



Upcoming Events

2019: Panel Discussion: The Building of Highway 101 through Santa Rosa; 1940/50 Housing Survey

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Local Suffrage Heroine — Sarah Latimer Finley

by Leasa Graves

California State Suffrage Campaign

Archival evidence shows substantial numbers of local women and men throughout the United States contributed to the 72-year campaign, to institute voting rights for women. With the 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial on the horizon, Sonoma County researchers are dedicating their time and talents to highlight the heroines and heroes of the campaign efforts in the County. Mrs. W.A. Finley of Santa Rosa was an important suffrage advocate who is overdue for substantial recognition.

After the failed 1896 Woman's Suffrage Campaign in California, state organizers for suffrage reconvened in 1911 to fight for the vote. Fearful the liquor lobby would once again interfere with the suffrage efforts the state leaders prepared their counter attack. Prominent women were recruited throughout the state to assist with the campaign. In Sonoma County, Sarah Latimer Finley was one of several suffrage leaders enlisted in the California efforts. Mrs. Finley's regular contributions to the Press Democrat reached the readers of Sonoma County throughout the second-half of the 1911 fight for the vote.

Effective Contribution

Finley was appointed County Press Chairmen by the College Equal Suffrage League of Northern California (CESL) and her first known public writing on the topic of suffrage appeared shortly thereafter. She utilized her exceptional skills as an educator, writer and public speaker to champion the cause of suffrage. As a prominent member of the community, Sarah Finley, was part of the Women's Club Movement and a member of the Saturday Afternoon Club in Santa Rosa. On June 25, 1911, Mrs. Finley wrote in her column that, "The anti is afraid of this new world (and the new woman) but she is not unlovely and will find her place." Never losing her compassion, Sarah Finley's writing challenged the beliefs of the anti-suffrage

movement and educated the reader as to why the "anti" beliefs were flawed.

Finley wrote at least ten editorials for the Press Democrat between June and October of 1911. Some of her articles were distributed county-wide, even making an appearance in the Ukiah Press, a notoriously anti-suffrage paper in the town of Ukiah. Finley's approach was aligned with the CESL's emphasis that, "in all of the work, it should be borne in mind that a suffrage campaign is an educational campaign and must be kept clear-cut, clean and open." Finley's editorials focused on educating readers on the importance of granting women the vote and the need to do so, for the sustainability of American democracy. In one editorial, she equated the original laws governing the vote as "...swaddling clothes which in the course of development have been disregarded one by one, until we have but one remnant left—the 'male citizen'". Sarah Finley would devise a weekly suffrage topic, in which to "educate" the people of Sonoma County. Like her contemporaries at the state level, her writing,

challenged the idea that women did not possess the necessary intelligence and disposition to be trusted with the vote. Sarah Finley used her column to eloquently describe the unfortunate state of being a woman who was denied the vote.

The Press Democrat reported on suffrage meetings throughout 1911. Sarah Finley alongside



Sarah Elizabeth Latimer as a young woman
Sonoma Heritage Collection



Sarah Latimer Finley in later years
Sonoma Heritage Collection

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A Message from the HSSR Board of Directors

Hello HSSR members and readers,

Spring is finally upon us. March marked Women's History Month as designated by presidential proclamation. It began as Women's History Week over 40 years ago. The National Women's History Project, co-founded by Sonoma County Native, Molly McGregor helped organize what has become a month-long celebration of history throughout the Nation. The effort to make this a reality has deep roots in Santa Rosa.

We're also quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of women gaining the vote throughout the Nation. Events and celebrations have already begun. In March the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library sponsored a free event honoring the suffrage movement. Representatives of the National Women's History Alliance presented "Ripe for the Picking: The Impact of the Sonoma County Suffrage Campaign."



Teachers at Santa Rosa's Fourth Street School, 1887
Sonoma Heritage Collection

In celebration of women's history this edition features a handful of women who impacted Santa Rosa's first 100 years — or so. We hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as our contributors enjoyed researching and presenting them. We invite all interested to contribute to our efforts in chronicling and sharing local history. Our newsletter can be a rewarding place to share a Santa Rosa-centric story, factoid, or memoir.

The Board is always looking for partners to contribute to our goals.

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The HSSR Board of Directors

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Century Old Santa Rosa Poem Welcomes Springtime

Written in 1920 in Santa Rosa, Dorothy Wolf's poem remains timely as it describes the end of the rainy season and the welcoming of Spring.

Awakening

by Dorothy Wolf

*Why must Spring break into bloom
In one short day this year,
When I have made a friend of gloom
And rain at last; and cheer
Myself with winds' weird tune,
And stoically have learned to bloom
With shadowed hills of noon;
And share their deepest mood
When lifting mist-veils weave and trace
Like smoke before a thoughtful
Buddha's face?*



A circa 1915 postcard depicts a Sonoma County prune orchard in bloom, a scene from the past
Hill Family Collection

*My senses, that so long asleep,
Have startled in their quiet dream
To find, at dawn, a rolling sweep
Of hills has spread a cloak of green.
There is a wordless pain to see
Acacia's gold-crowned beauty there.
There is a too great a poignancy
In early Spring to bear,
When carelessly before my eyes
The year shrugs off her sly disguise.*

Luda: A Leader in Law a Century Ago

by Rose Zoia

Reprinted with permission from the Sonoma County Bar Association, Bar Journal, Fall 2009 edition.

Many Sonoma County women attorneys can be proud to claim "firsts." The one with the claim to be the first woman attorney in Sonoma County is Luda Fulkerson Barham. At the age of 23, Ms. Fulkerson may also claim to be the youngest Sonoma County person to be admitted to the practice of law. She also became an attorney before women had voting and most common rights.

Luda Fulkerson was born on July 8, 1872 in Santa Rosa to John Fulkerson of Sonoma and Rachel Cannon of Missouri. The Fulkerson family members were renown early residents of Sonoma County. Luda taught in Sonoma County public schools during her late teens and early twenties. Her stature in Santa Rosa must have been increased by the fact that she owned a piece of property, deeded by her father on November 12, 1892.

After teaching for three years, Luda commenced the study of law. She soon married Edwin Chester Barham, the son of Congressman John A. Barham, the first republican congressman from this area. In 1895, Luda and her husband were admitted to the California bar and then sworn in before the U.S. Supreme Court upon introduction by her father-in-law. As one wedding announcement stated, "Both bride and groom are exceptionally intellectual, and the honored name of Barham will be distinguished in this State in more than one generation."

The couple immediately began practicing law together out of an office at 543 Fourth Street in downtown Santa Rosa. As reported in the November 30, 1895 edition of *The Sonoma Democrat*, Ms. Barham "will next Monday commence the practice of law in association with Barham & Miller. Mrs

Barham . . . pass[ed] very successful examinations to the bar. She holds a certificate which entitles her to practice before all courts." Luda and Edwin certainly was the first husband and wife team to practice law in Sonoma County.

In 1903, the couple and their surviving son, John Stuart, lived at 552 B Street in Santa Rosa. Their other son, Louis, died at an early age of diphtheria. John Stewart was the first local Piper Cub airplane dealer. The couple's grandson, John L. Barham, still is a Sonoma County resident.

While Luda was a teacher prior to entering the law, her husband was a candymaker, having first owned the Candy Kitchen in Napa at 18 years old, then the Palace of Sweets at Santa Rosa. He then "studied" law for about two years while employed in the office of his father, the congressman. One source credits Edwin as "a young man of good habits, always found in his office, a thorough student, and with a bright future before him." He did not live to prove the accolades true, having passed at the young age of 34 in 1906. Luda remarried a respectable five years later to Stephen R. Chaffee.



Luda Barham, "one of Santa Rosa's widely known and most respected pioneer women," died on July 9, 1947, at 75 years old. She died from coronary disease and, at the time of her passing, was at a friend's house near her home on Sonoma Avenue (now in Montgomery Village). A long article in the July 11 1947 edition of the *Press Democrat* credits Luda as being "a brilliant woman, and a student of national and world affairs . . . and widely known in literary circles." Both she and Edwin are buried in the Fulkerson Cemetery which, combined with the Moke, Old Rural and Stanley Cemeteries are now known collectively as Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery located on Franklin Avenue.

Thank you, Luda, for truly paving the way.

Elsie Gomachu (Comanche) Allen, 1899 – 1990

by Robin Hoffman

She was one of the area's most influential women with respect to outreach and education regarding indigenous culture, particularly basketry and language. Elsie Comanche (anglicized from *Gomachu*) was born in a hop field near Santa Rosa on September 22, 1899 to George and Annie Comanche, who were Ukiah Pomo and Cloverdale Pomo, respectively. After George's death, an eight-year-old Elsie went to live with Annie's mother, Mary Arnold, at the Cloverdale Rancheria. A master basketweaver, Mary taught young Elsie her craft, as well as other aspects of Pomo culture, reflected in the fact that Elsie spoke solely Pomo until she was eleven. Elsie's memories of this period already show a love for elements of basketry, "It was fun also walking through the water of a swift stream hunting cattail-like grass. The muddy roots were cleaned off and it became hair for other doll people."

Around 1907 Elsie's mother married Richard Burke, and Elsie subsequently moved to the Hopland area with her mother, Richard, and extended family members, living in a traditional willow summer house by the Russian River and a wooden winter house. In the several years following, Elsie helped her family with seasonal hop-picking, became fluent in her second language, Central Pomo, and learned more about Pomo culture and traditional skills. However, the not-uncommon practice of kidnapping indigenous children resulted in Elsie and her siblings often hiding when Euroamericans were nearby. A Federal government agent convinced Elsie's mother to let the government send an eleven-year-old Elsie to a Federal boarding school at the Round Valley Reservation, in Covelo, CA. The goal of such schools was essentially to eliminate indigenous culture with the stated reason that indigenous children needed to learn Euroamerican culture to succeed in society. Elsie would later describe this period as very sad, as she was allowed to speak only English (which she did not know prior to attending) and lived distant from her family. At 13, Elsie returned to live at the Hopland Rancheria, where a school had been established and she learned English.

Seeking better-paying opportunities, Elsie moved to San Francisco in 1918 and worked as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital. Unfortunately, soon thereafter she fell ill with the Spanish flu and had to return to Hopland to be nursed back to health by her family. Elsie married Arthur Allen, also Pomo, in Ukiah in 1919. The couple had four children (Genevieve, Leonard, Dorothy, and George), born between 1920 and 1928.

It was during this period that Elsie took up basketweaving again, though she would take a subsequent hiatus, as she states that she "didn't have a good feeling about baskets" after several instances of burying relatives with the baskets she had made, a traditional Pomo practice. However, Elsie's mother did

not support this tradition, wanting Elsie to have her baskets as examples to use while learning basketweaving, as well as for public outreach to show Pomo culture. Elsie respected her mother's wishes, a major reason for current public knowledge of Pomo basketweaving.

At age 62, Elsie returned to basketweaving, full-time. In addition to making baskets, Elsie worked with countless schools, universities, tribal communities, and local groups to teach and promote Pomo basketweaving. Elsie also collaborated with linguists to document and analyze various Pomo dialects and culture, in general. Her teaching emphasized not only weaving techniques, but ecological knowledge regarding source materials, harvesting cycles, and land management activities. Much recent research on these topics relies on Elsie's teachings and knowledge. In 1972, Elsie authored a book, *Pomo Basket Making: A Supreme Art for the Weaver*, about her life and details on Pomo basketweaving. A number of Elsie's descendants and relatives continue the Pomo basketweaving tradition and have done important work in educating the public on the art and Pomo



Pomo basket maker Elsie Allen weaving a Pomo basket and surrounded by a variety of the hand-woven baskets, date unknown
Sonoma Heritage Collection

culture, in general.

Pomo basketry is recognized throughout the world as some of the most intricate and highest quality baskets in the world, due in no small part to the baskets Elsie wove and her tireless educational and outreach efforts. The significant *Elsie Allen Pomo Basket Collection*, currently housed at the Jesse Peter Museum at the Santa Rosa Junior College, consists of 131 Pomo baskets dating to the late 19th century to the 1980s, with 26 of the weavers known. Approximately 30 of these baskets were woven by Elsie or her immediate family. Elsie passed away in 1990, at 91 years old, and she was honored in 1995 with the naming a new high school in Roseland, Elsie Allen High School. Her work, and honoring and sharing of Pomo culture is a gift not only to the local community, but the entire world.

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Julia Goodyear Sweet – Civic Leader

by Denise Hill

Julia Goodyear Sweet, was the seventh in descent from Stephen Goodyear, deputy governor of the New Haven Colony in 1641. Born in Minnesota, in 1883 she graduated with seven other students in her high school class in Mankato, Minnesota. Sometime after graduating, she moved to Oregon. There she got her teaching certificate and in 1887 became a faculty member of the Ashland State Normal School working alongside her future husband James Sweet. (A “normal school” trained high school graduates to be teachers by educating them in the “norms” which included the theory and practice of education and how it influences the growth of learners.) By 1890, Julia was vice principal of the Harrison Street School in Portland and James was the president of the Ashland Normal School. A year later, they married and as was the custom of the times, Julia’s career in education ended.

Shortly after marrying, Julia and James moved to Santa Rosa. James became an instructor at one of the local schools and eventually established the Santa Rosa Business College (also known as Sweet’s Business College) a well-regarded institute of learning attended by many Sonoma County residents from the 1890’s till the time it closed shortly after James died in the 1930’s.

It was in Santa Rosa that Julia rolled up her sleeves and dived into civic engagement on an impressive level by any measure. Initially, she became involved with the First Presbyterian Church. An 1897 article in the Press Democrat mentions that she was their organist, a position she held for over 15 years. Later she served as an Elder, president of the Missionary and Aid Society, honorary member of the Board of National Mission Society, and a member of the Salvation Army Drive committee.

By 1908 she was serving as president of the city’s first women’s club – the Saturday Afternoon Club. As president, she presided over the building of this group’s first and only clubhouse, still standing (although heavily modified in 1957) at 430 Tenth Street. She went on to serve three terms as president and 10 years as a director.

As 1914 rolled around Julia began serving as the Chairman of the local arm of the national Commission for



Portrait of Julia Goodyear Sweet printed with her March 21, 1954 death notice
The Press Democrat

Relief in Belgium. Established in October of that year to import food and clothing and ensure its distribution within German-occupied Belgium, the Commission for Relief in Belgium quickly became one of the foremost international relief organizations in the First World War era. At the same time, she held the position of Chair of the Sonoma County Women’s Auxiliary for the Panama Pacific International Exposition. As Chair she was responsible for organizing all conferences pertaining to women – a huge undertaking. Held in San Francisco in 1915, this exposition was so popular it had over 19 million visitors during its 288-day run. That same year she was vice-president of the San Francisco District of Women’s Clubs, a director of the Saturday Afternoon Club, and the temporary Chairman of the Santa Rosa branch of the Traveler’s Aid Society.

Her volunteer activities continued in 1915 when she became involved with the Chamber of Commerce and was elected Vice President of the San Francisco District for the Federated Women’s Clubs. During that same year, she also attended the Federation of Women’s Clubs conference in San Francisco where she surprisingly —given her record of involvement in so many organizations and maybe because of it— declined to

become a candidate for president of the entire San Francisco District.

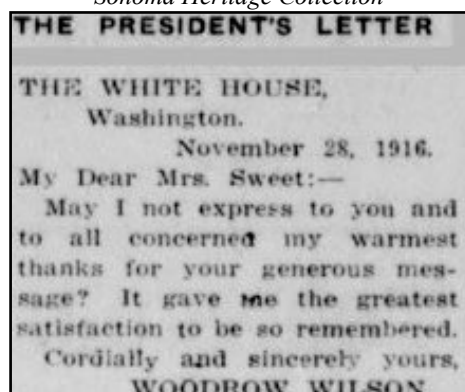
In 1916, Julia participated in national politics as the president of the Woodrow Wilson Woman’s Non-Partisan Club. After the election she personally received a thank you letter from re-elected President Wilson. This was followed by winning national acclaim as the Chair of the Women’s Committee of the Sonoma County Defense Council a United States organization formed during World War I to coordinate resources, build financial support for the war, and boost public morale. Locally, it involved trainings

on first aid, food production, and raising funds for the war effort.

She was also a member of the Santa Rosa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution serving as State Chairman of conservation and regent for ...*Continued page 11*



Saturday Afternoon Club groundbreaking ceremony for Clubhouse, 1908
Sonoma Heritage Collection



President Woodrow Wilson’s letter to Julia Sweet
Printed in the Press Democrat on December 5, 1916
Sonoma Heritage Collection

The McGaughey Sisters

by Ann Galantine

A Family of Professionals

Three sisters from one Mid-Western family found their way to settle in Santa Rosa and brought respect to all of the community with their professional careers. They were Dr. Anabel McGaughey Stuart, Mrs. Frances McGaughey Martin and Mrs. Elizabeth McGaughey Bennett. Each of their lives tell a wonderful story about their pioneering to the young Santa Rosa community. The three sisters not only survived, but reached heights that no other woman had accomplished before them.

There were ten children in the McGaughey family. One child died in infancy, but nine healthy children were destined for success after enduring a somewhat rocky beginning. The parents were Hugh McGaughey and Jane Walker McGaughey, who grew up together in Pennsylvania. Hugh pursued his career in construction of the railroad and after building the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad went on to an administration position. From that point on he lived out his life in Macomb, Illinois. Records show that both Hugh and Jane passed away in 1863. At this time there is no detailed record of their deaths which left seven children to fend for themselves. The children had been brought up with the concept that you are the controller of your future, and this chance should not be wasted. According to an obituary of one of our three heroines, there were two brothers who became doctors, another a dentist, one sister a doctor, another an attorney/superintendent of schools, and the youngest sister, about whom the obituary was written, was a pharmacist who owned many drug stores.

Dr. Anabel McGaughey Stuart, M.D.

Anabel McGaughey was the eldest child in the family, born in Martinsburg, West Virginia on May 4, 1840. She was raised in Macomb, Illinois. Her childhood was quietly uneventful while attending private Illinois schools and McDonough College. Life brightened during a visit to Doddsville, Mississippi where she met the dashing Absalom B. Stuart. She married the promising young doctor in September of 1859. The Civil War was raging and Absalom enlisted on August 2, 1861. He was as an assistant surgeon in the 10th Missouri Infantry. As Anabel did not wish to be separated from her husband, she accompanied him to the battle fields. During his two and a half plus years of service she assisted him in his medical duties and nursed his patients.

In January of 1864, due to ailments acquired during his service as a Civil War Physician, Dr. Stuart resigned from service. Also, Anabel had gone home to Macomb to set up housing and education for her siblings. Their parents died a sudden death, about which there is little information. Once Absalom moved to Macomb, he joined an established medical practice. After two years he moved on to Winona, Minnesota where he opened a medical practice that grew rapidly into to a large and prominent doctor's office. Anabel continued her duties of assisting her husband with his

business, she was getting more involved with the day to day routine and taking on more of the mundane procedures. This allowed Absalom to concentrate on improving his health. Along with these duties, her husband gave her books to read that identified symptoms, diseases, cures, and the human anatomy. She tackled these studies with great zest and in 1876 took course lectures at the Women's Medical College in Pennsylvania. Dr. Stuart's health worsened and he moved out to California with Anabel joining her husband in Santa Barbara in 1877. With his insistence, she enrolled in the Medical College of the Pacific (now Cooper Medical College) where she graduated with a medical degree on November 5, 1878.

Although the California climate was agreeing with Dr. Absalom Stuart's condition, he became less active in life and in his practice. As a result when the Stuart family came to Santa Rosa in 1881 Dr. Anabel was fulfilling most of the doctor duties at their Santa Rosa office. Dr. Anabel Stuart was a welcome addition to the Santa Rosa medical field. The original town doctor, Dr. John F. Boyce was highly respected, but at times had a sobriety problem. When children were ill mothers cringed in having to call the good doctor, because his bed-side-manner was said to be wonderful with horses, endurable with men, excruciating with women, and non-existent with children.

Anabel was no stranger to the high rate of deaths in children. Her first child, John was born August 1862 and lived only two months. Jennie, born in September 1863, lived eleven months. When Mary was born in 1871, Anabel



The Anabel Stuart drinking fountain at Santa Rosa's Carnegie Library, 1960
Sonoma Heritage Collection

and Absalom were cautiously thrilled every time Mary celebrated a birthday. When the family had come to Santa Rosa things seemed to be wonderful, Mary was attending a good school and getting along with children her own age. Then almost two years to the day that they had come to town Mary had become ill and sadly passed away within days at the age of 12. Within four years Absalom fell ill and passed on July 1887 at age 56.

Due to the abundant tragedies that had befallen Anabel, she immersed herself into her husband's practice and made it her own. She kept abreast of the current methods on treatment of diseases through study and by joining various medical associations. Among the many associations were the State Medical Society of California which she joined in 1879, and the American Medical Association (AMA) for which she became the first female member west of the Mississippi River in 1885. She was named the California delegate to attend the yearly AMA convention. She kept busy with the Sonoma County Medical Society for which she served as president as well as all other offices of the organization, except secretary.

Anabel tirelessly worked to protect Santa Rosa citizens from disease for many years. When she passed at the age of 74 in 1914, the whole town came out to say goodbye to their "Doctor Dear." They built and dedicated a beautiful drinking fountain in the park adjoining the Carnegie Library in remembrance of the contribution for her adopted hometown.

Mrs. Frances McGaughey Martin, Esq.

Frances McGaughey was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The family moved to the quiet town of Macomb, Illinois where it would be better to raise their large family. They remained there for less than five years until both parents unexpectedly died, leaving the seven remaining children to face their futures on their own. Frances took charge of her future by preparing herself for a teacher's profession and entered the Minnesota State Normal School. During the summer she applied for a teacher's position, leading her to an appointment in a remote settlement in Minnesota. A ninety mile trip by stage coach over rough roads brought her to her boarding house that turned out to be a sod roof shanty. The school house was a true log cabin with shutters for windows and a fabric drape posing as a door. The young teacher completed the term and proved to be a credit to herself and an asset to the pupils. She resumed her studies at the State Normal School and graduated with honors. As a result, she was offered her choice of positions in the most prestigious schools of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Evident from her history, no matter what cards Frances was dealt, she always had a winning hand, and so this followed her to California. She first landed in Alameda, then on to Healdsburg for a teaching position with the added responsibility of first assistant. She showed great promise and was asked to step into the principal position, where she amassed a splendid record through her achievements. While in Healdsburg she met Edgar Martin, whom she married, but within six years Edgar died and left her a widow supporting two small children, the youngest just four months of age.

Out of necessity she accepted a position in a country school near Skaggs Springs, Sonoma County, which quickly changed her career into a more prominent direction. Shortly after she accepted the position, she made principal. She was urged to run for Sonoma County superintendent of the schools in 1886.

Frances became the first woman elected to any position in Sonoma County, and she subsequently elected to a second term. During her term as superintendent she was recognized throughout the United States for her work in encouraging students to stay in school. Students were "turned back" by each teacher and eventually left school in disgust at not being able to accomplish something definite. Mrs. Frances McGaughey Martin worked up a plan and traveled from school to school urging students to remain in school until they had at least completed the grammar school courses. She showed the students that in order for them to succeed in their adulthood they would need a basic education to guide them through their lives. Then she enlisted the teachers who put together a series of test questions that would measure what each child had learned and if they should continue with their education or

advance to the next major step in their life. The examinations were held simultaneously throughout the county by the respective teachers who graded the tests and issued the diplomas. Unsuccessful students were counseled without ridicule to review the areas of their education which fell short. In this way all children would face their future with their best foot forward. Frances was recognized by Stanford University president Dr. Jordon for her elevation of the Sonoma County schools through her concept of having children succeed in passing their grammar school lessons. In 1893 she was a member of the World Congress of Educators that would promote the testing process she developed which is still used and accepted today.

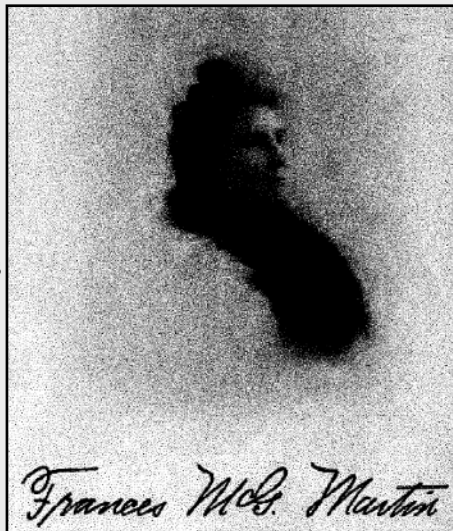


Image and signature of Frances McGaughey Martin, date unknown
Sonoma County Library Collection

After posting to her opposing Democratic candidate, Frances decided to retire from education. She then focused on a career in the legal profession, for which she felt she was better suited. Her studies were conducted in the prominent office of A. B. Ware of Santa Rosa and she was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of California on December 24, 1895. In February of 1896, she opened an office in Santa Rosa focusing on probate law where her practice would look after the interests of widows and orphans. Her theory was to "Settle whenever you can. I consider that the best lawyer is the one who has the greatest number of cases, but who takes the fewest to court."

Fannie, as she was known to her friends, was quite a public speaker and used her skill throughout her life. She was named the leader of the Equality Association of Sonoma County, a group that supported and advanced the women's suffrage movement. After all

this, Frances McGaughey Martin was yet unable to cast a vote towards her own election. She lived until November of 1923.

Elizabeth McGaughey Bennett

Elizabeth McGaughey Bennett was the youngest of the three McGaughey sisters that brought their professionalism to Santa Rosa. It is reported that she had come to Santa Rosa with her eldest sister Anabel in 1881, which would be a blessing for Anabel in that she would have help in caring for her daughter, Mary.

It was reported in the February 15, 1930 Press Democrat that Mrs. Bennett had died in Stanford Hospital of a prolonged illness and that she was a druggist whom owned "drug stores in Santa Rosa, Marysville and San Francisco."

There is not a lot of information on the younger member of the McGaughey family, even her obituary provided more information on Anabel and Frances than they did about Elizabeth. What is known is that Elizabeth McGaughey came to Santa Rosa as a school teacher, but left that career to enroll at the California College of Pharmacy and was one of only three women to be accredited by this association. According to Gaye LeBaron's *Santa Rosa - A Nineteenth Century Town*, Elizabeth purchased a drugstore at the corner of Fourth and Mendocino and was professionally known as L.J McGaughey in 1887, and was later listed as L. McG Bennett pharmacist. Elizabeth is buried in the Stuart plot at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery with her sister Anabel, brother-in-law Absalom, and dear niece Mary.

If you would like to pay your respects to the Stuart Family, they are buried at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, Western Half Circle 231 (south east of the Grace plot).

Doña Maria Ignacia Candelaria Lopez de Carrillo

by Kelly Carrillo Fernández

Maria Ignacia Candelaria Lopez de Carrillo was born in San Diego (New Spain) January 31, 1793. Her mother, Maria Feliciana Arballo had been widowed and represented one of the four families of the Second Anza Expedition of 1775. The Expedition was authorized by the Viceroy of Spain to found and colonize the San Francisco Bay with Spanish settlers. The goal was the extension of Spain's territory in Alta California, New Spain. The San Francisco Bay was an extremely valuable territory for Spain to secure for the trade routes in and out of the bay. Spain acted to colonize the locations where the Missions were being built. The surnames of the Soldiers and colonists of the Anza Expedition are deeply embedded in California history and are found in countless words and places as a result.

Maria Feliciana Arballo and her daughters (age four and six) departed the Expedition during their long stop at the Mission San Gabriel as a result of the Native American Indian uprising in San Diego which resulted in burning of the Mission. When Juan Bautista de Anza deemed it safe to lead the Expedition toward San Francisco from San Gabriel, Maria Feliciana Arballo remained behind. There she had met a soldier of the guard, Juan Francisco Lopez de Mora. They were married at the Mission San Gabriel on March 6, 1776. Maria Ignacia Candelaria Lopez Arballo (de Carrillo) was born seventeen years later, their eighth child together.

Maria Ignacia Lopez resided at the place of her birth, San Diego, where she married Don Joaquin Victor Carrillo Jr. They were married in the San Diego Mission in 1809, the same location of her baptism. Both were 16 years old, Maria just two days older. Joaquin was of one of two Carrillo families with prominent roles in California history deeply involved in the development of San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma Counties. He was a gifted violinist and a 'Leather Jacket' soldier in California military corps. As he was in the military he was ineligible to receive a land grant from the government. They had thirteen children, one of whom died in infancy. The family was built a residence in the hills above the Presidio in San Diego which remains and is considered the first non-military residence of San Diego. They were quite happy until Joaquin's death. Deep in tradition Maria would not return to the residence after her husbands funeral service.

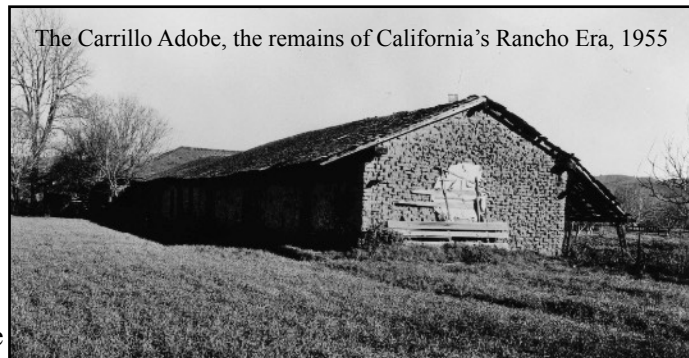
In the same spirit as her mother's journey as a widow with the Second Anza Expedition Maria and nine of her children, ages three to 23, traveled north. Three of her daughters had been married to notable settlers in the area of the northern most Spanish Mission, Mission San Francisco de Solano (Sonoma). Each of her sons in law were land owners on which large ranchos were operated. Time would reveal that settlements would be established around two of the Ranchos, as well as the one later obtained by their mother in law Maria. The settlements developed into three cities of Sonoma County.

They are: General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who later became the Governor of California, operated the rancho around which developed the city of Sonoma; The American ship Captain, Captain Henry Delano Fitch operated the Sotoyome Rancho which became Healdsburg; Captain Juan Wilson operated the Los Guilicos Rancho which did not develop into a

city center although the region continues to be referred to as Los Guilicos, and of course the Ranch Cabeza de Santa Rosa which Doña Maria oversaw became Santa Rosa.

With three of her daughters residing in the North, joining them was deemed the best future for she and her remaining children. Her eldest unmarried daughter, Maria de la Luz, of 23 years was a great help with the younger children. Her eldest son, Joaquin, age 16, had the responsibilities of a man from that point forward. They traveled with horses, pack mules and carts, and brought with them seven Spanish trunks carrying their finery. They walked and they rode along the El Camino Real, traveling Mission to Mission for rest and safety. They arrived at the Rancho of her son-in-law General Mariano Vallejo and daughter Benicia Carrillo de Vallejo where they would reside while their residence was built about 20 miles northwest, alongside a creek, an ideal location for a settlement.

Construction at the site is believed to have begun well before the death of Victor Carrillo, and any thoughts of the northern expedition and relocation of Maria Carrillo and her family. Recent archeological digs using ground-penetrating sonar equipment have revealed footings or foundational preparation that would support a much larger and more substantial structure than a residence. The site is believed to have been, at minimum, intended as an Asistencia Mission. Asistencias were smaller yet included a chapel, living quarters, workshops, and grew crops. Priests from the nearby Mission would travel to perform weekly mass.



The home was built of clay and straw by hand in the traditional adobe method. It was built by the Carrillo sons, General Vallejo's men, and the Native American Indians who were employed at many Ranchos in Alta California. The mud was mixed with straw to bind it and dried in hand built molds measuring 22 x 11 x 3-4 inches thick. The material and thickness of the walls (28 or 42 inches thick in different areas of the home)

provided comfort from the temperatures during winter and summer. The roof was made of clay and it is said that the curved clay tiles dried in the sun. The original Adobe had two wings making an 'L shaped' home; one was 576 square feet and the other was 2,556 square feet. There was also a roof overhang that formed an inner courtyard. The interior finishes included textiles on the ceiling and walls, woven rugs, and hand painted tiles. It was a large and comfortable ranch home well deserved by the hard-working family. Upon her arrival to Alta California, Maria became Doña (boss) Maria through her matriarchal leadership of the Rancho. She traveled to the site via horseback to regularly oversee the construction of her home and plotting of the Rancho layout.

The family acquired livestock and planted seasonable crops. Doña Maria oversaw all operations; however her son Joaquin was responsible for the cattle and slaughtering. She had written asking for a granting of the land on which she operated the Rancho. Five years after their arrival, on September 30, 1841, Doña Maria received official notice that the 8,800 acres upon which she operated Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa were owned by her. It was one of only a couple Ranchos owned and operated by women in the Los Californios Rancho era of California's history.

...Continued page 11

Wednesdays are for Women: Dagny Juell

by Katherine Rinehart

Reprinted with permission: Sonoma County Library, Local History and Genealogy Notes blog, originally published October 5, 2016

Dagny Juell joined the staff of the Santa Rosa Free Public Library in 1924, after working two years as a high school librarian. She was born in Minnesota in 1893 to Norwegian immigrants Niels and Petrea Juell. By 1905 Dagny had moved to Santa Rosa with her parents and brother and sister and was living on Monroe Street. Neils Juell was the proprietor of Juell's Drug Store.

Miss Juell took charge of the newly created children's room at Santa Rosa's Carnegie Library in 1925. The room started with approximately 3,000 books, but quickly grew to 13,000 volumes.

In addition to her position as children's librarian, Dagny Juell served as Assistant City Librarian and was one of



the founders of the Association of Children's Librarians in Northern California.

Dagny retired in 1959 before the Carnegie Library was demolished and died in 1964, two years before construction started on the "new" library. She is buried at Santa Rosa Memorial Park.

Three generations of Santa Rosans received books from Miss Juell and she was highly regarded among other children's librarians throughout the state.

The children's room at the Santa Rosa Central Library is named the Dagny Juell Library for Boys and Girls.

Shown: Dagny Juell posing in front of Santa Rosa's Carnegie Library with one of her dogs, 1949
Sonoma County Library Collection

Maria Helena Smith Reeves — Santa Rosa's First Policewoman

by Karen Stone

In early 1921, Santa Rosa's police department was an all-male force. In February 1921, Chief George Matthews indicated that the department needed additional officers. Local women had been advocating for adding a woman to the force. Larger cities had already begun adding women to their forces.

At a special city council meeting on February 3, Mayor Rutherford asked a delegation of women in attendance for their recommendation of a woman to add to Santa Rosa's police force. The delegation's choice was Mrs. Maria Helena Reeves, age 56.

Maria Helena Smith was born in 1865 in Coloma, California, to Danish immigrant parents. In 1883, she married Edward Reeves. They had two children. The Reeves family arrived in Sonoma County from Mendocino County in 1898. Mrs. Reeves became active in the Presbyterian church and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Maria Helena Reeves was sworn in as a police officer on February 7, 1921. In early April, Officer Reeves reported to the city clerk about her activities in March. These activities included:

- Young ladies sent from dance hall to roll up stockings, 16
- Corrected 18 young people for careless dancing

- Corrected 7 lovesick couples at depot

- Boys sent home from street after 9 in the evening, 83

- Asked 20 young men not to smoke in dance hall

At a subsequent April city council meeting, one councilman made an unsuccessful attempt to have Reeves dismissed, stating "we have had a long siege of her services" and "there has been much criticism of her work on the streets." However, he was not able to provide proof of that criticism. After the police chief praised the work Reeves had done, the council declined to dismiss her.

In early June, with the city running short of money, the city council decided to terminate Reeves until it could pay for her services. Later that month, after a well-off citizen offered to pay her salary, the council decided to reinstate her without pay. Subsequently, church groups raised the money to pay her salary.

In December, the city council voted to terminate Mrs. Reeves, in spite of protests from a large delegation.

Santa Rosa's first policewoman died in her sleep in Santa Rosa in 1943. She was 78. She is buried in Santa Rosa's Odd Fellows Cemetery.



Portrait of Maria Helena Smith Reeves printed with her death notice, 1943
The Press Democrat

Ladies Leading Santa Rosa Education

by Lisa Kranz

The role of County Superintendent of Schools was added to that of the County Assessor in 1852, when Sonoma County had about 230 students enrolled in public schools, according to the Sonoma County Office of Education. For the next 28 years, that officer was titled "Assessor and Superintendent of Schools." The educational portion of the assessor's job was to oversee the apportionment of state funds to local school districts. The superintendent became an elected job in 1879, and school responsibilities were removed from the assessor's duties.

Since that first election in 1880, there have been 19 Sonoma County Superintendents of Schools, an early four of whom were women, each elected to serve 4 year terms. The office of superintendent was the only one open to women at this time.

Frances

McGaughey Martin

was the first woman to serve as superintendent. Her parents' death when she was young required that she support herself, so she prepared to be a teacher. She applied for a position in Healdsburg and taught school there, starting in 1876. The next year, she was promoted to principal, and served in that role until her marriage to Edgar Martin.

Widowed with two young children in 1882, she began teaching again, soon becoming principal at schools in Sonoma. She rose to prominence when, in 1886, she was elected as the superintendent of schools on the Republican ticket, serving two terms. David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University, in 1894 was quoted as saying, "No other superintendent in the state is doing better work than you, and none is working more intelligently and loyally."

Despite groundbreaking work in educational reform and generally positive public response, she was defeated in her bid for reelection in 1894, and changed course, studying the law. She was admitted to the California Bar on December 24, 1895.

Only a few years later, in 1898, **Minnie Coulter** was elected Sonoma County's second female superintendent of schools. Coulter was born in Santa Rosa in 1866 to Sterling Taylor "Squire" Coulter, a California pioneer, and Rachel Matilda Cockrill.

She was educated in Santa Rosa public schools, and following high school she earned her teacher's certificate after attending Professor A.C. McMean's Normal School. (Normal schools were established chiefly to train elementary school teachers). She held a Grammar Grade Certificate and taught in several districts before becoming one of the Santa Rosa Court House District's 30 teachers around 1890. In 1894, Coulter was granted a leave of absence by the board of education, and she entered Stanford University. There she earned a degree in education. Her scholarship was recognized by university president David Starr Jordan and other instructors.

She held the office of president of the Sonoma County

Teachers' Institute and was an active member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West before standing in the election of 1898 for the office of superintendent of schools. She was elected on the Democratic ticket and served in this position until 1906.

In 1910, **Florence Barnes** was elected superintendent. Barnes was born near Healdsburg to Healdsburg pioneers Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barnes. She attended Healdsburg public schools and entered University of California in 1899. She graduated with a Bachelor of

Letters degree in 1903 and returned to Healdsburg, possessing a certificate which allowed her to teach in any public school in California.

Barnes initially taught grammar school, then was promoted to Supervising Principal of the grammar school in 1905. Mr. Snook, of the Board of School Trustees, stated of her work, "Where she is known, her work and fitness is recognized. The parents respect her and pupils all love her. We value her and have never had a teacher who is more painstaking in her work or who has made a success such as she has shown."

Barnes was on the Democratic ticket and elected in 1910 and 1914. A Florence Madeline Barnes Memorial Scholarship continues to be presented at Healdsburg High School.

Louise Clark

was elected superintendent in 1922, defeating incumbent Ben Ballard in the primary. Clark ran on a "women's ticket," winning election even though she was opposed by teachers and board trustees. She had teaching certificates from several eastern colleges and had served for 12 years as a principal at a state normal school.

...Continued page 11



Above: Santa Rosa teachers and principals, circa 1890

Below: A Rincon Valley Schoolhouse located at Calistoga Road and Sonoma Highway, the third school to use the Rincon name, circa 1900-1910

Sonoma Heritage Collection



Sarah Latimer Finley... continued from page 1

her female and male suffrage leaders, attended and spoke at many meetings for suffrage. It is likely that Finley's oration on the subject was aligned with her published word and employed the ideals that women were due the same representation as men when it came to the vote. After one public meeting, the Press Democrat reported, that the suffrage leader stated, "many forceful arguments as to why women should assist in framing the laws of this country were advanced by Mrs. Finley." At multiple gatherings throughout Sonoma County, Sarah Finley and her conspiring suffrage leaders, educated the public on the cause of suffrage.

In the end, the efforts across the state, would result in a narrow victory, by only one vote per precinct. Suffragists such as Mrs. W.A. Finley, made contributions in whatever way they were able and assisted in the victorious votes for the women's campaign.

After the Vote

After California women won the vote, Finley remained active in her community and wrote "upon request". According to an obituary in the Corvallis Gazette-Times, Finley reported on the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. Although, Sarah's written account of the exposition has yet to be discovered, her connection to such a renowned event, such

as the Exposition, demonstrates that readers of the Press Democrat valued her opinion on topics of interest.

Similar to other suffragists, when suffrage was won, Sarah Finley returned to her regular life and her suffrage contributions became lost in the archives of history. When Sarah Finley passed at the age of 90 in Alameda, California she was written about in the papers of Corvallis, Santa Rosa and Alameda. Her obituaries recognized her as a writer, educator and orator; but omitted her social advocacy for suffrage. Buried without a headstone, Mrs. W.A. Finley's death hid away her contributions for decades. The 2020 Woman's Suffrage Centennial is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate Sarah Finley and the lost women and men of the suffrage movement and ensure their legacy lives on for generations to come.

Sarah lived in Santa Rosa, California until the 1930s when she moved to Alameda County. Mrs. Finley died on November 14, 1937 there. Sarah Latimer Finley was buried at the family plot located at 92 1/2 at the Odd Fellows section of the Santa Rosa Memorial Park in Santa Rosa. She was buried alongside her father, her mother, and her husband.

If you are interested in joining the efforts to rediscover local Sonoma County Suffragists, contact Leasa Graves at LGraves@NationalWomensHistoryAlliance.org

Julia Sweet... continued from page 5

two terms. During 1918 she was one of ten captains for the local Red Cross Drive and in 1919 became a member for the Returning Soldiers Memorial Committee.

In 1923, she held one of her most significant roles as a "booster" at a convention focused on promoting the building of the Golden Gate Bridge. An article in the Santa Rosa Republican newspaper that year on the convention mentions just four local citizens including Julia Sweet along with Frank Doyle who is considered the "father" of the Golden Gate Bridge (for whom the south approach to the bridge Doyle Drive is named).

Somehow, with all her commitments, Julia and her husband found time to get away on vacation making trips to Lake Tahoe, Monterey, the east coast, and England.

At the age of 40, it appears Julia's volunteerism started to taper off. She died in 1954 at the age of 88 and is inurned at the Chapel of the Chimes in Santa Rosa.

Between the years of 1892 and 1923 Julia Sweet was mentioned in the local newspaper an astonishing 300 times! A 3-page biographical sketch of her husband in the *History of*

Sonoma County, California written by Thomas Jefferson Gregory in 1911 didn't even mention Julia as his wife. Written today, there would have been at least 3 pages dedicated to Julia Goodyear Sweet.



A postcard of Santa Rosa's Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse shortly after construction, circa 1910
Hill Family Collection

Maria Carrillo... continued from page 8

At the peak of operations the Rancho included 3,000 head of cattle, 1,200-1,500 horses, as well as sheep. They cultivated crops of grains including wheat, oats, and barley, as well as peas, beans and corn. Many Native Americans were employed at the Rancho. The men worked in the fields, with the herds, tending the horses, and at the slaughter yard. The Indian women helped domestically in the home with food preparation,

cleaning, and caring for the children. Meanwhile the each of the Carrillo family members, both men and women, played an important role in the operations of the Rancho. Each had their own horse with Maria's having been broken especially for her use. The Carrillo family was known to be unusually generous and hospitable and provided meals and a place to sleep for those who traveled through the area. The Rancho served as an outpost during its rich period as a California Rancho.

Education... continued from page 10

According to the November 5, 1922 Petaluma Daily Morning Courier, Clark had volunteered to instruct students in Glen Ellen when its school was "in want" and that she had been advised by a member of the Glen Ellen Board of Trustees that she could do so. But the incumbent superintendent, Ballard, denied this authorization had been given.

At an October 25, 1922 meeting at the Odd Fellow's Hall, it was reported that Clark stated, "I consented to accept the

Glen Ellen position when I learned the temporary teacher in charge had come out of a kitchen on the Jack London Ranch." This comment angered teachers, who were mostly women, and they ran a write-in campaign for Ballard. Clark denied having made the statement, but a page 1 article published in the Press Democrat listed the name of 25 people who attested to attending the meeting and hearing Clark make this statement.

Despite the controversy, Clark held off the write-in campaign and won the superintendent's office in 1922, serving one term before being unseated in 1926.



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