

RECEIVED

March 2024

To All It May Concern;

COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

For many years I lived in neighboring counties to Lake. I admit I knew little about the county then, but I do remember seeing ads in the papers and on the radio for concerts at Konocti Harbor, a huge draw to tourists as they had big name acts coming to the county.

Flash forward to my moving to the county 11 years ago. At the time, I knew nothing of Kelseyville or Andrew Kelsey. It didn't take long for me to learn that he was another white man who came west believing the Indigenous population weren't quite human. What I didn't know until I learned more from Citizens4Healing, was the extent of his cruelty and heinous actions.

Through them, I read the article written by the S.F. Chronicle's, SFgate, which listed the 10 worst slave holders in California history and Andrew Kelley was number one on the list. Since then, I've read more and find it completely unconscionable that the town at the base of Mt Konocti is named after this monster.

I feel those in opposition forget that this isn't about them, or me, it's about the local indigenous population who hold in living memory the trauma that this man, and the aftermath of his actions, had on their family members. Primarily it is for them, that we need to change the name but also, for the future.

My grandmother came from a small village whose population during WWII was murdered by the Nazis. I think, 'how would I feel if there was a town on the other side of the Lake named Hitlerville '? I would be reminded of the terrible things that happened every time I saw road signs with that name on it. I would be forced to relive the pictures from concentration camps that I saw growing up. I would live in constant PTSD. This I assume is how many of our neighbor's feel, only perhaps worse.

One argument by the businesses in Kville who are opposed to the name change is that they've branded their town and it will cost them money. Yet, when I moved to Lake County, like me, friends and family knew the name Konocti, they didn't know of Kelseyville. It's the perfect choice of a name to replace the current one and I'm happy to note that the tribal elders approve of it.

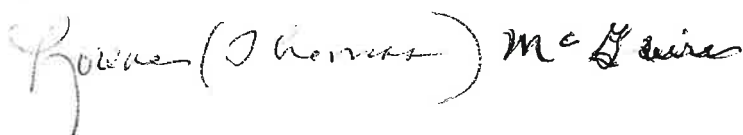
Yes, history needs to be taught and remembered but people who do horrific deeds do not deserve to be honored by having towns named after them.

In Sincerity,

Eileen Dceizin  
Eileen Dceizin  
590 Hillcrest Dr.  
Lakeport, CA 95453

Thank you for your recent coverage of the renaming of the town of Kelseyville. We are fortunate to live in a country where ideas and opinions can be freely expressed. It is understandably difficult for those who have never experienced another's specific emotional pain to identify with causes that would redress the source of that pain. The renaming of the town of Kelseyville to Konocti is one such cause. The rift it is causing in the community is to be expected. Change can be controversial. Empathy is defined as "the ability to understand and share the feelings of another" or "the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling." While we may not be able to feel the specific pain our indigenous people have endured, we can imagine it. Imagine living in or around a town named after the individuals who enslaved, raped, brutalized, and slaughtered your people, then learning that something can be done to right that wrong—specifically, renaming the town. Would it be divisive? Yes. Incur expenses? Yes. Be time-consuming and complicated? Definitely. Yet, there are concessions. Businesses, for example, would be able to keep the name of Kelseyville for business purposes. Other towns or institutions have undergone or are currently undergoing similar steps—including changing names of towns, schools, mascots, historical landmarks, etc. Changing the name Squaw Rock to Frog Woman Rock is one such example. The town of Fort Bragg is another. There are those from generations who have lived with the name Kelseyville who have strong feelings against this change. Future generations will not. Konocti will become as natural to them as Kelseyville is to those now living, without the shame attached to the name. The younger generations are experiencing a time of re-examining history to expose the truth, and a time of racial justice, redress and reparations. The ultimate goal is healing and, hopefully, reconciliation. It is my feeling that they would be appreciative of the strides that have been made in these areas. The Kelseyville High School (KHS) mascot name change from Indians to Knights is one successful example. (Even though I was a KHS graduate and former "Kelseyville Indian" sports cheerleader, I was supportive of that change.) And let us remember that Kelseyville (named in 1882) was originally named Uncle Sam (1858) as was the mountain. Thus, renaming has already occurred. Additionally, folks are familiar with the name Konocti, including our Mt. Konocti, Konocti Harbor Inn, Konocti Unified School District, Konocti Coffee, Konocti Growers/Winery, Konocti Computers, Konocti Vista Casino and Resort, Konocti Christian Academy, Konocti Realty and the KHS Konocti yearbook. Yes, things that have happened in the past cannot be changed. However, educating ourselves about what has happened leads to understanding. We can dig deep into our conscience, hearts and souls and support those who have expressed legitimate moral reasons for changing Kelseyville to Konocti. It is never too late to do the right thing.

Lorene (Thomas) McGuire, fifth generation Lake County  
2/22/2024



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FEB 25 2024  
COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS /  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

5580 Seventh St. Ext.

Kelseyville, Ca 95451

February 25, 2024

Supervisor Jessica Pyska

255 N. Forbes St.

Lakeport, CA 95453

Dear Supervisors Pyska, Simon, Sabatier, Crandell and Green:

As senior citizens of Kelseyville, we would like to describe how life was like many decades ago in our town. In our younger days, we swam in Kelsey Creek, rode bikes to the Kelsey Stone Monument (wild flowers grew around it), had Pomo Indians as classmates, cheered for our Kelseyville High School "Indians" in sports, and were proud that we lived in Kelseyville, dubbed "The Pear Capital of the World", named for our famous fruit, the Bartlett pear. Yes, we knew the history of our town as children, however, it was never the subject of intense conversation.

We are definitely opposed to any name change as we have a fondness for our Kelseyville and all the locals who reside here. It is now called "A Friendly Country Town", so obviously times have changed for the better from the days of Kelsey and Stone. Our "roots" are in Kelseyville and our rural community does not deserve such turmoil! We remain loyal to the Kelseyville name.

Let it be!

Respectfully,



David J. Baylis



Susan Brandt Baylis