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*Membership: 27*  
*Founded: 2012*

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## HISTORY OF H.S.S.R.

The idea of a historical society has been long in the incubation process but with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Santa Rosa's incorporation coming near, the time seemed right to begin putting the pieces together. In October, 2012, we called together several people interested in developing a society to gauge interest and energy in such an endeavor. It became clear almost immediately that the time was ripe and that we should continue to pursue this worthy project.

Much of what we talked about was commemorating the sesquicentennial. What is the best way to yes, celebrate but also do so in a way that was not frivolous and left plenty of room for more scholarly work. Santa Rosa has much to study. History in Santa Rosa has always taken a backseat to development and several possible projects have lain untouched. From the Hoag House of 1856, the Fountain Grove's Round Barn and, of course, perhaps Santa Rosa's biggest historic oversight the Maria Carrillo Adobe, we have important pieces of our history strewn in fields or simply melting into the adobe from whence they came.

It will be the historical society's mission to find these projects and preserve or restore them and, of course, make the public aware of them. Our list of possibilities is long but since our first meetings with a handful of people we have added almost 100 interested folks.

Currently, we have applied for incorporation and are waiting for the paperwork to come back from the Secretary of State's office. We have created bylaws and elected a board who has met several times. The interim board includes: David Franzman, President, Nick Tipon, Vice President, Janine Origer, Treasurer, Kelly Loyd, Secretary. Non-Officer Board: Judith Loyd, Dan Markwyn, Jo Markwyn, Larry Carrillo, Rebekah Thomas, Ann Galantine, George Rothert, and our attorney, David Warner, with experience at the National Archives and is a partner of Meyers/Nave in downtown Santa Rosa. Our board also includes three students from the Santa Rosa High School History Club: Sarahi Robledo, Alex Rodriguez and Jeremy Lienau. All board positions will be up for election in October during our annual general meeting.

This is a very exciting time because for the first time ever Santa Rosa's history will have an official organization that will put itself into the forefront of policy makers to make sure our legacy is given the time and respect it deserves. We would love your help on our exciting projects and fundraisers. We hope you will join us for this journey and look forward to working with everybody who cares about our city and its past.

- David Franzman

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

With every new organization, increasing membership is vital. If you would like to become a member of this enthusiastic, historical group, we have included a copy of the membership form with this newsletter.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



**Let's put our money together!**

The Fundraising Committee is hard at work planning some amazing events for you including a Movie Night and a Meet-the-Author series. Look for us at the Wednesday Night Market too!



## COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

A quarterly newsletter will be mailed (to those who request hard copy) **and** posted on our website to help get the word out about our upcoming events, latest news and research, accomplishments and goals.

## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE



The Technology Committee is planning for HSSR's web site! To start, the site will provide information about the Society, Board members, committees, access to the newsletter and membership form. We expect our first web site to be online in early May, 2013.

## H.S.S.R. TO THE RESCUE

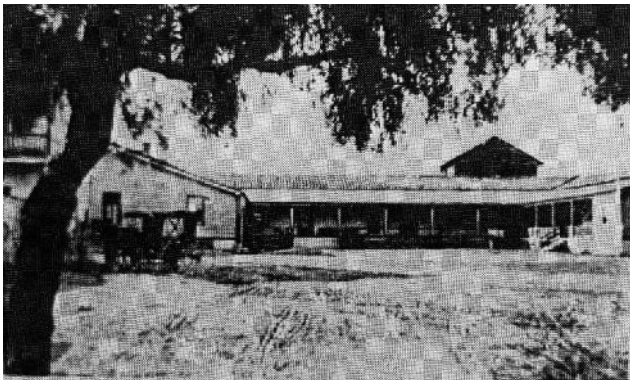
At the second general meeting, it was voted that one of the first areas of focus for HSSR will be the Carrillo Adobe.

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo deeded a land grant to his mother-in-law, Maria Ignacio Lopez de Carrillo. In 1837, she and her large family built the Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa, an adobe house, on this land grant at the junction of ancient Native American trading routes. After years of neglect and deterioration, what's left of the Adobe still stands today on Montgomery Drive, just east of St. Eugene's Cathedral.

Gaye Le Baron stated in a Press Democrat article on September 17, 2006, "Several plans to preserve or restore the Carrillo Adobe have been notable failures." In a later article of the Press Democrat dated February 8, 2012, when discussing the deplorable condition of the Adobe, David Franzman, HSSR's President, said, "I'd like to see it get the recognition it deserves as the beginning of Santa Rosa." HSSR is determined not to be another "notable failure" in its endeavors to come to the Adobe's rescue.

We would like to see, for a start, the city of Santa Rosa recognize and value the contributions to Santa Rosa by the Carrillo Adobe. The site is of significant historical value both before and after Dona Maria Carrillo came to Sonoma County. From its origins as a local gathering place for Native Americans to the Bear Flag Revolt, the adobe has stood as a silent sentinel to the development of Santa Rosa as the hub of Sonoma County. The HSSR would like the public to know of its importance and begin to establish the site as an historical park with interpretive signs for all citizens to enjoy and learn. Currently the site is owned by Swenson Builders of San Jose and for too long the promise that was made to make it a park has lain dormant. While Swenson and the City dither the adobe continues to melt into the mud from whence it was made.

The HSSR must make the city aware of, and appreciative of, the dangers the adobe is in and take steps to preserve if not rebuild.



Carrillo Adobe in it's glory

## DID YOU KNOW....

- that Senora Maria Carrillo is buried in front of the font in Mission San Francisco Solano in Sonoma? She wanted to be buried there so that the holy water would fall on her grave.
- that livestock was slaughtered at the fork of the Santa Rosa Creek and Matanzas Creek near the intersection of our current Santa Rosa Avenue and Sonoma Avenue? This is the origin of the name of Matanzas Creek because its use as a slaughtering place came to be called La Matanza.
- that in 1868 the state officially confirmed Santa Rosa as an incorporated city, making it the third incorporated city in Sonoma County, after Petaluma (1858) and Healdsburg (1867) and a sesquicentennial celebration will be planned for 2018?
- that Luther Burbank's birthday just passed on March 7?
- that Railroad Square's Depot was built in 1904 on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad line, and that the A'Roma Roasters building was formerly the REA (Railway Express Agency) building constructed in 1915?



## Historical Societies – News!

**Western Sonoma County Historical Society** (Sebastopol) - It's Spring at the Luther Burbank Experiment and they are having an Open House on April 27-28 from 10:00-4:00 at the Gold Ridge Farm. Join a docent-led tour and learn about worms and "why Luther Burbank was one of the most famous men of his day."

**"Healdsburg – 100 Years Past and Present"**  
Exhibit at the Healdsburg Museum runs from January 30-April 21 and admission is free!

**Sonoma County Historical Society** is sponsoring its ninth annual 20-25 mile historical walk through San Francisco on Saturday, June 1.