

A Rich Family Saga

An Intimate Look at the Admirable Life of Pioneer Sarah Myers Rich Latimer

by Elinor Rich

In 2007 Elinor Rich completed a comprehensive manuscript of her family's history. Elinor's fascinating narrative begins with her great-grandmother Sarah Myers Rich Latimer, a woman who contributed generously to her family and community.

Sarah Ann Sophia Myers Rich Latimer

1826 - 1904

The oil portrait portrays a petite, pretty lady with an air of tranquility. Her 1893 journal narrates weather patterns, farm chores, prayers, names of friends and neighbors who called.

Tidy little anecdotes handed down by Sarah's descendants are only teasing vignettes of a lifetime of twists and turns of fate. My curiosity to learn more about Sarah Ann Sophia Myers Rich Latimer has led me on a ponderous journey through old documents and library references.

What we know of Sarah's lineage begins with her great grandfather Michael Myers, who immigrated to Maryland from Germany before 1760. No documentation has been discovered to reveal any information about his spouse.

Michael's son John (1760-1838) married Mary Dillon (1767-1857). Mary was born in England. John Myers had a mill, distillery and farm in Maryland. The family also lived in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and



Sarah Myers Rich Latimer
1826 - 1904

Putnam County, Ohio, where John and Mary are buried in the Myers family plot.

The eldest of John and Mary's thirteen children, Abraham Dillon Myers (1789-1872), married Martha Preston Gillingham (1788-1844). The Gillinghams proudly trace their ancestry back to Yeamans Gillingham (1674-1722) of England and Pennsylvania, and his father James Gillingham (1648-?) of Kent, England. Abraham and Martha Myers were the parents of eight children—Sarah Ann Sophia Myers (1826-1904) born in Lambertville, New Jersey, was their sixth child.

Old letters relate that Abraham Myers traveled to California in the mid 1840s—after the death of his first wife, Martha (Sarah's mother), in 1844. He returned East, then came back to California in the 1860s. According to an 1867 map, Abraham Myers owned property in Sonoma County. An 1877 atlas shows that A. D. Myers came to California in 1850 and Sonoma County in 1854. It is believed that he is buried in the Healdsburg cemetery. The Myers plot is easy to find on the cemetery chart, but a jungle of shrubbery covers the area. The thought of slithery creatures in the foliage restrained my further investigation.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Windsor Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of Windsor and the Russian River Township through museum exhibits, historic sites, educational programs and printed materials.

President's Message



Hops Will Be Ready for Harvest at WHS's Hop Festival on September 1

Springtime means that the hops went into the garden and this year we moved last year's hop yard into the more conventional trellis system that dominated the Russian River Township when hops were a major agricultural product. We have twelve plants growing and nine of them are plants that have been transplanted from the original yards along the Russian River. Today the most common variety of hops are "Cascade" but in the middle of the 20th Century the best was the "Sonoma County Hop" and that's what we are growing. We have original hops growing on a vintage trellising system that is just the way Raford Jones and Bill Beedie laid them out. Come by and watch them grow.

Of course in September the hops will be ready to harvest, so put on your long sleeve shirts and wide brim hats and join us for WHS's Second Annual Hop Harvest the first Saturday in September. This year we will incorporate the annual town reunion and serve a sit-down lunch. What better way to celebrate our heritage and history than at a hop harvest at the Cunningham Homestead! Details will follow.

Cunningham House Update

Thinking of the Cunningham House, some of you may have noticed that we are preparing the house for painting. We have pruned the ancient rose on the east side and will soon open up two more windows. The paint will be a needed improvement but a new foundation and replacement of the north wall will be next on the list of essential upgrades. Our goal is to open the house for tours!

Annual Meeting

June 20th will be our annual meeting and you are all invited to attend. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. and we will be serving hot dogs with trimmings. The meeting will not include elections because all board members were elected or re-elected to two-year terms at last year's meeting but we will have available our annual financial report and discuss the previous year's activities and the coming year's plans. I hope to see many of you then.

Thanks as always and see you around the Museum.

Steve

In the spring of 1908, a viticultural club was organized at Windsor by the hop and grape growers of the Russian River Township. Those in attendance represented more than 4,000 acres of grapes and 1,200 acres of hops. The purpose of the group was to recommend to the legislature laws that would favorably impact the distribution and sale of wine, cider and beer. The following officers were elected: W. L. Cunningham, president; Sheridan Peterson, vice president; William B. Chisholm, secretary, and H. M. [probably Hugh N.] Latimer, treasurer. Directors: W. H. Small, Al Misener, H. G. Reimann, C. W. Jessup, Edward Thompson, and James Crosby.

Source: San Francisco Call, 12 April 1908

WHS Member News

Happy 90th
Birthday!

to

Harold Oxsen
July 12, 2012



*Wonderful man,
faithful WHS volunteer.*



June 20, 2012 Annual Membership Meeting

All WHS members are invited to attend
the Annual Membership Meeting.

June 20, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Hembree House

Hot dogs with all the trimmings will be
served. We hope to see you there.

Welcome New Members

John Burton
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Julie Sanderson
Taft Street Winery

Don & Patty Pratt Stevens
Weed, Calif.

Condolences ... We grieve with family and friends.



Donna Rueb Collier
Oct 22, 1947 - Mar. 9, 2012

Donna Collier, age 65, wife of Ron Collier, passed away on March 9 in her Windsor home with her family by her side, after a short fight with pancreatic cancer. Donna was born on October 22, 1947 in Wishek, North Dakota to Ted and Helen Rueb. She grew up in Ukiah, married Ron, and the couple moved to Windsor in 1968, where they soon became valued members of the community. Donna and Ron were married for 43 years.

Donna was the first female firefighter in the Windsor Fire Department where she was awarded Firefighter of the Year in 1976. Prior to and after that, she served as part of the WFD Women's Auxiliary. She held many other jobs, too, including working as a waitress at Mad Lee's, Lil's Café and Chubby's Diner in Windsor. Donna is survived by her husband, Ron, of Windsor; son, Troy (wife Deon) Collier of Windsor; daughter, Theresa (husband Dan) Warner, of Cottonwood; and her three beloved granddaughters, Kristi Collier, and Brittney and Kayla Warner.



Sharon "Gail" Rhodes Baker
Mar. 3, 1941 - Mar. 29, 2012

Sharon "Gail" Rhodes Baker, age 71, went to her eternal rest on March 29, 2012, following a courageous battle with cancer. Gail was born on March 3, 1941, in Nampa, Idaho to Esther and Victor Rhodes, and in 1954 moved with her family to Windsor. Pretty and personable, Gail was a popular student and cheerleader at Healdsburg High School, graduating in 1959. Gail is survived by her husband of 51 years, James Baker; son Steve Baker and his wife, Laura; son Todd Baker and his wife, Victoria; three cherished grandchildren, Shalyn, Makenna, and Dalton Baker. Also surviving are Gail's sisters, Joy Price and Phyllis Rhodes, both living in the Windsor area, and many other beloved relatives. After high school, Gail found her niche in banking and worked at San Francisco Federal Savings for 17 years. She had been employed with Summit State Bank since 1992 where she was an assistant vice president and manager of the Montgomery Village Branch. She also enjoyed homemaking, and was an avid Giants and 49er's fan.

Donations

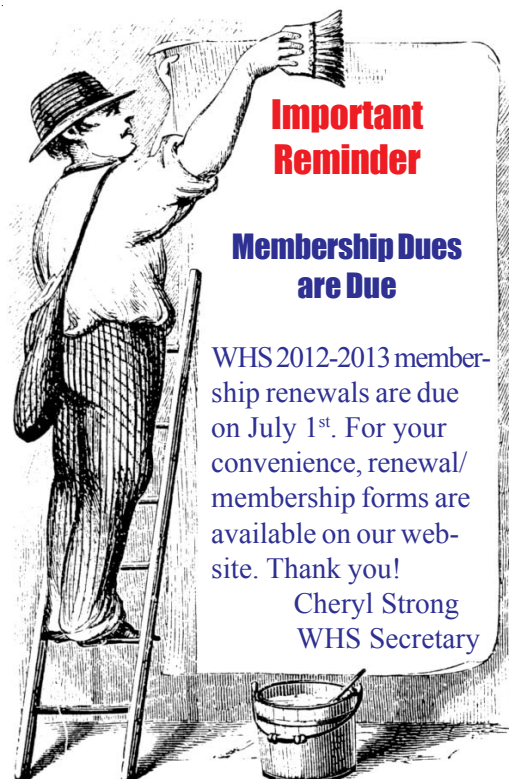
WHS greatly appreciates receiving
recent donations from the following:

Elinor Rich
in memory of
Barbara Jones

Nancy Sargent Johnson

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

Thank you!



Ella McClelland Welch's Friendship Quilt

Windsor Historical Society sincerely thanks Mary Catherine Cameron Frost for donating a friendship quilt made for her grandmother Ella McClelland Welch. The quilt was lovingly stitched by members of the Windsor Methodist Church Ladies' Aid Society during the 1920s or 1930s, in honor of Ella's retirement, perhaps from a Ladies' Aid Society role. Each lady embroidered her signature on the quilt block she sewed, ensuring that the recipient would remember the friends who gave the quilt to her. For those who have lived in Windsor for many years, some of the names below will surely bring back memories. For those who did not know these ladies, perhaps we'll have stories about them, and/or photos, in future issues of the *Windsor Walk*. If you wish to share a memory of one of these women, please let us know.



Ella Welch, c. 1910

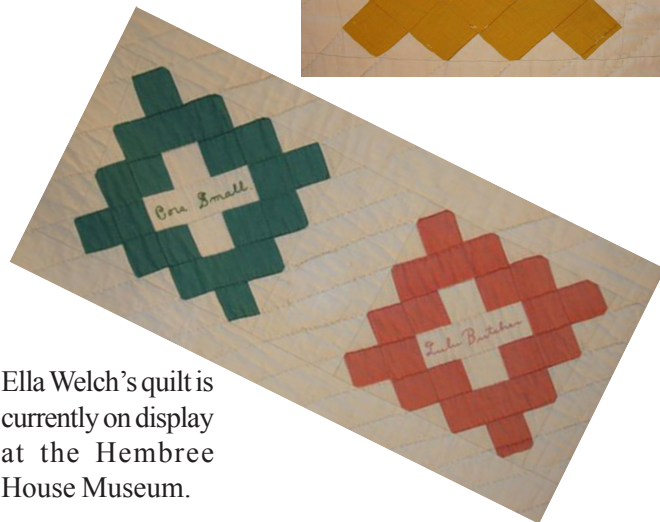
Ella Isabella McClelland Welch was born Dec. 24, 1864 to James and Mary Jane Cunningham McClelland. She was the sister of Clara McClelland Hembree and the granddaughter of pioneers Robert and Isabella Cunningham. Ella married Frank T. Welch on Sept. 25, 1884 and they had four children: James Raymond, born in 1885; Mary Clarita, 1893; Lois Lavinia, 1897; and Lura Isabella, 1901. Both Frank and Ella were founding members of the 1905 Windsor Grange, and Ella served as the grange organist.¹ The couple was also active in the Windsor Methodist-Episcopal Church, following in Ella's family's footsteps. Grandfather Robert Cunningham had nurtured the fledgling congregation and was instrumental in the construction of a new church in 1863.² Ella was a member of the church's Ladies' Aid Society, and around 1920, Ella and Frank were hosting socials at their Windsor home to stimulate interest in Sunday School.³ Ella passed away on July 20, 1941 at the age of 77.



Left, full quilt. Right, Clara Eagan's quilt block.



Below, Cora Small's and Lulu Butcher's blocks.



Ella Welch's quilt is currently on display at the Hembree House Museum.

Quilt Block Signatures: Mrs. Archer, Elsie Bell, Mrs. Brock, Lulu Butcher, Edna Coppedge, Clara Eagan, R. Erickson, Mrs. C. Eweifel, Mrs. A. S. Fuller, Jennie Fuller, Mrs. Henley, Edith Hinkle, Anna Leslie, Mrs. Leubberke, May Luce, Rena Martin, Flora Monti, Ella Morton, Clarice Myers, Bess Richards, Pearl Robbins, Secy., Emma Shane, Edith Silk, Alice Smith, Cora Small, Minnie Small, L. VanWinkle, Ella Vought, Lena Walker.

Ladies' Aid Societies or Soldiers' Aid Societies were women's organizations formed during the American Civil War, dedicated to providing supplies to soldiers on the battlefield and caring for sick and wounded soldiers. Over the course of the war, between 7,000 and 20,000 Ladies' Aid Societies were established.⁴ As early as 1865, there was a Soldiers' Aid Society at the Windsor Methodist-Episcopal Church with Mrs. Sarah Myers Rich serving as president of the society.⁵

¹*The Windsor Herald*, 25 Mar 1905

²Windsor Community Methodist Church, "History of the church 1863-1963," pg. 4

³*Healdsburg Tribune*, "Windsor News," Nov. 5, 1919

⁴Frank, Lisa Tendrich, *Women in the American Civil War*, Santa Barbara, CA, 2008, p. 96

⁵*California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences*, "Festival at Windsor," 18 August 1865, Vol. 24, Num. 6



Jim DuVander's

Memories of Windsor in the 1950s

Mail Delivery on Route 1

They were real mailmen. Women did not deliver the mail in Windsor then. Two men delivered the mail. One was Bill Craven. The other was Cornelius Olsen. But nobody called him that. He was "Corny" to us.

Carriers supplied their own vehicles. Corny drove a faded black Model A Ford sedan. This car looked out of date even then. Corny liked to get full use out of his vehicles. Well into the 70s, he was still using his '29 Ford truck flatbed to deliver his grapes to the Windsor Co-op Winery on Windsor Road. I remember him with a short cigar in his mouth. I don't remember it ever being lit, however. He just chewed it.

Corny delivered on the west side of town, so we never had him as a carrier, since we lived on Brooks Road on the east side. But Corny lived on the east side, so he was our neighbor. (In those days Windsor Creek was the dividing line between East and West, not the freeway as it is today.)

Bill Craven was our carrier. He had a '48 Oldsmobile with a rare automatic transmission. Most cars were still stick shift then with three speeds and reverse on the steering column. This Olds with the automatic probably enabled Bill to drive. Bill had one good leg and a wooden one. (He lost his leg above the knee in a saw mill accident before the war.) This would have made shifting a stick difficult for him. I was impressed with Bill's driving skills. He would sit on the passenger side with his one good leg alternating between the gas and brake pedals, his left hand reaching across to the steering wheel. He was quite adept at maneuvering his car in this strange, angled position. His mail was arranged on the seat where the driver normally sits.

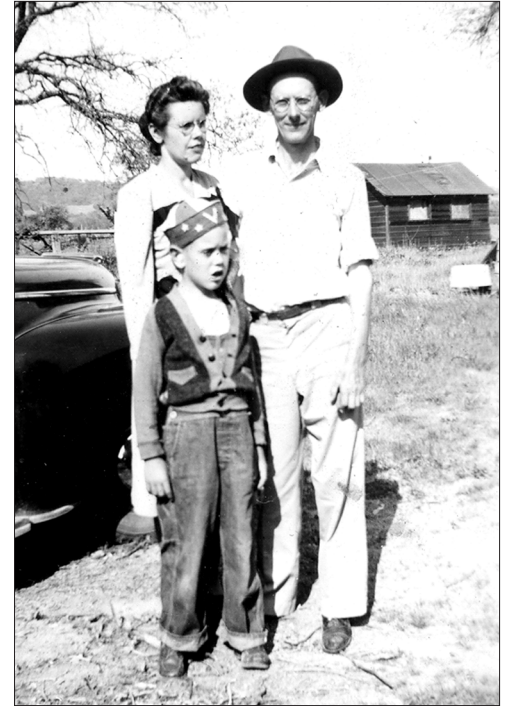
Bill was a very cheerful, friendly guy and he liked kids. Although some of my

feelings about Bill could be colored by the fact that at ages 4, 5 and 6 years old, I was convinced that all the good that came to me in the mail originated with Bill. My mom would try to dissuade me of this erroneous idea but I could not be convinced. Somewhere about age 7, it finally dawned on me that Bill was merely the carrier, not the source of my goods.

One year early on, Bill's muffler dropped off his Olds. When he would pull away from our mailbox, the loud engine exhaust report would announce the arrival of our mail. After a few years, Bill got around to replacing the muffler, ending this handy delivery alert.

The Montgomery Wards catalog carried all sorts of things not stocked in the Santa Rosa stores. I would pore over the toy section for hours, scouring the pages for something that I could afford. Mom and Dad had very little cash to pay for my toys except on my birthday and Christmas, which seemed to only come every ten years. The rest of the time it was up to us kids to make enough money to buy our own toys. Later it would be electric trains, then bicycle parts that would occupy hours of my time studying the catalog. My bike had Riverside tires, a "Monkey" Wards brand. Nothing beat the excitement of something new coming into my life through the mail.

When we opened up our mailbox, it had real mail in it. There was no junk mail then. We used 3 cent stamps that had to be licked to stick. The stamp was most always hand stamped with the name of the originating post office marked on the cancelation with a date. So we all knew when and where it was mailed. The writing was usually in longhand. Anything typewritten was usually bad news. It was probably from the IRS, an attorney, a court summons, the DMV or other



The Craven Family, early 1950s. Bill Craven had a most unusual way of driving and delivering mail. Above, he stands with his wife, Dorothy, and son, Wayne.

government tax bill. A postcard was still one cent. There was no zip code yet. That would come later. Our address was Route 1, Box 86, Windsor, Calif. The fact that we lived on Brooks Road was not mentioned in our address. Also, the two-letter abbreviation "CA" had not come into use yet. So it was Calif.

If anyone happened to be near the mailbox when Bill came, it was an occasion for a conversation. We knew Bill from Grange, Farm Bureau and maybe church. We didn't talk to him that often so it was an opportunity to catch up on local news.

Bill was more than a mail carrier to us; he was our friend and participated in giving us a deep sense of community.



Sarah and John's Wedding

Sarah's marriage to John Pennington Rich of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, took place in Lambertville, New Jersey, May 26, 1846. Sarah was twenty years old and John eleven years her senior at thirty-one years. Lambertville is directly across the Delaware River from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where the Rich and Myers families both have roots.

John, Construction Engineer

John's work as a construction engineer kept the family on the move from New Jersey to Maine, then to Massachusetts and back again to Maine. The birthplaces of their five children illustrates the trail of their travels throughout New England. The eldest Henry Jackson was born 1847 in Lambertville, New Jersey; Emeline P., born 1849, Portland, Maine; Edmund, born 1853, Sandwich, Massachusetts; Florence Rea, born 1855, Portland, Maine; and William Burr, born 1860, Westbrook, Maine.

Infrequent letters from Sarah's father, Abraham, and brother, Jackson, extolling the wonders of California, planted dream seeds on the fertile ground of discontent. Lengthy, sometimes heated, discussions took

place. Sarah declared that her health could not take another harsh winter.

John would be well paid for his work in California, but did they want to make the large expenditure required to move from the East Coast to the wilderness of the West? Hopeful plans of escape developed and grew into possible reality as his work on an important toll road in New Hampshire progressed. It was a colossal undertaking, up Mount Washington, the monarch of the White Mountains, and John's obligation to complete the precipitous, eight-mile roadway up the side of the unyielding mountain kept them bound to the commitment.

Preparation for realization of their dream seemed to take an eternity. They closed business connections, packed household furnishings for shipment around Cape Horn and said their goodbyes to friends and family.

Sailing to San Francisco and Settling in Sonoma County

John and Sarah, with their four children, sailed from Boston on April 10, 1862, and left the ship at the Isthmus of Panama. The bitter cold winter of Maine sharply contrasted with the tropic heat as they walked across the Isthmus. The two younger children, Florence and Willie, rode

in saddle bags, one on each side of a pack horse. A ship on the western side of the Isthmus took them to San Francisco, where they arrived on May 18, 1862. After resting for one day in San Francisco, they continued the last part of the journey to Sonoma County.

Sarah expressed her delight with the new homestead by writing in her journal about the oat grass as tall as the horses, wild life in abundance, California Indians, and the glorious mild weather. They had indeed discovered the Garden of Eden. But not for long.

Farming the homesteaded 480 acres adjacent to properties owned by Sarah's father Abraham Myers and brother Dillon Myers began in earnest. The ranch location in a secluded valley offered a small, spring-fed lake of both fresh water and mineral springs. The Indians believed the springs to have medicinal powers. An accumulation of Indian artifacts have been found throughout the valley and in the hillside caves the Indians used for shelter.

First Death in California

John Rich resumed his career in mapping out and constructing the roads through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In a few month's time, he became gravely ill with malaria. Most likely the disease was contracted in Panama. John Pennington Rich died November 12, 1862. The first death of a family member in Sonoma County necessitated the grim task of designating a small plot of land for a cemetery on the ranch. John is buried on a wooded hilltop overlooking the small valley.

In memory of John P. Rich, Sarah donated one acre of land to be used as the site of a primary school for education of pioneer children in the district. The school was named Hill School for its first teacher, Robert Hill.

Hill School, 1892

In memory of her husband, John P. Rich, Sarah Myers Rich donated one acre of land to be used as the site of a primary school for pioneer children in the district. The school was named Hill School for its first teacher, Robert Hill.



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No Time to Grieve

John and Sarah's shattered dream of a new life together in California drifted into the reality of a ranch to run and the care of two teenagers and two small children. Time to grieve would have to come later. Sarah managed the ranch, the children, hired help, and provided food and shelter to those in need. Her compassion extended to the Indians living in the valley. We have been told of one occasion when an ailing Indian woman came to her for help. Sarah gave her some hot, nourishing soup, then turned to the stove to stir the pot when she heard a frightening sound of collapse. The Indian woman was face down in the soup, passed on to the happy hunting ground. Did Sarah attend to her burial? Or did the Indian family members attend to the ceremony with their tribal ritual?

Sarah named the ranch Glen Valley Springs. The highest hill she called Mt. Pleasant, and a favorite trail became Dark Canyon. The names of these landmarks remained through the next four generations who carried on the ranch operations.

From Sarah's writing in her diary, one can easily detect the spiritual and moral strength of this tiny woman. She

often took her Bible and walked the scenic trail through Dark Canyon with its small stream of waterfalls and fern-covered mossy walls. Her descendants would follow this same trail wending its way to the top of Mr. Pleasant to view the larger valley below. The r e w a r d i n g panoramic scene of

a patchwork of farm lands never lost its allure. The valley train puffed along to announce its presence with a shrill echoing whistle intruding upon the silence. The Russian River flowed on its way to the ocean, and the western coastal hills were an ever-changing color wheel.

Away from the demanding clamor of a busy household, Sarah relaxed in quiet solitude on Mt. Pleasant to read her Bible and indulge in prayerful meditation. Sometimes she found peace, and other times she would fret about the current problems. Her brother Dillon's drinking habits caused her



Lorenzo D. and Sarah Rich Latimer Home. After Sarah Rich and Judge Lorenzo D. Latimer wed in 1865, they built a seventeen-room home on Sarah's property to comfortably accommodate their newly combined family of eight—two adults and six children.

worrisome consternation. Alas! Alas! The curse of drink, she wrote in her journal.

Dillon built a winery on his ranch which was across the road from Sarah's property. Dillon was his own best customer. His mortal remains were discovered in the winery October 11, 1902. Dillon's unhealthy addiction claimed its price at age 73.

Judge Latimer Comes Courting

Lorenzo Dow Latimer, a widower with two sons, came to call. Sarah became acquainted with this distinguished gentleman

Glen Valley Springs Resort, early 1900s

William Burr Rich, standing right, and Ella Faught Rich, seated left, relax with their sons Clarence, Edwin, and Stuart. These natural springs were also enjoyed by local Indians long before the arrival of eastern pioneers.



Above, Sarah's grandsons Clarence and Stuart Rich boat with Glen Valley guests.

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through professional services rendered shortly after the Rich family arrived in California. He also had advised Sarah in the disposition of John's estate. Mr. Latimer maintained a successful law practice in Santa Rosa, where he resided.

On November 17, 1865, Sarah and Lorenzo married. Their combined family of six children (ages five to eighteen years) necessitated building a seventeen-room house on Sarah's property. The building site selected provided a picturesque setting landscaped with trees and grape arbors bordering the small lake.

President Grant appointed Mr. Latimer United States Attorney in 1868. The prestigious assignment required upheaval of family and household belongings to another residence on California Street in San Francisco. Judge Latimer's entourage adjusted from country living to city life. Invitations to political receptions, social events and entertaining at home exposed the children to another lifestyle quite different from country family gatherings and neighborhood events in Sonoma County. Sarah's silver mesh evening bag and tiny opera glasses are all that survived from this era. For a time her gowns were used as costumes in great-granddaughter Grace Rich's drama classes at Petaluma High School.

The Children's Weddings and One Funeral

Sarah's daughter Emeline met Elliot Cofer during their stay in San Francisco. Emeline and Elliot's wedding took place at Glen Valley Springs Ranch in 1873. They made their home in San Francisco where Elliot later became vice-president in charge of foreign accounts at Wells Fargo Bank. Sarah's other three children took spouses from Sonoma

County. Henry married Mary Ellen Curtis in 1879; Florence wed Frederick Utley in 1875 and a second marriage to Frank Sweet took place; William married Ella Faught in 1883.

Judge Latimer's sons also favored Sonoma County brides. Hugh Latimer married Selma Kingsbury in 1890 and Lorenzo P. Latimer (a renowned artist) wed Jenny Phelps in 1893.

A period of deep mourning occurred with the passing of Sarah's eldest son Henry on October 8, 1888.

Glen Valley Springs Resort

It is not known when Sarah returned to Sonoma County to stay while Judge Latimer remained in San Francisco, keeping his office in the Nevada Building. They decided to turn Glen Valley Springs into a summer resort. Since they were entertaining San Francisco acquaintances at their country residence, it seemed a good idea to turn the endeavor into a commercial project.

A seven-room guest house was built to provide additional lodging. The new bath house offered soothing waters from hot sulphur springs. To promote the resort accommodations William B. Rich prepared a brochure illustrated with photographs:



Glen Valley Springs

Have you thought where you are going to take your summer's outing? Perhaps we have just the place in GLENN VALLEY SPRINGS. This beautiful homelike retreat is situated in the rolling hills, ten miles north of Santa Rosa and three miles east of Windsor, its nearest station on the San Francisco & North Pacific R.

R., sixty miles from San Francisco.

While it is practically the first year this charming spot has been opened to the public, this fact will commend it to many. The picturesque setting of the house surrounded on all sides by many varieties of shade and fruit trees, offers at once an attractive welcome to all. In fact the place looks just what it has been for many years, the summer home of Judge L. D. Latimer and family.

Within a stone's throw of the house is the lake. This body of water is fed by fourteen large Iron Springs, and by its location and size affords, at once, every opportunity for boating and swimming.

A large Sulphur Spring furnishes an abundant supply of water for hot and cold baths. In season there is good hunting and fishing.

A special feature will be a number of teams, with careful drivers, who will take guests to all points of interest, such as the Geysers, Russian River, Petrified Forests, etc., at reasonable rates. Hotel rates, \$8.00 to \$10.00 per week.

Railroad fare from San Francisco to Windsor \$1.95, single.

Saturday to Monday, \$2.95, excursion round trip.

Sunday only, \$1.95, round trip.

A stage meets the trains at Windsor.

Hot Sulphur Baths free.

For further information and special rates, address

W. B. RICH

Windsor, Sonoma Co., Cal.

Glen Valley Springs thrived for a short while under the management of Sarah with the entire family of Rich and Latimer offspring working to make it a success. I have been told that the resort hosted many San Francisco families, and the National Guard held an encampment near the lake at one time. Sarah's 1893 journal makes no mention

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Continued from page 8, Rich

of resort activity. By this time Glen Valley Springs had become a working ranch with daily chores managed by Sarah, her children and grandchildren. Judge Latimer's occasional arrival by train from San Francisco is mentioned in Sarah's diary with notations of a family member or a hired hand driving horse and carriage down to the village (Windsor) to meet Mr. Latimer.

Judge Latimer's Death Makes Headlines

Many newspapers carried the 1901 obituary of Judge Lorenzo Latimer, who was renowned in California's judicial and political circles.

A PIONEER AT REST JUDGE L. D. LATIMER HAS LAID DOWN LIFE'S BURDEN

One of Oldest Settlers in Santa Rosa Died at His Late Residence Near Windsor

The lengthy laudatory account concludes: Surviving the pioneer, besides his wife, are two sons, L. P. Latimer, the renowned California artist, whose wife is a daughter of Amos Phelps of Healdsburg Avenue; Justice Hugh Latimer of Windsor, and a married daughter [probably Sarah's daughter Emeline] residing in San Francisco. There are also several stepchildren. The funeral will take place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock from the residence. The cortege will arrive at Rural Cemetery, Santa Rosa, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Dividing the Estate

Mr. Latimer's will does not mention his wife by name—only a notation of her right in legal community property interest. Mr. Latimer's two sons, Lorenzo P. Latimer and Hugh N. Latimer, were designated heirs to his community property interest and all other property that might lawfully be disposed of by will.

Division of Glen Valley Springs property gave each of the heirs enough land to provide sufficient livable income. Sonoma County Atlas of maps for the year 1898 outlines L. D. Latimer's 993-acre holdings. In addition, Sarah's daughter Florence Sweet owned 90 acres and her son William B. Rich owned 140 acres. Latimer, Rich and Sweet combined properties included the original 1862 homestead of 480 acres, plus Abraham and Dillon Myers' approximate 300 acres.

Sarah's son William Burr Rich and grandsons Clarence and Stuart Rich took over the operation of her remaining interest in Glen Valley Springs Ranch. My father, Edwin Rich, born in 1896—the third son of William and Ella Faught Rich—recalled only early childhood memories of his Grandmother Sarah. He remembered her Chinese cook setting out a dozen pies to cool and serving gargantuan platters of food at family gatherings. He spoke of Sarah's penchant in eating dessert at the beginning of the meal because it was the best part of the menu. Edwin's recollection of Judge Latimer reflects the love and respect he earned from his children and step children.

The Passing of a Highly Esteemed Woman — Sarah Rich Latimer

Sarah's passing did not merit the same notoriety as her husband. A short article in the March 10, 1904 edition of the *Healdsburg Enterprise* states:

WIFE OF THE LATE JUDGE LATIMER DEAD

At Windsor, Tuesday, occurred the death of Mrs. Sarah S. Latimer, wife of the late Judge L. D. Latimer. Mrs. Latimer was born in Maine [actually, New Jersey] seventy-eight years ago and has been a resident of Windsor for the past forty years. She was formerly Mrs. Rich. She was a woman highly esteemed of remarkable talent and strong

character and her death has removed one who will be greatly missed in that section. Four children survive from her first husband and two step sons.

Sarah rests beside her first husband, John Pennington Rich, in the small family cemetery located on their ranch, overlooking the valley she loved.

In Summary

My observation of the obvious concludes that a wife is considered to be nothing more than a reflection of her husband. Sarah's summation of activity detailed in her 1893 journal partially reveals the strength of her individual character:

"This concludes my journal for 1893:

*'He giveth not to the unworthy
The weak, the feeble in deeds
Who soweth chaff at seed time
Shall reap bitter harvest of weeds.'*

*This last year I have entertained
many friends and others. Have
cooked, washed, ironed, swept
and cleaned house, entertained,
visited but little, read a few
books. ... Raised 200 chickens.
Have 14 little pigs from two sows.
... A week visit from Lorenzo and
Jenny. Mr. Latimer still engaged
with his gate latch."*

Domestic chores listed in an obituary would not be newsworthy. However, for having been the power behind the throne of two eminent men who were exalted by their peers, Sarah Myers Rich Latimer contributed substantially to their success. I respectfully salute her.

- Elinor Rich



More Windsor Newsmakers from the Past

October 1875

School Fire in Windsor

The school house situated on Mrs. Latimer's farm, near Windsor in the Star School District, was on Monday night, with its contents, including the school library, burned to the ground. The house had just been repaired and put in good order at a cost of \$500. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The loss will fall heavily on the district. Miss Linville was the teacher in charge.

Sacramento Daily Union, Oct. 22, 1875



January 1934

J. Hotchkiss Succumbs at Windsor Home

Joe Alexander Hotchkiss, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. David L. [Elizabeth/"Betty"] Hotchkiss of Windsor, died Tuesday at his home. He had been ailing for more than a month and was confined to his bed for three weeks.

He was born on the Hotchkiss Windsor ranch and had lived there all his life. He was a nephew of Mr. M. R. Jagers of this city [Healdsburg] and Mrs. J. Edrington of the Sotoyome district.

Funeral rites will be held in Santa Rosa Thursday afternoon, Rev. A. V. Wilkinson will officiate. Burial will be in Shiloh Cemetery.

Surviving besides his parents are two brothers, Ancil J. Hotchkiss, Santa Rosa; Lewis B. Hotchkiss, Redwood City, and two sisters, Bernania Hotchkiss, San Jose, and Mrs. Charles [Anna] Leslie, of Windsor.

Healdsburg Tribune, Jan. 31, 1934

March 1934

Windsor Rebekahs Hold Card Party

Windsor Rebekah Lodge gave a card party at Windsor's I.O.O.F. hall Friday night. Guests were present from Fulton, Trenton, Windsor, and Monroe districts.

Mrs. David [Mabel] DuVander, Mrs. E.C. Erickson, and Mrs. M.E. Thompson composed the hostess committee.

Healdsburg Tribune, March 17, 1934, pg. 4

[According to Jim DuVander, David and Mabel Ward DuVander's residence was on River Road next to the old phone house. Mabel DuVander, who was born in 1877, died in 1958.]



July 4, 1911

CRACKSMEN ESCAPE IN RUNNING FIGHT

Blow Two Safes and Get Away After Shooting at Police and Citizens

WINDSOR. Blowing in quick succession the safes of the postoffice and the merchandise store of Frank J. Pool early today, a gang of cracksmen made what is believed to have been heavy hauls. The men escaped after an exchange of shots with a policeman and several citizens.

Both safes were completely wrecked, the door of the Pool store safe being hurled through the street door. Stamps from the postoffice safe formed a considerable part of the robbers' loot, the exact amount of which has not been learned.

Constable Robert Shane, aroused by the explosions, proceeded with others to the Pool store. They found a lookout on guard. He was joined by another of the gang and the two opened fire on the approaching men, covering up the retreat through a rear window of the store of a third member of the gang with the loot. All three finally got away. The exchange of shots aroused the entire town.

Sheriff Jack Smith of Santa Rosa was notified by telephone and came here in an automobile at 2:30 o'clock in the morning. Posses were formed and are searching the surrounding country for the thieves.

San Francisco Call, July 5, 1911

You Are Invited to Join the Windsor Historical Society



"I'll tell you what's more fun than watching an old tennis match — WHS's Hop Harvest Festival. You don't have to dress in funny clothes, you get to help with hop pickin' if you want to, and there's lots of good stuff to eat and drink."

One more reminder . . .

**Wed., June 20, 2012
Annual WHS
Membership Meeting
at
Hembree House**

6:00 p.m.

Hot dogs will be served. Yum!

See you there!

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.

**Windsor Historical Society
Hembree House Museum
9225 Foxwood Dr.
Windsor, California**

Coming Up . . .

**WHS's 2nd Annual
Hop Harvest Festival
&
Windsor Town Reunion**

**Sat., September 1, 11:30 a.m.
Hembree House Grounds**

Plan to join us for fun, hop picking, visiting with old friends, and eating food ideal for our open-air event, under sun shelters. More details will follow later.



WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer Opportunities

Don't forget to volunteer! There are a variety of areas in which you can help. For more information and to volunteer, call Jan Lehmann, 838-6152. We really do need you!

Windsor Photos Wanted

If you have vintage or antique photos of Windsor people, places and events, we would like to make copies of them for our archives. For more information contact Barbara Ray or Steve Lehmann.

Buy a Brick!

WHS's memorial bricks are a great way to honor someone. For more information, contact Marilou Del Greco, 707-837-9830.

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 _____



Sarah Rich Latimer
1826-1904

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A Rich Family Saga

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and check out our website ... www.windsorhistory.org

