

# RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Nicholas Green .. A Boy's Gift to the World

### *The Children's Bell Tower*

The Children's Bell Tower in Bodega Bay is a magical place. It stands on open ground, a thick growth of cypress trees on one side and green hills on the other. In the background are high dunes and a tantalizing glimpse of the ocean. The tower is 18 feet high, three tubular steel pyramids from which hang 140 bells, almost all of them sent by Italians: school bells, church bells, ships' bells, mining bells, cow bells.

The centerpiece is a majestic bell, thirty inches high, from the Marinelli foundry in Italy, which has been making bells for the papacy for a thousand years. Nicholas Green's name and the names of the seven recipients are on it, and Pope John Paul II went to the foundry to bless it. Whenever the wind blows, as it often does on this exposed coast, the bells chime, sometimes a few at a time, emphasizing the solitude of the surroundings, sometimes an entire orchestra, sounding like happy children at play. Then the sound fades away, and the children are gone.

The bell tower was conceived and built by a San Francisco sculptor, Bruce Hasson. It is on the west side of Route 1, behind the Bodega Bay Community Center. During a visit to Italy in 1994, seven-year-old Nicholas was killed in a botched armed robbery, their rental car mistaken for a jeweler's. Nicholas's



parents donated his organs and corneas, and seven Italian patients received the precious gift from Nicholas. Although it was inspired by Nicholas' death, the tower was designed to be a memorial accessible to everyone, a place where children would feel at ease. Its delicacy reflects both the preciousness and fragility of young life.

The Green family's decision stirred a lot of attention in Italy, resulting in a dramatic increase in organ donation levels that had been among the lowest in Europe. This increase and everything else good that came from the tragedy has come to be known as l'Effetto Nicholas, the "Nicholas Effect." ■



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Bodega Cemetery (Calvary Cemetery)

*Catalogue by Tom Chapman - 1994*



The correct name for the Bodega Cemetery is Calvary Cemetery, but people frequently call it St. Teresa's Cemetery. The Cemetery came into being in 1869, and there were two burials that year. The first was Thomas Johnson, who was seven years old; the second was Willie Long five years old.

Some may wonder why the cemetery lands were sold to an archbishop in San Francisco. The reason; the Santa Rosa Diocese did not come into existence until 1962; thus we were a part of the very large Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Amongst the hundreds of burials in this cemetery we find Rose and the Gaffney family. The head of the family was Miles Gaffney, born in Ireland. He came to Bodega Bay in 1864 after many years in the gold fields of California. He bought a ranch on Bodega Head and a house in Bodega, so his sons could go to the new Potter School.

Miles, and his wife Catherine, hired a local woman as their housekeeper. Rose (Schmidt) Walsh was the daughter of a German immigrant, who was a Lutheran minister. Rose's first husband left her with a small child Ellen. Rose would later marry one of the Gaffney sons, William, who adopted the Rose's young daughter, Ellen Walsh Gaffney. After working the ranch for most of their lives, Rose and William bought a house in Salmon Creek, where William passed in 1941.

Rose who was born in 1895, continued on, acting as an amateur archaeologist whose collection of Indian artifacts from the area was later to be donated to the Sebastiani collection. Rose became well known for her rejection of PG&E's nuclear power plant to be built on Bodega Head,

Another notable burial in the Cemetery was young Nicholas Green. Nicholas had been a second grader at the Bodega School before his trip to Italy with his parents. His family had been traveling in Southern Italy when their rental car was mistaken for a jeweler's vehicle and was fired on. The bullets injured Nicholas and he was placed on life support in an Italian hospital. While Nicholas lay wounded, his heart remained strong. It was with that realization that the Green family offered to have his organs donated to seven Italian's who needed transplants.

When his remains were brought home to Bodega Bay, the ceremony at St. Teresa's was attended by many who had known the family. At the Bodega Cemetery, his burial was a solemn affair. Bodega Bay children took turns tossing red roses and white carnations next to Nicholas' grave. President Bill Clinton would later send a condolence letter to the Green family; "Hillary and I were so sorry to hear about the death of your son and we extend our deepest sympathy. Your generosity in donating your son's organs is a testament to your love for him and I applaud your extraordinary compassion." ■

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**



**Rose Gaffney 1895–1974**



**Nicholas Green 1987-1994**



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### William Marion Doran

*Biography 1880 (Alley, Bowen & Company)*

William Marion Doran was born in Hardin County, Tennessee, 13 Jan 1825. There he received a common school education, and lived until seventeen years of age when he proceeded to Fayette county, where he remained until the Fall of 1844, when he left his parents and settled in Washington County, Mississippi, where he engaged in farming until 1849, when he started via New Orleans to Gorgona Panama, and from here on foot across to Panama, a distance of twenty-two miles. After remaining there five weeks, he boarded the sailing vessel "Kingston," and after a voyage of fifty-five days landed in San Francisco, 25 Mar 1850. From there he took passage on the steamer Eldorado for Sacramento, thence on foot with blankets on his back he proceeded to Mud Springs in Placer County, a distance of forty-five miles, making the trip in two days. There he mined with fair luck, and not wishing to pay thirty-two dollars per week for board he soon set up housekeeping for himself. Paid two hundred dollars for a barrel of pork, seventy-five cents per pound for flour, and everything else in proportion.

He soon left this point and went to Eldorado County, remained three months, returned to Sacramento, purchased teams and began teaming to Nevada City. In Fall of 1850 he turned out his teams, and followed mining. In March 1851 he returned to Sacramento and found that twenty-five head of his horses and mules had been stolen. After disposing of the balance of his stock he returned to the mines, meeting with rather poor success, and about the first of Oct. returned to Sacramento, thence to Dry Creek, Amador County, near Volcano, and mined with good success until March, 1852, when he again returned to Sacramento, from there to Sierra County.

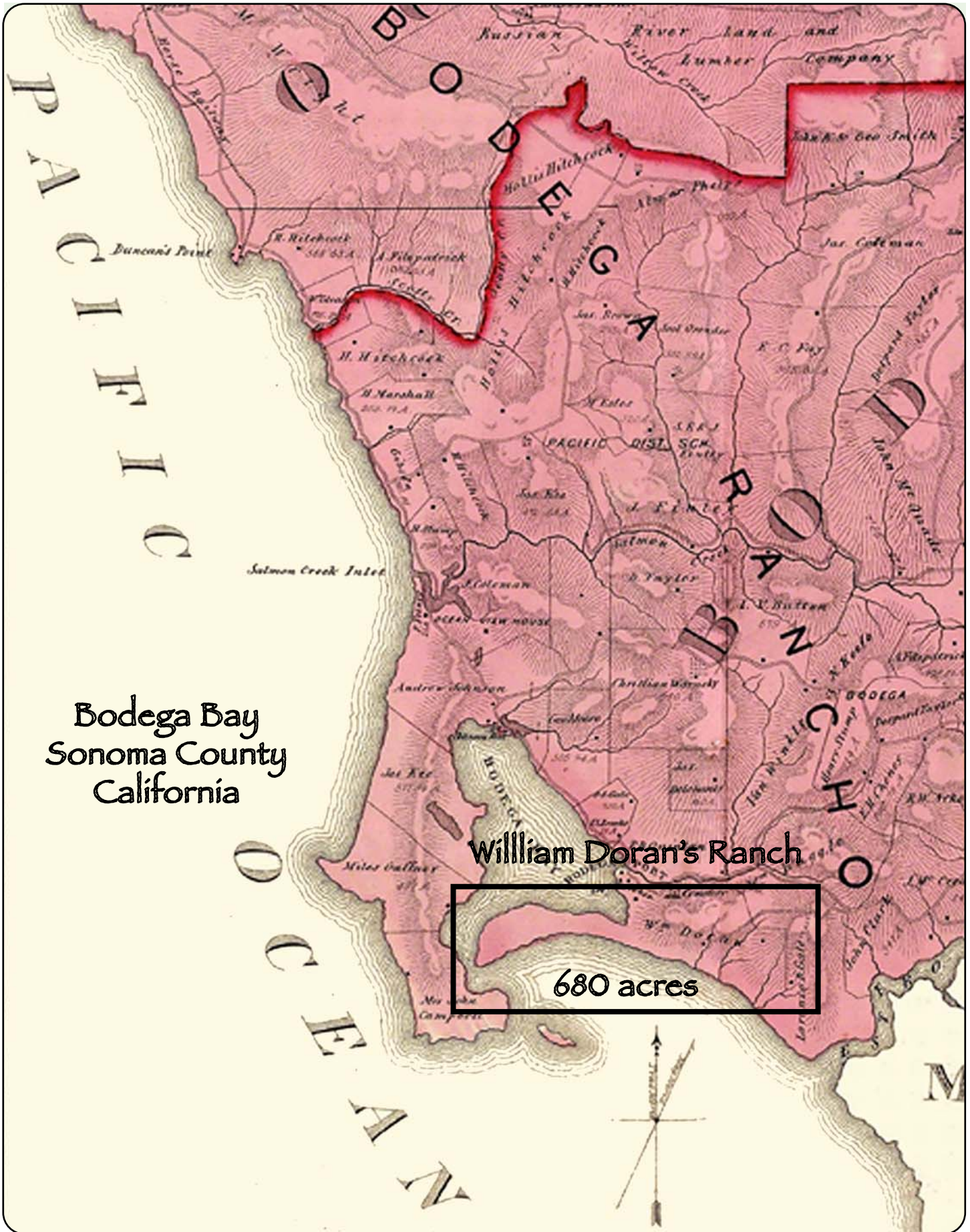
On Dec. 20th he was on his way back to Sacramento. He found the city under water, and the city found him with only five dollars in his pocket. But having an eye to business, he hired a boat at ten dollars per day, and conveyed provisions to Sutter's fort, clearing forty dollars the first day. On the third day he started for the mines: and after mining, prospecting, etc., in many different places until July 1856, we find him in San Francisco where he took the steamer "Golden Age," bound for the home of his childhood. There he remained until July 16, 1857, when he returned to California via New Orleans.

After mining in all the principal mines in this State and Idaho, in 1863 went to Montana where he was successful; after traveling and prospecting for some time, finally found a place where he took out ten thousand dollars in five weeks time. He then returned to San Francisco, and in June 1864, purchased his present ranch on Bodega Bay which he now owns. On 10 Sep 1867, he returned east, and on Dec. 12, 1867, married in Hardin County, Tennessee to Sarah J. Hawk, she being born 12 Oct 1843. He returned to this State in February and settled on his ranch. In July 1872, he and wife visited the east, and returned in October. In 1877 he purchased a home at Bodega Corners and retired from the farm. Mr. D. has been fiat broke five different times, but being well charged with that spirit that will not down, has succeeded and his efforts crowned. He now owns not only his property in town, but a fine farm of six hundred and eighty acres under good improvements. William and Sarah had four children: William James (Jan 1869), Josephine Elizabeth (Oct 1871), John Alexander (Aug 1873) and George Lafayette (Jan 1877). ■

## William Doran

BIRTH 12 JANUARY 1823 • Tennessee

DEATH 30 APRIL 1897 • Santa Rosa, California



Bodega Bay  
Sonoma County  
California

William Doran's Ranch

680 acres

## BODEGA BAY COMMUNITY

### Seaman's Cemetery (also The Smith Cemetery & The Indian Cemetery) The Cemetery on Heron Hill



Sometime around 1848-1850, Captain Stephen Smith donated roughly an acre-and-a-half from his Mexican land grant to create a burial ground for sailors who drowned at sea. Legend has it that the first burial was of an unknown sailor, who drowned at sea and washed up in the harbor.

In the early days, it was known as Seaman's Cemetery, since renamed Bay and then Bodega Bay Cemetery and it may be one of the oldest in Sonoma County. It is also the cemetery of lost grave markers.

The Cemetery is located at 19933 Heron Drive just as one turns left off of South


Harbour Way and is situated on scenic high ground overlooking Bodega Bay on what was for a time Doran Rancho property. It is now within the Bodega Harbour Housing Association development, although it is not legally part of the subdivision.

It is enclosed with a split rail fence and it is regularly mowed and visible from satellite when viewing Google Maps. The grave markers have long disappeared, some through vandalism, some disturbed by grazing cows of long ago, and others "rescued for safe keeping". Sonoma cemeterian Jeremy Nichols says that the legal record of Bodega Bay Cemetery goes back as far as an 1857 Federal court decision, upholding the legality of the original patents (title) for the larger parcel of land, and is shown on maps of that time. The portion containing the cemetery is referred to as Lot 42, township 5 north, Range 10 west, located at latitude and longitude (also known as lat-long or GPS coordinates) N 38.31742 and W 123.02556. It shows up on early maps describing the Doran holdings.

Until just recently, title of the cemetery land had remained on the books in the name of Manuela Torres Smith, wife of Capt. Smith and her children, Stephen, Manuela and James. In 2004, legal proceedings were started to petition updating ownership of the property and in June 2005, the Superior Court of Sonoma County awarded title of the cemetery to Arthur Charles (Tooch) Columbo, a family descendant and second great grand nephew of William Smith, the half brother of Tom Smith with the California Indian Legal Services acting as attorneys for the plaintiff.

Early burial records were secured by a variety of people and groups; some official records, others from family bibles. Serious efforts were undertaken by Edith W. Merritt, chair of Genealogical Records for the Santa Rosa Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, in the 1920s and 1930s, Tom Chapman of Occidental whose grandmother was Josephine Doran, only daughter of William and Sarah Doran who owned the Doran Ranch (now Bodega Harbour) on which the cemetery was sited, various records kept by pioneer family and by Ruth Burke. Note: Prior to 1905 the procedure for filing death certificates was left up to local jurisdictions and often they were only a line entry in a ledger. After 1905 most death certificates indicated which cemetery the individual was buried in. ■

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**STORIES & ARTIFACTS**

If you have artifacts or stories of Bodega Bay History to contribute to the Rancho Bodega Historical Society, please contact Robin Rudderow, our Archivist at RBHS@bodegamoon.net

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**Tribute to Nicholas Green**



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**William Doran**

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**WINTER EVENTS**

**BODEGA BAY CHOWDER DAY** Saturday, January 25th. Chowder tasting begins at 10am and ends at 3pm. Please bring your printed ticket from Eventbrite to your designated check in location. Your checkin location can be found on your Eventbrite ticket. Check in locations will be at the Rocker Oysterfeller's Restaurant, 14415 Highway One, Valley Ford and at the Sonoma Coast Visitors Center, 913 Highway 1, Bodega Bay. Ticket fee is \$30.00 per person (plus a \$3.85 processing fee). You will receive a wristband and a Commemorative Tasting Spoon and Map at check in. <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

**ANNUAL CRAB CIOPPINO** Sunday, February 16th 12-5:30 pm. The Bodega Bay Grange Hall 1370 Bodega Ave, Bodega Bay is accepting reservations for its Crab Cioppino Day. Pick a time (Noon, 1:45pm, 3 30 pm). For over 70 years this volunteer run event has served up all-you-can-eat fresh Dungeness crab cioppino, marinated cold crab, garlic bread, salad and dessert. It's a secret recipe handed down over time that keeps folks coming back year after year. Price \$85 per ticket (plus a \$7.55 processing fee). BYOB Corkage is \$10. We are now using Eventbrite for ticket sales: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

**SNOOPY'S ICE SKATING LESSONS.** Each eight-week Lesson Set, skaters progress through one Level within a Skating Track. At the end of a Lesson Set, skaters are evaluated to determine whether they pass their current Level or will need improvement and will need to repeat their current Level. The Tracks follow the curriculum set forth by Learn to Skate USA, endorsed by United States Figure Skating. For detailed curriculum, please contact: Snoopy's Home Ice: 1667 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, California 95403 or 707-546-7147.

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