bit at the negative connotation of such a thought and have continued to mull the matter. Last Sunday, at the **SLO County Historical Society's** Annual Meeting, attendees watched a video entitled "**Connections**" produced by the **Cultural Landscape Foundation**. The film reminded us that our "stories" are told by the totality of our environment: our structures, landscapes, parks, cemeteries, bridges, paths and so forth. The cultural environment connects "people to their places". What a stunning statement! Consider the following story which I believe shows strong leadership in this regard.

In 2005, the **Arroyo Grande City Council** created the **Historic Resource Committee (HRC)** to serve as an advisory body to city officials and residents in determining the city's historic resources. The Committee's first task was to gather information about the older areas of town, including the Village. **AG's Community Development Director, Rob Strong**, asked **SCHS** to support the **HRC** with research assistance as they set out to accomplish their tasks. We were honored to have such a role and our archives and library files have been invaluable in adding to the body of research done over the last year.

However, the **HRC** had a second, even more compelling task. They were to create criteria for use in determining potential historical resources which, if approved by the **City Council**, would create new city ordinances for use in evaluating such resources for decades to come. The Committee, under **Chairman Bill Hart's** leadership, rolled up their sleeves and persevered.

On **April 21, 2008**, the **Arroyo Grande City Council** approved criteria submitted by the **HRC** and **ordinances are now in place to ensure the protection of appropriate historical resources**. The **HRC** also recommended educational programs be instituted that assist property owners in the appropriate methods of improving and funding projects concerning historical properties.

We congratulate the **City of Arroyo Grande** and the **HRC** committee members – **Bill Hart, Norma Harloe, Gerry Fesler, and Gary Scherquist**. **Jean Hubbard and Gordon Bennett** serve as resource persons. **Assistant City Planner Jim Bergman** works with the **HRC** and is to be commended also.

History has been made with the fine work of these **volunteers** and the **AG City Council**. And I tell you proudly, they are all members of **SCHS**! Each participant has reflected our mission statement *on the move!* And with their vision, they have ensured that the vital connection between people and their places remains possible by extending this legacy to future generations!

I know now that change must be accompanied by vision or it diminishes us as a whole. And I submit to you that **SCHS** will stay its course!



### Preservation Awards

**T**hree members of our Society were among the ten county-wide honorees recognized with Preservation Awards during the SLO County Historical Society's Annual Meeting in April. **Loren Mankins** and **Jane Line** were this year's recipients. In 2007, the program, **Charles and Wanda Porter** were recognized of our efforts in preserving local history.



—Photos by Effie McDermott

## CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

### Heritage Square Museums

Open Saturday, 12-3 PM

Open Sunday, 1-4 PM

### Historic IOOF Hall

Open Friday, 1-5 PM

Open Saturday, 1-5 PM

### Pat Loomis Library

Open M-F, 1-5 PM

### Paulding History House

Open 1st Sat each Month 1-3

May 5

### Paulding Monthly Meeting

Paulding Work Days, 9-12am  
Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, & 28

May 8

6:30 PM General Meeting  
& Potluck, Hiawatha Lodge

3065 Temple, Halcyon

### Friday & Saturday

May 9 & May 10

After Silence: Film shows at

1:30, 2:30, and 3:30

### Board Meeting

April 16 7:00 pm

IOOF Hall

### Friday & Saturday

May 16 & May 17

Toyo Miyatake -Infinite

Shades of Gray

Film Shows at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30

### Friday, Saturday & Sunday

May 23, 24 and 25

(Strawberry Festival Weekend)

A Tradition of Honor

Film Shows at 1:30 & 3:00

May 23 8-1

Strawberry Festival Cook-Off

8-1:00

May 23 & 24

Strawberry Festival

### Friday & Saturday

May 30 & May 31

Diamonds in the Rough

The Legacy of Japanese-American Base-  
ball

Film Shows at 1:15, 2:15 & 3:15 pm

Happy Mother's Day

May 11

## Civil War Veteran at Rest in Arroyo Grande



Otis W. Smith shortly before his death at a Veterans Hospital in Southern California. A stroke reduced his mobility in his last years. Smith spoke so little about his time in the war, his family found out only a few years ago that he had received the medal of Honor. Photo courtesy Thelma Conrow

Ed. Note: The following material is excerpted from an article in the The Tribune, May 28, 2001 By David Middlecamp

It's almost forgotten now, but Memorial Day began as a way to remember the dead of the Civil War, a war whose soldiers made heroism so common the nation had to create a new decoration to recognize it: the Medal of Honor.

Cemeteries in the east are full of grave markers noting Civil War soldiers who died and were granted the medal.

Such a hero is here as well—in Arroyo Grande Cemetery. The carved granite headstone of Otis W. Smith only hints at the tales he could have told.

His granddaughter says Otis Smith never talked about the war. The family didn't even know he had been decorated with the nation's highest award for valor until a couple of years ago.

"He never said a word," said Thelma Conrow, now in her 80s.

It turns out the man who ended life as a Huasna rancher was a hero in a little-celebrated battle that many historians believe decided the Civil War.

### Ohio volunteer

Otis W. Smith was a volunteer private in Ohio's 95th Infantry. The war was a little over a year old and going badly for the Union when he signed on for three years of service at the age of 17 in August 1862.

Smith was the fourth of seven children born to Cyrus and Mary Smith. His father was a doctor. Otis Smith listed his own occupation as laborer on his discharge documents. He was 5 feet 7 inches with blue eyes, a fair complexion and light hair.

Exactly why he enlisted is a matter of speculation. It could be that his brother-in-law Peter Stricklin persuaded him to join.

A day after enlisting into the Union army, his company received marching orders to Richmond, Kentucky. Poorly led, under trained, overconfident and outnumbered, they were surrounded by veteran Confederates and forced to surrender a mere 11 days after joining the army.

### Ill-starred in battle

But war was young, and in 1862 both sides still exchanged prisoners. Two months later the 95th was back at home reorganizing and getting training it obviously needed.

The regiment returned to action along the Mississippi River, fighting from Vicksburg to Tupelo, but still facing more than its share of defeat. In June 1864, troops under Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest killed, wounded or captured half the regiment.

In December 1864, the 95th received urgent orders to join Union forces gathering  
(Continued next page)

**(Forgotten Hero— continued)**

in Nashville, Tenn. to face an invading Confederate army under John Bell Hood. Hood was known as an aggressive and courageous fighter, but the war had extracted its cost. Wounded twice in battle, he could only ride by being strapped onto his horse.

If the grand strategies were unknown to Pvt. Otis W. Smith, Company G, 95th Ohio Infantry, he did know one thing: the weather was foul.

The temperatures dropped below freezing on Dec. 8.

For four days sleet fell, covering everything with glittering ice. Then a thaw turned the countryside into a morass of mud.

When weather conditions improved on Dec. 15, the Union army launched an attack and Smith would find himself in the center of the action for the next two days. The 95th Ohio Volunteers was about to shed its hard-luck reputation.



**Charging like wild buffaloes**

The main assault would include the 95th. Smith’s regiment attacked and took two gun-covered hills, “charging like wild buffaloes,” according to one report. Local legend says that a person walking from the Confederate lines atop the hill could step from one blue coat to another all the way down. The 95th stood 600 yards from the enemy positions on Shy’s Hill. Late in the day, as a cold rain began to fall, the order came to fix bayonets. The battle had come down to a desperate charge uphill into the enemy’s whistling fire. In their exhaustion and haste the night before, the Confederates had set their lines too far back from the hill’s edge, making it difficult to fire down on the charging Union troops. The result was catastrophe. The wave of blue broke through. “I beheld for the first and only time a Confederate Army abandon the field in confusion,” Hood said. A few measures of the battle’s ferocity: the division that included the 95th Regiment fired 84,000

bullets and 4,681 cannonballs during the two-day battle; in this single attack, northern troops captured Confederate Brigadier-Generals T. B. Smith, Henry Jackson and Major Jacob Lash, along with 82 staff and officers as well as 1,533 enlisted men. Almost 10 percent of the rebel Army of Tennessee was captured or killed in the few hours between 3:30 p.m. and sunset; it was the South’s most lopsided defeat. Hood retreated with the remnants of his army to Tupelo, Miss., and resigned. **And somewhere in the melee, Otis Smith took the flag of the 6th Florida Volunteers.**

The entry on the official Medal of Honor Web Page is tantalizingly brief. **“While serving with Co. G 95th OVI (Ohio Volunteer Infantry) he captured the flag of the 6th Florida Infantry during desperate hand-to-hand fighting.”**

In the era before telephones...battle flags were more than a bit of bright cloth. They ...embodied a unit’s pride. If a flag bearer fell, another soldier was expected to immediately pick it up and save it at all costs. A unit that could not protect its flag was a unit shamed. Regimental flags were so important that the capture of an enemy flag or saving your unit’s colors earned the automatic bestowal of the Medal of Honor. The medal was created during the Civil War to recognize uncommon valor. Smith was one of 1,195 army recipients of the honor during the war. Almost one third of the 154 Ohio medal of honor recipients earned it capturing an enemy flag or saving their own. The flag of the 6th Regiment of Florida Volunteer Infantry in the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee has inked onto the white bars “Captured by Otis W. Smith, Co G 95th O.V.C, The Battle of Brentwood Hills near Nashville, Dec. 16th, 1864.” Four months later, the South would surrender. Of the 1,085 men who joined the 95th, only 500 or so survived to war’s end. Of those who perished, half died from disease.” Smith came to California in 1905 after some time in the gold fields of South Dakota. He died March 10, 1923, and was buried in the Arroyo Grande cemetery among several of his fellow Ohio veterans. Today it bears an official marker from the government, and his wife made a Medal of Honor flag that flies over the grave on.... all Memorial days.



**MEDAL OF HONOR FLAG**



**Symbolism:** The light blue color and white stars are adapted from the Medal of Honor ribbon. The flag commemorates the sacrifice and blood shed for our freedoms and gives emphasis to the Medal of Honor being the highest award for valor by an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

**Background: Public Law 107-248**, Section 8143, legislated the creation of a Medal of Honor Flag for presentation to each person to whom a Medal of Honor is awarded after the date of the enactment, October 23, 2002. A panel of eight members made of representatives from each Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard), one Office of Secretary Defense staff, one historian and one representative from the Medal of Honor Society was formed to review and evaluate all designs submitted and make a final recommendation to the Principal Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. On December 2004, the design submitted by Ms. Sarah LeClerc, Illustrator at the Institute of Heraldry was approved.

—[www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Flags\\_Guidons/MedalOfHonorFlag.htm](http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Flags_Guidons/MedalOfHonorFlag.htm)

## The Heritage Series: Dr. Paulding's Letters

### Paulding Letter

Arroyo Grande, Cal. April 1 '84

Dear sister,

Your very welcome letter came last week. I was very glad to hear from you. I am sorry you did not go to the wedding. You would not feel right if one of the family should serve you in the same way. You could have told her that you would go, though you did not especially desire the match. I did not, but must accept the inevitable and will treat her as I do the rest of my married in relatives. As to the sister in law I shall bring into the family, of course I shall think her very nice, and as to the rest of you, it won't be likely to be of much consequence as you will see very little of her, unless you were out here.

I like this country well enough now to feel as if it were my house. I would not mind an occasional visit home, but as to living there again, it is something I never expect to happen, though there are strange happenings in this world. Not that I do not love my old home, but because I have become fascinated by the new. I see men come poor and in two years they are well to do. Prosperity is the rule and only lack of thrift, or drunkenness, makes the exception. There are about twenty ignorant Portuguese who came here three or four years ago poor and took hold of some of the meanest looking of the monte land, cleared it, and now have the best lands in the valley. They spend, each, more for gold watches and jewelry, than would support the family at home. Jim Lewis, the carpenter who built my office, is a later example. He came here last May with less than fifty dollars. He soon bought a town lot. He got an offer of a little farm. He sold half his lot for enough to make the first payment, and will, in a year, have a bean ranch clear of debt, that will bring him in \$1000 a year. Then there is Dr. Paulding. Some are predicting a like success.

Oh! I forgot this letter is to be all about the climate. You must not think that is in anyway different from the climate east, only steadier. You must pick out in your mind a bad drizzly or rainy day of spring or fall and multiply it by thirty or forty, with perhaps a little break of springlike sunshine now and then, and you have our winter. Never too cold for more than ordinary winter clothing, rubber coat included. Then pick out one of your prettiest days of May, the sun not too warm and multiply that by one hundred or so and you have spring as it now is. You may occasionally throw in a rain or a day a little too warm in the sun for an overcoat, but the winter clothes are worn, and are not too warm as a rule, the day and season around. Now take a June day, one with cool mornings and evening and multiply that indefinitely. You will understand our summers. Next take an October day, not an Indian summer one, but a delightful one. Let it be also a dry and dusty one and run the rest of the year out with such days. There is no rain expected from May until October and not much then until Christmas, but the fogs keep things green and growing. There has been no rain now for two weeks. Garden sass is coming in. Cabbage we have the year around, Lettuce asparagus, onions and radishes are getting plentiful. Strawberries have been in bloom some time and will soon be on hand again, to last all summer and fall. I saw them as late as November last fall, and I picked a handful of raspberries on Christmas day and ate them. Strawberries are already in the San Francisco market, \$1.50 per lb. They are never less than 25 cts. As for Spring "stopping to play with the lambs at the Golden Gate" it is very pretty, but should be put Arroyo Grande instead, for there are not lambs at the Golden Gate. A goat could hardly find subsistence there, and a goat is not a very practical creature.

Now the climate is not worth living in anywhere else in California than along the coast. The summers in the San Joaquin (Wah-keen') and Sacramento valleys are almost unbearably hot, dry and dusty, and of course the winters on the Sierras are very severe, however delightful the summers may be. If one wants a fine climate he should live in San Francisco or make that his head quarters. Over half the days would be just right. The hot days he could go to the ocean beach where it is always cool. The cold foggy days he could go over inland a few miles and get lovely weather. Even across the bay at Oakland it is much warmer than in Frisco. Or he could live up in Truckee or by Lake Tahoe (Ta'o) in summer and go to San Diego (de a'go) in winter and spend the spring here and the fall in Oregon.

It is like an inspiration to take a horse and canter down toward the beach these fine mornings. I have a patient down that way now, and there is one place where one feels as if he could never tire of the scene. Away off to the right the rough mountains slope off toward the rough headland known as Whalers Point, from the fact of there being a whaling station there. (Six whales have been taken this past winter.) At the Point is situated Port Harford. All up the slope is pasture and grain and studded here and there with live-oaks. On the left is a hill, not very high, but a study. Sloping toward the north it is covered with vegetation. I could stick in lots of Spanish names like the author of "The Silverado Squatters" and like him make lots of mistakes but I will not deal in anything I don't understand, but that slope is a picture. Gray blends into green and green into blue. The silvery grease wood add a luster of metal, and the flowers growing in the midst blend the hues in a bewildering manner. Here a little hill is covered with a wide faced, bright looking blue flower that makes it look like a heaven here below. There another hill is yellow with Johnny-Jump-Ups and butter cups and another red with filarea blooms. There great banks of ferns nearly as high as your head look like a sea with its waves all petrified. The gnarled trunks and limbs of the live oak seem loth to leave an earth so beautiful and bend down as it to caress the flowers that spring on every side.

I will send you some wild flowers, but you cannot get an idea from the dried up specimens of the wealth of flowers that grow on these north hillsides. They have the true, wild woody fragrance of wild flowers anywhere.

Arroyo Grande is growing. Five new buildings are going up. A hall that will be the largest between Monterey and Los Angeles. I think it will be converted into a cannery before long. I don't want the place to grow too much. Three or four doctors would come in and there would be little more to do than now. I have too good a thing here now to be anxious about hunting up "B".

I will tell Dr. Bartholemew about Mary's scheme. If business keeps up like it is, I'll be ready for Mary before long. But she would better not come in the fall. She would get too home sick. I had not heard of Jimmie Johnson's death. It was very sad.

#### Editor's Note:

*In this issue of the newsletter, we are reproducing the sixth of fourteen letters written by Dr. Paulding to his sister "Tene" when he first left his home and headed West. The letters are reproduced here without editing as he wrote them.*

(Continued from previous page)

There is still hope for me if Dan Spencer is married. I have no one on the string now, but the girls are all very nice to me, especially since I have got my office done. She's a daisy – the office – olive green wall paper with mazarine blue border and a dado. There is no use being anything if one cant be aesthetic.

All that worries me is to know where to put things. The operating table disposes of the bed clothes. The washstand for lots of little traps, but I have lots of traps that I can find no place for.

My little Jew still lives. I don't know what I would do if he should die or get well (I don't know yet which he will do) as he is worth forty dollars a week to me. I would like for him to get well though. My luck is to get desperately bad cases. I have brought three or four through that nobody had any hopes for, and I'm the fashion now. The San Louis doctors seldom come down now, and the old doctor is not bothered in the completion of his house very much.

Give my love to all enquiring friends.  
Your brother Ed.

**Membership: Co-Chairs— Paulette McCann and Bee Hodges**

Membership is planning a major Corporate Membership & Pledge Fundraising Event, May 30, 2008, a "Wine, History and Cheese" social. If you know of a VP or Manager of a corporation, professional entity, or an individual that you think should be invited please let Paulette or Bee know: phone Ruby's House 489-8282 and give us the name, address and phone number by May 2nd, so it can be included in the invitation list.

Our Society is sustained through the devotion, dedication and support of our many volunteers, the financial support from our patrons, membership contributions and dues.

If you would like to make a donation to our Society, please consider our major projects for 2008:

- the new permanent display for the Branch Millstones
- restoration and repair of Paulding History House, including state and national historical designation
- ongoing improvements to the IOOF Historic Hall and its exhibits.

If you are a corporation member, Corporate Memberships (or employee matching memberships) are available in the amounts shown below in the renewal form. Give us a call if you would like to learn the advantage of being a Corporate Member.

**YOUR PLANNED GIFT** may some day be of great importance to the future of the South County Historical Society. Please contact the Society at (805) 489-8282 to discuss your gifts to support the Society in its dedication to research, restoration and dissemination of information to enhance and preserve our local historical heritage.



Individual.....\$15	Family w/children under 18.....\$40	Patron (business/individual)....\$200
Couple.....\$30	Sustaining (individual).....\$100	Life (individual).....\$500+

**Corporate Memberships**

Platinum.....\$5,000	Gold.....\$2,500	Silver.....\$1,000
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**MEMBERSHIP SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

RENEWAL

NEW

Name (s) \* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \* \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \* \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check or money order payable to **SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO Box 633, Arroyo Grande Ca 93421.**

If you wish to receive a copy of the Membership Directory by mail, please add \$2.00 donation to your check to cover the cost.

**NOTE: (\*Starred information will be printed in annual Membership Directory distributed to members unless you indicate otherwise.)**



**Publicity Director, Vivian Krug**  
Community Relations, Publicity and Web News

## Calling All Artists

The South County Historical Society is announcing its search to find a new logo for our Society. The logo should be a simple black and white or color drawing that can be used on letterhead, stationery, the web, brochures, program announcements and press pieces. We are looking for a logo that speaks to our mission for research, restoration and dissemination of information to preserve our historical heritage.

We are really looking forward to seeing some new ideas, especially from graphics students, artists, designers and innovators who would like to help the Historical Society or have experience in or a passion for the Society's mission. Everyone is welcome to submit their ideas and artwork.

Other than the few guidelines below, submissions are limited only by your imagination and inspiration.

The logo should:

- Be distinct, unique and easily identifiable
- Remain clear and identifiable at small sizes and large/sharp enough to be blown into signage
- Convey the concept of our historical heritage and preservation mission
- Aesthetically fit in with a broad range of site/application designs and sizes
- Provide a clear silhouette that can be rendered in multiple colors

As part of the submission, you must be willing to give up all your rights to the copyright and donate it to the community via the South County Historical Society. You will be recognized as the designer of the logo when the final selection has been made in both an upcoming Society, Heritage Press Newsletter and a press release to the media which will be made announcing the new logo.

Submissions can be made via email with a high resolution JPG/GIF/TIF or an original drawing to Vivian@EmotionsCards.com or snail mailed to Vivian Krug, South County Historical Society, P.O. Box 633, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421.

Deadline for submissions is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

If you have any questions, please call me at 805.458.3321 or email me at Vivian@EmotionsCards.com



**Museums Curator**  
-Jan Scott

## THE CURATOR'S WISH LIST

As we head into summer, we start thinking of things that would make life easier, as we continue the never-ending job of keeping our collection in order:

### **A DIGITAL CAMERA**

Our poor little guy has taken thousands of digital pictures of artifacts over the last years. It has given us mighty service, but it is struggling. We can no longer frame looking at the back of the camera, but must use the tiny viewfinder, and then adjust for the off-centeredness of the borders so it doesn't end up cutting off most of the object being photographed. It is a constant struggle.

We don't need a new camera, but it must be digital. We don't need a lot of bells and whistles, but close-up capability is required. It doesn't have to be compact. If you're upgrading or going thinner/smaller, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of your old camera. We are in desperate need.

### **BUGGY RESTORATION FOLK**

We have been given a buggy by Bill Hart. Unfortunately, it had been used as a planter for many years. It is in pieces, in dire need of loving restoration. We need someone who can figure out what that really means. And if we have someone who would be devoted to such a job, we also need: a storage place — a location to store the buggy while it is being worked on, and even after it is completed.

### **MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS:**

A SHELVING UNIT THAT SITS ON A DESK

A SMALL BOOKCASE THAT COULD BE WALL-MOUNTED

But, if I had only one wish it would be the camera. **Please help if you can. Thanks, Jan Scott**



## Gold Star Mother Finds Poppies in Flanders Field

### Ellen V. (John L.) Tarwater was the first Gold Star Mother of Arroyo Grande.

*Arroyo Grande.* Her son Albert Tarwater was wounded and died in a hospital in France during World War I. She was one of the first group of Gold Star Mothers who, as guests of the United States government, made the first pilgrimage to the graves of their soldier sons of World War I: those who sleep "where poppies grow in Flanders fields."

It was the custom during World War I and continued in WW II to hang a small rectangular flag with a white or blue star in the center in the window if a family had a husband or son serving in the armed forces.

If the service man died while serving his country, the star changed to gold. Hence, the designation, Gold Star Mother.

Ellen Blair was born Oct. 25, 1869 to Adam and Mary Blair. She married John Tarwater in 1891 and lived for most of her married life on their Huasna ranch. A few years before her death at 90, they retired and moved into Arroyo Grande.

Probably one of the great highlights of her life was the trip as guest of the government in 1930 to visit her son Albert's grave in France. Arriving in Paris, her group (they were grouped by the cemetery they were to visit) was assigned to Hotel Paris. The following morning was spent in getting special identification cards and changing their money.

"After lunch," wrote Tarwater in her diary, "we were taken to the Arc de Triomphe where services were held for the unknown soldier of the French and where we placed a wreath on the tomb."

"On June 16th, we started for St. Mihiel cemetery, traveling that day as far as Bar-le-Due, where we stayed the night.

"The next morning we left Bar-le-Due, and traveled through some of the battlefields, going over the 'sacred road,' so-called by the French as it was the only road over which our soldiers could get supplies.

"About every mile, there was a small monument at the side of the road, approximately two feet high with a helmet on the top and a palm branch. "We arrived at the cemetery at St. Mihiel at about 10:30 a.m." continued Tarwater. "Beautiful wreaths had been prepared for each member in the party and two flags, one American and one French, were placed at each soldier's grave.

"The headstones are white marble crosses with the soldier's name, date of death and the outfit to which he belonged. There are some stones unmarked; only God knows the name. Each mother or widow was given a wreath and helped to find her loved one's grave.

"My boy was in the 91st Division, Co. G., 364 Inft.," said Tarwater,

"and was wounded Sept. 26 as he went over the top, was given first aid and taken to the hospital where he died on Oct. 29th. "The cemetery was all level and planted to beautiful lawn, which is well kept at all times. "The St. Mihiel cemetery being a short distance from Thiancourt, we went there for lunch. It was the first village captured by the American soldiers. "In the afternoon, we returned to the cemetery and had our pictures taken beside the grave of our loved one," she added.

The mothers and widows stayed near the cemetery for five days, visiting morning and afternoon. They were taken through the battle-field areas, where, 12 years after the armistice, the scars of war were slow to heal. Trenches and shell holes still picked the land; acres of stumps, sprouting new trees, were beginning to reclaim the forests; entire villages were piles of rubble. But softening all of this were the tenacious red poppies so immortalized by John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields."

On June 20th, Tarwater stood at her son's grave for the last time. "It was sad knowing many of us would never be here again, and as I stood by the grave of my boy for the last time, there was a peace come over me and I was so glad I had been given the privilege to see his last resting place," she wrote.

—Excerpt taken from articles written by Jean Hubbard for the  
Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder

*McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres salient in the spring of 1915.*

*IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow*

*Between the crosses row on row,*

*That mark our place; and in the sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago*

*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*

*Loved and were loved, and now we lie*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:*

*To you from failing hands we throw*

*The torch; be yours to hold it high.*

*If ye break faith with us who die*

*We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*

*In Flanders fields.*

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918) Canadian Army



## Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center

-Craig Rock, Librarian and Resource Center Director



### **Japanese-American Exhibit: New Film Showings at the IOOF Hall This Summer**

I hope most of you have had a chance to visit our Japanese American exhibit at the IOOF Hall. More than \$1,200 was raised from the exhibit's third phase opening on the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange thanks to the generosity of the Hayashi and Ikeda families. This brings the total amount raised to nearly \$3000 from this exhibit. Several members who attended the event mentioned that they were surprised that a history of a vegetable exchange could be so interesting. This comment was partly due to the lively presentation by Tom and Vard Ikeda. (See photographs on the following page.)

The exhibit has been extended through September 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we'll be showing several films throughout the summer at the IOOF Hall during museum hours (1-5 pm) on Fridays and Saturdays. The first four films in May will focus on exhibit-related themes. The remaining schedule of films will be available at the IOOF Hall or at our other museums by May 16. Suggested Donation for each film is \$2.00 for adults.

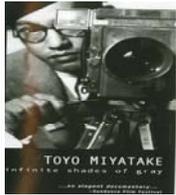
#### **Friday and Saturday May 9 and May 10**

**After Silence**, 30 minutes, Shows at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30

As a child, Dr. Frank Kitamoto and his family lived on Bainbridge Island near Seattle, the first place where the U.S. government ordered Japanese Americans to leave their homes. For decades, the Japanese American community rarely spoke of the disturbing experiences of their exclusion and incarceration. Dr. Kitamoto tells the story to high school students as they help him develop archival photographs in the school dark-room.

#### **Friday and Saturday May 16 and May 17**

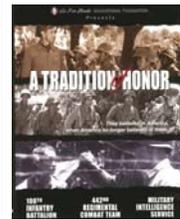
**Toyo Miyatake – Infinite Shades of Gray**, 30 minutes, Shows at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30



Having smuggled a lens and film holder into one of America's internment camps during World War II, Miyatake was the first to photograph this national disgrace. Yet it was his little-known artistic pursuits before the war that honed his discerning eye. The film is a penetrating portrait of this photographer's quest to capture the beauty and dignity of everyday life. Mr. Miyatake's family still operates photographic studios today in Los Angeles.

#### **Friday and Saturday and Sunday May 23, 24 and 25 (Strawberry Festival weekend)**

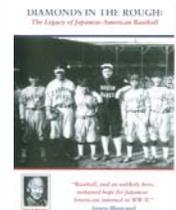
**A Tradition of Honor**, 82 minutes, Shows at 1:30 PM and 3 PM



This film reveals the compelling accounts of the men who risked their lives at a time when America questioned their loyalty and incarcerated their families. For its size and length of service, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team including the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, became the most decorated unit in American military history. The film includes interviews with more than forty veterans who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup>, the 100<sup>th</sup>, or in the military intelligence service.

#### **Friday and Saturday May 30 and May 31**

**Diamonds in the Rough, the Legacy of Japanese-American Baseball**. 35 minutes. Shows at 1:15, 2:15, and 3:15.



Behind barbed wire, baseball helped many people survive the ordeal of internment camps set up for Japanese Americans. One man became a hero. His name was Kenichi Zenimura. Today he is commonly referred to as "The Father of Japanese-American Baseball." This poignant documentary pays tribute to Zeni; however, it is much more than the biography of one man, it is the story of a legacy in which baseball helped transcend bigotry and hatred to bring pride and respect to Japanese Americans who loved the game.

**Interview on POVE with Vard & Tom Ikeda can be heard on podcast on KCBX.com. Click on Podcast, then on "Keeping it Fresh", then click on the April 2 program.**

# Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange Exhibit



Vard (pictured) and Tom Ikeda recounted the history of the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange at the April 5 exhibit opening.



The crowd enjoyed a tasty barbeque with all food donated by the Hayashi Farms and served by the Ikeda and Hayashi family members. More than \$1,200 was raised for our programs.



(Top) Fresh vegetables from the Ikeda Brothers Farm were on display.  
(Left) Sharan Ikeda and her husband, Andy Greenwood, served homemade side dishes.



Above: Haruo Hayashi on the left, and Frank Koyanagi worked with Lillian Sakurai on developing a list of local Japanese-American veterans.

Crowds mingle checking out photos and artifacts at the IOOF Exhibit Hall.



—Photographs by Craig Rock at the IOOF Hall

The Board of Directors recently amended the Bylaws and Standing Rules to clarify how the Bylaws, Standing Rules and Membership Directory are made available to the membership. The changed sections are in “quotations” below. The Standing Rules are published herein in their entirety, but only the amendment to the Bylaws is published below due to space constraints. We anticipate bringing some other Bylaws clarifications to the membership at the next annual membership meeting. A complete set of the current Bylaws is available at the Society’s business office. --Effie McDermott, Parliamentarian

**Amendment to Bylaws, Article III, Section 10 Standing Rules:**

*“The Board shall adopt Standing Rules that shall be distributed to each new member subsequent to the payment of appropriate dues, shall be available at the Society business office and shall be distributed to the membership annually. Standing Rules may be published on the website. In the event of an amendment, it shall be distributed to the membership in the next newsletter.”*

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**SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY STANDING RULES**

Revised and Adopted by the Board of Directors on April 16, 2008

The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year. The Annual Dues shall be as follows:

Individual.....\$15	Family w/children under 18.....\$40	Patron (business/individual)....\$200
Couple.....\$30	Sustaining (individual).....\$100	Life (individual).....\$500+
Corporate Memberships		
Platinum.....\$5,000	Gold.....\$2,500	Silver.....\$1,000

Life members shall pay dues only once.

All New Members shall pay the same amount of dues as all prior year members would pay before February 1.

Regular Membership meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except during the months of June, July and December, unless otherwise notified via the Society’s newsletter or by separate mailing.

Regular Board meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month except during the months of June, July and December, unless otherwise notified.

All Board Meetings are open to Society members and the public and they may place items on the agenda by contacting the President at least one week before the meeting and prior to the agenda being mailed to Board members.

Treasurer shall present a Budget for the next calendar year at the October Board of Directors meeting for Board approval.

Memorial Contributions are special contributions made to the Society in the name of a deceased person in any amount the donor wishes to contribute.

The SCHS Endowment Fund shall be controlled by the elected Treasurer. The Funds shall be kept separate from other funds and shall be invested in interest-bearing instruments of the Treasurer’s choosing. The Board of Directors is not allowed to draw upon the principal of the Endowment Fund. Interest Earnings may be rolled over into principal or utilized by the SCHS in the General Fund At the discretion of the Board.

*“A copy of the Society’s Bylaws shall be distributed to each new member subsequent to the payment of appropriate dues and shall be available at the Society business office for inspection by any member in good standing. The Bylaws may be published on the website.”*

*“A copy of the Society’s Membership Directory shall be available at the Society business office for inspection by any member in good standing, and may be made available to members in good standing for a fee as may be set by the board of directors from time to time to cover costs of duplication and mailing. The Membership Directory may not be published on the website.”*

**Audit Committee Report —Paulette McCann, Chair**

Committee: Effie McDermott, Kirk Scott, Edie Juck

The Audit Committee has reviewed the 2007 financial records. The Committee interviewed Society members regarding financial and security procedures. The overall assessment is that the Society is doing an excellent job and is financially sound. The audit was submitted to the Board at the April 16, 2008 meeting and the Audit Committee was discharged of its duties for the year.

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**(I am particularly proud of the hard work of our audit committee. Their thoroughness and recommendations will further refine our financial handling procedures and help us continue on as a financially stable organization.**

—Gary Hoving, Treasurer)



## 6th Year Annual Strawberry Festival Cook-Off Is Back!

2007 AG Strawberry Festival Cook-Off and cookbook sales brought in \$1,000 this year for the Society. We had 53 strawberry creations entered last year. This year's event will be on Friday May 23 at the Gazebo on Mason Street in the Village. Entries (strawberry of course) will be accepted from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Entry fee is \$5.00 and with that you have a chance at some great prizes, cash and a whole lot of fun! Please come out and support this special event for the SCHS. We are also in need of sponsors to help with costs and prizes. The 2008 Strawberry Festival Cookbooks go on sale the week of May 19th, and cost only \$10.00 per book. Reserve a copy now!

For more information on this "Fundraiser", to buy a cookbook or even submit a strawberry recipe for future publications contact Teri Kelley Nixon at [teresakelley62@hotmail.com](mailto:teresakelley62@hotmail.com), or phone at 805-546-1465 or 805-546-8520.

### 2008 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

#### Directors and Committees

<b>President</b>	<b>Jane Line</b>	<b>481-6510</b>
Programs	Craig Rock	
<b>Ways &amp; Means—First VP</b>		
Books & Publishing	Loren Nicholson	
Antiques Show	Gary Hoving & Ross Kongable	
Events Coordinator	Shelly Cochran, Doug LeSage	
Summer Concerts		
Adopt-A-Poll	Paulette McCann	489-4905
<b>Membership—2nd VP Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Bee Hodges &amp; Paulette McCann</b>	<b>473-1611</b>
Corporate Membership Sales	Bee Hodges & Paulette McCann	
Heritage Press Newsletter, Editor	Bee Hodges <a href="mailto:hodges39@sbcglobal.net">hodges39@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Sunshine	Ethel M. Gilliland	473-0175
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Elaine Parrent</b>	<b>489-3486</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Berneda Cochran</b>	<b>489-4129</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gary Hoving</b>	<b>929-3106</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Vivian Krug</b>	<b>458-3321</b>
Webmaster	Vivian Krug	
Photography	Vivian Krug & Various Members	
<b>Paulding History House Curator</b>	<b>Chuck Fellows</b>	<b>481-3464</b>
Paulding Committee	Jean Hubbard	
<b>Museums Curator</b>	<b>Jan Scott</b>	<b>481-4435</b>
Assistant Curator	Joe Swigert	
Heritage House	Joe Swigert	
Santa Manuela Schoolhouse	Kathleen Sullivan	
The Barn	Orville Schultz	
Library & Resource Center	Craig Rock	
<b>Property Management</b>	<b>Charles Porter</b>	<b>929-1014</b>
Vehicles	Chet Thomas	
Gardening—Heritage House	Barbara LeSage	
Gardening—Santa Manuela School	Juan Jazo	
Gardening—Ruby's House	Juan Jazo	
Gardening—Paulding House	Juan Jazo	
<b>Docent Leader</b>	<b>Cynthia Snyder</b>	<b>709-1300</b>
Heritage House Coordinator	Jeanne Frederick	
Paulding House Coordinator	Dee Trybom	
Santa Manuela School Coordinator	Kathleen Sullivan	
Barn	Joe Swigert	
Student Tours	Norma Harloe	
<b>Information Systems</b>	<b>Ross Kongable</b>	<b>489-2885</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Effie McDermott</b>	<b>489-7398</b>

#### Society Information 473-5077

Email: [schs76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schs76@sbcglobal.net) www.SouthCountyHistory.org

Heritage House	481-4126	Paulding History House	473-3231
Santa Manuela School & The Barn	489-8745	Historic Hall	489-8114
	Ruby's House 489-8282		

### Persimmon Bars

(Lillian Sakurai's Recipe)

1 egg

1/4 c. oil

1/2 c. brown sugar

1/2 c. white sugar

1 c. persimmon pulp

1 c. plus 2 tbsp. Flour

1/2 tsp. Cinnamon

1/2 tsp. Nutmeg

1/4 tsp. Cloves

1 tsp. Baking powder

1/2 tsp. Baking soda

1 c. chopped walnuts

1 c. raisins or dates

Combine all ingredients together in order given. Pour into oiled 9x13 inch pan and bake at 325 for 45 minutes. Glaze with equal parts of lemon juice and powdered sugar.

- Splenda & raisins is a no-sugar variation.
- Unbleached flour, canola oil, baking powder, baking soda, walnuts & dates is a no-spice variation.

### "GET WELL WISHES"

**Barbara LeSage**

**Doug LeSage**

**Michael Cox**

**Mary Lou Fink**

Sincere condolences are extended to the

families of:

Elsie Louis

Ken Kitasako

Loren E. Ballagh

Kathleen Sullivan McNeil

Ken Kobara

# SCHS General Meeting & Potluck

Tuesday, May 13, 2008  
6:30 PM

Hiawatha Lodge  
3065 Temple Street  
Halcyon

## “Memorial Day Traditions in South County”

Speakers from the American Legion & VFW

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE  
PATRICIA LOOMIS  
CAROL HIZEY  
HOWARD LOUIS  
OSTY INSURANCE  
CHRISTINE HARVEY  
MIKE FAIRBROTHER  
MARTIN & JANE LINE  
BILL & CHERYL MILLER  
SOUTH COUNTY REALTY  
HOWARD & AILEEN MANKINS  
DOC BURNSTEIN'S ICE CREAM LAB  
SANDRA WORSHAM  
PAT PHELAN  
LESLEY GERBER BENN

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