

CIRCLE H



COWGIRL PRESS

THE HOLM FAMILY

In 1869, a young, adventurous Dane immigrated to California, drawn by the dream of owning his own land. This young man, Carl Holm, did what many had done before him – worked hard, married, worked harder, bought a tract of land, built a home, raised a family and became a vital and contributing member of his community. Together, with his wife Ida, they raised 9 children in Livermore, California, the town they called home. Five generations later, the Holm clan is still in the Livermore Valley—many living on land parcels and ranches owned by past family members. The community of Livermore is located in the gateway between the agricultural Central Valley and the more urban areas of the San Francisco Bay Area of California. This “in-between” location has given rise to the diversity that is a hallmark of Livermore’s history. As citizenry of the Livermore Valley, the Holm clan is a microcosm of the American landscape.

Merilyn Holm **“Tilli” Calhoun** and her twin, Frank Holm, are the eldest of Dick and Ione Holm’s five children. Blessed with an artistic ability and a love of history, “Tilli” has melded both in the Holm Family Cookbook. As a child she was her grandmother’s shadow, spending many hours Grandma’s kitchen. Throughout her lifetime in Livermore, she has been an active member of the Livermore Heritage Guild, Danebod No. 16, the Livermore Art Association and the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. She is the mother of Susie Calhoun, Merry Calhoun Carter, Nancy Calhoun Mueller and grandmother to Laina and Whitney. “Tilli” and her husband Wayne enjoy entertaining at their “Party Barn” in the Livermore Hills.

Patricia Holm **“Patsy” Neely** is the youngest of Dick and Ione Holm’s five children. After years of living in both Northern and Southern California, Patsy’s roots called her back to Livermore, where she is now an active member of the Livermore – Amador Valley Garden Club and the Alameda County Cattlewomen. Patsy spends her summers in the pastry department at Wente Vineyards and the wine department at the Alameda County Fair. Patsy is the mother of Wendy Neely Howe and Lori Neely South, grandmother to Jamie and Jessica, great-grandmother to Brandon and Karson. The “Martha Stewart” of our family, Patsy pays attention to detail in both preparation and the presentation of a dish.

Susie Calhoun is the eldest daughter of “Tilli” and Wayne Calhoun. Through the years she has found a balance between being an educator and working with wine and homebrew at the Alameda County Fair. Currently she lives in the San Joaquin Valley with her husband Troy Bowers. They are members of the Lodi Amateur Vintners Association and the Brew Angels. She is known for her casual recipes and likes to provide a “good time” for her guests.

Merry “Lambie” Calhoun Carter is the middle daughter of “Tilli” and Wayne Calhoun. Merry and her husband Darrell are the parents of Laina and Whitney. Merry is the service manager for the help desk at a national laboratory. She is a member of the Alameda County Cattlewomen and Danebod, and when she is not busy with her daughters’ busy lives, she enjoys traveling, gardening, collecting cookbooks, and entertaining in style.

Wendy Neely Howe resides in Dick and Ione Holm’s final home on the Circle H Ranch in the Livermore Hills. Warren, her husband, helps Wendy prepare for the extended family gatherings held at their home. Wendy is employed by a design, display, and packaging company where her job title changes according to the crisis. Wendy is a member of the Alameda County Cattlewomen and the Livermore Heritage Guild. Wendy’s favorite recipes have no more than five ingredients and she has the family’s Spritz Cookie recipe down to a science.

Nancy Calhoun Mueller and her husband Bob also live in the Livermore Hills near the Circle H Ranch. She is the youngest of Tilli and Wayne Calhoun’s daughters. After working at local wineries for 20 years, Nancy has found her first employment “in town,” at the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center where she is the marketing director. She was the inspiration for the Holm Family Cookbook, which stemmed from her involvement in the publishing of the Livermore Valley Wine Growers cookbook. Nancy enjoys cooking for crowds, trying new recipes, helped Ione Holm entertain for many years, and is the entertainment coordinator at her parent’s “Party Barn.”