



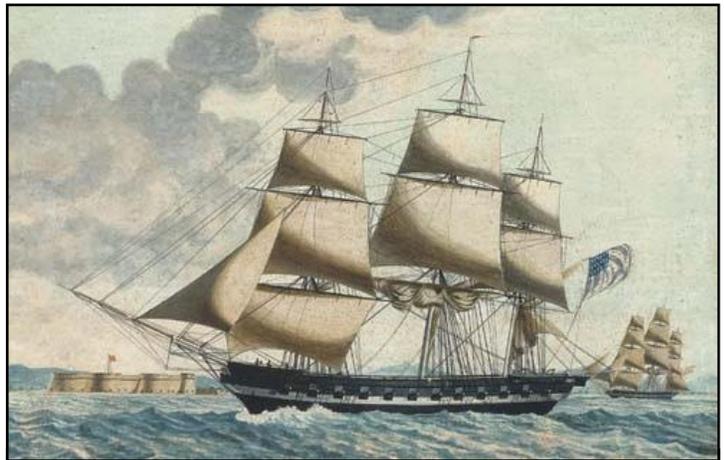
The First Hitchcock in Carmel Valley: Isaac Hitchcock (1817-1881)

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Isaac Hitchcock, the grandfather of Carmel Valley old-timer Joe Hitchcock, Jr., was born in the Rensselaer-Albany area of New York state. On May 17, 1838 the 21-year-old Isaac enlisted in the Army at Rochester, New York. He joined the newly formed Company G, 8th U.S. Infantry, stating his occupation as furnaceman. By 1839, he was posted at New York's northern border on the south bank of the St. Lawrence River. His first enlistment ended on May 16, 1841 at Ft. Brooke, Florida, located near today's Tampa, where he served during a portion of the Second Seminole War. Returning to New York, he reenlisted on October 29, 1841, not in the Infantry, but in Company F, Third Artillery. His third and final five-year reenlistment, on September 12, 1846, occurred aboard ship at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, while his company was sailing to California.

A momentous occasion in California history had occurred two months earlier when American ships were dispatched around Cape Horn to protect United States interests in the Pacific. Commodore John Drake Sloat, in command of four U.S. Navy vessels anchored off the coast of Mazatlán, Mexico, received orders to head north.

Sloat ordered his flagship, the frigate *USS Savannah*, to sail to Monterey, the capital of Mexican-held Alta California. He entered the harbor on July 2, 1846, joining the sloops *USS Levant*, the *USS Cyane*, and the *USS Portsmouth*. Four days later, on July 7, 1846, Commodore Sloat went into action. Early that morning, Captain William Mervine and several men of the *USS Cyane* went ashore to formally demand the Presidio's surrender. By then, the garrison soldiers had departed for Los Angeles, leaving Monterey and its defenses unguarded. The acting Mexican commandant had no authority to surrender. Accordingly, at ten o'clock that morning, about 250 American seamen and marines came ashore near the site of today's entrance to Old Fisherman's Wharf. They



At the outbreak of war with Mexico the USS Lexington, reportedly the ship on which Isaac Hitchcock's unit arrived in California, operated along the west coast of North America. During the conflict, she transported troops and assisted in the blockade.

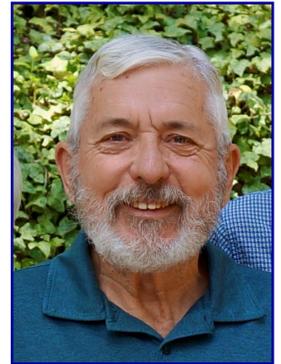


Sloat's landing at Monterey took place six months prior to Hitchcock's unit's arrival.

(See Hitchcock, page 4)

A Message from CVHS President Kim Williams

When I think about our historical society, there are three groups of people that make it all happen. Our **docents** create a welcoming environment for the visitors to our museum. Our **volunteers** do the work of the society, creating exhibits, processing donated artifacts, writing articles, managing the business aspects, and serving on the board or committees. And our **donors** provide the funding through memberships, donations and grants for everything we do. All of you have our appreciation for your commitment. And I recognize that many of you are in more than one of these categories. Double thank you, and triple thank you!



Kim Williams

Each year the Board hosts a **Christmas Party** as a way of saying thank you to our members, volunteers, docents and donors. This year we hope to see you on Saturday, December 3. It's always a great time to renew old acquaintances and perhaps make some new ones. See page 8 for details.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved, please reach out to our Volunteer and Docent Coordinator Cherie Ohlson (659-2986) or to me (659-1307). Or you can find a volunteer interest card on the welcome table at the museum.

Carmel Valley



"CAN WE STICK AROUND 'TIL DARK, DAD? I WANNA SEE 'EM ROLL UP THE SIDEWALKS!"

FIESTA

AUGUST 11 & 12, 1990

(At left) Kiwanian Mike Thatcher recently donated this classic Carmel Valley Fiesta poster to our collection. It's hard to believe that the Carmel Valley Kiwanis have been working to benefit our community for so many years.



(Above) Many of you will remember the busy lady from the Wills Fargo Restaurant. She and several other artifacts, including this candle holder were recently donated by Sidney Slade who with her late husband Frank Quilty owned Wills Fargo Restaurant for many years.

The Tolling of the Village Bell

By Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian



Many Valleyites passing by the Village Shopping Center may be unaware that a bell tower, its bell silent for many years, sits atop the shopping center building. The bell tower until recently has been obscured by a banner that the owner erected to thank the community for its support during the COVID pandemic. The banner has since been removed to once again reveal the bell tower to passersby.

The story behind the bell tower follows, a very poignant one for owners Annie and Jeff Conneau and family. The idea for a Village bell was suggested in a 1998 THE SUN newspaper article by Joe Fitzpatrick, contributing writer for the newspaper. In his article, entitled “**Ring dem Bells**”, Mr. Fitzpatrick recounted coming up with the idea over lunch with a colleague in the Village when both mused that the ringing of bells would be a nice addition to the charm of Carmel Valley Village. He went on to challenge the community to pursue the bell idea.

After reading Fitzpatrick’s article, Bruce and Elizabeth Springer, owners of the shopping center since the early 1970s, thought that the ringing of a bell at their shopping center during special community events was indeed a good idea. In turn, they also got their daughter Annie and her husband Jeff enthused about it. Annie and her daughter Laura then enthusiastically went looking for a bell and husband Jeff was poised to design and build a bell tower to house it.

Finding a suitable bell, however, was a challenge. After months of searching, they found a railroad bell in an antique shop in Oakhurst, California, not far from the entrance to Yosemite National Park. It is believed that the bell likely came from one of the steam locomotives of the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company railroad that operated there until the 1930s. Including its yoke, the 12-inch diameter bronze bell weighs in at about 8 pounds.

Jeff then went to work constructing the bell tower. Unfortunately, the family then received devastating news: Bruce was diagnosed with terminal cancer. This caused Jeff to put his bell tower work into high gear so the family could dedicate it in his honor before he passed away. In early 1999, just prior to Mr. Springer’s death, the dedication ceremony took place.

(See **Dem Bells**, page 5)

(Hitchcock, from page 1)

marched to the Custom House, ran up the American flag and captured the town unopposed. To mark the victory, the American ships fired a 21-gun salute.

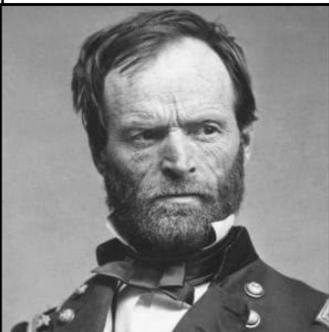
Following the fall of California’s capital to the American forces at Monterey, the rest of the Alta California towns soon surrendered, and control of the Mexican territory passed to the United States.

At the time, PVT Isaac Hitchcock's unit was still on its way to California but did not sail into Monterey until January 28, 1847. With the unit's arrival, the Presidio of Monterey officially became an American military post. The 113-man Company F, Third U.S. Artillery, under CPT Christopher Q. Tompkins, and the United States Army, quickly assumed responsibility for the continuing construction of Fort Mervine. The fort was located on the lower portion of the Presidio grounds near the former Mexican El Castillo.

By September 1847, under LT Henry Halleck, Hitchcock's company had completed the earthwork redoubt, which was then mounted with cannon and mortars on wood platforms. The men of Company F were quartered across the gorge from the Presidio in a 100 x 17-foot two-story log structure that sat next to another six-room log building housing the officers.



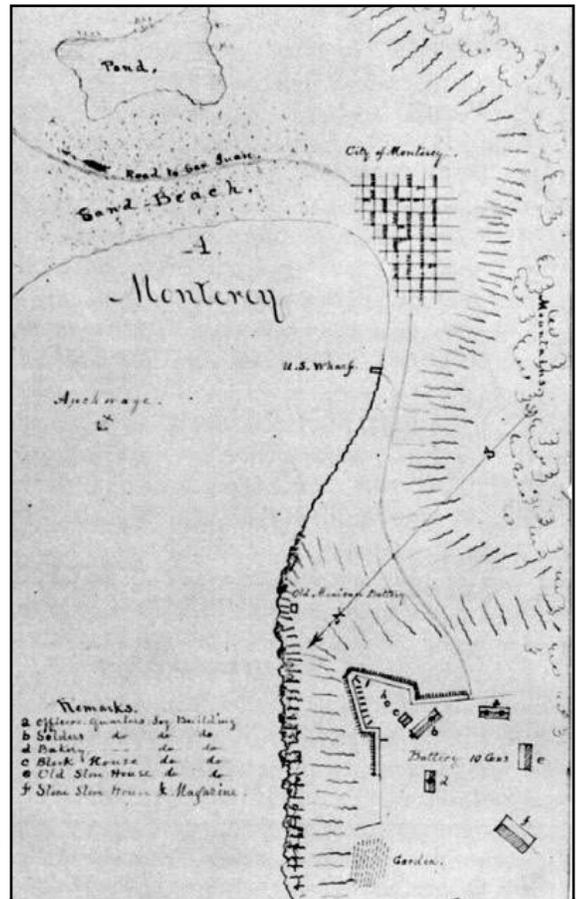
General Edward O.C. Ord



General William Tecumseh Sherman

Soon-to-be famous names among the company's five officers were two Artillery first lieutenants who would become Civil War Generals: Edward O.C. Ord and William Tecumseh Sherman. Army Engineer LT Henry W. Halleck, charged with the construction of fortifications at both Monterey and San Francisco, also became a prominent general.

On September 12, 1851 when his enlistment was up, PVT Isaac Hitchcock was honorably discharged at the Presidio of Monterey. He later married Magdalena Peralta, the daughter of Antonio Peralta and Loreta Onesimo Peralta Meadows. They had one son, Joseph Hitchcock, Sr., born in 1856. The family lived in Arroyo Seco. Isaac received a brief mention in Engineer William Brewer's volume, "Up and Down California," when in late May, 1860, while on a California survey expedition up Carmel Valley, Brewer came upon the Hitchcock residence in Arroyo Seco and wrote, "We struck a fine stream of water that flows toward the Salinas plain at Soledad...It was a swift clear stream, and good water on that trip was one of our luxuries. It has been long since I have tasted *good* water. Here we found a little ranch, Hitchcock's. The owner was talkative, asked for papers, showed us some fine



Early sketched map of Monterey Bay showing the location of Fort Mervine at the Presidio. Fort Mervine was constructed by Isaac Hitchcock's unit.

(See Hitchcock, next page)

(Hitchcock, from previous page)

quicksilver ore, but was too shy to tell us where he found it. He only said it was back in the mountains—'A hell of a place to get to'—which I can easily imagine, if it is six miles farther in than we were, as he said it was."

Sadly, Joe Hitchcock, Jr. never knew his grandfather Isaac, who died in 1881, the same year Joe, Jr. was born. Doubtless, he heard details concerning Isaac's service record passed on as a proud family legend.

According to Joe, Jr., it seems Isaac never forgot his Artillery and Presidio years. In a 1957 *Carmel Valley News* column, he related an anecdote told to him by two of his grandfather's good friends, Joaquin Botiller and Jose Antonio Garcia:

At one of the Fourth of July celebrations held in Monterey, my grandfather was appointed to fire the old muzzle-loading cannon that stood at the Presidio of Monterey. After much shooting, my grandfather got tired of his job and wanted to join in the festivities with the others, so he told his friend, 'This is my last shot!' When he loaded the cannon, he left the ramrod in the barrel and when he fired, the ramrod was shot out into the bay and he could not load the cannon anymore, so joined the merrymakers downtown. 🏠

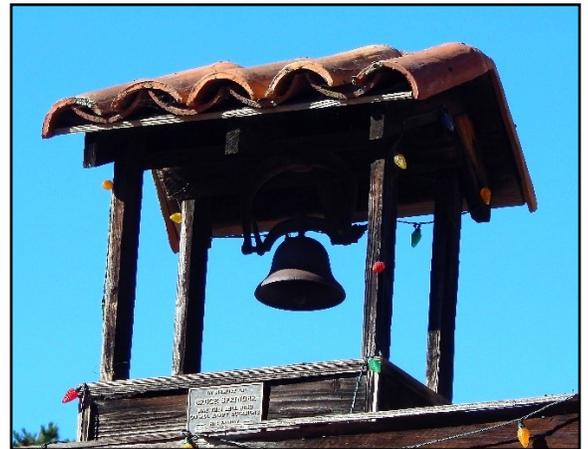


Early sketch of Monterey as it might have appeared to the artist during the time Hitchcock served at the Presidio.

(Dem Bells from page 3)

The adobe-brick roof bell tower has the plaque shown below affixed to it. The family continues to cherish the sentiment behind it, and awaits its future tollings **"ON ALL HAPPY OCCASIONS"** as stated on the plaque.

The family now hopes to resurrect the original idea to toll the bell at special community events. Valleyites should keep an ear peeled for the unmistakable and nostalgic "ding-dong-ding" sound of this old steam locomotive bell at Santa Fly-Ins and other events.



If newsman Joe Fitzpatrick were still alive, he would rejoice at the sound of a bell ringing in the Village – knowing his **"Ring dem Bells"** idea had actually come true. 🏠

Note: A special thank you is accorded to Annie Conneau for her passionate assistance in the telling of this story.

HISTORY CENTER EXPANSION PLAN UPDATE

By Jeff Ohlson

One of the preliminary steps necessary in the plan to expand our space has been to find new homes for the farm implements that have been on display in back of the History Center since its opening in 2013. These antique implements came from the old Berta Ranch just east of the Village and now have new homes either at Village Ranches (old Berta Ranch) or down at the Hacienda Hay & Feed facility. The last remaining artifact, a large redwood wine vat, has recently been moved to its new home in Carmel Valley. Therefore, our original goal to keep all of these historical artifacts in the Valley has been realized.

The area in back of the History Center is now vacated to make room for the History Center expansion project. We have preliminary concepts of the expansion along with how the added space can best be utilized for future exhibits, artifact storage, and community use.

Keep an eye out for future updates on this important aspect of the future of the History Center.



Volunteers in Action



Dave Chaney removes the last of the artifacts from the old farm equipment exhibit space. That space is now freed up for the anticipated expansion of the History Center building. (Photo by Jeff Ohlson)

Financial Contributions (Aug, Sept, Oct)

General Fund: Pam Austin, Gwen DeAmaral, Holman Ranch, Jennifer Johnson, Christopher Manke, Nick & Kathy Nicholson, Tom Oliver, Val & Jar Pakis, Karl Pallastrini, David Potter, Nancy Prior, Suzanne Taunt, Dave & Debbie Terdy, Reid & Karen Woodward

Grants: California Upjohn Foundation

Tiles: Virginia Holine, Ellen McGrath

Thank you all for your generous support!

Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials (Aug, Sept, Oct)

Anonymous Donor: Wooden and ceramic tile hot plate made from materials salvaged from the home of Willie Belle Mason at 109 Robles del Rio, Carmel Valley, CA.

Jim Costello: Three plats dated December 1859 of Ranchos El Potrero de San Carlos and San Francisquito, that later became the Sargent Ranch, then became Rancho San Carlos, and now is The Preserve; a map dated 1912 of the "Sargent Lands" depicting boundaries of the original Spanish land grants Rancho El Potrero de San Carlos and Rancho San Francisquito.

Carole & Frank Ehrhardt: "Douglas Ranch" sign that hung over the entrance gate for many decades.

Janice Hawkins: Vintage picnic basket which originally belonged to Margaret Gardner of Blue Sky Lodge (or possibly her parents) measuring 12x6¹/₂x8 and includes: 2 teacups with saucers, 2 spoons, napkins, metal teapot and flask, glass bottle with screw top and two metal food tins.

Julie Jenkins: Photos, maps and handmade rain stick signed by firefighters and other locals made during the 1999 Los Padres Basin Fire.

Deonna Jeffries: Turquoise and copper colored wooden sign from local boutique shop "Diamond Horseshoe" that was owned by Deonna Jeffries from 2006-2009 - sign made by her husband Dwayne.

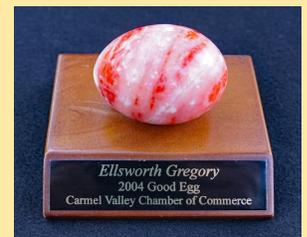
Mr. & Mrs. Martin McAuley: 29x35 framed painting of CV's Boronda Adobe. Martin McAuley acquired it from Alice Henson, who bought it in a gallery in Palm Springs. Inscribed on back: "Gift of artist Lee (Mrs. Lloyd) Tevis, January 10th, 1978 to Malcom Millard for and of the Boronda Adobe."

Carmel Valley Kiwanis/Mike Thatcher: Mounted 18x24 CV Fiesta poster for the August 11th & 12th 1990 Fiesta, signed by Hank Ketcham, depicting Rosie's Cracker Barrel and Dennis the Menace saying to his father "Can we stick around 'til dark Dad? I want to see 'em roll up the sidewalks!"

Steve Wendt: Mounted boar's head, taken in Carmel Valley in the 1980s.



Good Eggs of Carmel Valley Honoring Over 70 Years of Community Volunteers



The Carmel Valley Historical Society is proud to announce its newest exhibit, *Good Eggs of Carmel Valley – Honoring Over 70 Years of Community Volunteers*. Started in 1953 by the Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce, outstanding citizens have been honored for donating their time, energy and talent to make Carmel Valley a better place to live. We are proud to preserve this important part of Carmel Valley History.

The exhibit will debut December 3rd at our annual Christmas party.

Carmel Valley Historical Society

WEB  carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org
 Carmel Valley History Center
 EMAIL cvhs3@live.com
 CALL (831) 659-5715
 WRITE PO Box 1612
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612
 VISIT 77 West Carmel Valley Road
 Virtual Tour carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org

History Center Museum

SATURDAYS 1-4

SUNDAYS 11-2

Board of Directors

Kim Williams	President
Gary Tate	Vice President
Dave Terdy	Treasurer
Cherie Ohlson	Secretary
Elizabeth Barratt	Recording Secretary
Jane Chaney	Member
Jeff Ohlson	Member
Ellsworth Gregory	Member Emeritus
Historians:	Elizabeth Barratt
	Jeff Ohlson
Newsletter Production:	Kim Williams

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 PO BOX 1612
 CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924-1612
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 SALINAS, CA
 PERMIT NO. 164

Upcoming Events

December 3 (Saturday) CVHS Christmas Party and Opening of the Good Eggs of Carmel Valley Exhibit
 3:00-6:00 PM at the History Center

December 3 (Saturday) Christmas Tree Lighting:
 5:00-6:00 PM in the Park

December 10 (Saturday) Santa Fly-In:
 11:00 AM—East of Griggs Nursery at the old Carmel Valley Airfield



Share us  to your Facebook page:
 Carmel Valley History Center

Please come and join us at our annual
Christmas Party



Saturday, December 3, 2022
from 3:00 to 6:00 PM
at the CV History Center
77 West Carmel Valley Road



Come visit with old friends, meet some new friends,
 greet your board members, and see our newest exhibit, *Good Eggs of Carmel Valley*.
If you can, please bring a finger-food hors d'oeuvre or dessert, or a bottle of white wine.

*For more information, email Kim at CVHSPresident@gmail.com.
 Or call the History Center - 659-5715.*