

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1875

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Pioneers:

The program for our September Quarterly luncheon on September 7th should appeal to a great number of you. The American Museum of Quilts and Textiles, the first museum of its kind in America, will tell of its history in San Jose and showcase quilts of various fabrics and designs.

This program will give the membership the opportunity to participate by bringing their own quilts for display and discussion. Be sure and identify your quilt with your name, kind of quilt and short history. Bring your quilts early so they can be displayed and admired before the meeting.

Bob Fisher, President

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF CALIFORNIA (150)

by Mary Lou Lyon

The Celebrations for California Events of 150 years ago have begun. Somehow, we missed the commemoration of the Bartleson-Bidwell Expedition overland into California of 1841, but we did note the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend party of 1844 with a story in the *Trailblazer*, a marker at Blackberry Farm in Cupertino which was Stephens' home and naming a mountain peak looming over the Donner Pass for Stephens. This pass was discovered first and used by the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend party, although bearing the name of a later party who planned less well-a sore point to the party of 1844.

Bear Flag Revolt

Things begin to heat up in 1846 (1996) with the beginning of the Mexican War (1846-48). The Californians took a full busload to Sonoma to help in celebrating the Bear Flag Revolt on June 14-15. This event was celebrated with a parade down Main Street to the City Hall Plaza of various dignitaries including descendants of the original "Bears" who were early American settlers in Northern California plus some of Fremont's troops plus a contingent of Clampers. There were also a large

number of Mexican dissidents who were protesting Governor Wilson's policies more than the commemoration, but they were noisy and distracting, not violent. We listened to the speeches of the Governor and others after the parade and took in all of the parts of Sonoma State Historical Park for a very enjoyable historic trip.

International Background

For years, four nations laid claims on the western coast of North America, Spain, Russia, England and the United States. The U.S. treaty with Mexico established a boundary at the 42° in 1842 with "The Oregon Territory." Today, it is the boundary between Oregon and California. Just because California belonged to Spain until 1822 and then Mexico did not keep any of these powers from eyeing it. President Andy Jackson had tried to buy California as early as 1835.

American merchant seamen and explorers came into California. One of the earliest American explorers was Jedediah Strong Smith. Some individuals "jumped ship" and became residents of California, embracing the religion and becoming loyal citizens, often marrying Spanish-Mexican wives, applying for land grants and settling permanently. One of the earliest Americans in our area was Dr. John Marsh and the most important one, Thomas Oliver Larkin of Monterey. The classic and highly readable treatise on this period of the "Hide & Tallow Trade" remains Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*. Many who settled or visited wrote about the marvelous land and climate and were published in "The States." Americans with the wanderlust or itchy feet became entranced with the idea of California and began to filter in.

Meanwhile, John Charles Fremont had managed to extend his explorations of the Louisiana Purchase and Oregon Territories into California, alarming the Californios. In 1846, he was here again on his Third Expedition. 1846 was the breaking point of the Lone Star State of Texas and Mexico and the excuse the U.S. needed for taking the southwest including California.

"The Bears" made up of earlier settlers from the U.S. jumped the gun and the Mexican War was extended unofficially. The flag they raised was a cruder version of today's state flag with an attempt at drawing a bear which the inhabitants declared looked like a shoat! Vallejo was taken to Sutter's Fort and Wm. B. Ide bragged the rest of his life that he had taken California. Fremont, of course, also figured in the events after the actual taking of Vallejo.

First American Flag Over Monterey

On July 7, 1846, Commodore John Drake Sloat and 250 of his sailors and Marines on the flagship of the Pacific Fleet, the *Savannah*, came ashore at Monterey, marched to the Custom House, brought down the Mexican Flag and raised the 28 star American Flag with an appropriate ceremony and proclamation in both English and Spanish.

On July 7, 1996, the Monterey Historical groups and State Park support groups staged a great re-enactment with tall ships, row boats filled with sailors in old style uniforms and the Admiral strutting around in his authentic uniform with appropriate gilt buttons and epaulets. Thomas O. Larkin was admirably recreated by a local man who ran the show, just as the First and Only U.S. official U.S. Consul to California had in 1846. At least 100 locals were dressed to represent the inhabitants and the American invaders of Monterey, the Capital of Mexican California in 1846. It was a very well done commemoration. Monterey has plans for 4 more commemorations in the next few years and I will try to keep you aware of the dates.

Captain Montgomery of the *Portsmouth* in San Francisco

On July 9, 1846, Captain John B. Montgomery on the Naval ship, the *Portsmouth* came ashore to the plaza of Yerba Buena and put up the 28 star American Flag. This was recreated on July 9, 1996, by some members of the San Francisco Historical Society who read Sloat's Proclamation with help from some Sutter's Fort reenactors, a Marine color guard, a Marine band from New Orleans and Mayor Willy Brown. It was a fitting commemoration in San Francisco's Portsmouth Square but not the pageant that Monterey had performed.

Sam Brannan and *The Brooklyn*, July 31, 1846

The Mormon church's first publicized celebration of the landing of the *Brooklyn* at Yerba Buena on July 31, 1846 with a shipload of 238 settlers led by Sam Brannan was put on by the Danville Region Public Affairs and Walnut Creek Stake Public Affairs at the Stake House next to their Temple in Oakland on Saturday, July 27, 1996. One of their members had traced all of the descendants of the original 238 settlers and invited them to a reunion and a play entitled, "Sails Set for Zion." Many attended that affair and subsequent ones, proudly bearing name tags proclaiming them descendants. The large group of colonists were on the second ship to enter San Francisco Bay after the American flag was raised. They had come 24,000 miles around the horn from New York taking nearly 6 months, while the Pilgrims only traveled 3,000 miles for 63 days.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum mounted a display of the route of the journey, a painting of the *Brooklyn*, a list of passengers and many artifacts loaned them by the descendants. This well done display will remain at the museum for a month or more. It is worth seeing.

The 350 voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir also performed at Davies Hall in San Francisco the nights of July 29 and 30 to a sold out house since this was the beginning of their Sesquicentennial of moving the "Saints" to the West.

The Mormon Church Menlo Park Stake celebrated the landing of the *Brooklyn* at Yerba Buena on July 31, 1846 at the Maritime

Museum, San Francisco, on July 30, 1996 at 1 p.m. Some two hundred viewers sat, watched and photographed the entire pageant which was equal to or slightly better than that of Monterey. Both showed a great deal of planning, practice and participation.

The program began with a representative of the Ohlone Indians from Mission San Jose asking the blessing of our "Grandfather" in the four directions with everyone standing and the burning native grasses perfuming the air. A facade of Mission Dolores had been created and was the backdrop for the colorful Spanish dancers and the rest of the program at that site. The narrators, a man and a woman were also dressed in 1850's style clothing. The same tall ship that appeared at the Monterey commemoration sailed under the Golden Gate with the name *Brooklyn* on its prow and a small boat rowed ashore with Sam Brannan and his two aides. They were greeted by the inhabitants, then all moved to the Hyde Street Pier for the rest of the commemoration.

I would estimate about 50 adults, both men and women in appropriate garb and the same number of children participated. Many of the original sojourners were represented by costumed descendants and introduced. They had a choir of men, a choir of men and women and a choir of children who sang, interspersed with the telling of the story of their migration. Some adults and some children performed dances of the day. Some of the little costumed girl's feet did not touch the floor the entire day, they were so enthusiastic about the pageant. Some of the young ladies danced with some of the young men costumed as sailors and the sailors did a hornpipe. The afternoon ended with the audience and the participants watching the tall ship sailors "fist the sails" as they prepared to sail away again.

Sam Brannan

A plaque to Sam Brannan was rededicated by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers at 100-120 Broadway at 10 a.m. on July 31. It had originally been installed in the sidewalk, but with renewal of the downtown had been removed and is now in the wall of the building at that address.

The final event was a lecture on Sam Brannan and the voyage of the *Brooklyn* by historians Will Bagley and Lorin Hansen at the San Francisco Presidio at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on July 31, 1996. Will Bagley is writing the biography of Sam Brannan. Lorin Hansen's speech on the "Voyage of the Brooklyn" is available at the Maritime Museum as are booklets on the first English Newspaper in California, "The California Star, 1847-1848" by Norma Baldwin Ricketts and a "Walking Tour of the San Francisco Mormon History." The walking tour is very nearly that given by The Friends of the Library entitled Gold Rush Tour. A 450 page book entitled *California Saints: A 150 Year Legacy in the Golden State* by Richard O. Cowan and William E. Homer has also

been published by Brigham Young University and is available at various sites.

Other Commemorations Through 2000

Other Commemorations are being planned. The year 1998 will be the celebration for the Discovery of Gold at Coloma on January 24, 1848 as well as the end of the Mexican War. 1999 will celebrate the "49ers" who rushed across the continent or sailed around it to the Gold Rush. The year 2000 will commemorate 150 years of statehood. We became the 31st star on September 9, 1850-the only state that was never a territory.

MAEP Class in California History

If you are interested in studying along with the themes, I will be teaching at MAEP on Wednesday nights, 7-9 PM at Markham Jr HS (Willow Glen Educ. Park) beginning September 25. Our theme for fall will be Sea Routes to the Gold Fields and San Francisco during the early Gold Rush.

Conference of California Historical Societies Programs

The Pioneers are members of the Conference of California Historical Societies. As Past President and Chair of Sites and Times, I have been setting up meetings to go along with the commemorations as much as possible. You are invited to attend. The Fall Symposium will be held this year in Carson City September 27-28-29. The Spring Symposium will be in Needles, February 14-16, 1997, the Annual Meeting, next year in Chico, June 17-22, 1997 with accent on those who were here before the Mexican War and the northern trails followed by Yreka, October 3-5, 1997 and the accent on the Northern Mines.

NEW OFFICERS

Mimi Wells-Treasurer

Betty Wool Nygren, Marshall

Evelyn M. Ucovich-Parliamentarian

Betty Wool Nygren was born in San Jose in 1918, one of 5 children. Both of her parents were also native of San Jose. Grandfather Frederick G. Wool started the F. G. Wool Packing Company that opened on Senter Road in San Jose in 1903. When it closed in 1990, the 6th generation was preparing for their traditional summer jobs and it was run by the third generation.

Dad started acquiring land early in the century in the Mission Peak area, ending with over a thousand acres. He also leased hundreds of acres from San Francisco Water Company for many years. Life on the ranch was isolated, so when school bells rang, Dad purchased a big home in the eastern foothills where we lived during our school days, always returning to the ranch on weekends and holidays. Life on the

ranch would be familiar to many of you-sharing all the chores and happy times. In my dreams, I still return to its familiar settings, no matter what the dream story.

I received my teacher's credential at San Jose State in 1942 and taught for 30 years in California. Those were the good years. I have two daughters, both living out of state and five grandchildren. I now live in The Forum in Cupertino and love it.

Evelyn M. Ucovich was born in Dickinson, North Dakota, the same town as Helen Arbuckle. Her parents, Leon and Gladys Stuck were both natives of Wisconsin. Leon had gone West before World War I to ride the range. He enlisted in Montana and went to the Mexican border in 1916 and to France in 1917. He was wounded and returned legally blind. He married Gladys Wilkinson in January, 1919 and moved to Santa Cruz in 1938.

I graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1947 and moved to San Jose that fall. I married Mitchell Ucovich, a San Jose native and officer on the California Highway Patrol. We have two children, Linda Herschbach and Martin Ucovich and two grandchildren, Mitchell and David Herschbach.

Community interest increased with the need of a Girl Scout project when my daughter was in elementary school. I chose the County hospital-now the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. I joined the volunteer auxiliary and during the next twenty years served as Vice President and President. I helped with the founding of the Burn Unit and served as President of Central Coast Counties Hospital Auxiliary Council. I am a member of the San Jose Women's Club, a Board Member, Chairperson of the Community Arts section and finally President.

I became a docent at the San Jose Historical Museum in the class of 1990 and served on the Board as Hospitality Chair, Admissions Chair and two terms as Chair of Community Relations. Presently, I am on the Board of Directors as Chair of the Vintage Reflections and a member of the fashion show, "Portraits of the Past." I do tours at the museum and the Downtown Walking Tours.

I am also a member of the American Cancer Society, "Reach to Recovery Program." As a member of the West Valley Federated Woman's Club, I am on the membership committee and the fashion show committee.

I have been in the antique business since 1979 and have a space in the Antique Co-op-Laurelwood on West San Carlos. My specialty is linens, dolls and handmade Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls.

I am also an ardent football fan for San Jose State University as Mitchell played for them as well as the Washington Redskins, but I root for the Green Bay Packers.

Look for a short biography of Mimi Wells in December.

PIONEER PAPERS

by Bob Johnson

The June first meeting of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County featured again, the winners of the Annual Contest. Helen Mac Carthy named the six winners. First prize of \$500 went to Caroline Knapp. Her essay was entitled, "The Rise and Fall of the Prune Empire." She wrote the essay in her junior year at Leland High School where she graduated in June, 1996. She charmed the audience with her reading of a poem by A.J. Waterhouse entitled, "Sunshine, Fruit and Flowers of Santa Clara Valley." Miss Knapp will matriculate at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico in the fall of 1996. She plans to major in Ancient History. (See the excerpt from her paper in this *Trailblazer* and a photo taken in June by Bob Johnson.)

Second prize winner was Darren Heinrichsen of Willow Glen High School. He received \$250 for his essay entitled, "San Jose-A City of Firsts." Third Prize of \$125 went to Donna Moody-Stephens for "Moody Road-A Two Thousand Mile Journey."

First Honorable Mention of \$60 went to Gage McKinney for "The Methodist Episcopal Church." Second Honorable Mention of \$45 went to Michael Von Rueden for "San Jose Arena." Michael is a student at Willow Glen High School. Third Honorable Mention of \$25 was given to Harriet B. Arnold for "Sarah Massey Overton."

The judges reported great difficulty in selecting the order of the prizes since all papers submitted were of excellent quality.



President Bob Fisher Caroline Knapp Bob Johnson

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PRUNE EMPIRE ORCHARDS IN EARLY SANTA CLARA COUNTY by CAROLINE KNAPP

"[Santa Clara County] is a veritable Eden, a gorgeous garden of fruits and flowers. . .In early spring you can here behold over 100 square miles of trees in snow-white blossoms-prune, plum, cherry, olive, almond and with a dash of pink and red for the peach and apricot. . .In late March and early April the Santa Clara Valley is a dazzling, billowing sea of foaming white caps rolling towards us from the far away horizon." (Sawyer, 1922)

...Though many valley natives still remember the days when

Santa Clara County was the self-proclaimed prune capital of the world, the hey-day of the orchards is fast receding in the public memory. Where prunes, peaches and apricots once held sway, microchips, software and modems now reign. As recently as 1960 there were 65,000 acres of orchards in the valley; current figures count 6,000 remaining today.

The valley has outgrown its agrarian past, but like all history, this chunk of our past must not be forgotten. the story of the industry and ingenuity of the first orchardists would fascinate county school children as much as that of any garage-born computer giant. The "orchard days" influence us still, from petty things like street names to more important political and philosophical attitudes. It is in this spirit of curiosity and preservation that this paper has been written, in an attempt to discover what our valley was like in the recent past, and to see how these experiences created the valley we know today.

Starting in 1777, when Spanish soldiers settled Santa Clara Valley, it was developed into a cattle ranching and light agricultural region. The mission fathers supervised the development of subsistence agriculture among the native inhabitants, and the Spanish government loaned "land sufficient for the planting of three bushels of maize, with a house-lot, ten dollars a month, and a soldiers rations. . . a yoke of oxen, two horses, two cows, a mule, two sheep and two goats, together with all the necessary implements and seed, all of which were to be paid back in products of the soil" to all settlers in the new pueblo of San Jose. . . At the same time, the mission padres began the first planting of fruit trees in county soil. In the late eighteenth century, the first orchard was laid out at Santa Clara Mission by Father de la Peña. It had 60 trees as George Vancouver noted in 1792, "peaches, apricots, apples, pears, figs and vines, all of which excepting the latter promised to succeed very well." These were sold in San Jose and San Francisco as the first example of commercial horticulture in the county.

The arrival of the American settlers during and after the 1849 Gold Rush brought the second stage of development, wheat farming. Wheat and other grains were considered the ideal crop into the 1870's. Titus Fey Cronise said in 1868, "From San Jose to Gilroy, a distance of nearly 30 miles, the valley in summer forms an almost unbroken wheat field." Farmers were reaping 40 times the amount sown.

By 1850, five of San Jose's most prosperous and influential citizens began growing fruit trees on their property. Captain Joseph Aram, Judge William Daniels, E.W. Case, Louis Prevost and Louis Pellier all held orchard tracts near the modern downtown San Jose, though not on a commercial scale.

In 1853, Christopher A. Shelton, an employee of the fledgling nursery of Commodore Stockton arrived from New York with seeds for dozens of trees and garden products and a companion, B.S. Fox. Fox was

a horticultural experimenter who established his own nursery. With three Frenchmen, Prevost, Pellier and Jean Baptiste Bontemps, Fox and Daniels founded the Pioneer Horticultural Society in 1853. Their aim was to keep up with all the latest developments in the orchard and nursery field and soon many others joined, among them, J.Q. A. Ballou who became one of the most successful orchardists. In 1857, they merged with a similar organization to become the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Pierre Pellier came to this valley in 1856 and what he brought with him would change it forever. Pierre came at the order of his elder brother Louis Pellier, already an established resident of the county. As one of the first miners to reach California after news of the 1848 gold strike, Louis quickly realized that the money and security was in agriculture. He bought the first part of the large nursery later called "The City Gardens in 1850. The area is bounded today by the Guadalupe River, Market Street, Julian Street and Chaboya Avenue. He sent his brother back to France to bring cuttings, seeds and live plants for his new nursery. When Pierre returned in 1856, he brought le petit prune d'Agen encased in potatoes to keep the cuttings moist and they were planted in the City Gardens.

The beauty of this tiny oasis of fruit trees and flowers was well known among local residents. Of all the plants and fruit, the tiny prune was the least popular. After his death, the prune began to be recognized as the ideal crop for the Santa Clara Valley and it would be 30 years before it became the most important export of the county. to be continued. . . All the papers are filed in San Jose Library California Room.

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Our sympathies are with the family and friends of the following:

MARGARET BELLANY-JUNE 15, 1996

MATTHEW SIMON-JUNE 22, 1996

MAYBELLE TAYLOR-JUNE 24

JOLANDA LAINE-JULY 19

RUTH BIGHAM-JULY 22

NEW MEMBERS SINCE JUNE, 1996

Josephine Brown	Judith Mordecai	Dorothy Shelton
Diane Evans	Madeleine Morse	Bernadette Ulrich
Sarah Evans	Patricia Packard	Maurine Wycoff
Leota Kuzma	Alice Reynolds	

Membership

There are still 44 of you who have not paid your 1996 dues. We do not wish to lose you or have to end sending you the Trailblazer. Please look at your mailing address to see the date after your name. If it does not read "96", send \$7 dues and a SASE to Bob Johnson, 445 North 15th Street, San Jose, 95112-1726



Touring With The Californians

Register for our fall trips at the September 7 luncheon or call Nancy Hill beginning September 9.

Guests and Non members may register beginning September 16.

Please fill out insert and return at meeting or to address listed.

THE CALIFORNIANS TOUR COMMITTEE

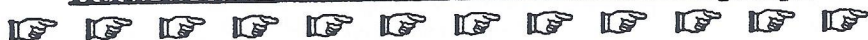
Rose Crimi...Tour Director

Nancy Hill...Phone Reservations (258-3449) before Noon

Fern McLaggan...Treasurer, 60 Palomar Real, Campbell, CA

95008- 4207

Helen Brooks & Pauline Hawkins Luncheon Sign Ups



TUESDAY-SEPTEMBER 10, 1996-ANGEL ISLAND

Angel Island, the largest in San Francisco Bay, has had a colorful history ranging from Ohlone hunting grounds, cattle ranch, U.S. Army Post, Immigration Center to Prisoner of War Camp. We travel to Angel Island via a scenic ferry ride from San Francisco. We will have a narrated tour of the island by tram with stops at the Immigration Station and the Museum housed in the old Quarantine Station. Included lunch is at the Cove Cafe with hot entree, salad, beverage and dessert.

Leave 8:15 a.. Return 4:15 p.m. Price \$44

SEPT. 29-OCT. 10, 1996. CANADIAN ROCKIES

Highlights include four days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer Train, Vancouver, Banff, Jasper, Sulphur Mountain and Jasper Tramway Rides and the Columbia Ice Fields. Cost includes airfare, 18 meals, trip cancellation insurance and gratuities. A brochure is available. Tour cost \$2295, \$495 single supplement. Deposit of \$300 due at registration



NOVEMBER 19-22, 1996 PALM SPRINGS

The home of the Aqua Caliente Indians is now a modern oasis in the desert. among the places we will visit are: Tour of Palm Springs, Tram Ride to Mt. San Jacinto, the Living Desert Wildlife and Botanical Park, Desert Museum, Shields Date Farm, a performance of the Palm Springs Follies, Summerfest and more. Cost includes motorcoach transportation, hotel, 3 meals, entry fees and gratuities...\$359... Single supplement ...\$149. A flyer is available.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1996

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Dazzling skating, costumes and music will be a perfect treat for the holiday season as we travel to Santa Rosa to see Charles Schulz's annual production at the Redwood Empire Ice Arena. Before the performance, we will have an included luncheon at Michele's Restaurant with choice of entree. (sirloin tips or chicken Kiev), salad, dessert and beverage. Those who wish to invite children 8 years or older are welcome to register them beginning September 16.

Leave 11:30 a.m. Return 7 p.m. Price \$42.



ARGONAUTS Trip to Mission Dolores in San Francisco, Thursday, October 10 plus lunch and a Cruise on the U.S. Potomac. Price \$63.50

Call Fern McLaggan to register for this trip 371-9169

Austen D. Warburton

Santa Clara Arts and Historical Consortium is hosting a reception and plaque dedication to honor Austen D. Warburton and the Legacy of the Warburton Family on Sunday, August 25, 1996 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara. Tours of the Warburton Exhibit will be given from 1 to 4. RSVP 408-248-2787

Copies of the book *Santa Clara Sagas* written by Austen D. Warburton and edited by Mary Jo Ignoffo has been published by the California History Center Foundation and will be available at the dedication.

These are a series of stories about Santa Clara families which appeared in the *Santa Clara American* during the 1970's and 1980's. He made arrangements for the articles to be compiled and published as one of the California History Center's local history series.

Editor Mary Jo Ignoffo has written sidebars to the original family histories which give additional information about Santa Clara's history. Families included are Fatjo, Franck, Hitchborn, Kulpa, Lass, Levin, Malarin, Moore, Owens, Pogue, Rohde, Ruiz/Menacho, Sanchez/Callejon, Sapena, Thompson, Toledo, Viso, Wade, and Wilson.

250 hardbound copies have been printed for \$27 including tax and \$32.42 after August 15. Soft cover copies of the book are \$16.18 including tax and \$21.60 after August 15. Shipping is an additional \$7. Checks may be made to the California History Center Foundation, CHC, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014 or picked up in person at De Anza College.

DEDICATION OF THE GRANT BROTHERS CABIN ON DEER
HOLLOW FARM

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

July 26, 1996

Remarks by Mary Lou Lyon,
Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission

The Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission is especially pleased to assist in a project such as this with restoration of an historical cabin on public open space. Constraints on us are that any project that receives money funneled from the Supervisors through us MUST be a park and open to the public. You are doing a fine job both here and in the adjacent Picchetti Ranch to preserve a piece of our history for coming generations. We also would like to thank all of your volunteers who furnished the "sweat equity" and got the job done. It takes more than funds to do historical restoration. To preserve this cabin and to have a small old fashioned farm dedicated to "How it used to be" is a rare treat and treasure in our present urban/suburban Virtual Reality World. Our children know so little about generations before. As a historian and retired teacher, I am always interested in ways to capture the attention of our children.

Of course, the Native Americans were the first to inhabit this area, then it was part of the Rancho San Antonio granted by Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado to a loyal soldier, Juan Prado Mesa in March, 1839. At that time, it covered all of the land between Stephens Creek and Adobe Creek, one square league or some 4,440.311 acres. Mesa was the 5th child born to Josef Antonio Mesa and Maria Francisca Saturnina Linares. He was baptized on May 24, 1806 in Monterey and married on October 23, 1827 at Mission Santa Clara to Maria Francisca Micaela Higuera. His cattle brand for the Rancho looked like this... 

In 1857, part of it was patented by the US courts to Wm. A. Dana (3,541.897 acres) and in 1866, to Encarnacion Mesa 898.414 acres.

This cabin was already here when the Grant brothers came in 1853 and no one seems to know who built it. George lived in it while he built their house. In 1853, George H. Grant was 27 and Theodore Frank was 25. They were both born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Charles and Sarah Richards Grant, George on July 2, 1826 and Frank February 22, 1828, two of five children. Their father, Charles Grant, was a native of Boston and their grandfather Moses was a participant in the Boston Tea Party.

Theodore Frank Grant went to Portland Maine in 1846 where he kept a lamp store for three years. He sailed to California in November, 1849 from Portland, Maine aboard the *Ortolan*, a very small schooner of 65 tons. It had been given up for lost when it finally arrived in San Francisco in June, 1850, after a rough voyage. He took charge of a

store ship belonging to Hawley and Sterling in San Francisco. During the Gold Rush, stores and lumber were scarce, so abandoned ships were beached and turned into stores. He remained there until fall of 1850 when he entered the Montgomery House as a clerk.

In August, 1851, he moved to Santa Clara where he clerked for Fletcher Cooper in general merchandise until 1857. At that time, he purchased the Post Office appointment from a man who had received it and added stationery and periodicals. He remained postmaster of Santa Clara until 1858 and was also the Treasurer of the town. He then moved to San Jose where he served as both Treasurer of the city and Deputy Recorder for two years. In the fall of 1859, he joined his brother in Fremont Township on their ranch on Permanente Creek.

Theodore Frank married Margaret Shaw in 1865. She had emigrated in 1859 from Ireland. They had a son named Theodore and a daughter. Grandson, Theodore was not able to attend the dedication, so the Grant family was represented by his daughter Virginia Grant Murphy.

According to John B. Bubb in an address to the Mountain View Pioneer Society on February 5, 1967, Mr. Theodore F. Grant threatened to shoot Bill Bubb if he cut down a wild cherry tree as he planted an apricot orchard in 1907. It was used as a marker for the four sections of land which came together at that corner. The Historical Society dedicated a marker there on September 28, 1957.

George H. Grant entered the auction store of Horatio Harris & Co. at the age of 14 and remained there eleven years, ending as chief clerk. Catching the gold fever, he sailed for California in January, 1851 from New York to Chagres, crossed the isthmus on mules, then canoes and took a steamer to San Francisco.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, he entered the wholesale commission store of George Shaw and Co. for one year. Then, he went into the grocery business with S.C. Bradshaw & Co. which partnership also lasted one year.

In 1853, he purchased 200 acres of land at Point Reyes and a fishing smack. He loaded the boat with a year's provisions, farming implements, etc. and started out to fish. He ran into a storm at Drake's Bay and lost everything except his life. This discouraged him and he returned to San Francisco and then moved to Santa Clara County. He bought 357 acres of the old Rancho San Antonio land and put 100 acres under cultivation. He lived in the recently restored cabin which already existed on the land, while building his house and out buildings. George never married.

It was Frank who was a friend of their nearest neighbor, Captain Elisha Stephens. Stephens had led the 1844 party of Stephens-Murphy-Townsend from Missouri in 1844. They were the first party to bring wagons over the Sierra on the Truckee route where the

Donners did less well two years later. The Stephens party not only arrived in California with everyone they started with, they had added two babies en route, Ellen Independence Miller at Independence Rock and her cousin, Elizabeth Yuba Murphy at the Yuba River after they crossed the pass. (Sunnyvale Murphys) Stephens gave the wagon he had crossed the Sierra with to his friend Frank Grant and it sat at the ranch and rotted into the soil.

One day, Frank was visiting the Captain and was, as usual, invited to stay for dinner. He refused the invitation because he knew what the Captain's favorite dish was-the easy to get rattlesnake. According to Ralph Rambo, the Captain replied, "You don't know what's good. Ever eat frogs? Rattlesnakes beat frogs all to pieces! Just cut off the snakes heads, hang 'em on a clothesline to let the oil run out. I save the oil for my rheumatism. Then you cut the skinned snakes in little chunks, roll the pieces in egg and bread crumbs and fry them. Beats frogs all to pieces. You don't know what's good, Grant. Stay anyway, Grant; I always got beans on the stove."

Thompson & West, *New Historical Atlas of Santa Clara Co., California*, 1876

H.S. Foote, *Pen Pictures From The Garden of the World*, , 1888

Rose Hollenbaugh Avina, *Spanish & Mexican Land Grants in California*, Thesis, University of California, 1932.

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San Jose Historical Museum Association will celebrate their past 25 years at the Hotel Sainte Clair on Friday evening, September 27, 1996 with the Honorable Norman Mineta and Mayor Susan Hammer and other distinguished honorees.

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