

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bodega Bay Creamery was a working Creamery shipping dairy products to San Francisco. It began in 1912 and merged with the Bodega Creamery in 1916 and together they were called The Bodega Cooperative Creamery.

During Prohibition there were tales of bootlegging from 1919 to 1933 when Canadian Whiskey was brought under the buildings and repackaged in milk cans for shipment down to San Francisco. The Press Democrat remembered in a 1999 issue that in 1926, rum runners and prohibition agents, with machine guns on one side and automatic pistols on the other, fought it out on the beach near Bodega Bay.

The smugglers, apparently believing they were being attacked by hijackers, escaped to the sea under cover of machine gun fire. -- by Mary Jane Hutchinson 2015

Contribute Articles for our Newsletter, contact us at:

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Historical Society**
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Visit our new website: RanchoBodega.org



The RanchoBodega.org website is now active. You can visit to read our previous newsletters and past articles, see who we are, visit our store and look at some of our maps of Rancho Bodega and find out where we are located.

You'll also find a list of Events taking place around the Rancho Bodega area and other events that are of historical interest.

Rancho Bodega was a land grant in Sonoma County California given by Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltorena to Captain Stephen Smith in 1844.

BECOME A MEMBER !!

Enjoy the history of Rancho Bodega? Please join us. To subscribe for a year and receive the newsletter ... it's just \$15 (individual) (\$20 family) and supports the stories of Bodega Bay. Send an email to [Robin Rudderow](mailto:RBHS@bodegamoon.net) for details. RBHS@bodegamoon.net

WINTER EVENTS IN RANCHO BODEGA

WHALE WATCHING on Bodega Head. Every Saturday and Sunday, Jan-May 20th. Join docents from the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods as they help you spot the whales.

HERITAGE NETWORK QUARTERLY MEETING Saturday, January 13, 2018, 10:00 am. The Western Sonoma County Historical Society will host the meeting in the historic Burbank cottage at the Luther Burbank Gold Ridge Experimental Farm. 7777 Bodega Ave. Sebastopol, follow the sign to the Farm, drive past the cottage to Farm parking on the right, then walk back to the cottage.

UNDER WATER REPORT Friday January 19th, 6:00 pm Free! Research diver for the Bodega Marine Lab, Cynthia Catton, presents her story at the Bodega Bay Community Center, north of town on Highway One.

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Everybody knows Jim.

The proprietor of the Roadhouse Coffee, Jim Irving opens every morning at 5:30 AM, ready to serve coffee along with wisdom, an opinion and a smile. Riding the tide between non-stop holiday weekends and the doldrums of winter, Jim has more than just a coffee shop. He has a place for people to gather and relax, hear a story or two or visit with a friend.

Jim hears all about us, as we breeze through to grab a coffee and share a few snippets of our life. But what do we know about Jim? We know his three adult daughters, Libby (Elizabeth, married to Trevor Irving, nee Latta), Elena and Emma (married to Cole Nelson), their mother, Rebecca Betz Corrado, and Libby and Trevor's beautiful daughter, Elliot, who all live in the Bodega Bay area. Family is important to Jim and he celebrates finally having his family together in one place. It was a long road to get here.

Born in Portland in 1948 of a father who was a career Navy man, Jim's family moved around a lot, having attended 15 schools in 12 years. His happiest school years were his junior and senior years in Fallbrook, San Diego County California, notable because he spent two years in the same school. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1966, Jim was drafted into the US Army. He served in South Korea with the military police after the 'Pueblo Incident', when the Navy spy ship was attacked and captured by the North Korean forces on January 23, 1968.

A church goer and the child of a military man, Jim initially thought going to war was to help protect our country and constitution. But important events served to deeply crack the veneer on his world view. One was the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, while Jim was stationed in Korea; Again, when he watched American soldiers mistreat and even murder the locals they called 'gooks'; And again as he watched black and white soldiers bond over distrust of anyone 'foreign,' while the battle for civil rights raged on back home.



FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Discharged from the military in 1969 at age 21, with no resources or recognition of the horrors he had encountered, Jim endured a 7-year period of difficulty. Often homeless, when he could find a job he worked in restaurants and picked apples in Washington at harvest time. Finally he landed with a group devoted to the principles of George Gurdijeff, taking up residence from 1973 to 1982 at Oregon House in Yuba County California, where Jim helped the community build a winery by maintaining the mechanical equipment.

Moving to New York, Jim became involved in theater as an actor and producer. He co-founded The Hampton Theater, company which is still going. He is honored during each production with credits in the program. When Rebecca came into Jim's life in 1987 he left the theater, got married and drove across country, going back 'home' for Jim to California. After nearly eight years of marriage, they divorced and co-parented their daughters together.

Landing a job at the Bodega Marine Lab as a Senior Engineer in 1993, Jim and his daughters moved to a house up on Whaleship Road in Bodega Bay. The girls attended the then 53-student Bodega Bay School (which now has half that many students). After 8 years at the Marine Lab, Jim retired.

In July 2003 he purchased the Roadhouse Coffee shop, which was then located in a commercial building at 2001 Highway One, in front of the Bodega Bay RV Park and next to the Bodega Bay Community Center (2255 Highway One). In 2010, the shop relocated to its current location at the Blue Whale Building (1580 Eastshore Road in Bodega Bay).

Jim is grateful for the support of a small town in raising his three young daughters. When the girls moved to North Carolina to live with Rebecca, he kept the home fires burning and the coffee shop going in Bodega Bay. One by one, over the years, they all came back to Bodega Bay, as did Rebecca, and Jim couldn't be happier.

An ardent supporter of Bodega Bay, Jim has been involved in Bodega Bay in many ways over the years; parent volunteer at the Bodega Bay School, running the beer booth at the Fisherman's Festival while he worked at the Marine Lab, sitting on the Board of the Bodega Bay Community Center, speaking out against the expansion of the quarry in Cheney Gulch, operating the spot light at the annual Cabaret shows at the Grange and donating coffee to many public events.

At age 69, the family close by, a favored person in the community, Jim is seeking a new adventure, walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He left on September 12, 2017 and planned to be gone for two months, so he could fully explore and feel the essence of the trip.

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

An Irish Surveyor and an Italian Priest join together to build a “jewel in the crown of our county” St. Teresa of Avila, the Catholic Church in Bodega.

This is the story of two men born two hundred years ago. And how their life paths came together to build St. Teresa of Avila, our local Catholic Church in Bodega -- a jewel in the crown of our County. Jasper O’Farrell, a surveyor from Ireland and Father Louis Rossi, a Catholic priest from Italy.

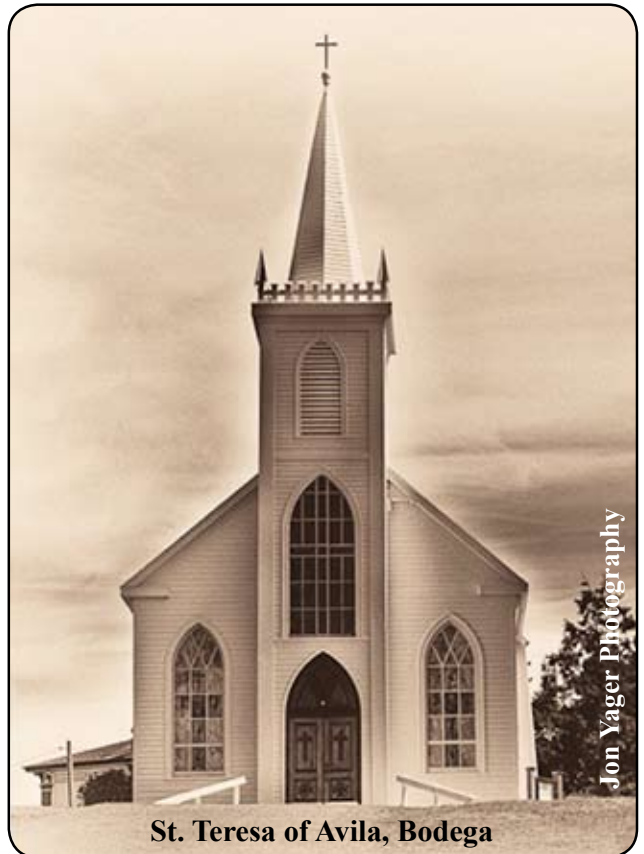
Finding life in British-ruled Ireland difficult, **Jasper O’Farrell** left his home country in 1840 and traveled by ship to Chile. Three years later at the age of 26, he traveled northward as a cooper on an American whaling ship where in Sausalito he jumped ship and began his life in Alta California.

Having studied civil engineering in Dublin, O’Farrell became a surveyor. Setting the boundaries for Mexican land grants, he became the official government land surveyor. Within 2 years of his arrival he plotted 24 land grants for 18 clients.

Not everyone was happy with O’Farrell when he corrected the lot lines bounded by Post, Leavenworth, Francisco Streets and the Bay by 2 ½ degrees because some people lost land with the correction. But the City was off to a good start so that in 1847, when San Francisco’s total population was 500, O’Farrell added another 444 new lots in “Happy Valley,” now downtown San Francisco. He chose street names based on prominent settlers and he named Valparaiso Street to honor that Chilean port where he used to live. (Editor’s note: I wonder if he had anything to do with naming of O’Farrell St. in San Francisco? Author Answers: No, I don’t think so, but it was named in his honor.)

Like many, gold fever struck O’Farrell in 1849 and he went to Bidwell’s Bar and Oroville to mine gold. Having only moderate success, he returned to Sonoma County and married Mary McChristian (whose last name may sound familiar to folks living in Salmon Creek). Jasper and Mary settled at Rancho Jonive located between Sebastopol and Freestone, naming their ranch “Analy” after O’Farrell’s ancestral home in Annaly, Ireland.

By then, nearby Bodega Port was one of the most active and important shipping points along the Pacific Coast. The lands all around were filling up with farms and ranches. Produce was shipped to feed the fast-growing population of San Francisco. O’Farrell capitalized on the boom as a farmer and land speculator continuing his operations through the purchase of Rancho Estero Americano in 1851. The 8,849-acre rancho encompassed the burgeoning town of “Bodega Corners” now called “Bodega.”



St. Teresa of Avila, Bodega

Jon Yager Photography

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

In Italy, **Father Louis Rossi** was born Jewish and converted to Catholicism. As a young man he entered the priesthood. In 1856, after being assigned to various European posts, the Church directed Father Rossi to accompany Bishop A.M.A. Blanchet on the long journey from Belgium to faraway Fort Vancouver (in what is now Oregon).

Father Rossi and the Catholic Bishop began their trip in Brussels, heading first to London. Their travels became arduous right away. Father Rossi described London as “perpetually under a cloud of smoke and filled with noxious exhalations.” They took an overnight train north west to Liverpool, where they boarded the ship “*Anglo-Saxon*.” At sea, Father Rossi spent the first four days “in [his] cabin ... in such a pitiful state of dejection that [he] wouldn’t have lifted a finger against death itself.”

The trip from Liverpool to the East Coast of Canada took about 10 days. (Underscoring the danger of this mode of transportation, several years after Father Rossi’s trip, the *Anglo-Saxon* sank off the coast of Newfoundland. 237 out of the 445 passengers died.)

Father Rossi and the Bishop remained on the *Anglo-Saxon* as she sailed up the Saint Lawrence River to Quebec. In Montreal they recruited five Sisters of Charity to be nurses and to accompany them to their destination on today’s Oregon Coast, Fort Vancouver. They traveled to New York and boarded the steamer “*Illinois*” for the long journey to Panama. The conditions must have been dreadful on this ship with accommodations for only 400 people that carried 975 not including the crew.

Next was a train journey that crossed the narrow Isthmus of Panama, “*in pouring rain and in heat that would have taken your breath away.*” Fortunately it was only two and a half hours to arrive on the Pacific side. Luxury was finally afforded the traveling clerics and nuns aboard the “*Golden Age*.” The three-story ship was roomy and comfortable and the service was good. They arrived in the bustling city of San Francisco in the fall of 1856.



Jasper O'Farrell 1843

By 1856 when Father Rossi arrived in San Francisco, O'Farrell was already well-settled in his Analy Ranch. But their acquaintance was not yet to be made as Father Rossi continued his journey with the Bishop and nuns to Fort Vancouver. They traveled by steamer in December up the coast to the Columbia River. A treacherous storm, described by Father Rossi as a hurricane, made traveling conditions terrifying. Relieved to find the safety of the Columbia River, they

finally reached their destination in Fort Vancouver just north of where Portland, Oregon is today.

After improving the ramshackle “Bishop’s Palace” Father Rossi turned his attention to learning English well enough to deliver a 30-minute sermon. With Port Townsend as his base he became the priest for the 300 Catholics in the Washington Territory. But he was frequently ill suffering from recurrent severe stomach cramps, chest and joint pains, high fever and likely afflicted with “Mediterranean Familial Fever,” a hereditary condition. After surgeries, probably to remove his appendix and gall bladder, did not improve his condition, Father Rossi asked to return to Europe. Bishop Blanchet granted his request but while waiting for a ship south to Panama, San Francisco’s Bishop Joseph Alemany asked Father Rossi to remain in California because there were so few priests. Father Rossi agreed and took responsibility for Catholics in the area from Crescent City to Santa Rosa. Traveling on the road in his Northern California territory, Father Rossi tended to his far-flung flock.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

Building an Icon. Meanwhile, Jasper O'Farrell had become well-known and well-liked in Sonoma County. In 1858 he was elected to the State Senate to represent Sonoma County. He was known for generosity and abundant hospitality, taking in any traveler who needed a place to rest, and sending the traveler off with cash in his pocket and food for his journey.

When in the Bodega area, Father Rossi stayed with the O'Farrells. As a respected Catholic home, O'Farrell's was the natural spot for the two men's lives to come together. They became great friends. Father Rossi wrote of the O'Farrell family, "I am anxious to declare now -- with inexpressible satisfaction and as an eternal monument of my gratitude -- that during the twenty-eight months I enjoyed his hospitality, I was always treated by him and his family as though I had been respectively father, brother, and most intimate friend. I take pleasure in thinking that they are sure of my friendship, my devotion, and my everlasting gratitude."

Father Rossi wanted to build Catholic Churches in Sonoma County and O'Farrell wanted a Catholic Church in Bodega Corners, so a plan was made. O'Farrell donated the redwood lumber, cash to pay the laborers and land from his Rancho Estero Americano to build St. Teresa's Church in 1859 / 1860. The church was named to honor Saint Teresa, the patron saint of Jasper O'Farrell's sister Theresa. Another gift to the Church was the 17th Century crucifix brought to California in 1843 by Peruvian Manuela Torres Smith, the wife of Grantee Captain Stephen Smith in neighboring Rancho Bodega. The crucifix remains beautifully displayed on St. Teresa's alter.



Jasper O'Farrell

Continuing poor health forced Father Rossi to ask Bishop Alemany for permission to return to Europe. On November 19, 1862 Father Rossi arrived in Brussels, Belgium -- an arrival celebrated after six years in the Wild West. He was encouraged to write his memoir, published in 1863. Later he moved to Paris where he lived until his death on September 9, 1871 at the age of 54. He is buried in Paris.

O'Farrell struggled financially in his later years. Rancho Jonive foreclosed in 1872. O'Farrell then became a State Harbor Commissioner with a large salary of \$175 a month, only to be forced to resign after being swept into a scandalous fraud allegation against a fellow board member. Then, when he thought he had found his mother lode in the Nevada silver mines, they were destroyed by fire in October 1875. Soon after on November 16, at the age of 58, O'Farrell died. His wife Mary, the mother of his eight children, preceded him in death in 1871. They are buried together at Calvary Cemetery in Bodega, remaining as members of the parish that built the church made famous by Ansel Adams iconic photo and somewhat erroneously by Alfred Hitchcock in his movie, *The Birds*.

The primary sources for this article were two books in the RBHS library. *Six Years on the West Coast of America* 1856-1862 is Father Rossi's memoir. It was translated and republished in 1983 by Ye Galleon Press. *Jasper O'Farrell: Surveyor, Farmer, & Politician* was originally the 1970 master's thesis of Geoffrey P. Mawn, This well-researched, delightfully written paper was rescued from obscurity by the Book Club of California, which published the thesis in book form in 2001.

These and many other stories await you in the archives of the Rancho Bodega Historical Society. If you would like to make an appointment to explore the archives, please contact: Robin Rudderow, RBHS Archivist - RBHS@BodegaMoon.net

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

Jim Irving

*Family man &
Shopkeeper
serving Bodega Bay*



Creating an Icon

*Ansel Adams captured
a 'jewel in the crown
of our county'*



*visit our new website:
RanchoBodega.org*

WINTER EVENTS IN RANCHO BODEGA

VOLUNTEER AT THE FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL? (April 14th & 15th 2018, Westside Park, Bodega Bay)

Did you know that when you volunteer at the Fish Fest, your service on behalf of RBHS qualifies us to earn proceeds from the Fisherman's Festival. Please sign up through RBHS. Watch your email box to step up or volunteer today by emailing Robin at RBHS@bodegamoon.net. Double your efforts in one short four hour shift.

CABARET IN BODEGA BAY! Friday Feb 23rd 7:00 pm, Saturday Feb 24th @ 6:00 & 8:30 pm. Tickets \$25, available at Candy & Kites, Roadhouse Coffee and Business Services. Produced by the Bodega Bay Community Center and benefits area non-profits.

ART CONSERVATION, PRESERVING YOUR OLD PHOTOS Saturday, January 13th, Sonoma Community Center, 276 E. Napa Street, Sonoma Historical Society, sponsor: Gawain Weaver, a professional photographic restorer. website: www.gawainweaver.com

CHOWDER DAY IN BODEGA BAY Saturday, January 27th. Select AM or PM. 10 am to 12 pm or afternoon 12 pm to 3 pm. Sells out in advance. website: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3176188

CRAB FEED Saturday, January 27th 6:00-9:00 pm. North Italian Cultural Foundation at St. Rose Parish Hall, 320-10th Street, Santa Rosa. 50% of the proceeds from this events will be donated to the North Bay Fire Relief Fund. Prepaid reservations only by January 23rd. website: www.nbicf.users.sonic.net/crab-feed-reservations/

WILD ABOUT MUSHROOMS Saturday, January 27th 9 am to 1 pm. Bohemia Ecological Preserve Bohemian Highway, Occidental. Fostering a love of the Land. website: www.landpaths.org