

EARLY SEBASTOPOL

Part I – A Resort in the Country

By

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INTRODUCTION

This historical research paper on early Sebastopol includes the years of 1855 through 1875 and is the first paper in a series of four papers generated to fill the void in newspaper coverage prior to the spring of 1895. This series augments other historical Sebastopol sources such as McClure's two books (McClure, 1995; 2000).

My paper on the early Laguna de Santa Rosa (Cummings, 2005) selected and commented on old Petaluma newspaper articles. "Sebastopol" was one of the key words used in the screening and identification of the old newspaper articles relevant to the Laguna. Hence I had collected numerous references about early Sebastopol – many of which made no reference to the Laguna. Until soon after Sebastopol incorporated as a town in the spring of 1902, the Laguna was an important feature of the early Sebastopol area, but this collection does not include articles that have been previously published by me, unless they also had substantive historical information about early Sebastopol.

The first issue of the *Sebastopol Times* available on microfilm is dated April 3, 1895 and comparatively little specific historical information on Sebastopol is available prior to this date

Analy Township during the time period covered by this paper was a relatively large tract of western Sonoma County running south from the Russian River to the Marin County border (excluding the coast and the lower Russian River) and included the villages of Sebastopol, Bloomfield and Forestville. The location "near Sebastopol" in many old Petaluma newspaper articles is very vague. While it is clear that the early village of Sebastopol was central to and served a relatively large agricultural area, the designation "near Sebastopol" is not well defined. Numerous references designated "Green Valley" – the area northwest of Sebastopol known as the general Graton area today, were often excluded from this paper, but other references about the same area designated "near Sebastopol" were included. The summaries of the newspaper articles focus on the recording of physically substantive historical information about early Sebastopol – a name, buildings, etc., and generally exclude remarks about the crop conditions, the weather, gossip, etc. For example, a note about a non-resident person visiting Sebastopol was omitted unless the name(s) of the Sebastopol resident(s) visited was also mentioned in the article.

The early years covered in this paper were a particularly turbulent period in American history. While focusing on Santa Rosa, LeBaron and others (1985) provides an overview of a majority Southern viewpoint of most of the early settlers in the county. In contrast, Petaluma was a predominately Northern town and from 1860 on the *Argus* was a staunch Republican newspaper. In the words of the *Argus*, the newspaper was "without any ifs or buts" for the Constitution and the Union, and referred to Santa Rosa's *Sonoma Democrat* in the early 1860s as a "treasonable sheet." While in early 1861 the *Sonoma Democrat* took no position on the flag, by the spring of the same year the newspaper briefly flew the Secessionists flag outside of its office in Santa Rosa until the newspaper recognized that the flag was choking business. Thus many of the articles cited in this paper and the selection included, undoubtedly reflects the strong political bias of the *Argus*.

For convenience, the articles in this paper cite the names of the original newspapers in which first appeared:

PWJ & SCA – *Petaluma Weekly Journal and Sonoma County Advertiser*
SCJ – *Sonoma County Journal*
PA – *Petaluma Argus*
PJA – *Petaluma Journal and Argus*
J&A – *Journal and Argus*
PWA – *Petaluma Weekly Argus*
ST – *Sebastopol Times*

Also for convenience, the upper and/or lower cases used in the titles of the articles faithfully duplicates the cases used in the original newspaper article cited. The variation in spellings, if any, also faithfully duplicates the spellings used in the original article. The “flavor” of the language used in the summaries often duplicates the language used in the original newspaper article, but is usually not in parentheses. Only long quotes and unusual expression in the articles cited are in parentheses.

My comments are in small print following the summaries.

The population of Sonoma County grew from about 500 Californians in 1850 to about 12,000 by 1860. The population of Analy Township in 1860 was about 1,500 – over 12 percent of the county. By 1870 about 20,000 inhabited the county with again about 12 percent residing in Analy Township. The county grew to about 26,000 people in 1880, but Analy Township was now only about 7 percent of the county total (about 1,800), strongly suggesting that the administrative unit of Analy Township was greatly reduced in area in the 1870s. The U.S. census data for 1880 published in the *Argus*, record that the populations of the villages of Forestville, Sebastopol and Bloomfield were 84, 197 and 192, respectively.

PJ & SCA – November 24, 1855 Ad Empire Stage Line

Tri-weekly Line of Stages. Petaluma and Bodega route. Leave Petaluma for Pine Grove and Bodega 3 days per week. Ramer and Knowles, proprietors.

SCJ – May 22, 1857 Ad Accommodation Line

Stages from Petaluma to Bodega. Leave Petaluma via Oak Grove Hotel, Miller and Walker's, Sebastopol, Hudspeth's and O'Farrell's to Bodega. W. M. Tibbetts & Co. proprietors. Bill Tibbetts, driver.

SCJ – January 13, 1860 Ad Summer Arrangements U.S.M. Stage Line

Stages from Petaluma to Tomales and Bodega. Leave Petaluma for Stony Point, Sebastopol, Tomales, Bloomfield, Bethard's and Bodega. Fare \$2.00 from Petaluma to Sebastopol. W. M. Tibbetts & Co. proprietors.

SCJ – April 6, 1860 BALL AT SEBASTOPOL

The ball given at Sebastopol by Joaquin Carrillo proved to be a very pleasant affair, but given the inclement weather, the ball was not as profitable as Carrillo had hoped for.

SCJ – April 13, 1860 Ad MAY BALL

A grand ball is to be given by Joaquin Carrillo at Sebastopol. The Committee of Invitation: J. H. P. Morris and G. W. Dale. Floor Manager: D. A. V. Ogan. Supper: Mr. Jordan of Petaluma. \$4.00 for tickets to the ball and supper.

The balls at Sebastopol in the above two articles were undoubtedly at Joaquin Carrillo's Analy Hotel. An eyewitness account of the 1906 earthquake in Sebastopol (ST – April 18, 1947) records that the old Analy Hotel survived the earthquake on jacks at the corner of Petaluma Avenue and Sebastopol Road (known as the Garage Corner in the late 1940s) having been recently moved from what was then known as the Bank of America Corner. The old landmark hotel was razed in July 1919 "to make way for progress" (ST – July 11, 1919). Old Petaluma newspaper articles by themselves are inadequate to accurately describe the history of the Analy Hotel, but it is certain that operation of a hotel called the Analy was not continuous.

Hence Morris Street. The name of the street not only honors the name of Sebastopol's founder, J. H. P. (Joseph) Morris, it also honors the name of the founder's son, H. B. (Harry) Morris, the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of the newly incorporated town of Sebastopol in the spring of 1902.

SCJ – August 3, 1860 SEBASTOPOL

Readers of the *Journal* are encouraged to visit Sebastopol – a favorite place for parties desiring recreation or hunting and fishing in the country. Take the stage from Petaluma of “that very prince of jolly Jehues, Bill Tibbitts.” Mr. Wright of the soon to be completed Wilson’s Exchange or Joaquin Carrillo of the Analy Hotel “will tend to the wants of the inner man to their satisfaction.” The business of Sebastopol consists of three stores (the store of Petaluma’s I. Bernhard & Co. in particular, would do credit to any city or town in the state), two carriage shops, two blacksmith shops, two hotels, one livery stable and one stage stable. An additional attraction is the garden and home of J. H. P. Morris – “a snug little cottage nestling among the forest trees ..., really an agreeable treat.”

The writer of this article refers to the “fine forest of oaks, firs and redwoods” of the Sebastopol area, but while planted extensively, redwoods are probably not a native tree species of the upland areas of Sebastopol. Redwoods are also not a native tree of the Laguna Ecosystem (Waaland, 1990). While apparently not scientifically studied, the native tree vegetation of the Sebastopol and most of the Green Valley area was probably a mixed conifer and oak forest meeting the criteria of Douglas-fir (DFR) in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Program (WHRP) where the dominant trees are Douglas-firs, oaks and Madrones (Mayer and Ludenslayer, 1988). Since Douglas-fir is often commonly known as “pine,” McClure (1995) rightly points out that J. H. P. Morris’s new town of Pine Grove was a more appropriate name than “Sebastopol.”

**SCJ – November 9, 1860 ELECTION RETURNS
SCJ – November 9, 1860 THE STATE**

These two articles report on the preliminary results of the presidential election of 1860. While California voted overall for Lincoln, Sonoma County voted for Breckinridge. The Sebastopol precinct voted overwhelmingly for Breckinridge with an even greater ratio than the Santa Rosa precinct (Sebastopol: Breckinridge 140; Douglas 37; Lincoln 45; Bell 17). Lincoln won a majority in only three precincts in the county (Bloomfield, Healdsburg and Petaluma), but even in these three precincts a plurality of males voted for one of the three other presidential candidates. In both the Sebastopol and Santa Rosa precincts nearly one in five men cast their ballots for Lincoln.

Even in the so called Democrat or Republican bastion areas in the county, a significant male minority voted for an opposing candidate.

SCJ –September 20, 1861 Election Returns of Sonoma County – Official

While the overall state returns elected a Republican governor (Leland Stanford) and elected Republican majorities in both state houses, males in Sonoma County voted for McConnell as governor by a narrow margin. Only six precincts in the county voted for Stanford. Sebastopol like most precincts in the county, voted for McConnell (Sebastopol: McConnell 117; Stanford 79; Camess ? 45). However, numerous local county officials (for example, the district attorney and the public administrator) were elected as Republicans.

After the election, the Board of Supervisors appointed J. H. P. Morris and Wm. Fowler as constables and I. R. Morris and W. G. Lee as justices of peace for Analy Township.

In the election above, the Democratic vote was split in two parties – the Union Democrat and the New Democrat.

SCJ – November 8, 1861 BALL AT SEBASTOPOL

This short note announces a ball at Sebastopol in the Exchange hotel.

SCJ – February 7, 1862 St. VALENTINE’S DAY

Mr. Wilson of the Exchange in Sebastopol announces a ball to add an additional zest to the event of “the sighing swains and roguish maidens” of St. Valentine’s Day.

Wilson’s Exchange hotel was destroyed in Sebastopol’s great fire in late August 1881.

PA – March 26, 1862 From Our old Correspondent – SEBASTOPOL

In extremely broken English and with many phonetic spellings, this very long letter from the Sebastopol correspondent (Jan Lipit) describes and compares the good loving Union “sitizens” with the “Seseshioners.” The “Seseshioners” make a whirl at the “eend” of every word “as long as a Missouri pig in the month of December does after a year of corn” and refer to the *Petaluma Argus* as that “cussed abolition sheet.” The correspondent supports the Country, Uncle Abe and the Constitution – the position of the *Argus*.

While almost certainly appearing to be a phony letter, this letter accurately reflects some of the political discussion in the county at the time.

SCJ – February 20, 1863 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Among their many actions, the supervisors ordered that the road from Sebastopol to Windsor Cottage be surveyed and declared a public road.

PA – July 22, 1863 Meeting at Sebastopol

A. Bushnell was chairman and W. D. Burbans was secretary of a group of Sebastopol citizens that were to arrange future public meetings where prominent Union speakers would address the assembled gatherings.

PA – August 5, 1863 SECESSION IN SEBASTOPOL

The Democratic Party in Sebastopol erected a tall pole, hoisted the Union Flag bearing the word “Constitution” upside down and had a good time generally at a grand “pow wow.” But the writer of the article opines that these ostrich Secessioners deceived no one but themselves.

PA – August 5, 1863 Ad NEW ARRANGEMENT – U.S.M. Stage Line

From Petaluma to Sebastopol and Bodega via Stony Point. 3 days per week.
Rates of Fare, \$2.00 Petaluma to Sebastopol.
J. R. Wilson, Proprietor

PA – September 9, 1863 Unofficial Election Returns

The Secessionist candidates won an overall narrow majority in the preliminary county 1863 election results for governor. The preliminary results from the Sebastopol precinct recorded 132 votes for Downy (Secession) to 88 votes for Low (Union). The Union candidate won in only seven of the twenty precincts in the county at the time (Petaluma and six others). The Santa Rosa precinct recorded a very solid ratio for Downy of nearly 2:1 while the ratio in Petaluma was very close to being the exact opposite. Secession candidates appear to have won most of the county candidates.

SCJ – October 9, 1863 GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY

This column includes a note that J. F. P. Smith of Sebastopol, is turning out a fine article of manufactured tobacco.

PJA – July 28, 1864 The Fourth of July at Sebastopol

The writer of this article is of the opinion that Sebastopol is mainly composed of Democrats “who believe in stealing, robbing stages, fitting out pirate schooners, ignoring all teachings and lessons of genuine Democracy, and take as their patron saint Judas Iscariot of ancient fame.” However, there are a few genuine Union men of honest Democracy in Sebastopol who love their country. Thomas L. Carothers of Petaluma delivered the Fourth of July oration. The article continues at considerable length analyzing Carothers’ oration and disparaging the Copperheads.

PJA – July 28, 1864 BADLY SOLD

Until the evening stage arrived in Petaluma with news that the report was false, the earlier report in the telegram from W. L. Anderson, a rebel from Santa Rosa, was believed – that three noted rebels of Sebastopol, Dr. Harris, Wilson and Valentine, had been arrested for treason and would be sent to Alcatraz. A constitutional expounder in Petaluma offered to bet \$500 that the arrests resulted from the lying of the awful fellow, Joe McReynolds. Democracy rejoiced with great joy and the indulgence of “tangle leg fluid” when the initial report was exposed as a hoax.

PJA – December 1, 1864 MEAN

A subscriber of the *Argus* at Sebastopol complains that he gets very little from his subscription since his Secessionist neighbors read and circulate his paper from house to house and he is seldom able to read his own paper. “This is just like the rebels here. They sneak around get the reading of the paper and then talk all week of the march of vile abolition ideas.”

PJA – December 1, 1864 Official Vote of Sonoma Co. Nov. 8th, 1864

The overall vote of the county in the election of November 8, 1864 was again a defeat for Lincoln (McClellan 2,336: Lincoln 2,026), and Lincoln won in less than one-half of the precincts in the county. The vote in Sebastopol was 191 for McClellan and 114 for Lincoln. The ratio for McClellan in Sebastopol was slightly less than the ratio recorded in the Santa Rosa precinct and was almost the opposite of the ratio for Lincoln recorded in the Republican stronghold of Petaluma.

Sebastopol, like Sonoma County, now has the dubious distinction of not voting for Lincoln in neither the 1860 election nor in the election of 1864.

PJA – January 26, 1865 ROBBERS AT SEBASTOPOL

John Dougherty was in the back room of his store one day last week, but hadn't locked the safe in the front room and robbers stole \$300 in gold from his store safe.

**PJA – January 26, 1865 Ad Sanitary Fair and Ball in Sebastopol on
St. Valentine's Day to aid the Sick and Wounded
Soldiers**

Sebastopol General Committee:

A. F. Hubbard, Charles Meek, Otis Allen, Joe McReynolds, H. Marshal, Frank Mayfield, Jas. Gannon, S. Dows, Thos. Clark, Chas. Butts, Dr. T. M. Ames, J. H. P. Morris, J. M. Dougherty, L. Clyman, Mrs. Mauk, Mrs. Sedgley, Mrs. Corrillo, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. Bushnell, Mrs. Sandborn, Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Marshal, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Dows, Mrs. Clyman and Misses S. Clyman, S. Sebring, L. Wilson, A. Churchman and M. Johnson

(In addition there were General Committees for Santa Rosa, Bloomfield, Valley Ford, Petaluma, Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville, Salt Point and Stony Point)

Executive Committee:

A. F. Hubbard, Chas. Mauk, Otis Allen, H. Marshal, J. M. Dougherty, J. G. Maxwell, H. Talbot and Cap. Eliason

Committee of Arrangements:

James Gannon, Samuel Dows, Thos. Clark, Charles Butts and Charles Mauk

Committee of Introduction:

Dr. T. M. Ames, J. H. P. Morris, J. M. Dougherty, Charles Mauk, Wat. Roney and Cap. W. A. Eliason

The above grand ball and fair at Sebastopol preceded the official end of the Civil War by a few months.

PJA – February 23, 1865 Another Glorious Victory! Sebastopol Triumphant!

“ROMEO” reports that despite the rainy weather and the bad slippery conditions of the roads limiting the number of persons from abroad, the Sanitary Fair and Ball were the most magnificent affairs of the season and attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd. The Fair included many contributed articles. Miss Sophronia Clyman, President of the Ladies’ Soldier’s Aid Society, is in particular, deserving of the highest praise for her labors and pure patriotism. After a magnificent dinner and fair in the afternoon, about 100 tickets were sold at the door for the evening ball. Net proceeds from the Fair and Ball were \$820 or more.

PJA – June 8, 1865 SALOON BURNED

The saloon of F. Maxfield at Sebastopol was destroyed by fire last Saturday night and the two persons who supposedly set the fire have been arrested.

PJA – June 8, 1865 UNION COUNTY CANDIDATES

The list of Union candidates for the state Assembly includes J. C. Hoag of Analy Township.

PJA – July 13, 1865 Sebastopol Celebration

“ROMEO” reports that the many patriotic citizens of Sebastopol did not forget celebrating the glorious Fourth of July. People began to assemble in the morning in a quiet grove near the little village “which owns the name of Russia’s renowned Fortress.” A procession assembled at the Oak Grove school under the leadership of David Bowman and marched to the grove. Ceremonies of the day began with a most eloquent prayer from the Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Burton and was followed by an appropriate song by the choir and the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Prof. E. S. Lippitt was the orator of the day and delivered a most masterly and eloquent talk followed by the choir singing the beautiful air, “The Union Now and Forever.” Dinner was followed by a short speech by Major Jackson and everybody danced until nightfall.

PJA – May 3, 1866 SEBASTOPOL TAKEN

This note reports that John Orr, Esq. and Col. Wm. Tibbetts have become proprietors of the Wilson House in Sebastopol.

A year earlier, John Orr of Salt Point Township (the Duncan's Mill area at the time) had run unsuccessfully as a county Union candidate for the state assemblyman. Orr was also an unsuccessful candidate for county sheriff in 1867. Before the Civil War, Col. Tibbetts appears to be simply "Bill" Tibbetts, the driver and owner of the Petaluma to Bodega stage line via Sebastopol.

PJA – August 30, 1866 EDITOR JOURNAL AND ARGUS

"N. B." informs the editor that the District Camp Meeting of the M.E. Church held near Sebastopol was a great blessing to the church – soul saving, and added 33 new members to the church, 14 of whom are heads of families.

Numerous denominations held frequent "Camp Meetings" in the Sebastopol area through to at least the late 1800s. Such meetings appear to have been essentially equivalent to "revival meetings."

PJA – December 6, 1866 STILL ANOTHER

Dr. T. M. Ames of Sebastopol, once Mendocino County's favorite representative in the Legislature, is a candidate for state controller subject to the action of the Union State Convention.

PJA – April 18, 1867 Political

"BLACK" reports in a letter to the editor that numerous Copperheads had gathered at Wilson's Exchange in Sebastopol and had a good time preparing for the fall campaign. A Confederate general from Texas pitched into that great staple, the "nigger," which was wonderful for the children, but stale to grown boys. "Look out sharp you Petaluma Cops. for the 'Club' is organized."

PJA – May 30, 1867 CHARCOAL

Maj. Wm. Jackson, who is delivering a large quantity of coal to Petaluma, reports that Alexander & Hoague of Sebastopol have 27 men and two teams, and will make about 300 sacks of coal during the summer. Goheen, Rodgers & Co. are working ten men and one team and Lane & Co. are also working ten men. When combined with several smaller companies, an aggregate of 70 men with 10 or 12 teams will produce about 5,000 sacks of charcoal worth about \$3,000 dollars. "This speaks well for the enterprise of our Sebastopol neighbors."

PJA – July 11, 1867 The Fourth in Analy

The citizens of Sebastopol, the Oak Grove and the Redwood school districts had a grand picnic and barbecue on the Fourth in a shady grove on the farm of Lancaster Clyman in Green Valley. Messrs. Clyman, Bowman and Bushnell were the Committee of Arrangements. Maj. Wm. Jackson was President for the Day. Rev. Mr. Clifford of the M. E. Church officiated as Chaplain. Mr. McElory read the Declaration of Independence and the Hon. J. H. McNabb delivered the oration. The “National Bird” was flown to the satisfaction of his bearers and was greeted by rounds of applause.

PJA – January 23, 1868 ANOTHER SEBASTOPOL

The name of the Post Office at Sebastopol, Sonoma County has been changed from Bodega to Sebastopol and John Dougherty has been appointed Sebastopol’s postmaster. The name of the Post Office at Smith’s Ranch will be changed to Bodega. The names of the post offices now conform more nearly to their localities and the change in names has been necessitated by the settlement of the country. Except for Sonoma, the Bodega (now Sebastopol) Post Office was the oldest and most northern Post Office above the Bay of San Francisco in coastal California and served mail for everybody up to the Oregon line. We now have three “Sebastopols” in California, but only one of them has a Post Office. The Post Office at Sebastopol, Napa County, is now called “Yountsville” and the Sebastopol in Sacramento County does not have a Post Office.

According to Gudde (1998) there were also towns named Sebastopol in Tulare and Nevada counties, but the towns of Sebastopol in Sacramento, Tulare and Nevada counties no longer exist.

PJA – June 18, 1868 THE FOURTH AT SEBASTOPOL

Sebastopol citizens are preparing to celebrate the Fourth in grand style. A picnic will be arranged in a grove near town. The Hon. G. W. Langdon will be the Orator of the Day and the Hon. Jas. H. McNabb will be the Reader of the Declaration. Rev. Bateman will be Chaplin and Geo. S. Spaulding will be the Poet.

PJA – August 6, 1868 SEBASTOPOL GRANT AND COLFAX CLUB

The live and efficient organization includes: A. Bushnell, President; D. S. Bowman, H. Churchman and L. Harbine, Vice-Presidents; C. Wahl, Recording Secretary; and James H. McNabb, Corresponding Secretary. The Sebastopol club was formed to increase the Republican majority in future elections.

PJA – October 15, 1868 Ad GRAND UNION BARBECUE

Sebastopol's Grant and Colfax Club will sponsor a barbecue at Crawford's Grove. The Hon. W. A. Elison will be President of the Day and D. S. Bowman will be the Grand Marshal. The Committee of Arrangements includes: Messrs. Orr, Gregson, Chenneworth, Clyman, Wahl, Marshal, Crawford, Riddle, Young, Canfield and Minor. Invited speakers include Republican nominees for Congress or state office and others including Jos. McReynolds, Esq. Signed A. Bushnell, President and Jas. H. McNabb, Cor. Secretary.

PJA – November 12, 1868 Sonoma County Returns**PJA – November 12, 1868 Returns from the State**

The preliminary county returns indicate that Grant and Colfax (the Republican ticket for president and vice president) won a majority in only three of the 14 precincts in the county (Petaluma, Sebastopol [majority, 34] and Bloomfield), but California and the Nation as a whole voted a majority for Gant and Colfax. However, the majority of men in Sonoma County, like about one-half of the counties in the state, voted for the Democratic ticket (Seymour and Blair).

PJA – September 23, 1869 SONOMA COUNTY ITEMS

The items listed from the *Democrat* include notes that the M.E. Church South's Camp Meeting near Sebastopol was well attended. The Seventh-day Adventists are now holding forth in their tent at Sebastopol. "Sebastopol is becoming famous for dancing parties." Joaquin Carrillo has recently opened his new hotel in Sebastopol and Mr. Wilson is now having his hall fixed up in fine style.

The *Democrat* in the Petaluma newspapers refers to Santa Rosa's *Sonoma Democrat*, which began publishing in late October 1857.

PJA – September 30, 1869 SONOMA COUNTY ITEMS

The items listed from the *Democrat* includes a note that Master John Dougherty, the "little giant" of Sebastopol, at age 15, is four inches shorter than Gen. Tom Thumb and is hailed as a rival to the general for "Lilliputian honors."

PJA – October 23, 1869 SONOMA COUNTY ITEMS

The items listed from the *Democrat* include a note that the Odd Fellows at Sebastopol have completed a fine wooden building and will use the upper portion as a Lodge Room.

PJA – November 27, 1869 STAGE ROBBERY

Lew Miller's coast stage was robbed of some baggage east of Duncan's Mill and the perpetrator, John Johnson, was arrested near Sebastopol by Mr. Miller and Constable Emerson. Johnson had many of the stolen articles when he was arrested and he was taken to Santa Rosa to be tried by Justice Brown. Found guilty, Johnson was given the alternative of paying a \$100 fine or free lodging for 50 days in the County Jail.

J&A – June 4, 1870 CELEBRATION AT SEBASTOPOL

This short article describes the preparations for the Fourth of July celebration at Sebastopol. Oration, the Hon. Barclay Henley; reading the Declaration of Independence, Melville Johnson Esq.; and Mr. Depencer, the reading of an original poem. The celebration will be followed by a grand ball in the evening at Wilson's Exchange.

J&A – October 22, 1870 Sonoma County Items

The items listed from the *Democrat* include notes that A. J. Forester of Sebastopol discovered relics of bygone years while sinking a well on his ranch. The relics included a crucible, an elk's hoof, a piece of a palm tree, a fragment of charred wood and fossil clamshells. Another Sebastopol gentleman had informed the *Democrat* that there was going to be a meeting of all fruit growers in Analy Township to ascertain the cheapest way that they could transport their produce to market. The fruit growers at present have to haul their fruit to Petaluma and from there ship by steamer to San Francisco. The group intends to communicate with Peter Donahue, Esq. to see if it's cheaper for them to transport their produce by rail.

J&A – November 5, 1870 Meeting at Sebastopol

James Hudspeth was appointed president and Edward Webb, secretary, of the Green Valley farmers meeting to consider the cheapest way for them to ship their fruit to market (at least 20,000 boxes) – via Petaluma and steamer to San Francisco or by the speedy completion of a railroad to Santa Rosa. Mr. Marshall pointed out that it was really important for them to know the real quantity of fruit involved. Mr. Bowman and Mr. Small were chosen to canvas the valley and learn how much fruit was sent to market every year. Mr. Gregson stated that the fruit business in this section could be greatly increased by favorable railroad rates, but that many growers would continue to ship via Petaluma unless the railroad route was much cheaper. Possible shipping by the ports of Bodega and Tomales was discussed at the meeting.

The call for a meeting of the fruit growers and their subsequent organizational meeting follows the first passenger excursion train of the SF&NP (the Donahue line) between Petaluma and Santa Rosa on October 21, 1870. At stake for the fruit growers was to determine the cheapest and best way for them to ship their fresh produce to market: to continue hauling their produce by wagon to Petaluma and by steamer to San Francisco or to ship their produce on the new railroad. In October 1875 ten mills were reported to be along the lower Russian River below Healdsburg (Korbel's, Murphy Bros., Heald and Guerne's, Field and Howard's, Norton's, Gifford's, Meeker's, Smith's, Moore's and

Duncan's). The obvious priority for the Donahue line would have been for them to construct a branch line to the redwood lumber region. The standard gage branch line from Fulton of the SF&NP arrived in Guerneville in early March of 1877. The deep water terminus at Tiburon of the SF&NP was not operational until the spring of 1884. The branch line of the SF&NP between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol was not completed until the early spring of 1890 – more than twenty years after the meeting of the fruit growers. While a direct railroad from Petaluma to Sebastopol was planned in the late 1880s, it was not built. In short, as for fresh fruit to the markets in San Francisco, the Green Valley fruit growers would have had a simple choice in 1870 and for decades to come: to continue hauling their fruit to Petaluma or to cut their hauling distance by about one-third and haul their fruit to the warehouses and train station in Santa Rosa.

J&A – November 12, 1870 Sonoma County Items

Items listed from the *Healdsburg Flag* include a note that Annie, age about eleven, was killed on her father's ranch near Sebastopol. A. J. Forrister, her father, was burning a dead tree and a burned limb fell and killed his daughter.

J&A – December 3, 1870 ROBBERY AT SEBASTOPOL

John Orr reported that some burglars broke into the back of the Wilson & Co. store and extracted \$500 to \$600 worth of jewelry and clothing.

J&A – December 10, 1870 FIRE AT FREESTONE

The store in Freestone owned by John Dougherty of Sebastopol and managed by D. H. Wright was destroyed by fire. While the store was fully insured, the Freestone Post Office was in the same building and the Post Office and all its mail was also destroyed in the fire. The fire was assumed to be the work of an incendiary.

J&A – December 24, 1870 Sonoma County

The items listed from the *Democrat* include a note that B. B. Berry of Sebastopol has contracted to carry the mail between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol and will soon put on his Stage again.

The historic route of Sebastopol's mail was via stage from Petaluma. The above note indicates that in less than a month after the coming of the railroad – the Donahue line, Sebastopol's mail now came via the train to Santa Rosa.

J&A – April 8, 1871 EXCITEMENT AT SEBASTOPOL

Tibbitts of Sebastopol reported to the *Argus* that the forge at the blacksmith's suddenly exploded from the accumulation of coal gas, but apart from damaging the bellows and frightening the workman out of several years' growth, no damage was done. However, Tibbitts says that since the explosion, he has avoided all fire as much as possible.

J&A – April 24, 1871 ODD FELLOWS' PICNIC

The I.O.O.F. Lodge of Sonoma County are to hold a picnic and dance at Sebastopol and a large delegation accompanied by “their wives and lady loves” are expected to attend what promises to be one of the most agreeable affairs ever held in this section.

J&A – April 29, 1871 Odd Fellows' Picnic at Sebastopol

An estimated crowd of from 1,200 to 1,500 people attended the Odd Fellows' picnic and dance at Sebastopol. The picnic was held to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the introduction of the Order in the U.S. and was a fine affair attended by many lodges in the county.

**J&A – June 24, 1871 Ad BARBECUE AT SEBASTOPOL ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY, 1871**

Under the auspices of the Evergreen Lodge of the I.O.G.T for the benefit of the Orphans' Home. The program for the day includes a prayer by the Rev. J. M. Small of Sebastopol and numerous other non-Sebastopol dignitaries. The oration will be followed by 36 little girls, representing the States of the Union singing “Red, White and Blue.” Tickets for the dinner and barbecue will be 50 cents and the best artists of the area will show their work, etc. The Committee of Arrangements includes: F. A. Freeman, Geo. Fruits, Mrs. L. Richardson, Mrs. A. E. Parker and J. L. DePencier.

J&A – July 8, 1871 AT SEBASTOPOL

An estimated crowd of from 2,000 to 2,500 people attended Sebastopol's Fourth of July celebration sponsored by the Evergreen Lodge of the I.O.G.T. The Central Brass Band led the procession to the picnic grounds about a quarter of a mile from town. The vast assemblage was served a fine barbecue dinner after the speeches and exercises. A grand ball was held in the evening at the Pioneer Hotel and the young people kept up the revelry until an early hour.

J&A – September 2, 1871 Letter from Sebastopol

“AMY” writes a very long letter to the *Argus* about the goings on in Sebastopol. The Democrats are going to hold a grand barbecue this week and a Republican had spoken one evening last week. The Democrats made a great deal of noise trying to get a crowd together with bells and anvils since Sebastopol doesn't have a cannon. Sebastopol experienced quite an earthquake shock last week. Mr. Edwards was sleeping in his stable and was awoken by an intruder, who was arrested by a posse as probably one of stage robbers. Judge Berry examined the intruder before he was sent to Santa Rosa. Dr. H. J. Smith recently erected a handsome cottage and Mr. M. Edwards, one of our merchants,

has a fine residence nearing completion. The attendance at the camp meeting was so large that it was held over for another week and a marriage ceremony was performed at the camp meeting grounds.

J&A – September 16, 1871 OFFICIAL ELECTION RETURNS OF SONOMA COUNTY

The official returns for the state and county election of 1871 from the governor down, show that the Sebastopol precinct, like the county as a whole, voted universally for the non-Republican candidates (Sebastopol governor vote: Newton Booth, 120; H. H. Haight, 158). The Petaluma city precinct voted for all of the Republican candidates except for the county sheriff. The Santa Rosa precinct voted overwhelmingly for all of the non-Republican candidates. None of the Republican candidates received a majority in the county. John Orr, now from Ocean Township, ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate for the state Assembly.

J&A – November 4, 1871 Through the County

The town of Sebastopol at this time was reported to have included several first class stores doing a thriving business (John Dougherty and Messrs. Gitz & Co.) and two hotels to provide the traveling public a place to eat and sleep (W.H. Wilson of the Exchange and Joaquin Carrillo of the Pioneer). There were also two churches, a Masonic Lodge and the usual compliment of blacksmith and harness shops, saloons, etc.

The reference in this article to Joaquin Carrillo's Pioneer Hotel rather than the Analy Hotel cannot be readily explained using only the old Petaluma newspaper articles. The simplest explanation is that the Pioneer was a change in name and an updating of the old Analy. This article also provides the physical details of numerous communities in the western county at the time. Bloomfield, for example, is described as being larger than Sebastopol with a population of about 500, a large public school and a steam flour mill in addition to the usual compliment of businesses and saloons.

There is a relatively poor concordance in the physical descriptions between this newspaper article and as depicted on an 1869 map of the village of Sebastopol (McAlvain, 1971). For example, the 1869 map shows only one church – the Methodist Church, and not two churches as described in this newspaper article. In addition, the 1869 map shows a Sebastopol school house off the road to Bodega which is not mentioned in the article above or in another Sebastopol article in the spring of 1873. The Bowers 1867 map of the county shows a Laguna District school at Sebastopol. The school house discrepancy is especially not easy to explain since the locations of schools in the early county were very important and if present, were routinely reported in area specific old newspaper articles. Possible explanations for the discrepancies between the 1869 map and this late 1871 article include the two year difference and the fact that the map is based on parcel ownership while this article is based on parcel use – not ownership.

J&A – December 16, 1871 The Taxable Property of Sonoma County

County and state taxes at the time were based of the total value of property – cash, real-estate, acres of land, etc. and personal property such as the number of horses, cows, chickens and buggies, etc. owned. Most of the wealth in the county was, as expected, in the large urbanized areas of Petaluma and Santa Rosa townships (about 41 percent). Analy Township accounted for only about 12 percent of the total value of all property in the county and with only about 3 percent of the total county value of city or town lots.

J&A – December 16, 1871 Another Stage Robber Arrested

Marshal Knowles arrested a man named Geo. Maxwell, alias “Black George,” for robbing the stage between Sebastopol and Freestone. The stage had been stopped by a rope stretched across the road and the express box was stolen. Maxwell is the leader of a gang of robbers that have been stopping people lately near Sebastopol.

J&A – April 20, 1872 SEBASTOPOL

Republican voters held a primary meeting at Sebastopol. Alex Wily was made president and G. W. Frick was made secretary. The group endorsed the present administration under the wise and patriotic leadership of U. S. Grant. Delegates chosen included: Alex Wily, G. W. Frick, L. Harbine and Henry Marshal. Alternatives were: J. H. Fix, J. Fix, J. Gregson and Levi Johnson.

J&A – July 20, 1872 SONOMA COUNTY ITEMS

This feature contains a note from the *Healdsburg Flag* that the Democrats of Sebastopol held a meeting and resolved that they did not want to support Joseph Griggs, the Democratic nominee for county supervisor, and called for another meeting to nominate a more suitable candidate. The group considered that the re-election of Mr. Griggs would be detrimental to the best interests of the county.

**J&A – July 20, 1872 DOMESTIC WRANGLE –
Two Families at Sebastopol in Hot Water – A Deserted Husband and a
Deserted Wife**

Mr. Flagg, a married man, eloped with a young girl, Mrs. Lizzie Thayer, and that they had been arrested while attempting to reach Mrs. Thayer’s home in Oregon (“web foot country”). When examined in Santa Rosa on the charge of grand larceny for stealing clothing from Mrs. Flagg, the couple was acquitted and they proceeded on their way to Oregon.

**J&A – November 8, 1872 SONOMA COUNTY ELECTION RETURNS
J&A – November 8, 1872 COUNTY ELECTION RETURNS**

These two articles record the preliminary results of the federal and county election returns of 1872. The Sebastopol precinct and five other precincts in the county voted for Grant as president (Sebastopol; Grant, 108; Greeley, 78). While most of the county recorded a Democratic victory, the *Argus* predicted that the preliminary results would lead to a final tally for the Republican, Grant – “proud old Sonoma, the banner county.” Old Sonoma, long the banner Democratic county had even elected a Republican supervisor (G. A. Tupper).

J&A – January 31, 1873 ACCIDENT AT SEBASTOPOL

James Gannon of Sebastopol, met with a very serious accident on the 21st. While taking a gang plow to be repaired at Sebastopol and driving four horses, the gang plow hit a stump near town and threw Mr. Gannon to the ground, breaking his wrist and driving an arm bone nearly through his hand. Dr. Boyce of Santa Rosa was sent for and rendered surgical aid.

PWA – February 7, 1873 SERIOUS RESULT

Mr. L. W. Miller reports in this article that it was necessary to amputate the right arm of James Gannon of Sebastopol six inches above the elbow, since mortification had set in after his compound arm fracture occurred in his gang plow accident described in the preceding article. Mr. Gannon was also threatened with tetanus and Drs. Boyce and Allen of Santa Rosa had performed the surgery. But Mr. Gannon is in very critical condition and is not expected to recover.

But James Gannon did recover and was one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of early Sebastopol.

PWA – February 28, 1873 ACCIDENT AT SEBASTOPOL

This article reports that the about four-year-old son of Owen Burns of Sebastopol was killed by the wagon wheels while attempting to climb onto a moving wagon.

PWA – May 23, 1873 FROM SEBASTOPOL

This article reports that Post Master Puckett of Petaluma took a trip to Green Valley and beyond. Puckett visited the chair factory of S. Nowlin in the village of Forestville and reported that 22 men and eight teams are employed by the factory from stump to wareroom. "If Petaluma had a few Nowlins we could laugh at hard times."

Ideal native hardwood trees for Nowlin's chair factory would have been native oaks and Madrone and strongly indicates that the logging operations of the Forestville chair factory were in Green Valley.

PWA – May 30, 1873 SEBASTOPOL

This article reports on the *Argus* staff making a flying visit to Sebastopol. The staff reports that while some fine residences had been built in the suburbs of Sebastopol, the business part of town looks much the same. The town now consists of two hotels, four stores, one shoemaker shop, two churches, one butcher shop, two livery stables, two insurance agents, one saloon, one carriage maker and one physician. The Pioneer (Hotel) is commodious and commands a charming view of the Santa Rosa Valley with Sonoma Mountain looming in the distance. The staff jumped on the train in Santa Rosa and in thirty one minutes was back in Petaluma. (The staff also noted that Santa Rosa was spreading over a large territory.)

