



Guest House Museum

Dot Johnson

Voice of The Past

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The Fort Bragg - Mendocino Coast Historical Society's headquarters:

The Guest House Museum
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HOURS VARY SEASONALLY

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From the Editor's Desk...

As we enter a late, cool spring, following a very rainy winter that delivered roughly twice the average rainfall to most of our area, the resulting bloom of wild rhododendrons and other natives in the forest is spectacular indeed! Man may be a proud gardener, but he must take his hat off to Mother Nature!

We have been busy as well developing new permanent displays at the Guest House Museum in honor of the Centennial of the 1906 Earthquake. If you haven't gotten in to see the new displays, do put it on your agenda. You'll be amazed by what happened here in 1906!

Also for the 100th Anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake, your historical society has published its first book, collecting the eye witness accounts of what happened in the San Andreas Fault zone north of San Francisco illustrated by many photos and maps of described ground motions. The book, launched at the Guest House on 22 April, is attracting attention from locals as well as from visitors to our area.

In fact, two seismologists from the U.S. Geological Survey (Menlo Park) now own copies of our book. Jack Boatwright is doing his own study of the San Andreas zone for which he is creating "Shake Intensity Maps". Carol Prentice, sponsored by FB-MCHS, presented a program about her work in Fort Bragg on 18 May. She has worked along the San Andreas north of Point Arena and is currently trenching on the Mayacamas Fault in Willits.

Although we are historically aware that this is a major seismic zone, we hope these new studies will generate new understanding for how to make our area safer for the towns and people who live and vacation here. ☺

The President's Message...

As our President is up to his panta-loons preparing for the upsurge in popular summer brews, the Editor is Ghost Writing his column, based on mutually agreed upon topics.

First, a quick update on the progress of repairs at the Guest House. Although the new permanent displays for the Centennial of the 1906 Earthquake opened on April 18th; only the first floor is as yet open to the public.

The new fire suppression system has been installed, as have the beautiful new (old-style) lighting fixtures. Electricians have run new wiring, and a plasterer is refinishing the ceilings upstairs. Daytime or evening functions will soon be possible in the beautifully refurbished Victorian.

Second, four of Wonacott's huge panoramic negatives are being worked on at the Northeast Document Conservation Center [NDCC]. Nitrate negatives gradually deteriorate over time, becoming highly flammable and even explosive. The images are being transferred onto safety film, printed onto acid-free photo paper, placed into archival protective sleeves and cartons, and digitized.

When they are completed, FB-MCHS will prepare a special viewing of the local history that they preserve. The current plan is to exhibit these four high quality examples of local history. FB-MCHS will fund raise to preserve at least 35 of the 52 surviving negatives.

We recently got a glimpse of the process when WGBH, a public T.V. station in Boston, visited NDCC and produced a video program about them. One of the items that is briefly seen being worked on is one of our giant negatives!

FB-MCHS is trying to obtain a copy. If you can access video clips with your computer, you can view it at:

www.greaterboston.tv

1906 Earthquake Photos and Comparisons – 1966, 2006

By Sylvia E. Bartley

One hundred years ago Fort Bragg was struck by the same great earthquake that devastated San Francisco. Only San Francisco, Santa Rosa and Fort Bragg suffered fires in addition to the violent shaking, estimated to have lasted about 45 seconds here. The longer the shaking lasts, the greater the destruction.

C.R. Johnson, founder of the Union Lumber Company and the city of Fort Bragg, wrote about the earthquake in his memoirs:

"The quake wakened me.... I hastily threw on some clothes and went down to the mill — which was a good deal of a wreck. The mill building had an angle of about twenty degrees. The smokestack had fallen down; the furnaces were down too...and the fire was imminent. The firemen [from the mill's power house] reported that the pipe connections were all broken and there was no chance to get water.

"Luckily there was a locomotive under steam...and got the locomotive close to the Power House...they connected the locomotive boiler with the fire pump which could get

1906 →



1966 →



water from the mill pond. We...put out the fires and removed all danger from the mill.

"The town's water pipes were broken and no water was available. The [White House] hotel and several other business buildings were already on fire. Captain Hammar, of the Steamer *National City*, which was lying alongside the wharf at the time, came up to the mill with some sailors and gathered all the hose he could find and got water on the burning buildings."

"Thanks to Captain Hammar and the mill's firemen the fire was extinguished and part of the city was saved."

Many people were left homeless with only the clothes on their backs. However, disasters can bring out the innate goodness in people, and Fort Braggers helped one another with whatever they had.

C.R. reportedly gave out food, clothing and blankets from the Company store as long as the stock lasted. He supplied lumber for rebuilding on credit. Mill repairs were immediately begun. Demand for lumber to rebuild San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Rosa and other cities kept the Union Lumber Company working at full capacity. The tragedy proved to be a boom time for the lumber business.

2006 →



Constructed in 1904, the brick Bank of Fort Bragg at 319 Main St. narrowly escaped destruction in the 1906 earthquake. Braced with heavy timbers from the mill, it was reinforced and resumed its service as a bank. The Coast National Bank building was rebuilt in 1914, and remodeled in 2005. The business located there in 2006 is Redwood Investments. To the north, Union Lumber Company's Guest House lost five of its seven chimneys in the '06 quake.



Southeast corner of Redwood and Main Streets. The corner saloon was demolished. To the right was Rudolph's Barber Shop which had been converted into a saloon. Note the man carrying a barrel. The same site in 1966 housed Club Fort Bragg, a liquor store and Coast Hardware, which later became Rexall Pharmacy. In 2006, the Headhunter's Salon is on the corner; Seal Internet Cafe is next door. Cowlick's Ice Cream and Taka's Grill are in the Wind and Weather building, where Rexall Pharmacy was.



The brick IOOF building totally collapsed. To its right was Fort Bragg's hospital and upstairs, the offices of Doctors McCornack and Landrum. On the first floor was Baum's Pharmacy. In 1966 the rebuilt IOOF hall housed the Christian Science Reading Room, to the north was the State Theater. In 2006 CPR, (computer and printer repair) is in the front part of the Oddfellow's Hall. The Restaurant has been located in the old hospital building since 1973.



1906 →



1966 →





2006 →

After the earthquake, the Union Lumber Company's Guest House yard became a salvage area for the businesses across Main Street, including the destroyed Shafsky Brothers store. By 1966 the bay windows on the Leiser building had been removed. In 2006 businesses visible across the street include Carol Hall's Hot Pepper Jelly, Out on a Limb, EggHead's Restaurant, Windsong, Nit's Cafe and Coast to Coast Hardware.

→



The Northeast corner of Main and Laurel was originally Weller Hall. In 1906, it was occupied by Windlinx Plumbing, which had to be torn down and rebuilt. In 1966, a larger building, the Fort Bragg Drug Store was located there, with a soda fountain on the ground floor. To the north is the P.G.&E. company's office. In 2006, P.G.&E. is still there and Fiddles and Cameras occupies the corner building. The traffic signal at the intersection was installed in 2005.



The northwest corner of Franklin and Laurel Streets. The Franklin to McPherson block from where this photo was taken was totally destroyed by the fire that followed the earthquake. The same location in 1966 was occupied by the rebuilt Hardell's store. This building, was Fort Bragg Floors in the 1970s and 80s. In 1990 it was remodeled and housed Wind and Weather until last year. In 2006, left to right, North Soles, Essentially Hair, Ballard and Dodge, and E.R. Energy are the businesses located there.



Looking east from the Guest House Museum lawn. [300 block, Main St.] In 1906 the Shafsky Brothers store, a brick structure was also a total loss. To the left was a dry goods store and office for Wells Fargo Express. To its right was a restaurant whose Chinese proprietor, Le Poie, was killed by falling bricks. In 1966, in this location, there was Alton's candy store, Polly's Glass Craft Shop and Redwood Coast Realty. In 2006, Edgewater Gallery, Spunky Skunk and For the Shell of It, are in these buildings.

**IMPACT OF THE CIVIL WAR
ON FORT BRAGG 1861 – 1865
Part II – Amos & Jack Ingram
By Wilbur Lawson**

At Fort Colville, Company D had engaged in a number of actions against Indians in the gold rush area near the John Day River. The Company D men from the area near Petaluma would have been aware that soldiers at Fort Bragg were not actively involved in any kind of action. Did these men wish to continue that duty instead of idling in Fort Bragg?

**SPECIAL ORDERS
HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC NO. 132.5
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
AUGUST 1, 1862.**

4 Companies B, C, and D, Second Infantry California Volunteers, under the command of Maj. James F. Curtis, will proceed, on the steamer leaving this port on the 5th instant, to the District of Humboldt. One of the above-named companies, to be designated by Major Curtis, will garrison Fort Bragg, relieving Captain Moore's company. The other two companies will debark at Fort Humboldt. Capt. R. W. Kirkham, assistant quartermaster, will make the necessary arrangements for transportation.

By order of Brigadier-General Wright:
RICHD. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

**HEADQUARTERS
HUMBOLDT MILITARY DISTRICT**

Fort Humboldt,
August 10, 1862.
Maj. R. C. DRUM, U. S. Army
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Pacific.

MAJOR: Major Curtis arrived here on the 7th instant with Companies B and C, Second Infantry California Volunteers. Company D had been landed at Fort Bragg. The steamer that carries this will undoubtedly take down Captain Moore's company of Third Infantry California Volunteers, stationed there, as they have long been ready to embark. Fort Baker is at such a distance that it will require eight days to bring Captain Ketcham's company here. It will be ready to embark in the next steamer, as will also Captain Johns' company. The latter company would have been ready by this steamer but for the recent attacks by the Indians on the settlements near Redwood Creek, which made it impossible to call in the detachment of twenty men of that company at Elk Camp under Lieutenant Anderson, as I had intended to do.

The three companies from the north arrived here much reduced. Company C has only sixty men, having lost thirty by desertion on the march from Fort Colville. Company D lost forty men in the same way, having only forty left. Company B numbers fifty-nine, including a detachment of nineteen men left at Umpqua, and expected here in the next steamer.

Lieutenant Staples, Third Infantry California Volunteers, has returned from his pursuit of the five men under sentence who had deserted, as reported in my last letter. He succeeded in finding and bringing back three of them, Kelly, Smithy, and Brennan.

Company E, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, left here for Red Bluff on the 5th instant. They would have left on the 4th but the mule train did not arrive here till the evening of that day. Lieutenant Daley is in command.

Unfortunately, a few days before, Captain Akey had a personal difficulty with a citizen at Eureka, who most grossly insulted him, the result of which was that the captain was bound over in the sum of \$1,500 to appear and answer for an assault before the court of sessions here on the second Monday of this month. Proceedings have been taken within a day or two by which his appearance is postponed to the second Monday of October next. Captain Akey will therefore proceed by this steamer to join his company by the way of San Francisco, and will probably arrive at Red Bluff before his company reaches there.

Of course, in order to save his bondsmen and his honor, Captain Akey will be obliged to appear before the court here on the second Monday of October, even if he should have to resign in order to do so. I trust that the convenience of the service will allow such arrangements to be made as will enable him to fulfill his obligation.

Instead of twelve surplus saddles, Captain Akey found he had only five to turn over. Seven more will be absolutely necessary for express purposes. No citizen can now be hired to carry dispatches at any price unless we furnish him an escort, and if we must send an escort, we may as well send it without the citizen and save the expense. Our need of regular expresses is so urgent that I shall probably have to order the purchase of seven more saddles without waiting to hear from below. On the 4th instant Lieutenant Fairfield returned here with a detachment of Company K, Second Infantry California Volunteers, and forty Indian prisoners, most of them bucks. The whole number of Indians now at this post is 462. At Fort Baker, where twelve more warriors of Las-Sic's band have just come in, 212; total, 674. On the night of the 6th instant a party of about thirty Indians attacked a Mr. Humphreys on the trail four miles from Fort Gaston. A shower of bullets pierced his clothes, his saddle, and his mule. He escaped through the dense undergrowth to Fort Gaston. Colonel Olney immediately sent out small detachments in every direction, some scouring the woods while others were lying in ambush. They returned the next

day, having found only the tracks of the Indians, which they traced into the thicket, where they were lost. Lieutenant Swasey having been verbally informed by you that a leave of fifteen days to my adjutant, Lieutenant Hanna, would be approved by the department commander, he goes down by my permission on this steamer, without waiting for the reply to his written application, as his services can be better spared for the next fifteen days than at any other time.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS J. LIPPITT,
Col. Second Infantry California Vols.,
Comdg. Humboldt Mil. Dist.

P. S. Lieutenant Hanna has leave till the steamer of September 5.

FORT BRAGG, CAL,

August 11, 1862.
First Lieut. JOHN HANNA, Jr.,
Adjutant Second California Vol. Infantry,
Fort Humboldt:

SIR: I have the honor to report that agreeably to the inclosed Special Orders, No. 1, dated headquarters Battalion Second California Volunteer Infantry, Steamship Panama, August 5, 1862, I arrived at Fort Bragg, Cal., with Company D, Second California Volunteer Infantry, on the 7th, and relieved Capt. Jer. B. Moore, Third California Volunteer Infantry, at that post this day.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. B. HULL,

Captain, Second California Volunteer Infantry, Commanding Post.

In any case, in June of 1862, on the march from Fort Colville to Vancouver to catch the boat to Fort Bragg, 40 of the 80 men in Company D deserted from the California 2nd Infantry, along with substantial numbers of men from the other Companies.. Both of the Ingrams were among those who deserted. G. W. Lawson is not recorded as a deserter. He does appear back in Tennessee after the war. Reports there say he had been in Oregon.

The next record I have found of Amos Ingram is as a Deputy Sheriff in Baker County, Oregon, in 1863, calling himself Alfonso or Alfonzo Ingram. Baker County is directly south of Fort Colville on the Columbia River, so Amos had gone back very near to the area where Company D had been stationed.

Or did he go there because of a romantic connection? In 1863 he was married to Louisa Ann (John) Springer in La Grande, Oregon. Louisa Ann was then 37 and Amos/Alphonso, was 29. Louisa Ann had a son, Charles Springer, who was 18. Alphonso was active as a deputy sheriff there in several recorded actions on the John Day River, where a gold rush was still in full swing and there was much friction between Indians and miners.

On June 22, 1864, it was announced in Portland that A.B. Ingram had been commissioned by the newly made Governor Gibbs as a Lieutenant in the 1st Oregon Territory Infantry Volunteers, Company K.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF HUMBOLDT

Fort Humboldt, Cal.

October 1, 1864.

Lieut. Col. R. C. DRUM, U. S. Army,
Asst. Adj. Gen, Headquarters Department of the Pacific:

SIR: Department Special Orders, No. 204, of 22d ultimo, were received at this post day before yesterday (September 29). In compliance therewith Companies B, C, and E, Second Infantry California (page: 998) Volunteers, embark to-day for the Presidio of San Francisco per steamer Panama. An order is also issued from these headquarters to Captain Hull, at Fort Bragg, to proceed with his company (D, of the Second Infantry California Volunteers) to the same destination and by the same conveyance. The fact that the orders were not left here on the upward trip of the steamer rendered it impracticable to communicate, be prepared to embark one week from to-day (October 8, 1864).

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

S. G. WHIPPLE.

In 1865, John Ingram married Emma Reed in Modoc Co., Cal, although still on the Company K roles. On November 1, 1865 John Ingram, 1st Sgt., surrendered as a deserter from California Company D. On January 2, 1866 Jack was restored to duty without trial through a general order from Washington, perhaps related to the release of War Prisoners and other offenders following Lincoln's death.

All of the California Volunteer 2nd Infantry Company D deserters were pardoned in military records dated April 29, 1886, which removed charges of desertion dating from 1863. Throughout the Civil War desertion was common in both the Union and Confederate Armies. The cause was usually the men being needed at harvest time. In fact, the Battle of Fredericksburg was fought with 40% of the men AWOL.

In the 1870 Census Amos was living in Ukiah Township and Anderson Valley people knew him as "Cap Ingram". In December of 1880, ill with smallpox, Amos was brought to his parents' home near Calistoga. Five of the family died of it. Their graves may have been moved to make way for the new highway.

[Editor: Anyone wishing more information on these families should check with Wilbur Lawson.]

Historical Walks in the Redwoods

For the fourth year, FB-MCHS Board members, Denise Stenberg and son, Mike Stenberg, invite you to join them on walks in the redwoods. The walks are scheduled for three Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

June 25th: a Natural History walk to the Mud Flats. On Cahto Peak, the Pudding Creek watershed, and a few other locations on the North Coast, there are fields of mud pots. The most active ones build up into small “volcanoes” in the spring following the winter rains, then dry out in late summer or fall.

Mud volcanoes are thought to be the result of compression between the oceanic Pacific Plate and the continental North American Plate along the San Andreas Fault zone. Rain water enters the soil and flows along underground layers of rock or clay. Tectonic pressure increases with depth until the water is pushed back up to the surface, mixed with silt and clay. Some of the mud pots appear to “boil,” the result of carbon dioxide bubbling up from decaying organic matter in the silt and clay mixture. The mud is cold and “volcanic” only in the forms they create.

July 9th & July 23rd: historical walks through the area where the saw mill and town of Glen Blair once flourished. In addition to walking through the town and mill site, they will tell stories and bring maps and old photographs.

Conditions: The walks will cover between one and two miles, some of it over uneven terrain. Bring water, sun protection, and wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing to walk through stickers. You will be on private property.

Sponsors: The walks are sponsored by the Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society and the Guest House Museum.

Contact information: To sign up, or for more information, call Denise: (707-964-2404) or Mike: (707-964-7177).



“Mud volcano”, circa 1940 by Denise Stenberg

Photographers Credit: Pages 2 – 5

- ♦ Most of the photographs of the 1906 earthquake damage in Fort Bragg were made by **W.T. FITCH**, a local studio photographer.
 - ♦ The 1966 photos were taken by **ED FREITAS** for the Union Lumber Co.’s *Noyo Chief* magazine.
 - ♦ The 2006 images were taken by **BILL MULVIHILL**. All are part of the Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society’s Archives.
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Thank You! to our Panorama Project Donors

To date we have received sufficient donations to preserve and reproduce four of the 8” x 48” unique panoramic negatives documenting our local history.

Panorama Preservers to date are: Kevin J. Bunker, Abby & Larry Colbert, Chris Clutton, Fay Lee, David Maki, Jim Moore and Audrey Tyson.

We have 31 more panoramics to go...

Send your donation to:

FB-MCHS, P.O. Box 71, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
c/o Denise Stenberg, Treasurer.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Fort Bragg – Mendocino Coast
Historical Society
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