

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: Nov 2013

Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
Tuesday, November 24th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.
“Loving Laguna” & “Early Homestead Families” by Skip Hellewell

Skip Hellewell passed an undistinguished childhood in Sacramento, California. A surfing safari to Laguna Beach in 1957 left a lasting impression of a town where "people wore swimming suits on the main street." He completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering with an MBA and worked in medical device product development and production. Skip and his wife Clare reared six children in the Laguna Beach area, moving into town 18 years ago.

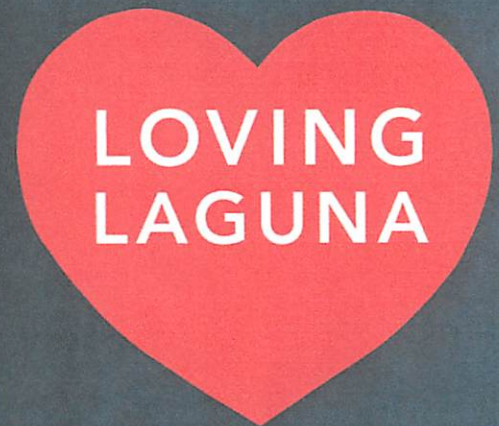
Hellewell was attracted to the history of the area from the beginning, an interest that led to membership in the Laguna Beach Historical Society. He has written four books, the most recent "Loving Laguna, A Local's Guide to Laguna Beach."

Program:

The program is of two parts, beginning with a survey of the movements behind Laguna's uniqueness: the early homesteaders, artists, surfers, conservationists, and, especially, the Laguna "characters."

The second part looks at the early homesteading families from 1870 to 1900. This is the least studied part of Laguna's history and Hellewell's interest is the intersection of families with history. Most of the homesteading families were some kind of a "Mormon," so there is a brief summary of the origins and wanderings of the LDS movement. Several groups of original documents inform this: U.S. Censuses from 1860-1900, the recently found records of Laguna's first church, and the homestead survey done by Beryl Wilson Viebeck. A preview of Viebeck's work will be presented by her daughter, Carol Lloyd. This program will fill in the gaps of Laguna's earliest history and suggest areas for future research.

LOVING LAGUNA - A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO LAGUNA BEACH



New book "Loving Laguna –
A Local's Guide to Laguna Beach"
by Skip Hellewell
Is available for purchase at *Laguna
Books* and on at Amazon.com

A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO
LAGUNA BEACH

Consider Contributing to Historical Society Maintenance Fund

The Hemenway – Brooks – Clapp - Smith Generations

#1 Generation:

- 1875, the extended family group of Harvey Hemenway (homesteaded Canyon Acres) with his two sisters arrived.
- One sister was Sylvia Brooks. Sylvia came with her three sons, well known in early Laguna history, and a married daughter Melissa (Lizzie) Sylvia Brooks Clapp.
- The other sister was married to Henry Goff, who brought his two brothers to Laguna.
- This extended family Hemenway/Brooks/Goff accounted for nearly all the homesteaded land from Canyon Acres and down the coast to the Thurston's Aliso Creek ranch.
- In 1879, the Brooks and Hemenways help found the first Laguna area church, the Laguna Beach Branch of the RLDS church, located in Laguna Canyon and a schoolhouse is built for the children living in the area.

#2 Generation:

- Melissa (Lizzie) Sylvia Brooks, born 1843 in Illinois, marries William N. Clapp in 1857 in Salt Lake City, Utah. History note: 1857 was an unsettled time in Utah as this was the year of the "Utah War", between the Mormons and the U.S. Government.
- William and Melissa move east, evidenced by children born in Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, and finally return west to California. In California they live in Tulare County, Westminster (1880 Census), and then Laguna Beach.
- William N. and Lizzie have a son William Henry Clapp, born 1867 in Iowa.

#3 Generation:

- In 1892, William H. Clapp marries Charlotte (Lottie/Lettie) Evaline (Eva) Kinman (not McKenmen) and they settle in Laguna Beach before 1930.
- The 1930 Census has the family in their own home at 228 Monterey Drive, living with their youngest daughter Blanch, 28. Blanche is a bakery sales clerk.
- William H. dies in 1934; (about 1950?) Lottie remarries to William's brother, Fred Clapp, operator of Laguna's (first?) general store.

#4 Generation:

- Blanch (Blanche) Clapp, born 1901, marries C. S. Smith. No marriage certificate has been found. Blanche is not married in the 1930 Census so likely married in the '30s. In the 1930 Census Blanche's parents are in their 60s and she is the only wage earner in the home. This may account for her late marriage. (Census records after 1930 are not currently open to the public.)
- Blanche Clapp Smith (Blanche Clapp Clapp) dies June 20, 1991, age 89.



Laguna Beach Public School

At Canyon Acres c1900 Myrtle Stevens & Ernie Trefren at right - Jean Nemeyer Collection

Was built in 1888 as a Mormon schoolhouse (not church) near the corner of El Toro Rd. and Laguna Canyon Rd. In 1893, it was moved to near corner of Canyon Acres Dr. and Laguna Canyon Rd. and became Laguna grammar school. In 1908, it was moved to Aliso St. (now Catalina St. between Park and Legion) to make the first Catholic Church in town. In 1931, it was bought and moved to 588 Through St. by Joseph Kleitsch to be used as a painting academy.

Most photos thanks to Jean Nemeyer



Harvey Hemenway & Levi, His Son



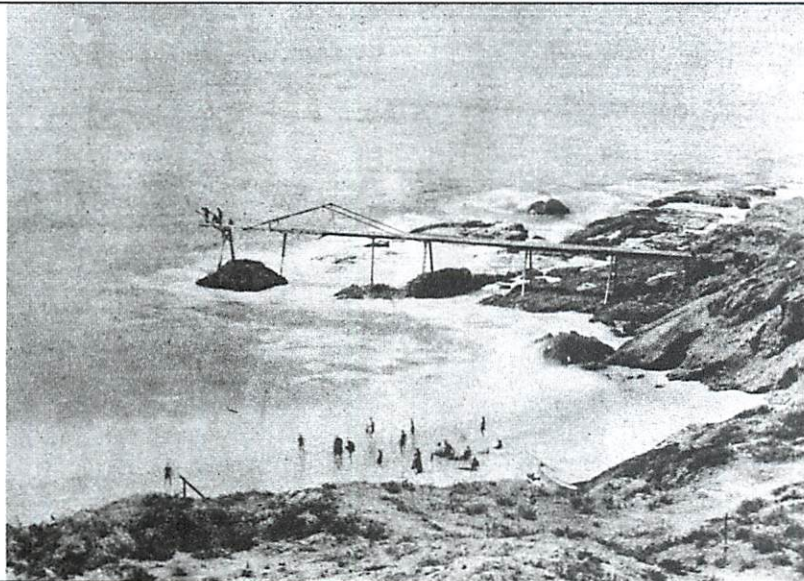
1905 Sylvia Keime Brooks (1826-1909) mother of William & Nate Brooks. According to Merle Ramsey "She never turned any from an opportunity to help others. During her lifetime and in the capacity of mid-wife, she delivered over 300 babies and never charged anyone."



W. M. Boring Groceries; Stage from El Toro, Driver William H. Brooks



C.S. and Blanche Clapp Smith at Bungalow c1930



Arch Beach Pier

From pages 36 – 38 “Laguna Beach An Illustrated and Narrative History” by Roger W Jones

“The first was constructed in 1887 at Arch Beach near the end of Diamond Street by two homesteading farmers, Nate Brooks and Hubbard Goff. It was used primarily to load barley hay onto a schooner for shipment to San Diego "for stagecoach runs into three states, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona." The pier was so short that it was often necessary to *lighter* the cargos to the schooner, which would be anchored out in deeper water. Guests of the Arch Beach Hotel also used the pier to fish or take an evening stroll.”



Evelyn Kinman Clapp,

mother of Blanche Clapp Smith:

Actual name from marriage and death records is Charlotte (Lottie/Lettie) Evaline (Eva) Kinman Clapp, born 1875 in Tulare Co., CA. She is buried in the Smith Mt. Cemetery, Dinuba, Tulare County, CA next to her 1st husband William H. Clapp, under the name “Lottie E. Clapp”.

Blanche Clapp Smith

Blanche Clapp worked during the 1930's at the Govern Bakery at 234 Forest Avenue.

During WWII, she would rent out one of the bedrooms to military personnel and their wives who had difficulty finding housing during the war.



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

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Karen Smith – President

Gregg De Nicola – Vice President	Sandra Desmond	Gene Felder - Treasurer
Anne Frank	John Hoover	Jane Janz
Eric Jessen	Ronald Kaufman	Carol Lloyd
Glenna Matthews	Francie Holder Pemper	Laurie Sanders
Nelda Stone - Secretary	Ed Storke	Kimberly Stuart

Consider Contributing to Historical Society Maintenance Fund

President's Message by Karen Smith

“Loving Laguna” & “Early Homestead Families” by Skip Hellewell **Tuesday, November 24th from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

Please attend the Laguna Beach Historical Society program. It is of course free, and will be held at the Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue. The program will be videotaped and is to be televised on the local Cox Cable channel 30 and channel 832. This will be our sixth great program for the year.

Laguna Beach has two structures on the National Register of Historic Places: the St. Francis by the Sea Cathedral and Villa Rockledge. We hope the new owners do right by Villa Rockledge. St. Francis was closed for quite a while due to ill-health of the Bishop, but now has held Mass, etc. The Historical Society Board has formed a committee to monitor activities to try and ensure that important historical artifacts are not removed.

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.

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: _____