

Carlsbad Historical Society (760) 434 9189

www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org

Letter from the President...

It was with great sadness that we learned in September of the passing of our dear friend Lucia Kelly Sippel. As a fifth generation Kelly, Lucia was an avid historian, tireless docent and volunteer for the Carlsbad Historical Society and Leo Carrillo Ranch Park. Lucia generously shared her time and knowledge about our history. She helped create interpretive displays documenting the Kelly family history at Leo Carrillo Ranch Park because one of her desires was to educate people about her family and their arrival to San Diego County.

All of the Carlsbad Kelly's are directly descended from Matthew Kelly, who homesteaded the property now known as Leo Carrillo Ranch Park. He arrived in 1868 with his wife and seven children from the northern California gold fields. Matthew's brother Robert had arrived in San Diego County during the 1850s, almost 18 years earlier. Robert had a number of jobs, and eventually inherited the Rancho Agua Hedionda from his employer Francis Hinton.

Lucia was a true daughter of the west and with her passing we lost more than a friend; we lost a link to the past. In honor of Lucia, we are dedicating this edition of our quarterly newsletter to her, and printing two articles about the Kelly family. One excerpted from John L. Kelly's, *Life on a San Diego County Ranch*, documenting the Matthew Kelly family's arrival to their homestead, sometimes known as Los

Quiotes, Los Kiotes or Los Kiotas. Lucia wrote the second article telling the story of Robert Kelly.

Condensed from the First Chapter of *Life on a San Diego County Ranch* by John L. Kelly

We landed in San Diego from the steamer "Orizaba", the third of November 1868. My father rented some rooms in an old adobe house in the "Old Town", owned by Father Ubach, the priest in charge of the Catholic church at that place, and left mother and the children there while he was getting a house built out at the ranch.



Los Quiotes 1905

Father's brother, Robert Kelly, was in the cattle business in partnership with Francis Hinton, at the Agua Hedionda ranch, and Father had been down to this county the previous year visiting his brother. At that time he had decided to bring his family down here and take up a ranch. Uncle Robert had shown him a piece of government land adjoining the Agua Hedionda Ranch, where there was running water. So he proceeded to build on the place adjoining the ranch on which his brother lived.

The small valley where Father decided to settle was known by the Spanish name of "Los Quiotes" which is Spanish for "The Yuccas"- a beautiful flowering plant well known in this county, and which grew plentifully on the hills around here.

The house that Father erected was a very crude affair. It was sixteen by twenty feet and a story and a half in height, made of rough redwood lumber with battens over the cracks; and as shingles could not be had at that times in San Diego, they made a roof by nailing rough redwood boards up and down over the sheeting. The house was divided upstairs into two rooms, but downstairs it was one room, except for a sort of pantry that was built under the stairs.



Mathew Kelly

Father was a blacksmith by trade, and a very good one, but he was very poor at carpenter work. The man he got to help him build was also a very poor workman and as they had only the roughest kind of lumber to work with, the house when finished was a very crude affair. It was built upon a bench of

high ground between two arms of the Valley, and there was a spring just at the foot of the hill, and a little west of the house, where we got our drinking water.

Father had rented the rooms at Old Town for a month, and at the end of that time he came back to town on horseback and hired a man with a big wagon and four horses to take the family and their belongings out to the ranch. I have often heard Mother tell of that experience. Of starting from Old town early in the morning and arriving at the ranch after it was dark. In the hurry of packing up that morning, all the matches they had with them had been placed in some place where they could not be found.



Oil painting of Los Quiotes

Imagine arriving at an utterly strange place in the night, with seven children, and all your belongings and no light to unpack by. Of course, the children were tired and hungry, as well as sleepy and cross and then to have to unroll bedding and try to find them something to eat under these circumstances, must have been a sore trial for a woman of Mother's nature, for she was a woman of a shrinking timid disposition who was never intended for pioneer life. The door of the house was still unhung, and there was a carpenter's workbench and many shavings and scraps of lumber in the lower room of the house. My oldest sister was about seventeen years of age, and my brother Matthew was twelve. All

the other children were younger. Mother often said the most terrifying part of it to her was the fact that the house had no door hung, and the coyotes were barking all about, and so near that she was greatly alarmed for fear they would carry off some of the children before morning. Of course, coyotes were at that time something new to her and she did not know how cowardly they were.

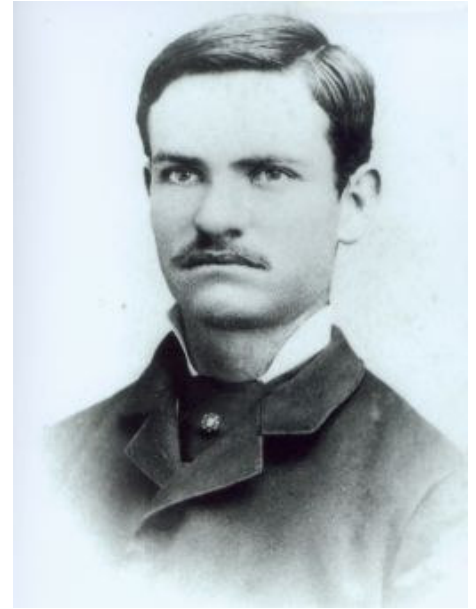
Mother use to say, "Well, we got through the night someway, and with daylight things looked a little less gloomy."

When I look back and think how wild and uncivilized the country was in those days I cannot help but wonder how anyone could bring women and children to such a place. But Father had lived for the previous fifteen years in the mines of Northern California, and had become thoroughly disgusted with mining, so I suppose it was a case of man's natural desire to own a ranch, and the fact that his brother who was a bachelor was in a position in this county to help him to get a start. Of course, my people's experience was no harder and perhaps not so hard as hundreds of other families who helped to settle the "great west" but for the women of the household it was certainly hard enough.

GREAT, GREAT UNCLE ROBERT A little history - by Lucia Kelly Sippel

In San Diego County, we Kelly's begin with Robert Kelly. He was the third child of John and Elizabeth Quine Kelly of the Isle of Man. Since he never married and had no children, his property was left to his brother Matthew's offspring. There were nine children who in 1895 divided the Rancho

Agua Hedionda into lots and ultimately became our ancestors.



John L. Kelly

Now let's go back to Robert. He was born on Christmas Day 1825 and lived on the family farm called The Rhyne near the community of Douglas, Isle of Man. He was active in St. Lukes Sunday School; he owned a little prayer book given to him for frequent attendance. Mormon preachers arrived in Douglas and began teaching their unusual ideas about 1841. According to newspapers of the day our Kellys were among the converted. Robert's parents, John & Elizabeth (Quine) Kelly, sold the farm, handed over the family burial plot to Quine relatives, took the packet boat to Liverpool and headed for the U.S. on March 5, 1844. Most of the family went up the Mississippi River to Nauvoo, Illinois (then the headquarters of Mormonism) but eighteen-year old Robert went off on his own. Apparently, he wandered up the river working his way with carpentry skills, went to night school in St. Louis and finally reached the Wisconsin pineries. There, he was engaged in rafting timber on the Wisconsin River.

This last bit of information comes to us from an 1888 book entitled "City and County of San Diego". Since Robert was alive and living near San Diego at that time, we hope the information came from him. He told little about himself even to his family (see John Lincoln Kelly's account) so we have to gather tidbits where we can. His brother Matthew was also working in Wisconsin, and married Emily Porter near Dodgeville, WI in 1848. I wonder if one knew the other was there. Do you suppose Robert went to Matthews wedding? And where was Brother John living?



Robert Kelly

1850-51 was a busy year. Gold had been found in California, which started a wild scramble to get there and get rich. On August 10, 1850, a 50-wagon train of mostly Mormons was ready to leave Independence MO and Robert and John Kelly had one of the wagons - their names are on the list. Arguments and troubles among the leaders arose along the Santa Fe Trail and continued on the southern

route where some of the Mormon contingent was headed to southern New Mexico. Only three wagons left Tucson in January 1851 including the Kelly's, Wilders and Oatmans. The massacre of the Oatman family was terrible. The other two families helped in saving Lorenzo Oatman and took him with them to Yuma. By the time they reached Yuma it was likely April or May of 1851. There, perhaps government forces may have been hiring men to help make a raft for crossing the Colorado River because Robert is always named as a builder of that project. Meanwhile, back in Nauvoo, John senior (father to Mathew and Robert) died of cholera (according to Lizzie Kelly Gunn) on July 22, 1851. She also says that Matthew left Wisconsin for the gold fields in Feb. 1851. So the four eldest men of the family had all moved on - three of them to California.

These years up to 1851, present the most questions about Robert. Beginning with his arrival in San Diego and his associations with other men, there are dates that help establish his activities. Robert helped build the "Davis Wharf", the first ever built in San Diego Bay and that happened in 1850-51. He also had a job driving wagonloads of supplies between San Diego and Yuma. Meanwhile, the Boundary Commission had come and gone in 1849 but left behind both Cave Coutts and Francis Hinton. The West Point military contingent had arrived bringing Col. John Magruder and Lt. Asher R. Eddy. Present also were Frank Ames and Eugene Pendleton. I doubt you could have been in the little town in those days and not known everyone else! Col. Magruder bought the Jamacha Rancho early in 1853 and in a couple of months sold two thirds of it to

the other three. Robert Kelly was listed as the fifth partner but with no money; perhaps he was accepted as the working partner.+ He lived on the ranch, managing men and stock - planting and harvesting with guidance from Lt. Eddy and funds from the others owners.* This lasted from 1853 until 1857 when he is said to have sold out and gone into a San Diego mercantile business with Frank Ames for a year.



1904 Kelly's reunion at Los Quiotes, present day Carrillo Ranch

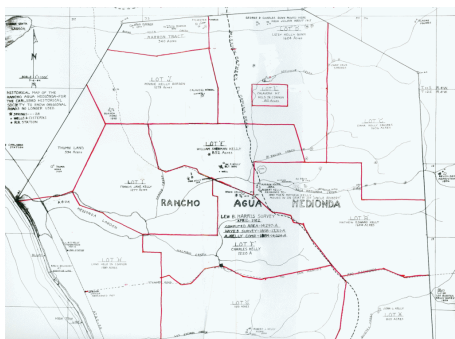


Kelly's reunion 2005 at same

In 1860, the entrepreneur Francis Hinton acquired Rancho Agua Hedionda and invited Robert Kelly to become his mayordomo (manager). From then on, Robert lived in the old 'Marron' adobe east of Carlsbad and next to El Camino Real (owned today by Pat & Karen Kelly). He ran the ranch while Hinton attended to his other business including the Black Vulture mine in AZ. In 1868, Brother Matthew and family arrived to homestead the Kiotes (Quiotes), just south east of the big rancho. Francis Hinton died in 1870 leaving

Rancho Agua Hedionda to his friend and majordomo, Robert Kelly.

About 1878 or 1879, Robert went back to the Isle of Man. We learn from Mormon searching that Robert Quine brother of Elizabeth Kelly, left a small legacy to his nephews and nieces. Robert went to pick up his and Matthew's share spending about a year traveling according to W.S. Kelly. On his return he set in motion the fencing of the 13,311acre ranch. Nephews Charles, Will, John L. and Robert were delegated to do the work probably with some Indian help in digging fence postholes. Subsequently, Robert left the ranch to his nieces and nephews when he himself died in 1890.



Rancho Agua Hedionda

Several of the heirs were married or looking, and in 1895 John L. Kelly undertook to survey the ranch. After that they divided it into 11 varying sized pieces each with some water and El Camino Real as a boundary for the middle part. Each piece was given a letter A through J, lots were drawn from a hat and our direct ancestors owned their own land. There are maps showing the shape of the ranch and the lot divisions with the name of the person who inherited each one.

+See "Legal Hocus-Pocus"

The Subdivision of Jamacha Rancho by Stephen Van Wormer, San Diego Historical Society 1982 Institute of History, page 93.

*Ida Dawson collected old letters. Of those, three or four are written by Lt. Asher Eddy to Robert Kelly in which Eddy gives directions for selling stock, planting crops, handling labor difficulties and general advice about the ranch.



Rancho Agua Hedionda Adobe
Original Marron Adobe, later home of Robert Kelly, granduncle to Lucia

**Little is known from writings about Robert. Most information comes from stories by family members. Some said he was in the army, others that he was part of the supply train, a quartermaster, accompanying the army. Possibly after arriving in Yuma in 1851, he began working for the army, freighting supplies. Ships arrived in Yuma more often than they reached San Diego. And it was about then that the army moved headquarters from Yuma to San Diego. Robert's life continues to be a detective story. Maybe more will be found about him in the future. Meanwhile, this provides a basic history of our "founding uncle" for those who are interested in adding it to our family records.

Lucia Kelly Sippel - 2005

Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members...

On Saturday September 15, 2007, more than 40 members participated in our Annual Meeting and Election. We all enjoyed our

guest speaker this year, Rita Shepard a member of the local Questers Group. She gave us a brief history and overview of activities of the organization. This very active group is instrumental in identifying antiques of significant historic value that are currently at risk and in need of restoration. Questers primarily focus their efforts on fundraising as well as finding the appropriate restorers necessary for preservation and protection of our collective history. The local Questers' latest project is the restoration of 19th century San Luis Rey Mission paintings.

Election Results....

We thank all those who submitted their names for consideration in the Annual Election of Board Members. We welcome our two newest members, 2nd Vice President Jack Cumming and Member at Large Sue Ladoucier. They will both serve a two-year term beginning in January 2008. We look forward to their participation and creativity. We extend a huge thank you to our outgoing Directors Hubert Smith and Debbie Stilwagen.



Passing...

It is with great sorrow that we mention the passing of two of our members Gilmer Boggs and Lucia Kelly Sippel. They will be greatly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to their families.



Holiday Party

Join your Carlsbad Historical Society Friends

Where: **Magee House**

258 Beech Street

When: Sunday afternoon 2- 4 P.M.

December 16th, 2007

Christmas Carols and Light Refreshments



Matthew Kelly and the Los Kiotas Ranch 1868-1923

In 1868 Matthew Kelly homesteaded 174.5 acres in this valley creating the Los Kiotas Ranch. In 1882 he built a second two story adobe home on this site. Nearly 60 years later, the four original walls of that house were preserved and incorporated into Leo Carrillo's own Hacienda.

In Memory of Lucia Kelly Sippel 1933-2007

A fifth-generation Kelly, Lucia was passionate about history and passing her knowledge on to the next generation. She was a devoted docent who was greatly appreciated for her time, talent, and kindness towards others.

Historic Plaque to be placed at Carrillo Ranch

BOARD MEETINGS

All members are welcome to attend our bimonthly Board of Directors meetings. Meetings are held in the Magee House meeting room at 4 p.m. the third Tuesday of every other month. Meetings are held in the following months; January, March, May, July, September, and November

CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Susan Gutierrez

1st Vice President: Geoff Armour

2nd Vice President: Hubert Smith

Secretary: Lenore Bouras

Treasurer: Ginny Unanue

Members-at-Large: Dr. Jerry Colling
Deborah Stilwagen

BOARD NEWS

The Carlsbad Historical Society received many memorial donations for Lucia Kelly Sippel. We thank her family for generously thinking of us in their time of grief and all those who donated. The Board of Directors has decided to use a portion of the donations in the following ways; purchase of a historic plaque to be located at the Leo Carrillo Ranch Park, laptop and projector for use in our educational outreach programs and a one year membership to the Carlsbad Historical Society for all those who donated funds in Lucia's memory.

CALENDAR

*Sunday December 16, 2 to 4 pm,
Holiday Party at Magee House

*Tuesday January 15, 4pm, CHS
Board of Directors Meeting - Magee
House Meeting room.

*Saturday, February 16, 11am to
3pm, Carlsbad High School 50th
Anniversary reenactment at Magee
Park.

ONGOING PROGRAMS -Volunteers
welcome in any of these areas

*Third grade tours.

*School presentations with
audiovisual display and trunk show.

*Private tours with Victorian teas.

* Carlsbad history research

*Photo collection management

Carlsbad Historical Society

P.O. Box 252

Carlsbad, CA 92018-0252

(760) 434-9189

cbadhistory@yahoo.com

Open Friday 10 to 4 pm and
Saturday 10 to 4 pm.

Private Tours with Tea are given
on Tuesday and Thursday
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org

Magee House and Museum

258 Beech Ave.

Carlsbad CA 92008

