



III. CHRONOLOGY

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- 1812** Fort Ross founded as a Russian fur trading and farming outpost on the Sonoma County coastline.
- 1853** Henry Willits lays claim to 160 acres in the vicinity of what is now Guerneville.
- 1861** First sawmill in vicinity of Guerneville established by Joseph Sedgely.
- 1867** Leonidas Walker listed in Sonoma County Great Register. Age 35, Minister from Indiana.
- 1875** March 15, 1875 Leonidas Walker listed in Land Patent Index for tract of land in Section 7 (MT T8N/R10W): E ½ NW ¼ & W ½ NE ¼ .
- 1876** May 26, 1876, Leonidas Walker receives land patent for following tract: S ½ of SW ¼ Sec 6 (MT T8N/R8W).
- 1880** 1880 US Census lists the following information on Walker household in Redwood Township, Sonoma Co., CA:
Walker, Joseph, 82, Methodist Minister, b. NY, Fb. Mass, Mb. VT.
Walker, Polina, 76, Keeping House, b. NY, Fb. VT, Mb. Conn.
Walker, Leonidas, 48, son, farmer, b. Indiana, Fb. NY, Mb. NY.
- 1883** Tax assessment rolls for Sonoma Co. list Leonidas Walker as owning 160 acres of land W ½ NE ¼ sec 7 and E ½ of NW ¼ sec 8 and improvements thereon: watch \$10, 4 cows @ \$100, 3 calves @ \$30 and 2 “stock” @ \$40. Total taxable property worth \$600. Tax \$8.70 paid 11/11 1883. (TAR Book 1:290)
- 1884** Leonidas Walker sells W ½ NE ¼ & E ½ NW ¼ Sec 7 to Charles Frost for \$1,000 quit claim deed (DB 89: 578).
- 1896** Marguerite Friedlaender born October 6 in Lyon, France to a family of prosperous silk merchants.
- 1900** 1900 US Census lists the following information on the Walker household in Redwood Township, Sonoma Co., CA.
Walker, Leonidas F. head-farmer, b. Oct. 1839, 60, b. Ind., fb. NY, mb. NY
Walker, Sarah F., wife, b. Feb. 1836, 63, b. Ind., fb. NY, mb. NY
Walker, John R., son-farmer, b. Sept. 1872, 27, b. CA
Walker, Lysander, son-farmer, b. Sept. 1870, 29, b. CA
Walker, Eva, daughter-in-law, b. Oct., 1873, 26, b. CA
Walker, Florence, granddaughter, b. Mar. 1895, 5, b. CA
Walker, Vera E., granddaughter, b. Mar. 1898, 2, b. CA
Walker, Lysander, farm laborer, b. July, 1841, 38, b. Ind.

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- 1914** Marguerite Friedlaender takes first art training in drawing and sculpture at School of fine and Applied Arts in Berlin.
- 1915-19** Marguerite Friedlaender apprentices as a wood sculptor and designs for Thuringian porcelain manufacturer.
- 1919-26** Marguerite Friedlaender studies as an apprentice and journeyman potter at the Bauhaus in Weimar with Max Krehan and Gerhard Marcks. Certified as pottery master in 1926. Friedlaender leaves Weimar when the Nazis pressure Bauhaus to close and move to Dessau.
- 1926-33** Marguerite Friedlaender serves as head of ceramics department at Municipal School for Arts and Crafts at Halle, Germany, Burg Giebichenstein. While serving in this capacity she completed an extensive collection of models for mass-produced items to be distributed by porcelain manufacturer Royal Berlin.
- 1930** Marguerite Friedlaender marries a Frans Wildenhain, a student of hers at Burg Giebichenstein.
- 1933-40** Marguerite and Frans Wildenhain move to the Netherlands in 1933 after the Nazis come to power. They operate their own studio in Putten, Netherlands. Marguerite also created models for the Regout Porcelain Factory in Maastricht.
- 1937** Gordon and Jane Brandenstein Herr visit the Wildenhains at Putten and tells them about his dream of starting a “new Bauhaus” in rural California.
- Work produced in the Wildenhain’s Het Kruike studio wins a second place prize for the Netherlands in the 1937 Paris World Exposition.
- 1939** Gordon and Jane Herr purchase 160-acre Walker Ranch from John and Eva Walker.
- Hitler invades Poland and Second World War begins.
- 1940** Fearing the potential invasion of the Netherlands, Marguerite Wildenhain immigrates to the United States in March 1940. Frans, a German citizen, is not able to follow.
- 1940-42** Marguerite Wildenhain arrives in San Francisco in May 1940 and gets a job teaching ceramics at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland.
- 1942** Marguerite Wildenhain appointed director of the pottery division of Appalachian Institute of Arts and Crafts in Banner Elk, North Carolina. After arriving in North Carolina, the founder of the school dies and with it the college. Marguerite returns to California.
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- Marguerite Wildenhain moves to Pond Farm, north of Guerneville. Together Gordon Herr and Wildenhain convert a livestock barn into a pottery studio, installing four kick wheels and a kiln.
- Marguerite Wildenhain and Gordon Herr build a one-room cottage for Wildenhain south of the studio.
- Marguerite Wildenhain takes a solitary walk up the coast of California.
- 1947** Marguerite and Frans Wildenhain reunite at Pond Farm.
- End of Second World War revives interest in Pond Farm Artist's Colony
- 1948** Marguerite Wildenhain adds ten more wheels within converted chicken barn.
- Gordon Herr builds the Hexagon House for use as a center and dormitory for students attending Summer Session at Pond Farm.
- 1949** Pond Farm formally established as a community of artists. Other artisans include: metalworkers Viktor Ries and Harry Dixon, illustrator Lucienne Bloch, textile designer Trude Guermonprez, frescoist Stephen Dimitroff and sculptor Clair Falkenstein.
- First summer session begins on June 27, 1949.
- 1950** Minor White's students document Pond Farm Studio in "Pond Farm Portfolio."
- 1951** According to November 1, 1951 article in *Independent Journal*, Pond Farm and Hexagon House served as off-campus headquarters of San Francisco State College. In addition to pottery, Pond Farm also featured weaving, metalwork, architecture, design as well as raising cows, chickens and crops.
- 1952** Pond Farm Studio community disperses after the death of Jane Herr on June 10, 1952. Marguerite Wildenhain is again alone at Pond Farm.
- 1956** Marguerite Wildenhain purchases 7.8 acres consisting of studio, her own house, shepherd's cabin and surrounding gardens from Gordon Herr.
- 1960** Marguerite Wildenhain travels to Peru for World Crafts Council Meeting and falls in love with indigenous pottery of South and Central America.
- Circa 1962** Marguerite Wildenhain retains San Francisco architect and Black Mountain College graduate Albert Lanier to design a guesthouse to replace the shepherd's cabin as well as remodeling her own house.
- Marguerite Wildenhain writes *Pottery: Form and Expression*.

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- 1963** Department of Parks and Recreation acquires fourteen parcels to create the 4,234-acre Austin Creek State Recreation Area (ACSRA). Wildenhain's 7.8-acre parcel was included amongst them. After being deluged with letters the Department decided to spare Pond Farm Studio and grant Wildenhain a lifetime lease.
- 1968** North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, sponsors an exhibition of Wildenhain's work entitled: *Pottery of Marguerite Wildenhain: A Selection of her Recent Work*.
- 1970** Gordon Herr dies in Mexico.
- 1973** Marguerite Wildenhain writes her autobiography: *The Invisible Core: A Potter's Life and Thoughts*.
- 1979** Marguerite Wildenhain stops teaching.

Marguerite Wildenhain writes her last book: *That We Look and See*.
- 1980** Herbert E. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University sponsors a traveling retrospective exhibition of Marguerite Wildenhain's work.
- 1981** *Ceramics Monthly* declares Marguerite Wildenhain one of the "world's greatest living potters or ceramic artists."
- 1985** Marguerite Wildenhain dies at Pond Farm February 1985.
- 1996** State Parks replaces the roofs on both the studio and Marguerite's House.

Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa puts on an exhibition of Marguerite Wildenhain's work entitled: *The Visible Core*.
- 1999** Pond Farm Interest Group, an affiliate of Stewards of Slavianka replace the broken "Pond Farm Pottery" sign over the main gate.
- 2002** Wildenhain scholar, Billie Sessions, Phd., prepares *Ripples: Marguerite Wildenhain and Her Pond Farm Students*, a traveling exhibition of Wildenhain's work.