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Timber Cove Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit public benefit corporation founded in 2017. We support civic improvement including forest management, fire abatement, and water resources development. We promote the improvement, maintenance, and safety of Timber Cove easements, including private hiking trails through the forests and coastal areas of our community for the benefit of all residents, and promote social interaction, dialogue, and cohesion by supporting community events and publications. The Foundation can facilitate other board approved community improvements by accepting targeted donations for specific projects to address emerging needs in the community

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[DONATE](#)

ANNUAL TRAIL DAYS!

Trail Work Days May 3 & 4!

Come on out the first weekend in May to help restore the Cemetery Creek Trail! Since it lies in the heart of the subdivision we've had many requests to improve this trail and the path will also be corrected to conform to the legal easement lines.

Meet northwest of 22132 Ruoff Rd. at 9 a.m. There will be a banner. Come bearing handy tools that might include a shovel, pick, loppers, etc. We will provide snacks, beverages, and water.

And if you can't make it out this time, we still need donations to offset the cost of hired labor to ensure a high-quality trail restoration. Just press the "Donate" button or mail a check to the post office box above. Let's all do our

part to extend this community asset that has been neglected for too long.

Winter Storm Debris Cleared

Elon has nothin' on John, Foundation President John Howland, that is, when it comes to a chainsaw. John recently cleared several downed trees across the John Sperry Trail and more on the Umland-Smith Court Trail. But any very large trees you see felled are the work of P.G. & E., who have not cleaned up what they cut last year.

We can always use help for regular maintenance to remove fallen limbs and trees and cut back foliage or tall grass that impedes

progress. Every property owner is legally empowered to keep the trails passable and we hope that property owners will take responsibility for maintaining the trails on or near their properties, as some owners have done in the past.

[See Map of Cemetery Creek Trail](#)
[TCHA all Trails Map Annotated](#)



Pride of Madeira

Driving up our dramatic Jenner coastline in the 1980s I admired the tall purple fairyland spires of Pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*). I planted one on our new property in Timber Cove in 1989, but it didn't thrive on my redwood forested lot—and perhaps that was all for the best.

While not listed officially as an invasive species in all areas of California, *Echium* is known to escape cultivation and naturalize, and its presence is most noticeable in the Mediterranean-like climate of our open California coastal bluffs. While it spreads slowly, it can displace native plants and invade neighboring areas much like other militant invaders that we hear more about, like pampas grass and French broom.

The City of Encinitas has banned *Echium* on public property. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) rates it as having limited ecological impacts on a statewide basis, but their [Map Showing Spread of Echium Candicans on California Coast](#) appears to be out of date.

Penny Pawl, Napa Master Gardener and contributor to the UC Agricultural and Natural Resources website, planted *Echium* in her own garden. To avoid removing it altogether, she...*went out one*

evening as the flowers faded and before the seeds set, and cut it back. I did it at that time of day to avoid the bees and other insects. I will need to repeat this every year to keep pride of Madeira from becoming a pest in my garden and my neighbors' gardens.

So, depending on how much work you are willing to do to contain it, *Pride of Madeira* might not be a good choice for your Timber Cove garden, no matter how lovely.

Ice plant

I also admired the buxom flowers of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) that I found growing in some rocky coastal spots in our county and state parks. Thinking it a native like some other beach succulents, I also tried that in my new Timber Cove garden. Once again, perhaps for the best, it was stunted and much too weak to invade our redwood root-webbed soil.

Ice plant, as most now know, is a dangerous invasive species on the Sonoma Coast, particularly in coastal dune areas, and it's considered a significant problem due to its ability to spread quickly and outcompete native plants.

This succulent, introduced to California as a ground cover, forms dense mats that alter soil composition and smother native plants, including endangered and threatened species. While often used for erosion control in private gardens, ice plant can actually destabilize soils, especially during winter rains, leading to erosion.

An example of an invasive infestation on the Sonoma Coast is Doran Park, where it is smothering rare native plants like the Point Reyes bird's beak. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is actively involved in ice plant



Echium mounds drift toward Timber Cove Resort

removal projects in Sonoma County.

To remove or curtail *Echium* or ice plant, the most effective method is manual removal, which involves pulling the plant and its entire root system completely from the soil. Herbicides, like glyphosate, can be used but should be used carefully to avoid harming native plants and water sources. After removal, it's important to rehabilitate the area by replanting with native species to prevent erosion. Do not try to mow or weed whack the plant, which will only spread it.

If you are serious about preventing the spread of invasive plants, you should check this list before planting: [California Invasive Plant Council \(Cal-IPC\)](#).



Echium candicans, Timber Cove



Pretty, but not nice: ice plant above Doran Beach

Hooked on Scuba

We lived in Santa Rosa, but I was away at school, studying art in Colorado Springs for eight years and then [returned]...to California. My mom, Lois Simpson, had gotten a divorce and she wanted to do something outdoorsy with her two younger kids, Roger and Mark, something that would test their mettle...So first she went skydiving. She was 55... But she decided that would be too expensive and Mark was too young, so they settled on scuba diving.

They took scuba lessons in Santa Rosa and the very first ocean lesson was at Stillwater. They loved it, and apparently it is very beautiful below the surface. There was a wall of white anemone at the time, and plentiful abalone. They just really got hooked on it. This was about 1976.

So I came back from Colorado and they've got a white Ford van full of camping gear, and they would either get up at the crack of dawn in Santa Rosa to drive up or camp overnight. Roger got so good at diving that he got a job after school at a dive shop.



Top Jazz Festival: L to R: Sue Crossman, Beau Keane, Jim Schneider, Jim Nadel, 1990
Bottom: Simpson, Powell, Moulton Family at 22079 Gordon Ct., 1985

Because he was tall and a very good swimmer, he needed a dive buddy that was at his skill level, so that's how he met Dennis Ducket. Dennis was the Deputy Sheriff for Timber Cove and he lived down on Ruoff [22099 Ruoff]. He and Roger made a great dive team.

For a long time our house [22079 Gordon Ct.] and Dennis's house were the only houses in the area. It was Dennis who told us about the Gordon Court lot. I remember going there with my Mom and there was nothing but trees and a snarl of brush. That was July 1980 and Mom almost got cold feet—\$17,500— sounded like a lot of money just to have a place to camp, because back then there was no water system.

It took until 1983 before we had plans approved and then cleared in 1984, putting the house in a sunny spot full of manzanitas so we didn't have to take out a lot of trees. It turns out some of the coastal manzanita we have are fairly rare. There's a remnant of these furry manzanita at...[22087 Ruoff].

The house had to be done in stages. Roger took about four summers to get the house built [while enrolled at Humboldt State]. We spent a lot of money on the plan and then had to wait... I'm proud that it never had a mortgage.

Timber Cove Jazz Festival

We had the first Jazz Festival, in 1986, before the house was finished. It was shelled in and with only a kitchen sink on two sawhorses. Jack [Marshall] and I were just dating. He said, *I never get to meet other bass players. I talk to them on the phone ... but I never get to hang out with them...* I called it *The First Annual Timber Cove Jazz Festival* not knowing if we'd ever do another.

A lot of our friends were just getting started..., single, and musicians. You don't have a lot of



money and can't take expensive vacations, so it was like the poor man's Bohemian Club. We did it for 10 years, every year, and then every other year until about 2003.

So to make it O.K. with the neighbors we invited everybody and we knew the people next door to us, like George Landau [22087 Gordon Ct.]. Even if they couldn't make it they let people camp on the lot, as long as they didn't build any fires...

We made it invitation only and I'd go up a couple of weeks before and clear at least 10 camp spots and then we had other places around and Mom made covers for about 10 foam mattresses, and we offered them around on the floor or on the deck. So all the musicians had to bring with their gear...

We always had it start on Friday of Labor Day weekend. Friday we had a fire ring for awhile, and with s'mores and things. People brought enough food for an army...The garage was filled with coolers. We called it a "cooler farm"...and Roger brought abalone. We were teaching people about...pounding it And one year Roger brought salmon... And sometimes Jack and I would stop at Johnson's Oyster Beds on the way. Saturday night was the big potluck. We invited everybody and Mom was in the mix and invited all her friends. The music was mostly jamming, but once I gave out goofy awards and one time we had a kazoo contest.

A Timber Cove Romance

We had a hard time getting [the Gordon Ct. house] through the [TCHA] architectural committee. We [designed] a passive solar, south-facing window, rectangular house, and that one got turned down, and then another, turned down, turned down, turned down. So Mom said *Nuts to this*, and she got herself on the board. She hired [John Cook] who had [designed] some of the other houses and...that's how my mother, Lois, finally got approval for our house design. Back then they were supposed to be modeled more like Sea Ranch.

Then while she's on the board she meets this guy Dick Alcorn, and apparently right away there were looks across the room. Dick was a World War II pilot and ...he flew a PB4Y, an amphibious plane and was one of the few aviators to have both Army and Navy wings...My mom was a World War II nurse. She was also in the Pacific, so they had that in common.

So Dick Alcorn...was a widower, married twice and both former wives died of cancer... My Mom and Dick met and started dating in 1982 or 83. She was never going to get married again, but he had this hot tub with a wonderful view of the ocean. And he liked jazz...

Dick and Lois got married in 1988 on the front deck of the Gordon Court house and Jack and I got married the next year at Stillwater up in the woods alongside the creek and had the reception at the Gordon Court house. Roger finished the second deck about five minutes before the reception. But he did a good job.

Alcorn Builds Three Homes

First Dick had the house with the cantilevered deck out over the ocean built in 1970. [22060 Kelly Ct.] It was in *Architectural Digest*.... Dick realized when he lived [there that] it

was really windy. And all of the other [neighboring] lots were on the market and they were not selling.

He decided that the lot next door was better and built the second house [22148 Highway 1]. During the construction his much younger second wife died of cancer. But he finished the second house in 1984. It got

better and better. Mom had a good influence on him and he had a good influence on her. They were married for seven years before he got sick and that house was a real love nest. It had a wonderful view... Mom fell in love with Dick *and* Timber Cove. She lived there for many years after Dick died in 1994. She had a modular home in Santa Rosa that she used during the winter and visited her friends and went to the opera....Lois Simpson Alcorn died in 2009, and we sold the Cove House a few years later.

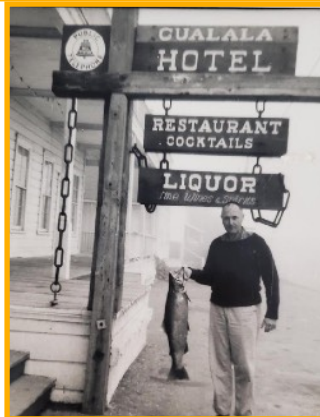
Of course Dick [Alcorn] knew Dick Clements (the developer) and Dick [Alcorn] was doing some of the real estate sales, and was also friends with Ansel Adams. He built a fourth house on Koftinow that was designed with a large meeting room and deck for community use, but that didn't work out.

Hopes for Timber Cove's Future

For one thing we have to protect our Coastal Commission. There have been attacks on the Coastal Commission before, but in this political climate there will be more. And we must protect native habitat. We must figure out how to be fire safe, but to also preserve the habitat. ...We need buildings of integrity. We need to learn how to live in the forest without cutting it down. For instance, if you rake up all the duff on your property, you won't have any calypso orchids.

Note: Ruth and Jack Marshall live in Los Gatos where Ruth co-leads a wildland restoration non-profit, Friends of Foothills Preserve. Jack is an entrepreneur in a cutting-edge medical device company and is an excellent, well-gigged, jazz musician.

Ruth has graciously accepted our invitation to be on the Board of Directors of the Timber Cove Foundation.



Top: cantilevered deck at 22060 Kelly Ct.
Center: Dick Alcorn in 1962
Bottom: pool and hot tub at 22148 Highway 1

called the Cove House to not confuse it with the Simpson family house at Gordon Ct.

...They drank wine and looked at the ocean and looked in each others' eyes, and you know. Things just got

We regret to inform our readers that Renata Lopez, our former Timber Cove neighbor, passed away at her daughter's home in San Clemente, California, on January 24, 2025. Her husband Art passed away in 2021. We took this photo at the Mother's Day Brunch at Plantation in 2016. Renata and Art are flanked on the left by their granddaughter and husband, Kimberly and Dima Black, and on the right by their two daughters, Renata Twamley, husband Bruce, and Patty McGlasson.



Art's warm, playful spirit, and Renata's intelligence, both rational and emotional, made them rare friends and neighbors. The way they met and married in West Germany was a story so charming, I asked to hear it many times.

Art was chairman of the trails for many years starting in the 1990s, and Renata served on both the Water District board and as president of the Timber Cove Homes Association. Despite great pressure to do otherwise, they remained staunch supporters and donors to the trails and the Timber Cove Foundation to the very end. We are all better for knowing them.

Please see the obituary written by their family at the link below and please send any thoughts to their daughter:

[Renata Paffen Lopez 1937—2025](#)
[Renata Twamley, ruffleson@gmail.com](mailto:Renata.Twamley.ruffleson@gmail.com)

AT LONG LAST HIGH-SPEED INTERNET??

For over a decade we've been hearing about, and asking for high-speed internet service in Timber Cove. Dissatisfaction with our current service provider has even led many of us to ignore our ethical preferences and resort to Starlink. Recent meetings with a non-profit named WiConduit at Jenner and the Fort Ross School provided the following information, now available on their website:

At its January 30, 2025, voting meeting, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved awarding WiConduit \$17,010,997 through the Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA). This funding will support the construction of two community-governed broadband infrastructure projects in rural West Sonoma County: "Forestville Connect" and "Sonoma Coast Connect". In partnership with GigabitNow, a Washington-based internet service provider known for operating the fiber-to-the-home network owned by The Sea Ranch Association, WiConduit will use the CPUC grants to deliver high-speed internet to over 800 unserved locations in West Sonoma County, benefiting an estimated 2,138 residents and businesses.

Design:

- Ultra-fast fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP)
- Open access to increase local competition, affordability, and consumer choice.
- 100% underground and resilient network reducing risks from wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters
- Governance:

The network is owned and managed by WiConduit, ensuring local control and oversight of network service quality, affordability, and reliability for the community. The network is operated by GigabitNow, including maintenance and day to day functionality.

Estimated Project Timeline:

CASF Funding Award: February 2025
Engineering & Permitting: May – July 2025
Construction Begins: September 2025
Construction Complete: September 2026
Network Activation: October 2026

Murder on The Hill

The 1870's entered innocently enough, with sleek schooners weighed down with fence posts, railroad ties, and cord wood still gliding in and out of our busy port. The Miller and Allison store was doing a brisk business at the Cove, (roughly where the Resort is now), as was their lumber mill on what everyone called *The Hill* (now Seaview). There was even a spring ball on March 22, which, despite a downpour, was a *grand success*, made all the merrier with the sweet strains of Kimball and Carter's Band.

Perhaps the first hint that trouble was afoot came when a rancher five miles east of Timber Cove in the King's Ridge Road area named David Powers began publishing repeated warnings in January, forbidding any person to bring a firearm onto his property for any purpose, including hunting. Other landowners in the area later added their names to the post.

On Monday, March 28, 1870, a murder most foul was committed on *the hill back of Timber Cove*. It took over two weeks for the newspapers to report the... *tragic mystery* [that] *scarce has its equal in the annals of our county*. The victim, one Juan Bejaramo (or Bejarano), a Peruvian, had settled on the mountain ranch a few years before. We find him listed as a laborer in the county voter's rolls in Salt Point Township in 1867, and also marked as a veteran, which earned him the right to vote. According to this first report in the *Russian River Flag*:

...About the middle of the afternoon, on the day of his death, he went to a neighbor and employed him to milk his cows that evening, as he wanted to go to Fort Ross. In the evening the neighbor went over, according to request, and on entering the house found Bejarano lying dead on the floor with two ghastly wounds on his person, having been shot in the left breast with a charge of buckshot, and in the back of the head with finer shot. The gun when fired must have been within a few inches of deceased, as his clothing and hair were much powder burned. He died apparently without a struggle. His horse was found tied to a tree near the house, and the saddle laid out as though just

about to be used, and he had taken some clothes from his trunk, as if for a change. A Coroner's examination revealed nothing.

Prosecution by Press

A sharp reporter remembered that Bejaramo had been shot and severely injured five years before in Chileno Valley, Marin County, by a man identified as a Spaniard named Juan Silvas. Consulting that earlier incident we discover that Silvas (or Silva), most likely a Californio, was sentenced to four years in San Quentin in 1866 for the attack, but received an early release only a year later.

Suddenly in early June, two rival newspapers recounted an entirely different scenario: a murderous attack by Timber Cove farmer Richard Granville. It's important to note in this case that the positions of the mid-19th Century Democratic and Republican parties were roughly the reverse of our current parties, but the local newspapers were politicized and polarized, just as many are now. The *Russian River Flag* (a liberal, progressive Republican paper published in Healdsburg) gave the following account: *...It seems that a man named Granville had a difficulty with a Spanish neighbor, named Juan Bakerano [sic], in regard to their respective mountain ranches; and in order to settle the matter in his own favor Granville killed the Spaniard. It appears that an oid man by the name of Felix, witnessed this murder, he being on an adjacent mountain. To silence this witness, Granville murdered him also. But an Indian passing by saw the latter murder. Determined to silence all witnesses, Granville at once killed the Indian. Suspicion becoming fastened on this triple murderer, a warrant for his arrest was issued ...[and put] in the hands of J. K. Price, a Salt Point Constable...* [Note: the paper later retracted the claim of a triple homicide, stating that only two were murdered, but confused the issue by misidentifying the two victims.]

The *Sonoma Democrat* (precursor to our *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* a conservative Democratic sheet that was pro-slavery, spewed racist rhetoric, and openly sympathized with militant squatters) admitted that Granville's



Timber Cove's Miller & Allison Store might have looked like Guerneville's first store in 1870. (Sonoma County Library)

reputation pegged him as *a terror to his neighborhood*. But it claimed he was charged only with *...shooting an Indian somewhere on the Coast...* apparently giving little weight to the crime. The *Democrat* gathered more detail about the arrest:

[Constable Joseph K. Price] *...Summoning a posse of seven or eight citizens, the officer went to Granville's house and knocked at the door, posting his men in such a way as to prevent his escape. Receiving no answer, he called on him to give himself up, as he had a warrant for his arrest. At this Granville suddenly opened the door, thrust out a six-shooter and fired twice. One ball grazed the Constable's hat, and the other passed uncomfortably close to his left ear. Granville then closed and locked the front door, rushed to the back of the house, and attempted to get out in that direction. But here he was confronted with a revolver, and so ran again to the front door, and made a dash out. Immediately a volley was fired at him while running, and he soon fell in his tracks, shot in the back and leg. The Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide. Deceased leaves a wife and four children.*

The *Sacramento Daily Union* had its own correspondent give new details. Richard Granville, nicknamed "Friday", had long coveted Juan Bejaramo's *...mountain ranch a few miles away [from his own] and concluded the surer way would be to dispatch the owner, a Spaniard. So arming himself with a double-barreled shotgun, heavily charged with buckshot, he came upon him as he was reading in his cabin, and killed him instantly, by firing one charge*

into his breast, and the other through his head after he had fallen to the floor, leaving him horribly mangled. An Indian who witnessed the deed and reported the same to the friends of the murdered man, was shot by him afterward as he was passing quietly along the road. The men who happened to be near by were threatened with certain death if they revealed his crime. To cap the climax of recklessness, he immediately took possession of the cabin, ranch, and even the stock of the Spaniard, claiming that he had bought and paid for them.

Richard Granville is a troubling historical figure because he was tried and condemned solely by the press with no further investigation or trial after his death. We can't know the evidential basis for these accounts, which often contradict one another. While he may indeed have been the heinous villain portrayed, the possibility lingers that Bejaramo was actually killed by another, perhaps ex-con and former foe Juan Silva. Although Granville's behavior when confronted with arrest argues for his guilt, and it seems certain that he killed a Native American, he might have been a Timber Cove poacher, taking advantage of a conveniently vacated parcel.

Veteran with PTSD or Autism?

Research shows Granville was no angel. Just three years before his violent death he made a daring escape from a San Mateo County jail on a furiously stormy night in 1867. He dug through a back wall and severely injured a fellow inmate who tried to stop him by biting his hands and arms. He had served three weeks of a six-month sentence for cow slaughter (perhaps for food). A reward of \$100 was offered for his capture and an APB put out:

Granville is aged twenty-seven; height five feet ten inches; complexion light, eyes gray, hair drab and cut short, beard (covering chin and face) light, nose Roman, countenance downcast, and has a curious habit of constantly twirling his hands when otherwise at rest.

Richard Granville, born in Ireland, arrived at Ellis Island in 1859 aboard the *Harvest Queen* and became a farmer in New York. In 1861, when Civil War erupted he enlisted and served two years with Captain John C. Whiting, Co. G. 31st N. Y. Volunteers, claiming he was a corporal when discharged in 1863. He re-enlisted and served in Co. G of the 28th Conn. Volunteers, claiming he was a sergeant when discharged January 19, 1864. Only four months later Granville enlisted for the third time in San Francisco as a private in the infamous 6th Regiment Cal. Company B, stationed at the Benicia Arsenal.

Having served the entire length of the Civil War spanning three enlistments, there is no telling how many bloody battles Granville fought. It is very likely he participated in the Humboldt Indian Massacres and was also sent to Panama in 1864. We may never know why Granville kept re-enlisting, but we can guess why he deserted his final posting in Benicia on July 14, 1865.

A Family Guy

Granville married or partnered with Catherine O'Connor, also a native of Northern Ireland, who gave birth to their first son, Thomas, about 1864. By the time of the shootout and attempted arrest in 1870, they had three more mouths to feed, Richard, 4, Mary, 2, and Catherine, 3 months. Given Granville's situation, cow theft and

poaching make sense. There are indications that the family may have gone back and forth between Santa Clara and Timber Cove between 1865 and 1870, but were living on pre-empted public land near Timber Cove (that I am guessing was near the current Fort Ross School) by the time Granville registered to vote here as a veteran and a farmer in 1869.

Widow Catherine Granville and children remained on that land near Timber Cove perhaps for another seven years. A census taken only months after the shootout shows she had 500 acres, 2 horses, 2 milch cows, 4 other cattle, and 5 pigs along with her four children, aged 5 to infancy. The fatherless family got along somehow before Catherine remarried German immigrant William Frederick Augustus Berg in 1877. The family relocated permanently to Klickitat, Washington to farm and had several more children.

Was Richard Granville a vicious killer who coveted his neighbor's ranch, even though he already had 500 acres of his own? Or was he a desperate father and failed subsistence farmer on logged-over land, caught poaching and stealing a dead man's property? Was his documented habit of *twirling his hands while otherwise at rest* an indication of severe PTSD from battle trauma or a head injury? Or were his telltale hands an undiagnosed symptom of autism, referred to now as stimming?

Forgotten Victim

Because of the racial prejudice of that era we will never know the identity of the other alleged Native American victim, not considered important enough to name. Juan Bejaramo (or Bejarano), a Peruvian, was also variously called a Spaniard, Italian, or Indian. Even the relatively progressive *Russian River Flag* newspaper made little effort to investigate further once the posse dispatched Granville, a white man, the only principal who mattered to their readers.



Benicia Arsenal & Barracks 1860s (California State Library)

Hannah Clayborn
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