

# Ranches of Bodega Bay

## James Kee - Bodega Head

**James Kee**, born: Aug 1835 Ireland, US Arrival: 7 Oct 1850 Philadelphia Pennsylvania, US Naturalization: 25 Mar 1856 Philadelphia Pennsylvania, died: 10 Feb 1913 Santa Rosa, Sonoma County California, buried: Sebastopol Memorial Lawn, Sonoma County California, married: Catherine (she was born: 1835 Ireland, died: 7 Jul 1874 (during childbirth) Sonoma County California) children: William 1861, Mary 1862, James 1866, Arthur 1869, Robert 1873, Catherine 1874, George 1874

### James Kee

in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	James Kee
Birth Year:	abt 1835
Birthplace:	Ireland
Home in 1870:	Bodega, Sonoma , California
Occupation:	Dairy Farmer
Personal Estate Value:	2960
Real Estate Value:	8000

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Kee	35
	Catherine Kee	34
	Samuel Cunnigham	15
	Wm J Kee	9
	Maria S Kee	7
	James H Kee	5
	Samuel D Kee	3
	Arthur R Kee	11
	Owen Carroll	25
	M E Frisbie	28
	Sarah E Frisbie	5
	Mercie E Frisbie	2
	Mary E Curtis	

### Spouse & Children

**Catharine Kee**

1835–1874

**William J. Kee**

1861–1901

**Mary Francis Kee**

1862–

**James A. H. Kee**

1866–

**Samuel D. Kee**

1867–1941

**Arthur R. Kee**

1869–1870

**Robert Y. Kee**

1873–

**Catharine Kee**

1874–1874

**George Kee**

1874–1874

## James Kee

California, Voter Registers

Name:	James Kee
Age:	32
Birth Year:	abt 1835
Birth Place:	Ireland
Residence Year:	1867
Residence Place:	Sonoma , California
Naturalization Date:	25 Mar 1856
Naturalization Place:	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Catherine Kee

1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	Catherine Kee
Age in 1870:	34
Birth Year:	abt 1836
Birthplace:	Ireland
Home in 1870:	Bodega, Sonoma, California
Post Office:	Bodega
Occupation:	Keeping House
Inferred Spouse:	<a href="#">James Kee</a>

## James Kee

BIRTH AUG 1835 • Ireland

DEATH 10 FEB 1913 • Sonoma, California,

James Kee was born in August 1835 in Ireland. He had six sons and two daughters with Catharine Kee between 1861 and 1874. He died on February 10, 1913, in Sonoma, California, having lived a long life of 77 years, and was buried in Sebastopol, California.

## Catharine Kee

BIRTH 1835

DEATH 7 JUL 1874 • Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California,

Catharine Kee was born in 1835. She had six sons and two daughters with James Kee between 1861 and 1874. She died on July 7, 1874, in Sebastopol, California, at the age of 39.

# James Kee

## in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: James Kee

Birth Date: Abt 1837

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1880: Bodega, Sonoma, California,

Marital status: **Widower**

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Occupation: Dairyman

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Kee	43
	William J. Kee	19
	Mary S. Kee	17
	James A. H. Kee	14
	Samuel D. Kee	12
	Robert Y. Kee	7

# James Kee

## 1910 United States Federal Census

Name: James Kee

Birth Year: abt 1838

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1910: Santa Rosa Sonoma, California

House Number: 613 Benton St

Immigration Year: 1850

Marital status: Widowed

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Occupation: Own Income

Home Owned or Rented: Own

Home Free or Mortgaged: Free

Farm or House: House

Naturalization Status: Naturalized

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Kee	72
	Mary Francis Kee	48

# James Kee

## in the 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: James Kee

Birth Date: Aug 1835

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1900: Santa Rosa, Sonoma, California

House Number: 613 Benton **7 Oct 1850**

Immigration Year: 1850 **Philadelphia PA**

Marital status: Widowed

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Years in US: 50

Naturalization: Na

House Owned or Rented: O

Home Free or Mortgaged: F

Farm or House: H

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Kee	64
	Mary F Kee	38

# James Kee

## California, Voter Registrations

Name: James Kee

Age: 66

Birth Date: abt 1834

Residence Date: 1900-1912

Residence Place: Sonoma, California

### INDEX TO REGISTRATIONS, SANTA ROSA PRECINCT NO. 10

NAME	AGE	POSTOFFICE ADDRESS
Jordan, Leslie Augustine .....	45	Santa Rosa
Kauffman, Charles F. ....	60	"
Kee, James .....	66	"



## James Kee

Find A Grave Index

Name:	James Kee
Birth Date:	1835
Death Date:	10 Feb 1913
Cemetery:	Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California
Spouse:	<a href="#">Catharine Kee</a>

## James Kee

California, Death Index

Name:	James Kee
Birth Year:	abt 1836
Death Date:	10 Feb 1913
Age at Death:	77
Death Place:	Sonoma, California, USA

## James Kee

BIRTH	1835
DEATH	10 Feb 1913 (aged 77-78)
BURIAL	<a href="#">Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery</a> Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, USA

## Catharine Kee

BIRTH	1835
DEATH	7 Jul 1874 (aged 38-39)
BURIAL	<a href="#">Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery</a> Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California,

## Catharine Kee

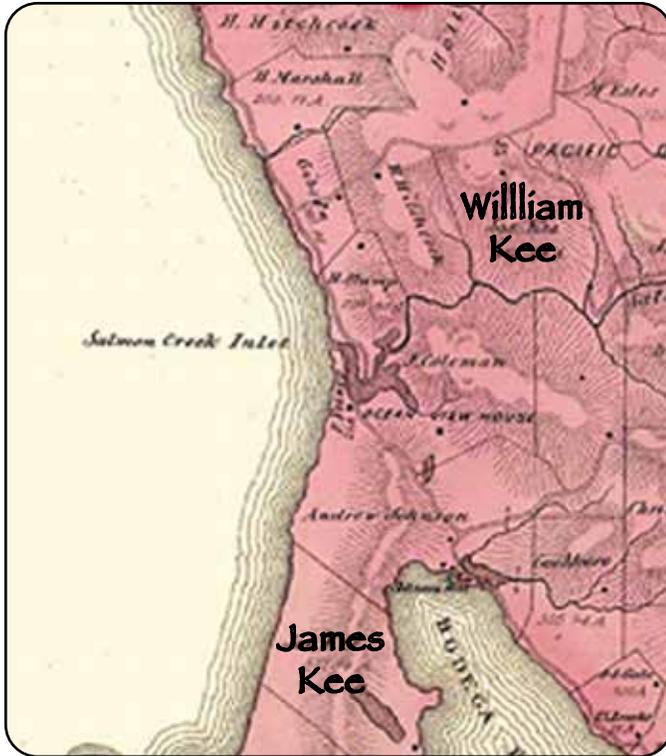
Find A Grave Index

Name:	Catharine Kee
Birth Date:	1835
Death Date:	7 Jul 1874
Cemetery:	Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California
Spouse:	<a href="#">James Kee</a>



# Ranches of Bodega Bay

William Kee, father of James Kee



## William Kee

### in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Name: William Kee

Birth Year: abt 1820

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1870: Bodega, Sonoma, California

Post Office: Bodega

Occupation: Farmer

Personal Estate Value: 1800

Real Estate Value: 3000

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William Kee	50
	Jane Kee	49
	Wm H Kee	17
	Samuel J Kee	15
	Alx Montgomery	51
	James H Curtis	21

## Wm Kee

### in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Name: Wm Kee

Birth Year: abt 1820

Birth Place: Ireland

Home in 1860: Upper Darby, Delaware, Pennsylvania

Post Office: Kellyville

Occupation: Farmer

Personal Estate Value: 1340

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Wm Kee	40
	Jane Kee	39
	William H Kee	7
	Samuel J Kee	5
	James Kee	25
	Catharine Kee	24
	Edward Clark	40
	Rebecca Humphreys	15

## William H. Kee

### 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: William H. Kee

Birth Date: Abt 1820

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1880: Bodega, Sonoma, California,

Marital status: Widower

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Occupation: Farmer

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William H. Kee	60
	William H. Kee	27
	Samuel J. Kee	25

## William Kee

### California, Voter Registers

Name: William Kee

Age: 77

Birth Year: abt 1821

Birth Place: Ireland

Residence Year: 1898

Residence Address: Smith's Ranch

Residence Place: Sonoma, California

Naturalization Date: 9 Oct 1865

Naturalization Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## William Kee

### in the 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: William Kee

Birth Date: May 1819

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1900: Bodega, Sonoma , California

Immigration Year: 1847

Relation to Head of House: Boarder

Marital status: Widowed

Marriage Year: 1855

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Years in US: 53

Naturalization: Na

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Sarah Cheney</a>	66
	<a href="#">Edmund H Cheney</a>	38
	<a href="#">William Kee</a>	81
	<a href="#">Ethel Craig</a>	14
	<a href="#">Charles Nelson</a>	14
	<a href="#">Raymond I Lang</a>	6
	<a href="#">Robert W Lang</a>	4

## William Key

### 1910 United States Federal Census

Name: William Key

Birth Year: abt 1820

Birthplace: Ireland

Home in 1910: Santa Rosa California

Street: Second Street

Immigration Year: 1846

Relation to Head of House: Roomer

Marital status: Widowed

Father's Birthplace: Ireland

Mother's Birthplace: Ireland

Occupation: Own Income

Naturalization Status: Naturalized

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Matilda J Davis</a>	73
	<a href="#">Alice L Perry</a>	47
	<a href="#">William Key</a>	90
	<a href="#">William Barling</a>	39

## William Kee

### California, Death Index

Name: William Kee

Birth Year: abt 1820

Death Date: 23 Apr 1912

Age at Death: 92

Death Place: Sonoma, California

# The Kee Mound on James Kee's property on Bodega Head

## Indian Burial Ground



The destruction of the Kee Mound, ca. 1951. After years, of controversy with archaeologists, collectors, bureaucrats, and Native Americans, Robert Kee accepted an offer from a nursery in Santa Rosa for the mound to be used for compost and mulch. Sadly, this most important site was completely destroyed. Sifted piles left from pits dug the previous year can be seen, showing how little was actually dug during the latest excavation period. Porter and Watson were the first to excavate the Kee Mound in 1932, then Chenoweth, and lastly UC Berkeley in 1949 and 1950.

**INTRODUCTION** The story of the Kee Mound had an inauspicious beginning and sad ending. Since the mound's demise in 1951, no formal report has ever been published, nor have photos of the artifacts been made public. It should not be underestimated how important this site was, and though not as well known as the great mounds of the Midwest, the Kee Mound has its place in California history. A unique culture once thrived at this site.

**THE KEY MOUND** The West Coast of North America exhibits an extraordinary range of archaeological treasures. The focus of this commentary is a stretch of California coastline in Sonoma County, 50 miles north of San Francisco on beautiful Bodega Bay. This location is less than a mile north of the site of the cottage featured in Alfred Hitchcock's movie thriller *The Birds*.

Here rose a great shell mound running 320 feet north and south and 140 feet wide, well-situated on the sheltered west side of the bay. The area enjoys mild, but wet winters, and pleasant summer days begin with morning fog. Nearby free-flowing

springs provided ample water and the bay and coast an endless food supply. Truly a well-chosen home for a culture long since disappeared except for the secrets that lay up to 15 feet deep within the mound.

But this story begins when a young Hardin (Hardy) Talman Chenoweth began to develop his lifelong interest in Native American artifacts. Hardy was born in Occidental, California, May 9, 1885 and lived his entire life in Sonoma County. He was first employed by the county as a roads foreman and fire warden. He then became a lumberman and rancher, finally owning his own lumber mill and substantial forestland. He died October 11, 1957. Hardy had a massive collection. He was one of the first to dig at the Glen Cove mound (CA-SOL-236) near Benicia in Solano County and dug at several sites in Sonoma County. Part of his collection was exhibited at the 1915 San Francisco Exhibition. Hardy was often interviewed by the local media as an expert in local Native American cultures and featured in a Santa Rosa Press Democrat Sunday rotogravure section January 27, 1952.

Fortunately, Hardy developed the discipline of cataloging his collection and he did a short biography of his experience at the Kee Mound, an experience that lasted 50 years!

In his own words, here is an insight on this lifelong collector written circa 1953: The first time that I ever saw the Kee Mound was in the year 1895. My father and I drove from Occidental with a cart and horse to get abalone. In driving around an embankment I noticed a projectile point of obsidian where the tide had washed it out of the bank of a shell mound. We stopped and picked up eight net sinkers and some more pieces of obsidian but it did not occur to me at that time it was a burial mound.

Later I told a man named Ike Button what I had found and he went down and found a mortar in perfect condition. From then on from year to year when we went down for fish or abalone I would find a few artifacts.

By this time the owners had planted the mound to carrots and I found a lot of artifacts where they plowed the top soil. Let me state here that I had a small collection so this interested me very much. One time when I was passing the mound I saw a human skull in the bank. I started digging and uncovered the balance of the skeleton but found nothing with it. I could not dig far because there was a picket fence between the plowed ground and the Bay.

In the early 1920s some people came from Los Angeles and paid Robert Kee \$20.00 to dig. They found some very valuable material but they would not let anyone see what they had except a curved obsidian knife [sic] about twelve inches long which are [sic] very rare. (1) At this time I would like to say that I will have a lot of information in regard to the curved blades later.

Now I got interested and obtained the rights to excavate the mound and immediately ran into trouble for the Indians of Bodega Bay maintained that their people were buried there. I had no defense for they had the Supervisors of Sonoma pass a law forbidding anyone to molest the mound.

In 1947 I went to Robert Kee and obtained permission to remove the mound for I found out that if the owner desired to use a mound to fill joining land he had the right to do so. Still, it wasn't clear sailing, for the Indians made trouble in every way possible. They were misinformed because in all of my digging I found no trader beads and trader beads go back 200 years with burials and maybe more. Also, I did not find any arrow points, which in my book put this mound a minimum of 800 years old that is on the surface. Anything that I could have said or done would not have accomplished what the University of California (did) toward making the excavating possible.

By some means Dr (Robert) Heizer of Archaeology at UC Berkeley found out about this mound and sent a man by the name of Frank Fenenga to see me and I gave him the right in writing to work the mound. Mr. Fenenga started in 1949. He had about ten students on an average working for about three months but he ran into the same trouble that I had had with the Indians although with his background and knowledge of Indian culture he convinced them that the mound was too old to have any connection with late burials. I am convinced that I could never have accomplished what Frank did and I could not have gone ahead with the work regardless of the agreement that I had with Kee. From here we will call the mound SON-299. SON represents Sonoma County and 299 is the number cataloged by UC Berkeley The excavating by Fenenga was on the southern half, about 30 feet wide and 90 feet long east and west. They collected about 4,000 artifacts.

In my excavating I found most all burials on the eastern slope, in fact only five on the western slope. There are a good many west of the datum line but that was when the mound was small and as it grew the mound naturally built east and in so doing the amount of graves was more and more to the east. From what I found out it looks as all burials were in the morning and I picture the people dressed for the burial facing the rising sun which gives one the thought that these people worshipped the sun three thousand years ago.

There were two sets of four matching blades excavated by Chenoweth. Porter and Watson (1933) reported in their excavation of the Kee Mound, "In one grave, probably that of a medicine man since the bones and head were deformed, we found 24 beautiful spear heads averaging a length of 5", two 4 1/2" spears with the very ends



sharply turned at right angles to the body of the spear" (1) The closest type of blade one might compare to these is known as the "Stockton Curve" found in San Joaquin County of California, some 120 miles distant. Stockton Curves "exhibit an expert level of knapping skill" (Justice 2002:359) and are extremely rare themselves and probably less than 200 have been found, but they are less than 2 1/2" in length. Noel Justice indicates a Late Period association of "A.D. 700-1,100 to 1,500 and later". The earlier of these dates seems to fall into the tail end of the McClure Complex. The Stockton Curves are almost exclusively from the Napa obsidian source. Most of the lithics found at the Kee Mound and one set of the long blades are of Napa obsidian.

For many California Indians, obsidian and obsidian blades were critical elements of shamanic rituals. The northern California Yuki had several kinds of shamans who all dreamed of supreme spirits, on whom their power depended. (Rust, 1905).

The obsidian (Yuki) shamans also treated diseases. Sometimes they built a kind of funnel of earth, perhaps two feet long. The patient reclined at one end and at the other, obsidian blades were set up. The doctor then blew tobacco smoke through the hole on the sick person. .

"Funerary contexts have typically produced Stockton Curves in groups rather than singly," supporting the theory they were not used as a singular implement. These accounts and others recognize the importance of obsidian in California Native American culture. But the McClure Complex, of which we know only of their material remains, must have had its own obsidian obsession. The only similarities provided by Native American informants about "curved obsidian blades" seems to be as listed above, but no real comparison can be made. It is curious that both caches of these curved blades found by Chenoweth in the Kee Mound were groups of four matching blades. Trade with distant tribes using Napa obsidian may have had cross-cultural influence, but the McClure Complex culture remains unique in all of California.

A most interesting object found within the mound was a 27" whale rib bone spatulae (see page 13). The sheer quantity and quality of objects found in association with the long blades along with this object compares with a burial of a 30-year-old man in distant Livermore Valley. Along with a similar but shorter bead appliquéd spatulae were quartz crystals, and approximately 30,000 Olivella saucer beads, the largest documented California bead lot. (Wiberg, 1988). Comparisons of other important California mortuary patterns can be made with those of the McClure Complex.

Dr. Robert Heizer, considered the father of California archaeology, made an infamous appearance at the mound in 1949. There is ample documentation of Heizer's visit both in oral tradition with the Chenoweth family and in written communications between Fenenga and his associates. It seems Hardy, working in one of his carefully laid-out grids, was digging deep in the mound and Heizer proceeded to drive a shovel through

a packet of bird bone whistles. Heizer responded "They could be repaired back in the (UC Berkeley) lab!" (2) Hardy, rightfully enraged, threw Heizer off the mound.

It was Frank Fenenga who finally convinced Hardy to let UC Berkeley back on the mound. Hardy gave them a choice area in which to dig, some 2,700 square feet comprising part of the southern portion of mound. The agreement Hardy had with UC Berkeley was that Hardy would retain all of the artifacts after they were cataloged and studied. UC Berkeley has in fact several thousand artifacts from SON-299.

Frank Fenenga, (1917-1994) known fondly as "Finnegan" by his friends, was a noted California archaeologist with an illustrious career. He established a recording system for all state archaeological sites which was adopted by the Smithsonian Institution and is in use today. The Kee Mound, named after the landowner, Robert Kee, became CA-SON-299 in Fenenga's system, referring to first state, then county, then site. Frank was the first to suggest that the bow and arrow were recent developments to the New World, a view now accepted by all scholars. Fenenga and a list of his associates reads like a who's who in archaeology.

Among those exploring the mound in the summer of 1949 were Clem Meighan, Arnold Pilling, Robert Greengo, and Francis (Fritz) Riddell. This author is privileged to have received a copy of Frank Fenenga's unpublished site report for SON-299 from his son, Gerrit L. Fenenga, Ph.D., Associate California State Archaeologist. (3) It is unfortunate that the report of several hundred pages, so near to final editing, was not completed. Very comprehensive, it has far more information and detail for this effort.

**CHRONOLOGY** The McClure Complex of the Tomales Bay Pattern spanned the time period between 1,000 and 2,500 years before present (YBP). (Milliken et al. 2007). This dating is based on shell bead types, which are almost as useful to California archaeology as are potsherds in other parts of North America for analyzing culture processes. (6) SON-299 was a Middle Period Olivella bead production center and the abundance of saddle beads corroborate the <sup>14</sup>C dates. (7)

**Radiocarbon Dating (<sup>14</sup>C)** The earliest Carbon 14 date published for a McClure facies site, CA-MRN-115, (Meighan, 1953) ". . . indicates the McClure Complex to be something on the order of 800 to 1,000 years old". However, Meighan acknowledged some issues regarding the sample used in dating the site. A <sup>14</sup>C date of 2,700 YBP was obtained from MRN-138 on the bay side of Marin, also considered to be in the McClure facies. (6)

Michael Kennedy (2004) utilized 17 shells excavated by Fenenga in 1949 from CA-SON-299. The shells were obtained from the UC Berkeley Phoebe Hearst Museum collection and produced a weighted mean <sup>14</sup>C calibrated age of 2,017 +/- 126 YBP, well within the Middle Period established for the McClure Complex.

This author submitted a sample of an elk antler wedge to the University of Arizona Physics Department AMS Lab for Carbon 14 dating. A corrected date was obtained of 1,834 +/- 36 YBP. Several antler wedges are in Hardy's collection and his notes indicate this one was recovered from the six foot level. Woodworking was one of the attributes of the McClure Complex, and wedges were useful tools. Their primary uses were probably for prying bark from redwood trees for roofing material for semi-subterranean shelters and splitting the soft inner wood into useful shapes.

Obsidian Hydration Dating is a sophisticated method of measuring in microns the rind or surface band created on freshly exposed surfaces of obsidian when exposed to air such as when broken off or after a flaking process. Rind growth is susceptible to many variables and requires cross-referencing various tables to arrive at an accurate conclusion. OHD is useful in determining relative ages and can be converted into an absolute age.

Several Kee Mound blades were submitted for dating by the author to Origer's Obsidian Laboratory(8) for hydration rim measurement. The results for the four large blades, specimens 299- #12A through #12D measured 2.3 microns, and, when adjusting for the cool temperature of the site location, yield a date of approximately 1,151 YBP. OHD tests of two other blades, specimens; 299- #12E & #13A, also from Napa and, according to Hardy's notes, excavated from the same pit, measured 2.7 microns to yield 1,580 YBP. All of these blades were from the Napa County source and verified by X-ray fluorescence tests at Geochemical Research Laboratory. (9)

Hardy found four beautiful curved matching blades averaging nearly seven inches in length, some 45 feet away from the long blades. Excavated "ten to twelve feet deep", he goes on to say, "ground worked over too much to give a depth". Obviously Hardy had some difficulty with his techniques. These blades, 299- #47A-#47D, are verified as Annadel obsidian and measured 1.6 microns converted to 960 YBP when adjusted for temperature. This author is not aware of any other obsidian hydration dating being performed on artifacts from SON-299.



This 6" horseneck clam (*Tresus nuttali*) shell has been utilized as a storage container for asphaltum. A similar shell containing red ochre was found in the UC excavations. It was not until a later period that these shells were used for clam-shell disc beads. The charmstones, knobbed-stem type, have asphaltum remains preserved as found. Asphaltum was a universal adhesive for gluing and bonding. Found in naturally occurring seeps along the Pacific Coast, asphaltum held beads to ornaments, reinforced projectile point bindings, and anchored cordage to charmstones like those shown.

The three dating methods—shell bead typology, radiocarbon, and obsidian hydration measurements—all yielded dates in the 900 to 2,500 YBP range, within the ranges posited by Meighan (1953), and Milliken et al. (10)

**MATERIALS AND SOURCES** Asphaltum is an excellent adhesive and mastic. UC Berkeley scientists have suggested asphaltum existed at one time at a seep in nearby Tomales Bay, just a few miles to the south. Also likely, globs of the sticky substance may have floated great distances to be found along the coast. This happened before modern oil field pumping relieved natural stresses in the earth that once forced asphaltum to the surface.

Obsidian has two principal local sources. One is near present day Santa Rosa in Anadel Park—the stone is recognized by having faint but distinct striations. However, most of the blades found in SON-299 were made of a deep black obsidian, free of inclusions and discolorations, which was quarried in neighboring Napa County.

Red ochre or hematite (ferric oxide) and cinnabar are principal traits of the McClure Pattern. It was used ceremonially as face and body paints and often lined burials and coated artifacts. One source was the New Almaden mine near San Jose. In 1845, when a shaft was sunk, there was discovered an ancient tunnel some 50 or 60 feet in length at whose face, covered with caved roof material, were several Native American skeletons and rude stone milling tools. (4)

Steatite, or soapstone, primarily used for pipes during this period, was not found locally and was probably traded from distant sources in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range mountains. Mica, actually muscovite, has a source to the south in neighboring Marin County on the Tiburon peninsula.

California prehistoric culture material is not as sculptural as the artifacts found in the Midwest. California Native Americans had minimal atl-atl weights, if any at all, and lacked the bannerstones, birdstones, spuds, and celts found in the East. Pottery was mostly restricted to the southern part of the state and watertight baskets served as the primary cooking utensil, water being heated with hot rocks. Historically, local Native Americans made world class baskets which are highly sought after by collectors.

Lithics, however, may have less variety in material, but outstanding examples of workmanship can be found throughout the state. In much of northern California, where obsidian was readily available, artifacts of remarkable quality were produced. Other materials used included cryptocrystalline quartz, such as cherts and jasper, and basalt, schist, and metamorphic stones.

**CONCLUSION** In introducing California material culture to an unfamiliar audience,

the reader should bear in mind that the State covers a large area and encompasses many cultures. This is best summarized in *California Prehistory*, edited by Jones and Klar, 2007. Moratto and Chartkoff's contribution to this epic effort best condenses this reality:

As we are now aware, there is no single cultural sequence (i.e., chronology) for any region of California, and most regions encompass many localities and sequences. Moreover, each region has its own peculiar history and traditions of archaeological work so that theoretical orientations, research foci, methods, and taxonomic schemes vary enormously.

SON-299 is no exception to this statement. However, it may represent one of the most complex cultures in California prehistory as demonstrated by the wide variety of excavated material and diagnostic features.

The destruction of the Kee Mound, ca. 1951. After years of controversy with archaeologists, collectors, bureaucrats, and Native Americans, Robert Kee accepted an offer from a nursery in Santa Rosa for the mound to be used for compost and mulch. Sadly, this most important site was completely destroyed. Sifted piles left from pits dug the previous year can be seen, showing how little was actually dug during the latest excavation period. Porter and Watson were the first to excavate the Kee Mound in 1932, then Chenoweth, and lastly UC Berkeley in 1949 and 1950.

The author understands the importance of this collection from one of the most significant archaeological sites on the West Coast of the United States, and this collection will always be available for study. It is sad that, due to politics and ignorance, museums, academia, and Native Americans will not reciprocate in sharing their knowledge. Artifacts from CA-SON-299 in the collection of the Phoebe Hearst Museum at UC Berkeley—rightfully belonging to the Chenoweths—may be eligible for repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, (NAGPRA). The day may come when private collections shall be the keepers of America's heritage.

Shown in the background of these pages, Hardy Chenoweth's site map of the Kee Mound is exemplary of the efforts he made to document his collection. A self-taught amateur with no academic training, Hardy accepted remarkable responsibility excavating one of the major archaeological sites in California. His grid layout, though unique, was effective and placement of each artifact to its mound location was easily discerned by marking his artifacts with the grid number. Realizing its importance, Hardy shared a portion of the mound for excavation with the University of California Archaeological Survey conducted by Frank Fenenga. The approximately 2,700 square foot area is clearly outlined.