

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

Sometime about 1850, Captain Stephen Smith donated an acre and a half from his Mexican land grant to create a burial ground for sailors who drowned at sea.

Legend has it that the first burial was of an unknown sailor, who drowned at sea and washed up in the harbor. In the early days, it was known as Seamen's Cemetery and it may be one of the oldest in Sonoma County.

It is also the cemetery of lost grave markers. The Cemetery is located on Heron Drive just as one turns left off of South Harbor Way and is situated on scenic high ground overlooking Bodega Bay.

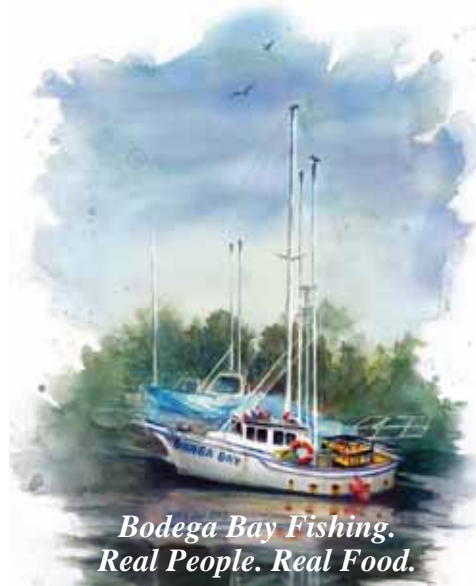
It is now within the Bodega Harbor Housing Association development and is enclosed with a split rail fence and regularly mowed. The grave markers have all disappeared, some through vandalism, some disturbed by grazing cows and others "rescued for safe keeping".

Contribute Articles for our Newsletter, contact us at:

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Historical Society**
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THE 45th BODEGA BAY FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL ***Westside Park - Saturday, Sunday April 14th & 15th 10 am-5 pm***



The Bodega Bay community will host its 45th Annual Fisherman's Festival. The Festival is packed with events for people of all ages – craft booths, live music, good food, entertainment and more. A favorite attraction is the wine tasting booth featuring more than 25 Sonoma County wines and a beer booth with several local ales. Plus we have something for every palate from barbecued oysters, local fish 'n chips, clam chowder and a variety of food trucks. Live music and entertainers perform on the main stage all day Saturday

and Sunday. Artisans and vendors from all over California and beyond offer a wide selection of arts and crafts.

The festival has its origin as a celebration of the start of the Salmon fishing season and the annual Blessing of the Fleet. Each year's theme is chosen by the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association. At the Festival site itself you'll see a wooden boat challenge where participating teams build a vessel and compete in a boat race.

The Fisherman's Festival is a great venue for kids with a play area for face painting, spin paintings, games, a touch tank tide pool, and llamas (and guest pets) on parade. Sunday morning will feature the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet when decorated boats parade out of the harbor to receive a blessing from local clergy.

SAVE THE DATES

OPEN HOUSE: Rancho Bodega Historical Society
Sun, May 6, 2018: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Located behind the Bodega Bay Elementary School at 1200 Canon Street in Bodega Bay.
Explore our archives, fascinating books, maps and DVDs about historic people and places in the area.

SMITH FAMILY - Meet the descendants of the Smith Brothers.
SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Where is Diana Bundy?

Just about every month of the year presents a new season in Bodega Bay. You'll find Diana among the fresh local vegetables and bakery goods at the Bodega Bay Community Center's Farmers Market, or producing Bodega Bay's ninth annual Cabaret, or she may be presenting an incredibly relevant seminar about our disappearing Kelp Forest by scientists from Bodega Marin Lab. Perhaps she is volunteering at Fish Fest, scratching the dirt in the green Community Garden, or preparing the Beachy Car Show. If you are lucky and it's time for the Salmon Creek Art Walk, you can surely find her in her wonderful stained-glass art studio. Her themed stained-glass creations are extraordinary with amazing pieces, both large and small, that compliment collectors' homes.

Diana's salt water roots go back to where she was born and raised on the Jersey Shore. She and her brothers enjoyed playing on the beach in all seasons, crabbing and learning to fish from the docks.

Diana found her way West in a classic way, on old route 66 reaching Manhattan Beach, CA in the early 1960's. A decade later, Diana moved inland to Lake Arrowhead where she met her husband Michael Bundy. Together in 1980 they joined the "back to the land" movement, moving to Durango, CO. That was a pivotal place, because it was there that they and a group of friends inaugurated their first Follies which morphed into a Cabaret.

In 1976 Diana spotted a beautiful stained-glass window that sparked her artistry. She began to find commissions for her art and people referred clients for one-of-a-kind pieces that expressed their dreams, aspirations and favorite things in fine stained-glass art pieces.

In the mid 1990's, Diana and Michael checked out the Bay Area and eventually found a suitable home in Salmon Creek with a garden (that grows tomatoes!), a studio for Diana and a place for Michael to practice his handiwork.

Michael enjoyed remaking their home while making his living as a construction / craftsman, with a major emphasis on correcting the wear and tear that buildings endure at the coast, as well as building beautiful enhancements in wood and sheet metal.



FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Diana and Michael bring our community together in so many ways. They are part of our community fabric as the leaders of Bodega Bay's Community Center. Right now, they may be at home working on one of these events, touching hundreds of lives that live in, pass through, and care about Bodega Bay.



A regular appearance in our quarterly newsletter, *The Faces of Bodega Bay* is a photojournalistic record of the people of our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; the whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and make it the wonderful community that it is. These “environmental portraits” portray the subjects in their natural environment, capturing their character and telling their story through their surroundings.

The Faces of Bodega Bay Project by:

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FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

Admiral Edward Belcher & his maps of Bodega Bay

The map is particularly interesting for several reasons, including the detail of the interior of the bay before Captain Stephen Smith turned it into a hub of commercial activity, the comments on the map about the bay "this lagoon nearly dry at low water," and the indication of the Russian buildings at Campbell Cove.



European explorers were reaching the far ends of the Earth by the late 1700's, including James Cook to the Pacific Islands, George Vancouver to British Columbia, and our own Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra along the Pacific coast. The 1800's saw the floodgates of curiosity flung wide open as England and other world powers set out to see and chart the world.

Edward Belcher was one such explorer. Born in 1799 in Nova Scotia, then a province of England, and now Canada, Edward joined the British Royal Navy at age 13, when England was at war with France. After the war, he was assigned to ships that explored the Mediterranean and Pacific coastlines and several South Pacific Islands.

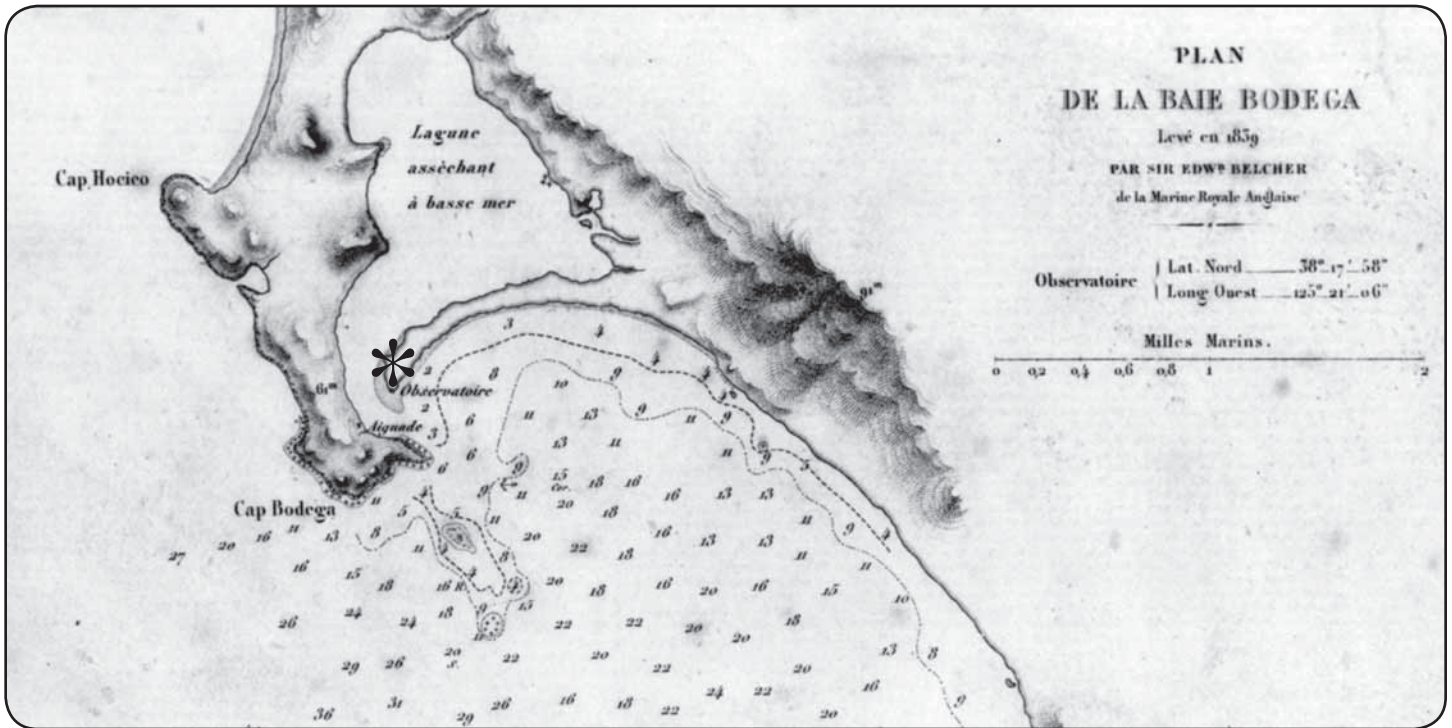
At the age of 37, Edward was appointed commander of the *H.M.S. Sulphur*, which weighed 380 tons and had a crew of 109 men. Together with the *H.M.S. Starling*, Edward embarked on a voyage around the world, the pace of which was breakneck. For example, after visiting Hawaii in the summer of 1839 he sailed up the Pacific coast of North America reaching Kodiak, Alaska in July and then sailed for Sitka.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

After visiting Sitka, he sailed back down the coast to the Columbia River for a visit to Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver (near present-day Portland Oregon), then down the California coast making frequent stops including Bodega Bay in late September 1839, where his crew surveyed the area. He reached San Diego California in October, just a month later.

Edward's surveying voyages involved the collection of geological, astronomical, meteorological, zoological, and botanical data. His naturalists brought back thousands of samples of plant and marine animals. His surveyors created detailed maps, showing both the topography of the location and the depth soundings of the accompanying water ways.

The French published a copy of the Belcher map which is useful because it specifically identifies point "A" on the map as being the "observatoire" (observatory) where Belcher's survey crew determined latitude and longitude and mapped the bay.



Belcher's 1839 map of Bodega Bay was shared with us by Glenn Ferris of Fort Ross, who found it at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office in Taunton, Somerset, England during a visit in June 2016.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

In 1852 Edward was given the command of five ships to explore the Arctic. In 1854, his ships hemmed in by ice he abandoned four of them and with his crew returned to England. Court martial was automatic for any captain who had lost a ship. Edward was exonerated though he never again received an active command. He was however, made a Knight Commander of the Bath (K.C.B.) on March 13, 1867, and was promoted to the rank of Admiral in 1872. He died in London, England on March 18, 1877, at the age of seventy-eight, but his legacy lives on ...

One of the ships that Edward left behind in the Arctic, the *Resolute*, broke free of the ice and drifted 1200 miles to Davis Strait (near Greenland), where it was picked up by the American whaler the *George Henry*. [Yes, *Rancho Bodega* fans, the *George Henry* is the ship that brought Captain Stephen Smith and his steam sawmill from Dartmouth, Massachusetts to Bodega Bay in 1843!]

The American government returned the *Resolute* to the United Kingdom. In 1880 when the ship was broken up its timbers were used to make a desk that was a gift from Queen Victoria to President Rutherford B. Hayes. The "*Resolute Desk*" is still use.

H.M.S. Resolute



The Resolute Desk

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just \$15 individual (\$20 family) and
supports the stories of Bodega Bay.
Send an email to Robin Rudderow
for details. RBHS@ bodegamoons.net



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Patricia Engman
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Ginochio's Kitchen
Timothy & Sally Moratto
Ralph Schoolcraft
& Joan Hosking
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Rancho Bodega Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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Disaster Preparedness Committee

The RBHS Board seeks members for our new Committee with the following objectives:

1. Prevent damage to the roof by trees overhead.
2. Elevate valuable items off the floor, including file cabinets, in case water enters the building.
3. Earthquake preparedness. Purchase bookshelves with pull-down arms to hold the books in place and anchor bookshelves to the wall.
4. Prioritize books & create a dedicated shelf for priority removal for quick evacuation, in case of wildfires.
5. Obtain and install an audible fire alarm.
6. Make regular visits to the office, inside and out, to check for any problems.

For more information, please contact Robin Rudderow at RBHS@bodegamoon.net.

SPRING EVENTS IN RANCHO BODEGA

April 4-8, Wed-Sun, Double Tree Hotel, One Double Tree Drive, Rohnert Park, "ENDURING RAILS"
Sponsored by the Northwestern Pacific Historical Society and the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

April 28 & 29, Saturday & Sunday, 10:00am-3:00pm, Sturgeon's Mill Restoration Project, 2150 Green Hill Road, Sebastopol, "MILL DEMONSTRATION RUN". Sturgeon's mill is a 105 year old steam powered sawmill. We are a working museum that is open 4 weekends a year to the general public. On these weekends historians, gear heads, steam heads and students of California history come to "Step back into History" at our museum. If you take pictures, the best time to record the steam engines is in the morning when the temperature is lowest to show off the steam. They serve delicious hot lunches at very reasonable prices at their beautiful picnic grounds with seating for up to 200 people.



Sonoma Coast Visitors Center is now open!! Located in the old Gourmet au Bay building (913 Highway 1, Bodega Bay, CA 94923, 707-377-4459, <http://www.visitbodegabayca.com/>), the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce is poised for an active summer of visitors. The Sonoma Coast Visitors Center provides friendly, quick answers to your questions about the more than 50 miles of beautiful Sonoma Coastline. From details on where to eat, places to stay, beaches to visit and even maps for an Alfred Hitchcock tour of where "The Birds" was filmed, the staff is ready to answer your questions.

For more local events, visit our website. www.RanchoBodega.org/events.html