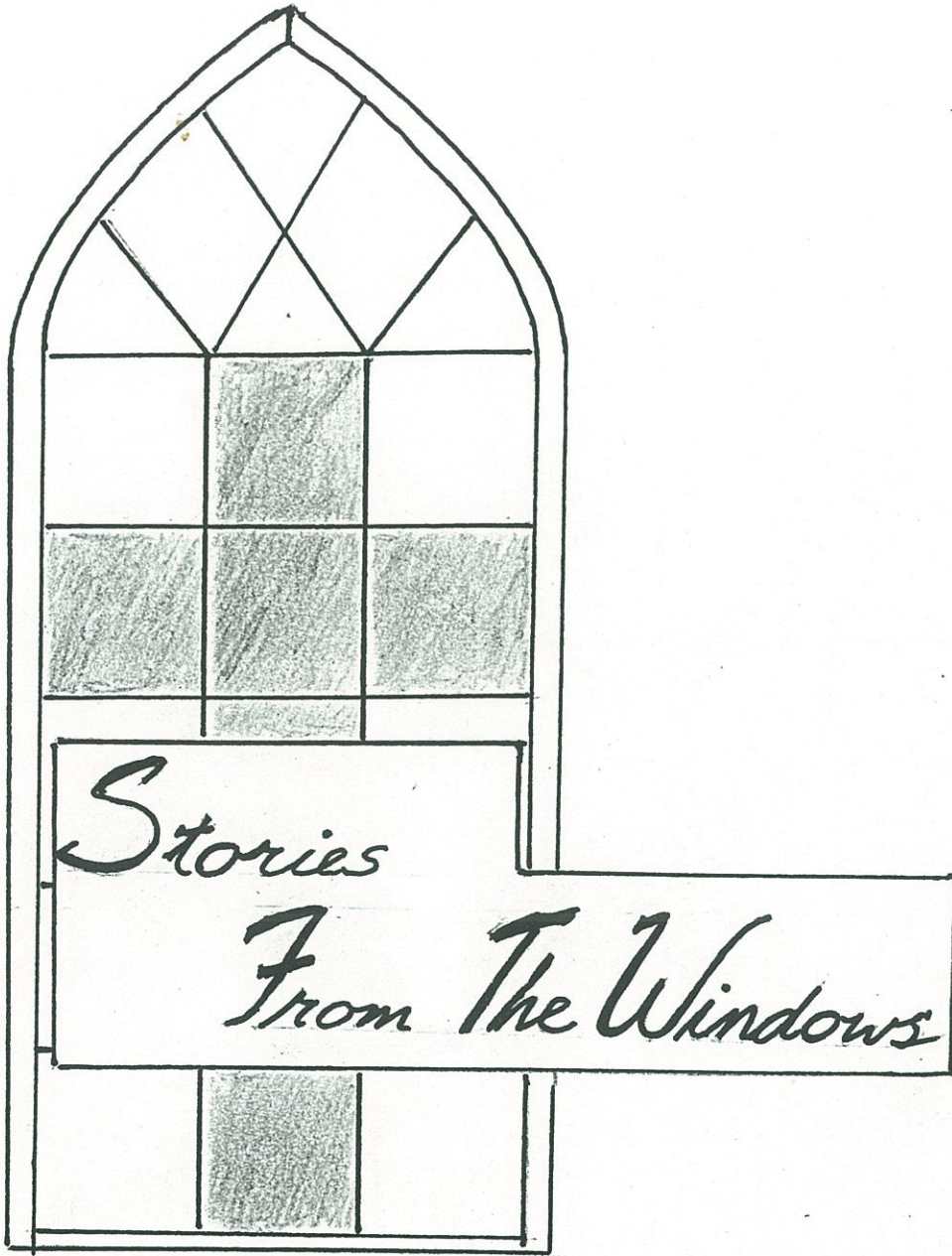


*St. Teresa of Avila
Catholic Church*



Stories From The Windows

By Thomas C. Chapman



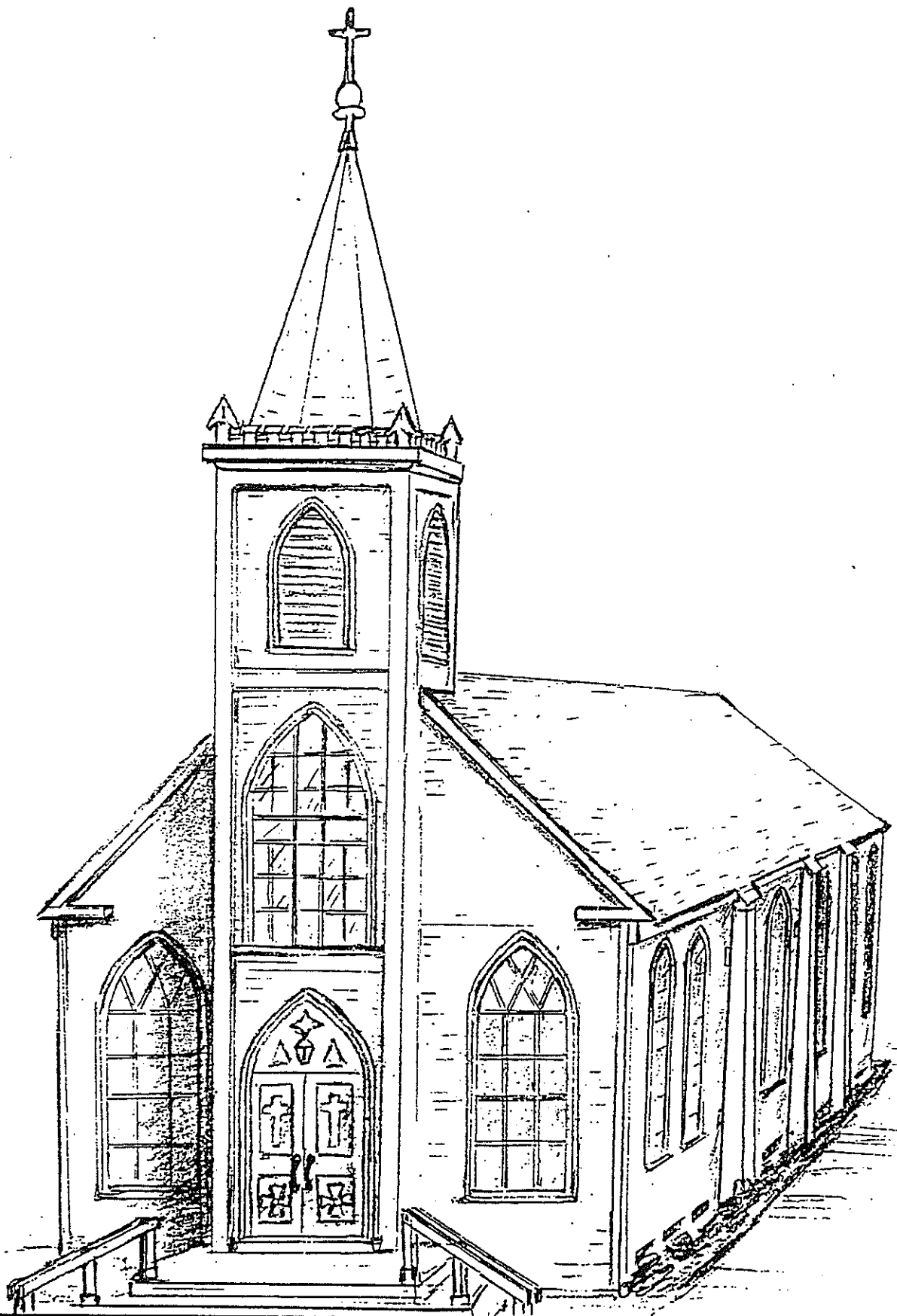
Compiled by: Thomas C. Chapman
(1990 - 1991)



REV. LOUIS ROSSI
First Catholic pastor of western and
central Sonoma County.

This work is dedicated to the
memory of Father Louis Rossi,
who was responsible for having
St. Teresa's Church at Bodega
constructed.

He was born on June 24, 1817,
and died on September 9, 1871



ST. TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH
SINCE 1860

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The following people contributed to the information
contained herein:

Louis and Marie Albini

Edna Bell

Helen Bianchi

David and Edith Bordessa

Ruth Burke

Elsie Carmody

Margaret Cook

Rev. Thomas Devereaux

Rev. Henry Faucher

Helen Fulton

Edward and Dorothy Furlong

Howard and Joyce Furlong

Michael Furlong

Leland and Norma Gleason

Marjorie Gonnella

Marion Kunze

Doris Mann

Carmel McKay

Barbara McKee

Rev. Jerald Thomas

Emil and Ann Valena

Compiled By Thomas C. Chapman
Occidental (1990-1991)

SECTION I.

GROWTH AND CHANGE

(Some Historical Background)

INTRODUCTION

Before getting into the "body" of the material some things should be discussed by way of introduction. Upon entering the church grounds to St. Teresa's Church the bell from times past has been mounted and a sign informing the public about Masses etc. is very visible - underneath is a plaque which has some information. Below is what has been recorded for both:

SIGN IN FRONT OF THE BELL	THE PLAQUE UNDER THE BELL & SIGN (Contains the following information)
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church 1862 — Masses	Constructed of redwood (the church) in 1859 by New England ships carpenters on Spanish land grant donated by Jasper O'Farrell on March 8, 1860 Father Louis Rossi was appointed pastor Archbishop Alemany dedicated the church in the town of Bodega on June 2, 1861 and it has served this coastal community continuously for over a century. (no sentences used on the plaque) California Historical landmark No. 820. Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church and the Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Department June 7, 1968
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	
Tues. Thurs. 9:00 A.M.	

Some comments concerning the information above are needed. The date 1862 on the church sign may be construed to mean the church was built that year, but that is not correct - it was the year when the church was dedicated.

The plaque states that the church was built in 1859 by New England ships carpenters. 1859 is not correct either, for details read the information, first paragraph, on page 1. To date, no documentation has been discovered for the ships carpenters story. Father Rossi wrote his memoirs in 1863 and 1864 and there is no mention of ships carpenters, although he does mention paying laborers. Next item: Spanish land grant of O'Farrell provided the church lot. Jasper O'Farrell never had a Spanish land grant. He was five years old and living in Ireland in 1822 when Spanish rule left California, and there were no Spanish land grants in the Bodega region, but there were several Mexican land grants, for the Mexicans governed California from 1822 until the end of the Mexican War with the United States - peace treaty signed in 1848. Jasper O'Farrell purchased the Estero Americano land from Edward M. McIntosh (Mexican land grant to McIntosh in 1839 and 1844). In 1855 Jasper O'Farrell deeded some of this land to his brother John O'Farrell, and the church lot was a part of this - more details on the next page. Father Rossi was not only pastor for the church at Bodega but from his assignment on March 8, 1860 his pastorate covered a huge "churchless" territory which began at San Antonio Creek at 38° 50' (Marin County) and went all the way up the coast to Crescent City 40° 45'. Tomales became his headquarters and the Bodega church plus others that were constructed during his time in California were all missions attached to the Church of the Assumption at Tomales. The Bodega church was dedicated on May 25, 1862 - see dedication problems on pages 107-108 for details.

DEEDS FOR THE LAND OCCUPIED BY ST. TERESA'S CHURCH

The name of Jasper O'Farrell is constantly being used as the person who donated the land for St. Teresa's Church, but there is no deed on file in the Sonoma County Recorder's Office to support this claim. This makes one wonder how many, if any, of the so-called historians have ever researched County records, or do they simply copy what some writer earlier has recorded? The only deed on file for St. Teresa's Church property is one made on November 20, 1860 in Book II, pp. 206-207, and the grantor was John O'Farrell and the grantee was Archbishop Alemany.

In the memoirs of Father Rossi, who was the first priest assigned to a huge area which included Bodega, on March 8, 1860, he states that Jasper O'Farrell provided him land to build a church, plus money, timber etc. As Father Rossi arrived in March of 1860, the 1859 date for the erection of the church (which appears on the plaque under the bell) is certainly not correct. Within a short time the construction of the church started, and before it was completed, which was in October of 1860, Jasper decided to make the land donation; however, he evidently did not realize that the lot was a part of property he had deeded to his brother John O'Farrell on May 15, 1855. Thus when Jasper O'Farrell attempted to donate the land on September 11, 1860 to Archbishop Alemany of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (of which, this region was a part until 1962) it was rejected because Jasper O'Farrell was not the legal owner of the property. This can be found in the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, among Jasper O'Farrell's papers - C-B 652:19. Shortly thereafter, the legal owner of the land, carried out Jasper and the O'Farrell family's wishes and donated the land for the church; the legal owner was John O'Farrell, as recorded in the first paragraph.

From the BIBLIOGRAPHY of a manuscript written by Geoffrey Mawn, which is entitled: JASPER O'FARRELL: SURVEYOR, FARMER, AND POLITICO, a very extensive study has been made of Jasper O'Farrell's life and activities. This was completed in June of 1970. The bibliographic information of importance to this study concerns the deeds; and that information has been marked.

" O'Farrell, Jasper. [Correspondence and Papers, 1846-1860]. 20 items.

This O'Farrell collection, papers from the T. W. Norris Collection, contains various odds and ends of his correspondence with prominent individuals such as Henry Dalton, Abel Stearns, and James Van Ness, his constituents, and close friends. The topics discussed are, however, of little importance to this biography. The correspondence with Ambrose J.

Hooper of Engels, Hooper & Co. shows the products, prices, and credit rating of O'Farrell." There is

also a deed between Jasper O'Farrell and Archbishop Alemany, dated September 11, 1860, for St. Teresa's Church land; but apparently O'Farrell did not have the legal control of this land on which the church was being constructed as another deed was recorded in the official county records between John O'Farrell and the Archbishop. "

But, in going through Father Rossi's memoirs there is no mention of the deed problem. All that is recorded by Father Rossi is that Jasper O'Farrell asked him if he (Fr. Rossi) would consider having a church built in Bodega (then known as Bodega Corners - started in 1853). Father Rossi agreed and stated that Jasper O'Farrell provided him with the land, lumber, and some money for the church construction. During this time period, John O'Farrell (Jasper's brother) became Jasper O'Farrell's business manager, because he (Jasper) had entered politics and was elected state senator for Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties. This kept Jasper O'Farrell away from home a great deal of the time; thus, the need for his brother to manage his local affairs. Therefore, the church deed, which appears on page 2, could be construed as fulfilling his management task which had become his job.

Starting in January of 1861, it has been discovered that a deed was signed by both Jasper and John O'Farrell, and this arrangement continued until August of 1861. Evidently, some agreement had been made with the County Recorder, for none of these deeds were rejected. However, in August of 1861, John O'Farrell made a deed which made Jasper O'Farrell the sole owner of the remainder of the property, and all deeds that followed have only Jasper O'Farrell's signature. By June 30, 1863 what remained of the Estero Americano land was deeded by Jasper O'Farrell to Benjamin Belloc (Bk. 14, p. 383) and Belloc sold 124 acres of that land to John C. Stump on October 1, 1866 (Bk. 19, p. 626) and Stump sold two acres of this land to Archbishop Alemany for one hundred dollars on June 4, 1869 (Bk. 28, pp. 483,84,85) to be used as a cemetery (the Calvary Cemetery at Bodega). The mention of deeds in this paragraph should not be construed to mean church deeds.

The late dedication/blessing of St. Teresa's Church may cause some people to wonder why it took so long - from 1860 until 1862 before this happened. In going through Archbishop Alemany's book, BISHOP'S VISITATION BOOK, most churches were blessed very shortly after the construction work was completed. Obviously, it was the deed problem. When John O'Farrell prepared his deed on November 20, 1860, he then returned to the County Recorder's Office on the 28th day of November, 1860, and was informed by the County Recorder - Thomas H. Pyatt, that the deed was accepted. This was good news to the O'Farrell family when he returned home that evening. John O'Farrell was living in Jasper and Mary O'Farrell's household in 1860, and Father Rossi was also living with them. It is a supposition, but upon hearing John's news, Father Rossi probably did not waste any time in drafting a letter to Archbishop Alemany to inform him of the good news. We must keep in mind that communication was much slower in those days than now, and the telephone wasn't invented until the 1870's. But, apparently, this news was enough for the Archbishop to make plans to travel up to Bodega to bless the church - he arrived two weeks after the first Mass was celebrated in the new church; the Mass was on Sunday, December 2, 1860, and the Bishop's visit was on Sunday, December 16, 1860. However, the documentation concerning the deed was not in Father Rossi's hands and the Archbishop had not received anything from the County Recorder at Santa Rosa. So, his December 16, 1860 entry states simply that he visited Bodega, but his closing remark states "but the church is not blessed". Shortly thereafter, in January of 1861, Father Rossi left the area on a ship named the COLUMBIA in order to visit

the northern extremes of the territory assigned to him. He landed at Crescent City where he began his work. A substitute priest took charge of the churches he had started in the southern portion of his assignment. The substitute's name has not been provided in the memoirs. The people in the lower portion of the territory saw very little of Father Rossi during 1861, when he did return during the last period of 1861 he took sick and went down to San Francisco for a stay in the hospital. His sickness extended into the beginning of 1862, so possibly the Archbishop did not want to bless the church in Bodega during those times when Father Rossi was not able to be present? After all, he was the priest responsible for having the church built. Perhaps a coincidence, but the church was blessed on May 25, 1862 when Father Rossi was present.

Returning briefly to the delay from the County Recorder concerning notification of the Archbishop about the acceptance of John O'Farrell's deed, a copy of the finalization of the deed from the deed itself is printed below, and it should be noted that the County Recorder and Deputy Recorder did not sign the deed until December 12, 1860 - a Wednesday afternoon, shortly before Sunday the 16th of December when the Archbishop visited Bodega, so there really was not enough time for the mail to be sent to San Francisco; plus, the possibility that the County Recorder may not have considered this a priority.

Deed Book 11, page 207

Thos. H. Pyatt Recorder Sonoma County

And Recorded Dec 12, 1860 at 2 o'clock & 30 min. P.M.

Thomas H. Pyatt County Recorder

J. H. Bond dep. Recorder

GROWTH AND CHANGE

There are no pictures (none discovered) that give some idea what the first church in Bodega looked like. It would appear from the small amount of information available that it was a simple rectangular building - in the 1870's and 1880's changes were made. The building was enlarged, a belfrey and choir loft were added, and by 1886 the first bell was donated. The tendency of people, it has been noticed, is to look at the church as it appears today and to think that it always looked the way it appears now. Just as people change over the years, both inside and outside, so do buildings - with help they grow, without help they fall into ruins.

During the construction year of 1860, the contractors hired to do the church erection in Tomales were Peter Morrissey and Andrew Fisher - recorded in Fr. Jeremiah Ryan's notes as a pastor in Tomales during the 1930's. As there were two contractors in this team, perhaps one took care of the Bodega activities? Just when the construction work in Bodega and Tomales took place can be narrowed down considerably, by some wedding information. Thomas Murray and Hannah Grady wished to be married in April of 1860, as they were both strong Catholics they wanted a Catholic marriage. At the time there was not a Catholic church in either Bodega or Tomales. Thus, Manuela (Smith) Curtis offered the use of her parlor, and Father Rossi performed the ceremony on April 25, 1860 (Addendum of Monro Fraser's History of Sonoma County, printed in 1880). The churches were complete towards the end of October, and the Church of the Assumption was dedicated on November 4, 1860 - reference can be found on page 19, of the BISHOP'S VISITATION BOOK by Archbishop Alemany. St. Teresa's Church in Bodega was completed in October and could have been blessed in November if the property had been donated in time, and it appears that this caused more than one delay. In a History of Sonoma County by Cassidy, printed in 1889, the author states that the church in Bodega was completed in late October of 1860, and in the deed which has been transcribed for easy reading, it is stated: " - - lot of land on which the Roman Catholic Church lately erected now stands," and that deed was written on November 20, 1860.

SOME BACKGROUND FOR FR. ROSSI

Most of our local histories when referring to Father Rossi say that he was of French-Italian origin. He was born in Italy, and when he joined the Passionists Fathers he was sent to France. The information about Rossi's background was supplied to a translator of Fr. Rossi's memoirs, Victor Wortley (Six Years on the West Coast of America 1856-1862) and Prof. Wortley contacted Father Enzo Annibali, Head Archivist of the Passionists in Rome, and he provide a very complete biography of Rossi's life, in part; as follows: He (Rossi) was born in Ferrara, Italy on June 24, 1817 (couple of months younger than Jasper O'Farrell) and his name was Abramo De Rossi. His parents were Graziado Nissim DeRossi and his mother was Anna (Finzi) DeRossi. His parents were Italian Jews, and young Abramo was reared in the Jewish faith. At the age of 19 he converted to the Catholic faith and was baptized on November 19, 1836 and took the name of Luigi Angelo Rossi. In 1863 and 1864 he wrote his memoirs. Fr. Rossi served as a missionary in the state of Washington first and then in northern California.

Father Rossi, due to illness, returned to Europe in 1862, and it was while serving at a church in Paris that he died on September 9, 1871.

The church deed, previously mentioned, can be found in the County Recorder's Office in Santa Rosa - Book 11, pp. 206-7. For easy reading the deed has been transcribed on this page and a copy of the actual signature of John O'Farrell has been included:

This indenture, made this Twentieth day of November in the year of Our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty, between John O'Farrell of Bodega, County of Sonoma and State of California, party of the first part and J.S. Allemany (spelling problem: Joseph Sardoc Alemany is correct) Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, party of the second part, witnesseth, that said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the Sum of One Dollar lawful money of the United States of America to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the ensealment and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has remised, released, and quit-claimed, and by these presents does remise, release and quit-claim, unto the said party of the second part, and unto his successors in office forever, all that certain portion of tract of land, lying being situate in Bodega Township, Sonoma County and State of California being the same lot on which the Roman Catholic Church lately erected now stands, and described as follows Viz. commencing at a stake on the road leading from Santa Rosa to Bodega Port - thence running South sixty one degrees and thirty minutes East (S. 61. 30E) Twenty rods to a stake, thence at right angles and parallel with the first line to a stake on said road thence along said road to the place of beginning containing seventy one hundreths of an acre, more or less.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any sense appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof. And also, all the estate, right, title, interest, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said party of the first part of, in or to the above described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances. To have and to Hold, and singular the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto said party of the second part heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof, the said party of the first part, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and
Delivered in the
presence of etc. etc. }

County Recorder, 1860
Thomas H. Pyatt

2. (Finalized Dec. 12, 1860)
(See INTRODUCTION p. iv.)

In the third line of the deed is recorded "John O'Farrell of Bodega" which may give the impression that he lived in the town of Bodega. In 1860, all the O'Farrells lived on the O'Farrell ranch at Freestone except a sister, Mary Roche, who was married and living near Bodega. The communities of Bodega, Freestone and Occidental were all a part of the Bodega Township. On the 1860 census, Jasper and wife, Mary, and four of their children: William, Helen, John, and Mary were living on the ranch. Included in the household were Jasper's brothers: John and George O'Farrell, sister, Teresa O'Farrell, and their mother, Mary O'Farrell--Jasper's family had come to America in the early 1850's. Father Rossi also lived with the O'Farrells, as did earlier priests who traveled through Marin and Sonoma Counties.

It is recorded in the memoirs of Father Rossi that the church in Tomales was opened for worship on November 4, 1860, and St. Teresa's Church was opened for divine worship the following month, on December 2, 1860. St. Teresa's Church was scheduled by Archbishop Alemany to be dedicated on December 16, 1860, but this event didn't take place until May 25, 1862. (See Introduction pp. iii & iv, see Dedication Problems 107,8)

During the 1860's families began using the church grounds for burials. Burials near churches was an old practice, so it was only natural that the people would want to do this; however, it was soon discovered that the property around St. Teresa's Church was not suited to this type of activity - it is unlikely that the people would want horses and wagons (autos in modern times) parked on the graves of their loved ones. There are not many graves on the church grounds, and only one has continued to be marked - the grave of Ellen Orr. Ellen's story can be found at the end of this manuscript. Arrangements were made to buy some property suitable for cemetery purposes, and within the general boundaries of the community - then known as Bodega Corners. The land selected was once a part of Jasper O'Farrell's land holdings, and this property continues to be the local cemetery. O'Farrell sold the acreage, which included the small part that was to become a cemetery, in 1863 to Benjamin Belloc (Bk. 14, p. 383, Co. Recorder's Office) and in 1866 (Bk. 19, p. 626) Belloc sold 124 acres to John C. Stump. Then, on June 4, 1869, John Stump and wife (Bridget Brannigan Stump) sold two acres of this land to Archbishop Alemany of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (this locality was a part of the San Francisco Archdiocese until 1962). The land was not a donation, as some historians have recorded, it was sold for one hundred dollars. The details can be found in Book 28, page 483 in the County Recorder's Office, or in the Chancery Office of the Santa Rosa Diocese. The new cemetery was given the name CALVARY CEMETERY, which is still its official name. There were two burials in the "new" cemetery the year it was started in 1869, and both still have monuments. The first, Thomas Johnson, was only seven years old, and his monument was broken into several pieces by vandals. The monument has been put back together, but his name is missing. The second burial was made the very day the cemetery deed was signed, June 4, 1869, and the name was Willie Long; he was five years old. The mortality

rate among children was very high in the past, and an examination of gravestones in the cemetery at Bodega makes that evident. On the extreme upper left location of the cemetery is the grave of Ellen Quinlan who died in 1871. When her son, John Quinlan, arranged for a monument to be made for her, he had his father's name inscribed at the top of the monument. The father was Martin Quinlan who died in 1860, and he was the husband of Ellen; however, Martin was not buried here, and where he was buried has not been determined, but possibly his grave is on the church grounds? Placing Martin's name on the tombstone was a way of memorializing him, but it has caused some confusion about who was buried in the Calvary Cemetery first, and the answer to that question appears to be young Thomas C. Johnson, for he died on April 6, 1869 while negotiations for the cemetery land were still in progress, but obviously an agreement had been reached or the burial wouldn't have taken place.

Another death in 1869 should be mentioned, and that was the death of Jasper O'Farrell's mother. She was with family members in San Francisco when she died, which was on March 25, 1869, but a small obituary appeared in the PETALUMA ARGUS newspaper. She was buried in a San Francisco cemetery. In historical writings for years Mrs. O'Farrell's name has been used in reference to the naming of St. Teresa's Church; it is said that the church was named in her honor, because St. Teresa of Avila was her patroness and she was named for this saint. However, Mrs. O'Farrell's name was not Teresa, but she had a daughter named Teresa O'Farrell who was very active in the early business activities of Bodega. Author, Honoria Tuomey was probably the first of our Sonoma County historians to mention the naming of St. Teresa's Church. In her HISTORY OF SONOMA COUNTY, page 330 she wrote the following:

"The new church was finished in 1860, and was dedicated to St. Teresa, patron saint of a sister of the donor of land and material."

But! many pages later in the same book, Miss Tuomey wrote the following - from page 529:

" The Bodega church begun in 1860 received its dedication to St. Teresa in honor of Mrs. Teresa O'Farrell, mother of Jasper O'Farrell"

When the 1860 census was taken Jasper O'Farrell's mother was living with the Jasper O'Farrell family at Freestone, and she was recorded as Mary O'Farrell. Also, in the obituary that was written in the PETALUMA ARGUS NEWSPAPER she was recorded as Mary O'Farrell. However, THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER is the church was named and dedicated to ST. TERESA OF AVILA. (Mary's obit P.Argus 4/5/1869)

When the 1870 census was taken in Sonoma County, the largest group of foreign-born citizens listed in the county were Irish, and the second in number were Germans. As a large percentage of these Irish were Catholics, and many lived in or near the town of Bodega it became evident that the original building, known as St. Teresa's Church, was not large enough for the population increase. The pastor in Tomales,

which included Bodega, was Father William Joseph Slattery, and it became one of his tasks in the early 1870's to have St. Teresa's Church enlarged. The belfry and choir loft were also later additions, but they may have been added by Father Edward Slevin in the 1880's - the belfry had to have been in place by July 19, 1886 when the bell was installed. According to a handed-down story, a small bell found by a fisherman or fishermen in the waters of Bodega Bay was given to the church, but the time period isn't known, and also it has disappeared. Father Slevin was the pastor when the large bell, now hanging at the entrance to the church property, was placed in the belfry. Returning to the addition to the church, it should be noted that the church windows during those years are not the same windows that are currently in the church - these memorial windows came about during the reconstruction project.

Father Slattery also took on the job of finding land for a much needed cemetery in Bodega. The Church grounds were being used for burials, but this was not a good arrangement. Thus, Father Slattery worked things out with John and Bridget Stump for the purchase of two acres of their land, and Archbishop Alemany made the purchase for what became the Calvary Cemetery of Bodega.

The article below, from the PETALUMA ARGUS newspaper tells about the blessing and installation of the bell.

-BLESSING A BELL-	
<p><u>THE ARGUS:</u> The "Blessing" of the new bell for the Catholic Church at Bodega, last Sunday, was a beautiful and highly interesting ceremony performed by the Rev. John Baptist McNally of West Oakland, who was delegated by his Grace Archbishop Rierdon to officiate in his Grace's absence. The consecration took place after high mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Baden of Buffalo, New York, who is a most excellent singer. He sung the mass in a very impressive manner, which was listened to by the largest congregation ever assembled in Bodega, there being not less than six or seven hundred people present.</p> <p>Father McNally preached a grand and forcible sermon, which drew tears from many of his congregation. The Pastor, Rev. Edward Slevin, under whose direction the shapely bell was decorated, deserves great credit for the artistic manner in which it was done.</p> <p>The bell which weighed 850 pounds, and together with the frame 1,150 pounds, was placed on the left side of the altar during the ceremony, and on the shoulders of the frame were placed two as tastefully arranged bouquets as is often seen, and upon them were two cards, one with the inscription: "Tomales Literary and Dramatic Society," and the other: "Saint Brendan's Society, Tomales." The two bouquets were the tasteful work of the Misses Nolans of Tomales, and Miss Bagley of San Francisco. Several other beautiful bouquets were also around the bell, presented by a bevy of young ladies too numerous to mention.</p>	<p>After the ceremony the two bouquets were presented to the sponsors of the bell by M. L. Murphy of Tomales, in two brief speeches from the steps of the church, in behalf of both Societies, he being a member of each.</p> <p>After Mr. Murphy, Father McNally also delivered an address from the porch to the sponsors of the bell, Mr. N. Keefe and Mrs. James Furlong, and in his speech he expressed a hope that the young members of St. Brendan's Society would grow up to be as grand an ornament to society as every flower in their bouquet had been upon the beautiful bell.</p> <p>Then twelve of the most muscular men were chosen to carry the bell from the altar to the door of the church, and the large gothic window in the tower of the church was taken out. The hoisting apparatus had already been placed in the tower by Peter Morrisy, whose good judgment was sufficient guarantee that everything was safe and secure. The ropes and pulleys were straightened out by M. L. Murphy, and the hauling line stretched out along the walk where all could lend a helping hand in raising the bell. Mr. Morrisy announced from the tower that everything was ready, and Mr. Murphy gave the word, "hoist away!" Gently then the bell moved slowly and gracefully to the top of the tower, and soon the largest and most magnificent bell in Sonoma County was safely hanging pendant in its frame. Then the bell was rang and tolled, after which the assemblage dispersed, both young and old feeling that they had witnessed a very impressive ceremony, and such an one as many of them would never have the opportunity of seeing again.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOMALES, July 19, 1886. L.</p>
Petaluma Argus Print.	

Spelling problems in the article are underlined: Archbishop Rierdon should be Archbishop Riordan, and Peter Morrisy, should be Peter Morrissey - he was a building contractor.

The article, from Ed Furlong's collection, has been transcribed on the next page for easier reading.

BLESSING A BELL

EDS ARGUS: The blessing of the new bell for the Catholic Church at Bodega, last Sunday, was a beautiful and highly interesting ceremony performed by the Rev. John Baptist McNally of West Oakland, who was delegated by his Grace Archbishop Rierdon to officiate in his Grace's absence. The consecration took place after high mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Baden of Buffalo, New York, who is a most excellent singer. He sung the mass in a most impressive manner, which was listened to by the largest congregation ever assembled in Bodega, there being not less than six or seven hundred people present.

Father McNally preached a grand and forcible sermon which drew tears from many of his congregation. The Pastor, Rev. Edward Slavin, under whose direction the shapely bell was decorated, deserves great credit for the artistic manner in which it was done.

The bell which weighed 850 pounds and together with the frame 1,150 pounds, was placed on the left side of the altar during the ceremony, and on the shoulders of the frame were placed two as tastefully arranged bouquets as is often seen, and upon them were two cards, one with the inscription: "Tomales Literary and Dramatic Society," and the other: "Saint Brendan's Society, Tomales." The two bouquets were the tasteful work of the Misses Nolans of Tomales and Miss Bagley of San Francisco. Several other beautiful bouquets were also around the bell, presented by a bevy of young ladies too numerous to mention.

After the ceremony the two bouquets were presented to the sponsors of the bell by M.L. Murphy of Tomales, in two brief speeches from the steps of the church, in behalf of both Societies, he being a member of each.

After Mr. Murphy, Father McNally also delivered an address from the porch to the sponsors of the bell, Mr. N. Keefe and Mrs. James Furlong, and in his speech he expressed a hope that the young members of St. Brendan's Society would grow up to be as grand an ornament to society as every flower in their bouquet had been upon the beautiful bell.

Then twelve of the most muscular men were chosen to carry the bell from the altar to the door of the church, and the large gothic window in the tower of the church was taken out. The hoisting apparatus had already been placed in the tower by Peter Morrisy, whose good judgment was sufficient guarantee that everything was safe and secure. The ropes and pulleys were straightened out by M.L. Murphy, and the hauling line stretched out along the walk where all could lend a helping hand in raising the bell. Mr. Morrisy announced from the tower that everything was ready, and Mr. Murphy gave the word, "hoist away!" Gently then the bell moved slowly and gracefully to the top of the tower, and soon the largest and most magnificent bell in Sonoma County was safely hanging pendant in its frame. Then the bell was rung

and tolled, after which the assemblage dispersed, both young and old feeling that they had witnessed a very impressive ceremony, and such an one as many would never have the opportunity of seeing again.

Tombales, July 19, 1886

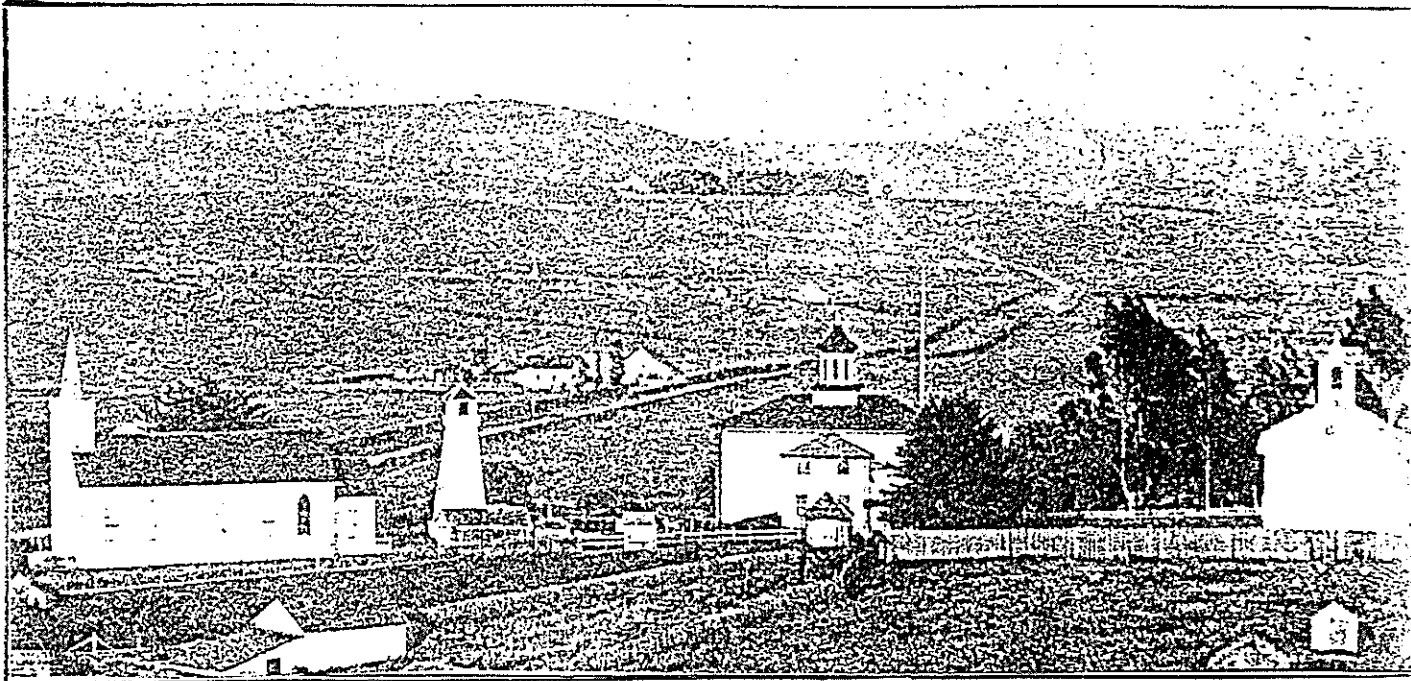
L.

Petaluma Argus Print

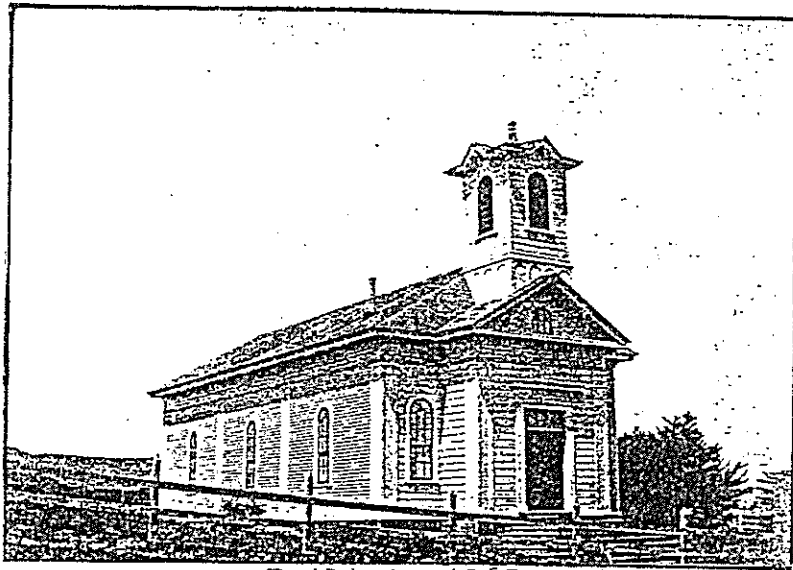
The two people listed as sponsors of the bell, N. Keefe and Mrs. James Furlong were Nathaniel Keefe who once owned a large amount of land north of Bodega Bay, and a part of that land is now known as the Chanslor Ranch. Nathaniel was born in Ireland, but his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Keefe brought their family to Boston during the Irish Famine in the 1840's.

Mrs. James Furlong, also a native of Ireland, was Anne O'Brien before her marriage to James Furlong. James returned to his old home in December of 1873 (having been in Sonoma County since 1866) and he and Anne were married two months later - the newlyweds arrived in Sonoma County on July 4, 1873. The property where they lived was on the eastside of the Calvary Cemetery - in those days the cemetery was their western boundary.

One can readily imagine how beautiful that church bell must have sounded to the members of St. Teresa's Church on the Sunday mornings when the tone of the bell drifted across the Bodega countryside. But, with the passage of time it became evident that the bell was not safe in the church belfry; the people started to worry that something was going to break. There doesn't appear to be any record of what caused this concern, obviously some weakness in the structure began to appear. A bell tower was built behind the church, which is shown in the picture below, and this served for many years, but it began to deteriorate and had to be removed. In the 1950's (1955) a sturdy frame was built and the bell was returned to the rear of the church. In 1968 it was moved to the spot near the highway.



St. Teresa's Church Bell Tower Potter School Presbyterian Church
7. (also used by Methodist)



Built in 1865

The picture above is a more complete and better view of the Presbyterian Church which stood on the southeast corner just beyond the Potter School. With the continual movement of people from the country areas to the city, this church had a decrease in membership; thus, in 1940 it was decided to dismantle it. Some ten years or so later the same thing was about to happen to St. Teresa's Church, but a multitude came to the rescue and the church was saved.

The major happening in the 1880's, as has been pointed out, was the installation of the bell. The 1890's were relatively uneventful, except for Father Rogers' activities. Father John Rogers was made pastor of the church in Tomales (which still included Bodega) in 1892, and he became known as "THE CHURCH BUILDER" for he was responsible for the construction of several churches in Marin and Sonoma Counties. In the Catholic newspaper from San Francisco called the LEADER, dated August 12, 1905, the following was written about Father Rogers' activities:

"Besides this church (referring to the stone church Fr. Rogers had built in Tomales) Father Rogers also had erected substantial and attractive churches in Sebastopol, Marshal, and Occidental, and rebuilt the church in Bodega, practically five new houses of worship during his pastorate in Marin County."

Perhaps there were some major repairs needed and made on St. Teresa's Church after a span of several years, but just what Father Rogers had to repair or rebuild was never recorded, so like so many things regarding our history, it is left to guesses. He was a very popular priest in all the churches he served, and he bought a house in Bodega on September 24, 1896 so that either he, or one of his two assistants could stay in Bodega. This was the first and only time the Bodega people had a priest so close at hand. Father Rogers was from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland and many County Wexford people lived in the Bodega area which certainly must have given him a feeling of home.

Father Rogers had St. Sebastian's Church in Sebastopol built in 1898, and immediately following he set to work to have a church constructed for the people of Occidental. The building site was acquired in 1901, and the actual construction work started in 1902. By December of 1902 St. Philip's Church was completed, and the following news item appeared in the SEBASTOPOL TIMES:

Saturday, December 20, 1902 - News from Bodega

"Neles Bros., Contractors and Builders, have returned home, having completed the Catholic Church at Occidental."

Thus, it is evident that members of an old Catholic family of Bodega, had a part in building the church in Occidental. Their business was located on the southwest end of town, and was started by Owen Neles - another Irish immigrant. The church at Occidental was dedicated on June 14, 1903, and shortly after, Father Rogers was sent to another assignment. Fortunately, he was not here in 1906 when the terrible earthquake that ruined San Francisco completely destroyed the stone church he had built in Tomales, a picture of that church is on page 99. However, St. Patrick's Church in San Francisco where he was pastor was in ruins -- but he was able to get it restored. The house Father Rogers had purchased in Bodega was sold to Andrew Fitzpatrick.

As the years moved along the Bodega population began to change; members of the then younger generation moved to the cities around San Francisco Bay. This brought about a decrease in church attendance. There were nominal Catholics in all directions, but they were not accustomed to going to church regularly, or at all. With the approach of the 1940's and 1950's a movement started to dismantle the old church. The principal argument for this was the building was no longer safe for the public to use - age and neglect had taken its toll. The outcome of this debate was good, for many turned out to rescue St. Teresa's Church - describing her as an historic landmark in the region. Two of the leaders for saving the church were Emil Valena and John Bianchi. They worked diligently convincing people about the importance of the church to the community, and they started collecting money for the cause. Other workers were Andrew Furlong, Ted Gleason, Tom Furlong, Frank Lucido, Father Pio, Joe Perucchio, Mary McChristian, Mae Furlong, Nonie Luchinetti and Abigail O'Connor. Most had grown-up with St. Teresa's Church.

Two others who deserve great praise for their efforts in helping what could be labeled the restoration cause, were Howard McCaughey and Father Lawrence E. Pio, O.S.J. Howard McCaughey wrote a fine article about the church for the local press in which he encouraged people contribute to the project. Following this he and Father Pio appeared on the Santa Rosa station, KSRO, where they made an appeal. The outcome, as is evident, was very successful.

Howard McCaughey was for many years the proprietor of McCaughey's Store in Bodega which his family had operated from pioneer times. He was born in the house just below the church - to the right, as one looks down from the church. He was quite an historian in his own

right, and his daughter, Ruth Burke of Bodega, has carried on the "good work". The old store continues to function - now operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bonfigli.

Father Lawrence Pio was only in this region for three years, but in that short time he endeared himself to the people. The last news about him was in 1995; he was not well at the time and he was living in Italy with a family.

The actual construction work to save the church started in 1954, and for the most part it was completed in 1955. Most noticeable are the concrete buttresses which were installed along the sides of the church - three on each side to give support to the walls. Also, the windows needed work, for during the rainy seasons they leaked. This brought about the idea of memorial windows and individual families or persons could donate a window as a memorial. At first, seven windows were replaced; then over a period of a few years more were installed. By the beginning of the 1960 decade, twelve windows had been replaced. It wasn't until January of 1991 that the last two windows in the main body of the church were completed. This brings the total number of windows dedicated to local people to fourteen.

Over the years, the tower for the bell, which has already been mentioned, deteriorated so badly that the bell was removed and put into storage, and the tower was dismantled. Thus, along with the other work being done in the 1950's it was decided to build a sturdy frame and return the bell to the church grounds. The picture of this new bell structure appeared in THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on June 12, 1955, and the following men were in the picture: Joe Perucchio, Emil Valena and Ted Gleason. In 1968 the bell received a new location near the highway. At that time, on June 2, 1968, St. Teresa's Church was designated an Historical Landmark. Father Jerald Thomas worked very hard to get this historical recognition for St. Teresa's Church. He was pastor of the parish from 1966 until 1974. Very shortly after Father Thomas became pastor, he began to recognize certain problems with the choir loft in the church which was in bad condition, and it was decided the loft should be removed. The actual work of dismantling the loft was done by Jim and Mike Furlong and their cousin, Bob Bell. The old lumber was hauled to the Furlong ranch just east of Bodega.

Moving back slightly, it was in 1962 that a new diocese was formed in the area - the Santa Rosa Diocese. As a result St. Teresa's Church was removed from the church in Tomales, and within a short time a new parish was formed which would include St. Teresa's Church. This took place on September 8, 1964, when St. Philip's Parish was formed. This parish was made up of four churches: St. Teresa, St. Catherine, St. Colman, and St. Philip. But, on January 25, 1995 St. Philip's Parish was reduced to St. Teresa's Church and St. Philip's Church - the other two were assigned to St. Elizabeth's Church in Guerneville. The first priest assigned as pastor in the new parish back in 1964 was Father James Monagle - he has since gone to his reward; his death occurred on May 1, 1990 at St. Joseph's Church, Cotati. On the next page is a more complete account of the changes related to the formation of the Santa Rosa Diocese, and the writer was Mrs. Howard Lawson of Tomales.

FAREWELL FROM
TOMALES

St. Teresa

The Santa Rosa Diocese was formed in 1962, but St. Teresa's Church was not detached from Tomales until the following year - 1963.

St. Theresa's Church Is
Detached from SF Diocese

By MRS. HOWARD LAWSON
TOMALES (C)—Another milestone in the history of the Catholic Church in the coast area was reached last Sunday when the Rev. Aldo Grasso, O.S.J., of the Tomales parish said his last Mass in St. Theresa's church in Bodega as its parish priest.

The church has been detached from the arch diocese of San Francisco to become part of the new Diocese of Santa Rosa, in accordance with a division made some months ago, by counties. It was a touching ceremony as Father Grasso said goodbye to his congregation of the past eight years. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gerald Cox will take over the church beginning next Sunday. Father Grasso will continue his work at Tomales and Marshall.

In studying the history of the Tomales Parish of the Assumption, Father Grasso has found that it was established on March 8, 1860, by Father Louis Rossi, a zealous young French-Italian

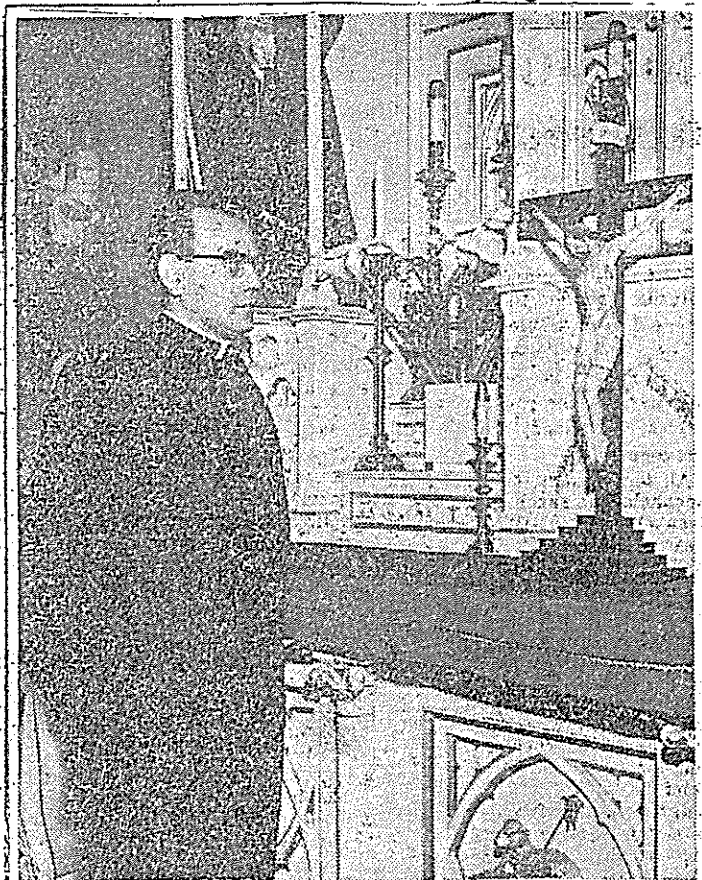
priest, and included missions in the communities of Tomales, Bodega, Sebastopol, Freestone, Occidental, Monte Rio, Santa Rosa and Healdsburg.

At that time Tomales, a seaport, was the vital center of the area and had the only Catholic church building. Santa Rosa and Healdsburg were then very small, insignificant communities. Father Rossi lived with the Jasper O'Farrell family in Freestone and made the rounds of his parish by horse and buggy.

As the communities grew, the more distant congregations built churches and gradually withdrew from the Tomales parish. Santa Rosa and Healdsburg were detached in 1876, St. Catherine's at Monte Rio in 1916 and St. Philip's at Occidental in 1919.

The history of the 15th century Crucifix in St. Theresa's church in Bodega is also interesting. A Capt. Stephen Smith sailed his boat into Bodega Bay in 1843 and settled there. A native of Baltimore, he had married a Peruvian girl, Manuella, who sailed with him to their new home. She brought with her this crucifix, which had been in her family for many generations, and later it was presented to the Bodega Church by the Smith family.

At last Sunday's Discovery Day ceremonies there, this crucifix was given a prominent place aboard the boat of Henry Neles, which beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion. Father Grasso conducted the service of blessing the bay and the fleet.



FATHER LAWRENCE PIO, PARISH PRIEST
18th Century Crucifix Carried In Procession

According to the 1850 census, Capt. Stephen Smith, and his nephew, also named Stephen Smith, were both natives of Massachusetts. Perhaps their port of departure was Baltimore, Maryland?

Capt. Smith and his first wife and family lived many years in Baltimore, Md.

Continuing with the work on the church building, in 1974 a new pastor came to the parish, and this was Father Henry Faucher. He took active interest in the church and the cemetery. First, the walls in the church still gave evidence of the area where the loft had been attached to the walls. At this time there was a retired building contractor in the parish named Joe Greene. He not only did much needed work on St. Teresa's Church, but worked on all the other churches of the parish. Joe had special pieces of lumber milled in order to match the old wood on the walls of St. Teresa's Church. This worked out well - a new paint job followed which brought the walls into perfect uniformity. It is difficult to know exactly how much work Joe Greene did, but he certainly kept busy. The grave of Ellen Orr behind the church was vandalized after so many years of care and respect (said to have happened in 1976). Joe Greene went to work and restored that historic grave - cleaned up the wooden marker and built a new fence around the grave.

Since the beginning years of the parish, the pastors have had to depend on "supply priests" to assist with the Masses, and many outstanding priests have left their mark on the memories of the people, not only in St. Teresa's Church but in all the others as well. At first the priests came from Cardinal Newman in Santa Rosa - with their departure other priests had to be found. One of these priests served St. Philip's Parish for over twenty years, and he was especially well-known and loved by the people of Bodega; this was Father Edward Coyne who had retired from a diocese in South Dakota in the early 1960's. Father Coyne was ninety years old at the time he died, which was in 1987, and he is, at this time, the only priest buried in our local cemetery. Other priests to be remembered - then and now: Rev. Justin McIntyre, Rev. Sixtus Cavagnaro, Rev. Thomas Doyle, Rev. Charles Bartha, Rev. Andrew Metcalf, Rev. Head, Rev. Rodney De Martini, S.M. and Rev. Ed Kilianski, S.C.J.

The new, dedicated windows, did well for a few years until some "unknowns" decided it was fun to use their BB guns to shoot holes in the glass. Father Thomas Devereaux was pastor at the time, and he decided the windows should be protected first; then see what could be done about the holes. The outcome was the windows were covered with a heavy transparent plastic so the light could pass through but not the BB shots. The holes were repaired by a Santa Rosa company known as VENERABLE CLASSICS, and in a newspaper article from THE PRESS DEMOCRAT dated June 22, 1988 the two artisans who did the amazing work were recorded and their names were Lynn Waddington and Janet Connolly. The statement by Lynn Waddington about the repair process was as follows:

"Waddington said the artisans devised a way to pour the liquid glass - tinted one of 24 shades of brown, purple or green to match the windows - into the bullet hole and seal it so it could harden for a week."

After the glass had hardened, Waddington and Connolly climbed ladders to reach the repaired areas and with brushes they added the swirls needed to blend the old and the new.

In the same news article, the story about placing a new railing around the base of the church steeple was told. The railing had fallen apart years ago, and had never been replaced. The

man who took on the job of building the new railing around the base of the steeple was Roger Seymour of Bodega Bay, and as the news item said: "He has a woodworking shop just across from the church." The following tells the story in brief:

"A Bodega Bay woodworker copied a spiked wooden railing sitting atop the steeple from the celebrated Ansel Adams photograph."

"Seymour (the craftsman) said the railing was an original item on the church, as seen in Ansel Adams' picture.

"It was a complicated item, he said. Each corner is constructed of 13 different pieces, all with different angles."

Another individual whose name should be added to the ones who did construction work on the church was Gary Sauter. He replaced termite eaten lumber, did some reinforcement work on the foundation, improved the floor furnace, and the lighting fixtures were replaced with brass candelabra in keeping with the original fixtures.

Sometime during the 1970's or early 1980's a committee was formed to plan re-roofing the church. Those on the committee were John Bianchi, Ann Keck, Ed Furlong, and Clair Cromwell. It is said that a weighty three layers of tar paper had to be removed from the leaky roof before the new roof could be installed.

It was during the 1980's that St. Teresa's Ladies Guild started a "Restoration Fund" which was to be used for the many jobs that continually presented themselves. One of the fund raising items was an enlarged photograph of Ansel Adams' picture of St. Teresa's Church - done, of course, with permission from the proper authorities. Some of the many things accomplished were as follows: the shingles on the steeple were given a coat of white paint to make it stand out. The shingles on the church roof were cleaned and oiled. The exterior of the church was repainted by Coy Brown, and the interior was completely painted by apprentice painters from the District Council of Painters. The gold leaf on the two altars (the old one, and the new one in the foreground) was redone and both were given a "new look". Redwood landings were built at both entrances to the church - front and rear. The two by twelve timbers used for the job were donated by Jewel Chenoweth and her brother-in-law, Bill Chenoweth. Jewel is a descendant of James and Mary Coleman - Coleman is an historic name in this region. The Colemans were both natives of Ireland, and they were members of St. Teresa's Church years ago. They came into the region in the 1850's.

On October 15, 1988, after so much of the restoration work had been completed, a rededication service was held. The Pontifical Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. John T. Steinbach, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, and three priests: Rev. Thomas Devereaux, Rev. Thomas Doyle, and the Rev. Charles Bartha. The Deacon was the Rev. David Shaw, and the Eucharistic Minister was David Houk. After the Mass a reception was held in the McCaughey Hall, and at 5:30.

the people returned to St. Teresa's Church for benediction. it was a noteworthy occasion for all who attended.

With the advent of the 1990's two families, Furlongs and Gleasons, became interested in obtaining memorial windows in St. Teresa's Church. Their wishes were realized in January of 1991 when two new windows were installed. The story was printed in the parish bulletin on March 3, 1991, and it appears below:



PIONEER FAMILIES DONATE NEW ST. TERESA WINDOWS

Recently, the windows on each side of the entrance to St. Teresa Church were changed; appropriately, two pioneer families of Bodega are now memorialized on these windows. Several months of planning went into the arrangements, with Fr. Vincent O'Neill, Helen Fulton, Marion Kunze and members of the Ladies Guild taking an active part in the decision making. Also, members of the families who donated the windows, Ed, Dorothy and Howard Furlong and Leland and Norma Gleason participated in the planning sessions.

The glass was prepared by the Santa Rosa Stained Glass Company, with Elizabeth Sheedy and Tulie O'Brien collaborating on the workmanship. Tulie O'Brien did the art work and Elizabeth Sheedy designed and built the beveled glass arrangement. One window (dedicated to the Furlong family) depicts Christ's Ascension, and the other (dedicated to the Gleason family) shows Christ walking on the water. The actual installation of the glass was done by Tom Swindell and Cheryl Munger, whose business is in Sebastopol.

Both the Gleason and Furlong families had their beginnings in the Bodega area at very early dates, and both families have a common ancestor, William, who arrived in the region in 1858. The first of the Furlongs came in 1866. Members of these old families continue to attend the churches of St Philip's Parish—over a span of 131 years.

The ancestor, William, who appears in the third and final paragraph, was William Gleason. He was born in 1839 at Ennis, County Clare, Ireland.

One may wonder why the windows at the front of the church were not chosen by someone during the 1950's when the other memorial windows were being installed. The reason being the fact that the front windows were not visible, or completely visible, from the inside of the church. The stairs to the choir loft hid what is now a Furlong window, and a portable-type confessional stood in the way of a "full view" of the Gleason window. Both, however, were free from obstruction from the outside of the church. With the removal of both problems the windows were more desirable.

WINDOWS DEDICATED

On May 26, 1991, the last two memorial windows were dedicated, and an inspiring dedicatory address was made by the pastor, Rev. Vincent O'Neill. A list of the family members who attended is recorded below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Leland Gleason | 30. Tony Murphy |
| 2. Norma Gleason | 31. Dairmuíd Murphy |
| 3. Julie Gleason | 32. Maureen Furlong |
| 4. Caitlin Gleason | 33. Howard Furlong |
| 5. Patrick Gleason | 34. Joyce Furlong |
| 6. Mark Gleason | 35. Jane Furlong |
| 7. Valerie Gleason | 36. Cheryl(Furlong)Brown |
| 8. Tyler Gleason | 37. David Brown |
| 9. Benjamin Gleason | 38. Matthew Brown |
| 10. Pamela (Gleason) Willhite | 39. Eileen Furlong |
| 11. Justin Gleason | 40. Thomas Brown |
| 12. Irene (Gleason) Jaynes | 41. Patrick Brown |
| 13. Bob Jaynes | 42. Bill Furlong |
| 14. Laverne (Gleason) Wetch | 43. Edna (Furlong) Bell |
| 15. Phil Wetch | 44. Donna Furlong |
| 16. Penny Briceno | 45. Tim Furlong |
| 17. Nora (Gleason) Wallin | 46. Candi Furlong |
| 18. Edward Gleason | 47. Greg Furlong |
| 19. Dorothy Furlong | 48. Julie Furlong |
| 20. Jim Furlong | 49. Sarah Furlong |
| 21. Laura Furlong | 50. Kevin Furlong |
| 22. Andy Furlong | 51. Tammy Furlong |
| 23. Erin Furlong | 52. Sandra(Nygaard) Kimberling |
| 24. Catherine Furlong | 53. Scott Nygard |
| 25. Mike Furlong | 54. Norma Nygard |
| 26. Barbara Furlong | 55. Samuel "Bud" McKee |
| 27. Michael Furlong | 56. Ann(McKee) McCabe |
| 28. Dan Furlong | 57. James McKee |
| 29. Susan (Furlong) Murphy | 58. Kelly Wendt |

Following the church activities refreshments were served to the family members by St. Teresa's Ladies Guild.

A LIST OF PRIESTS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE
ASSUMPTION, TOMALES, WHO SERVED THE PEOPLE OF
BODEGA FOR 103 YEARS

8 Mar 1860	<u>Louis Rossi</u> , pastor	11 Aug 1862
19 Oct 1862	<u>Patrick Walsh</u> , pastor	20 Mar 1868
23 Aug 1868	Antonio Delmas, pro tem	4 Oct 1868
3 Nov 1868	<u>William Joseph Slattery</u> , pastor	20 Feb 1875
7 Sep 1870	<u>Peter Birmingham</u>	
15 Dec 1870	John B. McNally	
30 Apr 1871	Maurice D. Slattery	6 May 1871
15 Sep 1872	Father Sanchez, osf	20 Sep 1872
3 Sep 1874	John F. Cassidy	
14 Mar 1875	<u>Francis Kelly</u> , pastor	2 May 1875
15 Aug 1875	<u>Andrew Cullen</u> , pastor	25 Dec 1876
	19 Sep 1886, pastor pro tem	
22 Aug 1875	Padre Lusianna	
16 Feb 1877	<u>Thomas Cushing</u> , pastor	13 Sep 1885
13 Aug 1882	<u>Patrick J. Dowling</u>	
25 May 1884	James H. Derham OP and	8 Jun 1890 to 26 Oct.
14 Dec 1884	Patrick Heslin	30 Aug 1885
18 Sep 1885	J. Vereker	25 Oct 1885 and 9 Nov 1891 to 15 Dec 1891
7 Oct 1885	<u>Edward Slevin</u> , pastor	25 Oct 1891
6 Mar 1887	<u>Edward Morrissey</u>	
10 Jan 1892	<u>John Rogers</u> , pastor	19 July 1903
25 Apr 1893	<u>Thomas A. Fitzsimons</u> , OP	10 Sep 1893 and 6 Nov 1900
15 Jun 1893	Jas H. Aerden, OP &	8 Aug 1893
13 May 1894	Joseph W. Riordan, SJ	
4 Oct 1894	E.B. Brasf, OP	
22 Aug 1895	Lawrence Bogan, pastor pro tem	17 Nov 1895
17 May 1896	Gaspar Genna, SJ pro tem	12 Sep 1896
6 Sep 1896	Francis R. Doherty, CSP	12 Sep 1896
3 Oct 1897	Martin J. Whyte	25 Oct 1897
19 Aug 1898	Jeremiah Leahy	
11 Nov 1898	Michael Mackey	10 Aug 1902
11 Apr 1901	John Valentini, pro tem &	17 Jun 1903
17 Aug 1902	John R. Cantillon	30 Jul 1903
2 Aug 1903	<u>Joseph M. Gleason</u> , pastor	13 Oct 1909
2 Aug 1903	<u>Maurice Kennelly</u>	6 Sep 1903
1 Nov 1903	T. Hayden	9 Apr 1904
1 May 1904	Philip M. Sordini	18 Sep 1904
2 Oct 1904	Edward M. Looney	18 Oct 1907
20 May 1906	Patrick J. Collopy, pastor pro tem	1 Jul 1906
18 Aug 1907	Patrick Foote, SJ	
29 Sep 1907	C.M. Camp	8 Dec 1907
4 Feb 1908	Philip Byrne	19 Sep 1909
29 Jun 1908	William Hughes	
19 Jul 1908	Jo Batta Rosa	20 Sep 1908
17 Oct 1909	Joseph Porta	2 Apr 1911
7 Nov 1909	<u>John Harnett</u> , pastor	27 Apr 1913
17 Apr 1911	James Lennon	7 Jul 1912
4 Aug 1912	Peter H. Weber	19 Jan 1913
2 Mar 1913	Hugh Bohan	9 Nov 1913
20 Apr 1913	J.R. Simeoni (missioner)	
4 May 1913	M.M. O'Shea (Michael)	18 May 1913
6 Jul 1913	Thomas W. Holohan	
13 Sep 1913	<u>Barnabas J. Cantillon</u> , pastor	12 Jun 1918
23 Nov 1913	Edward J. Kelly	21 May 1916
1 Aug 1915	Matthew A. Smith	7 Nov 1915

1 Dec 1915	Samuel J. Tarrant	16 Jul 1916
28 Jul 1916	J.J. Thummel	4 Jun 1917
22 Jul 1917	Patrick J. Keating	11 Nov 1917
9 Dec 1917	J. Mansfield	
23 Dec 1917	Patrick Dunne	
31 Mar 1918	Egisto Tozzi	8 Feb 1919 & Jun 1911
28 Apr 1918	Father Warren	
20 Jul 1918	Charles J. Bertola, pastor	11 Mar 1923
20 Apr 1919	David P. McAstocher, SJ	
27 Apr 1919	Bryant Hugh Harman, NSJ	
8 Jun 1919	Edward P. Kenny, SJ	
22 Jun 1919	W.G. LeVasseur, S.J.	
13 Jul 1919	Zach J. Maher, S.J.	
3 Aug 1919	Michael J. Doyle	and 16 Apr 1922
16 Jan 1921	Thomas J. O'Brien	24 Sep 1921
30 Oct 1921	James Sorasio	
25 Mar 1923	W.F. Keller, pastor	23 Aug 1925
20 Sep 1925	James McCaul, pastor	25 May 1930
2 May 1926	C. McKenna	and 10 May 1926
6 Sep 1926	Edward J. Whelan, SJ	
18 Sep 1930	J. Ryan	28 Jul 1935
13 Oct 1935	John J. Mangan	2 Nov 1935
25 Jan 1936	Timothy F. O'Connor, pastor	13 Jan 1940
19 Jul 1936	Lawrence Hennessy	23 Aug 1936
31 Mar 1940	Patrick J. Morris, pastor	24 Jan 1946
3 Mar 1946	Denis A. Kelly, pastor	30 Aug 1947
28 Sep 1947	John E. Curran, pastor	17 Dec 1950
23 Nov 1947	Stanley J. Rielly	
17 Apr 1949	Vincent J. Doherty, SJ	
1 May 1949	Sylvio D. Masante, OSJ	22 May 1949 & 1950
22 Feb 1951	Michael J. McGinty, pastor	15 Mar 1952
19 Aug 1951	Marzio J. Gaione, OSJ	
23 Mar 1952	Marzio J. Gaione, pastor	24 Jan 1953
15 Mar 1953	Lawrence E. Pio, OSJ pastor	1 Jul 1956
23 Jan 1955	Bronius Kaunas, OSJ	22 Nov 1959
2 Apr 1955	James L. Spooner	
22 Jan 1956	Vincent J. Mazzucco, OSJ	
17 Sep 1956	Aldo Grasso, OSJ, pastor-completed his Bodega duties on October 6, 1963	

This list was organized by Father Grasso in 1980.

PASTORS OF ST. PHILIP'S PARISH - 1964 to this writing of 1997

Rev. James T. Monagle	Deacon Norman Ross *
1964 - 1966	1985 Pro Tempore
Rev. Jerald Thomas	Rev. Thomas Devereaux
1966 - 1974	1985 - 1989
Rev. Henry Faucher	Rev. Vincent O'Neill
1974 - 1979	1989 - 1994
Rev. Norman Van Sile	Rev. Daniel Whelton
1979 - 1984	1994
Rev. Justin McIntyre *	(Pastor at this writing
1984 Pro Tempore	of 1997)

*Rev Van Sile was ill in 1984, and Rev. McIntyre served as pastor temporarily, and Deacon Ross followed him until Rev. Devereaux became the full-time pastor. Rev. Van Sile died on July 5, 1984.

SECTION II.

THE PEOPLE ON THE WINDOWS



ANTONIO AND GIULIANA BORDESSA

The window dedicated to the memory of Antonio and Giuliana Bordessa is located in the sanctuary of the Church, and is the first window to the right of the altar. David and Edith Bordessa, son and daughter-in-law of Antonio and Giuliana, arranged to have this window installed as a memorial to their parents; both died within days of each other in 1953. Forty-three years before they died they stood before the altar of St. Teresa's Church as a young couple and vowed their love and commitment to one another in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Both Antonio and Giuliana Bordessa were natives of the town of Garzeno, Italy. Garzeno is located in the Province of Como, which is located in the beautiful Lake Como region of the state of Lombardy high in the mountains of northern Italy. This mountainous country lends itself very well to dairy activities, and in the years gone by western Sonoma and Marin counties were covered with dairy ranches - few have survived into modern times. To a large extent, these dairies of the past were operated by people from Lombardy, Italy or neighboring Switzerland. Both in Bodega and Valley Ford the old creamery buildings still stand as reminders of a way of life that is now just a part of our history. The town of Garzeno, mentioned above, sent many of her sons and daughters to live among us, but not only to Bodega and Bodega Bay; Valley Ford, Bloomfield, Tomales, and the Petaluma countryside received many of these people.

Antonio Bordessa was born into the household of Pietro Bordessa on September 3, 1886 and at the age of seventeen he left his parents and family for the great land across the ocean, the United States of America. He departed Italy on December 16, 1903; his destination was Marin County, California where he had an uncle living. One can readily imagine what a young person still in his teens must have felt as he journeyed from his home into strange places where few would understand his language or his ways. Finally, Antonio reached Marin County and the home of his uncle, David Bordessa, who had a dairy near the town of Tomales. It was there that Antonio was employed during the first years he spent in America.

Generally, the immigrants to this region were men who came to this country alone; finding work in abundance here they often communicated this information to brothers, uncles, cousins etc. in the "old country" which encouraged others to make the journey to America. Frequently, they sent money to pay for some relative's passage. Hotels or boarding houses were filled with these men in the early days and they did a thriving business. Many of the immigrants had wives and children at home in Italy and they had to send money for the support of the families from their

meagre earnings plus attempt to save enough money to eventually bring their loved ones to California where they would all be united as a family again - this often took several years.

Although Antonio did not have to live in a boarding house, because he had family members with whom he could stay; he did have to work and save for six years before he could send for his bride-to-be. Giuliana left Garzeno, Italy in January of 1910, and as previously stated, they were married in St. Teresa's Church. This event took place on February 13, 1910. The Rev. Joseph Porta of Tomales performed the ceremony with Margherita Bordessa and Mario Vannoni as witnesses; Margherita was the wife of David Bordessa, Antonio's uncle, and Mario may have been some relative of Giuliana?

Giuliana was born on March 30, 1887 in Garzeno. She was named Giuliana Maria Bordessa. Her father was Salvatore Bordessa and her mother was Marcellina Chiaroni - both old families in that part of the Province of Como. The names: Bordessa, Albini, Barella, Maffia, Matteri and several others are very common in the towns of Garzeno, Germasino, and Stazzona. Very often there is no known relationship between persons bearing the same family name, and that was the case with Antonio and Giuliana who had the same surname but no knowledge of ever having a common ancestor.

Following their marriage, Antonio and Giuliana Bordessa continued with the dairy activities in northern Marin County where Antonio had lived and worked since he first came to the United States. Their children were all born in that locality. About 1927, the Bordessas decided to move to a ranch on Old Adobe Road, and from that location they moved to Ely Road - both in the Petaluma area. They continued in the dairy business in each location, and it was on Ely Road that all of their children reached maturity. Dedication and hard work were the mainstays of this family. The values learned in the "old world" served Antonio and Giuliana well in their new country. The job of running a dairy is probably one of the most demanding and time-consuming tasks in agriculture. It required a commitment to a seven day week and no vacations. The "me" concept of modern times, presented particularly in advertising, i.e., "I must buy this or that because I deserve it," or "I'm going to do this, just for me," would have been completely lost on our immigrant forbears; most gave unselfishly of themselves, to each other, to their children, and to the land and livestock that supported them.

As time began to run out for Antonio and Giuliana they retired from their ranch, and because of failing health they moved to Valley Ford where they stayed in the home of their youngest son and his wife, Dave and Edith Bordessa. Giuliana was the first to go; she took sick and was rushed to the

Sonoma County Hospital where she died on April 22, 1953 - acute myocardial infarction. Antonio said he would not last a week after his Giuliana died, and six days later on April 28, 1953, his daughter-in-law, Edith, found him in a coma and he died shortly thereafter. They were buried in the Calvary Catholic Cemetery at Petaluma. Giuliana's funeral was on April 25, 1953 and Antonio was buried on May 2, 1953.

There were six children born to Antonio and Giuliana. They will appear here in the order of birth from oldest to youngest:

1. Emma Bordessa married Ted Mossi (now deceased); they operated a dairy near Petaluma. There were two children born to them: Charles and Adele. Charles is deceased - killed in an accident.
2. Robert Bordessa married Jennie Fomasi (deceased) and he was an auto mechanic. Robert had three step-children: Olga Manni, Elvin Fomasi and Isabelle Chicano.
3. John Bordessa married Clara Tesconi and he is in a dairy partnership with members of his wife's family - Art and Tony Tesconi. John and Clara have one son, Larry Bordessa. They live in the Santa Rosa area.
4. Elma Bordessa married Bert Bonansea and they ran a dairy but are now retired and living in the Santa Rosa area. They have a son named Peter Bonansea.
5. Irene Bordessa married Guy Catenacci (deceased); they had a dairy and chicken ranch near Petaluma. Their three children are Madeline, Linda, and John Catenacci.
6. David Bordessa married Edith Tesconi and they are local people having been associated with Valley Ford for many years. Edith is a cousin of Clara Tesconi who married John (#3. above) The Tesconi family have their roots in that ancient region of Italy known as Massa Carrara - that produces the famous Carrara marble. The name Tesconi is well-known to the people of Sonoma County. There is a Tesconi Circle in Santa Rosa, and Tim Tesconi, popular columnist for the PRESS DEMOCRAT newspaper. Also, Theresa Negri of Occidental's Negri Restaurant family was a Tesconi - all relatives of Edith and Clara Bordessa.

David and Edith Bordessa were the parents of two children: Elvera and Donald; Donald married Sharon Guiney and they had two children: Bill and Dena. Donald married a second time to Leslie Josephson who also has two children: Robbin and Bob.

UNCLE DAVE

During the time when the information was being collected for the family of Antonio and Guiliana, their youngest son, David, retired from his position as postmaster of Valley Ford. This event took place on June 1, 1990, and on July 8, 1990 Valley Ford residents and many others from the surrounding countryside, gathered at Valley Ford School to honor "Uncle Dave" as he is affectionately called during his thirty-seven years of unselfish service to the community.

Dave and Edith started their postal activities at Valley Ford in 1953; which was a part of their general store across the street from the present post office. In 1968 they had the present post office built and sold the store. At that time Dave became a full-time postmaster.

Over and above employment, both Dave and Edith have been active in many local activities. Dave is involved with the Valley Ford Fire Department and serves on the ambulance crew. He and Edith have been responsible for the annual Fourth of July celebration for local children, and they are ever ready to give a helping hand wherever needed.

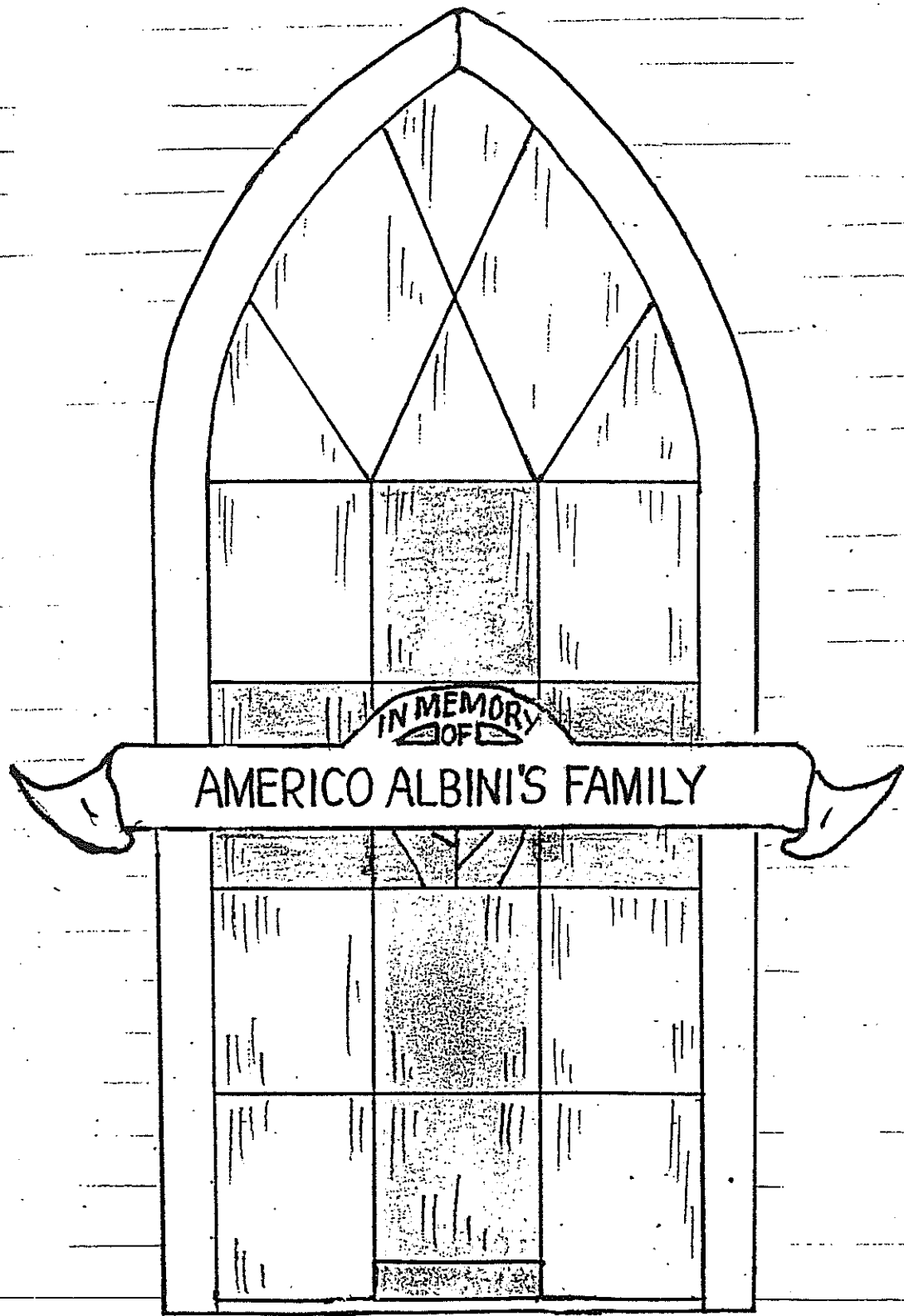
As stated earlier, Dave and Edith donated the window for their parents who were married in St. Teresa's Church. A little over sixty years later two of the great grandchildren of Antonio and Giuliana were baptized in the same Church, as shown by the Church Registry information below:

12

Baptismal				Register			
Baptismorum				Registrium			
No.	NAME OF PERSON BAPTIZED Nomen Baptizati	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH Dies Et Locus Nativitatis	DATE OF BAPTISM Dies Baptizati	FATHER'S NAME MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Patris Nomen Matris Nomen Originale	SPONSORS Patris	PRIEST Sacerdos	DATE OF CONFIRMATION Dies Confirmationis
112	Bordessa William David	May 24, 1971 P.O.	July 23 1971	Donald Bordessa Sharon Guiney	Elaine Bordessa Robert De Martinis	J. Thomas	

15

Baptismal				Register			
Baptismorum				Registrium			
No.	NAME OF PERSON BAPTIZED Nomen Baptizati	PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH Dies Et Locus Nativitatis	DATE OF BAPTISM Dies Baptizati	FATHER'S NAME MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Patris Nomen Matris Nomen Originale	SPONSORS Patris	PRIEST Sacerdos	DATE OF CONFIRMATION Dies Confirmationis
116	Bordessa Dana Rene	Feb 9, 1973 Petaluma	Mar 11 1973	Donald Bordessa Sharon Guiney	Steve Toscani Kathy De Martinis	J. Thomas	



AMERICO ALBINI'S FAMILY

This window was donated by Americo and Minnie Albinì who have a ranch on Pepper Road, not far from the intersection of Pepper and Valley Ford Roads. They have spent most of their lives in dairy activities.

Both Americo and Minnie Albinì were born in the Bodega region, but Minnie also lived in Petaluma. Two of the windows are donated to Americo's family - this one and another which is "In Memory" of John Albinì and Mose Battistessa. John Albinì was Americo's father and Mose Battistessa was Americo's step-father. Thus, the family background information will appear with the Albinì-Battistessa window.

Americo Albinì was born on the family ranch near Bodega about 1919, and learned the dairy business from his parents; their ranch was on the Estero Road northwest of Bodega. Those were the days when all the milking was done by hand and everything in the lives of the dairymen revolved around the milking schedule. In those times dairy cattle were visible on every ranch up and down the coast, and they were the mainstay of the local economy. The production of potatoes was also important, but the dairy animals were the most important.

In the early part of February 1938, Americo Albinì and Minnie Bordessa were married, and by the end of March that same year Americo's father, John Albinì, died. Americo continued to operate the family ranch for many years after his father's death, but eventually moved his operation to Pepper Road where he and his wife have continued to live - to the present time.

County records show that Americo Albinì and Minnie Bordessa were married on February 7, 1938. He was listed as a resident of Bodega and she was a resident of Petaluma. The priest who performed the ceremony was Father Lester I. Ehrmann of Petaluma. Minnie's parents were also recorded; her father was Martin Bordessa and her mother (maiden name) was Catherine Mafoli - both were natives of Italy. As both family names: Albinì and Bordessa are common to the towns of Garzeno, Stazzona, and Germasino in the Province of Como, Lombardy, Italy, it is most likely that both Americo and Minnie's background are from the same locality of Italy.

The witnesses on the marriage record were Joe Panizzera and Mary Bordessa - Joe from Occidental and Mary from Petaluma. Mary Bordessa was a sister of the bride - Minnie Bordessa. Joe Panizzera was a first cousin of Americo Albinì. Americo's father and Joe's mother were brother and sister. For many years, Joe Panizzera operated PANIZZERA'S MARKET in Occidental. The business was started by Costante Panizzera, Joe's father, about 1914 and for three generations covering a period of over seventy years the Panizzera

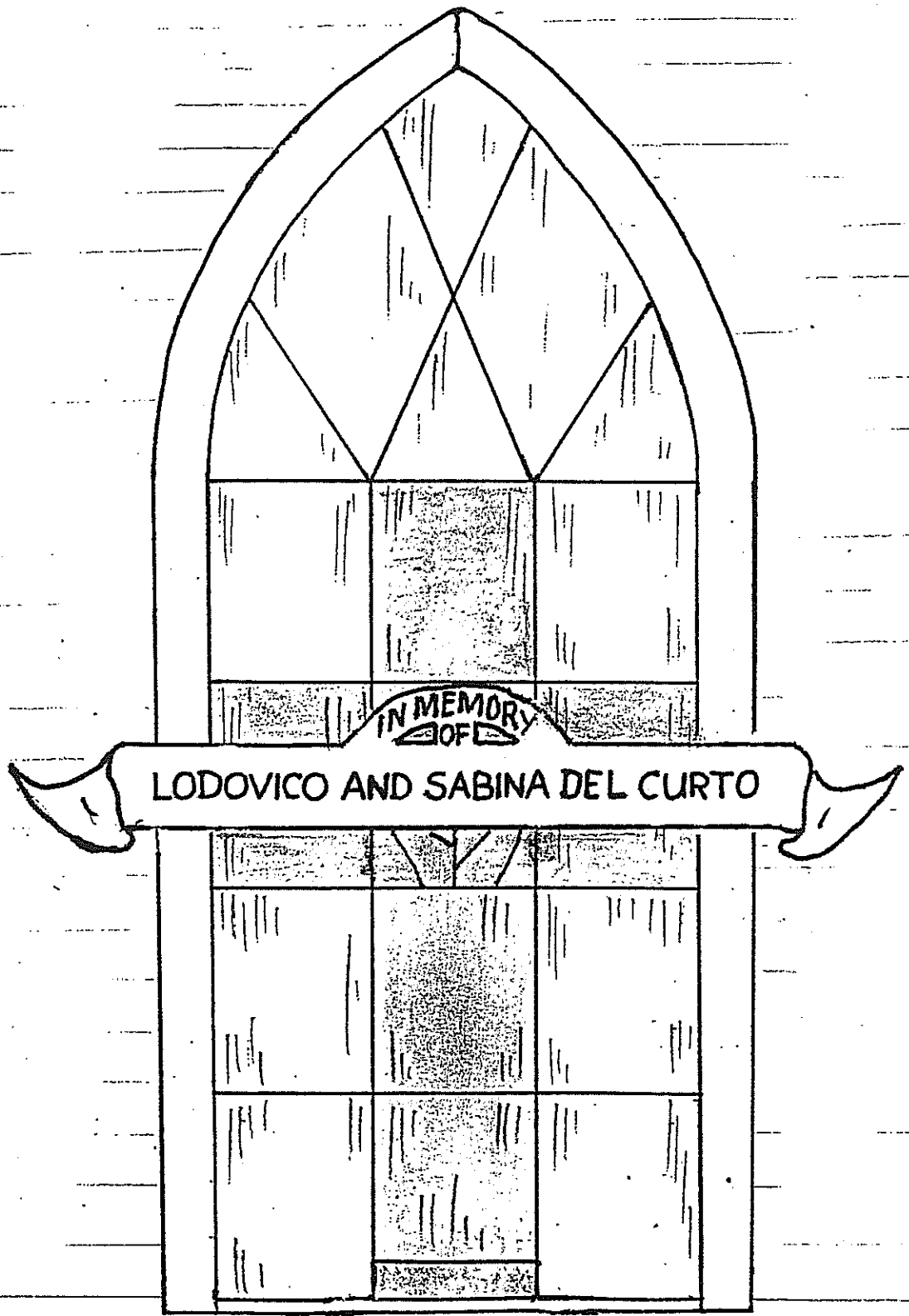
family ran this business.

Americo Albini's mother lived for many years in the town of Bodega. She was known as Marietta Albini then as Marietta Battistessa after she married a second time; her given-names on public records are Amelia Maria.¹ The old home in Bodega continues to be owned by family members, and is the house on the corner just northeast of St. Teresa's Church.

One child was born to Americo and Minnie Albini and she was named Bette Louise Albini; she was born in Petaluma on April 26, 1942, but her parents were recorded as residents of Bodega. Americo's full name appears on the birth record: Americo Alfonso Albini.

On July 2, 1966, Bette Albini married Lonnie Leroy McKnight.

1. Note: the records examined may have had Americo's mother's names in reverse, for on any records where she had to sign her name, the Maria part of her name comes first. Also, when Americo Albini applied for a delayed birth certificate he gave his mother's name as Maria Amelia. Also of interest, he did not use the name Alfonso as his middle name. He was recorded as Americo Ambrosio Albini, and his date of birth was given as July 18, 1918 (Bk. 8, p. 289).



LODOVICO AND SABINA DEL CURTO

The Del Curto family has long been associated with the Valley Ford and Petaluma region. It was over sixty years ago that Lodovico Del Curto was in business as a butcher in Valley Ford. He came to the United States and California in 1907-8 from his native Switzerland. Most of the Swiss-Italians who came to Marin and Sonoma Counties in the early days were from the Canton of Ticino which borders the Italian state of Lombardy.

It would appear that Lodovico Del Curto came to this country as a single man where he met and married Sabina Roticci, who is recorded on her son's death certificate as a native of Italy.

In all probability, Lodovico settled among the Swiss immigrants of northern Marin County when he first arrived in this country.

Lodovico Del Curto was born August 25, 1884 and died on January 31, 1931 - only forty-six years old. His parents are recorded and M. Del Curto, a native of Italy and Catherine Del Curto, also a native of Italy. Many or perhaps most of the people of Ticino, Switzerland have their roots in Lombardy, Italy. At the time of death, Lodovico had been in this country twenty-three years and lived at Valley Ford ten or twelve years (disagreement in records for the latter).

The following information appeared in the SEBASTOPOL TIMES on February 6, 1931:

VALLEY FORD

VALLEY FORD. --- L. Del Curto passed away very suddenly Saturday morning at his home here. Mr. Del Curto had resided in this section the last ten years, being one of the Valley Ford butchers. He was liked and respected by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife and three children and a brother who resides in this section, and a father and several brothers and sisters in the old country. Funeral services were held Tuesday at his home in Valley Ford, thence to St. Sebastian's Church in Sebastopol. Interment was in the Sebastopol cemetery.

Mabel Illia, long-time resident of Valley Ford, is a daughter of Lodovico's brother mentioned in the news article above; she is the wife of Oliver Illia Sr.

Sabina Del Curto, the wife of Lodovico, lived twenty years after her husband's death; she, too, was born in 1884

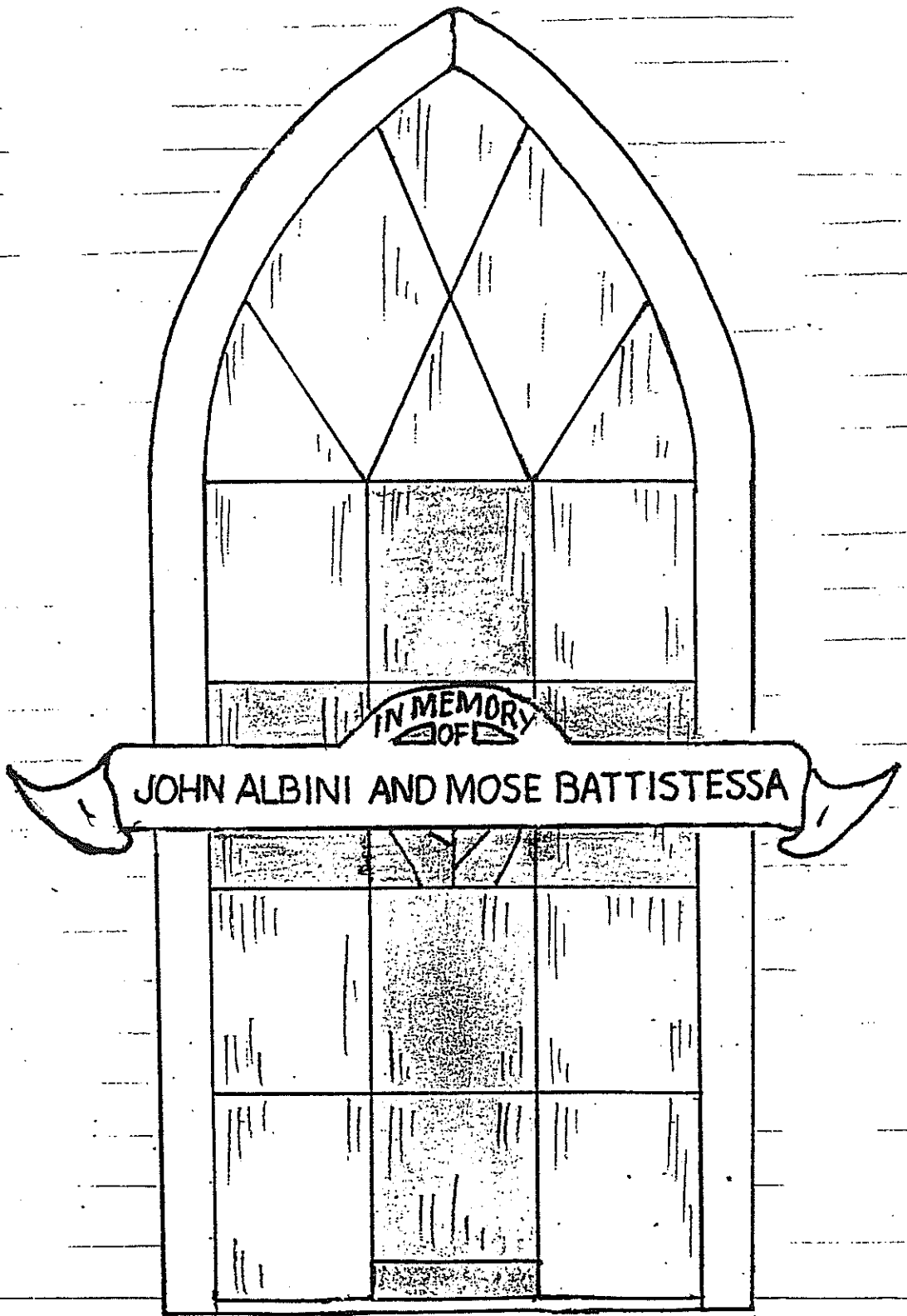
and died in 1951. They are buried in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega Highway.

The three children of Lodovico and Sabina Del Curto were Reno, Lawrence and Olga. Reno Del Curto, the oldest, is a resident of Hollister, and his children are believed to have been Margie (deceased) and Dick Del Curto.

Lawrence and Olga Del Curto spent their lives in Sonoma County - Petaluma area. Lawrence's wife was Gilda Vanzin and they had two children: Mickey and Loretta Del Curto. The son continues to operate a livestock business (Lawrence was a cattle dealer for 30 years) and Loretta Del Curto is a teacher. Lawrence died March 20, 1972, and his widow continues to live at the family home on Valley Ford Road.

Olga Del Curto's married name was Sartori, an old familiar name in the Petaluma area. She died on December 23, 1983 - believed to have had a son name Romeo Sartori.

Mike (Mickey) Del Curto married Katherine (Kathy) Campbell, and they have one daughter at this time: Kelly Nicole Del Curto, who was born on June 19, 1991.



JOHN ALBINI AND MOSE BATTISTESSA

This window was donated in memory of two husbands; the first, John Albini, was married to Maria Amelia Barella in 1914. John died in 1938 and seven years later, in 1945, the widow Albini married Mose Battistessa. Maria Amelia was more commonly known in Bodega as Marietta.

John Albini's father, also a John Albini, came to Sonoma County and Bodega in 1901. He left his wife and children in Italy until he could establish himself. Fortunately for John Sr., he already had a brother in Bodega - Paul Albini. By 1907 the mother and children of John Albini were able to join him in this country. The children were John and Margaret.

Not unlike the other Albini families of the Bodega region, John Albini Sr. and his wife Caterina (Catherine) were natives of Garzeno, Province of Como, Lombardy, Italy. John was born June 23, 1872 and his father's name was Pietro Albini - common Albini name. Caterina was a daughter of Domenic Maffia (mother's name unrecorded). The John Albini family lived on Estero Road not far from the town of Bodega and spent their lives in the dairy activities of the region. John died in 1947 at the age of seventy-four, and Caterina, who was born May 8, 1873, died in 1953 at the age of seventy-nine. Both are buried in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega Highway. The children of John and Caterina Albini have left their mark on the area, and are as follows:

1. John Albini; born Aug. 22, 1895
(He is the John Albini on the window)
2. Margaret Albini; married Costante Panizzera, well-known couple in Occidental)
3. Domenico Albini; never married - died young in 1937.
4. Pietro Albini; married Mabel Fomasi
5. Argilio (Argie) Albini; married Lena Calvi (sister of Rico Calvi)
6. Rinaldo Albini; married Floria (Florie) Fomasi.
7. Caterina (Kate) Albini; married Alfonso Mazzoni (still a resident of Bodega Bay)

As stated above, John Albini married Maria Amelia Barella in 1914. This is recorded in our county records (Book 4, page 291) and the exact date was February 3, 1914 - consent was required by the father because John Jr. was just nineteen years old.

Maria Amelia (Marietta) Barella came to the United States in 1913, just a year before her marriage to John Albini, but they were from the same town and probably knew each other in the "old country". Her father was Giuseppe

Barella and mother was Amelia Matteri. John Albini continued in the dairy business like his father. There were four children born to John and Marietta Albini:

1. Alice Albini; born about 1917
2. Americo Albini; born July 18, 1918 in Bodega
3. Jennie Marie Albini; born about 1920
4. Elsie Albini; born June 18, 1921

Tragedy struck the Albini family on March 26, 1938 when their father, John Albini, died suddenly. A brief account of this appeared in the SEBASTOPOL TIMES on April 1, 1938:

ALBINI RITES HELD TUESDAY

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 9:30 from O'Leary Funeral Home thence to the Church of the Assumption at Tomales where Mass was said for John C. Albini, Bodega dairy rancher, who was claimed by death Saturday at his coast area home. Interment was in Tomales cemetery.

Albini had resided in the Bodega area for 31 years. He was a native of Italy, aged 42 years.

He is survived by his wife Maria A. Albini, and the following children: Mrs. Peter Muelrath, Bodega; A. Albini, Bodega; Mrs. Alfred Poncia, Fallon; Elsie Albini, Bodega. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Albini of Bodega, and a brother of Mrs. Margaret Panizzera of Occidental, Peter Albini of Occidental,
* Archie Albini of Bodega, Rinaldo Albini and Mrs. Katie Mazzoni of Bay. *(Should be Argie)

The reference to Bay in the last paragraph was the community now called Bodega Bay. In bygone days it was simply known as "Bay".

As can be seen from the obituary, all of John's children were married at the time of his death except the youngest; Elsie married in 1946.

John's son, Americo Albini and the grandfather, John Albini Sr., continued the Albini dairy operation. But in the course of time John's widow remarried; John Albini Sr. died in 1947, and Americo eventually moved to the Petaluma area.

On May 10, 1945, Amelia Maria (Marietta) Albini married Mose Battistessa (Book 44, page 299 Co. Recorder). Mose was a "Lombardo" like so many in Bodega, and he was born and reared in the Province of Como, but near the community of Gera Trezoni. He was a relative of Costante Panizzera who was the husband of Margaret Albini (Marietta's sister-in-law). Mose's mother was Maria Panizzera before her marriage to Vincenzo Battistessa (Mose's father). However, to complicate things even more - Costante's mother before marriage was a member of the Battistessa family (Vincenzo's sister). Thus, there was a double relationship.

At the time of their marriage, Marietta was fifty-one years old and Mose Battistessa was sixty, so no children born to this union. They lived in the small house on the corner, northeast of St. Teresa's Church.

DESCENDANTS

Alice Emily Albini, the first-born of John and Marietta Albini, was also the first to be married. This event took place on July 27, 1935 - Alice and Peter Muelrath were married in St. Teresa's Church, Bodega. Father Jeremiah J. Ryan was the priest who officiated at the ceremony. The witnesses were Philip Muelrath and Jennie Albini. Peter Muelrath was a native of North Dakota and Alice Albini was a native of Bodega.

Peter and Alice Muelrath operated dairies, first in the Bodega area then in the vicinity of Santa Rosa where Alice continues to live - Peter Muelrath died a few years ago. There were six children born to them:

1. Agnes M. Muelrath
2. Kenneth R. Muelrath
3. Mary M. Muelrath
4. Beverly J. Muelrath
5. Robert Lee Muelrath
6. Donald John Muelrath

All the Muelrath children have reached adulthood at this time, and most are married and have families of their own.

Americo Albini married Minnie Bordessa of Petaluma and their information is recorded with another window which was installed in memory of the Americo Albini family.

Jennie Marie Albin married Alfred Guido Poncia who was a dairyman at Fallon in northern Marin County. The Poncia family has continued to run the Fallon ranch to the present time. There were two children born to Jennie and Alfred Poncia - as follows:

1. Alfred Loren Poncia; born February 2, 1940
2. Edwardeen Ellen Poncia; born May 30 1944

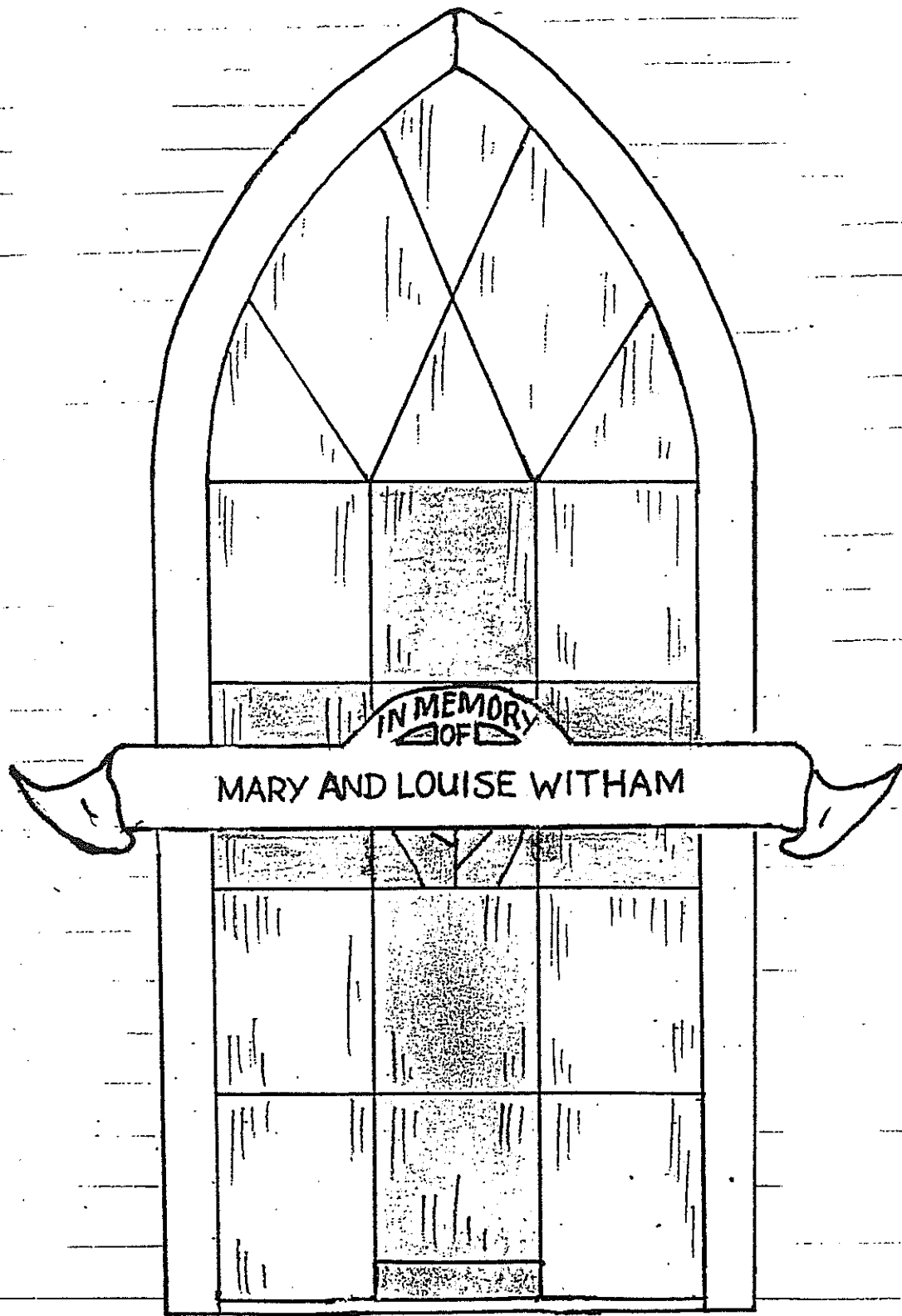
Both the above are married; Alfred Loren Poncia married Catherine Elizabeth Brandenburg - Father John J. Brenkle of Santa Rosa officiated. Four children have been born to Alfred and Catherine: Jennifer, Melissa, Jessica and Loren.

Edwardeen is married and has two children: Jerry and Daren.

Elsie A. Albin married Austin R. Carmody, a son of James Carmody and Sena Peterson. They were married on February 26, 1946. Austin Carmody worked for the Bodega Creamery - the old building is still standing on Salmon Creek Road. There were no children born to this couple. Elsie has worked at the Union Hotel for many years.

Mose Battistessa died February 13, 1954 and was buried in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega Ave. He was born March 6, 1883; thus, he was seventy years old at the time of death.

Amelia Maria Battistessa (Marietta) died November 2, 1976 and was also buried in the Sebastopol cemetery. She was born September 3, 1893 and was eighty-three years old at the time of death.



MARY AND LOUISE WITHAM

There are two windows in memory of members of the Witham family. Mary and Louise Witham were mother and daughter, in that order, and the other window was given in memory of one of the sons of Mary Witham - Fred H. Witham.

The old Witham home is still standing a short distance from the Watson School on the right side of the highway going east, and it is the last house before the turn to Valley Ford. This area was once called Bodega Roads. A train station or depot was once located on the east side of the Valley Ford Road just a short distance from the Witham home.

The information provided here has been generously provided by Doris Mann, a local historian who resides near the Witham house. (Printed in 1985 by TEL HISTORY CENTER, Tomales)

THE WITHAM FAMILY OF BODEGA ROADS

By Doris Mann

In 1891 George and Mary Witham purchased the Morris Hotel near the old Bodega Roads depot as a home for their large family. This hotel had been built by John Morris in 1876 when the narrow gauge railroad came through at this point. This former hotel would be the home of the Witham family for the next seventy-seven years. Not only would the family have a role in the early settlement of this part of Sonoma County, it would also have a significant role in the education of the children of the area.

George Witham, the head of this pioneer family, would be elected to a two year term as trustee of the Watson School District in 1892. In 1902 he would again be elected, and this time he would serve as Clerk of the Board from that time until the time of his death in 1911.

Mary Witham, the wife of George Witham, would also serve as a Trustee from 1917 to 1925, the time of her death. Fred Witham, the son of George and Mary Witham, who would share the Witham home with two of his sisters after the death of his parents, also served as Trustee of the Watson School from 1911 to the time of his death in 1958, serving the entire time as Clerk of the Board. Louise and Margaret Witham, who along with their brother Fred, would live in the Witham home after the death of the parents, would put in long term tenures as teachers in local schools, Louise for the most of the time at Freestone School, and Margaret for the most of the time at the Watson School.

George Witham, the head of the Witham family, was born to Nathan and Naomi Witham at New Sharon, Maine, on June 24, 1839. His wife, Mary Connelly Witham, was born to Patrick

and Margaret Connelly on December 8, 1848 in Boston, Massachusetts. Both George and Mary Witham came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. George Witham came in 1860; Mary Connelly came about 1864 in the company of her widowed mother and brother, John. George Witham and Mary Connelly were married in a Catholic Church in San Francisco early in 1865.¹

Five children were born to George and Mary Witham before they came to Sonoma County. The oldest child was drowned when about two years old. The other four are Mary Louise born August 20, 1868 at Woodside (above Redwood City), Charles Henry born October 3, 1871 at San Francisco, Albert John born August 14, 1873 at Watsonville, George E. born May 16, 1875 at Redwood City. Four more children were born while the Witham family lived at Mt. Pisgah near Sonoma: Margaret May born March 5, 1878, twins, Walter and William Eugene born October 5, 1880 and Josephine born March 26, 1882. In 1882 the Witham family moved to Coleman Valley. Two more sons were born while the family lived there: Francis Leo born December 19, 1885 and Frederick Henry born October 8, 1888.

When Frederick was a few weeks old the Witham family leased the Shaw place (now the Guy and Doris Mann place) about a mile south of Freestone in the Watson School District. After three years on the Shaw place, the family moved to their new home in the Bodega Roads hotel, the residence which was to be the Witham home for many years to come.

For most of his life George Witham worked as a teamster. In Sonoma County he drove a team of oxen hauling logs from the site where the trees were fallen to the mill. Mills where he worked included E.E. Fuller's mill, Benjamin Joy's mill, Markhams' at Duncans Mill and Glynn's at Coleman Valley.

George Witham died on February 2, 1911, his wife, Mary, on April 10, 1925.

Charles Witham, the oldest son in the Witham family, married Anna M. Pecker on March 19, 1906. He later lived in San Rafael and Santa Rosa. George Witham married Lottie Stump of Bodega in February of 1903, later lived in

1. Note: In paragraph 1., Mary Witham's maiden name is given as Connelly, which may not be correct. Death Record: 1925, page 231; Co. Recorder's Office, S.R., the parents of Mary as follows: Father: Richard O'Connell; Mother: Margaret McGuire - natives of Ireland. Informant: Geo. E. Witham (son). Richard or Patrick died about 1850; Margaret married at least one other time to a Mr. Small, and she died Oct. 20, 1902 in Bodega area as Margaret Small - age 75; native of County Limerick, Ireland; her grave is in the Bodega cemetery.

San Rafael. Frank (Francis) married Edie Tomasi of Bodega. He later worked for the city of Petaluma. Others of the Witham family continued to live in western Sonoma County.

Josephine Witham, the youngest daughter of the family, married Andrew Furlong on October 24, 1922. (Andrew was a son of Thomas and Rosanna Furlong whose window is on the east wall of the Church) Josephine and Andrew Furlong were in the dairy business in Bodega and Valley Ford.

Albert, generally known as Ab, married Gertrude Hereford on May 18, 1898. Ab and Gertrude Witham became parents of two children, Carl born November 7, 1905 and Lucille Margaret born April 27, 1908. After living for many years in the English Hill section of Burnside Road west of Sebastopol, Ab and Gertrude purchased a home in Freestone on which there was an apple dryer. This property was located next to the home of I.T. Ward, the former owner of the Freestone Store. Ab Witham ran the apple dryer on his place, at first in association with his brother, Walter.

Both Carl and Lucille Witham went to Tomales High School by way of the narrow gauge railroad after graduation from Freestone School. Ab Witham died at Freestone on March 5, 1925. Carl Witham continued to run the apple dryer until Carl married. Carl Witham married Ella May Kirkland, moved to Santa Rosa and worked for the postoffice. He died February 2, 1957. Lucille Witham and her mother also moved to Santa Rosa a short time after Carl had moved there. Lucille Witham married Louis Isaacs in 1943, worked many years for the California Department of Motor Vehicles. She died December 4, 1975.

Walter Witham married Mamie Crayne of Freestone about 1902. Walter and Mamie Witham also owned a home in Freestone. This home was located on a corner lot opposite the Freestone Hotel and, earlier had been the home of Luther and Lydia Ward who owned the hotel. After helping his brother, Ab, with his dryer in Freestone, Walter Witham leased the C.E. Fuller dryer north of Freestone and ran that, renting out his house in Freestone at this time. When the dryer burned, he returned to Freestone and was employed by the Sonoma County Road Department. In later years he was a custodian at Tomales High School. Walter Witham died July 15, 1954.

William Witham, known as Bill, twin brother to Walter, married Erma McGrew of Freestone in 1916. Some time before his marriage Bill Witham had bought a farm a short distance south of Freestone about a fourth of a mile east of Bodega Roads. This farm adjoined the old Shaw place on its eastern boundary, the place leased by the Witham family when they first came to Freestone in 1888 and also leased by Erma Witham's father, James McGrew, just before he purchased

a farm in Freestone about 1907. Bill and Erma Witham lived on this farm most of their lives. Bill Witham died there March 24, 1958.

Erma and Bill Witham became the parents of four children, Carmel, born May 8, 1918, William who lived only a short time, Wilma, born June 4, 1924 and George, born December 7, 1933.

The children of Bill and Erma Witham were educated at Freestone and Watson Schools, and Tomales High School. George Witham went on to California State University at Chico and is now a high school teacher in Monterey.

Carmel Witham married John Westkamper. She became the mother of two sons, Michael and Anthony, and a daughter, now Marie Joseph. Carmel Witham died November 13, 1974.

Wilma Witham married John Van Skike. John Van Skike is now deceased, but Wilma Van Skike continues to live in Santa Rosa. Wilma became the mother of four sons one of whom died young. The other three are Lynn, Raymond and John. Raymond Van Skike became the Witham family historian (now deceased).

George Witham married Mary Wyanel of Red Bluff. Mary Witham is a teacher in the Watsonville school system, and George and Mary make their home in Watsonville although George teaches in Monterey. Mary and George Witham are the parents of three sons, Carey, Randy and Larry, and two daughters, Judy and Susan. Randy and Judy are twins. Carey and Randy are married, and Carey is the father of two children.

Louise, Margaret and Fred Witham are the three in the family who continued to live in the family home at Bodega Roads. Louise and Margaret Witham were educated to be teachers. Louise Witham began teaching in 1888 and taught until 1945. Margaret Witham began teaching in 1900 and taught until 1950.

Mary Louise Witham, known as Louise (one of the names on the window), graduated from Coleman Valley School as valedictorian of her class in June of 1886. She attended Normal School in Santa Rosa and started teaching at Laurel Grove School in Monte Rio in 1888. She also taught in Watson School, Jonive School and Vine Hill School before beginning her extended tenure at Freestone School near her home at Bodega Roads in 1895. Louise Witham had shared the responsibility of care of younger brothers and sisters. Undoubtedly, this experience was a help with respect to the teaching load that became her responsibility at Freestone School. Ruby Todd (Mann) who attended Freestone School from 1904 to 1912 remembered that there were about forty students in eight grades at the time she went to school.¹

1. Note: Ruby Todd (Mann) has two children living in the area, Guy Mann and Caroline Murphy who attends St. Teresa's Church.

Later, there were surges in enrollment that would enable the school to qualify for two teachers for a time, but inevitably enrollment would decline, and the school would become a one room school again.

Invariably, former students remember Louise Witham, not only as a skilled teacher, but also as a concerned person who looked after more than her students' educational needs. Evelyn Todd (Willis) remembers her providing lunches for some of her students. She also remembers that she was very proficient with scissors and clippers for the occasional student who needed this kind of care. Jesse Lapham, who was her student about 1909, remembers her taking the "little kids" swimming in nearby Salmon Creek at noon time.

Louise Witham retired in 1945 after a total of fifty-seven years of teaching, surely some kind of teaching record. She died on January 10, 1948 in Santa Rosa.

Margaret Witham graduated from Watson School, then went to Miss Redmond's Normal School for her training as a teacher. After teaching two and a half years in other schools, Margaret began her long tenure at Watson, beginning in the spring term of 1903.

At Watson School Margaret Witham had a teaching situation quite different from her sister at Freestone. By the time that Margaret started teaching the enrollment at Watson had begun to decline. Only rarely did the enrollment reach twenty students. Furthermore, the Watson School District during this time was mostly made up of Dairy farms. Many of the farms were owned or leased by first generation European immigrants who became the backbone of the dairy industry in western Sonoma County. They were hard working and conscientious, and many served terms as trustees. The Watson community was a closely knit community with the school as its focus. Margaret Witham was part of the family, so to speak.

Margaret Witham retired in 1950 after fifty years of teaching. In the fall of 1950 former students, Rena Crayne Taylor, Florence Crayne Gamboni and Anna Gleason, organized a retirement celebration at Watson School that was attended by a large number of former students and friends.

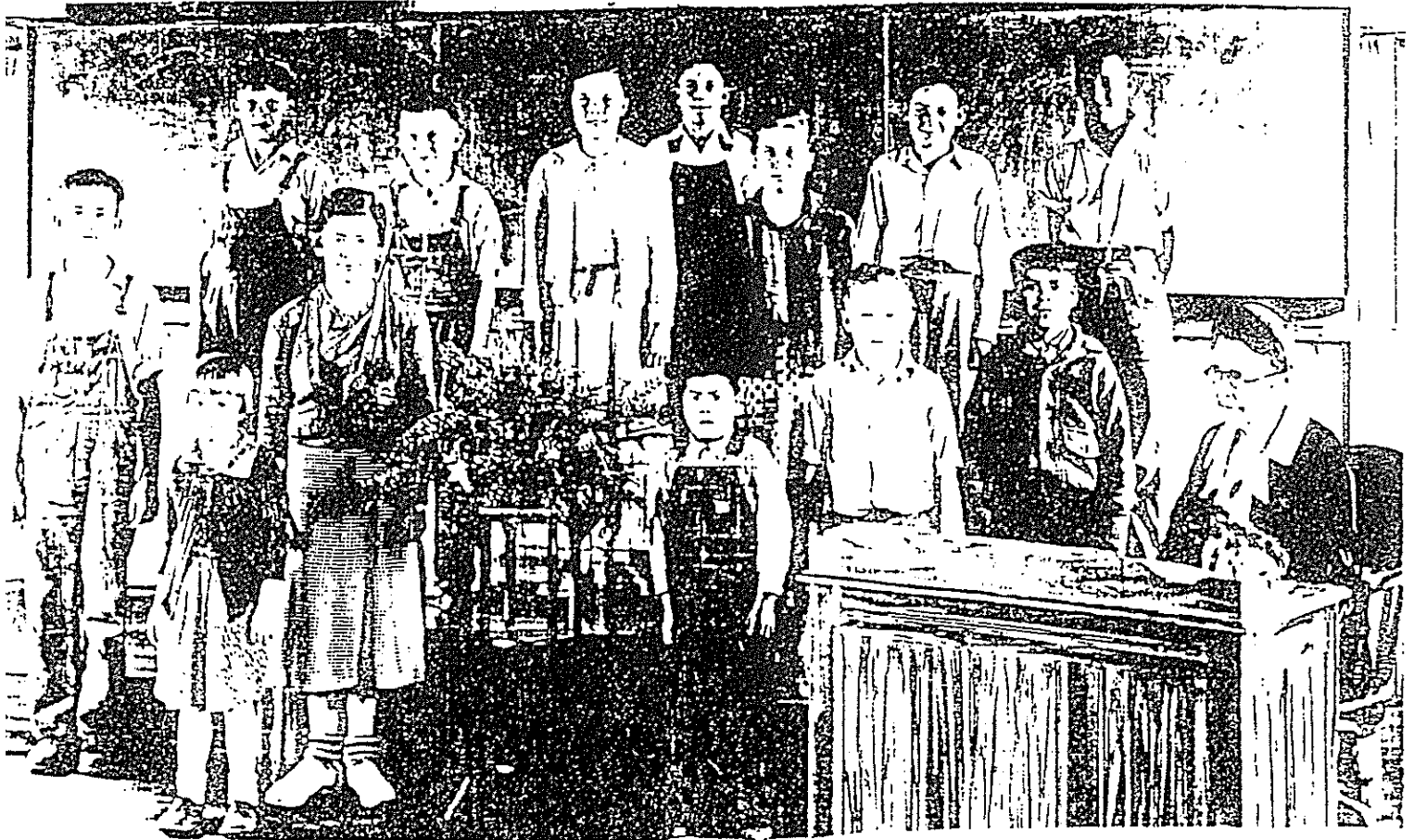
After her retirement Margaret Witham continued to be visited by children of the community. Arden Mann (Lites) remembers her teaching her how to crochet. Laura Mann (Bolen) remembers her showing her pictures of early logging operations in Sonoma County.

Margaret Witham was the last surviving member of the Witham family of her generation. She was on hand to give the welcoming address at the time of the closing of the Watson School in 1967. She died on Christmas Eve in 1968.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY DORIS MANN:

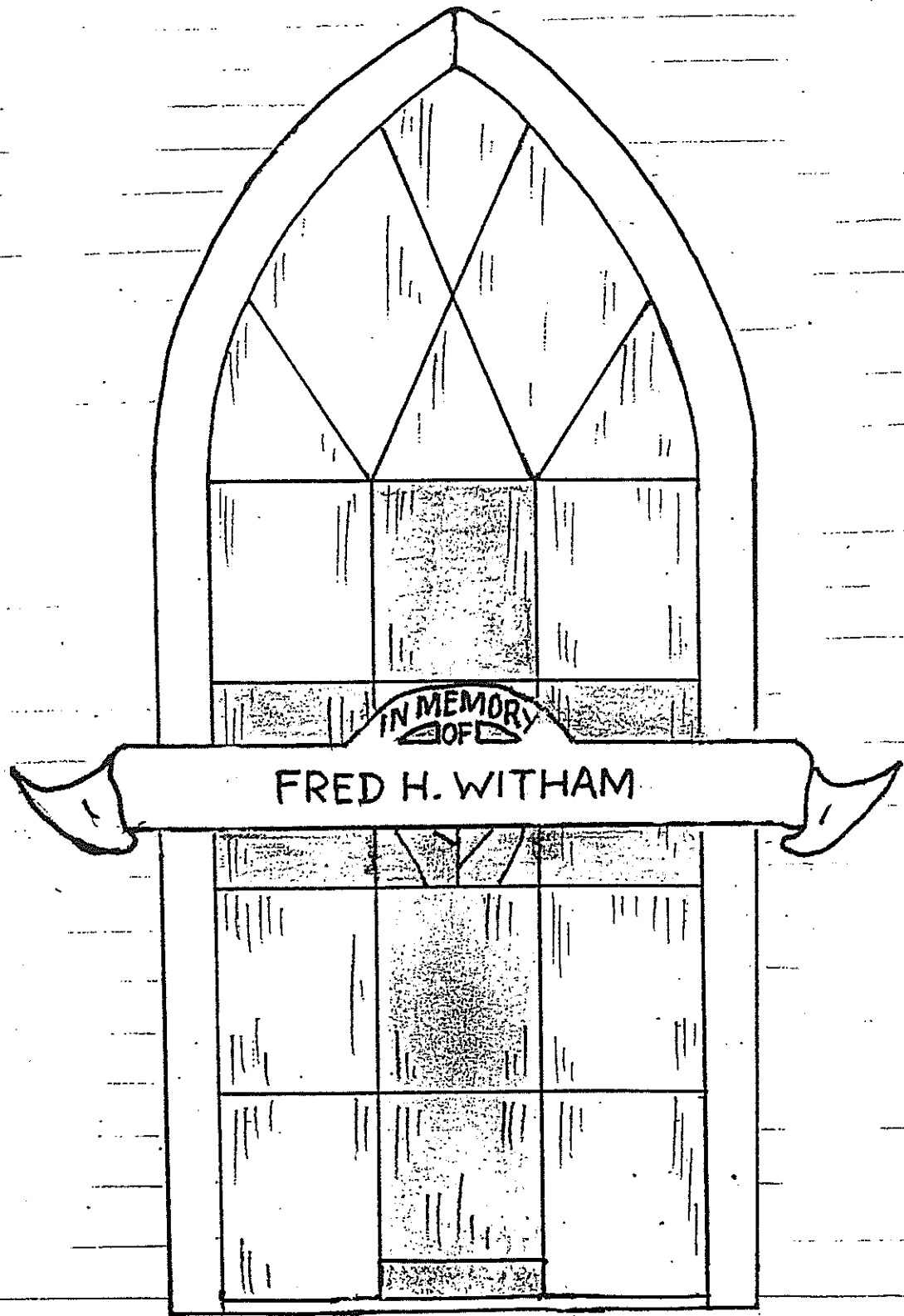
Many thanks to the following persons who provided me with information: Ray Van Skike, Wilma Van Skike, Ruth Burke, Anna Gleason, Rena Taylor, Vera Leone, Evelyn Willis, Jesse Lapham, Hattie Rowan, Laura Bolen, Arden Lites.

Other references: Sonoma County records, newspaper obituaries, U.S. census records, Watson School records



WATSON SCHOOL 1936-37 SCHOOL TERM

Left to right, back row: Edward Furlong, Charles Buletti, Charles Ronconi, Pat Furlong, Frank Williams, Rena Ronconi, Clement Fomasi, Bob Borges.
Left to right, front row: Elgie Williams, Geraldine Horgan, Sesario Rios, Howard Furlong, Lucio Rios, and Margaret Witham, the teacher.



FRED H. WITHAM

This is the second window dedicated to a member of the Witham family. Fred was named Frederick Henry Witham and he was born in Coleman Valley; however, his year of birth extends from 1888 to 1890 - depending on who is giving the information. According to the Federal census for 1900 he was born in the month of October in 1889, and on his gravestone in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega Ave. he was born in 1889. All records so far agree he was born on October 9.

The old Witham house, already discussed with the window dedicated to Mary and Louise Witham, did play an important role during the earlier years of the Bodega-Freestone region. People could not travel the great distances that we do in modern times, and had to spend the night in these old-time hotels. Another point of interest, is the road or highway followed a slightly different route in bygone days. The road went down to the Witham house and passed between the house and barn - the house on one side and the barn on the other; then, it crossed a bridge before reaching the Bodega Roads depot. The NWPRR (railroad) came up from Valley Ford to this depot and then moved on to Freestone, Occidental etc. with its terminus at Cazadero.

On the 1900 census it is recorded that Fred's older brother, George E. Witham, was the station agent for the railroad - a job that Fred, himself, would have in later years. That was a rather convenient place to work as it was practically in the Witham front yard, but on the eastside of the road.

As stated above, Fred Witham was born in Coleman Valley. In 1891 he moved with his family to the place that has since been called "The Witham House". After completing his education he went to work in San Francisco; then returned to this area where he became the station agent at Bodega Roads. Following that he went to work for Howard McCaughey in McCaughey's Store at Bodega where he worked until 1917. He joined the army and was sent east (World War 1) and was ready to be sent overseas when the war ended.

A more detailed explanation of Fred Witham's life is best taken from Doris Mann's recorded material:

FRED H. WITHAM
by Doris Mann

In 1911 (year Fred's father died) Fred Witham was appointed to replace his father as trustee of the Watson School District, and continued to serve until the time of his death in 1958. He was also elected to serve on the Tomales High School board in 1927 and served on that board until his death.

During the time period in which Louise, Margaret and

Fred Witham were serving the interests of rural education in western Sonoma County phenomenal changes were taking place in rural education. Until well into the twentieth century it was rare for children in rural areas to attend a secondary school. Furthermore, although education was considered to be important, it often took second place to more basic needs of the family. Older children were needed to help with younger children. On farms children were needed to help with farm work. Thus, attendance at school was often irregular. However, it was not unusual for students to remain in grammar until they were eighteen years of age. Thus, the problem of irregular attendance was partially overcome by remaining in school a greater number of years. And since the student was required to be proficient at one grade level before advancing to the next, the student who completed the eight grades of grammar school had the education necessary to manage his own affairs or go on for further education. Both Louise and Margaret went directly from grammar school to teacher's college. Fred Witham went directly from grammar school to business college.

In 1911 the Tomales High School District was formed from some of the elementary schools close to Tomales. Eventually, other schools from western Sonoma County and western Marin County south of Tomales were added. In part, the narrow gauge railroad that originated in Sausalito and went north along Tomales Bay through Tomales and on to Cazadero in Sonoma County provided the transportation. Thus, the boundaries of the Tomales High School District were largely determined by the narrow gauge railroad. After the railroad became obsolete and bussing became the mode of transportation, adjustments were made in the district boundaries, but a number of western Sonoma County elementary districts have remained in the Tomales High School District, including the original Watson School District.

Fred Witham was educated at Watson and Freestone Schools and at Sweet's Business College. He worked for many years as a clerk in McCaughey's Store in Bodega. In later years he sold insurance for AAA. In 1956 Fred Witham organized a celebration commemorating the centennial of the founding of the Watson School District. It was attended by many former students and teachers and their descendants as well as numerous friends. As part of this occasion, Howard McCaughey, the Bodega historian, presented a history of the Watson School which was written down and preserved. In the same year Fred Witham received a certificate of merit from the Sonoma County Department of Schools in appreciation of his service to public education in Sonoma County. And there can be no doubt that Fred Witham's dedication to Watson School District was a

contributing factor in its survival to become a county park and national landmark commemorating the pioneer impetus to provide education for the children of the community in spite of hardships and limited resources. Fred Witham also gave faithful service as trustee of the Tomales High School District. One of his legacies, in this respect, is a ninety-three page historical scrapbook kept up until the time of his death. At that time this scrapbook was given to Howard McCaughey and will be donated to the Tomales History Center by Howard McCaughey's daughter, Ruth Burke. Fred Witham died July 29, 1958 at his home on Bodega Roads.

Neither Louise, Margaret or Fred Witham ever married. Their graves are in a family lot in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega ave.

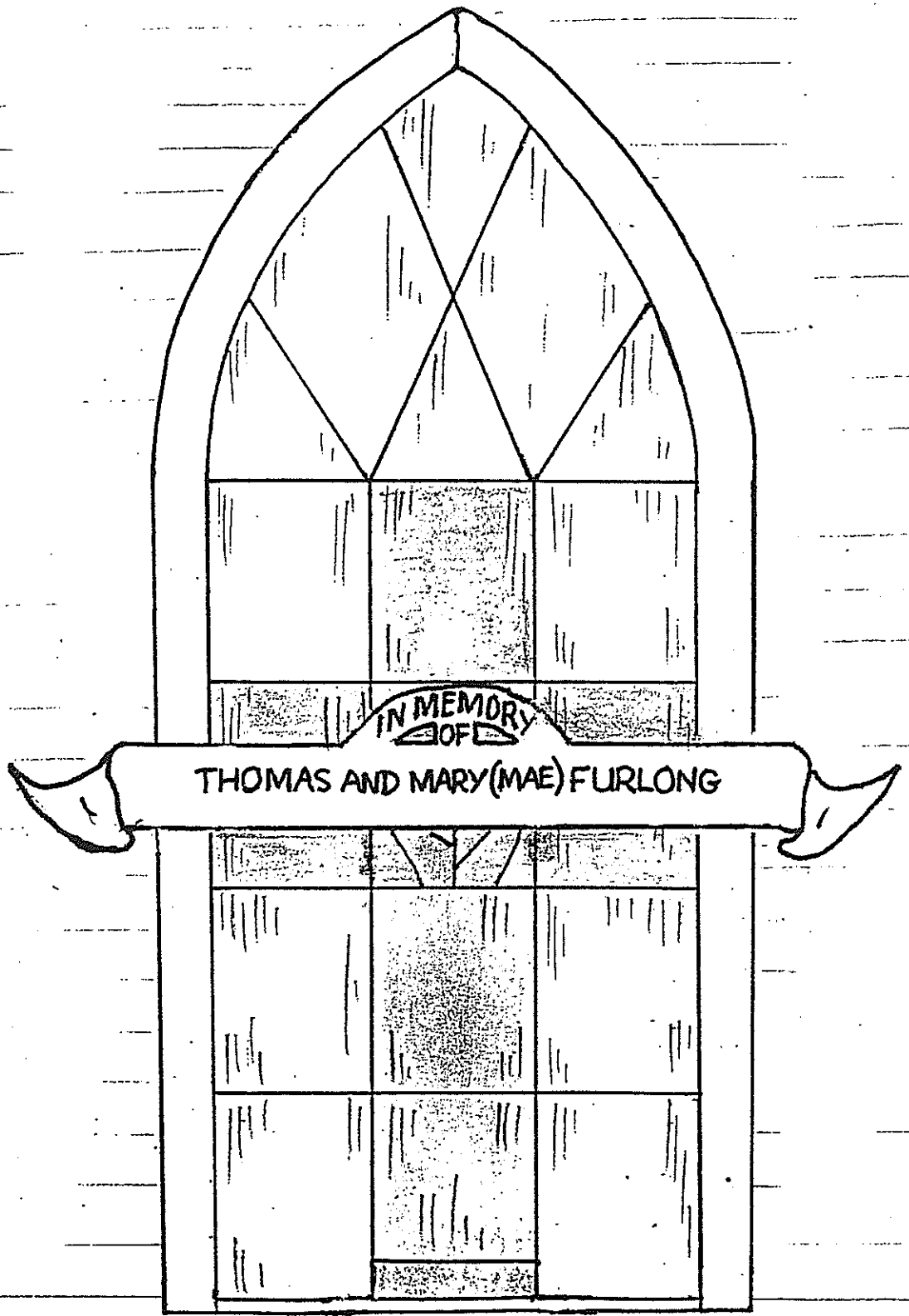
Obituary from the PRESS DEMOCRAT of
Santa Rosa, California.

July 29, 1958, Bodega, California
Services will be held Thursday
for Fred Witham, 67, a pioneer
resident of Sonoma County, who
died yesterday at his Bodega Road
home after a heart attack.

Mr. Witham was one of ten children of the late Mr. and Mrs. George F. Witham, was born in 1890 in Coleman Valley near Occidental.

He retired three years ago as Sebastopol office salesman for the California Auto Association. Prior to that he was an employee of the Howard McCaughey Store in Bodega for thirty years.

Survived by sister Margaret Witham.



TOM AND MARY (MAE) FURLONG

This window was installed during the month of January 1991, and was donated by the children of Tom and Mae Furlong who were both born and reared in this region. Tom Furlong, named Thomas F. Furlong, was born near Fallon in northern Marin County on February 28, 1886 and while still a child the family moved to the Despard Taylor ranch. The old ranch house is still standing near the intersection of Bay Hill Road and the highway. From the Taylor ranch the family moved to the Willow Creek region where Tom attended the Ocean District School which no longer exists. After Willow Creek the Furlongs lived on the Buckhorn above Coleman Valley.

Mae Furlong was born at Gleason Beach on the Sonoma Coast on May 10, 1893. She was a daughter of William and Bridget (McGee) Gleason - her father came to the Bodega area in 1858. There is more about the Gleason family in the next section, because there is a window dedicated to a branch of that family.

The Gleason family moved from the coastal ranch above Gleason Beach while Mae Gleason was still a small child. Their new home was a ranch situated a short distance east of the town of Bodega and near the Watson School where Mae was to begin her first years of education. However, while still a child it was decided to send her to the boarding school at St. Rose in Santa Rosa where she could be educated by the Ursuline sisters.

Tom Furlong's parents were Patrick and Sarah (Gallagher) Furlong. Patrick Furlong was one of four brothers who came to Bodega - three arrived in the late 1860's; these were James, Thomas and Patrick. John Furlong, the youngest, came in 1875, and it is believed that their widowed mother, Margaret (Carroll) Furlong also came at that time. She died in Bodega in 1890 and is buried in the Bodega cemetery. John Furlong left Bodega and spent intervals in Alberta, Canada and also in the state of Washington, but died in Bodega in 1920. It was James Furlong who first came to Bodega; he arrived in 1866 and Patrick and Thomas followed shortly thereafter (all are recorded on the 1870 Federal census). Thomas and his wife, Rosanna, have a window dedicated to their memory on the east side of St. Teresa's Church.

Patrick Furlong and Sarah Gallagher were married in St. Teresa's Church on November 12, 1877 - witnesses were Charles Gallagher and Bridget Mullally. The pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Tomales officiated; his name was Father Thomas Cushing - he was pastor for nine years, from 1876 to 1885.

Sarah Gallagher was a daughter of John and Margaret (McQuade) Gallagher. Sarah was born in Stockton, California

on January 26, 1854 and was baptized in St. Mary's of the Assumption Church which was the first Catholic Church constructed in San Joaquin County. The church was just a year old at the time Sarah was baptized. Sarah was only four years old when her family moved to Sonoma County. On Patrick and Sarah's marriage record, she is recorded as 23 years old and Patrick was 29; thus, he was born about 1848. Patrick's birthplace was a small village in County Wexford named Cooltigue one mile from the larger community of Bree - Wexford is in the southeastern corner of Ireland. Some eight miles from Bree is Enniscorthy where Jasper O'Farrell had his beginning. Patrick's parents were Patrick and Margaret (Carroll) Furlong; the father was a blacksmith and died in 1853 at the age of forty - his youngest son was born that year.

Sarah Gallagher Furlong's parents were also born in Ireland; her father was from County Donegal and her mother was born in County Tyrone. Sarah's mother was born in 1825 and that same year her family left for Canada; then, moved down to New York City. John Gallagher, Sarah's father came to New York City as a teenager and to California as a soldier. John Gallagher wrote a lengthy account of his military activities in 1903, called PERSONAL REMINISCENCES ETC., and the first paragraph tells about his arrival in California:

When in September, 1846, the information reached New York that General Taylor, with his regulars and volunteers, had been roughly handled by Santa Ana's men, in Mexico, I, then a young man under twenty-one, threw down my blacksmithing implements and joined Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson's First New York Regiment of Volunteers. Fired by the spirit of adventure, the young men composing this army had abandoned homes; trades and professions to enroll themselves under the standard of the Colonel. He embarked his troops on the Loochoo, the Susan Drew, and the Thomas S. Perkins. The company to which I belonged had the honor of sailing with Colonel Stevenson in the latter vessel. We rounded Cape Horn in March, 1847, anchored in the Bay of San Francisco, in front of Yerba Buena.¹.

Note: 1. Yerba Buena was the original name for San Francisco; in 1847 Alcalde (mayor) Washington A. Bartlett changed the town name to San Francisco. The notification appeared in the town's first newspaper, a weekly known as CALIFORNIA STAR, on January 30, 1847.

After completing his military service, John Gallagher and a friend, Martin Cahill, decided to remain in California. They went into business in Stockton where they specialized in shoes and boots.

According to a traditional story, Margaret McQuade and her girl friend left New York City without parental consent, and made the long journey to California in order to marry their boy friends, John and Martin. The young women arrived by ship at San Francisco sometime during the year of 1853, and the marriages took place in St. Francis of Assisi Church shortly thereafter.

There were nine children born to the Gallaghers - the first three (including Sarah Gallagher Furlong) were born in Stockton. In 1858 the family moved to a grant of land John Gallagher received from the government (160 acres) on San Antonio Creek near the town of Petaluma. Six additional children were born in Sonoma County.

The Gallaghers lived on the "homeplace" of Captain Stephen Smith (Bodega's first American settler) during their years at Bodega. This property was purchased as an investment by John McQuade (Margaret Gallagher's brother) he never lived there. By 1872, John and Margaret Gallagher bought land on Occidental Road where they built a nice home and they spent the remainder of their lives. A son, Joseph R. Gallagher, continued to live on the Bodega property and he made Fern Grove, which was part of the ranch, a popular gathering place for picnics and barbecues. The annual Father's Day celebration conducted by St. Teresa's Church was a very popular event which was attended by people from all over the area and beyond.

Joe Gallagher's wife was the former Emily Murray - the old Murray house still stands across the highway from St. Teresa's Church. In 1924, Joe and Emily Gallagher moved into the old home and lived there for several years. Then during their final years they lived on a portion of his father's property on Occidental Road. The original home on that ranch has been occupied for many years by a great grandson of John and Margaret Gallagher, Howard Respini.

Tom Furlong's parents, Patrick and Sarah, also lived on the Gallagher ranch on Occidental Road. In 1908, John Gallagher died, and a portion of the ranch was inherited by Sarah Furlong. They spent the remainder of their lives there, and Furlong Road which connects Occidental Road with the Bodega Highway was named for Patrick.

Three of the Furlong brothers, James, Patrick and Thomas, became citizens of the United States while residents of Sonoma County (12th District Court). James Furlong - citizen August 3, 1882; Patrick Furlong - citizen September 3, 1877; Thomas Furlong - citizen November 6, 1876. On the 1892 voters registration James was recorded as a carpenter, Patrick as a rancher and Thomas a stockman.

Patrick and Sarah Furlong were the parents of twelve children, but they reared thirteen - the youngest, John Kelly, was a child of Patrick's cousin who died young. The children were as follows: Margaret, Patrick, John J., James, Sarah, Thomas, Charles, William, Elizabeth, Nelle, Joseph, Hugh, and John Kelly. Additional information concerning John Kelly appeared in the SEBASTOPOL TIMES, Wednesday, July 6, 1899:

SAD DEATH AT BODEGA

A sad death occurred at Bodega this week. Michael Kelly, a young man, died after a lingering illness of several months, partially induced by the death of his wife a year ago.

Two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Kelly were married in Wexford county, Ireland. They left Ireland the day after their wedding on their honeymoon, which extended to Bodega. A year later the young wife died, leaving an infant son, and the young husband. The husband grieved over his wife's death and went into a decline. He was 29 years of age. The little boy, now a year old, is being cared for by Pat Furlong, a distant relative of the dead.

In 1916, Patrick Furlong died, and his wife Sarah died in 1933. Both are buried in the Sebastopol cemetery on the Bodega highway. Patrick had been a rancher (dairy) almost all of his working years. All of Patrick and Sarah Furlong's sons operated ranches in Sonoma County. The oldest son of Patrick and Sarah, Patrick A. Furlong Jr., bought the Gallagher ranch in Bodega (previously mentioned). He worked that land until his death in 1947.

Tom Furlong and brothers, Charlie and Bill, operated the Buckhorn ranch after their father retired. Then Tom and Charlie moved to the Gleason ranch which they ran for five years. It was during this time that Tom Furlong and Mae Gleason were married.

Mae Gleason completed her education with the Ursuline sisters in Santa Rosa; then continued her education and became a teacher. Her first teaching assignment was in San Francisco. She returned to Sonoma County and commenced a teaching assignment in Monte Rio about 1915, but gave up teaching in 1918 when she married Tom Furlong. Besides a husband and family of seven children, Mae Gleason Furlong gave unselfishly of her time to the Church. She was especially gifted as an instructor of catechism, and many in St. Philip's Church and St. Teresa's Church speak with high praise of her instruction.

The wedding of Tom Furlong and Mae Gleason took place at St. Teresa's Church on April 2, 1918. Their marriage is

found in Book 9, page 165 (County Recorder) and their formal names are used: Thomas F. Furlong and Mary Agnes Gleason. The marriage was performed by Father Barnabas J. Cantillon who was pastor of the Church at Tomales (which included Bodega) from September 13, 1913 until June 2, 1918. During these early years of 1900 there were three priests who served in this area by the name of Cantillon: Father John R. Cantillon (1902 - 1903) and Father John J. Cantillon was pastor of St. Sebastian's Church in Sebastopol.

Those who "stood up" with Tom and Mae, officially called witnesses, were Charles M. Gleason of Bodega and Elizabeth Furlong a resident of Sebastopol.

In 1921, the Tom Furlong family moved from Bodega to Occidental; they had a ranch on Morelli Lane northeast of the town. They spent twelve years there; then returned to the Gleason ranch near Bodega in 1933. While in the Occidental area their children attended the old Occidental School which predated the beginning of the town of Occidental - it is believed the town-name was borrowed from the Occidental School District.

Marie H. Galpin, from the old Robertson family of Bodega-Valley Ford region, was the teacher when the Furlongs attended the Occidental School. A letter from Mrs. Galpin in 1989 states:

"The Tom Furlong family were our great friends. Six of their children attended the Occidental School at one time. It saddens me to know three of them are gone."

By 1933 the Tom Furlong family had returned to the Gleason ranch near Bodega, and during the ensuing years Tom Furlong was a director at the Bodega creamery. Until 1948 he had always engaged in the dairy business, but then he changed from cattle to sheep as many others were doing. The requirements for dairying were becoming too burdensome. And from 1933 onward for many years the Furlong children attended the Watson School with Miss Margaret Witham as their teacher. Also during 1933, another son was born into the Furlong family - Raymond Henry; called Harry.

Tom and Mae Furlong spent the remainder of their lives on the ranch near Bodega which was in excess of thirty-five years for both of them. They were known throughout the area as good friends and neighbors, and were "pillars" of St. Teresa's Church. Mae (Mary Agnes Gleason Furlong) was the first to be called to her reward; she died June 22, 1969, and the following year, Tom (Thomas Francis Furlong) died on August 25, 1970. They are buried in the Sebastopol cemetery on Bodega Ave. One of their sons, Edward Furlong, continued to operate the old Gleason ranch for a few years after the death of the parents, but then the property was sold.

There were seven children born to Tom and Mae Furlong, as follows:

1. Thomas Francis Furlong Jr., born Feb. 12, 1919
2. William Patrick Furlong, born June 4, 1920
3. Edna Marie Furlong, born November 18, 1921
4. Edward James Furlong, born July 10, 1923
5. Patricia Aileen Furlong, born Nov. 20, 1924
6. Howard John Furlong, born February 14, 1926
7. Raymond Henry Furlong, born April 12, 1933

DESCENDANTS

The first-born son of Tom and Mae Furlong, Tom Jr., married Donna L. Horrell, a native of Humboldt County, where she was born in 1924. Her parents were Thomas and Harlene (Copsey) Horrell. Tom and Donna were married in St. Rose, Santa Rosa on August 15, 1943. They were the parents of four sons:

1. Timothy D. Furlong; born June 5, 1945; commercial fisherman - residence, Tomales. Tim and Candace Mae Purcell, daughter of Al and Bernice (McArty) Purcell, were married and they have two children:
 1. Melissa, born 1975 and 2. Timothy, born 1976.
2. Gregory T. Furlong; born July 8, 1948; he operates a trucking business. Married twice; from the first marriage there were two children: Gregory T. Jr. (died at 18 months) and Jeffery P., born June 7, 1973. Greg and Julie Peronne were married on March 16, 1983 - Julie's parents: Anthony and Marian Perrone; Julie's birth was in West Covina, CA on January 25, 1954. Greg and Julie have a daughter: Sara Harlene; born March 20, 1984.
3. Kirk L. Furlong; born October 17, 1953; he is not married.
4. Kevin N. Furlong; born October 8, 1963; married Tami Kay Rogers, daughter of John and Susan Rogers of Petaluma. They were married April 29, 1989.

William Patrick Furlong, the second son of Tom and Mae Furlong, was born in Petaluma, attended the Watson School, and was one of the members of the family who started school in the old Occidental District School. William (Bill) has

worked for the City of San Francisco for many years. He was married but no children; he resides in San Francisco.

Edna Marie Furlong was the first daughter of Tom and Mae Furlong. She attended the Occidental School, the historic Watson School, and graduated from Tomales High School. Edna attended the MacMaster Paine Business College in San Francisco. At the time of her retirement she was employed by the Exchange Bank, Montgomery Village Branch, Santa Rosa. She was the Assistant Manager, Loan Officer for the bank. In 1942, Edna Furlong and Robert James Bell were married in St. Thomas' Catholic Church at Reno, Nevada. Robert was a son of Harry and Rose (Callan) Bell of San Francisco. There were three sons born to Edna and Robert Bell:

1. Robert James Bell Jr., born Nov. 17, 1944; married twice - Donna Broxmeyer (1965) and Donna Delpere (nee Passalacqua) There were three sons born to Robert and first wife: Joseph, Daniel and Matthew. Joseph married Sandra Wheeler (1988) and they have a daughter, Trisha Kate Bell born 1990.
2. Thomas Patrick Bell; born Nov. 15, 1945; married twice - Mary Lee, and Glenda Nicholas. Tom's oldest son, Brian, is married and lives in Santa Rosa; other children: Tracy of Rohnert Park; Gavin, Michael and Megan live at home in Bakersfield.
3. Jeffrey William Bell; born May 15, 1953; married Sheryl Allen; they have two daughters: Erin and Kathleen. They have been living in Folsom.

Edward James Furlong was the fourth child and third son of Tom and Mae Furlong. Ed attended the old Occidental School; then the Watson School at Bodega, and graduated from Tomales High School. He has been a rancher at Bodega, Cazadero and now the Stewart's Point region. In 1949, Ed Furlong and Dorothy McClellan were married in St. Rose's Church, Santa Rosa. Dorothy was the daughter of Lafe and Ethel Hazelton McClellan. There were six children born to Ed and Dorothy Furlongs:

1. James Edward Furlong; born Aug. 17, 1950; he married Laura Anne Lampson, daughter

of Everett and Ethel Green Lampson. Jim and Laura live in Hopland where he manages several vineyards for Weibel. They have three children: Andrew James, Erin Marie and Catharine Ann - all born in Santa Rosa.

2. Michael Lawrence Furlong; born Feb. 6, 1952; married Barbara Brady in 1977. Barbara is a daughter of James and Mable Cabral Brady. Mike and Barbara are involved in ranch activities in the Stewart's Point area - sheep being their mainstay. They have one son: Michael Lawrence Jr. who attends the Horicon School in Annapolis.
3. Daniel Burton Furlong; born Dec. 27, 1953. He lives on Bloomfield Road out of Sebastopol and is employed by VHS Associates, Inc. located in San Rafael - construction management and engineering.
4. Susan Mary Furlong; born Oct. 8, 1956. She became a registered nurse. On Sept. 12, 1987, Susan and Anthony Murphy were married, and they live at Shrone, Glengarriff in County Cork, Eire. They have one son who was born in the United States: Diarmuid Anthony Murphy born in 1990.
5. Maureen Ann Furlong; born Aug. 29, 1959. She is employed with the County Sheriff's Office in records, and lives on the Angleman Ranch between Bodega and Freestone.
6. Eileen Marie Furlong; born February 23, 1966; she works as a non foods department head for the Lucky Store on Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, and she lives with Maureen on the Angleman Ranch.

Patricia Aileen Furlong, the fifth child and second daughter of Tom and Mae Furlong, was born in 1924. She, like her brothers and sister, was educated in Occidental, Watson and Tomales High School. In 1945, Patricia married Ralph Milton Nygard, a son of Everett and Johana Antiken Nygard. They had five children: Sandra, Colleen, John Patrick and Scott. The girls married - now Sandra Kimberling and Colleen Romer; Colleen has three children: Brandon,

Cameron, and Kendra. Son, John, and wife Sandra have two sons: Bryan and Brad. Patrick was married, no children. Scott and wife, Norma, live in Bloomfield - no children.

Howard John Furlong was the sixth child and fourth son of Tom and Mae Furlong; he was born near Occidental, and attended the Occidental School; then Watson School, and is a graduate of Tomales High School. He was also a student at the University of California at Davis. For many years he was employed by the Sonoma County Health Department as a milk and dairy inspector.

Howard Furlong and Joyce M. Laituri were married in 1957 at St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa - the Rev. Aloysius Zitko officiated at the wedding. Joyce's parents were Mrs. Skov Olesen and Arvie Laituri - Joyce was employed by the Sonoma County Public Health Department. She attended Santa Rosa schools, including Santa Rosa Junior College.

Two daughters were born to Howard and Joyce Furlong: Cheryl Ann, and Jane Carolyn. Both residents of Santa Rosa. Cheryl married David Robert Brown in 1979, and they are the parents of three sons: Matthew, Thomas and Patrick.

Raymond Henry Furlong (Harry) was the youngest of Tom and Mae Furlong's children. He spent his youth in the Bodega region and attended the Watson School and Tomales High School.

Harry was a rancher in several locations: Willow Creek, Fort Ross and in the Jenner area.

Harry Furlong was married twice; the first wife was Joanne Butulia and they had one son. The second wife was Nancy Elizabeth White, and there were four children born to Harry and Nancy.

The names of the children:

1. Patrick Mark Furlong (Ghan), son of Harry and Joanne.
2. Kelly Kathleen Furlong; married William M. Andrews.
3. Shawn Aileen Furlong; married name is Roades and they have two sons.
4. Bridgett Colleen Furlong
5. Casey Patrick Furlong

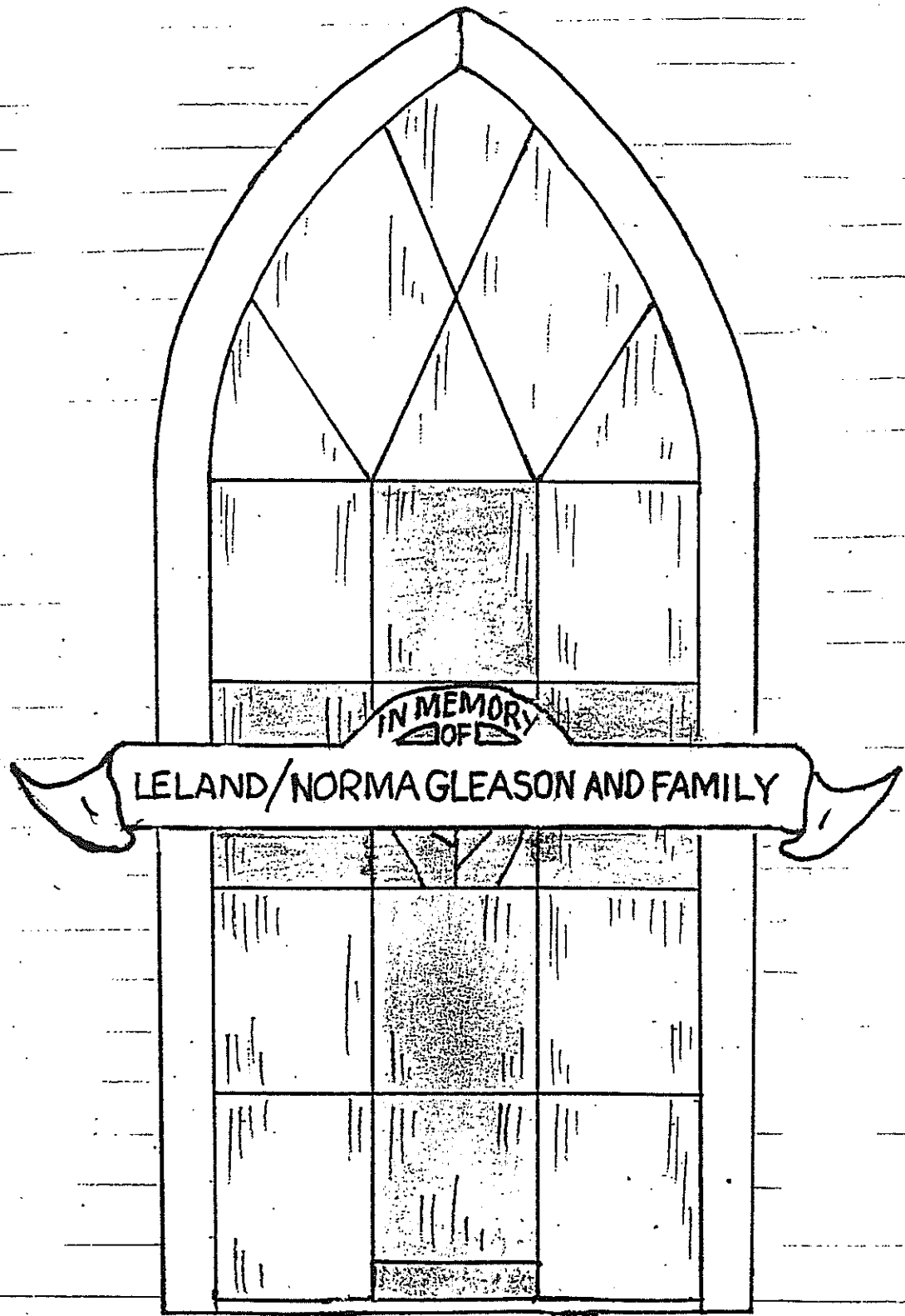
In the quote from former teacher, Marie Galpin, who instructed the Furlong children in the old Occidental School, she mentioned that three of Tom and Mae Furlong's children are deceased. The names of these three are as follows:

Thomas Francis Furlong , Jr.

Patricia Aileen Furlong (Young)

and

Raymond Henry Furlong (Harry)



LELAND/NORMA GLEASON AND FAMILY

When this window was installed in January of 1991 it completed the fourteen windows dedicated to persons or families in the "body" of the Church. Leland and Norma Gleason donated the window as a memorial to themselves and to the Gleason family.

The first member of the Gleason family to arrive in Sonoma County was William Gleason who came here in 1858. He settled on the north side of Scotty Creek, near where it flows into the Pacific. The beach in front of the old ranch became known as Gleason Beach. After the Gleason family moved to a ranch east of Bodega, the original ranch became known as the Mann ranch. The Mann family lived there for many years.

William Gleason was born on October 15, 1839 at Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. His parents were Michael and Honora Gleason - Honora's maiden name was O'Brien.

When the GREAT FAMINE struck Ireland in the 1840's, William Gleason's father, Michael Gleason, was one of the victims. He died in 1845 leaving a wife and three children. These children were Patrick, age 8; William, age 6; and, Bridget, age 2. Honora Gleason, sold all her belongings and took her three children to the port of Galway where she was able to get passage on a ship to Boston, Massachusetts. Evidently, she had relatives or someone in Massachusetts because her final destination was Brimfield, a small town near the Connecticut border. It would seem unlikely that she would had known about Brimfield without some connections there.

The trips to America from Ireland during those dreadful years of starvation, sickness and death were terrible to say the least. Those ships were very soon given the name "coffin ships." There is no way of knowing how many died on their way to Canada or the United States. Even after they arrived at their destination they were not welcomed with open arms.

As Honora and her children reached Boston during the early years of the famine, she may have been allowed to enter the City undetained. Soon thereafter, all Irish had to be quarantined on a small island in Boston Harbor called Deer Island. According to City documents these people were deemed "undesirable within the core urban area." The healthy were eventually allowed to leave, but it is known that at least 4,100 people died on Deer Island and were buried in shallow, lime-lined trenches that held eight or ten bodies each. The Gleasons may have had to go through Deer Island, but there is no way of knowing at this late date. The important thing is they arrived safely in Massachusetts to start a new life.

There is a low security jail on Deer Island at this time which is scheduled to close in 1991. There are plans

being formulated to turn this small island in Boston Harbor into a memorial project - to be called the "Great Hunger Memorial Project," which will be the nation's first memorial to Irish famine victims. There are plans to erect a huge Celtic Cross on the island and also a statue near Fanueil Hall in the city of Boston. (information from the Associated Press)

There is no information concerning the early years the Gleasons spent in Brimfield, Massachusetts. Honora, widow of Michael Gleason, married a second time - to a widower (also from Ireland) by the name of Manning.

Patrick Gleason, the oldest child of Michael and Honora, spent most of his life in Springfield, Mass. where he became a machinist. He and his wife, Catherine, were the parents of nine children - most of them remained in Springfield. One daughter (Maria O'Connor) moved to New Orleans where she reared a large family.

Bridget Gleason, the only sister of Patrick and William, married Timothy Hallinan, a native of County Limerick, Ireland. They moved three times: first to Brooklyn, New York, then to Newark, New Jersey and finally to Bloomfield, New Jersey. They were the parents of ten children, and most of them remained in New Jersey - one branch in Ohio and another in Texas.

William Gleason appears to have been the wanderer. His journey to California would make an interesting story, but at this point in time no one seems to know if he came by land or sea. As he was close to the Atlantic coast it would seem likely he came by sea, but that is only a supposition and doesn't make good history. He was about eighteen years old when he left Massachusetts and was nineteen when he arrived in Sonoma County. He had to have been employed by others, and in 1858 there was considerable activity along the Sonoma coast. Thus, it was probably not too difficult to find employment. Within the course of time he was able to invest in land which has already been mentioned on the north side of Scotty Creek - facing the Pacific Ocean.

William Gleason married when he was twenty-five years old; this was in 1864 and his bride's name was Ann Melahan who was a native of County Clare, Ireland (Wm.'s native county). Ann died at the age of thirty-six, which was on May 5, 1882. She was buried in the Bodega cemetery.

There were eight children born to William and Ann: They were George, Catherine, David, Joseph, Margaret, Ruth, Mary and Daniel. The three youngest children: Ruth, Mary and Daniel all died young. This must have brought great sorrow to Ann who died only a year after Daniel.

William Gleason became a citizen of the United States in Sonoma County on July 1, 1876 (info. in GREAT REGISTER of SONOMA COUNTY, 1892). His description was as follows:

he was six feet tall, fair complexion with dark hair and blue eyes. From his pictures it is evident that he was a handsome man.

In 1884, William Gleason married a second time. The second wife was Bridget McGee who was a native of County Cavan. The name of the village where her home was located is Lisigney (Tullyco, P.O. Cootehill). Evidently Lisigney is a very small place and the people had to get their mail at Cootehill near the Co. Monaghan border. According to Bridget's death certificate she was born Nov. 8, 1858.

William and Bridget Gleason were the parents of seven children: Edward, Francis, Charles, Leo, Walter, Mary Agnes (Mae) and Wilfred. Wilfred, the youngest, was born on October 7, 1901 and died shortly thereafter. Thus, Mae Gleason remained the youngest. She married Tom Furlong and they have a memorial window near the Church entrance.

Mae Gleason was born on the ranch at Gleason Beach, but shortly thereafter the Gleason family moved to a new location, which was the ranch near the town of Bodega (between Bodega and the Watson School on the upper side of the highway in the direction of Joy Woods). This ranch was to become the final abode of William and Bridget, and the land remained in the family for many years after their deaths. Various members of the family operated the ranch down to the fourth generation.

William Gleason died on February 4, 1905 at the age of sixty-five. From the time of his arrival in western Sonoma County until his death he had been an active rancher, and a faithful member of St. Teresa's Church. Bridget McGee Gleason, the second wife of William, died on July 29, 1924. She was particularly dedicated to Church activities and held in high esteem by the clergy who served the Bodega area. Father John Rogers, who was pastor between 1892 to 1903, returned to Bodega for William's funeral and also for Bridget's funeral; they had remained friends for many years. The newspaper articles written at the time of William and Bridget's deaths give some insights into their lives:

DEATH AT BODEGA

BODEGA, February 8, - William Gleason, a prominent resident of this place, passed away on Saturday last. He was one of the first subscribers to the Leader.

William Gleason was born in 1839, in County Clare, Ireland. In 1858 he came to Bodega, where he resided

till his death. He was a man of high principles, genial and affable, and ever ready to help the poor and afflicted, but nobody knew what he gave. He was a faithful husband, a loving father and a true friend.

Mr. Gleason was a
(con't on next page)

good Catholic, and gave freely to the Church. The funeral was held yesterday at Bodega, where a solemn requiem high Mass was offered. Father Gleason was the celebrant, Father Rogers was deacon, Father Mackey was sub-

deacon, and Father Looney was master of ceremonies. The deceased leaves a widow and eleven children: George, David I., Joseph J., Kate, Mrs. Cathol O'Farrell, Edward, Frank, Walter, Charles, Leo and May. May he rest in peace.

GREAT CROWD
AT FUNERAL OF
BODEGA WOMAN

One of the largest funerals ever witnessed in western Sonoma was that accorded the late Mrs. Bridget Gleason yesterday. Friends were present from all over Sonoma and Marin counties, as well as the bay cities; so widely was she known and so greatly esteemed.

In the Church of Saint Teresa at Bodega, a solemn requiem high Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock and so great was the crowd that the spacious edifice could not begin to accomodate all present.

Twelve priests assisted in the solemn service and the choir of St. Rose's Church, Santa Rosa, with Mrs. T. J. McDonald, Mrs. J. Ed McNamara and Frank O'Connor as soloists and Mrs. Joseph P. Berry as organist, rendered the music of the Mass.

(Notice: Fr. Rogers had been elevated to Monsignor by 1924)

The Rev. Father William F. Kellar, rector of the Parish, was the celebrant, the Rev. Father John Harnett, deacon, and the Rev. Father Bernard Cantillon subdeacon. The Rev. Father Mathew Smith was master of ceremonies.

Father Kellar delivered an eloquent sermon, telling of the long and faithful service rendered by Mrs. Gleason, in the Church, in the home, and in the community.

The other clery present included the Right Rev. Monsignor Rogers and the Revs. Fathers Richard Ryan, John Byrne, James Delahanty, William Fleming, Walter Hammond, Dolan and Kelley.

The pall-bearers were Joseph Gallagher, Peter Fitzpatrick, John Neles, John Keefe, Patrick McKay, William Dolan. A large motor truck was needed to carry the scores of floral pieces from the Church to the cemetery. Interment was in the family plot, beside her husband and children who had gone before in Calvary Cemetery at Bodega.

LEO HARRY GLEASON

The line of descent from William Gleason and his wife, Bridget McGee Gleason, to the Leland Gleason family, for whom this window is dedicated, comes through Leo Gleason and his wife Agatha McLain Gleason.

Leo Harry Gleason was the fourth child and fourth son of William and Bridget. He was born on the Gleason Beach ranch on June 11, 1889, and from his youth onward he learned the dairy business. At the age of twenty-eight Leo Gleason and Agatha McLain were married; Agatha was eighteen and a resident of Freestone, and Leo was living on the Gleason ranch near Bodega. The marriage took place in St. Teresa's Church on November 19, 1917 with Father B.J. Cantillon officiating at the ceremony. Their witnesses were Charles M. Gleason, brother of Leo, and Lavina B. McLain, a sister of Agatha. (Bk. 8, page 481 - County Recorder)

Agatha P. McLain was the oldest child and daughter of James and Catherine McLain; both parents were natives of Ireland. James came to the United States in 1891, and six years later he sent for Catherine who arrived in 1897; they were married shortly after Catherine's arrival and Agatha was born in January of 1899.

The 1900 and 1910 census for Sonoma County show that the James McLain family were living in Occidental; they moved to Freestone at a later date. In all probability they were a part of that volunteer group who built St. Phillips's Church in 1902. According to the census information James McLain was born in July of 1869 and his wife, Catherine was born in March of 1872 (death records, Co. Recorder have July 10, 1865 for James and March 20, 1874 for Catherine).

The background of both James and Catherine McLain is interesting, but sad. As their family names suggest, they were the descendants of the ancient families of Ulster in what we commonly call North Ireland.

It was James VI of Scotland, who was also James I of England (the two countries were united under one ruler, but not politically until 1707), who developed the idea of dealing with the Irish situation by means of a plantation system. Thus in the early 1600's the confiscation of lands owned by Catholics commenced in the northern counties of Ireland. The Catholic natives were evicted from their homes and farms and Protestant settlers from England and Scotland were given the land. Hence, the Irish developed the "saying" - "To hell or to Connaught" (Give up your faith and save your land or seek refuge in rock-bound Connaught to the west). It was so difficult to make a living in the west of Ireland, that over a period of time many of the starving people made their way back to their old homes and tried to find employment from the "planters" who occupied the land. The problems

Note: Actually, the idea of resettling Ireland started with Henry VIII and grew with the monarchs who followed - although, not a monarch, Oliver Cromwell contributed greatly to this plan.

created by the British government over the years have remained to the present day.

The name McLain has undergone many spelling changes. Sometimes it is written McClean, McClain, McLean and McLain. It is difficult to imagine that it simply means "son of John." The Irish (Gaelic) was Mac Giolla Eáin (Eán, an old form of Eoin or Seán = John). This was an old galloglass (paid soldiers) family who were once numerous in County Antrim and Derry - probably used to protect the Antrim coast against invaders who were numerous in ancient times.

James McLain's mother was Mary Jane Mellon. This old name has a most distinguished history. The name itself in the Irish was Ó Meallain, and the variants that have come about in English are Mallon, Mellon, Mellan, Mallin and sometimes Mullen. The family became numerous in County Tyrone and County Derry. This family, for centuries, were known as the hereditary keepers of the BELL OF ST. PATRICK - otherwise called the Bell of the Testament. The family lands were known as Mellánacht, i.e. O' Mellan's country. The lands included present Cookstown in County Tyrone. The family is descended from Cenél Eoghain, from whom the Co. of Tyrone (Tír Eoghain) got its name. There are also branches of the family in Armagh, as many of them occupied Church land under the Bishop of Armagh. Many distinguished Church leaders came from this family. Father Turlough O'Mellan wrote the ULSTER WAR DIARY (1641-1647) in the Irish language and gives great details about the "plantation period" among his people.

James McLain's wife was Catherine Scullion, and her mother's name was Clara Moore. The name Scullion come from the Irish Ó Scollain and their domain was Ballyscullion in the deanery of Rathlowry, Diocese of Derry. The Moore family came from Ó Mórdha and descend from Conal Cearnach, distinguished hero of the Red Branch. The name in English became O'More then O'Moore, but the "O" was dropped long ago. The Moores are particularly proud of a member of their family who was leader of the Uprising of 1641 which brought Ulster temporarily back into Irish hands. This hero was Rory O'Moore, but it was followed by even worse treatment by their English oppressors. The ballad of Rory O'Moore is as follows:

RORY O'MOORE

(An Ulster Ballad of the Rising)

On the green hills of Ulster the white cross waves high,
And the beacon of war throws its flames to the sky;
Now the taunt and the threat let the coward endure,
Our hope is in God and in Rory O'Moore!

Do you ask why the beacon and banner of war
On the mountains of Ulster are seen from afar?
'Tis the signal our rights to regain and secure,
Through God and our Lady and Rory O'Moore!

For the merciless Scots, with their creed
and their swords,
With war in their bosoms, and peace in their
words,
Have sworn the bright light of our faith to
obscure,
But our hope is in God and Rory O'Moore.

Oh! lives there a traitor who'd shrink from the
strife
Who, to add to the length of a forfeited life,
His country, his kindred, his faith would abjure?
No! we'll strike for our God and for Rory O'Moore!

The efforts of Rory O'Moore and his forces were not of long duration for a variety of reasons. The English regained their former position, and the natives were once again under control - but never their hearts or souls.

Returning to the McLain family of the Occidental-Freestone area, the family of James and Catherine McLain had grown to seven members by the time the thirteenth federal census was taken in 1910: father, mother, Agatha, age 11; Thomas J., age 9; Lavina, age 7; Alta, age 3; Neal (Kneeland), age 1 month. There was also a child named Clara who was born and died during this time period. Following 1910 another son was born to the McLains and his name is Harper McLain. One other child was brought into the McLain family, an Eskimo boy who was reared in the family and spent his entire life with them.

The home of the McLains became a ranch in the upper northeast slopes of the O'Farrell Valley overlooking the community of Freestone. It was while living in the Freestone locality that Catherine McLain died, and this occurred on May 31, 1936. She was buried in the old cemetery at Sebastopol. James McLain died on June 11, 1947 and also buried in Sebastopol. At the time of his death he was recorded as an orchardist.

Leo and Agatha (McLain) Gleason lived in several places and had a family of five children, as follows: Leo, Leland, Irene (Jaynes), LaVerne (Wetch) and Carmelita (Otkins) - Carmelita is deceased. (the names in parentheses are the married names)

It was while living in Bloomfield that Leland Gleason was born in 1921. His father was in the dairy business

during those years. From Bloomfield Leo Gleason moved his family to the Gleason ranch near Bodega, and the children attended the Watson School. The next move was to Santa Rosa where Leo Gleason continued in ranch work and added a milk route to his activities. Eventually, the T.B. testing of dairy herds liquidated the ranch - like so many others in Sonoma County. Leo was able to get employment as a hod-carrier and he worked in the ice cars at night. The last twenty-six years of Leo's employment was as a night patrol officer for Santa Rosa businesses. He died at the age of ninety-one in 1980.

LELAND AND NORMA GLEASON

Leland Gleason, the second child and second son of Leo and Agatha Gleason, was born in Bloomfield and reared partly in Bodega and Santa Rosa. He married Norma Ann Rossotti who was a native of Petaluma; both her parents were natives of Italy. Norma's father was Christopher Rossotti and her mother was Carmelina Guenza. However, they were not from the same part of Italy; they met in Albion, Mendocino County where both were living shortly after their arrival in this country.

Christopher Rossotti was born and reared in the Lago Como (Lake Como) region of the Italian Alps. This region of Italy and Switzerland has spectacular views which attract many tourists.

Carmelina Guenza's native place was the state of Emilia, in northern Italy but slightly southwest of Venice with its eastern boundary on the Adriatic Sea. Carmelina Guenza's home was near the city of Bologna.

During his working years Christopher Rossotti had a cheese factory at Valley Ford; operated chicken ranches near Petaluma, also worked for a Poultry Company and a creamery - all in the Petaluma area.

Leland Gleason had a variety of work experiences before his retirement. Starting with his military service during World War II, he was a member of the Amphibious Engineers which was the 803rd Army Marine Reserve Unit, and he served in New Guinea and in the Philippines. He worked on Mare Island after his return to the States; then for fourteen years he worked under Melvin "Dutch" Flohr, Chief of Police for Santa Rosa - he was an inspector. In 1960 a business opportunity came along and Leland went into the Automotive business of towing, repairs etc. - a company which employed twenty-three workers. He remained in business for seventeen years; then in 1977 he became a special agent for Wells Fargo which meant commuting from Santa Rosa to San Francisco. His task was investigative work, and during his last eight years of employment he had a territory from San Francisco

to the Oregon border and east to Reno. As a retired person, Leland Gleason keeps a few horses at his Melita Road home, Santa Rosa, and is an active member of the Sonoma County Trailblazers.

Leland and Norma Gleason are the parents of three children: Russell, Mark and Pamela - all born in Santa Rosa. Russell married Julie Huntington, and their two children are Caitlin and Patrick. Mark and his first wife, Laura Baxter, have two sons: Tyler and Benjamin. Pamela married Robert Willhite, and their son is Justin. Russell, now deceased, and his family lived in Santa Rosa. Mark and wife, Valerie, live in Healdsburg. Pamela and family live in Santa Rosa.

Empty Saddles

RUSS GLEASON

(Written by his special friend,
Jim Keegan, Jr.)

Well, boys, the trailblazers lost a good friend and leader when Dick Dillworth's strawberry roan Belgians took President Russ on his last ride through Bodega this past February.

A member of SCTB since 1974, Russ moved up through the office ranks to become president for 1989 & 1990. Always interested in Western lore, he took a particular interest in the Wagons Committee serving on this committee for many years, as well as chairing it for two years.

Russ was one of the 10% of the guys who would do all the work so the other 90% of us could eat, drink, bitch, moan, and generally enjoy ourselves on the ride and at the hog feed. On the ride last year, when Russ was starting to feel the effects of radiation treatments and two operations, he still got up early each morning to ride out with the Trails Committee before breakfast to insure that the trails were in order and marked properly. He then came back, saddled up, and rode the whole ride each day, including waiting at lunch to ride in with the wagons.

Taking on the responsibility of building our

new barn from Fred Hook, Russ signed the contract to trade our land and made sure that the job was completed properly. Although he did not make it until the dedication, he did make the final committee meeting and inspection of the barn. This was two days before he died. Russ was tremendously pleased with the outcome of our new facility.

Being an outgoing guy and a natural leader over the years, Russ joined many organizations and usually ended up in a leadership role from high school offices to Santa Rosa Junior College Student Body President with his last office being President of S.C.T.B.

Russ was born in Santa Rosa and attended local schools through SRJC. He then went to Chico State, where he obtained his degree and teaching credential. He later obtained his Masters Degree in Colorado. Russ changed from teaching to Mead Clark Lumber a few years ago, where he was the Hardware and Advertising Manager.

Of all his many activities, Russ felt most at home in the outdoors-hunting, fishing, or horseback riding. His great sense of humor and storytelling ability always added to any situation. Russ always got a kick out of a good practical joke, whether he was the perpetrator or the receiver.

Along with his wife, Julie, and kids, Caitlin and Patrick, his folks Norma and our member Lee, we will all miss Russ. All of us will treasure our fond memories of him.



OBITUARIES

Trailblazers president Russ Gleason dies

Russ Gleason, manager of Mead Clark Lumber and an avid horseman, died Sunday at his Santa Rosa home after a long fight against cancer. He was 42.

Born in Santa Rosa, Gleason was a fourth-generation resident of Sonoma County.

Gleason was president of the Sonoma County Trailblazers, a riding group that counts some of the county's richest and most powerful men among its membership.

Family and friends describe him as an outdoorsman who enjoyed horseback riding, roping and driving teams of horses. He also liked to hunt and ski.

"Russ was an all-around great guy. He was a joiner and a leader. If he joined a group he tended to get involved in its leadership. He collected a lot of friends," said James B. Keegan Jr., a Trailblazer friend.

Gleason three weeks ago moved his wife and two young children into a new home he had built.

Julie Gleason said her husband went ahead with the new home despite knowing he had cancer. "We were grateful he made it to the house and was able to enjoy it for a couple of weeks," she said.

Gleason kept a horse at the Melita Road home of his father, Leland "Lee" Gleason, who is retired from the Santa Rosa Police Department and is the former owner of Swift's Garage.

He did a lot of trail riding and as Trailblazers president was responsible for selecting trails and planning the annual week-long outing of 325 riders. He was expected to ramrod the various committees and to arrange for the group's day at the county fair and the annual wild-hog feed.

Prior to five years with Mead

Clark, he taught school for 14 years at Rincon Valley Junior High and Piner High Schools. Hired in 1973, he taught government at Piner for a year, then taught geography and history at the junior high for two years before returning to Piner to teach government and anthropology. After taking a leave of absence in 1984, he resigned to work for the lumber firm.

A graduate of St. Rose Elementary School, Gleason graduated from Santa Rosa High School in 1966. He was president of the Boys League in high school and went on to Santa Rosa Junior College, where he was student body president and president of the Student Bachelor's Club. He graduated from California State University, Chico and went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Northern Colorado. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

He also served six years in the California Army National Guard.

In addition to his wife, Julie Huntington Gleason, he leaves his daughter, Caitlin Gleason and his son, Patrick Gleason. He also is survived by his parents, Lee and Norma Gleason, of Santa Rosa; brother, Mark Gleason of Healdsburg; and sister, Pamela Willhite of Santa Rosa.

Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Teresa Catholic Church on the hill in the town of Bodega. Vigil rite services will be held at 7 p.m. today at Eggen & Lance Mortuary in Santa Rosa.

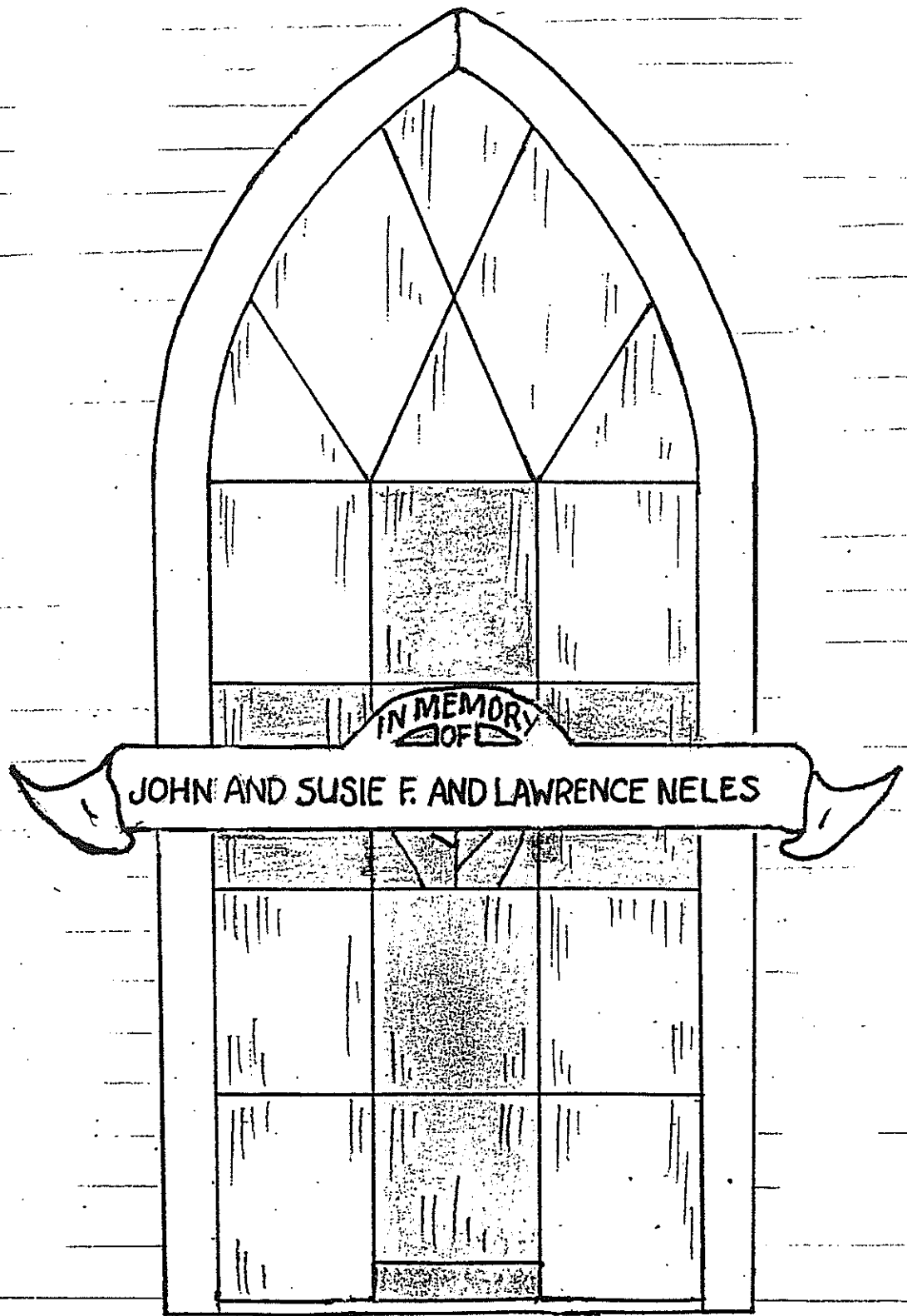
At Gleason's request, his casket will be carried from the church to Bodega Cemetery, west of town, in a horse-drawn hearse.

Members of the Trailblazers also were arranging to have horse-drawn buckboards and other wagons join in the procession.

Memorial donations are preferred to the Russ Gleason Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of the SRJC Foundation, 1501 Mendocino

Date of birth: Dec. 29, 1947

Date of death: Feb. 11, 1990



JOHN AND SUSIE F. AND LAWRENCE NELES

The first window on the east side of the Church as you enter the building is dedicated to John and Susie Fitzpatrick Neles, who were husband and wife. Lawrence Neles was John's bachelor brother. They lived and worked together most of their lives; thus, family members though it appropriate to dedicate this window to the three of them.

The Neles (pronounced Neal-less) family contributed much to the progress and well-being of Bodega for three generations. Henry Neles (third generation) was active in the work to save St. Teresa's Church during those days in the 1950's when some people wanted to tear the old Church down. He also did much in the way of maintaining the old cemetery.

In 1926, Miss Honoria Tuomey had a HISTORY OF SONOMA COUNTY printed in two volumes. Miss Tuomey was a teacher and resident of Bodega for many years, and during the years she was developing her history she interviewed Lawrence Neles. Therefore, it seems appropriate to use Miss Tuomey's material for the background of the Neles family.

LAWRENCE M. NELES

(Vol. 11 306, 307)

"For sixty years the name of Neles has been identified with blacksmithing and wagon making industry at Bodega, an industry that is now in the second generation being operated by the Neles brothers, who have been for years carrying on a business which was established by their father in the year 1865. Lawrence M. Neles is the eldest of these sons of the pioneer Owen Neles, and his brothers John J. and William P. Neles, who were born at Bodega, are associated with him in the business, a mutually agreeable and successful partnership that has been maintained since the days of their young manhood.

Owen Neles, the founder of the business was a native of Ireland who as a young man immigrated to the United States and in the year 1856 came to California by way of the Isthmus locating at San Francisco. He was a skilled blacksmith and wagon trimmer and upon his arrival in San Francisco became employed at his trade in that city, remaining there for a year or more, at the end of which time he came to Sonoma County and began working at Healdsburg. Six months later he went to Petaluma and after working there for a couple of years opened a shop near Bloomfield, where he remained in business for eighteen months, after which he took a trip down to Mexico. A year later he returned to Bloomfield and resumed his former labors there but in the next year was married and established his home at Bodega, where he subsequently set up a blacksmith and wagon making shop and

where he continued in that business the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1895. His wife died in 1896. She also was a native of Ireland, born Katherine Monahan, and came to California in 1856, taking a boat from the port of New Orleans for the journey around by way of the Isthmus, arriving in San Francisco in the same year in which Owen Neles arrived there.

To Owen and Katherine (Monahan) Neles four sons were born, namely: Henry F. Neles, born August 12, 1867, who died in the year 1884; Lawrence M., the immediate subject of this sketch and the eldest of the surviving sons of this family; John J. Neles, born March 29, 1871; and William P. Neles, born March 8, 1874. Lawrence M. Neles was born at Bodega, January 13, 1869, and there grew to manhood, from the days of his boyhood an efficient helper in the labors of his father's smithy and wagon making shop. He was well trained by his capable father in the art and mystery of the ironworker's craft and in due time began to relieve his father of the cares of the management and direction of the establishment. He was twenty-six years of age when his father died, and he and his brothers, the latter of whom also had been well trained in the details of the business, took over the old established concern and have since been operating it under the firm style of Neles Brothers, and are doing well. This establishment is equipped for all sorts of work along that line required in the trade area which its output covers, and the high grade of work there turned out is its own best advertisement.

The two younger of the Neles brothers are married and have well established homes at Bodega. John J. Neles married Susan Fitzpatrick, who was born at Antioch, Contra Costa county, this state, and has three children - a daughter, Margaret; and two sons, Henry and Edward John Neles. In April, 1907, William P. Neles married Annie Keefe, who was born at Bodega, and to this union four children have been born, - two sons, James H. and William J. Neles; and two daughters, Evelyn and Kathleen, the two first named of whom are now (1925) in high school. The Neles brothers are substantial, dependable members of the community in which they always have lived, and they ever have taken their part in the general civic and industrial affairs of that community, helpful in many ways in promoting the growing interests of the flourishing little city of Bodega."

Several members of the Neles family are buried in the old Calvary Cemetery at Bodega, and their gravestone give some added information about this family. However, they are not all in the same lot.

In Lot #13, Row #6 are the graves of Owen, Catherine, Henry and Lawrence Neles - father, mother, and two sons. Miss Tuomey spelled the mother's name as Katherine, but in the cemetery it is Catherine. The information on the graves is as follows:

Owen Neles	Catherine Neles
died Jan. 20, 1895	died April 26, 1896
aged 75 years	aged 65 years
Native of County Tyrone, Ireland	Native of County Galway, Ireland. Wife of Owen

The dates of birth are not given, but from the ages it is evident that Owen was born about 1820, and Catherine was born about 1831.

The first person buried in this lot was Henry F. Neles who died on March 19, 1884 - only sixteen years, seven months, and seven days old. This was a sad loss for Owen and Catherine.

Lawrence Neles, the other son buried in the Neles lot, died on May 14, 1934. His age given on his death record in the County Recorder's Office, Santa Rosa (Bk. 1934, p. 342) was sixty-nine, four months, and one day. If that was correct then he was not born in 1869 as stated in Miss Tuomey's account; rather he was born January 13, 1865.

Two other lots have Neles graves, and they are Row #12, Lot #5, and Row #12, Lot #6 (Rows commence from the top of the cemetery, and count down).

In Lot # 5, there are three graves: Owen and Catherine's son William P. Neles, who was born March 8, 1874 and died on December 4, 1926. William's wife is buried on one side of him, and she was Annie B. Keefe before marriage; she was born December 28, 1874 and died October 12, 1965. The third grave is Evelyn Neles, daughter of William and Annie. She was born in 1912 and died in 1935 - only twenty-three years old.

In Lot #6, there are also three graves: Owen and Catherine's son John J. Neles, who was born March 29, 1917 and died in 1933; his wife: Susie F. Neles, and she was Susan F. Fitzpatrick before marriage. She was born in 1880 and died in 1949. The third grave is a son of John and Susie Neles - Edward J. Neles, born 1918 and died in 1924 at the age of six.

During the years when the Neles brothers were in business, Father John Rogers asked Lawrence Neles to act as contractor for the construction of St. Philip's Church in Occidental. The land for the church had been donated on October 23, 1901; thus, early in 1902 Lawrence Neles and his brothers accepted the job from Father Rogers, and commenced working on the church. Traditionally, it is said that many of the people in the region gave a helping hand in the construction.

But, the Neles brothers deserve special recognition for the beautiful job they did. This church is so much a part of the little community of Occidental, and continually draws the attention of visitors who enjoy walking around it and taking pictures.

Below, are brief new items from the SEBASTOPOL TIMES:

Saturday October 4, 1902 - News from Occidental

"The new Catholic church is beginning to show off to good advantage. The frame and rafters are up and the Neles Bros. are doing a good work."

Saturday December 20, 1902 - News from Bodega

"Neles Bros., Contractors and Builders, have returned home, having completed the Catholic church in Occidental."

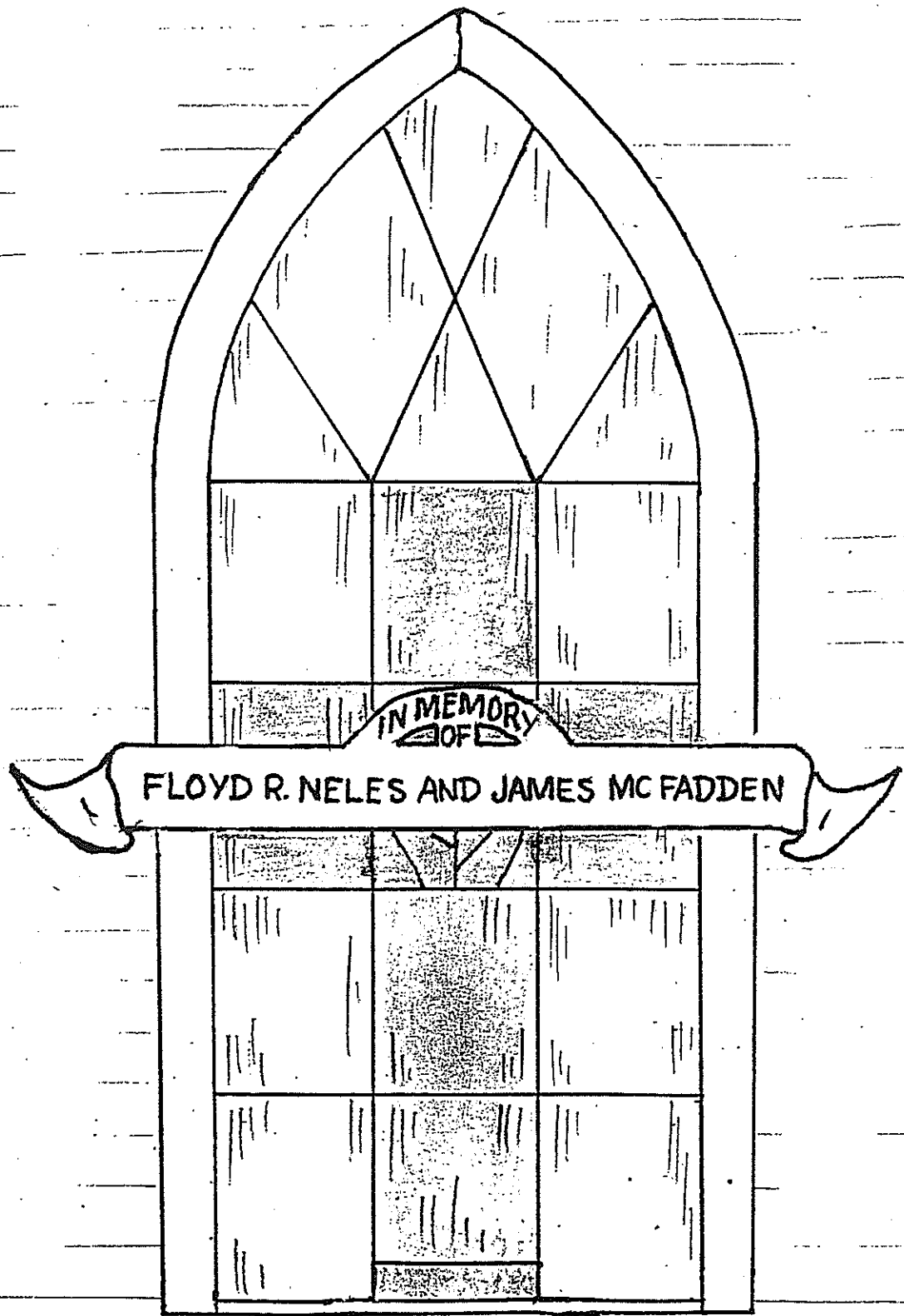
"The new Catholic church at Occidental is to be dedicated in a few weeks."

Descendants

William (Bill) Neles who married Annie Keefe has one son, James (Jim) Neles, who is about 83 years old at this time. Jim Neles left Bodega during the Depression Years and has been a resident of Sacramento for many years. A daughter of Bill (Katleen Shaw of S.F.) had a son and two daughters.

Two children of John Neles and wife, Susie Fitzpatrick, continued to live in Sonoma County during their lives. Henry Neles operated a dairy on Llano Road for about fifty years. Henry was born in Bodega in 1913 and died Sept. 29, 1980 at the age of 67. Henry and his wife Inez were the parents of four children. Two of their sons live in Sonoma and a daughter, Patricia McDonald lived in Napa at the time of Henry's death.

The only daughter of John and Susie Neles, named Margaret, is a resident of Petaluma. She was born about 1911 (now eighty years old). Margaret was married to Alexander McFadden; her married name at this time is Cook. Two sons were born to Margaret and her first husband: James and Donald McFadden. James, as can be seen by the next window, was killed in an automobile accident. Donald married and has a son name Larry McFadden, who is married at this time, and he and his wife have two children: Carl and Sarah McFadden.



FLOYD R. NELES AND JAMES MCFADDEN

This window is a memorial to two young men who died in a tragic automobile accident. They were cousins and grandsons of the late John and Susie Neles who are on the window next to them. Floyd Raymond Neles was a son of Henry and Inez Neles, and James Alexander McFadden was a son of Alexander and Margaret McFadden. Henry and Margaret were brother and sister - son and daughter of John and Susie Neles.

The accident took place on October 6, 1956, and James McFadden, who was only nineteen years old, was killed instantly. The Petaluma General Hospital records indicate: D.O.A. (dead on arrival). James was born in Santa Rosa on November 15, 1936, and he worked on the Henry Neles dairy which was located at 3110 Llano Road, east of Sebastopol.

Floyd R. Neles, born May 28, 1938, was also taken to the Petaluma General Hospital following the accident where he clung to life for three days; then on October 8, 1956 at 8:08 A.M. he died - just eighteen years old. James' burial in the Sebastopol cemetery took place the morning Floyd died.

Floyd Neles also worked for Henry Neles (his father) on the Llano Road dairy.

The newspaper article in THE SEBASTOPOL TIMES, printed October 17, 1956 give some of the details of the accident:

TWO SEBASTOPOL AREA YOUTHS DIE IN AUTO CRASH

Floyd Neles, 18, of 31- youths who had planned
10 Llano Road, and his cou- to join the Army.
sin, James McFadden, also
from the Sebastopol area,
died as the result of in-
juries sustained in an au-
tomobile accident that oc-
curred early Saturday morn-
ing.

McFadden was killed in-
stantly in the crash which
took place about a mile
west of Bloomfield Road,
and young Neles died Monday
morning in the Petaluma
General Hospital.

Two other occupants of
the car escaped serious in-
jury. They were Robert Evans
17, and William Bonini, 18.

The accident took place
after a going-away party was
given Friday night for Mc-
Fadden and the three other

The car was travel-
ing east on Petaluma-
Valley Ford Road when
it hit a ditch, rolled
over several times,
throwing out all four
occupants.

Young McFadden was a
native of Santa Rosa. He
attended grammar school
in Valley Ford, and gra-
duated from Tomales High
School, where he was a
member of the Future
Farmers of America.

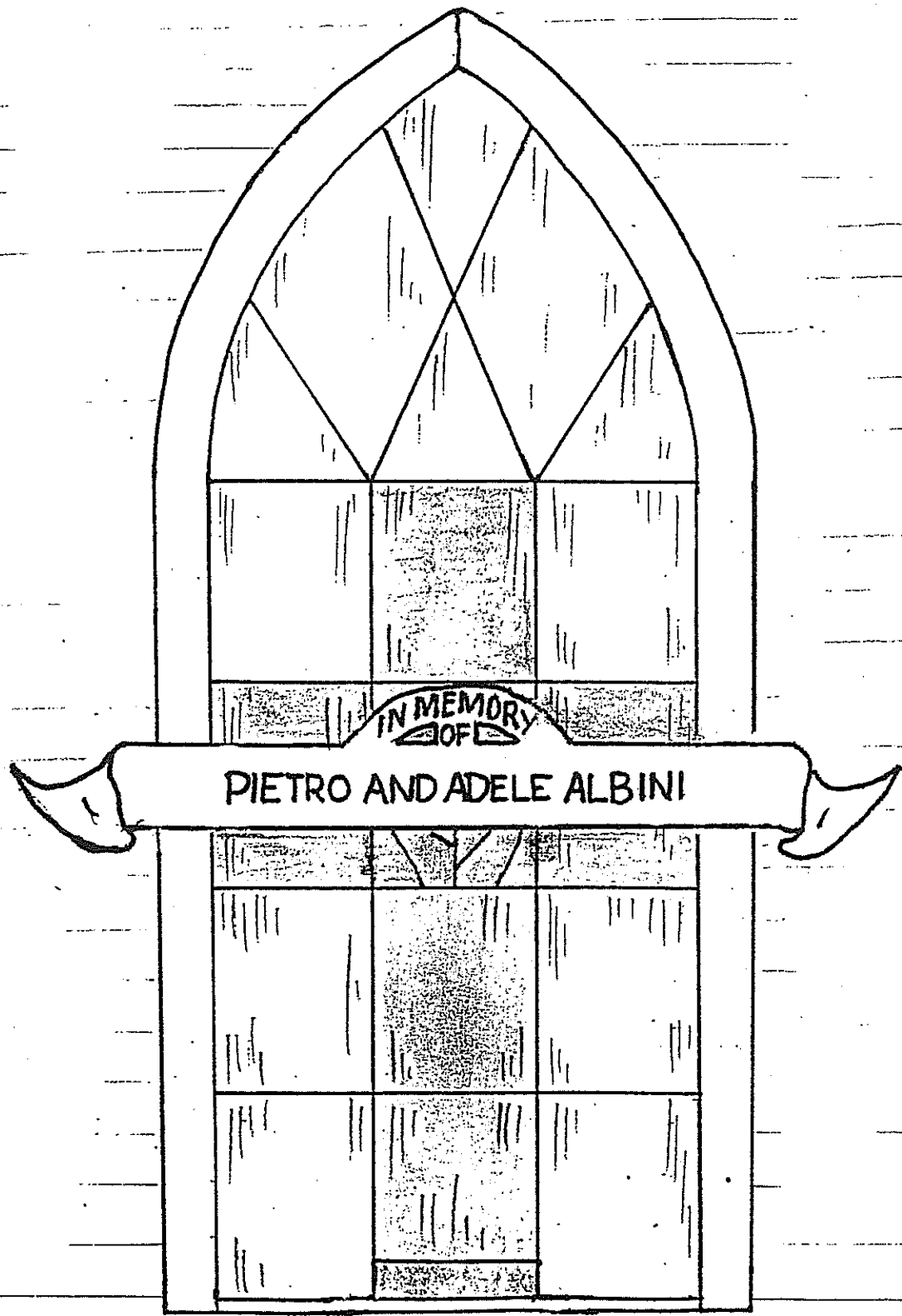
Funeral services for
the youth were held Mon-
day from the O'Leary Fu-
neral Home, followed by
Requiem Mass at St. Se-
bastian's Church. Burial
was in a Sebastopol

cemetery.

Neles was also born in Santa Rosa. He is survived by his father, Henry Neles, Santa Rosa; his mother, Inez Johnson, Sonoma; a sister, Patricia Lee Neles; and his brothers, Lawrence Michael Neles and Kenneth Neles, all of Sonoma.

Funeral services for young Neles will be held today from the chapel of the O'Leary Funeral Home. A requiem Mass will be said at St. Sebastian's Church at 10 A.M. and burial will be in the Sebastopol cemetery.

Truly a sad situation for all the family members and numerous friends who knew and loved these young men. The festivities took place in Valley Ford where James McFadden's parents, Alexander (Sandy) McFadden and Margaret (Neles) McFadden (now, Margaret Cook) once operated the Valley Ford Hotel which was built by J.N. Rien back in 1864. The old hotel has been completely remodeled in recent times by Ed and Peg Duffy, who regularly attend St. Teresa's Church.



PIETRO AND ADELE ALBINI

Pietro and Adele Albini lived for many years on their dairy ranch which was located on Salmon Creek Road, directly across the road from the old Bodega Creamery. The window in their memory was donated by their son and daughter-in-law, Louis and Marie Albini, who live just below the Sonoma-Marin border in Marin County and near Valley Ford.

There are three birth dates given for Pietro Albini on public records. All agree that he was born in July, but his year of birth is given as 1879, 1880, and 1881. On the 1900 census, he gave his year of birth as 1881, and on his marriage record (Bk. 21, page 7) 1881. On his death record July 19, 1880 was given for his birthdate.

Pietro Albini was born in the community of Garzeno, in the Province of Como, Lombardy, Italy. His father was Donato Albini and his mother's maiden name was Annunziata Bianchi. According to the information given on the 1900 census, Donato and Annunziata were married in 1876, and four children were born to them: Domenico, Pietro, Giovanni and Maria. About 1883-4, Donato Albini came to Sonoma County for the first time; he apparently returned to Italy at least once and perhaps twice. But, it took several years before he could manage to bring his family to this country, and then not all at the same time.

Donato Albini, like his son Pietro, was born in Garzeno, and his parents before him were also. Donato Albini's father was Domenico Albini, and Donato named one of his sons for his own father. The maiden name of Donato's mother was Maria Mazzuchi, and likewise they named their daughter Maria.

It was a long and arduous task for Donato to work, send money home, and eventually to acquire the dairy that was his goal before attempting to bring the members of his family to Sonoma County. During the first years, Donato worked in the lumber camps around Occidental in the winter months and he worked on dairy ranches in the summers. It took about ten years before he was able to rent land in the Bodega Bay area; this was about 1893-4, and the start of his own dairy activities. Also, his oldest son, Domenico, arrived from Italy to work with him. Two years went by and Donato rented five hundred acres in the immediate vicinity of Bodega; known as the Potter ranch. It was located just south and east of the Potter School which still stands near St. Teresa's Church. This school, built in 1873, was named in honor of Samuel Potter, one-time sheriff of Sonoma County.

At the age of sixteen, Pietro Albini was able to leave his home in Italy and make the journey to Sonoma County. Two

other young men came with Pietro - Angelo Poncia, and Pete Bianchi. According to the 1900 census, Pietro Albini arrived in the United States in 1897.

Pietro Albini worked on his father's ranch until 1906; then with money he had saved he rented land at Bodega Bay where, with a herd of fifty cows, he started his own dairy. This ranch was directly across the road, or highway, from the well-known Tides restaurant. During the years at Bodega Bay, which consisted of about fourteen, Pietro married, started a family, and saved enough to buy his final ranch at Bodega.

The wife of Pietro Albini was Adele A. Illia who came to Sonoma County in 1910. Adele was also from that northern region of Italy known as Lombardy, but she was not from the same province as Pietro. She was born on March 3, 1888 in town of Somalaco, Province of Sondrio, and her parents were Innocente Illia Sr. and Guidita Bianchi.

Unlike the Albini and Bianchi families who came to this region, all the Illias who arrived in Sonoma County were related. Adele's half-brother, Innocente Illia Jr., was the first member of her family in Sonoma County; he arrived in 1892 and was eighteen years old. Innocente married an Irish girl, Helena Redmond and their picturesque old home stands in Coleman Valley. The traveler through Coleman Valley cannot miss this house because on the same property is the Coleman Valley School which was built in 1864. Another brother, Battista (Bob) Illia, operated a ranch at Valley Ford which continues to be the home of one of his children, Oliver Illia. An older half-sister of Adele Illia had come to Sonoma County in 1900, ten years before Adele's arrival. This sister, Enrichetta Illia, married in 1901 to Julius Mantua. Thus, on November 5, 1910 when Adele Illia arrived at Bodega she made her home with her sister and brother-in-law. The other brothers and sisters of the Illia family went to Argentina.

It was on July 30, 1912 that Pietro Albini and Adele Illia were married. The ceremony took place in St. Rose Catholic Church, Santa Rosa with the once well-known Father John Cassin officiating.

Pietro and Adele Albini continued to live at Bodega Bay until 1920, and their two sons were born there. Then in 1920 they moved to a two hundred and eighty acres ranch at Bodega which was the property of Frank Fitzpatrick. They bought this ranch and it became their home for the remainder of their lives. Their only daughter was born on the ranch at Bodega. The three children of Pietro and Adele Albini are as follows:

1. Donato Albini; born August 27, 1913
2. Louis Albini; born October 25, 1916
3. Adele Albini; born December 22, 1921

Donato Illia Albini, the first son of Pietro and Adele Albini, was a progressive rancher in the Bodega area for many years. He was born at Bodega Bay in 1913, and in the late 1940's he married Bella Josephine Forni (her brother, Will Forni, did the beautiful flower displays for the Sonoma County Fair Grounds for many years). Donato frequently signed himself as Don or Donald Albini, and his only son is named Donald. Donald Sr. or Donato was a very talented and highly skilled individual; thus, he was hired by Bechtel Corporation and sent on a work assignment to Libya and Saudi Arabia as an electrician in their oil activities. In 1980 word reached his family that he had died in Saudi Arabia from a heart attack. He left a wife and one son in Santa Rosa:

1. Donald Forni Albini; born December 7, 1950

- - - - -

Louis Peter Albini, the second son, was the only member of Pietro and Adele Albini's family to remain in this region. He was born at Bodega Bay in 1916, and attended the old Potter School where Honoria Tuomey once taught. The Reader may be familiar with Miss Tuomey's two volumes of Sonoma County history? Louie went to high school in Tomales and attended the University of California at Davis where he engaged in agricultural studies. For many years Louie and his wife, Marie, have lived and worked a ranch below Valley Ford; he also owns the ranch that belonged to his parents in Bodega. For many years the mainstay of activity was dairying, but like so many others Louie changed to sheep.

The marriage of Louis Peter Albini and Marie Elvera Boschetti took place on December 26, 1942 at St. Rose Catholic Church, Santa Rosa. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Henry B. Rathers, and the witnesses were Don Albini from Valley Ford and Marguerite Esposti of Fulton. Marie Boschetti Albini was a native of Fulton, and her parents were Charles Boschetti and Letizia Furia Boschetti, both parents were natives of Italy.

The children and grandchildren (to date) are listed below:

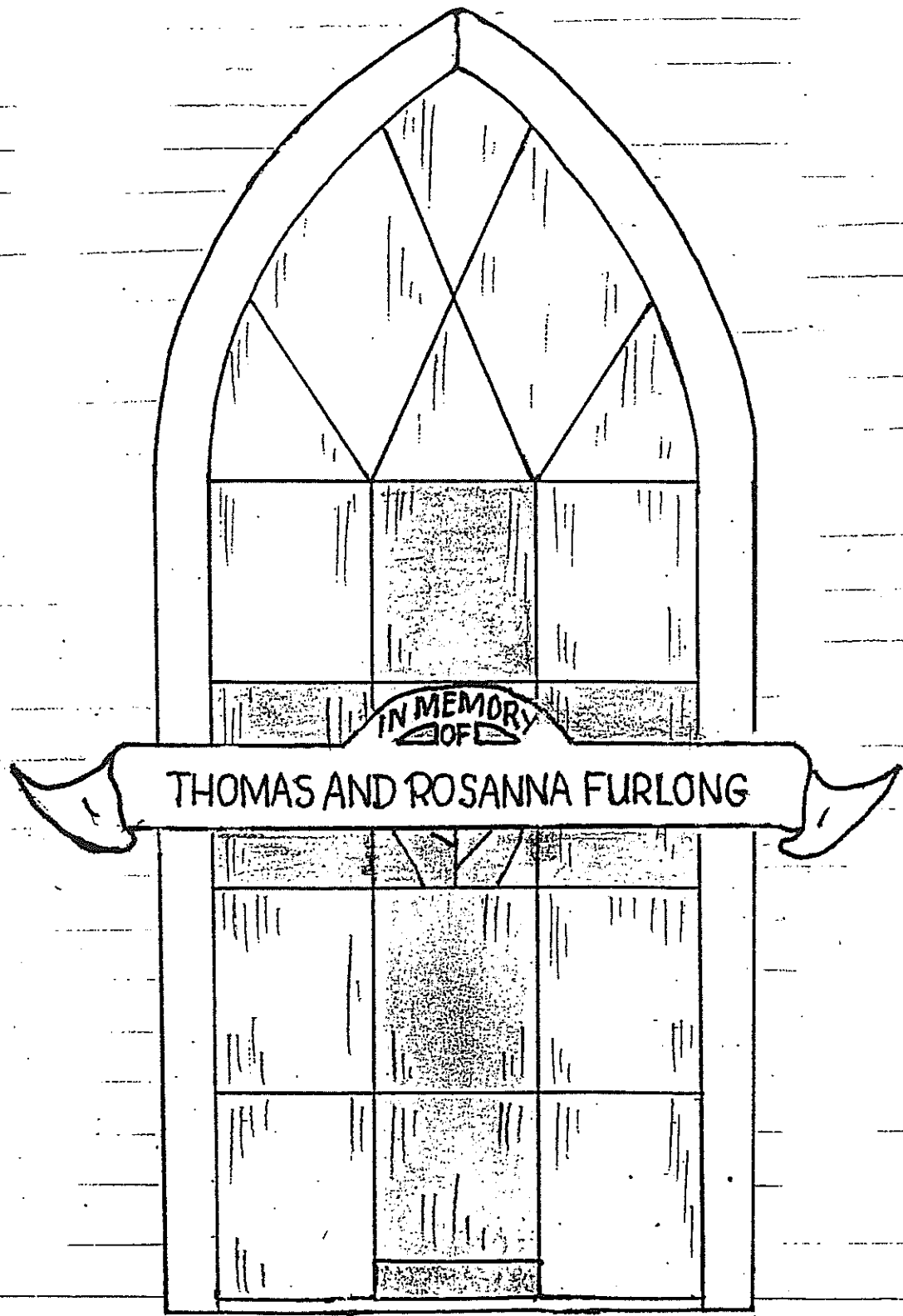
1. Louise Judith Albini; born October 15, 1943, and she is married to Marvin Witt. They have a son, Richard Witt, and Marvin has three children from an earlier marriage: Shawn Witt, Chris Witt, and Bill Witt.
2. Agnes Marie Albini; born November 17, 1945; Agnes married Walter Titus, and they have two children: Gary Titus and Gretchen Titus.
3. Susan Litizia Albini; born April 17, 1948; her husband is Robert Corda; they have no children, but Robert has a child from a former marriage: Sierra Corda.

4. Theresa Christine Albini; born April 12, 1950; she was married to Kenneth Eyler, and she has two children: Robert Eyler and Julie Eyler.
5. Brenda Petrina Albini; born August 24, 1951
6. Martin Anthony Albini; born March 11, 1954

Adele Albini was the only daughter of Pietro and Adele Albini, and she was born on the ranch at Bodega in 1921. She attended the local schools and later married Lou Niederfrank. They operated a dairy for many years in the San Joaquin Valley near Fresno. Unfortunately, Lou Niederfrank was killed not too many years ago in an automobile accident; his wife and four children survive him. The children are as follows:

1. Ken Niederfrank; he is married and has two daughters: Christine and Cheryl
2. Eddie Niederfrank; he is married and has one son: Christopher
3. Kevin Niederfrank; not married at this time
4. Janet Niederfrank; her husband is Philip Guyette, and they have sons: Jamie and Matthew

Pietro and Adele Albini lived from 1920 until the time of their deaths on their ranch at Bodega. Adele Albini died first; her death took place on March 28, 1946 and Pietro Albini died four years later on June 5, 1950. They contributed to the growth and development of this region, and their family members continue to do their part.



THOMAS AND ROSANNA FURLONG

Raymond Furlong, a retired Oakland accountant who lived on a ranch at the end of Stoetz Lane northeast of Occidental, donated the window for Thomas and Rosanna Furlong. Raymond was one of their sons.

The Furlongs began to appear in the Bodega region during the 1860 decade, and Thomas Furlong was one of the brothers who came here during that time. On the 1870 U.S. Federal census, Thomas Furlong was recorded as a resident of Bodega Bay.

Furlong is a name that has long been connected with County Wexford, Ireland. Thomas Furlong was the third son of Patrick and Margaret (Carroll) Furlong, and their son Thomas was a Christmas child; born on December 25, 1849. Patrick and Margaret Furlong were from the village of Cooltigue, about one mile from the larger community of Bree. Their parish church and most business activities were conducted in Bree. The well-known Jasper O'Farrell, whose home was in Freestone, was a native of County Wexford - not many miles from the town of Bree.

County Wexford, in the southeast corner of Ireland, is one of the "butter and egg" counties of that country; thus, the Irish who came from there were well prepared for the dairy activities that were beginning to flourish in the Bodega countryside. Tom Furlong was no exception to the above, and he found employment on dairy ranches. However, with the passage of time he found with his knowledge of livestock he could make a better living as a stockman (buying and selling livestock). He applied himself diligently to this task and achieved a considerable measure of success.

During the early years when Tom Furlong was employed at Bodega Bay he met his bride-to-be, Rosanna Johnson. Rosanna was born at the Bay on June 5, 1856 - the State of California was not quite six years old at that time, admitted to the Union on September 9, 1850. The parents of Rosanna were Andrew Johnson, a native of Norway, and Catherine Farrell, a native of Ireland. Little is known of the circumstances that brought Andrew Johnson and Catherine Farrell to California. Andrew arrived in San Francisco Bay in 1849; he was a sailor on a Norwegian ship. It was common for crews to abandon their ships to go to the "gold country" and perhaps Andrew Johnson was one of those who had visions of acquiring a fortune? Catherine, who also came to California during those "Gold Rush" days was fortunate to escape from her famine-ridden country - 1849 was the worst year of the Irish Famine. Sometime during those early 1850's Andrew and Catherine met and were married in San Francisco - probably about 1854-5. Very soon after their marriage they came to Bodega Bay. It isn't known what Andrew Johnson did for a living those first years in Sonoma County; possibly he leased land

from Captain Stephen Smith's family? Smith had died in 1855 and shortly thereafter, the widow, Manuela Smith, married Tyler Curtis. Beginning in the early 1860's there was considerable sale of Smith lands until the first years of the 18 - 70's. Curtis sold the bulk of Smith land; tried unsuccessfully to poison Manuela; left her destitute, and disappeared into the eastern part of the United States. The broken-hearted Manuela moved with her family to San Francisco where she died some years later.

Andrew Johnson bought land at the north end of the Bay from Tyler Curtis; the first purchase is dated March 15, 1862 (Bk. 13; page 97) and the second transaction is dated February 10, 1863 (Bk. 13; page 644). Immediately following the Johnson property, in the direction of Bodega Head was the ranch of James Kee which was bought from Tyler Curtis September 28, 1864 (Bk. 15; page 595) and on the same day and year all the land that now makes up Bodega Harbor, and that portion of land that runs along the Bay (some of which is occupied by a motel) and the Doran Park region, was sold to William M. Doran (Bk. 15; page 589). Back to the Bodega Head area; the Gaffney ranch followed James Kee's land. Miles Gaffney bought from Curtis on March 17, 1864 (Bk. 15; page 82). Bodega Head was sold by Curtis to Captain John Campbell on September 8, 1862 (Bk. 15; page 543). All references are from the County Recorders Office, Santa Rosa, California.

The Johnson land is rather heavily populated at this time. An 1877 map shows part of the Johnson estate was bordered by the Pacific Ocean, and on the inland side Bodega Bay made a fairly long boundary, and a part of the Bodega Bay land became known as Johnson's Port.

Andrew Johnson, like so many in the Bodega Township, developed a dairy which he continued until his death. The youngest son of Andrew and Catherine, Peter Farrell Johnson continued the dairy activities for many years; then he sold his portion of the ranch to Despard Taylor. Despard and his brother, Godfrey Taylor, had big land holdings in Bodega and Occidental area. As reminders, there is a Taylor Street at Bodega Bay and a Taylor Lane near Occidental. For those curious about the name Despard, it was the surname of the Anglican minister who baptized Mr. Taylor in the Parish Church of Fertagh, County Kilkenny, Ireland. The minister was J.W. Despard. The Taylors were Anglo Irish.

The Johnsons, Andrew and Catherine, were the parents of five children, as follows:

1. Rosanna Johnson; born in 1856
2. John P. Johnson; born 1857
3. Andrew B. Johnson; born Born 1859
4. Thomas C. Johnson; born 1861
5. Peter F. Johnson; born 1863

Catherine Farrell Johnson died before her husband; her death took place in 1882, and Andrew Johnson died in 1899. They are both buried in the old Bodega cemetery, and the following are the inscriptions from their monuments:

Catherine Johnson, died November 24, 1882 aged 58 years. Native of Angola, Parish of Donough, County Monaghan, Ireland. Wife of Andrew Johnson

Andrew Johnson born March 3, 1829, died July 22, 1899, native of Omland, Lillisland Norway

The Johnson gravestones were almost completely destroyed in 1988 when vandals toppled and smashed the majority of the monuments in the cemetery. Unexpected help came from five young men who were upset by the destruction. Their names are Ron Halvorsen, Greg Moranda, Dan Davis, Paul Lundgren, and Jack Moorhead. They used epoxy to seal the broken pieces together and with a winch and jeep they raised the heavy monuments back into place. They did a tremendous job, and all the markers are back in place again.

Thomas and Rosanna Furlong were married in 1874, and at that time St. Teresa's Church was a mission of The Church of the Assumption, Tomales (and for many years following). Rev. William J. Slattery was the priest who was the pastor at that time; ordained in 1865 from the old St. Thomas Seminary at Mission Dolores, San Francisco. The marriage took place on November 10, 1874 in St. Teresa's Church; Father Slattery officiating. Patrick Furlong, brother of Tom Furlong, was one of the witnesses, and Bridget Mulally from English Hill was the other. (English Hill is a regional name, not a community - that range that runs down from Freestone.) Details of the wedding are from Book E., page 252 in the County Records Office, Santa Rosa.

Tom and Rosanna Furlong lived in the town of Bodega; the house is still standing - the first house on the left after making a right turn at the store (Joe Bonfigli's business).

There were twelve living children born to Tom and Rosanna, and their names are recorded below:

1. Andrew J. Furlong; born March 24, 1878
2. Mary C. Furlong; born May 13, 1879
3. John P. Furlong; born 1880
4. Thomas F.L. Furlong; born October 27, 1882

5. Peter J. Furlong; born January 17, 1885
6. Margaret E. Furlong; born Feb. 7, 1886
7. Anna R. Furlong; born January 24, 1888
8. Edward Furlong; born April 25, 1891
9. Claire G. Furlong; born April 12, 1892
10. Irene A. Furlong; born February 21, 1893
11. Raymond C. Furlong; born March 24, 1894
12. Florence A. (Bill) Furlong; born July 24, 1897

In 1906-7, tragedy struck the Furlong family twice. Mary Catherine, the oldest daughter of Tom and Rosanna, succumbed to a severe attack of typhoid fever, and despite all efforts to save her she died from this illness. She had become a registered nurse, a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco.

Four months after Mary's death, but in 1907, Tom Furlong became very ill with pneumonia and died suddenly; he was fifty-seven years old. His grave is in the Bodega cemetery, and the grave of his daughter, Mary Catherine, is also in the family plot.

After the deaths in the family, Rosanna was persuaded to move to Oakland where her son, Tom Furlong Jr., was already living. He was of considerable help to his widowed mother. She lived in Oakland for twenty-two years; her death occurred there on December 14, 1929. She was buried next to her husband in Bodega.

DESCENDANTS

Not all the children of Tom and Rosanna Furlong married, and from those who did only four had children; thus, in order to enumerate descendants only those with families will be recorded here.

Thomas F.L. Furlong, the fourth child and third son of Tom and Rosanna, was a resident of Bodega from birth to early manhood, and he was the first of the family to take up residence in Oakland where he became a successful building contractor. Tom Jr. married Catherine Hanley and they had two daughters:

1. Patricia Furlong
2. Rosemary Furlong

Edward Furlong was the eighth child of Tom and Rosanna; he spent his entire adult life in the Bay Area and he worked for HAAS WHOLESAL GROCERS as a salesman. Edward Furlong married Winifred Penrose and they had one son:

1. Edward Penrose Furlong

Irene Furlong was the fifth daughter and tenth child of Tom and Rosanna. She spent most of her adult life in the East Bay where she reared her only daughter. Irene was married twice; her first husband was William T. McSorley who died in 1940. In 1958 she married Frank Andrews who died in 1976. During the last years of her life, Irene returned to Sonoma County and lived on the ranch her brother Raymond once owned (he had died). Her daughter, Barbara McSorley McKee owns the property. Both Irene and Barbara have been very active members of St. Philip's Church and Parish. Barbara McKee is particularly active in the R.C.I.A. program and has assisted many converts into the Catholic faith.

Irene Andrews died on September 3, 1988 at the age of ninety-five, and she was buried next to her second husband in the old Calvary Cemetery at Bodega.

Florence (Bill) Furlong was the youngest of Tom and Rosanna's children. He lived in the Los Angeles area, and married Betty James; they had one son:

1. John Thomas Furlong

THE GREAT AND GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF
TOM AND ROSANNA

Edward Penrose Furlong, now deceased, married and had two children: Judy and Brad. Judy is now Mrs. De Martini, and she has one daughter: Megan Harris (from a 1st marriage) Brad Furlong studied law in Washington state where he and his wife, Eileen, and their two children live.

Barbara McSorley McKee and her husband Samuel J. McKee (deceased) were the parents of three children: William Richard McKee, Samuel J. McKee III, and Irene Ann McKee. Barbara was a teacher in the East Bay for many years.

William (deceased) and his wife, Ann (Day) McKee lived in Novato, California. Their two children are Eileen Ann and Caitlin Sarah McKee.

Samuel J. "Bud" McKee is an attorney in Santa Rosa with the District Attorney's Office. He is not married.

Irene Ann McKee was first married to Mark Wendt, but is now Mrs. James McCabe; her two children are Kelly and Ryan Samuel.

McKEE, William R. — Died in Novato, February 13, 1991. Beloved husband of Ann Day McKee. Loving father of Eileen Ann and Caitlin Sarah McKee. Dearly beloved son of Barbara and the late Samuel McKee. Brother of Samuel McKee III and Ann McCabe. A native of California. Age 42 years.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial mass Saturday, February 16, 1991 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 1800 Novato Blvd., Novato. Inurnment private. Memorial contributions preferred to Easter Seals. KEATON'S REDWOOD CHAPEL OF MARIN, 1801 Novato Blvd., Novato. 415-897-1151.

John Thomas Furlong married Ruth Annette Dehn and they were the parents of three sons. Ruth is deceased and her grave is in the Bodega cemetery.

The first son, David John Furlong, married Vivian Sigrid Krohn and they are the parents of three children.

Steven John Furlong is the second son, he is married and he and his wife, Mary, have one son: Michael Furlong.

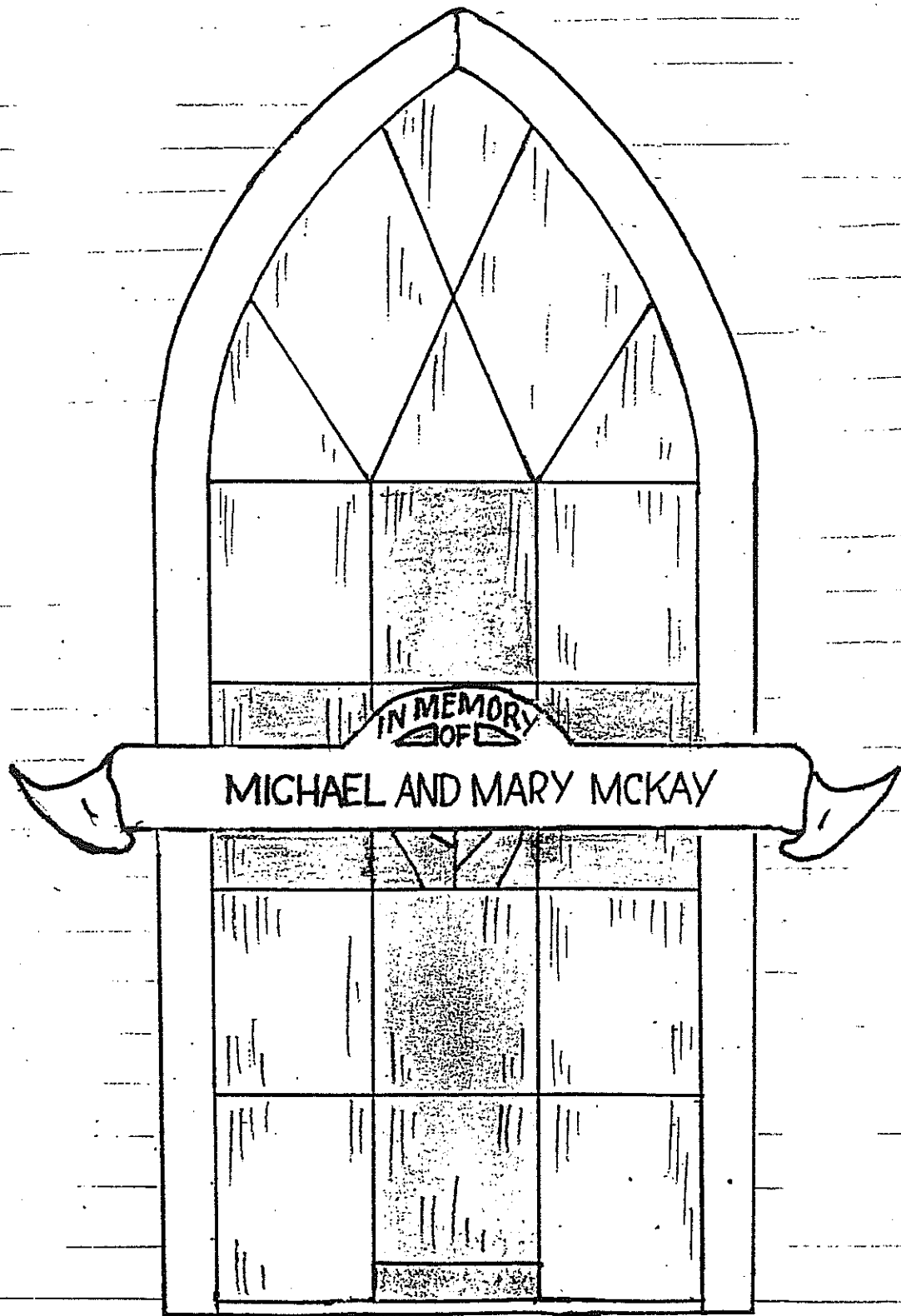
The youngest son, Roger Raymond Furlong, is married - he and his wife, Adriana, have one son (step-son of Roger).

The news clipping below are from the Petaluma Argus. The one concerning Mary Catherine (Mae) Furlong appeared during the month of October 1906, and the ones about Thomas Furlong were printed in February of 1907:

DEATH OF MISS M. FURLONG.
 (Special to The Leader.)
 BODEGA, Oct. 2.—Another life has been offered in the self-sacrifice attendant upon the nursing of the sick and afflicted, and the consequence Bodega and practically all of western Sonoma, know her family is well known and respected. Mourners over the untimely death of Miss Mary Catherine Furlong, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Furlong, succumbed to a severe attack of pneumonia after and despite a long effort to save her she passed away peacefully to her eternal rest. Buried with all the consolations of the Church, whose faith she vividly carried through her long struggle with the disease, she was a professional nurse being the wife of a hospital graduate. She had a very large circle of friends, all of whom bear the love they bore her and the remains were buried in the Bodega Catholic cemetery.

FURLONG—In Bodega, Sonoma County, Cal., February 7, Thomas Furlong, dearly beloved husband of Rosanna Furlong, loving father of Andrew, Mae, Thomas, John, Maggie, Annie, Peter, Clara, Irene, Raymond and Florence Furlong and brother of James and Patrick Furlong of Bodega and John Furlong of Washington, a native of Bree, County Wexford, Ireland.
 Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral to-day (Saturday), at 11 o'clock a. m., from his residence in Bodega, where a solemn requiem high mass will be celebrated for the repose of his soul in St. Teresa's Church.

Thomas Furlong, Well Known Man of Bodega, Dies as a Result of Pneumonia.
 The news of the death of Thomas Furlong was received here with sincere regret on Thursday morning. Mr. Furlong's death was unexpected. He had been ill but a few days with pneumonia, and the end came suddenly.
 The deceased was one of the best known men in western Sonoma, and was one of the Furlong brothers long identified with affairs over on the coast. He was engaged on a large scale as a stockraiser and in other business. He was a well known figure in Democratic conventions in Sonoma. He was an honest, upright citizen.
 Mr. Furlong is survived by a wife and eleven children. This is the second time in a few months that the hand of sorrow has been laid heavily upon the Furlong family. Only a few months ago Miss Mae Furlong, the deceased's daughter, died of the same disease.
 The funeral will take place on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from the Church of St. Teresa where a requiem mass will be celebrated for the repose of his soul.



MICHAEL AND MARY MCKAY

Michael and Mary McKay lived for many years near Freestone on a ranch that was once the Martin Farrell property. The old home still stands and is set back from the highway just a short distance south of McGucken Center - on the Bohemian Highway. The window for Michael and Mary is believed to have been donated by two of their daughters, Isabelle Donegan and Margaret McSweeney. Another donation to St. Teresa's Church by members of the McKay family was the statue of Our Lady of Fatima which stands to the left of the altar; this was given by a granddaughter, Margaret Wilson and her mother Rena Roderick McKay.

The McKays have their "roots" in County Antrim, Ireland where both Michael and Mary were born. Michael was born on September 29, 1843 and his parents were Robert McKay and his mother's maiden name was Isabelle Delargy. Mary McKay was a daughter of Patrick Mulvenna (Mary's brother, Hugh, used the more Anglicized form - Mulvaney; he was a resident of the same household on the 1900 census.) Mary was born on November 14, 1837.

The McKays were married in 1867-8 and they came to this county in the latter part of 1872 or very early 1873. They remained in New York for a short time; then Michael made the journey to California alone. Mary and the children followed later.

There were eight children born to Michael and Mary, but only six reached maturity; these children were as follows:

1. Isabelle McKay; born in 1871, Ireland
2. Margaret McKay; born in 1872, Ireland
3. Mary A. McKay; born in 1875, Sonoma Co.
4. Robert J. McKay; born in 1880, Sonoma Co.
5. Patrick D. McKay; born in 1882, Sonoma Co.
6. Michael McKay; born in 1883, Sonoma Co.

The Voters' Registration of 1892 supplies us with a brief description of Michael McKay. Unfortunately, Mary is not recorded as women did not vote in 1892.

No. 5222: McKay, Michael; age 49; 5 ft. 8 in. tall; fair complexion; blue eyes and brown hair; native of Ireland; occupation, laborer at Duncan's Mills; naturalized on July 19, 1882, Sonoma County Superior Court; residence, Markham (on the Russian River).

The McKay family moved to Freestone very shortly after 1900 and it was there that Michael and Mary McKay spent the remainder of their lives. Michael died in 1914 and Mary died in 1931.

An excellent account of the McKay family has been written by one of their granddaughters which will follow on the next few pages.

FACTS AND HEARSAY

By: Carmel McKay

Introduction

About 1874 Michael McKay, Sr. left Greenpoint (near Brooklyn) New York and came to Valley Ford, Sonoma County, California to work on the North Pacific Coast Railroad.

He established a little home and sent for his wife Mary and their two small daughters Isabelle and Margaret. An infant, Sarah, had died earlier of diphtheria.

Mary McKay and her children came West on the Union Pacific Railroad which had only been in operation since 1869. One car of the train served as kitchen and families took turns cooking on a wood stove. Two other daughters were born in Valley Ford, Mary Agnes and Elizabeth. Elizabeth died of scarlet fever.

In the summer of 1876 the North Pacific Coast Railroad had moved as far as the redwood forest which drifted down to Freestone from the northwest. A sawmill had stood there since pioneer days and here also was the stone quarry which gave Freestone its name.

It was here that Michael McKay left the railroad and joined others who looked to the future and a growing lumber industry in a rapidly expanding County. It is of some note that the 1870 Census reveals that Los Angeles County had a population of 15,809 while Sonoma County's population was 19,819.

The Woods

For the next 15 years the McKay family moved with the fast disappearing forest, first to Tyrone where Robert John was born in 1880. Then on west toward the Coast to Duncan Mills where Patrick Daniel and Michael Richard first saw the light of day and the towering redwoods overhead . . . and finally along the Russian River to Markham and Willow Creek. Even before all her own children came, Mary McKay was delivering the babies of neighbors and friends. A little black bag was always packed and ready for a journey into the redwoods, most often at night. The McKay children and most of the first citizens of western Sonoma County came into the world without benefit of a physician, let alone a hospital delivery room.

About 1895 the lumbering industry, like the railroad building before it, came to a halt. As the woodsmen neared the Coast the trees ended and they looked to other endeavors for a livelihood. Families took their savings and turned to business ventures in Santa Rosa or bought property on the Coast and became farmers. Some of the early businesses in Santa Rosa still bear the names of early pioneers; McNamara, Nelligan and others.

Bodega Interlude

The McKays went to a windswept ranch along the Bodega Coast.

They became parishioners of St. Teresa's Church on the hill and it was here that the three McKay brothers received their First Communion and were Confirmed. It was here too that the two older sisters were married.

Both Isabel and Margaret left home and worked in San Francisco or on the San Mateo peninsula. Belle attended sewing school in Petaluma before going to the big City. Later she married William Donegan of San Mateo and they started their family there. Margaret kept in close touch with her parents, sisters and brothers, a devoted and caring interest which lasted a lifetime. During a visit home she met Daniel McSweeney of Tomales. Daniel and his brother Jeremiah had recently returned from the Klondike and had part interest in a Tomales hotel. Following Margaret and Daniel's marriage, Dan and Jerry opened a grocery store in the fast growing Mission District in San Francisco.

The McSweeney brothers had the Midas Touch and their enterprise grew by leaps and bounds as they added delivery wagons and trucks to accommodate their loyal customers as they moved from the Mission to the Richmond, the Sunset and St. Francis Woods. Keeping a watchful eye on the productivity of Western Sonoma County they were buying potatoes (the British Queen potato which grew so plentifully near the Coast was introduced to America by a cousin who carried a few seed potatoes in his pocket from across the sea), butter, eggs, and fruit. These commodities were shipped on the narrow gauge line to the City "without benefit of a middle man."

In the meantime Mary Agnes attended "Normal School" in Santa Rosa and was awarded her first teaching contract at the Watson School near Bodega in 1894. It was while in Santa Rosa that Mary made friends with the Ursuline Nuns some of whom were classmates and it was her hope to one day join the Order.

Very few sons went to the university in those days but many completed their education at Sweets Business College in Santa Rosa. Robert John started grammar school as soon as he was able to walk. He followed his sister Elizabeth through the trees and across the railroad trestle at Willow Creek. A trestle his mother dare not cross to fetch him home. And so at the tender age of 10 he had completed all the elementary grades. For many years he had the distinction of being the youngest child ever to complete grammar school in California. When he graduated from Sweets College some years later, he received the highest honors and achievements.

Freestone

At the turn of the century the McKay family moved to the Farrell Ranch on the road to Occidental near Freestone (not to be confused with the Jasper O'Farrell Ranch near Bodega Highway). In 1907 Robert McKay left the ranch and bought property in the village of Freestone. It included a rambling old house with a little country store and a few acres for farming purposes. In 1908 he proudly brought his bride Rena Roderick from San Mateo to live in this isolated but lovely place. Rena, a convent bred girl had a magnificent voice and played

the organ rather well. Each Sunday she brought her gifts to the rustic church in Occidental and she and Mary Agnes McKay became fast friends. Mary's gifts to the beautiful little church were clean linens and fresh flower arrangements.

Ultimately Robert was the postmaster and station master in Freestone but this wee town boasted not one but two grocery stores and competition was at work. Eventually the Mann family purchased both general stores and Robert McKay left Freestone.

The remaining brothers continued to operate the Ranch, on the road to Occidental, until about 1912. Michael Sr.'s health was failing so the family left the hardships of early day ranching and went to the "old Grady place" which still stands with a picturesque old barn near the road. This little piece of the world was known as "Old Freestone" in those days and a hotel was right across the road from their property where the narrow gauge railroad winded through the meadow to Freestone proper. In the meantime Belle Donegan and her family were comfortably settled on a chicken ranch directly above the house where Michael Sr. died in 1914. Prior to his demise his beloved daughter Mary met a drowning accident and it was said he never recovered from her tragic death.

During World War 1 the last of the McKays left Freestone for greener pastures. The Donegan family home remained Belle's realm of hospitality until the mid forties. The Freestone schoolhouse on the hillside is enshrined in the hearts of many of us and deserves another chapter.

Epilogue

Though there is no family left in the redwood glen, literally hundreds of descendants of Mike and Mary are scattered far and wide. Many of us still hold dear the little Valley and hills surrounding it as one of the most beautiful spots in the world. In 1974 Freestone became the first historic district in Sonoma County. The same year the Watson School near Bodega was designated a Historic Landmark. The church on the hill in Bodega has a memorial window dedicated to Michael and Mary McKay and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima in memory of their oldest son Robert John McKay.

St Teresa Church has become famous worldwide as one of the classic images of Ansel Adams the renowned American artist. His photograph "The Church and Road" was captured in 1953.

11/22/84
Rev 9/1/90
CAM

Carmel McKay is a daughter of Robert J. and
Rena McKay.

Eleven members of the McKay family are buried in the Memorial Lawn Cemetery, Sebastopol. They are as follows: Mary (1875-1912) Michael (1843-1914) Mary (1837-1931) Patrick (1888-1944) Michael (1883-1947) Robert J. (1880-1945) Rena (1885-1962) Lucille (1913-1933) Agnes (1919-1939) Bernard (1922-1981) Robert P. (1915-1916). Agnes, Lucille, Robert P, and Bernard were children of Robert and Rena McKay.

ADDITIONS:

Some additional information about the family of Isabelle (McKay) Donegan has been discovered in local newspapers, and some public records. Isabelle or "Belle", as she was more commonly called, married William Donegan, which has already been recorded on page 90. Both were born in Ireland. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters: William Jr., George, Frank, and John. The daughters were Betty and Margaret. Betty Donegan never married, but Margaret married Thomas F. McLaughlin and both were natives of California. Thomas McLaughlin was from San Francisco, and Margaret Donegan was from Freestone - their wedding information is recorded below - taken from the SEBASTOPOL TIMES, dated Friday February 3, 1939. The wedding took place in St. Philip's Church, Occidental on January 29, 1939 (the TIMES was a weekly newspaper). To the right is the obituary of one of Margaret's brothers - John "Jack" Donegan. This was in the PRESS DEMOCRAT of Santa Rosa on May 3, and 4th, 1997:

**Margaret Donegan
Bride
Of T. F. McLaughlin**

Miss Margaret M. Donegan became the bride of Thomas F. McLaughlin at a nuptial mass Sunday at St. Philip's church in Occidental. The Rev. Father Leo Powelson was the officiating priest.

The bride wore a floor length white satin and lace dress and a lace trimmed veil; and carried a shower bouquet of gardenias and orchids. She was attended by Miss Betty Donegan, who wore a yellow mouse-tue de sol dress, and a headdress of Talisman roses. The same roses were used in the bridesmaid's bouquet.

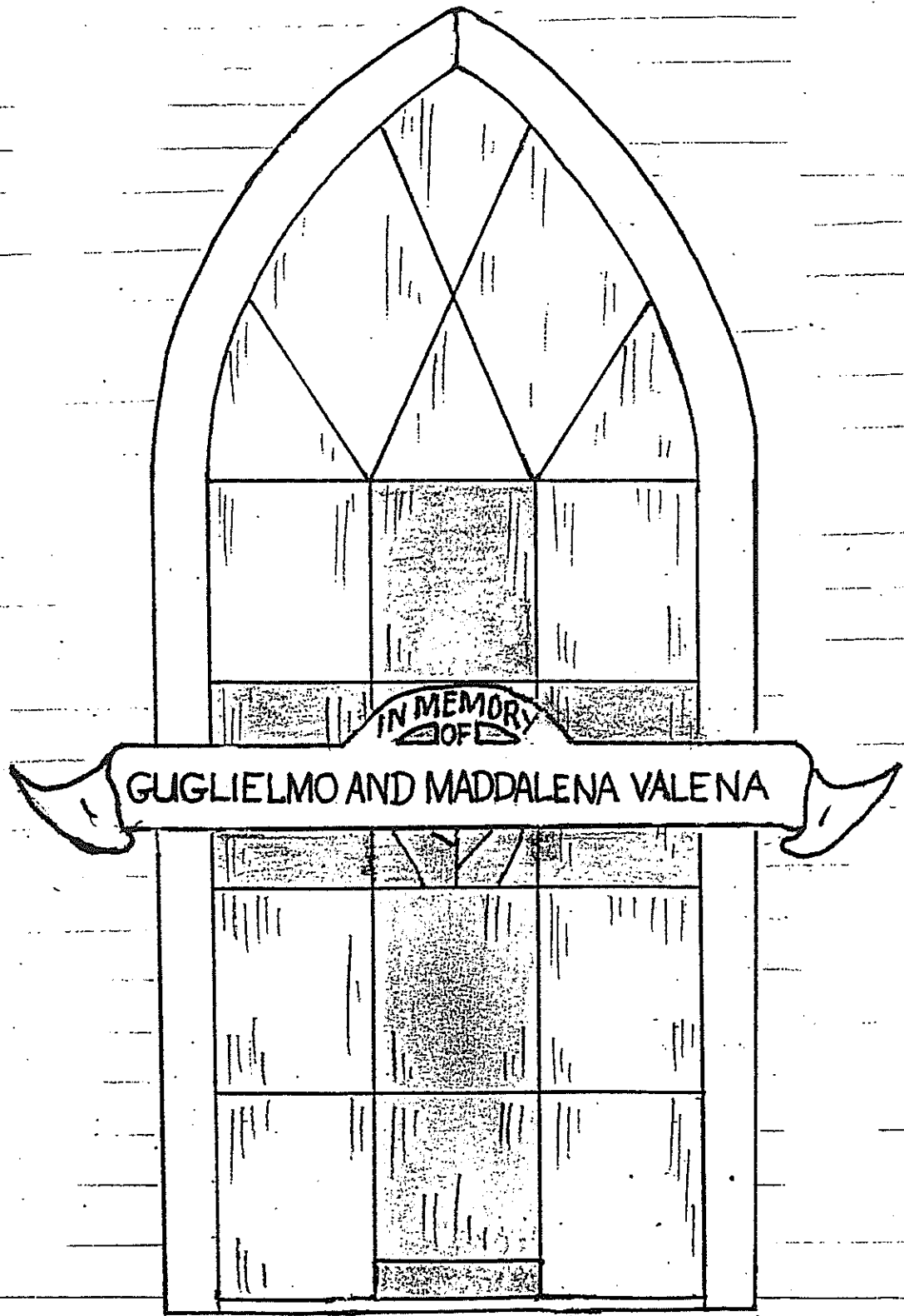
Daniel Sweeney was the best man. "Ave Maria" and "Pene Angelicus" were sung by Frank Donegan, with Miss Marian Pease at the organ. She also played the wedding march.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Donegan in Freestone, after which the couple left on a trip to southern California. Upon their return they will make their home at 150 Duncan street, in San Francisco.

Sprays of acacia were used in decorating the church, and white sweet peas, (freesias and snapdragons were combined in the decorations at the home of the bride's parents.

DONEGAN, John "Jack" — Passed away in Fremont on May 5, 1997. Dearly beloved husband of the late Irene Donegan; Beloved step father of Don Kimball of Santa Rosa; Loving son of the late William and Isabelle Donegan and brother of the late Bill, George, Frank and Betty Donegan and the late Margaret McLaughlin. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. A native of Sonoma County, Jack was raised in Freestone. Age 87 years.
Friends are invited to meet at the DANIELS CHAPEL OF THE ROSES, 1225 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa on Saturday, May 10, 1997 by 9:15, thence to St. Theresa's Catholic Church where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated commencing at 10:30 A.M. Interment, Sebastopol Memorial Lawn, Sebastopol. Donations in his memory are preferred to The Assistance Dog Institute, P.O. Box 2334, Rohnert Park, CA 94927 or to Hospital Chaplaincy Services, 569 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. DANIELS CHAPEL OF THE ROSES, Funeral Directors.

Thomas McLaughlin's home residence in San Francisco was 4011 25th St. San Francisco. He was a clerk for the STUDEBAKER PACIFIC CORPORATION in that city. He was a son of Thomas P. McLaughlin - native of New York, and his mother's maiden name was Catherine McHugh, a native Californian. Thomas, the groom, was born c. 1900, and Margaret, the bride was born c. 1908.



GUGLIELMO AND MADDALENA VALENA

The window dedicated to the memory of Guglielmo (Wm.) and Maddalena (Madeline) Valena is located on the left side of the altar. This couple and their sons spent many years along the coastal region of Bodega. The youngest son, Emil Valena took an active part on the committee to save St. Teresa's Church during the 1950 decade when there was a movement to tear down the old church and perhaps build a small memorial chapel in its place. Emil and his wife, Annie, continue to live in the region at the mouth of Salmon Creek.

Both Guglielmo and Maddalena Valena were natives of that region of Italy known as Lombardy - which has become the most important industrial section of Italy. Among other things Lombardy produces great quantities of wine and silk, and is also well-known for its excellent cheese. As can be readily seen by the many people who came to the Bodega area from Lombardy, they are particularly skilled as dairymen. Guglielmo and Maddalena were both born in the community of Cino, in the Province of Sondrio, Lombardy, Italy. Guglielmo was born July 12, 1880, and was a son of Pietro Valena. Maddalena was born April 13, 1873 - a daughter of Giorgio DePedrina. Both from old families of the Province of Sondrio.

The first member of the family to arrive in California was Giorgio (George D.) DePedrina, Maddalena's father. He came during the 1890's and found work in abundance at Duncans Mill on the Russian River. Like so many of the immigrants from Italy, George DePedrina left his family in Italy and made the American adventure alone. He remained here for about six years, and typical of his people he was frugal and saved his earnings. When he returned to Italy the people were impressed with his stories about working conditions and the money to be made. Many of the young men began to think about making the journey to "far-off" Duncans Mill in California where they too could make their fortune. Guglielmo Valena, who by this time was married to George's daughter, decided he would follow in the foot-steps of his father-in-law, so in 1902 he left his young wife and son and the rest of his family and started for California. It would be about eight years before he would see his wife and son again. Maddalena and Peter (the son) joined Guglielmo in California in 1910.

By the time Guglielmo Valena had reached the Russian River area the timber activities were in a depression, and there was not enough work for everyone. Thus, Guglielmo had to search for other forms of employment. Fortunately, he was very familiar with dairy activities and he was able to obtain work on dairies in northern Marin County. In the course of time, however, he was able to find employment in timber activities in Mendocino County. But there were some things he did not know about timber, so he invested money in some timber land next to the Mendocino County coast.

What Guglielmo was never told was the fact that coastal trees have to struggle against the elements, particularly the wind, all during their growth which causes the grain of the trees to be very tight and difficult to split. The investment was made to do split activities - ties, posts, etc., and the only thing these trees were good for was fire wood, which was not a lucrative business. Thus, by 1917, Guglielmo and his family which had increased to a wife and three sons, moved to Bodega Bay.

At Bodega Bay, Guglielmo Valena was employed by Firmin Candelot (a Frenchman) who had leased the Captain Campbell's land on Bodega Head. Candelot did not live in the area; he had a ranch at Dry Creek near Healdsburg. Thus, the ranching activities were left to Guglielmo. The Valena family remained on the Head for three years. It became apparent that their sons would not be able to receive an adequate education if they did not move because there was no road connecting them to the main community of Bay where the school was located. Travel by land depended entirely on the tides, and travel by boat required the services and time of an adult - twice a day; which was very time consuming. Therefore, in 1920 the family moved to another ranch between Freestone and Occidental, but considered a part of Freestone.

The three sons of Guglielmo and Maddalena Valena are as follows:

1. Pietro (Peter) Valena; born in 1902; Cino, Province of Sondrio, Lombardy, Italy. His father went to the United States the year Peter was born. While just a small child, Peter had a near-drowning accident in the town water trough of Cino. He was revived but suffered brain damage so that he has never been able to speak. He came to this country with his mother in 1910, and with the help of parents and younger brothers he was able to perform simple tasks. Since the death of his mother he has been in a home for the handicapped where he has done quite well and has (at this time) reached the age of eighty-eight.
2. Vittorio (Victor) Valena; born in 1911 in Mendocino County.
3. Emilio (Emil) Valena; born in 1914 in Mendocino County.

Once the family had moved to Freestone, the boys: Victor and Emil were able to attend school on a regular schedule. However, the walk to school everyday was not an easy task. They enrolled in the Joy School which meant they had to walk through some very steep and wooded country.

The Joy School is located on a corner near the intersection of Jennifer Drive and Joy Road; which is quite a distance for two young boys, ages nine and six, to walk. The school building is still in existence, but has been remodeled and converted into a dwelling.

While in the Freestone area the family would walk up to Marra Road (once known as McCandless Rd.) and then into Occidental to attend Mass at St. Philip's Church. Old timers recall there was once a road that came down from Marra Road toward Freestone, and also one that ran up the mountain and through the Speckter ranch to connect with the country beyond. Emil Valena recalls remaining after Mass one Sunday with his family to watch one of the Furlongs being baptized; this was probably Bill or Edna Furlong - for Bill was born in 1920 and Edna in 1921.

By 1922, the Valena family moved once again, and this time to what has become known as the Chanslor ranch, but historically it was the old Keefe ranch. This is not far from the mouth of Salmon Creek. Victor and Emil attended the school at Bodega Bay, and it was there they finished their grade school education.

During the years the Valena family lived and worked in the Salmon Creek area, Guglielmo Valena took sick and died from bronchial pneumonia on October 16, 1929. He was only forty-nine years old, and this was a tremendous loss and shock to the family. Victor was eighteen and Emil was fifteen, but they knew how to work and they brought the family through this crisis.

By 1933-4 the Joe Aggio family made a move from the old Genazzi place. This ranch is a familiar sight to the traveler up the coast, for the house stands tall, facing the blue Pacific - with highway #1 in the foreground and Coleman Valley Road running along the northern property line. Following the departure of the Aggio family, the Valenas decided to lease the ranch, and in 1934 they moved to this new location. Because of their involvement with sheep they also rented one of the Taylor ranches and continued to work the Chanslor ranch. The Taylors, Despard (known as Bill) and family, had three ranches in the Bodega and Bodega Bay area. One of the old Taylor houses still stands along the northeast side of highway #1, just a few miles from the town of Bodega, and near the intersection of Bay Hill Road and the highway.

Shortly after the move to the Genazzi ranch, Victor Valena and Nellie Bianchi decided to get married. This event took place on January 26, 1935. Nellie was a daughter of Elia and Celestina Bianchi who operated a ranch in the Jonive section, east of Occidental. As Victor brought his bride home to live it soon became apparent that everyone would be more comfortable if they lived in separate houses. Thus, Emil moved his mother and brother, Peter, to a smaller place on Pepper Road near Petaluma. Then two years later Emil began making preparations for marriage, and

on September 11, 1937 Emil Valena and Ann Pieroni were married. They made their home on a piece of property that adjoined the sixteen acres where Emil's mother lived. While on Pepper Rd. the Valena family had dairy animals and poultry, and for about six years Emil worked for the Poultry Producers in Petaluma; thus, he had three activities going at the same time. All of Emil and Ann's children were born while they lived on Pepper Road. But, after about eight years they moved back to Bodega Bay and worked at the Chanslor ranch.

Both Nellie Bianchi and Ann Pieroni were from families who had their roots in Tuscany, Italy. However, they came from different provinces. The Bianchi family came from the town of Fivizzano, in the region known as Massa Carrara. Ann Pieroni was the youngest child of Silvio and Clelia Pieroni. Both her parents came from the Province of Lucca, but they were from different towns. Silvio was a native of Broncoli, and Clelia, whose maiden name was Cinquini, was from the town of San Pellegrinetto. Silvio and Clelia met in this country and were married in St. Rose's Catholic Church in Santa Rosa, with the once well-known Father J.M. Cassin performing the ceremony. One of Ann's sisters, Angelina Pieroni, married Nellie Bianchi's brother, Guido Bianchi (he is now deceased).

Ann Pieroni, like Victor's wife, Nellie, was reared in the Jonive area. The Pieroni ranch, occupied by Ann's brother, is on Occidental Road. Ann attended the Jonive School situated on a road by the same name which runs south from Occidental Road to the top of O'Farrell Hill where it connects with the Sebastopol highway. Ann's father, Silvio Pieroni, came to Sonoma County in 1902 to join his father, Eliseo Pieroni, who came to the region in 1885. Clelia Cinquini Pieroni, Ann's mother came to Sonoma County in 1907 and married Silvio in 1909.

In 1951, Maddalena Valena, the mother of Peter, Victor and Emil, died. She was laid to rest beside her husband, Guglielmo Valena, in the old Catholic cemetery at Bodega. Both characterized by lives of faith, honesty, industry, and many years of hard work.

When Emil and Ann Valena moved their family back to Bodega Bay; they invested in property at the mouth of Salmon Creek and this location became their home, and is where they have continued to live to the present time. It is situated on a site that affords them a panoramic view of the coastline and the confluence of Salmon Creek with the Pacific Ocean.

After years of ranching, Emil Valena joined the Sonoma County Park Service, and he has the distinction of becoming Sonoma County's first Park Ranger. He served at Doran Park for eleven years and retired in 1976.

Annie Valena, besides her work at home with a growing family, was employed for twenty-five years with the Sebastopol Cooperative Cannery.

Victor and Nellie Valena followed the routine of ranch work during their employment years, but are now retired and living at Calpella, north of Ukiah in Mendocino County.

CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS

Only two of the sons of Guglielmo and Maddalena Valena married and had children - Victor and Emil Valena.

Victor and his wife, Nellie Bianchi Valena, are the parents of two children: a son and a daughter.

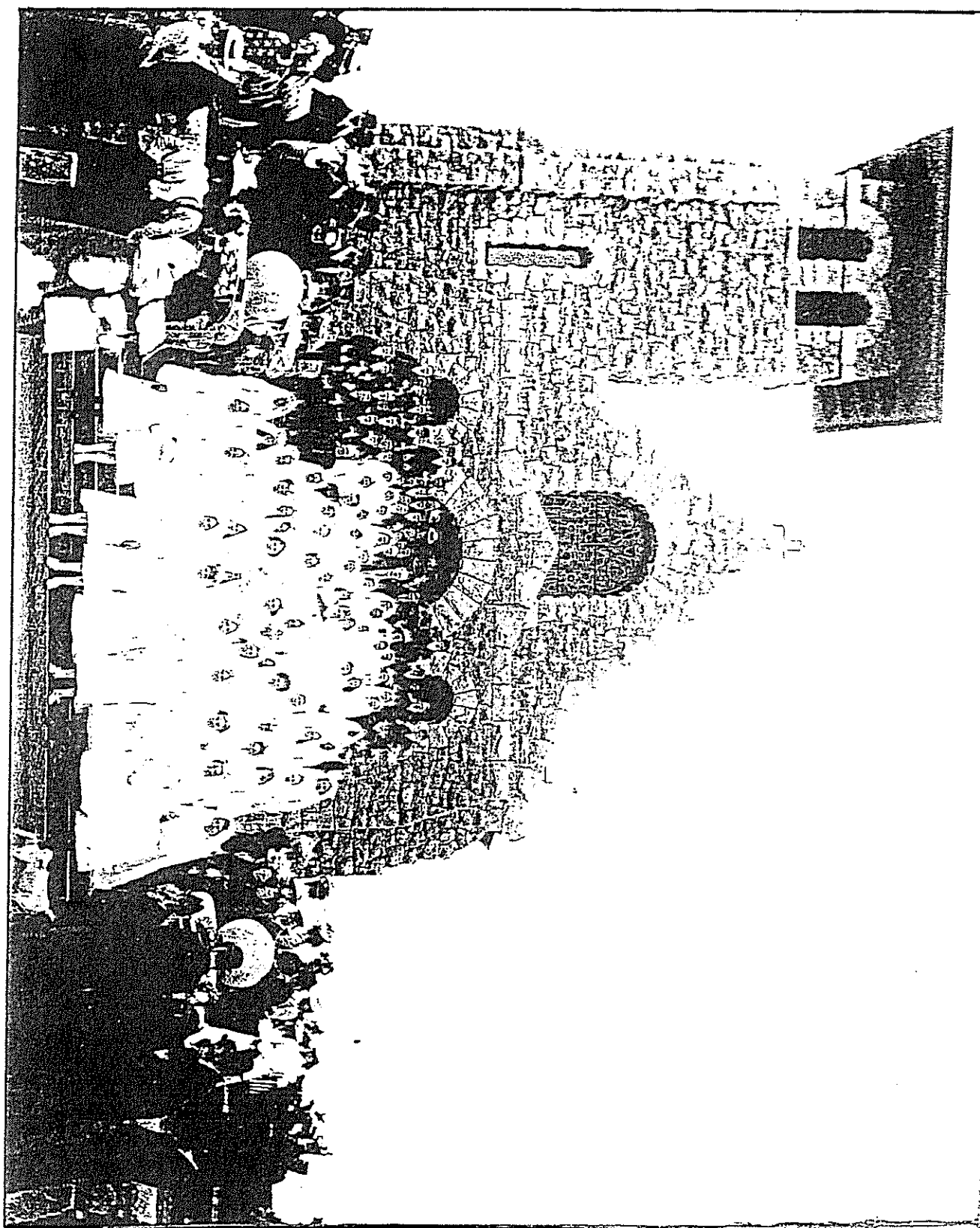
1. William Valentino Valena; born in Santa Rosa on October 23, 1937. William (Bill) has been married twice and has five children. His first wife was Nancy Joanne Roderick and they were married in 1964. The names of their children: William (Billy), Celestina, Rene, and Victor. William Valena and his second wife, Sharon, have one child named Caitlin.
2. Bernice Celestine Valena; born May 15, 1944 in Sebastopol. Her married name is Strickland and she and her husband have three children, two boys and a girl: Donald, Lynell and _____.

Emil and his wife, Annie Pieroni Valena, are the parents of three daughters:

1. Marlene Clare Valena; born June 18, 1939 in Sebastopol. Marlene married Wilbur Black in San Francisco, and they are the parents of five children, as follows:
 1. Denise Black; born Jan. 5, 1961 in Santa Rosa; she married Mike Dunton in Milwaukee, Oregon. Denise and Mike are the parents of three children: Sarah, Emily and John.
 2. Tom Black; born Sept. 13, 1966 in Santa Rosa.

3. Cathie Black; born Nov. 26, 1967 in Santa Rosa.
 4. Susie Black; born March 6, 1970 in Santa Rosa.
 5. Tim Black; born March 15, 1975 in Petaluma.
2. Christine Valena; born February 19, 1943 in Sebastopol; Christine married Walter Leslie Jr. in Petaluma, and they have two sons:
 1. Scott Leslie; born June 28, 1971 in San Carlos.
 2. Brian Leslie; born December 5, 1973 in San Carlos.
3. Patricia Ann Valena; born January 10, 1945 in Sebastopol, and she married August Campbell. They have two children:
 1. August John Campbell; born Nov. 4, 1972 in Ogden, Utah.
 2. Kristina Lea Campbell; born April 18, 1976, in Ogden, Utah.

John in the above church Father Rogers had built in Pomales in the late 1890's and it was completely destroyed by the 1906 earthquake. Among the first communicants in the picture are several from Bodega - second from the right in the first row is Mae (Gleason) Furlong. (over)



Mae (Gleason) Furlong, who has been referred to in the picture on page 99, is more fully identified on page 46 - window dedicated to Tom and Mary (Mae) Furlong.

Some information concerning the stone church that was built in Tomales appeared in a series of articles written in the ARGUS-COURIER in March of 1968. The following statement was made: "The original church in Tomales was built of stone, but in the earthquake of 1906, it was destroyed completely. In its place a simple frame structure was erected." This is only one of several erroneous ideas that were presented in this series of articles. The first church was built of wood, and came back into use as a church after the stone church was ruined. Another article, which appeared in the SEBASTOPEL TIMES on Wednesday, June 19, 1901 gives the correct information about the stone church:

DEDICATION SERVICE, JUNE 16, 1901, TOMALES

"The new church has the distinction of being the first entire stone edifice erected by the Catholics in the Archdiocese. It is built with Marin bluestone, with handsome trimmings, The interior being faced with yellow stone, the sanctuary arch being constructed of the same material. The altars are of Carrara marble. The rails being of California onyx. All the interior decorations are in keeping with the magnificence of the main structure. The entire cost of the new church was \$20,000."

(The original article was much longer, but it was thought unnecessary to go into all the details about the dedication ceremony - which was performed by Archbishop Riordan of San Francisco)

Also, in the 1968 statement, which is totally incorrect, it is stated: "in its place (place of the stone church) a simple frame structure was erected." The pastor of the Tomales church in 1980, was Rev. Aldo Grasso O.S.J., and he wrote an historical sketch about the church which is called SEVEN MILES AND SIXTY CURVES AWAY. In talking about the church which was built in 1860, same year as St. Teresa's Church, he states the following:

"This church is still in existence and is used for all church services."

The stone church was started in 1897 and completed and dedicated in 1901.

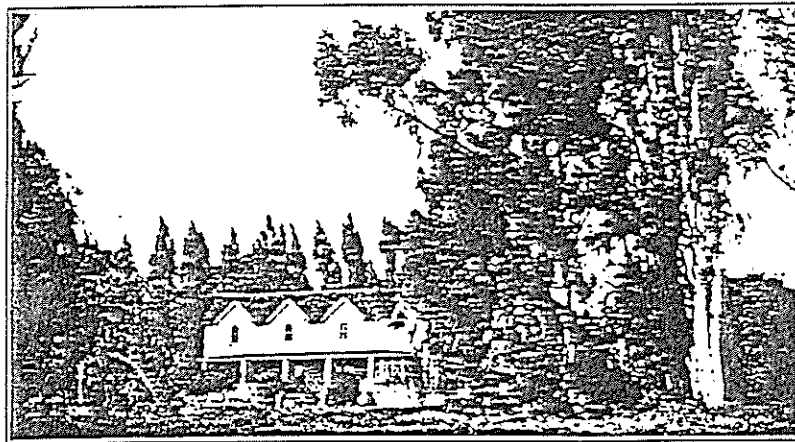


MRS. MARY McCHRIS-
TIAN O'FARRELL, 1870



JASPER O'FARRELL,
OF THE ANALAY
RANCH

Analay comes from the name of the traditional home of the O'Farrell family in Ireland. But due to a clerical error many years ago, the name lost an "n" - - the correct spelling is ANNALY



THE JASPER O'FARRELL MANSION NEAR FREESTONE

From a Thesis done at U.S.F. by Geoffrey Mawn in 1970, the measurements of the house were given as follows: it was 60 feet long, 25 feet wide, and the porch across the front was 10 feet wide. A cookhouse was separate from the house.

Ellen Orr, whose story is on the next pages, was a first cousin of Mrs. Mary O'Farrell.

ELLEN ORR

On page 12 (first paragraph) reference is made to the grave of Ellen Orr which is located behind the church. The recent arrival of a marriage record from the state of Illinois for Ellen and her husband, John Orr, has prompted some additions and corrections to a writing I did in 1980 under the title WHO WAS ELLEN? Thus a copy of the "update" is recorded here. The information on the grave marker is as follows:

Ellen Orr
died Nov. 24, 1861
wife of John Orr
aged 32 years, 2 mos. and 9 days

Ellen Orr died about nine days after giving birth to a son who was named James Sheridan Orr. On the Federal Census for 1900, James S. Orr gave his date of birth as November of 1861, and when he died in 1916 his brother, John, provided the day of birth - November 15, 1861.

Ellen was a daughter of John and Catherine (McChristian) Sheridan. Both her parents were natives of Ireland, and Ellen Sheridan was born in Rochester, New York on September 15, 1829. About 1835, the Sheridan and McChristian families moved to Hancock County, Illinois where Ellen reached maturity. The Orr family came to the United States and Illinois in 1840 from Scotland. The first of these families to come to California was a member of the McChristian family. Patrick McChristian, with wife and children, joined the Grigsby-Ide wagon train which left Illinois in April of 1845 and they arrived at Sutter's Fort, California in October of 1845. Patrick McChristian took part in the Bear Flag Revolt and the raising of the Bear Flag at Sonoma on June 14, 1846.

John Orr, the future husband of Ellen, started for California in 1849 and encountered delays along the way. While in Nevada he made an important gold discovery; he mapped the location and continued on his journey to California where he arrived in July of 1850. By 1852, John Orr started his return trip to Illinois intending to get married. On the way he lost the map to his gold mine so the marriage was delayed while he attempted to relocate his gold mine in Nevada. He never did find the mine, so he continued on to California and in 1853 he became a deputy for Sheriff Buell in Hangtown. Sometime in 1855, John Orr returned to Illinois and in early 1856 he and Ellen Sheridan were married. The couple started for California in the spring of 1856; when they reached Sonoma County they stayed with the McChristian family who were living in Green Valley (north of Sebastopol). Their first son, John Jr., was born on the McChristian ranch in 1858. This son later bought

48 acres of the old McChristian land and lived the last 20 years of his life there. In the obituary of J.F. Orr which appeared in the SEBASTOPOL TIMES on November 14, 1930 the ranch is described as near Mill Station.

I haven't established as yet where the ORRs were living in 1861; the final abode of John Orr Sr. was on the Russian River which became Duncans Mills in 1877 - Orr was the owner of the land that became the town site. Possibly, Ellen was staying with her O'Farrell relatives at Freestone at the time of the birth, and then buried on the Church grounds which had been O'Farrell land only a year before? Mrs. Jasper O'Farrell was a daughter of Patrick McChristian, and therefore a cousin of Ellen Orr.

Following the death of Ellen (Sheridan) Orr; her sister, Mary Sheridan, took care of the three small sons of John and Ellen. On February 9, 1863, John Orr married Mary Sheridan; thus, the step-mother of the three children was also their aunt. A niece of John Orr Jr., Margaret Dowd of Mill Valley and a native of Duncans Mills, recalled in an interview with me the pictures of Ellen and Mary. Her uncle kept these pictures together on a wall of his home, and Mrs. Dowd said she could not tell them apart because they looked so much alike. In commenting about the fact that both women were Sheridans, Mrs. Dowd stated there was another Ellen Sheridan, but she was always referred to as Aunt Ellen Sheridan - she had married one of the Sheridan brothers and was a widow for many years.

John Orr's sons, including the one born to the second wife, were John Francis Orr Jr., William Jackson Thomas Orr, James Sheridan Orr, and Charles Orr. These complete names were given on the Voters Registration of 1892.

HISTORIC EVENTS

CREDITED TO MEMBERS OF ELLEN ORR'S FAMILY

1. Patrick McChristian (uncle) participated in the raising of the Bear Flag at Sonoma in 1846.(father of Mrs Jasper O'Farrell
2. O'Farrell (cousins) land became the site of St. Teresa's Church.
3. John Orr (husband) made the first gold discovery in Nevada on June 1, 1850.
4. John Orr (husband) appointed under sheriff of Hangtown in 1853 by Sheriff James Buell, hung the first two men ever hung under civil law in California in May of 1853.
5. John Orr (husband) was the owner of the land that became the present Duncans Mills in 1877.

SOURCES AND DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE
ELLEN ORR FAMILY AND CONNECTIONS

County Recorder's Office:

Book E, page 200&C (land - Jasper O'Farrell to
Patrick McChristian, Oct. 7, 1850)

Death Records:

- Book 41, page 121 #559 (Flan Sheridan, d. Aug. 4,
1875; age 51; b. N.Y., married)
Book 40, page 98 (John Orr Sr., d. June 8, 1893,
age 67; b. Scotland, Jan. 2, 1826, un-
married; res. of Duncans Mills)
Book 16, page 317 (James Sheridan, d. Feb. 6, 1912;
age 88; b. N.Y., parents: John Sheridan &
Catherine McChristian, natives of Ireland;
married)
Book 26 page 26, and Book 60, page 152 (James
Sheridan Orr; d. Nov. 13, 1916; b. Calif.
Nov. 15, 1861, never married, merchant
at Duncans Mills; parents: John Orr and
Ellen Sheridan)
Book 1930, page 696 (John Francis Orr Jr., d. Nov.
13, 1930; b. Calif. June 28, 1858; married;
parents: John Orr Sr. and Ellen Sheridan)

Marriages:

- Book A, page 317 (John Orr Sr. and Mary Sheridan;
married Feb. 9, 1863)
Book O, page 289 (John Orr Jr. and Emma Williams;
married Oct. 14, 1896; witnesses: Mrs.
Ellen Sheridan of Sebastopol and Wm. J.
T. Orr of Santa Rosa)
Book R, page 106 (Wm. J.T. Orr and Mrs. Edyth
Davis McCarthy; married Sept. 16, 1900;
witnesses: Louise M. Davis and Somers
B. Fulton, both of Santa Rosa)

Voters Registrations:

SONOMA COUNTY, GREAT REGISTER of 1892
SONOMA COUNTY, VOTERS REGISTRATIONS for 1902

Federal Census:

Census for Ocean Township, 1900. On the 1900 census
each individual was required to give the month and
year of birth - important in determining the birth-
dates of John Orr's sons.

Few records have been found in Sonoma County for two of John Orr's sons: William and Charles. William spent much of his life in Santa Rosa but may have died out of this county. Charles Orr married and lived in the Lake Tahoe region at a place called Echo Lake where he and his wife operated an Inn. Charles had one son whose name was also Charles. He was in the U.S. Navy for many years and was a resident of the East Bay area. At the time of John F. Orr Jr.'s death, it was decided by John's widow, Emma Orr, that the gold nugget from the Nevada discovery should be passed on to Charles Orr Jr. (Information supplied in an interview with Mrs. Margaret Dowd)

Sources Continued:

Gregson "Memory" Notes: This material was written by Eliza Jane Gregson who made the journey to California with the Grigsby-Ide wagon train in 1845.

HISTORY OF SONOMA COUNTY, Vol. 11, Honoria Tuomey; pages 444 and 445

FORGOTTEN PIONEERS, Thomas F. Prendergast (page 71, establishes O'Farrell - McChristain relationship)

On the following page (p. 108) is a copy of the marriage record for John Orr and Ellen Sheridan as it appears in the Hancock County records, state of Illinois. The license number is #2585, and it was filed and recorded on January 29, 1856 by C. Winston, clerk.

Note: Ellen Orr has two grave markers; the one at Bodega and a memorial stone placed among the graves of family members at a later date in the Duncans Mill cemetery.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. County Clerk's Office.
Hancock County,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS:

To any Regular Minister of the Gospel authorized to Marry by the Society to which he belongs, Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge, or Justice of the Peace—GREETING:

THESE are to License and Authorize you to Celebrate and Certify the Marriage of Mr. John Orr and Miss Ellen Sheridan, and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the County Court, at Carthage, this 31st day of December A. D. 1855.

Minister
County Clerk.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. I Hereby Certify, That I joined in the Holy
Hancock County,

State of Matrimony, Mr. John Orr to Miss Ellen Sheridan, on the 2nd day of January, A. D. 1856.

Given under my hand and seal, this 2nd day of January A. D. 1856.

[Express Print—Warsaw, Ills.]

106.

I, KERRY ASBRIDGE, do hereby certify that I am duly elected, qualified and acting COUNTY CLERK and RECORDER OF HANCOCK COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS, and I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY the foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record.

DATE

May 6, 1991

SIGNED

Kerry Asbridge

DEDICATION PROBLEMS (Additions to 2nd paragraph p.3)

In past writings there have been several dates used as the dedication date for St. Teresa's Church. The earliest of these is June 2, 1860. Those using that date didn't realize that St. Teresa's Church was not completed at that time. Following that date June 2, 1861 made an appearance, and June 2, 1862, which is currently in use, was discovered. It occurred in the writings of Father Jeremiah Ryan in the early 1930's; he was pastor in Tomales from 1930 to 1935. Father Aldo Grasso, pastor in Tomales from 1956 to 1980 used Father Ryan's work in his writings; thus, June 2, 1862 continued to be used. Two other dates: December 2, 1860, and December 16, 1860 have also made an appearance, but didn't work out. Therefore, returning to the June 2, 1862 date - which turned out to be correct for when Archbishop Alemany made his entry for the blessing of St. Teresa's Church, but June 2, 1862 occurred on a Monday, and this type of event takes place on Sundays. In going through records of other churches in the area, they were, without exception, dedicated on Sunday, a few examples: St. Rose of Santa Rosa (the original church) was dedicated on Sunday, December 30, 1860; the Church of the Assumption, Tomales, dedicated on Sunday November 4, 1860. St. Sebastian's Church, Sebastopol was dedicated on Sunday, December 18, 1898. St. Philip's Church, Occidental; dedicated on Sunday, June 14, 1903, and St. Catherine's Church, Monte Rio was dedicated on Sunday August 4, 1912. Thus. June 2, 1862 needed to be investigated more completely.

Jeffrey Burns, of the Chancery Archives for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, has been very helpful over the years, and he sent copies from Archbishop Alemany's BISHOP'S VISITATION BOOK to help in the solving of the problem - pages 21 and 22. Page 21 shows that the last entry on that page was dated May 25, 1862, which was a Sunday, and the heading above his entry at the top of page 22 tells the reader that the June 2, 1862 entry is in reality a continuation of his May 25, 1862 activities. The heading in Latin: EODEM DIE 25 MAII = On the same day of the 25th of May; thus, the church was blessed on Sunday, May 25, 1862, and June 2, is the day it was recorded in the "book".

The reader may wonder how the day of the week for each thing mentioned was reached, so there is a page following this information which is called a PERPETUAL CALENDAR, and it is folded because of its size, but can be opened easily, and it contains three tables. Simply follow the directions and it is very easy to determine the day of the week that a certain date occurred, and it can also be used to determine days for the future up to the year 2030.

On the next page the information from the BISHOP'S VISITATION BOOK will appear in Archbishop Alemany's own handwriting.

Eodem die 25 Maii,

Junii 2.

*Visito oppidum Bodegae: ejusque novam Ecclesiam
benedico sub Titulo S^{ae} Theresiae.*

It may be noticed that the Archbishop did misspell St. Teresa's name in Latin. He put an "h" in the name, but there is only one way to spell any form of Teresa in Latin - in French the name is spelled Thérèse, in Spanish, Italian and probably Portugese it is spelled Teresa, and in English it is spelled Theresa. But in Latin any of these names are spelled TERESIAE. There are saints with the French and Spanish spellings, but to date there is no saint with the English spelling. St. Teresa of Avila, for whom our church at Bodega is named, was canonized in 1622 and declared a doctor of the church in 1970.

The entry at the top of the page tells us that Archbishop Alemany visited the town of Bodega, and its new church he blessed under the title of St. Teresa, and the heading above the entry, as already stated, gives the date when the activity occurred. The writing is in the "first person" I visit etc., and the translation was done with the assistance of Father Dan Whelton, and Jack Curtis, a retired professor from U.S.F., and a Latin scholar.

Returning to the May 25, 1862 entries in the BISHOP'S VISITATION BOOK, it begins with the last entry on page 21, and ends with the Bodega information which is the first recording on page 22. The activity recorded on page 21 for May 25th, is about confirmation at St. Vincent's Church (better known as St. Vincent's Orphanage). The Archbishop confirmed 40 individuals there. He very likely spent a night at the orphanage both coming and going, for they would have had the room for him. In the beginning years, prior to 1860, St. Vincent priests took care of the spiritual needs of a huge territory which included Marin County and much of Sonoma County. There are no visitations recorded in the "book" from May 25th until June 8, 1862.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

When researching church activities, Sunday becomes a very important day, for example, the blessing of a church generally occurred on a Sunday. Therefore, a date given by any "historian" concerning the blessing of a church should be examined.

On the next page (p. 109) what is called a "perpetual calendar" has been provided, and I believe the directions are easy to follow. It was in 1752 that English speaking countries changed from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian - which we have continued to use, and this went into effect in 1753; thus, the "perpetual calendar" has its beginning with 1753.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bancroft, Hubert Howe History of California
Chronicles of the Builders of the
Commonwealth
- Carr, J.F. The Coming of the Italian
(Outlook, Vol. LXXXII, Feb 24
1906 - 421)
- Grasso, Rev. Aldo O.S.J. Unpublished Notes (Tomaes area)
- MacLysaght, Edward The Surnames of Ireland
- MacManus, Seamus The Story of the Irish Race
- Prendergast, Thomas F. Forgotten Pioneers
- Thompson, Thomas H. & Co. Historical Atlas Map of Sonoma
County
- Tuomey, Honoria History of Sonoma County (Vol I,
and Vol. II)

Newspapers:

Petaluma Argus-Courier
Sebastopol Times
Press Democrat
Leader
Crozier

Magazine:

The Mochila, Vol. II No. 1
(Jim Keegan Jr., p. 11)

Sonoma County Recorders Office:

Birth Deeds
Death } records
Marriage

Census Records:

1850 --- 1910

Voters Registrations:

1892 --- 1902