

Vol. 53, Issue 3
September 2012

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Restoration Day at Hacienda

A workday on May 12th provided The Pioneers and local Boy Scouts an opportunity to restore several graves in our Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden. Spearheaded by Eagle Scout Candidate Parker Jackson and the Pioneers' "In Grave Danger Gang," the volunteers enjoyed a productive day restoring this historic landmark.

After a safety briefing by Parker, the crew spread out to work. One crew of scouts, volunteers, and Pioneers began disassembling the crib around the grave of Daniel Aceves, preparing it for a complete structural rebuild.

Another group began preparing new footings for the large grave crib for Alfred Book, damaged last winter by a fallen tree. A third group began work preserving and repairing the most original crib in the cemetery, that of Walter Higgins. As power saws and hammers echoed in the peaceful cemetery, the dedi-

cated volunteers enjoyed getting their hands dirty in the pursuit of preservation.

The Higgins grave is a small one, surrounded by an origi-

bases of the supporting uprights, however, showed severe insect damage, and the structure was slowly sinking into the damp soil.



Jim Zetterquist, Parker Jackson, Paul Bernal and Bill Foley finish up the restoration of the 1866 crib around the Walter Higgins grave.

nal 1866 crib constructed of old-growth redwood. It is the only unpainted crib in the cemetery, and its state of preservation appeared nearly pristine. A closer look at the

By the end of the day, the Higgins crib had new concrete foundations buried at all four corners, authentic hardware, and a new insect-resistant coating. To look at

(Continued p. 2)

Annual Admission Day Barbeque

Join the Pioneers at *History San José* on Saturday, Sept. 8th at 11:00 AM, and celebrate California Admission Day. Make reservations by Wednesday, Sept. 5th. For more details, see page 4.

Restoration Day (Continued)



Mike Shea, Paul Bernal and Tom Bernal busy at the Aceves gravesite.

it, though, one would think it has simply been remarkably well preserved, not restored. It maintains the weathered and charming look it has always had and now is ready to withstand another hundred years.

Pioneers President Paul Bernal led the complete reconstruction of the Aceves gravesite, originally plowed over in 1928 and restored in the 1990s. Though the wooden grave marker was quite secure, the fencing surrounding it was not. This was completely disassembled, and its slats were reinstalled on a new redwood frame which was then

mounted on concrete footings. This effort was made extremely difficult by the slope of the cemetery toward the adjacent creek. Deep foundations had to be dug and leveled before the footings could be installed.

The Book grave was damaged by a falling tree whose roots gave way during the past winter's storms, compounding damage sustained from years of bad weather. Parker and his fellow scouts used authentic latches, hinges, and hardware on the expertly scratch built fencing that now surrounds the grave. Though brand new and built to withstand the elements, it truly looks like it belongs in this 19th-century cemetery.

Period-correct hardware was added to many other gravesites around the cemetery, and the brush surrounding many of the graves has been trimmed back to protect the markers and reduce the danger of fire.

As the sun lowered, the Pioneers and Scouts were able to claim a job well done, but work at the

cemetery is far from completed. Future workdays are planned, with projects such as repairing more graves, clearing loose brush, and searching further for remnants of lost markers and artifacts on the cemetery property.

Eric Johns has also prepared a replacement marker for the grave of Roberto Berryessa, whose wooden memorial rotted away long ago. The new marker was hand-carved of period wood sourced from a demolished Hacienda home, and will be installed in the cemetery over Berryessa's long-unmarked grave.

More photos of the Hacienda Cemetery can be viewed on our website, www.CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Any interested parties willing to participate on a work day at the Hacienda Cemetery should contact The Pioneers at SCCPioneers@gmail.com for more information.

-Bill Foley

(Above Photos: Tim Peddy)



Parker Jackson (right) and a fellow Boy Scout work on a crib.



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Eric Johns with his finished marker for Roberto Berryessa, 1886-1895.

Message from our President

This here is the Cemetery Special of the Trailblazer. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have long been involved in honoring past pioneers, and most of them now reside in Elysium Fields. In fact, the Pioneers have done so much fantastic work relating to cemeteries of late, that we dedicate this issue to the cause. Cemeteries are often overlooked by our community. Busy commuters whiz by them. Pedestrians whistle by. When I was an attorney serving our State in Gilroy, my office adjoined a cemetery. I took lunch amongst my "old friends" when I could. It was wonderful. Mostly Felices and Bozzos, or their relatives, were to be found. I thought about who was buried "here," and who was missed by their families "there." Looking at the beautiful monuments. Enjoying the park-like setting on a sunny day. It was very relaxing.

Here in San Jose, I also spent a lunchtime in Calvary Catholic Cemetery with former mayor Tom McEnery, each of us sharing whoppers about the long-gone but memorable Monahans, Mirra-sous, Campisis, Alvisos, Sabatinos, Bet-tencourts, Bumbs, Enrights, Mieulis, and O'Briens. It was a great time. Why? Because the memories and the stories live on – classic pranks, great achievements, the genius of the inventors, the quackery of the fake doctors selling snake oil. All there, in the cemetery. I encourage you to grab a sandwich and secure your spot in the "pioneers section" of your local cemetery. You will not regret it. Bring a friend and recount some stories.

The California Pioneers is about the stories. Each soul reveals a story. Each life was important. Everyone left a mark – some laying small footprints, some casting long shadows – but they all left their mark. The Pioneers does an excellent job digging out these stories and re-telling them to a new generation. We have internet detectives on board, as well as genealogists, oral historians, craftsmen, and a team of volunteers. We have recently found many lost headstones and replaced them to their proper homes. We have re-built broken markers, cleaned some, and re-created some with authentic period wood and styling. We have celebrated loved ones, participated in creating cenotaphs, and helped people smile about those who walked in our Valley before us.

At the risk of being called "Digger" O'Dell, the morose and comical sidekick to Chester Riley in The Life of Riley series, I confess I have long been a foot soldier in the campaigns to save cemeteries. When Resurrection Church in Santa Cruz wanted to demolish a cemetery next to their former church so they could build a new place of worship (even though they had the acreage to complete construction in an area not on top of the cemetery), I got involved. Gertie Klem asked for my help. Little did I know I would re-unite with her years later when I joined the board of the Pioneers. We saved that cemetery.

When a church representative at Mission San José tried to sell off Carrara marble monuments to sculptors, and I



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Paul Bernal, President California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

was contacted as a Bernal descendant who might be interested in out-bidding the sculptor, I was sent in undercover by the police department to conduct the purchase and then have the peace officers swoop in for the detention. I am happy to report the three large monuments are now back in the cemetery of Mission San José, right next to the Mission.

There is something magnificent about cemeteries and the folks who occupy them. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to speak for those who can no longer speak.

-Paul Bernal

Visit Pioneers' Calendar

Please check out the "Pioneers' History Calendar - Santa Clara County" on the web. To view month-by-month local, history related events go to and bookmark www.CaliforniaPioneers.com and click "Calendar" on the left menu.



Trailblazer

is published quarterly by the
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

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Established in 1875

The Pioneers is a 501(c)3
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Pioneers Calif. Admission Day Barbeque

Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

**History San Jose
1650 Senter Road, San Jose**

**Must make Reservations by
Wednesday, Sept. 5**

E-Mail "sccpioneers@aol.com" or call
408-554-7587 with your names

Cost \$35, Children \$10 (make checks payable to
California Pioneers and bring to Barbeque)

**Music
San Jose Municipal Band**

Menu

by Andy's BBQ

Pork Spareribs, Beef Brisket,
BBQ Chicken, Smoked Sausage, BBQ Beans,
Cole Slaw, Mixed Green Salad,
Soft Drinks, Water & Cookies
(Veggie Burgers are available if
requested when making reservations)

Parking

Free parking available in parking lot behind the
HSJ Hotel and the Phelan Road parking area.
Handicap parking is available outside
the South Gate. Drive in to drop off guests
but no parking is available inside the park.

Our California State Flag



The Bear Flag was first raised on June 14, 1846, at Sonoma by a group of American settlers revolting against the rule of Mexico. The original flag was painted by William Todd.

Pioneer John Bidwell recorded many of the events surrounding the "Bear Flag Revolt" and about the raising of the Bear Flag. He wrote, "Another man left at Sonoma was William L. Todd who painted, on a piece of brown cotton, a

yard and a half or so in length, with old red or brown paint that he happened to find, what he intended to be a representation of a grizzly bear. This was raised to the top of the staff, some seventy feet from the ground. Native Californians looking up at it were heard to say 'Coche[sic],' the common name among them for pig or shoat."

Unfortunately, the original Bear Flag, held by the Society of California Pioneers perished in the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

The current California State Flag, adopted by the state legislature in 1911, is based on the original Bear Flag raised by pioneering Americans over Sonoma in 1846. The star was taken from the

lone star of Texas. The Bear was representative of the numerous Grizzly Bears in the state and the words "California Republic" testify to the feisty American pioneers who settled in the territory.

Today the identity of the animal depicted on the flag is not likely to be mistaken for a "coche."

Source:
www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/ca_flag.htm



**Photo taken in 1890 of the original
Bear Flag raised in 1846**

Michael Shea Wins Essay Contest

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Shea, a Pioneers member and volunteer, for winning first-prize with his essay, *Nineteenth Century Medicine in the Santa Clara Valley*. The submitted essays for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2012 Essay Contest were read by our essay judging committee and evaluated on originality, overall interest, depth of research and writing skill.

The submitted essays were very good and the decision as to the winner was a difficult one. Dr. Shea received his award and cash prize of \$500 at the Pioneers June 9th luncheon at the Three Flames restaurant. Below are a few excerpts from his essay. To read the complete essay, go to www.CaliforniaPioneers.com or the California Room at the Martin Luther King Library.

Nineteenth-Century Medicine in the Santa Clara Valley

Ohlone Period

"The history of medicine in the Santa Clara Valley must begin with the first "doctors" in the area. These men and women were known as shamans. They lived with their tribe in the bay area for the past several thousand years. They were an exalted group who were both admired and feared by their fellow tribesmen. Shaman received their calling early in life, usually in a dream. They served an apprenticeship until the elder shaman deemed them ready to heal the sick by themselves. Paid in various types of shells and animal skins, the shaman was considered wealthy by tribal standards."

Mexican Period (1822-1846)

"Ascención Solórsano was known as the Medicine Woman of the People. She was born May 22, 1855. Her parents were full-blooded Matsigen Indians



Photo: Tim Peddy

Paul Bernal, Dr. Michael Shea and April Halbestadt, Essay Contest Chair, are pictured at the June Pioneers luncheon.

who lived in San Juan Bautista. She lived most of her life in Gilroy, where her prescribed treatments included sunshine, bathing, poulticing, and herbal medicine. She treated patients for tapeworms, skin infections, poison oak, stroke, fevers, colds, and influenza.

In addition to the use of herbs for medicine, she knew the secret of dove weed (Yerba del Pescado). Ground to a powder, she would throw it into a quiet section of the Pajaro River. The stunned fish would float to the surface where Ascención would scoop them up in her basket. It was then off to home to cook the family dinner. Ascención Solórsano died of stomach cancer in 1930."

Hospitals

"San Jose's history of public hospitals began in 1855, when the city and county agreed to share costs for public medical care. A county physician was appointed and the city agreed to pay fifty dollars per month for the care of the sick. About this same time, the old Levi property was rented for a fee

of forty dollars. In November of the same year, the county, feeling it needed more hospital space, bought the old Sutter house for \$5500. This house was in the northeast part of San Jose and came with twenty five acres. The county occupied the premises until February, 1856, when the owners failed to make a proper deed, and the purchase was rescinded.

The county then contracted for a physician to use the Levi house as a hospital. Dr. G. B. Crane agreed to see seven patients a day for forty six hundred dollars a year. This was followed by Dr. A. B. Caldwell, who agreed to see patients for two dollars and fifty cents per day. This worked from 1857 to 1859. Dr. T. D. Johnson took over the task and carried on until the county bought the Hiram Cahill farm for four thousand dollars in 1860. The site was on the present Park Avenue and Montgomery Street. This establishment became hopelessly inadequate by 1868, and the county was forced to look again. In 1871, J.S. Conner was paid twelve thousand dollars for

(Continued p.7)

"In Grave Danger Gang" Unearths Headstones By Rick Helin

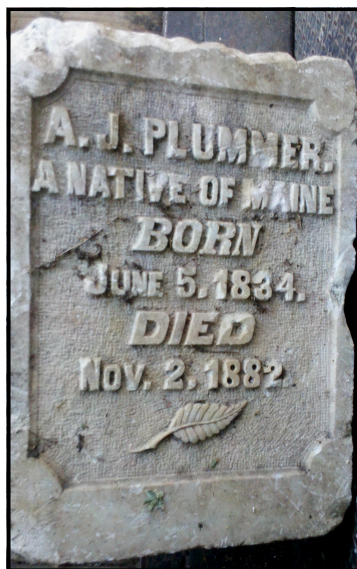
A Craig's List Posting reads: "Are you, or someone you know, in possession of a grave marker or tombstone from a California cemetery? The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is searching for the return of 'lost' tombstones and grave markers originally placed at the Hacienda Cemetery at New Almaden, San Jose, or any other local cemetery. These items have unfortunately found a way of 'disappearing' or 'walking away' from cemeteries. Many were made from stone, others carved from virgin redwood. Note: In some cases, it may be a felony to either remove, and/or simply be in possession of items removed from California burial sites, however, we are not seeking prosecution. We simply desire their proper return - no questions asked. Please contact Rick at (408) 859-4873 or email info at sccpioneers@aol.com."

This continuously running advertisement has produced good results for the Pioneers' "In Grave Danger Gang." The first of several responses was a call from the East Bay—a gentleman saw the ad and noted there was a very large tombstone sitting in a warehouse belonging to the Art Department of a large Junior College. He didn't know how it got there but believed this marble piece's fate may come at the hands of a student sculptor's hammer and chisel.

He was kind enough to personally deliver it to my house. Thank God because it was so heavy it took three of us to wrestle it off the truck. It was then that my own challenge began. I needed to discover whose grave marker this was and ultimately determine in which cemetery it should reside. This particular stone was "a double." That is, it had two names carved on it. On one side was the name A.J. Plummer, 1834-1882 and on the other side, A.H. McCobb, 1839-1883 (See middle photo.).

Many hours of research later, I discovered Ambrose Plummer and Abiel McCobb were long time family friends and natives of Boothsbay, Maine and came out to

California just after the gold rush. Both families were also close friends with Ralph Waldo Emerson's family of the same town. Plummer owned a ship's chandlery at 103 Georgia Street, Vallejo, and McCobb worked for him as a sail maker. Plummer was married and the couple had a small son. Upon her husband's death, his widow Josephine went to live with her brother in Stockton, California. Her brother was Eugene Trefethen who's descendants would later engineer the San Francisco Bay Bridge and supervise the construction of Kaiser's Liberty Ships. Upon Eugene's retirement, he created the Trefethen Family Vineyards in Napa, California, which still produces a very good wine.



The tombstone had somehow managed to 'walk away' from the Masonic Sunrise Cemetery in Vallejo, a very old graveyard in disrepair. A decision has not yet been made as to whether it is returned to that same cemetery thereby risking the further possibility of theft, or to donate it to the Vallejo/Mare Island Naval History Museum where it would accompany an exhibit on the early years of that area.

Then, in December, 2011, our own April Halberstadt notified me of a

friend who had a tombstone. It was given to her husband as a humorous gift upon his fiftieth birthday and they used it in their garden as a stepping stone. With April's help, we received it as a donation and the usual research began. The stone read Elsworth Adelbert Olmstead, 1873-1958, and had wandered away from Santa Cruz's Memorial Oakwood Cemetery. It was promptly returned and greeted warmly by their groundskeepers.

It then came to our attention that History San José had two very large wooden grave markers within their collections warehouse on Senter Road. The "In Grave Danger Gang" investigated and discovered two wonderful vintage markers, George Snaden, 1851-1890, and his beloved wife, Martha "Lucy" Snaden, 1862-

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Jim Zetterquist stands with the G. Snaden wooden marker.

Michael Shea (Continued)

114 acres on the west side of San Jose, the present day Bascom Avenue. The buildings on the Cahill site were moved to the new site to be used until a gothic style three story structure could be erected in 1875. The new building and associated structures (water tank, pesthouse, and potters field) would form the nucleus of the future Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Drs. Crane, Andrew Cory,

Benjamin Cory, Augustine Caldwell, Taliaferro Johnson, Jacob Brown, Alexander J. Spencer, and Abraham McMahon, all played a role in establishing the County Hospital. Dr. Andrew Cory was named the first director."

-Michael Shea



Photo: Tim Peddy

Dr. Michael Shea speaks to Pioneers at luncheon

"In Grave Danger Gang" (Continued)

1890, both natives of Missouri. From what remains of the crudely carved information on them, I was able to reconstruct a magnificent history of their travels to the Lassen/Tehama County region of northern California. There, George raised horses along the Sacramento River just northwest of what today would be Chico. Both died within six months of each other at which time their two young boys, ages three and five, were placed in the Bidwell School for Children (the early name for Chico Normal School and later Chico State College).

Back in Missouri, Martha had been the nanny/nurse for many of her master's children. Coincidentally, one of them, a young twenty year old, had arrived in Chico three months too late to visit with his former nanny. Upon learning of their deaths, however, the young man went to authorities and claimed the couple's two orphaned children and brought them back to live with his own family in Missouri.

Our conclusion is the markers originally came from The Corning Cemetery and had 'left home' around 1983. They currently remain in the custody of History San José.

Finally, our latest tombstone adoption is closer to home. Claire Britton-Warren, a new Pioneers member, notified us of a disturbing situation at Oak Hill Cemetery while doing research on the 1853 Jenny Lind steamship catastrophe. Claire discovered the tombstone of Jacob David Hoppe was recently broken while being moved by parties unknown and it now lay in pieces about ten feet away from where it should be (see below.)

Hoppe is a significant forefather of San Jose, having been a member of the Murphy-Stevens-Townsend Party, a signer of California's Constitution, San Jose's first Postmaster, founder of "The

Californian" which was later renamed "The Daily Alta California" newspaper and primary advocate for this city becoming the location of the State's first Capital. Certainly Mr. Hoppe's legacy deserves more than a neglected broken grave marker. Hoppe died from injuries from the Jenny Lind boiler explosion six days after the incident.

We will keep you abreast of the progress in seeking the proper restoration of this prominent citizen's tombstone. Should you know of the location of any other 'orphan' grave markers, do not hesitate to contact me at (408) 859-4873.



Photos: Tim Peddy

Jacob David Hoppe's broken headstone at Oak Hill Cemetery

Are You a "History Geek"? By April Halberstadt

To celebrate National History Month, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County President Paul Bernal recently addressed a group of students from the annual History Day contest, describing himself as a history geek since fourth grade and listing the geeky things that historians do for fun. Rebuilding cemeteries and solving history mysteries were high on his list. Bernal stressed the value of a history-based education, such as the resulting critical analytical thinking and sharp writing skills.



Photo: Darius A. Przygoda

Pioneers President Paul Bernal congratulates 3-year old Suraga Nallan on her contribution to the history paper by her brother Shreyas Nallan, both from Learner's Academy. Other winning participants are in background.

The event was well attended, with people standing along the side and back walls of the County meeting room at 70 West Hedding Street in San Jose. Bernal also presented awards to the children. The winner of the Pioneers annual essay contest (adult category), Dr. Mike Shea, was presented with a special lapel pin.

The Pioneers joined with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission to honor this year's History Day participants.

History Day is a national contest, one that is supported by the Office of Education for social science students, grades four through twelve. Students can write papers, create posters or

design websites on a historic subject. Among the twenty winners in our county was a three year old girl who submitted a project along with her older brother. A future history geek! Local winners compete in Sacramento in May, and then on to the nationals in June. Although the program has been held in Southern California for many years, it is relatively new in Santa Clara County.

The Pioneers co-sponsor this recognition event for our local winners by providing financial support for refresh-

ments and providing "goody bags" containing small gift awards provided by Santa Clara County. Because May is National History Month, the importance of history was noted with a proclamation by the Board of Supervisors, presented to Bernal by Supervisor Ken Yeager.

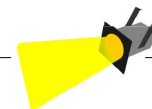
The Office of Education is strongly committed to this program, and the recognition event was enjoyed by all of the students, parents and teachers who attended.

Pioneers Receive Service Awards

Jim Zetterquist and Gayle Frank each received an "Outstanding Service Award" at the June 9th Pioneers luncheon. Jim and Gayle both serve on the Pioneers Board of Directors and in

the past few years have contributed many hours furthering the mission and goals of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.





Pioneers Member Spotlight: Eric Johns

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is fortunate to have among its members Eric Johns. Eric recently received the Outstanding Community Service Award of the Pioneers for contributions to the Pioneers' Hacienda Cemetery, including his woodworking skills and stewardship.

Eric was born in Whittier, California, and raised in a Quaker setting with two older sisters. Woodworking is in his blood – he is descendant of several generations of carpenters. However, Eric was discouraged from using carpentry tools in his father's hope that Eric would break the tradition and become something other than a carpenter, which he did. Eric went into the super market business, and also took a few jobs as a salesman.



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Eric Johns working on the Berryessa marker

Eric could not deny his destiny as a woodworker: "Although I did stay away from my father's power tools as a young boy, as I was asked, I was still able to get my hands on the easier to obtain hand tools. Hand tools limited me in the type of projects I could do, as well as the size of the projects. I quickly learned (as did my father) that they could be as dangerous as power tools. It was after several stitches, many Band-Aids and some needed instructions from my father, I became pretty good at carving and making specialty projects."

After 38 years in Whittier, Eric moved to Northern California. He entered the field of mental health, where he

has remained for 22 years. Today, Eric manages a medical services department and oversees 32 psychiatrists that work in 12 different locations in Santa Clara County

Returning to his heart's desire, he now has a small wood shop in his basement. Much of the work he does is by hand. According to Eric, "You can really become one with your work when it is done slowly by hand. You begin to notice the fine detail of the wood and become mindful of the purpose and affect projects might have on others, if given as gifts."

It was the untimely death of Eric's son, and living very close to the Hacienda

Cemetery in New Almaden, that drew Eric toward being an overseer of the cemetery. Eric's needs and the cemetery's needs came together with beautiful results. In the last 11 years, Eric has completed the following projects at the Hacienda Cemetery:

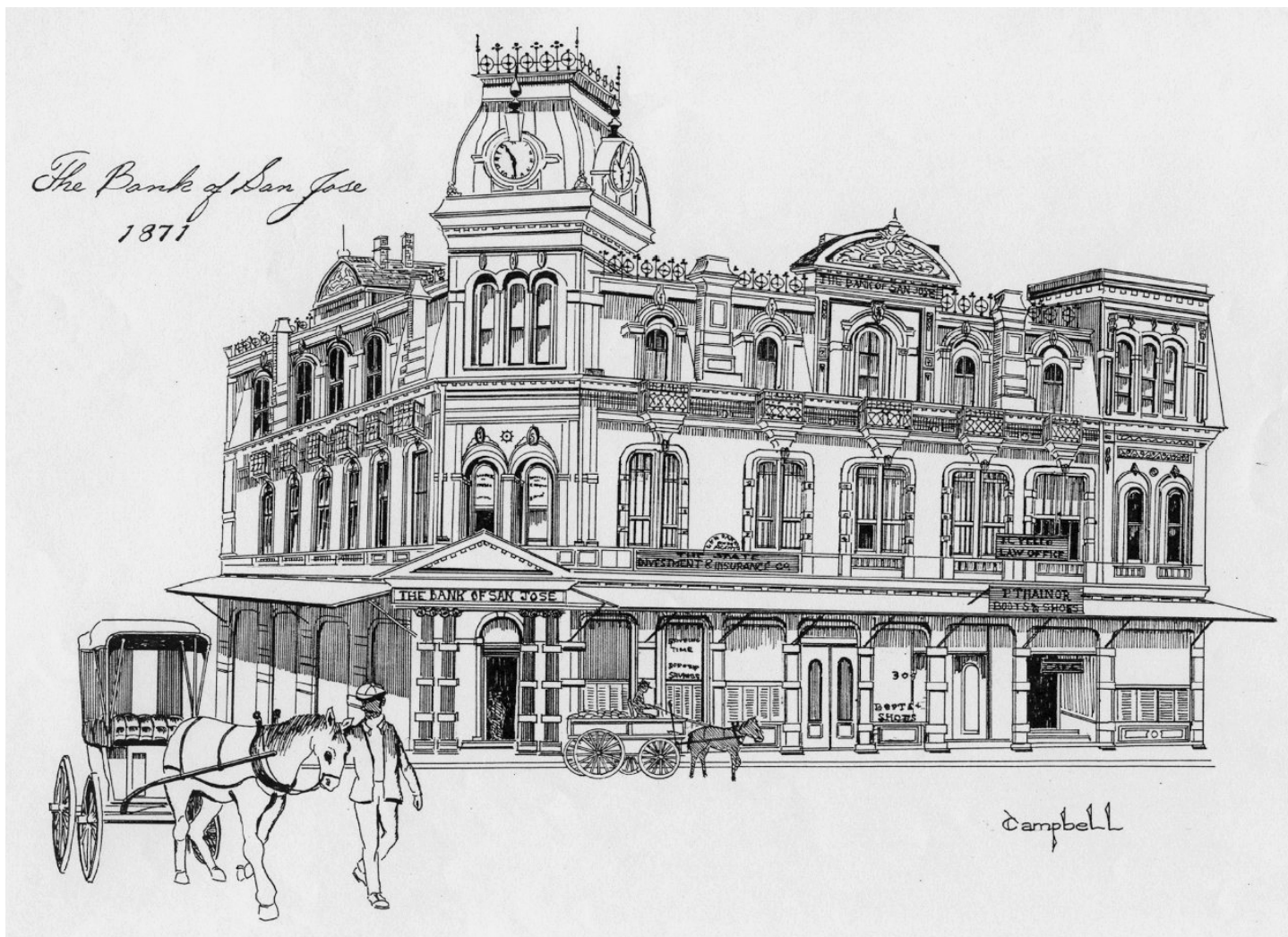
- Assisted former Pioneers Cemetery Chair Dick Hill with projects.
- Helped install the memorial bench for Austen D. Warburton & Hank Calloway.
- Spent many seasons of weed-whipping and cleaning up.
- Designed and carved the now-famous Bert Bertram's arm grave marker.
- Designed and carved the Walter Higgins grave marker.
- Carefully restored the Lucia Yturriaga grave marker.
- Designed special footing adaptors for several cribs.
- Served as a key member of the Hacienda Cemetery Restoration Day in 2012.
- Designed and carved the Roberto Berryessa grave marker.
- Keeps an eye on the cemetery and reports issues to the Pioneers.

Eric's stewardship of the cemetery has been significant in the preservation of one of the Pioneers' greatest assets. Eric is also one of the Pioneers' greatest assets.

- Paul Bernal

Bank of San Jose

From "Down Memory Lane" by Jim Campbell



The Bank of San Jose, 1871

Dr. William J. Knox and his brother-in-law Thomas Ellard Beans believed that San Jose could support formal banking. In 1865, Dr. Knox paid \$21,000 for a piece of land on the northwest corner of First and Santa Clara Streets. The Bank of San Jose was incorporated January 31, 1868, with a capital stock of \$100,000.

In 1871, the bank bought a large lot on the northeast corner of First and Santa Clara Streets with the intent of erecting a \$100,000, three-story building surmounted by a clock tower. On June 15, 1872, the bank opened for business.

After suffering irreparable damage in the 1906 earthquake, the Bank of San Jose Building and its clock tower were replaced by a five story structure of reinforced concrete.

On January 16, 1927, the Bank of Italy acquired the Bank of San Jose and its two branches. In 1930, the Bank of Italy became the Bank of America. The second Bank of San Jose Building (later renamed the Beans Building) at First and Santa Clara Streets, once thought of as "the showiest structure in town," was demolished in 1947.

About Jim Campbell

J. Howard (Jim) Campbell, a Pioneers member, formed his own company reproducing his original art into prints that can be found in prestigious galleries, maritime museums, and shops around the country. Many of his drawings have won awards in competitive art shows. Several of Jim's pen-and-ink drawings of historic California landmarks have been commissioned for use by the U.S. Postal Service in the form of commemorative cancellations and cachet designs. Jim also wrote and illustrated "From Cinnabar to Quicksilver."

Father Real in Troubled Times

By Damian Bacich, Ph.D.

Life for residents of Santa Clara Valley in the 1840s was anything but easy. Ignored by their leaders in Mexico, plagued by political strife at home and threatened by war with the United States, Hispanic settlers had much to deal with.

One of those who tried to make the most of a difficult time was Father José María Suárez del Real, the last Franciscan friar at Mission Santa Clara. Father Real, as his contemporaries knew him, arrived in Alta California from Mexico in 1833, with a party of Franciscans from the missionary college of Zacatecas. These young friars had been sent to replace the Spanish-born clergy who had been expelled from the territory by Mexican government decrees.

Real and his companions reached Alta California just as the dismantling of the mission system was about to begin. Instead of overseeing the operations of the missions their Spanish confreres had founded decades earlier, they often found themselves in the position of having to help lay administrators dispose of mission assets. To make matters worse, the years between 1833 and 1848 were marked by struggles between local political factions and war with the United States.

Further problems developed when funds for the maintenance of the missions and the Church in general had been cut off because of political turbulence in Mexico, leaving the missionaries without a stable source of income.

After first serving at Carmel and Monterey, Real was transferred to Mission Santa Clara, where he lived between 1844 and 1851, overseeing Mission San José as well. Despite trying conditions, the padre seems to have been an affable and warm individual, doing his best to help his flock of native Californians and ex-mission Indians deal with the times.



Image provided by Department of Archives & Special Collections, Santa Clara University

Mission Santa Clara photo from an Andrew P. Hill painting, 1849

An expert horseman, he was known to organize rodeos and bullfights in the main square in front of the Santa Clara Mission for the amusement of local residents and had a fondness for long horseback rides in the country. He had an interest in mining and metallurgy, helping open up the New Almaden Mine in 1845, and was said to have gone to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in order to find gold.

Father Real did not let his adventurous nature inhibit his Franciscan sense of duty to those in need, however. During the harsh winter of 1846, he allowed Anglo-American immigrants to settle in some of the Mission buildings, and even to organize Protestant services. As a trained missionary, he consistently advocated for justice for ex-mission Indians. He even let the numerous family members of British Vice-Consul James Alexander Forbes take up residence in the Mission and live there for many years, retaining only a couple of rooms for his own personal use.

Despite his hospitality to newcomers, Real at times had to appeal to local authorities in order to stop the gradual

destruction of both the Santa Clara and San José Missions. In an 1847 letter to Alcalde John Burton of the Pueblo de San José, Real complained of American squatters causing damage to Mission San José, destroying a large number of musical instruments (including 23 violins), stabling horses in the mission rooms, and burning over 1,500 feet of stored wood. The building had been left practically without windows or doors, and that the situation at Mission Santa Clara was not much better.

By late 1847 it was clear the flow of settlers was not going to abate and the ever-practical padre looked for a solution. In October, Real engaged William Campbell, who was living with his family in one of the Mission adobes, to survey lots near the Mission complex. This survey would form the template of what would eventually become the town of Santa Clara.

With the end of the Mexican-American War, the influx of gold seekers and the eventual inclusion of the territory into the United States, Real's time in California was drawing to a close.

(Continued p. 12)

Father Real (Continued)

On March 19, 1851, the feast of St. Joseph—patron saint of the Pueblo de San José, Mission San José, and the padre himself—Real transferred the Santa Clara Mission and all its assets to Father John Nobili of the Jesuits, as part of a plan to convert the old, dilapidated mission into a college for a new era. At the behest of Bishop Joseph Sadoc Alemany, Real departed for Mexico, where he would live out the rest of his days.



Image provided by Department of Archives & Special Collections, Santa Clara University

Earliest known daguerreotype photograph of Mission Santa Clara in 1854

Many of the old Californios were sad to see the padre go. Antonio María Osio dedicated his *History of Alta California* to him. General Mariano Vallejo's niece, Guadalupe Vallejo, referred to Real as "one of the most genial and kindly of the missionaries." Yet not many years passed before stories of a less savory nature began to circulate. Real was blamed for the deteriorated state of the Santa Clara Mission buildings, and his name was associated with allegations of greed, eagerness to sell off mission properties, and rumors of illegitimate children fathered in Carmel, Monterey and Santa Clara.

As difficult as such accusations may be to prove or disprove after 150 years, they have contributed to Real's reputation as one of the colorful characters of Mexican Alta California.

Father Arthur Dunning Spearman, the Jesuit author and archivist for Santa Clara University from 1957 to 1977, who knew the history of the Santa Clara Mission better than any one of his time, wrote a spirited, though unpublished, defense of Real in 1959.

The producers of the popular Western television series "Death Valley Days" were planning to film an episode about Real and the New Almaden Mine and had written to Spearman requesting background information on the padre.

In his reply, the Jesuit historian described Real as someone who unjustly bore the blame for the poor condition of the Mission under his care when he transferred it to the Jesuits. "He lived and worked through the tragedy of the secularization of the

Missions... While in charge at Santa Clara, he saw the Mission slowly stripped of everything... He had no means of support, and the so-called 'administrators' had sold or given away everything to their needy friends under the guise of satisfying some fictitious 'debts' of the early padres."¹

Given the troubled times Father Real was thrown into, he is likely an unsung hero of early Santa Clara.

¹Santa Clara University Archives

Meeting Former Classmates

At the Pioneers June luncheon, Sally Howe looked up and down her table; on her left was Ed Gustafson and Janette Potter Wolfram while on her right was Rosario Sunyer Beebe. Sally Howe was in the middle. What was the significance? They all graduated from Lincoln High School in San Jose in June, 1949!

What are the chances of four classmates coming together at an event and sitting at the same table? Sally tells the Pioneers that this unexpected small reunion was of special significance for the former classmates.

Come to a Pioneers event and you might be pleasantly surprised to meet a former friend or classmate.



Lincoln High School Yearbook

Cenotaphs Memorialize Loomis and McKay

On July 20th, two cenotaphs memorializing two of Santa Clara County's very notable historians, Pat Loomis (1920-2010) and Leonard McKay (1921-2006) were dedicated at Oak Hill Cemetery. The white Carrara marble cenotaphs were placed in the Toyon Section of the cemetery. A cenotaph is a monument erected in honor of a person whose body is elsewhere.

The *Argonauts* were the primary hosting organization but they handed off the services to *E Clampus Vitas* for a

traditional "wetting down" of Leonard's and Pat's markers.

Following the dedication at Oak Hill, a memorial service for Pat Loomis was held at History San Jose. California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Past President Jim Zetterquist served as master of ceremonies. A memorial service for Leonard McKay was held at History San José in 2006.

Photos are available on our website soon at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Donations, in honor of Pat Loomis and Leonard McKay are still being accepted for their Cenotaphs. Any funds collected above the cost price of this project, will be used for restoration of pioneers graves at Oak Hill. Checks, made out to: **Loomis McKay Cenotaphs Project**, may be sent to:

Attn: LMCP
1765 Hicks Ave.
San Jose, CA 95125

On behalf of the Argonaut's Historical Society, and the Loomis and McKay families, we thank you.

Women Who Built San Jose & the Valley

By Anne Louise Heigho

Jane Logan Stanford—commissioned the Stanford Memorial Church and its artwork as a memorial to her husband.



Jane Stanford

Tillie Brohaska—founded the Vendome chapter of the National Daughters of the Golden West, and funded the replica of the Log Cabin built in Alum Rock Park in 1916, which is a city landmark. She also was a founder of Musicians' Protective Union #153 in 1893 and played in the Scottish Rite Temple into the 1940s.

Many women were significant in building San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. If these pioneers, either amateurs or professionals, did not do the job themselves, they had a great deal of influence on the progress and growth of our area. In many cases the evidence of their contributions is still present. Here is a sample of women who helped build San Jose and Santa Clara Valley:

Sarah Knox Goodrich—responsible for the Letitia Building and other structures on First Street.

Julia Morgan—designed the YMCA building, Saratoga Foothill Club, notable homes in the valley, and used San Jose tiles in the construction of Hearst Castle.



Julia Morgan

Sarah Winchester—supervised and managed the building and design of her mansion, presently the Winchester Mystery House. Sarah had some professional training in architecture.

Mrs. Anna Maria (Grandma) Bascom—sewed an early San Jose school-house, known as the Blue Tent, in the early 1850s out of blue-jean cloth. She was a popular host to many prominent San Jose visitors who needed a place to live.

Mary Hayes Chenoweth—after her wooden castle burned, she built the present Hayes Mansion out of concrete, incorporating a fire-fighting system.

Cora Fremont Older—one of the founders of the Santa Clara County Rose Society and a leading proponent of the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden.

Juana Briones—builder of her rammed-earth adobe home, sadly recently razed. She was known for tending the medically ill, was an astute businesswoman, landowner and managed a large ranch in the Los Altos area.

Alternative Day Trips and Tours By Bev Blockie

The Californians Tours no longer provides historic tours. As a service to our members who long enjoyed those bus trips, we are providing alternative sources for historic tours. We have reports from those who have been on these trips that they were very enjoyable. All these tours are well organized and fully insured. The tours are varied and many of them travel to historic spots. You can look up the web sites or call the providers for more information.

1. **Cupertino Senior Center: 408-777-3150**
www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=182
2. **City of Saratoga Recreation Department: 408-868-1249**
www.saratoga.ca.us/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=6380
3. **Campbell Adult Center trips: 408-866-2146**
www.ci.campbell.ca.us/recreation/activityguide/Summer2012/Full%20Activity%20Guide.pdf. Adult Center trips are on page 57. This group includes the Los Gatos area

Time Travel

In San Jose, April 1876: Reports were that our mountain streams were choked with trout and how this over population was interfering with the flow of water. Anglers to the rescue!



In San Jose, March 1877: The Council passed an ordinance against sleeping in barns and outhouses without the consent of the owners. This was aimed to hit our "public tourists" in a soft spot.

In San Jose, June 1890: Councilmen moved to donate \$15 to each fire engine company and \$10 to each hose company for extra service for remaining at their fire houses from the 3rd to the 5th of July.



In San Jose, July 1895: The correspondence with the County Clerk's office was becoming so voluminous that Clerk Pfister asked the Board of Supervisors to furnish him a typewriter.

News From the Past

Why Is Nov. 5th Special?



November 5th marks the 100-year anniversary for California women's legal right to vote for the President of the United States. In 1912 the San Jose polls opened at 6 am and closed at 6 pm. There were 34,121 qualified registered voters in Santa Clara County that year; 18,787 were men and 15,334 being women. Only 22,554 of those registered voted. There were four colorful and interesting candidates running for president: Woodrow Wilson, Teddy Roosevelt, William Taft (incumbent President,) and Eugene Debs (Socialist Party.) A fifth candidate running in Santa Clara County was listed as Chafin.

The San Jose newspaper reported that up until noon the women were out-voting the men. Various polling places in San Jose offered creative amenities such as floral arrangements and trays of sandwiches. Mugs of coffee were

served at the Burbank precinct. Those voting at the Willow Glen Methodist Church were serenaded with organ music. Other poll locations were said to add music from Victrolas and Grafanolas. Women requested nurses to be available to look after their babies while voting to ensure their ballots were carefully completed without worry about their progeny. It was a big deal then, and still should be.

Wilson won in a landslide, carrying 39 out of the 48 states. President Taft came in third with only three small states because Roosevelt, who carried 6 states, split the vote by running as a Progressive (Bull Moose) Party candidate. Santa Clara County did not flow with the tide; Roosevelt led with 10,828, Wilson-9,567, Debs-1,888, Chafin-803, and poor Taft, only 265.



New Pioneers Members - Welcome!

Richard Beebe is a native San Josean and was a Pharmacist. He lives in Campbell and is the father of our Pioneers Board member, Rose Marie Beebe.

Trisha Annable Berard is a native San Josean but lives in Seattle, Washington with her husband and two young sons. She is the daughter of Gayle Frank, a Pioneers Board Member. Trisha's grandmother, Ethel Reinegger, is also a native San Josean and a long-time Pioneers member. The family's California ancestors date back to the 1870s and include the Reineggers, Broedels and MacLeans.

Barbara Claire Britton-Warren lives in Boulder Creek and is a Technical Writer. Her California ancestor is John S. Bradbury who came to here in 1853 from New York. Barbara's parents are Charlotte Ely and Alfred Britton Jr. Barbara is interested in historical research, writing and preservation.

Jacqueline Golzio lives in San Jose and works for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and has been involved in many outreach activities within the community. She is interested in volunteering with the Pioneers and would like to become a docent. She grew up near the original location of the Paulson House and remembers it well. She loves history and is eager to learn more about our county. Her grandfather, John DeMaria owned a vineyard in the Berryessa area of San Jose. Her father, Vincent DeMaria, grew up in San Jose, ran away from home as a teenager, worked as a cowboy and later became a professional boxer in San Jose under the name of Jack DeMars. Her father worked at Kaiser Permanente for 40 years, raised quarter horses and raised cattle on Mt. Hamilton. He was a lifetime Moose member and a Native Sons of the Golden West.

Peter Silva is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. His Pioneer ancestor is Paul Rudolph. He is interested in fundraising.

Margaret Walker is a native Californian and lives in Novato. She works in administration and writing. Margaret is interested in learning more about the lives of female pioneers, in history and genealogy. Her ancestors are Zachariah "Buffalo" Jones and Mary Erwin who came to California in 1846.

Diana Wirt is a native Californian, lives in San Jose and works for the City of San Jose. Her ancestor is David Wirt who came to California around the 1880s. Diana was previously a Pioneers member and has rejoined. We are happy to have her a back.

Membership Report

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 473 members as of July, 2012. Individual dues are still only \$25 (or family membership for \$45) and can be mailed to Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA.

Please invite a friend to our splendid annual barbeque celebrating California Admission Day. If you have questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.



Sunshine

Do you know of a Pioneers member who is ill, needs cheering up, or lost a loved one? If so, please call Madeline Streight at 408-259-4422. An appropriate card will be sent.

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Ruth Daval
Lawrence Furlow Jr.
Marion S. Cilker



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www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

*Our Mission is to promote,
preserve, and celebrate the history
of Santa Clara County and the
heritage of its past generations.
We collect, archive, educate and
encourage research and scholarship.*

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