

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

Early in Rancho Bodega history, a lawsuit over land rights had a huge effect on Bodega Bay as we know it today.

James Smith, the young son of Captain Stephen Smith and Manuela Torres, was born in 1852 in Rancho Bodega. His father, Captain Smith died in 1855, when he was only three years old. His mother, Manuela Torres Smith remarried in 1856 to Tyler Curtis, a lawyer from Virginia.

Tyler Curtis succeeded in getting the California State Legislature to pass an act in 1861, giving him the right as guardian to sell the children's interest in the rancho. Curtis sold the grant in parcels of mostly 150 to 500 acres each and by the 1870s, Tyler and Manuela has sold the entire 36,000 acres of Rancho Bodega and moved to San Francisco.

In 1875, James Smith sued the new owners of Rancho Bodega, arguing that Tyler did not have his permission to sell off land that was granted to James through his father's will.

In 1877, the case reached the California Supreme Court, which ruled that the sales by Curtis were legal.

The likes of Coleman, Doran and Gaffney were pleased that they could stay on their land.

Controversy Swirls Around Bodega Harbor (Part 1)

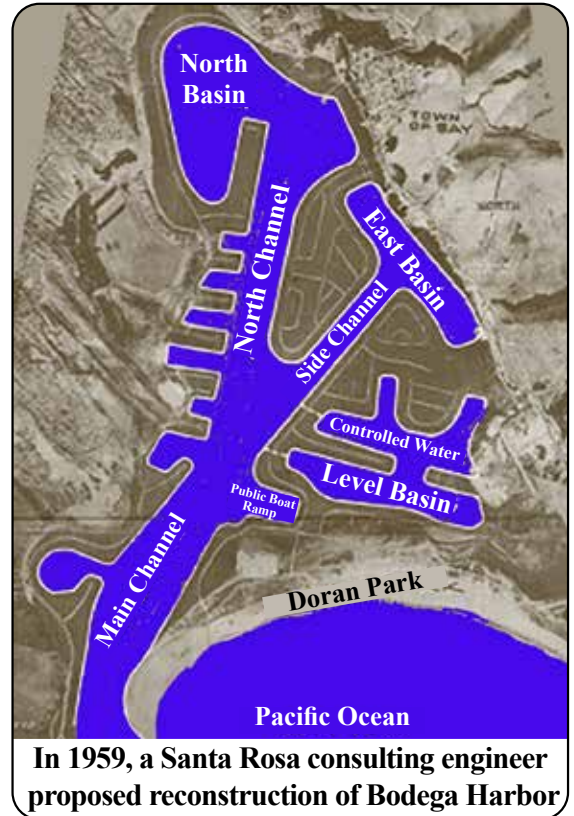
For more than two centuries, controversy has eddied around Bodega Head and its safe harbor. Much to the consternation of the Mexican government in the early 1800s, Russian seal hunters occupied Bodega Harbor as their Port Rumiantzev, where goods were shipped to and from Russia.

To American and European settlers in the mid-1800s, Bodega Harbor was the on-ramp to a swift, watery trip to gold rush booming San Francisco. To commercial fisherman in the early 1900s, it was a refuge and important safe harbor from the stormy Pacific Ocean. Except at high

water, Bodega Harbor was little more than a mud flat. Commercial viability was limited. In 1938, local interests finally persuaded the Army Corp of Engineers to build jetties and dredge a boat channel with turning basins for small craft. Project costs of over half a million dollars were partially paid with emergency wartime appropriations. The jetties and channels were completed in 1943, ready for defense as a strategic ocean harbor in time for World War II.

After World War II, before PG&E carved and paved its way to Atomic Park on Bodega Head, our fishing village was viewed as an asset waiting for Commercial Development. After construction of the jetties, Bodega Harbor became known as an important and welcome place to shelter in a storm, much safer than nearby San Francisco Bay. But Bodega Harbor still was without berths for boats once they got inside.

In 1959, a Santa Rosa consulting engineer proposed reconstruction of Bodega Harbor. The map above shows the plan. There were two channels and three boat basins. Roads were to be added between short canals and between the two basins. The natural environment would be drastically different. Dreams of Bodega Harbor story continues in the Fall Issue. ■



FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Meet Adrianus Gerardus Maria Boudewyn

by Janet Moore



Adri Boudewyn has a special connection with Salmon Creek. He smiles as he describes the uniquely tight-knit community filled with friendly, active and caring residents, many whom have become his best friends. Adri and his wife of 60 years, Waltrut, became Salmon Creek residents 30 years ago and share time between their coastal home and one in San Francisco.

Born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in 1938, Adri says that his is a "classic immigrant story". Growing up in Curacao and Canada, and guided by the Dutch cultural mores taught to him by his father, Adri approached the world being

industrious, punctual, respectful of elders, a good listener and of tidy appearance.

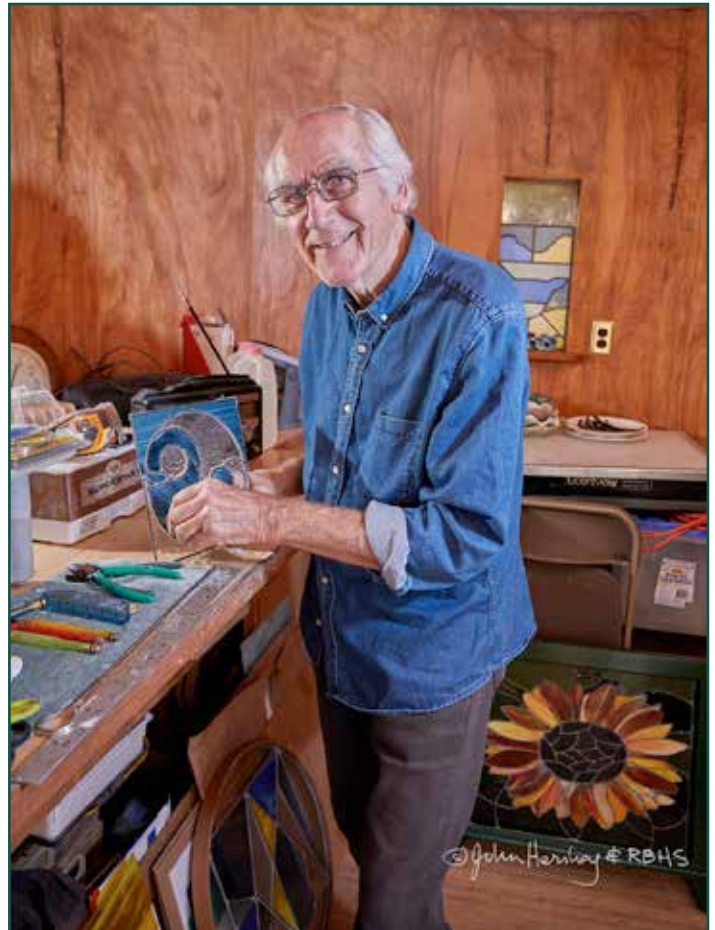
He was hired by The Ottawa Citizen newspaper (Canada) when 15 years old, he says, because he showed up promptly for the 6 AM interview. His interviewer was an 81 year old retired British Army major who did most of the talking because Adri's English was limited. He got the job as office boy on the night shift. Two years later he was promoted to reporter and the rewrite desk. By 1960 Adri was the youngest accredited reporter covering then President John F. Kennedy's visit to Canada.

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Thus was the start of Adri's award-winning career in communications and public relations with organizations including California Bankers Association, Bank of America, California Assembly Republican Caucus, Cunningham & Walsh Advertising and Public Relations Agency and the California Milk Advisory Board. The "California Happy Cows" campaign was his project as Communications Director and then CEO of the latter. Along the way he received a BA in Political Science from SF State University, helped raise a family with Waltrut, and acquired his US citizenship in 1979.

Adri retired in 2001 with a desire to undertake 3 specific hobbies; tap dancing, welding and creating stained glass. He tried them all yet it was the stained glass that ultimately appealed to him. He loves to cut glass and the more intricate the better. He can be found working in his studios (here and SF) creating special fine art pieces for friends and family. Adri also contributes his time to community organizations including Rancho Bodega Historical Society as past president and chair

of the 200-year anniversary celebration of Bodega Bay's historical Port Rumyantsev. The Bodega Bay community is quite fortunate to have such a talented and kind person as Adri Boudewyn. --June 2019 ■



A regular appearance in our quarterly newsletter, The Faces of Bodega Bay is a photojournalistic record of people in our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; a whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and help 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.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Story of William Doran, Gold Miner

Obituary (Alley, Bowen & Company Mortuary)

William Marion Doran was born in Hardin County, Tennessee, 13 Jan 1825. There he received a common school education, and lived until seventeen years of age when he proceeded to Fayette County, where he remained until the Fall of 1844, when he left his parents and settled in Washington County, Mississippi, where he engaged in farming until 1849, when he started via New Orleans to Gorgona Panama, and from there on foot across to Panama, a distance of twenty-two miles. After remaining here five weeks, he boarded the sailing vessel "Kingston," and after a voyage of fifty-five days landed in San Francisco, 25 Mar 1850. From here he took passage on the steamer Eldorado for Sacramento, thence on foot with blankets on his back he proceeded to Mud Springs in Placer County, a distance of forty-five miles, making the trip in two days. He mined gold with fair luck, and not wishing to pay thirty-two dollars per week for board, he soon set up housekeeping for himself. Paid two hundred dollars for a barrel of pork, seventy-five cents per pound for flour, and everything else in proportion.

He soon left this point and went to Eldorado County, remained three months, returned to Sacramento, purchased teams and began teaming to Nevada City. In Fall of 1850 he turned out his teams and followed mining. In March 1851 he returned to Sacramento and found that twenty-five head of his horses and mules had been stolen. After disposing of the balance of his stock he returned to the mines, meeting with rather poor success, and about the first of Oct. returned to Sacramento, thence to Dry Creek, Amador County, near Volcano, and mined with good success until March, 1852, when he again returned to Sacramento, from there to Sierra County.

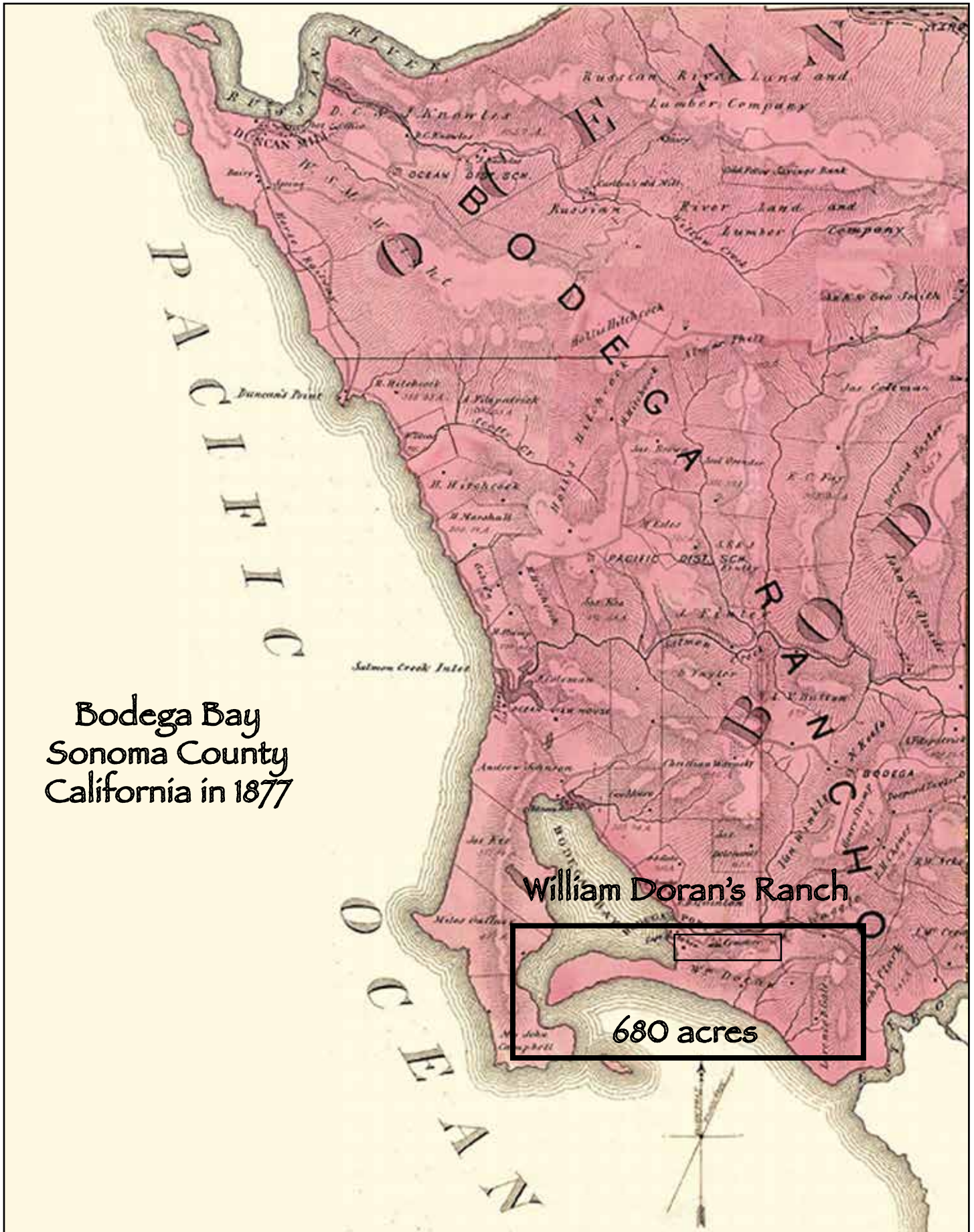
On Dec. 20th he was on his way back to Sacramento. He found the city under water, and the city found him with only five dollars in his pocket. But having an eye to business, he hired a boat at ten dollars per day, and conveyed provisions to Sutter's fort, clearing forty dollars the first day. On the third day he started for the mines: and after mining, prospecting, etc., in many different places until July 1856, we find him in San Francisco where he took the steamer "Golden Age," bound for the home in Tennessee. He remained there until July 16, 1857, when he returned to California via New Orleans.

After gold mining in all the principal mines in California and Idaho. In 1863, he went to Montana where he was successful; after traveling and prospecting for some time, he finally found a place where he took out ten thousand dollars in five weeks time. He then returned to San Francisco, and in June 1864, purchased his present ranch on Bodega Bay which he now owns. In 1867, he returned east, and in Dec. 1867, married in Hardin County, Tennessee to Sarah J. Hawk, she being born in 1843. He returned to California in February and settled on his ranch. In July 1872, he and wife visited the east, and returned in October. In 1877 he purchased a home at Bodega Corners and retired from the farm. Mr. D. has been flat broke five different times, but being well charged with that spirit that will not down, has succeeded and his efforts crowned. He now owns not only his property in town, but a fine farm of six hundred and eighty acres under good improvements. William and Sarah had four children: William James (Jan 1869), Josephine Elizabeth (Oct 1871), John Alexander (Aug 1873) and George Lafayette (Jan 1877). ■

William Doran

BIRTH 12 JANUARY 1823 • Tennessee

DEATH 30 APRIL 1897 • Santa Rosa, California



Bodega Bay
Sonoma County
California in 1877

William Doran's Ranch
680 acres

The Rancho Period and Mexican Land Grants

by Adrianus G. Boudewyn 2009

Soon after California became part of the United States in 1848, Congress established the U. S. Land Commission to reconfirm California land grants made under Mexican rule.

Doing so violated a treaty with Mexico to guarantee the property rights of Mexican residents in California and virtually invalidated all titles to land unless the occupants could present proof of ownership. All claimants were required to present their petitions for verification within two years or forfeit their rights.

One of the grants to survive was Rancho Bodega, owned by Captain Stephen Smith. In 1850, it was one of the 22 ranchos owned by individuals in Sonoma County, and covered 55 square miles from the Marin-Sonoma border to Russian River, encompassing the communities of Bodega, Bodega Bay, Salmon Creek, Carmet, Sereno Del Mar, Ocean View, and Bridge Haven.

The legal basis for these grants was provided under Mexican laws passed in 1824, 1828, and 1834. The grants were known as ranchos, which specifically meant cattle-raising ranches based upon land grants. Granting titles to land was a way for Mexico to get more people settled in sparsely populated areas on previously unused land. Many of these grants were awarded to soldiers, friends, or relatives of the various governors who ruled California between 1823 and 1846. Special preference was given to Mexicans who had served their country.

Mexican law limited the land to 11 square leagues (nearly 49,000 acres), but many were smaller and a few much larger. The law stated that no one could have more than one square league (about 4,400 acres) of farmland with irrigation, four leagues of land depended upon seasonal rainfall, and six leagues for cattle grazing. In reality, the vast ranchos were much too large to manage, with the result that new

settlers claimed parts of the same land and settled on it, leading to disputes and lengthy and expensive litigation.

Procedures to get a land grant were stipulated by law. It began with a letter addressed to the governor, asking for title to a specific tract of land, described verbally and by a map, called a *diseño*. The letter would state his Mexican citizenship, his military or civil service to the nation, and other eligibility, and would point out that the land was vacant and part of the public domain. The information given in the letter was the basis of the governor's decision unless he personally knew the land or the people requesting the land.

If the report was favorable, the governor issued a decree known as a *concede*, an official order for preparation of the title paper. The United States courts established later that the date of the *concede* marked the official and permanent separation of the tract of land from the public domain. The Governor would submit each grant to the territorial legislature for approval.

The certificate of title, generally had several conditions that had to be met within a year's time:

- 1) A structure had to be built and lived in;
- 2) The land was to be fenced and or enclosed leaving access to public roads, crossing, and easements;
- 3) That the rights of previous inhabitants, Indians, be preserved and protected;
- 4) That the Act of Juridical (legal) Possession act of legal possession define and measure the boundaries (often with fruit trees or forest trees). The Act of Juridical Possession was the nearest that California came to an official survey, and was the means of formally designating the boundaries satisfactory to the owner and to his neighbors. ■

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THANK YOU TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ernest Carpenter
Jim & Anne Heneghan

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW DONORS

David Lewis & Joan Poulos

If you have artifacts or stories of Bodega Bay History to contribute to RBHS, please reach out to Robin Rudderow, our Archivist at <RBHS@bodegamoons.net>

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**Rancho Bodega Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
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IN THIS ISSUE

William Doran



Adri Boudewyn



Adri has a special connection with Salmon Creek. He smiles as he describes the tight-knit community with friendly, active and caring residents. Adri and his wife of 60 years, Waltrut, became residents 30 years ago.

SUMMER EVENTS

SHELTER IN PLACE Almost all events in Sonoma County ARE CANCELLED, POSTPONED, OR RESCHEDULED, Museums and Exhibits are or will be closed, however, some organizations may have online (virtual) events.

BODEGA BAY COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET (Open) Memorial Day thru October, Sundays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Behind the Community Center. Formed to provide residents of Bodega Bay and surrounding communities with fresh, locally grown products and to provide farmers with a venue to sell their farm fresh products directly to the consumers. They offer the freshest, locally grown produce specializing in organic, heirloom and gourmet varieties of fruits and vegetables, beef, goat, duck, pork, poultry and fish. Also available are eggs, (duck and chicken), artisan breads, olive oils, premium goat and cow cheeses. They always have live music with picnic tables for hanging out listening to the band, a large space for dancing if your happy feet need to move and, if you brought the kids, a large field for just playing, flying kites or throwing the Frisbee for the dog.

SEAMAN'S CEMETERY The Rancho Bodega Historical Society is working with the Smith Family and Graton Rancheria to recognize and honor Native Americans and early settlers by respectfully marking a historic plot of land on Heron Drive in Bodega Harbour. Formerly owned by the Smith Family, Graton Rancheria holds the title to the burial ground overlooking the sea and Bodega Bay on one side. The other side overlooks the valley where Highway One winds among the steep hills and canyons of our Coastal Prairie below. <http://www.ranchobodega.org/seamans_cemetery2.pdf>

For more local events, visit our website. <<http://www.ranchobodega.org/events.html>>