

Riviera-West News



Issue 42

May 2010

OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

PROPERTY OWNERS

Thursday, May 20, 2010
@ 9 AM

WATER COMPANY

Thursday, March 20,
2010 @ 6 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

Property Owners:

President.: Phil Wilson

V-Pres.: Doug Bridges

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Karl Hoenke

Director: Doug Morris

Water Company:

President.: Tom Smythe

V-Pres.: John Norin

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Barbara Sarao

Director: Barbara Eichten

Administration Office

8475 Harbor View Dr.
707.279.8544

Monday - Thursday

9 AM - 1 PM

Katy English

www.rivierawest@gmail.com

Riviera West Mutual Water Company

Greetings to all from the Water Board!

As we approach the warm months of summer, we would like to remind everyone to conserve water. We have recently serviced our redwood storage tank, and have increased its capacity by sealing the wood against cracks and leaks. This will help ensure, along with conservation efforts, an adequate supply of water for the swell of summer residents, and the constant danger of fire. The plant upgrade and permit process is moving along as best as bureaucracy allows. We should be able to start the construction preparation by July. We will update the community as to how we intend to proceed with the project at the May 20 open Board Meeting. We hope to see you there!

Riviera West Mutual Water Company Board of Director's



Riviera West Property Owners' Association

Hi Everyone,

We are approaching summer and it is the time of year we must get our homes and lots ready for the fire season. Hopefully, everyone will attend to this. The Lake is up to the 8ft. mark and should be in great shape for the season. The Pool will be open Memorial Day weekend. The Annual POA meeting will be held June 19th at 9am.

For the most part we have had a good year, but as always, many challenges. Katy English (office manager) and Jim Govern (maintenance) have been doing a great job. Jerry Lykken (Water master) has helped the POA Board with the Marina and many other problems. Thanks to the POA Board, Linda McPherson, Doug Bridges, Karl Hoenke and Doug Morris, for all their efforts this past year. It has been a pleasure to be part of it.

Best Wishes to all,

Phil Wilson, Riviera West Property Owners' Association

The test of belief is the willingness to act. Henry James

Riviera West Activities Sponsored by the Ladies' Club

Riviera West Homeowners

We still need a coordinator for the Emergency Response Team as well as block captains to contact the folks on their street in case of an emergency. Men and women are encouraged to volunteer.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday Water Aerobics will begin after Memorial Day Weekend.

For details, contact Jan Wilson at 279-0490 / janmar61@sbcglobal.net

Ladies' Club Luncheon

June 3 - 1:00 pm

Join the Ladies' Club and come to the luncheon. We encourage new women residents to participate.

Meet at the Club House to carpool at 12:30.

For details, contact Karen 279-1256 / spidermouz@gmail.com or
RSVP Vivienne Moen 279-4511 / vivmoen@mchsi.com

After a summer break, Ladies' Club dinners and activities will resume in September with a barbecue on the 18th.

Karen Magnuson, Ladies' Club President

If questions, 279-1256 or email: spidermouz@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in Lake County

Oyster and Sauvignon Blanc Party

Moore Family Winery, Sunday, May 16, 2010
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The Clear Lake Queen

Live Entertainment at the WaterColor Club
Every Friday & Saturday, @ 7:00 PM

Monday Night Blues Blue Wing Saloon & Cafe, Upper Lake

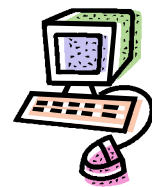
Every Monday Evening 6:30pm—9:00pm

For More information:

www.lakeportchamber.com



**As of July 1, 2010 the Annual
Dues will increase to \$275.
Which is a 6% increase.**



Please visit our website so that you may receive the most current news and updates for Riviera West at:
www.rivierawest.org

Riviera West documents, such as the Rules and Regulations, can be found under the Documents tab. Or, if you prefer, you may pick these up at the office.

Kelsey vs. Kelsay In the Annals of Lake County

By: Betty Helf

(Adapted from an article written by Roy M. Sylar which appeared in the February 1974 Pomo Bulletin.)

Seldom does the substitution of a single letter of our alphabet present the opportunity to upset the record as does the "a" and "e" in the names of Kelsey and Kelsay, both prominent in early Lake County History.

The KELSEY name was introduced into the record in 1846 when the brothers, Benjamin, Samuel and Andrew Kelsey, with their partners, Charles Stone and Edward Shirland, obtained holdings of Salvador Vallejo and started raising horses and cattle in what was to become part of Lake County. The holdings comprised 16 square leagues (approximately 95,000 acres) including Big Valley and the west and northwest shores of Clear Lake. The Kelsey influence ended with the murders of Andrew Kelsey and Charles Stone by Indians in 1849. As far as is known, none of the family, or their descendants, ever returned to the County for any length of time, except possibly David Crockett Kelsey, a son of Benjamin, who is believed to have died here at the age of 19 years. However, besides the historical record the name has been perpetuated through the naming of Kelsey Creek and the town of Kelseyville.

The KELSAY name was introduced when William and Barthena Harmon Kelsay, along with a number of their children and their families, permanently settled in Lake County in 1861. It was through the influence of the Kelsays that the growing village of Uncle Sam was renamed "Kelseyville" in honor of their Kelsey cousins.

The direct relationship of these two families reverts back to the 18th century. As near as has been found, David Kelsey, the father of Ben, Sam and Andy, was probably a first cousin to William Kelsay, although some genealogists suggest they may have been half brothers.

William and Barthena Kelsay were a part of the Harriman Party arriving in California in 1861. This Party was attacked by Indians led by white renegades a Raft River, Idaho.

After losing all their stock and part of their supplies the Party was set adrift to walk the rest of the way across the Utah-Nevada desert and the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Sutter's Fort, a distance of over 600 miles. Much hardship was endured on the journey and no relief was found en route. William was 69 and Barthena was 61 years of age at the time. Both spent the remainder of their years in Lake County and are buried in Pioneer Cemetery near Kelseyville.

William and Barthena had 14 children, one of which died young. One son, Cornelius Kelsay, remained in Missouri, and a daughter, Susan Kelsay Rankin, remained in Kentucky. The other 11, or their families, were destined to reside in Lake County at one time or another, no matter how long the stay. Following is a listing and brief discussion of these children having Lake County connections.

George W. Kelsay died at Ray County, Missouri, in 1859, but his widow, Permelia "Millie" Gipson Kelsay and her 8 children moved to Lake County in 1861 as part of the Harriman Party, and settled in what is now Finley. After the Indian raid at Raft River Crossing, in which she lost everything, Millie was faced with the problem of getting her young family across the desert and mountains to Sutter's Fort. This was solved by tying slabs of bacon to their backs, on which they fed as they went along. It took 28 days to make the 600 mile journey on foot, and her youngest two year old son had to be carried all the way in order to keep up with the rest of the Party. All managed to come through in good order. A number of "Aunt Millie's" descendants still reside in Lake County, including Helen Irene Neuffer in Nice. (Note: She died in Sacramento on January 7, 1992. Source: California Death Records 1940-1997. B.Helf)

John "Jack" Kelsay and his wife, Emma, came to Lake County in 1873 to be with their only remaining son, William H. Kelsay, who came here earlier, but died the year they arrived. Their grandson, John Sidney Kelsay, was a longtime County Supervisor in later years. After William's death, John was raised by his grandparents. Jack was a gunsmith and set up shop in Kelseyville where he and Emma lived out their lives. Both are buried at the intersection of Merritt Road and Renfro Drive near Kelseyville.

Nancy Kelsay Rankin was the wife of Robert A. Rankin. This couple, with their eleven children, removed from Kentucky to Lake County about 1880 and remained only a few years before moving on to Oregon. During their stay here their son, Robert A. Rankin Jr., married Julia Grant Gard, a Lake County girl, in 1882.

Nathaniel Kelsay and two of his sons, John and Fountain, came to California in 1861 as part of the Harriman Party, and made the long walk from Raft River to Sutter's Fort. After getting settled in Lake County Nathaniel brought out his second wife and children from Missouri. Records show he took up land in 1870 but later removed to Westfall, Malheur County, Oregon, where he spent the rest of his life. John and "Fount" remained in Lake County for a number of years during which "Fount" married Martha Elmira Gard in 1875. Both of these boys later joined their father at Westfall.

Alexander M. Kelsay brought his family to Lake County in 1873, where his wife, Louisa E. Shearer Kelsay, died a year later and is buried in Pioneer Cemetery. After a short stay he removed to Oregon and became a sheep rancher at Antelope, Wasco County, in the company of his brother William. A namesake nephew (son of Cornelius) also spent a time in Lake County and married Eliza A. Jones here. He joined his uncle at Antelope.

James B. Kelsay came to Lake County with his parents in 1861. In 1871 he married Florence Loretta Barker of Lower Lake. After James died in 1878, Florence changed the family name to "Kelsey" and passed this on to their only surviving son, Elmer Kelsey, who spent his life here. Florence remarried to J. Rolly Allison of Kelseyville.

William Wesley Kelsay first went to Oregon Territory in 1853 and later married Lucy Margaret Saylor. This couple made a brief stay in Lake County where their eldest son, Daniel Ragsdale Kelsay was born. They soon returned to Oregon where William later became a sheep rancher at Shaniko, Wasco County, and remained there the rest of his life.

Burton Sylvester Kelsay accompanied his brother William Wesley to Oregon Territory in 1853 and first settled in Lane County where he married Euphrasia Ann Gillis. He later removed to Lake County where he took up land in 1870, and again in 1874. After a few years he returned to Lane County, Oregon, and then later resettled at Fossil, Wheeler County, where a number of his descendants still remain.

Lucinda Hubbard Keslay Sylar married Samuel Finley Sylar in Ray County, Missouri in 1855 and all of the nine children were born there. This family removed to Lake County in 1889 and took up land near Highland Springs. Samuel and Lucinda later removed to Kelseyville where he served as constable for many years. Both are buried at Kelseyville Cemetery. The farm community of Finley was named in honor of Samuel Finley Sylar. The first store located there was built by sons, Daniel P. and John L. Sylar, with John as the first storekeeper. Other children of Samuel and Lucinda were: Julia Ann, George W. and James A. Sylar, Berthena Adaline Sylar Peugh, Sarah Jane Sylar Kirkpatrick, Dora Celestia Sylar Hatfield, and Mary Alice Sylar Marshall. All lie buried in Lake County and many of their descendants remain in the area.

Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Kelsay Allen/Lamb first married James Ethen Allen in 1851 and with their one year old daughter, Nancy Ann, came to California in 1854. After a stay in Yolo County, where land previously owned by James was restored to him, this family moved to Lake County to take up land in Big Valley. James died in 1870 and Betsy remarried to John R. Lamb three years later. Betsy spent the rest of her eventful life in Lake County and is buried near Lakeport. Nancy Ann Allen married John Elliot Shirley, and many of their descendants remain in the County today.

Sarah Jane Kelsay Tryon accompanied her parents to Lake County in 1861 as part of the Harriman Party. In 1862 she married James Tryon who had located at what is now known as Salamini's Resort. The Tryons remained in Lake County until eight of their nine children were born, then removed to Spokane County, Washington Territory, where James is buried. Sarah spent her last years in Pendleton, Oregon, where she is buried. Sarah preferred to spell her maiden name "Kelsey" in later years and this is reflected in records kept by her family, much to the confusion of genealogical researchers.

Another relation to settle in Lake County was William Samuel Kelsay, a grand-nephew of William Kelsay and a direct nephew of Samuel Finley Sylar. He had accompanied to Sylars from Missouri to Kelseyville in 1889. Young William married A. May Speck and their descendants live in the County today.

All of these people had something to do with the shaping of Lake County and many of their descendants still remain in the area.

(End of the article from the Pomo Bulletin.)

William Samuel Kelsay, above, was the son of Cleveland Coffey Kelsay and Isabell Sylar. This couple remained in Missouri. William was born December 15, 1862 in Ray County, MO and died in Lake County on September 4, 1943. He married Alpha-retta May Speck about 1891. The white with blue trim house he built and in which they lived is still at 3760 Main Street, next door and east of the new drug store. They were enumerated there on the 1900 and 1910 census with three children, Cleta B., born August 1892, Carmalita, born November 1897 and Thomas C., born January 1900. William was a carpenter by trade. The original two-story house he built was only two rooms downstairs with more rooms later added to the back. There was also a barn behind the house, now torn down. A large wooden storage cabinet William built for his wife still stands in the kitchen with the barely discernible inscription, A(lpharet)ta May S. Kelsay, February 19, 1912, started January 22, 1912.

One of our Riviera-West homeowners, Elizabeth Klemme, grew up in this house where her parents still live.