

**Laguna Beach  
Historical Society**  
Murphy-Smith Bungalow  
278 Ocean Avenue  
Laguna Beach CA 92651  
949-497-6834



# Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: April 2014

**Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at  
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue  
Tuesday, April 29th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

*Henry and George Rogers: Our Laguna pioneering families* by Carol Lloyd

The next Laguna Beach Historical Society program will be *Henry and George Rogers: Our Laguna pioneering families* by Carol Lloyd. The program is Tuesday, April 29th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and will be held at the Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue. The public is invited and there is no charge. The program will be videotaped and is to be televised on the local Cox Cable channel 30 (and channel 852/853).

In 1873, Carol Lloyd's Great-Great-Great-Grandfather, Henry Rogers, came to Orange County from the Galena/ Woodbine area of Illinois. In Illinois, he had read such advertisements as, "California, for better health and better climate", and since his health and the health of other men in his family was deteriorating from working in lead mines, he made the decision to head to California.

Upon arriving in California and eventually settling in Laguna Beach, Henry soon wrote back to his wife, Elisabeth Jane, to "Sell everything, get all the family and friends together who want to come, and come". So on April 18, 1874, 44 year old Elisabeth arrived with 22 other family members and friends on the transcontinental railroad and soon settled in Laguna Beach.



Rogers' Family

George and Lottie Rogers with eight of their children c1880. George Rogers and his 6-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Sarah Rogers, planted the Pepper tree in 1881 when the family moved into their newly built home where City Hall now stands.

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Program 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Tell" by Mark Chamberlain**

# Homesteaders Henry and George Rogers

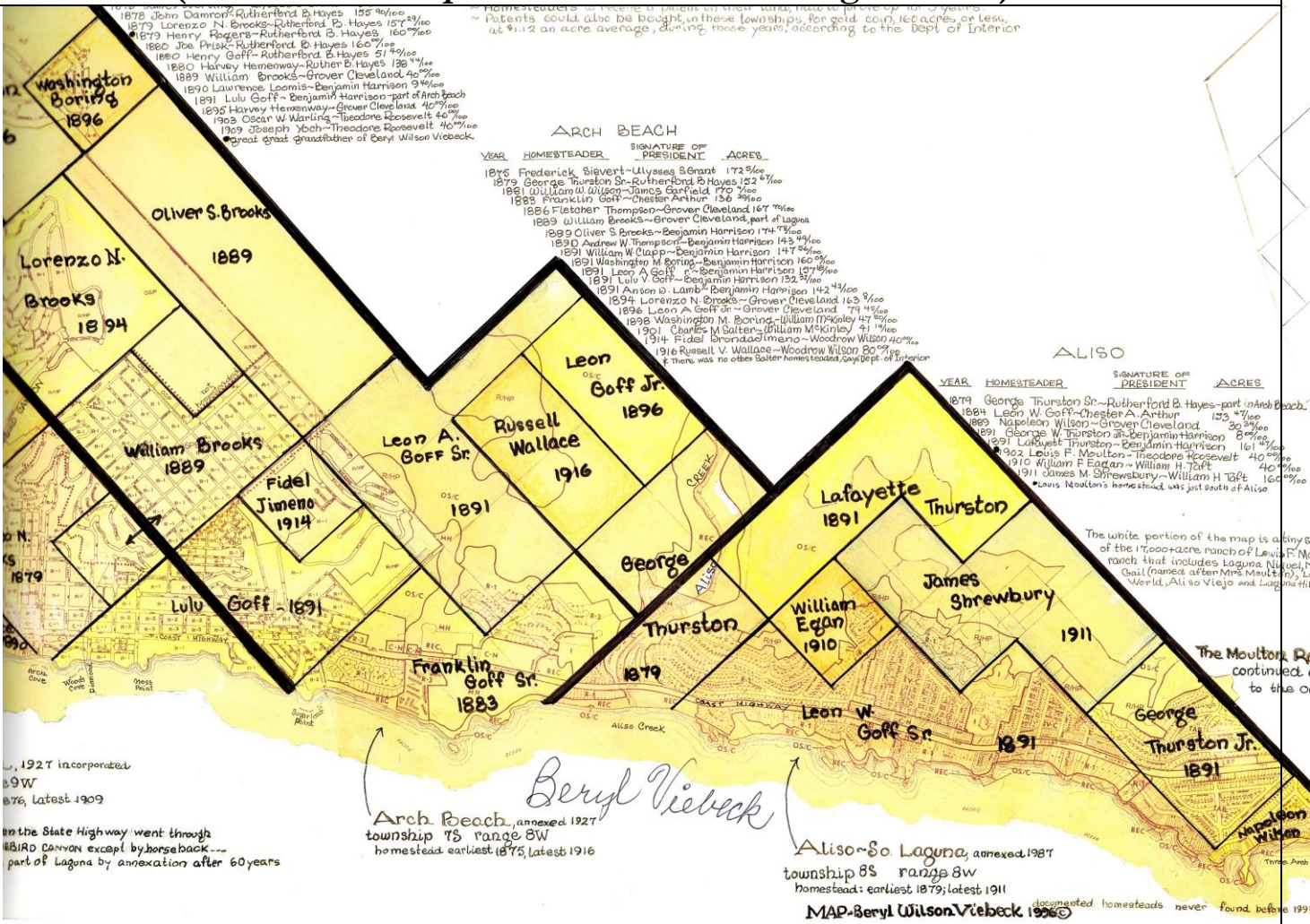
In 1878, Henry became the 5th homesteader in Laguna Beach acquiring 160 acres which stretched from Temple Hills to the mesa to Bluebird Canyon. The Homestead Act of 1862 had been signed and enacted by Abraham Lincoln just 10 years earlier.

In 1881, Henry and Elisabeth's son George Rogers bought a 155 1/2 acre homestead from the Rawson brothers for \$1,000 in gold. This homestead started from Laguna Canyon, through downtown Laguna and down to Main Beach. George and his wife Lottie lived in their ranch house where the city hall now sits. George went onto naming a number of streets in downtown Laguna such as Forest Avenue and Ocean Avenue. In 1887, George started subdividing the downtown area eventually into 323 lots.

Carol will be sharing more about these and other family stories on April 29th, at 7:30 pm at Laguna Beach City Hall. She will also be talking about her mother's, Beryl Wilson Viebeck's, primary homestead research that she did in the mid 1990s. Beryl not only located her own Rogers family's homestead records, but also the documents of the other 39 original Laguna Beach homesteaders. Her mother then went on to marking and creating the only homestead map that has been research and created of Laguna Beach.

On April 29th, Beryl's original homestead map will be on display. Prints of her map will also be available for purchase. The total proceeds of the sale of the map prints will be donated to the Laguna Beach Historical Society and the Alzheimers Association.

## Beryl Wilson Viebeck's Homestead Map Overlays Modern Streets (about 1/3 of map shown below South Laguna area)





## Lorenzo Nathan (Nate) Brooks Bought \$50 Main Beach Lot

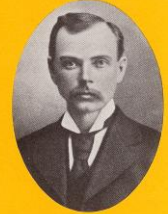
From Cal State Fullerton 1995 oral history interview with Beryl Wilson Viebeck "Uncle George [Rogers] owned all of that land clear out to the waterfront, and one of the first buyers of Uncle George's subdivision was Nate Brooks. He bought a lot on the waterfront, on the boardwalk. He owned the first one, closest to the bathhouse, and he moved a house there. He paid Uncle George Rogers \$ 50 for that jewel of a lot."



First American Title Photograph  
Main Beach - House at left is Nate Brooks c 1900

### THE FIRST 100 YEARS in LAGUNA BEACH 1876 - 1976

by  
Merle and Mabel Ramsey



NATHANIEL BROOKS  
FATHER  
OF  
LAGUNA BEACH

Nate Brooks on Cover  
"The First 100 Years"  
1976 Book  
by Merle and Mabel Ramsey

## George Rogers Old Ranch House built 1880

"The Old Ranch House" from "Pioneer Days in Laguna Beach" by Merle and Mabel Ramsey "There being no materials available to build a home, Mr. Rogers hauled his lumber from Anaheim Landing (Now Seal Beach), with a four horse team and wagon, loading the lumber from the ship onto the wagon himself. For a long time they had no door to this house, and used a quilt to serve this purpose. ... Seven children were born into this family while living in Laguna. As there were no schools for them to attend, Mr. Rogers had a teacher come into the home to teach. This did not prove satisfactory so he built a little one room school, the size being about fourteen by twenty feet, which had a dirt floor. This building was just a little north of the home. The first teacher was a man by the name of Twombly, and the second year of teaching was a Mr. Taylor."



## Historical Society Business / Organization Members

**Wells Fargo Bank    City of Laguna Beach  
Caduceus Medical    H.J Baker & Bro., Inc.**

Andy Alison Bungalow Hunters    Ann Christoph Landscape Architect FASLA    Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen  
Brooks Street Books    Butler Box    Charles' Wig Chateau    Chicago Title    Emerald Bay Community Association  
Indiana James Limited Partnership    Dr. Korey Jorgensen    Ken's Jewelry Store  
Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau    Laguna Broadcasting Network    Realtor Gayle Waite  
Reynolds Carpet    Sawdust Festival    Stewarts Landscaping    Teller Architects    The Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

**View Laguna Photos at [www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com](http://www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com)**

### Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Karen Smith – President		Gregg De Nicola – Vice President	
Sandra Desmond	Gene Felder - Treasurer		Anne Frank
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Ronald Kaufman	Carol Lloyd		Glenna Matthews
Francie Holder Pemper	Laurie Sanders		Don Sessions
Nelda Stone - Secretary	Ed Storke		Kimberly Stuart

### Consider Contributing to Historical Society Maintenance Fund

## President's Message by Karen Smith

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In February, author Paul Holmes' program "HOBIE: Master of Water, Wind and Waves" an extensive biography of Hobie Alter was great. We are all saddened that Hobie Alter has passed away. According to his son-in-law Mark Christy, Hobie "peacefully at his Palm Desert home on March 29 surrounded by his loving family. Born on October 31, 1933 in Ontario, California, he was 80 at the time of his passing."

May is Heritage month in Laguna Beach and the May 27th program will be the 25th Anniversary of "The Tell" by Mark Chamberlain.

Thanks to all those who have donated to the Historical Society Maintenance Fund contributions and for in lieu contributions. The latest improvement is the painting the western wall of the Bungalow which will complete the exterior painting. We have received a couple bids for replacing the roof which the Wells Fargo Bank has requested. The estimated useful life of the roof is only a couple years, so we will have to address the roof shortly. We had another significant expense; the tree in the backyard fell on Whole Foods next door and had to be removed.

Step back into 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Avenue, which is open to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Those interested in supporting the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per individual, \$25 per household or \$50 per business/organization to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.

**If your Dues are due (check your mailing label) Send \$15 per person, \$25 per household or \$50 per business or organization to Laguna Beach Historical Society, 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_