

The Latest News of 1883 As reported in the St. Helena Star

Transcribed by Mariam Hansen

A new store was completed for J.H. Steves, hardware merchant. Before the partitions were placed, the skating club had an evening on the new floor, which was 90 by 25 feet in size.

The new town hall, in the front corner of the jail yard [site of today's Catholic School], was finished. On the ground floor were quarters for the fire department. On the second floor were halls for meetings of the town trustees and for the justice court. The tower and fire bell were moved from Spring Street to a position next to the building.

An ordinance was passed prohibiting riding or driving faster than a walk through Telegraph Alley [south of the Hotel St. Helena].

J. O'Rourke, a butcher of the firm Watson & Company, while in a fit of anger, shot his wife at their home on Church Street. His rage was brought on when his wife learned that he was supporting another woman and four children in Oakland. Indignation of the citizenry was so great that the officers took the man to Napa for his safety. The woman died four days after the shooting.

There was a considerable amount of cold weather this winter. In January a man who had come over Howell Mountain said that the snow was up to his horse's knees. In February snow to a depth of three inches fell in St. Helena.

The town officials made a raid on a game of *fan tan* in Chinatown and cornered a room full of gamblers. Once inside the four officers could not control the entire number and all but six escaped—these were fined.

C.B. Hastings resigned as cashier of the Bank of St. Helena on account of ill health. Owen Wade was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The St. Helena Owls, a singing club, was organized with membership of W.A. Root, Richard and George Rammers, Karl Klubescheidt [the housepainter], J.F. Merk [the tailor], Frank Hoffman and T.P. Harmon. Professor Max Schuneman was the director.

D.B. Carver, who for many years had conducted the banking business in his general merchandise store, fitted one half of his building south of Telegraph Alley as a banking room exclusively. The other half of the building was occupied by Jacob Graf with his jewelry store.

The toll house on Mt. St. Helena, occupied by Daniel Patton and family, was destroyed by fire. The toll road was built in 1866 by John Lawley [still named Lawley Toll Road today].

A Washington's Birthday entertainment was held in the Presbyterian Church for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of a piano for the public school.

Emanuel Galewsky was appointed to the clerkship of the judiciary committee of the state legislature, of which Dennis Spencer is the chairman.

In an article about John Steves' new store the *St. Helena Star* said "it is but a few years that Mr. Steves came among us, a mere boy and a stranger with apparently little more capital than a good trade, a stout heart, correct principles and sound business habits. He bought the business where he worked, extended his business and now has the largest and best store in St. Helena."

Nine arrests for gambling were made. The names were not given. They were fined \$50 to \$80 each, except for A. Howe and J. Ulrich, who decided to fight their cases.

William F. Kibbler of San Francisco was employed by George A. Riggins, owner of the Wonderful Drug Store, as a druggist's clerk.

D. Shakespeare opened a real estate office and occupied the Rampendahl house on Spring Street opposite Stockton with his family.

In March Willis A. Mackinder purchased one half interest in the *St. Helena Star*. For several years he had been with the real estate firm of W.W. Woodward & Co., where he was succeeded by Charles H. Greenfield [who built the fine home at the northeast corner Main and Pine Streets].

George W. Lauder, D.B. Carver's assistant at the post office, was appointed postmaster.

A young hoodlum who attacked an old Chinese (a popular outdoor sport in those days) was chased by citizens through the streets and out into a vineyard, where he was captured and turned over to officers and fined \$25.

E.W. Schuneman moved his Main Street residence from the lot next door to the Windsor [now St. Helena] Hotel to upper Main Street above Fulton Lane. An alleyway was left next to Beach's line for access to the rear. The existing store building was moved next to the alley and three new stores built. (These latter are now occupied by the **Bottle Shop, Cellini's Fashions and Fred Hunter Realty**).

Alton L. Williams resigned his position with the railroad in Vallejo and came up to make his home on his Inglewood Lane property. The house had been used as a summer hotel and later as a school.

Abram Clock, pioneer hop grower of Napa Valley, died in St. Helena on March 31. He came to St. Helena in 1867 and immediately engaged in the business which he followed for 14 years, part of that time in Lodi. Ill health compelled him to quit hop farming a few years ago. He is survived by his wife Sarah Sterling Clock.

Joseph B. Chiles went to Santa Barbara, where he was married to Miss Molly Owen, formerly a teacher in the Chiles Valley School.

On April 4th George W. Lauder was married to Miss Alice H. Warren at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel B. Warren.

The approaching election was preceded by a meeting of citizens at which a ticket was chosen. The gamblers who had been prosecuted made a special effort to defeat G.K. Gluyas, who had caused their enmity. Their candidate was defeated by a two to one margin. Elected were George B. Worrell, G.K. Gluyas (chosen chairman), C.N. Hale, W.E. York, and David Cole as trustees [councilmen]. Leopold Lazerus was elected treasurer; W.A. Mackinder, clerk and R.L. Spurr, marshal. J.H. Allison declined to run again as marshal after filling the office since the town was incorporated in 1876. Total of 250 men cast votes.

F.W. Kroeber entered the employ of D. B. Carver at his bank.

George Yount, the first white settler in Napa County, spent a day in town, stopping at the Windsor Hotel [now Hotel St. Helena].

As small pox was reported in Napa, the town council passed an ordinance to provide against spread of the disease and to find a location for a pest house, if needed.

Miss Belle Dixon, a St. Helena young lady, was married in Illinois to Frank Burr, who was teaching school in the Sandwich [Hawaiian] Islands. Miss Dixon attended the State Normal University of Illinois.

The town council created the office of stovepipe inspector. To J.H. Steves went the distinction of being the first appointee to that exalted position.

A current advertisement read "Ladies wishing an elegant front of real false hair, can find it at Miss G. Spurr & Co".

In May the Veteran's Home of California was established at Yountville on a nine hundred acre tract of land.

Captain Niebaum built a splendid stone wine cellar on his property, Nook Farm, now known as Inglenook.

The public school opened in August with O.W. Grove as principal, succeeding Samuel M. Shortridge. Miss Anna Dixon, the first native born girl to teach at the school, had charge of the primary department.

A large number of young people turned out to attend a barn dance or "warming" at the Beringer Brothers new barn with a floor 40 X 60 feet in size. The place was beautifully illuminated with Japanese lanterns.

More than 800 Knights Templar, who were attending a conclave in San Francisco, visited the Napa Valley in two special trains. They were entertained by locals at Hunt's Grove. Tables were spread under the trees and loaded with food and refreshments. A twelve car train took the visitors to Charles Krug Winery. As evidence of the amount of grain produced in Pope Valley, it was reported that ten to fifteen six and eight horse wagons arrived daily at Rutherford with loads for trans-shipment by rail.

The Native Sons were organizing all over the state, and a parlor was established in St. Helena.

The editor of the *St. Helena Star* visited Hasenmaier's place (the former Brian Curtis place on Sulphur Springs) and commented on how the two girls walked three miles and back each day to attend the Vineland School [north of Hall Winery]. On Sundays they walked to town to attend church. (These outside residents were frequently the most regular attendees at school and church, and offer a contrast to the present day pupils. They complain that the bus does not stop in front of their homes and they must walk to the bus stop).

Five farmers were growing hops this year, four of them with a total of eighty acres.

On September 9th the laying of the cornerstone of the Frederick Beringer home (the Rhine House) was an occasion of importance. Speeches were made; good wishes expressed and within the cornerstone were deposited coins, photographs, newspapers, cards of guests, samples of wine and various data.

On September 21st John Allison and Miss Lulu Ewer were married at the latter's home.

In October the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. York was celebrated.

Charles A. Gardner and W.A. Mackinder, owners of the *St. Helena Star*, purchased the real estate business of E.W. Woodward and Company. Mr. Woodward went to San Francisco.

Townsend and Anderson sold their general merchandise business to Alphonse N. Bell and Charles H. Greenfield.

Those enterprising young gentlemen, Philo Grant and Frank Castner, got up a social party at Mrs. Weinberger's hop house.

Leopold Lazarus resigned as local agent for Wells Fargo & Company, after representing them for 21 years.

On October 26th W.A. Bingham and Miss Anna Carver were married at the Lick House in San Francisco.

Sam W. Kenyon of Middletown purchased a one half interest in the Dexter Livery Stable.

Otto Behrens, recently from Iowa, purchased the stock of goods and business goodwill of G.G. Ranger, dealer in fruits, candy, tobacco and notions.

"Notice: If certain persons do not stop interfering in the renting or selling of my property and cease insulting and annoying my wife, I shall not be responsible for their health or funeral expenses. C.R.----"

On November 15th the cornerstone of the new Episcopal Church was laid. The building was to be entirely of stone and so planned as to be part of a larger edifice should additional space be needed. The old wooden building was sold to Mrs. Taylor, who moved it to Main Street and had it remodeled for business purposes. The first occupant was a tailor, who used the place as a shop and living quarters [later it was Hank's Bar].

Charles H. Jessen, a gymnastics teacher, came here under the auspices of the Turn Verein [the German Gym & Social Club] to teach gymnastics to children. He also taught flute and zither.

Willis A. Mackinder rented Mrs. Fountain's house, corner of Main & Hudson [later Pratt] Streets, for occupancy of his parents and brother, who came from Windsor to make their home.

George H. Beach put up a two story building on his lot. Paddock and Company (druggists) and Wells Fargo Express occupied the lower floor. R.E. Wood, the photographer, had a studio upstairs.

On November 28th Louis K. Risley and Selina Davis were married at the home of the groom's father J. B. Risley Their attendants were George Risley and Georgia Spurr.

A post office was established in Angwin [still there].

John Lewelling died on Christmas morning at the age of 73. He arrived in California in January 1854 and planted 100 acres, mostly in cherries, in San Lorenzo. He came to St. Helena in 1864 and bought the Murray place of 400 acres, planted a vineyard and built a home. For many years he was president of the

Granger's Bank of California. An outstanding leader of the community, he was active in local enterprises such as the Granger's and St. Helena Viniculture Association.

Charles A. Gardner leased his interest in the St. Helena Star to his partner Willis Mackinder, who assumed sole management [By 1887 Willis' brother Frank Mackinder owned the newspaper].