



LIME KILN CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District
University of California, Santa Cruz

Hay Barn's Past and Future to be Subject of Exhibit

This winter the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History is partnering with UCSC to present an exhibition on the restoration of the Cowell Lime Works Hay Barn. The barn dates from the 1860s or '70s, and its frame was made using mortise and tenon joints held together by wooden pegs. The feasibility of restoring this magnificent structure is now under study (see page 2).

According to the Museum, "This exhibition will introduce visitors to the history of the UCSC south campus, the techniques of timber framing, and the possibilities for the future. Students, families, and adults will be able to work together to raise a model of the Hay Barn and to learn more about a vision for the Cowell Lime Works Historic District."

The inspiration for the exhibit originated with the lecture and demonstration on timber frame construction organized last April by the Friends and co-sponsored by the Museum. The exhibit will be part of a Museum-wide exhibition titled "Work In Progress." The Museum is at 705 Front Street in Santa Cruz, and the exhibit will run from December 14, 2012, to March 17, 2013. Visit their website (santacruzmah.org) for details.



Bill Hurley of Dos Osos Timberworks demonstrates timber framing techniques.

History from the Ground Up

This past August, archaeologist Patricia Paramoure completed her study of Cabin B as one of the requirements for an M.A. in cultural resource management from Sonoma State University. Pat's thesis, **Life in an Industrial Village: The Archaeology of Cabin B at the Cowell Lime Works Historic District**, will be available online through the Sonoma State University library later this year.

In the first part of her thesis, Pat explores the development of the fields of historical and industrial archaeology. She also summarizes the history of the use of lime in various parts of the world, the history of Santa Cruz, and the history of the Santa Cruz lime industry. But at the heart of her thesis is the story told by the artifacts unearthed under and around Cabin B. Few archaeological studies have been done of lime manufacturing sites in the U.S.. This thesis is the first to focus on the lives of the individual workers rather than the technology of the lime-making process.

(Continued on p. 4)



UCSC student interns conduct archaeological excavations at Cabin B.

District Doings

Liz Wesolowski



What a difference a roof makes! In July, **Alameda Roofing** and **Western Roofing Supply** generously donated a new shingle roof for Cabin B. Many thanks to these local businesses for their support.

On July 21 members of **Life Long Learners** enjoyed a tour of the district, including a demonstration of how barrels were used for shipping the lime.

On August 28th a kick-off meeting was held for the **Hay Barn** feasibility study. Participants discussed ideas for use of the barn, restoration challenges including preserving historic fabric, and how the barn might be used by University programs. The nature of the restoration will depend on how the building is to be utilized. The study is being funded by a private donor.



Sue Berne of Santa Cruz donated this potbelly stove for Cabin B. A stove such as this kept the lime workers toasty on winter nights. This one, however, will only be for show. Thank you Sue!



Cooperage Study Completed



Thanks to funding from Community Foundation Santa Cruz County and the generosity of the Friends members, the HABS (Historical American Building Survey) documentation of the Cooperage has been completed. The final report includes a history of the building, a description of how it was constructed, and detailed photographs documenting both the interior and exterior. The report was prepared by JRP Historical Consulting and incorporates some of the work from an earlier study by Randolph Langenbach and John McKelvey.

Built in 1869, the Cooperage was a critical part of the Cowell Lime Works. Redwood barrels were assembled upstairs and used for packaging lime from the adjacent kilns. The Cooperage is both a campus icon and a vital component of the District's history.

The next step is to decide just how the building is to be restored and to draw up a restoration plan. If you would like to help with this important next step, please contact us at limeworks@ucsc.edu.

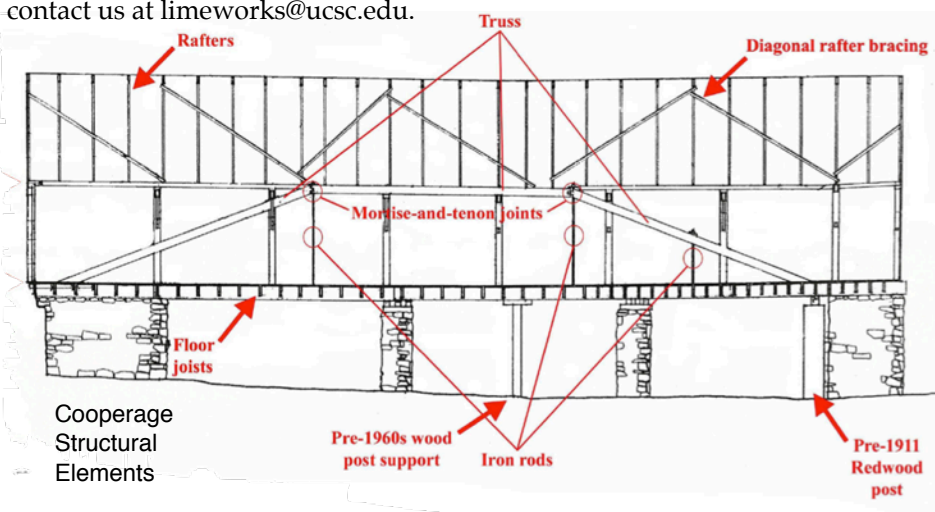


UCSC recently gave names to some of the campus's previously unnamed streets. These two were inspired by the early history of the site.

More News . . .



We sincerely thank **Redtree Partners L. P.** for generously funding the manufacturing and installation of outdoor interpretive signs. Once installed, visitors will be able to learn more about the District's history and the significance of the lime kilns, Cooperage, Cook House, and other features.



If you are a member of **Facebook**, please subscribe to our page. We post updates on events and interesting discoveries 2-3 times each month. We need 20 more to reach 100 subscribers.

In the early 1990s Pat earned a degree in anthropology from U.C. Santa Barbara and then started raising a family. In 2001 she settled in Santa Cruz with her husband and two children and a few years later decided to return to the field of archaeology.

In this interview by Frank Perry, Pat tells how she became involved with the Historic District and some of the interesting things she learned from her study of the approximately 17,000 Cabin B artifacts.



FP: How did you get involved with the Historic District?

PP: While a student in the Archaeology Technology Program at Cabrillo College, my instructor, Rob Edwards, announced that UCSC Planning was looking for students to do historical research. So I met with Sally Morgan [then an environmental planner at UCSC and later also Staff Liaison for the Friends]. She asked me what kind of research I was interested in. I told her I wanted to learn about the people who lived here. I first started out researching the Cowell family; then my interest shifted to the “average Joes” and what their lives were like.

FP: Did you know when you started that Henry Cowell had come from near where you are from?

PP: No, I had no idea. His hometown is right next to my hometown in Massachusetts. It’s just a total coincidence. I was reading something about him and thought, “Oh my gosh, he’s from Wrentham.” It was a little creepy.

FP: So, you did an internship with Sally while a student at Cabrillo?

PP: Right. UCSC had gotten a Campus Heritage Grant from the Getty Foundation to help get the district placed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the stipulations of the grant was that students be involved. The UCSC Anthropology Department, however, does not do much California historical archaeology.

Sally set it up so I could do research at the library and make copies for my report on Henry Cowell. Unfortunately, many of the resources I needed were not yet available online in 2005.

FP: Ah yes—2005—the olden days. Why did you decide to study at Cabrillo?

PP: To get some more experience and get back into the field of archaeology after 13 years off. I wanted to eventually get my masters. I spoke with Professor Alison Galloway here at UCSC and she recommended the Cabrillo program as a way to get back into the groove of things. The Cabrillo program was just awesome.* Within six months of starting the Cabrillo program, I had my first job in archaeology. That was an excavation over in Gilroy. Starting in the summer of 2008, I did a lot of work through Pacific Legacy [a consulting firm] for the Ranch View Terrace development at UCSC.

FP: So, you planned on these classes at Cabrillo as the first step towards a masters degree?

PP: Yes, that was the idea. I put off graduate school for a few years until my son got older. I started graduate school at Sonoma State [near Santa Rosa] in 2009, the same day he started high school here in Santa Cruz. Course work took two-and-a-half years, and then I had to write the thesis. It’s a pretty intensive program. I was living up there for half the week and coming home for half the week. I basically spent all my time studying, working a little during breaks and during the summer.

FP: Why did you decide to do your thesis on Cabin B?

PP: The Friends of the Cowell Lime Works wanted to restore it, and they wanted to investigate the foundation. A lot of the foundation was rotten and had to be replaced. We started out with volunteers from the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society and Cabrillo, and we discovered all kinds of things: container glass, jeans’ rivets, etc. Then Sally Morgan set up an internship program with UCSC students. The idea was to give anthropology students hands-on training here on campus and also for them to get school credit for it. From the very beginning I wanted to do my thesis on the Cowell Lime Works, but the decision to focus on Cabin B sort of evolved. People were coming to my house once a week to help clean and sort artifacts. We had done all this work already, so I decided to continue the project.

FP: Did you consider covering a broader geographic area, perhaps other sites within the district?

* The Archaeology Technology Program at Cabrillo College has since been discontinued.

What is historical archaeology?

At first, "historical archaeology" sounds like an oxymoron. Isn't archaeology about prehistoric stuff? According to Pat, the sub-discipline of historical archaeology originated on the East Coast in the 1950s with the realization that excavations of historic sites could provide important information on peoples of the recent past—commonly defined as from the year 1500 to the present. It's a hybrid field, bridging the gap between anthropology and history. Today, historical archaeologists study artifacts excavated from the ground along with written records, photographs, and oral histories. It paints a more complete picture of history than would be possible by studying just one of these sources.

PP: I thought about it, but Cabin B was enough. I make comparisons in my thesis with other archaeological assemblages recovered from the district including the Cook House and Blacksmith Shop deposits, and Cabin J. Maybe someday I'll go for a Ph.D. and do more, but I'm ready for a break at this point [laughs].

FP: How does having a masters degree help you in getting jobs?

PP: It makes me more employable. I have a lot more experience now, especially in writing reports and in managing projects from start to finish. It's been a really good experience. They have a really great program up there [at Sonoma State].

FP: Is there a license for archaeologists?

PP: It's called a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), and it's a national accreditation program. They consider

completion of a masters thesis as qualification.

Now that I have finished, I plan to become an RPA and do more consulting work and independent work.

FP: What were some of the most interesting discoveries you made during your study?



Shell buttons

PP: The large number of buttons and jeans' rivets was really interesting. My theory is that the lime, being caustic, ate away at their clothing rather quickly and that it did not last very long.

I thought the boot parts were also interesting—and the evidence of mending and fixing the boots.

Coincidentally, all the boots (when we could determine left or right) were left boots.

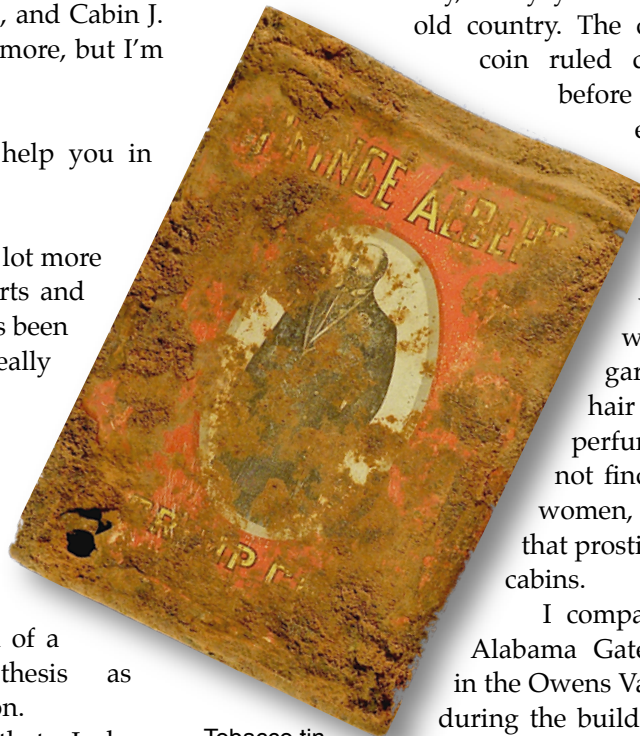
The Portuguese coin that was found was worn so thin that it was almost illegible. I think it was a good luck charm or something kept by one of the workers and used like a "worry stone." He probably kept it in his pocket

for many, many years as a memento from the old country. The queen pictured on the coin ruled during a period long before this lime complex was even built. So it had been around for a while.

I also thought it was interesting that we found evidence of women at the cabin: a garter belt clip, an abalone hair stick, and a possible perfume bottle. Since we did not find domestic evidence of women, I think it is possible that prostitutes visited men at the cabins.

I compared this site with the Alabama Gates Construction Camp in the Owens Valley. It housed workers during the building of the Los Angeles Aqueduct from 1912 to 1913. The working

guys were pretty similar. They liked to drink, and they liked to smoke—"Prince Albert" being the tobacco of choice at Cabin B. They wore the same types of clothing, and there were not many women present. There was evidence that prostitutes visited those camps, too. The food was better here, however, since they were living on a ranch. There were fresh vegetables and freshly butchered meat, although the story goes that



Tobacco tin



Jeans' rivets

Continued on p. 6.

it was old, tough, stringy beef. In the Owens Valley everything had to be shipped in.

For answers to some other questions, I turned to her thesis. One of the great mysteries has been the age of the cabin. Based on the date range of artifacts, Pat believes that Cabin B was occupied from around 1870 to around 1940. This is in line with other evidence, including the use of cut nails in construction (see Lime Kiln Chronicles, Fall/Winter 2010-11). We already know that several other District structures date from the 1860s or 1870s: the Cardiff House, continuous kiln, Cooperage, and Hay Barn.

I was also curious about the title words, "Industrial Village." She coined the term because the site was similar to a company town but was smaller in size. Also, it was "neither big enough nor remote enough to require the building of the public facilities present in many company towns, such as schools, churches, and entertainment facilities," she writes. The Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Company had a company town—called "Cowell" no less—but it was in Contra Costa County and housed workers for a cement plant.

We congratulate Pat Paramoure on the completion of her thesis. It promises to be a valuable reference for anyone wanting a more in-depth history of the District. We hope it will inspire other studies in the future. The Cowell Lime Works Historic District offers many more avenues for historians and archaeologists to explore. (Note: Anyone wishing a copy of the thesis may contact Pat at her email address: patuunicorn@sbcglobal.net.)

Ghosts, Gold, and Greed

Our popular Halloween tour of the Historic District is back for the third year. This two-hour walking tour emphasizes the human history of the Lime Works, including stories of ghosts, buried treasure, and some peculiarities of the Cowell family. This tour is always great fun. Will our favorite lime baron make another cameo appearance? Join us and find out!

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012

Time: 10 a.m. to noon.

Location: Meet at Barn Theater parking lot just inside the campus main entrance, corner of Bay and High Street. Free parking.

Cost: \$3 donation requested. Free for members and students.



"Nossa Senhora dos Milagres, Serreta, Terceira"

One of the most intriguing artifacts unearthed at Cabin B was this religious medal. It commemorates "Our Lady of Miracles," a statue of the Virgin Mary in the church at Serreta on

the island of Terceira in the Azores. The legend of Our Lady began in the 1700s when twice the island was threatened with attack. Those charged with defending the island promised that they would hold an annual celebration in honor of Our Lady if she protected them. Terceira was spared. In 1980 an earthquake destroyed most of the church, according to the ourladyofmiracles.com website. "The wall that contained niches for many statues survived, although every statue, except Our Lady's, fell and was broken. Our Lady remained miraculously in place and undamaged." That this inch-long medal traveled thousands of miles, was lost, then unearthed at Cabin B, adds yet another fascinating page to the story. A festival celebrating Our Lady is still held each year in Serreta, and also in the town of Gustine, California.



The rebuilt church of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres in the Azores where the statue of "Our Lady" resides.

Carlos Luis M C da Cruz

The **Lime Kiln Chronicles** is published twice each year (April 1 and October 1) by the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District

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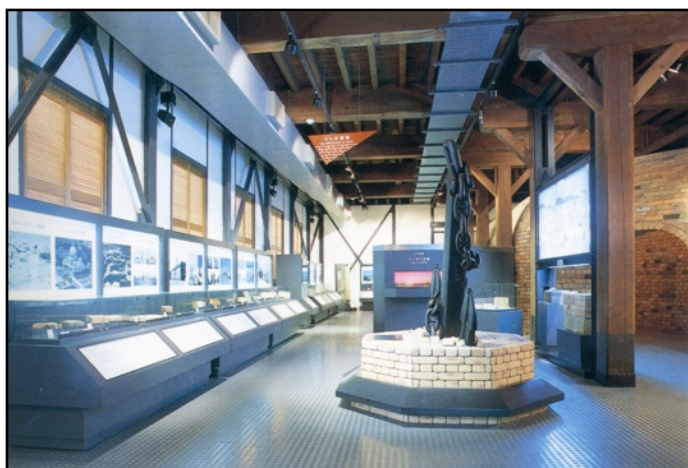
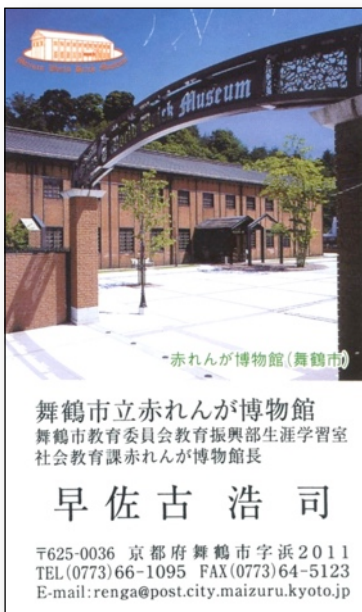
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World Brick Museum

In June the Friends received a letter from Hiroshi Hayasako, Director of the Maizuru World Brick Museum in Maizuru, Japan. He had read the article on firebricks in the Fall/Winter 2008-09 *Lime Kiln Chronicles*. The museum requested an example of "Snowball" and "Cowen" firebricks for display. The University kindly obliged.

These names are of British brick companies and are pressed into the bricks of our lime kilns. It seems British firebricks were also used in Japan in the late 1800s. If any of our readers visit this museum, we would much appreciate a report.

According to Mr. Hayasako, the museum opened in 1993 and has a collection of 1,800 bricks from around the world. Located in an old torpedo warehouse built by the Japanese Navy in 1903, the museum greets 70,000 visitors annually. "Nowadays brick buildings are rarely seen in Japan and preservation of these buildings attracts public interest," he writes. He wishes our friends group much "happiness, success, and prosperity."



View inside the World Brick Museum (from a brochure enclosed with the letter).

One Hundred Years Ago . . .



The following article appeared on the front page of the *Santa Cruz Surf*, January 6, 1913. Ernest V. Cowell (above), oldest son of Henry and Harriet Cowell, had died in 1911.

LEGACIES TO EMPLOYEES

ERNEST V. COWELL'S REGARD FOR EMPLOYEES TO BE REALIZED

Sixteen laborers who have worked for the Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Co. today received belated Christmas gifts in sums from \$500 to \$1000 each from the estate of the late E. V. Cowell by judgment rendered in the probate department of the Superior court by Judge Thomas F. Graham.

Joe Spandlo of the Santa Cruz plant, the court eliminates. Proof is insufficient that he has served for ten consecutive years and by the judgment he loses \$500.

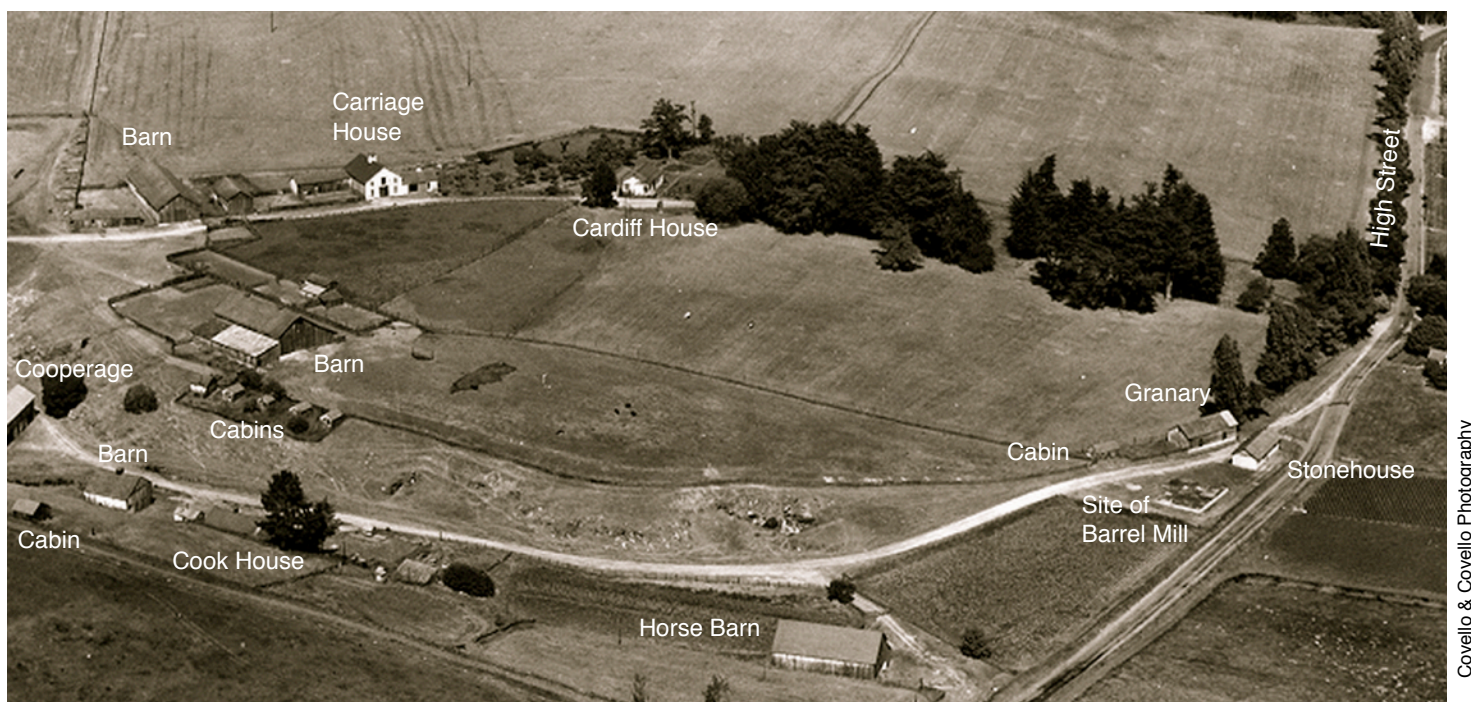
The following Santa Cruz employees who have worked for the company 20 years or more on Jan. 1, 1911, the date fixed for computation of service by the will, receive \$1000 each: Frank Caldera, Paola Marak, Joe Benate, Bernardo Ricco, Rudolph Labish, Manuel S. Caldera and J. Juras.

In the same works Martin Roderejuez* and Peter Martelli had put in faithful service for ten years on the date named and receive by the judgment \$500.

Ernest V. Cowell died March 18, 1911, leaving an estate which has been inventoried at \$972,994.44.

The only contest was to prove continuous service. The executors have contested every claim for this purpose only to prevent any fraud being practiced against the will.

* Listed in the 1910 census as Martin Rodriguez.



This 1957 aerial view shows some of what is now the Cowell Lime Works Historic District before it became part of the University of California. Bay Drive now enters from the lower right. Westlake school would be in the upper right. The lime kilns are just out of the picture to the left.

Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District
Mail Stop PP&C
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA 95064