



Hiram H. and Sevier Lewis

Hiram H. Lewis is credited with naming Windsor, and Sevier Lewis built the first hotel in town. What happened to them later is a tale of violence and tragedy.

by Barbara F. Ray

Empire, Oregon, 1878. A crowd estimated at 250 people, mostly men, gathered that August 30 morning to watch the hanging in the jailhouse yard where the scaffold had been built. Most folks felt the death sentence was just; a few, that it was unfair. Nevertheless, the trial was finally over, the jury had made its decision, and the judge had set the penalty. There was nothing more to be said or done ... except take in the unusual event.

Hiram Lewis, Pioneer

Hiram Hamilton Lewis was one of the Russian River Township's earliest pioneers, traveling across the Great Plains by ox train in 1849. Prior to heading west, however, he had enjoyed a full life beginning at his birth on Jan. 26, 1802 in Gallatin County, Kentucky to Jacob Lewis (born 11 Jun 1771 in Wales) and Abigail Tackwell/Tacket Lewis (born 15 Sep 1773 in France). Jacob and Abigail would eventually have eleven children, most believed to have been born in Kentucky.

In 1821, when Hiram was 19, he married Emiline Harmon (also variously recorded as Emillie, Emeline, Mildred and Millie) in Shelby County, Indiana, and soon they had a home filled with children: Zerelda Emerine (1822), Evermont Andersonville (1824), Sevier (1825), Willis Dewitt Clinton (1827), Mary Jane (1829) and a stillborn son (1831).

Emiline got a break from childbearing when in 1831 Hiram enlisted in the U.S. Mounted Rangers (Captain Ford's Company) against the Black Hawk Indians. After his discharge and return home in September 1832, the Lewis family grew again when twin sons William Nelson and

gave birth to Hiram's tenth child, William B. Lewis, in 1840. After William's birth, Patsy does not appear in extant records. What became of her remains a mystery.

After traveling from Indiana to California in 1849, Hiram lived in Sacramento for a time, and then headed to Sonoma County. His third and final marriage was to Mrs. Mary Fowler Sexton around 1850. Together, they had three more children, all born in California: Zachariah, born in 1852 in Sacramento; Mary S., born around 1853, and Henry Clay, born around 1857.

By the early part of 1855, Hiram, Mary, and their three children had settled in the Russian River Township, where he quickly established himself as a community leader. He purchased land, delivered mail on horseback, christened his new hometown "Windsor," and served as the town's first postmaster.

In 1856 Hiram Lewis, along with Robert Cunningham, H.J. Pool and others, established a Windsor school district by dividing the large Russian River school district that had been formed in 1853 when the Russian River Township's first

school, Prewett School, opened in the Shiloh Cemetery area. In the 1856 restructuring, a portion of the Russian River district was designated "Windsor District," thus further establishing the authority and importance of the newly named town. The new district was poised

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Hiram H. Lewis, ca. 1855, as he probably appeared when he served as Windsor's first postmaster.
(Photo courtesy of David Nielsen)

John Byrd were born in 1835. Twin William died in 1837. On April 11, 1838, Emiline gave birth to her last child and died three hours later. Her baby boy, who wasn't named because he was frail and expected to die soon, passed away in December of that year.

The following year, in 1839, Hiram married Martha "Patsy" Bowie, and she

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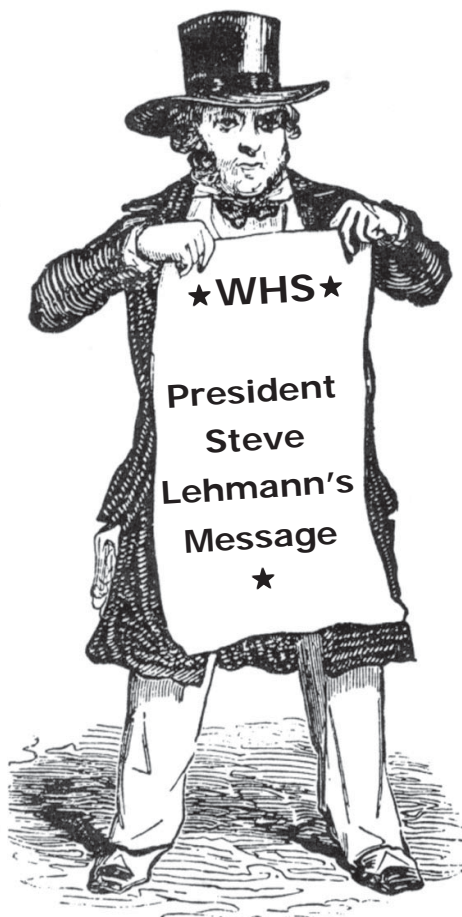
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9225 Foxwood Dr.
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Windsor Historical Society is to found, maintain and operate a community historical museum and association in order to collect, store and display historical artifacts, to develop a fund of information and knowledge of the history and culture of the Windsor area.



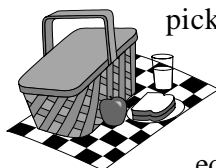
2009 in Review

HHCC's Successful First Year

This edition of the *Windsor Walk* coincides with the one year anniversary of the opening of the Hembree House Cultural Center. What a year! Our volunteers have put in over 1,800 hours greeting visitors, building displays, managing the gift shop, and pruning the roses and wisteria. We have had a very successful year and are very excited as we begin our new year.

This year we will install an irrigation system that will allow us to expand the gardens and grow hops, and then we will turn our attention to the garden stairs and incorporate the engraved bricks into the pathways.

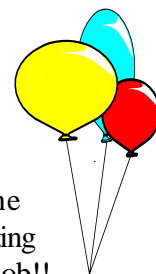
We have more events planned for the Hembree House including our first annual membership picnic and our first annual hop picking party. Dates and details for these and other events will be announced in future editions of the newsletter,



but the membership picnic will be in July and the "Hop Harvest" will be in September/October. The annual "Town Reunion" will once again be held in late October.

This year also marks the 100th birthday of George Greeott and we will host a cake and ice cream birthday party for George on Saturday, May 1st at the Hembree House.

Our first "Polenta Dinner" fundraiser was Saturday, February 27th at the Windsor Community Center. We had a great turnout, loads of fun, many, many raffle prizes and a great silent auction. The community really came out to support the Historical Society. In addition to the raffle and silent auction donations, much of the food, wine and supplies were also donated. A special thanks to Bill Strong, our "chef," for the polenta and meat stew. Thanks also to Marilyn Reynolds for her efforts in making the auction and raffle such a huge success, and to our volunteers, especially our quintet of high school students who worked the whole night without even getting a meal break. What a super job!!



Steve



Happy Valentine's Display. Jan Lehmann and Debby Bailey created this romantic display for our museum. How sweet!

WHS Member News



New Banners for HHCC. The creation of striking new banners, a joint project of the Windsor Historical Society and the Windsor Arts Council, welcome visitors to the museum and art gallery.



Cousins Clara Brock and Mike Brock. Recently, Clara Brock, who lived in the Cunningham House many years ago, drove up from her home in Santa Clara to visit HHCC. In an amazing coincidence, Clara ran into her cousin Mike Brock of Santa Rosa, who was also visiting the museum.



Clara Hembree's Fish Pond. Winter rainwater quickly filled the fish pond in Clara's garden.



High Water. Brooks Creek behind the Hembree House was at its peak when this photo was taken.

Donations

WHS greatly appreciates receiving the following recent donations:

Cheryl Strong
Margaret Raggio

Contributions — large and small — help us preserve Windsor's wonderful history for future generations.

Welcome New Members

Don Arata
Linda Burille
Mike and Barbara Brock
Jan Sonnikson Dunford



Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families of . . .

Bud Silk
David Sonnikson

We shall miss these dear friends who were valued members of the Windsor community.

MYSTERY PHOTOS

These photos were taken in front of Dave DuVander's downtown Windsor store in the I.O.O.F. Building, probably during the 1920s. If you remember a more precise date, facts about the event, and identities of the people in the photos, please contact us.



(Left) This appears to be a special event, but what was it? The children are nicely dressed and posing for group pictures. Can you identify the event or any of the people in this picture? Who are the women taking the children's pictures, and who is the man in the apron in the photos below? We believe the tall woman in the light-colored skirt may be Eloise T. Cameron.

(Right) This is quite a crowd for the little town of Windsor. As folks stand casually in the middle of the street, it's clear no one is worried about being run down by a speeding vehicle. Note how casually cars are parked. In the 1920s automobile rules and regulations were minimal.



(Left) The children seem to be carefully cupping something in their hands, perhaps doves?

(Below) The crowd is relaxed as they look skyward. At what were they looking — a hot air balloon, an airplane, doves the children have released, or some other airborne phenomenon?

(Below left) Why were tractors on display in front of Dave DuVander's store? And what is the small structure to the right of the I.O.O.F Building?





Memories of Windsor in the 1950s

Those Fascinating Trains of Yesteryear

By Jim DuVander

Trains were an everyday occurrence in Windsor during the 1950s. We could easily hear them at home a mile or so away. There were several each day, mostly freight. Only very occasionally would a passenger train go through. That era had really passed by.

Boyhood Adventures at the Track

Sometimes on a weekend or after school, my friends and I would walk the tracks. We were usually looking for spikes. These were long, large square nails that held the track down onto the wooden ties. Sometimes the rail workers would just leave one or two on the ground. We always imagined that they had forgotten them. When we found them, we would treat them as treasure, sometimes collecting several of them when it had been a good day of hunting spikes.

Very often during these spike-hunting escapades, we would hear a train coming in the distance. This was always a fortuitous event, evoking excitement and anticipation in our bones. I can remember feeling a sensation in my heart area as the train came closer. The crescendo of building sound was thrilling. It always astonished me how loud the sound would get as the train came closer and how deeply it would penetrate into my body.

All of the trains were pulled by black steam locomotives, with the bell and steam whistle just like in the movies, chuffing steam and smoke, mountains of it. To stand near the track while one of these behemoths passed by was a whole-body experience, vibrating my every cell with its powerful sound. It was exhilarating.

The engineer would most always wave at us while blowing his shrill, piercing whistle to warn us not to get too close. The lingering smell would be the pungency of burning coal and hot steam as the train passed by, carried to us by the mild breeze stirred by the train's passing.

Our focus would then shift to looking at the different cars or just counting them. Sometimes hobos could be seen in one or more of the cars. All kinds of freight would be on board, cattle or new cars, lumber, refrigeration cars, flat cars or oil. We always liked it when there were one hundred or more. But there was still one more reward. A man at the end of the train rode in the caboose. He waved too, a friendly wave. And we always waved back.

In later years, when we were teens, the new game was to put pennies, nickels or dimes on the track before the train got there. Then after it passed, we rushed up to locate our flattened coins, the inscriptions still faint but showing. We never seemed to tire of this game and played it every chance we had.

Tipped Engine Near Shiloh Road

One particularly wet winter, a train engine tipped over on the side track just south of Shiloh Road. The saturated ground had simply given way under the east side rail, tilting the engine past its balance point. We all went down to see it, our dads and us. (I don't remember any interested moms.) There it was, lying on its side like a beached whale, quiet, still and dead. It didn't seem nearly so awesome and impressive when it was not alive and moving. What I remember most is how dirty it was. It was totally black with the filth of coal dust, grease and oil. Only on the handles, where human hands had touched it, was there a dull shine. Another thing that stood out to me was that I did not recognize one single control. I was used to foot pedals, steering wheels and hand throttles on the cars, trucks and tractors that I was so familiar with. But try as I might, I could not recognize anything of this sort. It was a strange beast, with hand valves, a boiler door, pipes everywhere and odd levers.

Train vs. Gravel Truck at the Windsor Inn

Crossings did not have the descending arms that we have now. There was an electric wig-wag with a red light and a dinging bell that signaled the coming of a train. But small crossings like Starr Road did not have one and it was up to the driver to look carefully! One year, a gravel truck got hit by a train at Windsor River Road and Windsor Road. There was a bar very close to the tracks, near the fire station, called The Windsor Inn (a rather notorious establishment). It had swinging doors like in the western movies. A large set of double duel wheels and axle landed in the bar. It went through those swinging doors and lodged right against the bar. We all had to go down and look at that sight. It scared the heck out of a couple of drunks, but did not hurt anyone that I know of.

Our Beast Disappears

Soon after this event, we began hearing different train sounds, ones that we came to identify as diesel-electric locomotives. We got all excited about this new technology and the new sound. But, what we didn't realize was that it signaled the end of steam locomotives — forever.

We didn't know to grieve this loss until much later. We never again heard or smelled steam in Windsor. I still feel a bit sad about this loss. The old train may have been a beast, but it was *our* beast and a part of us. I still miss it — live, pounding loud, thrilling, with hot steam, billowing smoke, pungent smells and its shrill whistle.



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for town growth and a subsequent increase in the number of students who would attend Windsor School.

A bit puzzling is the fact that during the Federal Census of 1860, Hiram, Mary and their three children were living in Annally [Sebastopol], California, but by 1870, they were back in Windsor, where Hiram, a farmer, owned property valued at \$5,000 and had a personal net worth of \$1,350.

Around 1872, Hiram sold all his Windsor holdings and moved Mary and their children, Zachariah, Mary and Clay, to Oregon. In years to come when family happiness turned to tragedy, Hiram may have wished he had remained in Windsor.

Sevier Lewis in Windsor

Although it is likely that Sevier [pronounced “Severe”] Lewis, crossed the plains in 1849 with his father, Hiram, and other family members, we have found no records to prove that. We do know that Sevier was in the Russian River Township in 1854 when Sonoma County marriage records reveal he wed Elizabeth Hall, with whom he would have 14 children. Seven survived to adulthood: Alonzo (1855), Sylva Jane (aka Sylvia Jane) (1857), Willoughby (1858), Harmon (1860), Alice (1864), Andrew (1869), and Lucy (1875).

Notable among Sevier’s children are Alonzo (1855) and Sylva (1857), both born in Windsor; and Willoughby (1858), born in Sonoma County, possibly in Windsor. Later children were born in Washington and Oregon.

Sevier’s Windsor Hotel

In 1856, according to Sonoma County histories, Sevier Lewis, age 31, opened the first public house in Windsor, the Windsor Hotel, also called the Windsor Retreat, and before 1860 he followed in his father’s footsteps as Windsor postmaster.

In June 1859 Sevier (spelled Severe on the deed) purchased approximately 115 acres in Windsor for \$2,000. The property was prime land adjacent to S. G. McCullough on the North, Henry Bell on the West, Mrs. Dickison on the South, and Mrs. Campbell on the East. According to the deed, it was the same property “heretofore known as the Recess and now as Windsor Cottage.” Cosigner on the deed with Sevier was Nimrod S. Lewis (born in 1839), who was the son of Hiram Lewis’s youngest brother, George Washington Lewis (born in 1816).

On to Oregon

In October of 1859, Sevier and Elizabeth Lewis, along with Nimrod S. Lewis, sold their Windsor property to Samuel R. Emerson. The sale included some 120 acres of land, which probably included the Windsor Hotel built by Sevier. Subsequent historic records reveal that Samuel Emerson owned and managed the hotel and became the primary mover in laying out the Windsor townsite in 1858.

By the time of the 1860 census Sevier Lewis, with his wife and six children, had migrated north to Washington. In 1870 they were living in Richardson Township, Lane County, Oregon. Sevier was not a well-to-

do farmer. His real estate was valued at only \$500; his personal net worth, \$490.

When Hiram Lewis and his family arrived in Oregon around 1872, they settled about a mile from Sevier’s farm near Coquille City.

Once again, Hiram Lewis was recognized as a community leader. In the spring of 1876 the Republicans nominated him as a candidate for state representative, but a disastrous family crisis would doom his election.

Family Tragedy

In Lane County the seeds of a Lewis family tragedy took root as Sevier Lewis and his younger half-brother Zachariah seethed with accusations against one another. At the center of the feud was Sevier’s daughter Sylva Jane, almost 19.

According to Diane L. Goeres-Gardner in her book *Necktie Parties*, Zach stated that Sylva told him that her father had been molesting her and she was pregnant with his child, so Zach took her to his father (and Sylva’s grandfather) Hiram Lewis’s home for protection. Furthermore, Zach threatened to kill Sevier if he attempted to retrieve Sylva.

Sevier, in turn, accused Zach of taking a carnal interest in Sylva, “ruining his daughter,” and stealing her away for his own illicit purposes.

The bad blood between Sevier and Zachariah soon reached a boiling point. When Sevier decided he had had all he could take of the situation, he headed to his father’s farm armed for bear. He later declared he had planned on resolving the situation peaceably with words, but given Zach’s earlier threats, he took along weapons to protect himself in the event of a showdown. With one of his sons in tow, Sevier set out.

Fatricide

On May 22, 1876, according to eye witnesses, Zach Lewis, age 23, was plowing on his father’s farm when Sevier fatally shot him. The young man’s final breath was taken while his father, Hiram Lewis, watched helplessly. An article in the *Coos County Record* of December 27, 1876 described the crime.

“It appears that Sevier Lewis, who has a family, had some difficulty with his younger brother, the nature of which is not known to



The Windsor Hotel. In 1856 Sevier Lewis opened the first hotel in Windsor, located on the main road between Healdsburg and Santa Rosa in what is currently the east side of town on Old Redwood Highway. A community well in the middle of the street, visible above left, was an oasis for thirsty travelers.

the public, and last Monday afternoon he deliberately loaded his pistol and yager [probably a German Jäger rifle, a popular weapon at the time; the “j” is pronounced like a “y” in English] and, calling upon his son, a lad about 15 years of age, to accompany him, with the remark that they ‘might see some game before they returned,’ proceeded to where Zachariah was plowing on his father’s farm and shot him three times, killing him almost instantly. After accomplishing his fiendish purpose, he took to the wood, carrying with him two pistols and his yager. As he has neither blankets nor provisions with him, it is thought that he will not be able to evade the officers who are in pursuit of him ... The barbarity of this deed is augmented by the fact that it was committed in the presence of the aged father, Hiram H. Lewis, of the victim ...”

Escape and Capture

If Sevier was innocent of premeditated murder as he would later claim, it didn’t help his case when he fled. After slipping through the hands of pursuing law officers he headed north to Washington, surviving along the way by hunting game and working briefly on farms for necessary cash.

Nineteen months after the murder, on December 10, 1877, Sevier, who was traveling under the alias “Mr. Harmon,” was recognized in a Seattle, Washington bar. That night he was followed to his hotel, apprehended while sleeping, and jailed by the local sheriff, who wasted no time in returning Sevier to Oregon.

Now infamous, Sevier’s murder trial began on May 27, 1878. Although Sevier had court-appointed legal counsel, he claimed it was inadequate, and on May 30, 1878, he asked for a continuance on the grounds that he had been too poor to hire an attorney, hadn’t understood legal processes, and hadn’t been able to subpoena witnesses on his behalf. But after considering affidavits from various legal officials contradicting Sevier’s complaints, the judge ruled the trial would go forward.

The Hanging

On June 13, 1878, the jury found Sevier Lewis, age 53, guilty of first-degree murder. The judge sentenced him to death by hanging on August 9, 1878, and charged him \$830.10 for court costs. After an appeal by defense lawyers, the hanging was rescheduled for August 30.

A crowd of approximately 250 watched as Sevier was taken to the jail yard gallows that had been constructed for his execution, where he spoke his final words.

“I know I am going to die, I know that — I know that it was all brought about by my low-lived branch of the family. I know that your minds are all influenced against me ... I believe in God Almighty, and I believe some of the family will suffer more than I will. I was punished just as bad before as after they arrested me, because I was separated from my family. It is all I live for and I am going to die for them. If I could die a thousand times and save my daughter, I would do it. If I could save her I would be satisfied to die. You have been deceived in this trouble; I could not help it; I went over that day to try to settle it with them. No sir, I did not go over there with the intention of killing him. They know that I went over there to settle with them without trouble. They have convicted me.”

In life, Sevier achieved acclaim for building Windsor’s first hotel. In death, he achieved other notoriety: He was the first white man to be legally executed for murder in Coos County, Oregon.

Questions About the Trial

Did Sevier Lewis receive a fair trial? Many of his descendants believe he did not, pointing out that he was vilified in the press and found guilty before the trial. They also question the quality of his legal counsel and trial proceedings.

In his 1898 *History of Coos and Curry Counties*, Orville Dodge presents a portrait of Sevier as a protective father and Zach as a licentious uncle. We can only guess at Sylva’s role in the drama.

“Zach had been paying his respects to the girl (his niece) ... until quite an intimacy existed between the two. Her father thought things was going a little too far, and warned his brother Zach to desist coming to the place or having anything further to do with the girl, but it seemed the warning availed nothing.”

Would Sevier be sentenced to death if he were tried today? Perhaps not.

Tragedy’s Aftermath

The family tragedy took a fatal toll on Hiram and Mary Lewis. He died on January 19, 1879; she, not long after. Orville Dodge commented: “The old gentleman and lady Lewis, father and mother ... died with broken hearts.”



Hiram H. Lewis, ca. 1876. It was said that Hiram died of a broken heart in 1879. (Photo courtesy of David Nielsen)

Sevier’s family suffered, too. After his death, widow Elizabeth took a position as a housekeeper for a family in Richardson, Oregon, where she and her children were living in 1880. The older children also worked there: Alonzo, Willoughby and Harmon as farm laborers; Sylva and Alice, as domestic servants. The two youngest children, Andrew and Lucy were in grammar school.

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Special thanks to David Nielsen and Kathy Boynton, Lewis family historians, for photos and data; and to Diane L. Goeres-Gardner, author of *Necktie Parties*, for providing copies of court documents and news articles (cited below) and for allowing me to draw on her extensive research. **Other Sources:** Steve Lehmann, Sonoma County (CA) Records; *The Coos Bay News*, Empire City, Oregon, 31 May 1876 and 19 Dec 1877; *The Oregonian*, 1 Jan 1876, 1 June 1876, 26 June 1876 and 9 Oct 1878; *Roseburg Plaindealer*, 7 Sep 1878; various federal census records; various court documents from Sevier Lewis’s trial; *History of Coos and Curry Counties, Oregon* by Orville Dodge, 1898; *Illustrated History of Sonoma County, 1880*; *Thompson’s History of Sonoma County, 1877*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sevier Lewis". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Sevier Lewis’s Signature, May 30, 1878. All court documents record the name as “Sevier.” Other sources spell it “Severe,” which was the commonly accepted pronunciation.

Snapshots from Our First Annual Polenta Dinner



Greetings! (from left to right) Marilou Del Greco and Edna Honsa checked in dinner guests and gave each a free raffle ticket.



Hot Selling Raffle Tickets. Robert and Judy Maize bought a string of raffle tickets, optimistic they would win some of the dozens of raffle prizes. Teens selling tickets shown above are Jonathan Jeffrey and Stephany Del Greco.



Antipasto and Chit-Chat. Among other familiar faces, seated right above are longtime Windsor supporters Lee and Sally Dysart (the pert redhead!). Most guests arrived early to visit and bid on silent auction items.



Windsor Celebrities. Windsor's iconic George Greeott, who will soon celebrate his 100th birthday, and Councilperson Debra Fudge enjoyed sharing details about their latest activities.



Marilyn's Munchers. Not only did Marilyn Reynolds, seated front left above, obtain silent auction items, she also inspired a group of her friends to attend and sit with her at the dinner.



Polenta-Loving Couple. Vince and Joyce Billante, who love polenta, were excited to learn about the WHS event. They will look forward to enjoying our polenta dinner again next year.

From Start to Finish, It Was A Blast!



Super Chef. Bill Strong created fabulous polenta, beef sauce, and biscotti.



Perfect Partner. As always, Cheryl Strong Chef Bill's wife, helped him during meal planning and preparation.



Antipasto in Progress. Josephine Rebich, right, and her daughter, Dorothy Jensen, prepared antipasto dishes.



Terrific Teens. (from left to right) Twins Peter and Jonathan Jeffrey, Stephany Del Greco, Amy Jeffrey, and Elizabeth Del Greco helped throughout the evening wherever they were needed.



Forever Friends. Shown above (front left), Terry Carroll is seated across from his wife, Paulette Carroll. Beside Terry is Mike Bailey and across from Mike, his wife, Debby Bailey, who is facing right.



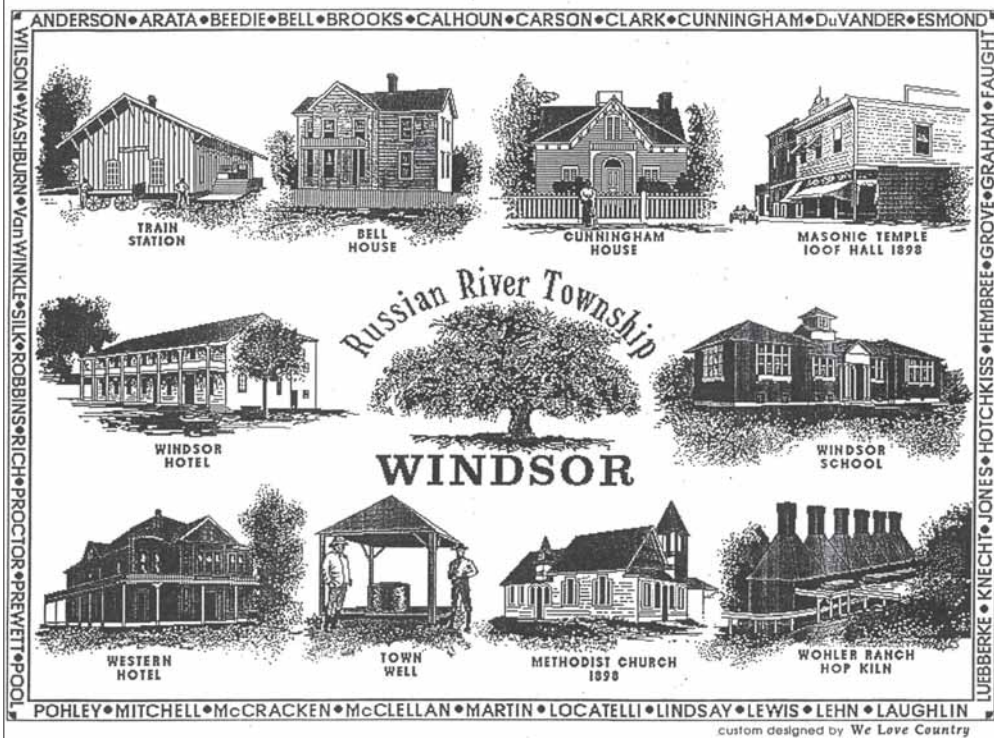
Raffle Prizes Galore. (from left to right) Bob Honsa and WHS President Steve Lehmann showed off bottles of fine wine and numerous other items donated for raffle prizes.



And the Winner Is . . . Many lucky winners took home great raffle prizes. Steve Lehmann was in charge of the drawing with the help of teenagers, (left to right), Peter Jeffrey, Elizabeth Del Greco, Jonathan Jeffrey, and Amy Jeffrey.

The Windsor Coverlet

Bring the Spirit of Windsor into Your Home



This beautiful coverlet was commissioned by the Windsor Historical Society and created by *We Love Country*. It is 100% cotton, two and a half-layer, jacquard woven in the U.S.A. preshrunk, colorfast and machine-washable. It is handsome and practical, measuring approximately 48 x 68 inches and fringed on all four sides.

The design captures the history and spirit of Windsor and the Russian River Township with the depiction of early Windsor and the families that settled the township. The perfect gift for family members and friends both near and far, it captures special memories and will become an instant keepsake

This unique, custom coverlet is woven with multicolor yarns for a rich look. The price is only \$65.00 and the proceeds from the coverlet sales benefit the Windsor Historical Society.

Please enter the desired quantity.

_____ Windsor Coverlet(s) @ \$65.00 each \$_____

Shipping is free in Windsor.
To other cities, \$10. \$_____

Total enclosed \$_____

Checks should be made payable to the Windsor Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 1544, Windsor CA 95492.

Ordered by

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



California Gray Squirrel Cavorts at HHCC.

Museum visitors and volunteers often comment that they enjoy the playful antics of the gray squirrels who populate the property. Expect more fun ... the latest offspring usually leave their nests between March and mid-August.

Report of San Francisco and North Pacific Railway Company, 1901

The San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad Company, 108.5 miles, was incorporated June 29, 1877, and formed by the consolidation of the Sonoma and Marin Railroad, chartered November 13, 1874, and the Fulton and Guerneville Railroad, chartered May 23, 1877. The road opened from Donahue to Santa Rosa, 23 miles, January 1, 1870; to Windsor, 9 miles, March 1, 1871; to Grants, 4 miles, April 10, 1871; to Healdsburg, 2 miles, July 1, 1871; and to Cloverdale, 18 miles, April 18, 1872. The Guerneville branch was opened May 29, 1876, and the Petaluma branch June 2, 1879. Included in the main line was a section of 9 miles, Point Tiburon to San Rafael, leased.

*From the Annual Report of the Board of
Railroad Commissioners of the State of
California, 1901*

Where Was Grants?

(See reference in railroad item above.)

Historic evidence indicates that Grants was located on the main highway between Windsor and Healdsburg, just north of Eastside Road. Grant School was named for John Delano Grant, a prominent rancher, and Sonoma County records show that Anita Fitch Grant owned 455 acres in the area where Grant School was built.

You Are Invited to Join the Windsor Historical Society



Please Join Us!



"Here's one more important item for the prenuptial agreement: lifetime memberships in the Windsor Historical Society. You agree to that or the wedding is off!"

Your Message Needed for George Greeott

There is nothing George Greeott would enjoy more than a **Memory Book** from his friends and admirers. For his 100th birthday on April 30, 2010 we invite people to submit ahead of time a story about George or a memory they cherish about him or a note of congratulations. These should be submitted on a single 8 1/2 x 11 paper that becomes a page in **George Greeott's Memory Book**.

Please submit your document as early as possible but **no later than April 18** to:

Cathy Landis

3770 Viking Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Phone 707 578-9458



I remember . . .

PLEASE SHARE YOUR WINDSOR MEMORIES. Do you have a happy, fun, sad, poignant, or otherwise significant memory of old Windsor? Please call editor Barbara Ray (707-836-0101) or jot it down and e-mail (ldray61@aol.com) or snail mail it to her in care of WHS (POB 1544, Windsor, CA 95492). You can be sure others will enjoy your story.

Museum Hours

Windsor's Hembree House Museum is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (except holidays) from 9:30 to 4:30. It's a great way to experience Windsor's past.

Hembree House Cultural Center
9225 Foxwood Dr.
Windsor, California

Windsor Historical Society • P.O. Box 1544, Windsor, CA 95492

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

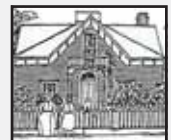
Phone _____

Email _____

Type of Membership _____

Please select from the following list of memberships:

- Life Member \$300.00
- Family Membership \$ 25.00
- Family of Seniors (60+) \$ 20.00
- Individual \$ 20.00
- Individual Senior (60+) \$ 15.00



Area of Interest

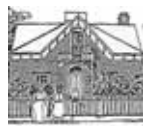
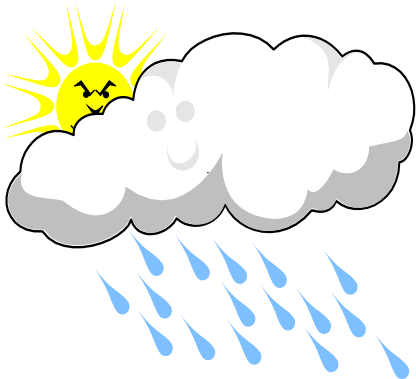
- Museum Receptionist _____
- Research _____
- Publicity _____
- Garden Club _____
- Grant Writing _____
- Board Member _____
- Newletter Articles _____
- Fundraising _____
- Other _____

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Windsor Historical Society

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