

Vol. 60, Issue 1
March 2019

Inside this issue:

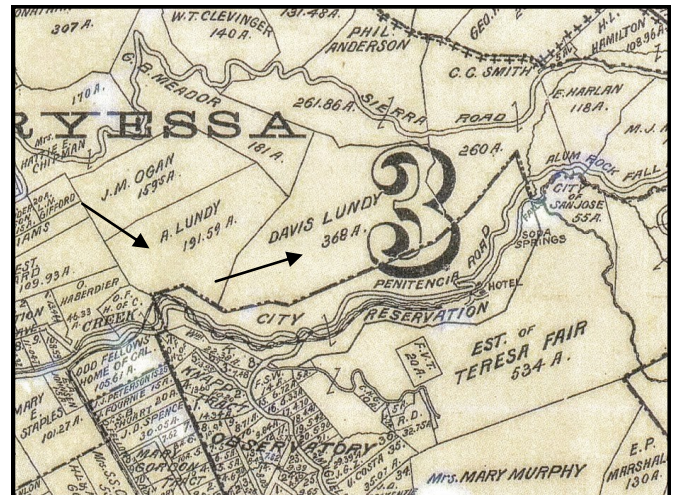
Lundy Site Discovered at Alum Rock	1
March Quarterly Luncheon & Presentation	2
President's Message	3
Film Archive Donation	3
Essay Contest	6
When San Jose Was Young: Making a Living in the Pueblo, II	7
OSH Sign Recovered	8
Buffalo in New Almaden—Sketch by Jim Campbell	9
World Renowned Actress Performed in San Jose	10
Wagons in Santa Clara Valley, 1870s-1916	12
Renewal Members, Thank you!	14
Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Hours	14
Membership Report	15
Welcome New Members	15
Time Travel	15
2019 Board of Directors	16

Lundy Site Discovered at Alum Rock

By Veronica Jordan

Thanks to an observant Alum Rock Park Ranger, Huy Mac, a small piece of the Valley's agricultural history came to light after a fire in Alum Rock Park two summers ago. It was an antique window weight and a crumbling chimney that tipped Ranger Mac off to a new find in the park.

To survey the aftermath of the brush fire that burned 120 acres in North San Jose starting near Lariat Lane and Claitor Way, Ranger Mac drove along a trail that led to a hiking path. After a short walk, he looked up the hillside and was greeted by an unfamiliar sight—the chimney, an old claw-foot bath tub, mattress springs and roof tiles could now be seen after the fire burned away the dense foliage, brush and thickets of poison oak that normally covered the hillside.



Lundy property map next to Alum Rock Park, c.1900.

He could have kept walking and ignored the lead window weights he saw lying in the rubble, but "I was curious about what had been there because I knew the park maps did not list any structure at that location." Taking his inquisitiveness a little further, Ranger Mac researched older maps to find that the fallen down structure stood on a section of park that had once belonged to Davis Lundy, an early settler in Santa Clara County. "I thought it was an old hunting lodge."

Ranger Mac, a West Valley College graduate with a degree in park management, contacted Archaeology Professor Andrew Kindon from the Saratoga college who wasn't surprised to hear about the hitherto unknown find. "Poison oak is the best protector of old historic sites," he said.

The next semester, Professor Kindon offered extra credit to students who made several trips to Alum Rock Park to conduct a proper archaeological survey. Their discoveries included a cut glass salt shaker, the leather sole of a child's shoe, a horse shoe, decorative tile and glass, and an old oil can to name just a few. (Continued pg. 4)



The Lundy Brothers: Azariah Jr., Richard & Davis Lundy; c. 1870. (Photo: Lundy Family Collection)

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Mar. 2nd, 2019

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

The Castro Women: A Historical Telenovela

presented by

Darlene Tenes

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 27th

Email to sccpioneers@aol.com

or call 408-554-7587 with your menu selection

If, after reserving, you cannot attend the Luncheon
PLEASE call or e-mail to cancel your reservations.

WE HAVE TO PAY FOR NO-SHOWS !

LUNCHEON COST IS \$35

Pioneers do not make any profit from these charges.

Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Breast of Chicken Sauté

Boneless breast with white wine & mushroom sauce

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

[Above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rose

Penne Pasta, tomato-Alfredo sauce, mushrooms,
green onions and fresh basil

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert

No-Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

*Parking is limited in front of the restaurant; however,
ample parking is available in the rear and close
to the separate banquet room entrance.*

About the Lunch Presentation

Castro Women: A Historical Telenovela

The Castro family history in Alta & Baja California is really quite interesting--in fact it would make a great Telenovela. Yes, it is all part of the same family that Castro Street and the Castro District in San Francisco are named after. Come break bread with other history buffs and learn about the Castro women and how they made their mark in California history.

Darlene Tenes is the founder of CasaQ, a Hispanic Lifestyle Company that provides products and services to people who embrace the Latino culture.

Since 2003 Ms. Tenes has been a regular contributor on NBC Bay Area and CBS-5 in the San Francisco Bay Area as a Latino Lifestyle expert discussing history, foods, and traditions of Mexico, Spain and other Latin-American countries.

Known for her micro-history lessons and quick wit she became a favorite guest sharing recipes, entertaining tips and more with the television audience. She has co-hosted the annual CasaQ / NBC Bay Area Best Darn Tamale contest since 2004 and is featured on PBS Heirloom Meals Christmas.

Be sure to reserve your spot for this exciting presentation! ❖

Trailblazer

is published quarterly by the
California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County
Established 1875

Gayle Frank, Editor

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P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155

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President's Message

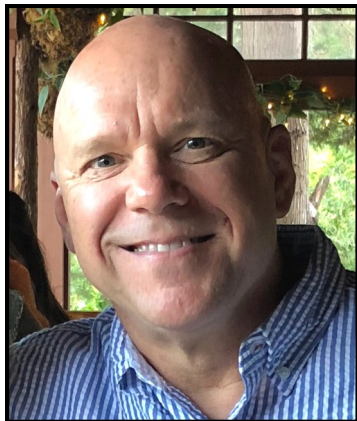


Photo: Tim Paddy

Jim Zetterquist

I would like to wish my fellow Pioneers a Happy New Year and thank each and every one of you who worked so very hard to make 2018 a successful year for our organization. I am especially grateful to board members who gave tirelessly to the organization, committee members who found solutions to a myriad of challenges, and all volunteers who ensured our quarterly luncheons were both enjoyable and informative.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Mike Shea for serving on our board for the last six years. During that period, I have treasured his friendship, admired his knowledge of local history and gained a great respect for his level-headed leadership skills. Although I

hate to see him leave the Board, I am thankful he has agreed to continue supervising the recording of our luncheon presentations and will remain chair of our essay committee.

As 2019 begins, I hope all members will consider becoming a volunteer within our great organization. Our bright future is dependent upon new leaders with fresh ideas. Unfortunately, we presently have too few people doing most of the work and we need your help.

As we set personal goals for ourselves during this first month of the New Year, I urge you to consider adding the following goals to your list:

1. Invite a friend or family member to one of our quarterly luncheons and encourage them to become a member.
2. Give a one-year membership to a friend or family member as a gift, or give a lifetime membership to someone you **really** love.
3. Join one of our more than 30 committees and attend our board meetings to see where you would like to get involved.

4. Volunteer to be part of the workday at our Roberto Adobe & Suñol House, which will take place sometime this spring.

5. Write an article for the Trailblazer or an essay for our contest.

6. Upgrade your annual membership to a lifetime membership.

7. Send me an email with ideas of how we can make the Pioneer experience the best it can be.

Finally, as the end of my term as President swiftly approaches, I would like to thank all of you who have shared my vision for our organization and have worked so very hard to help make it come to fruition. Any organization is only as good as its people, and we are very fortunate to have outstanding people. You will never know how much I have appreciated your support.

—**Jim Zetterquist, President**
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

Film Archive Donation

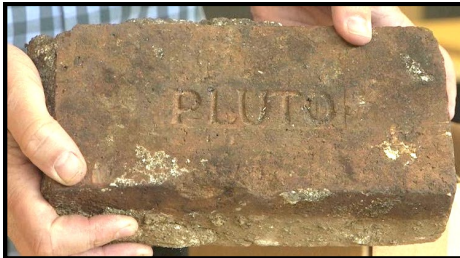
The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County thanks Sylvia Carroll for the donation of many films depicting life on the Peters Ranch in 1934. Formerly located in Danville, CA, the sprawling cattle and walnut ranch was once located prominently on the western hillside between Danville and San Ramon, but now replaced by large homes, Bishop Ranch office complexes and Highway 680. The vignette, edited by the Film Archive group, ends with images from 1954 of an undeveloped San Ramon Valley. Sylvia Carroll narrates the vignette, describing the ranch activities and identifying her relatives.

The Pioneers Film Archive members have enjoyed transferring the films and editing the vignette for all to enjoy. Go to www.CaliforniaPioneers.com and then to the Film Archive section to watch the “Roundup and BBQ in Danville, CA, 1934” video and many other historical films. ❖

The
Trailblazer
is in its
60th
year!

Lundy Site (Continued)

It was a pile of bricks that helped to date the structure: some made by the Pluto brickyard in San Bruno, which began stamping their company name on bricks around 1905, and others from a brickyard that ceased production in 1927.



Brick from San Bruno Pluto brickyard made after 1903. (Photo: Joe Rosato Jr.)

The decorative glass from an oil lamp shade, fancy tile for the fire place and a crystal door knob still attached to its metal lock led Professor Kindon to conclude that the ruins had probably been a home and not a hunting lodge, as Ranger Mac had guessed.

Another oddity about the site began to make sense—along a trail to the house stand six very tall palm trees, three on either side of the road. Further research of maps and old records showed that the palms led to the property of Azariah Lundy, Jr., Davis Lundy's younger brother. The road passing Azariah's

ranch led to Davis' homestead. The expensive palms were clearly set out by a well-off family as a landmark for visitors travelling dirt trails to secluded homes in the hills.

But who was Davis Lundy? In an interview with Joe Rosato Jr. of NBC Bay Area News, Professor Kindon asked for any Lundy family still living in the area to contact him. California Pioneers of Santa Clara County members Linda Lundy Williams and her husband, Richard Williams, heard of the find and called Professor Kindon. Though himself a descendant of John Gilroy and José Agustín Narváez, an early Alcalde for El Pueblo de San José, Williams has focused his retirement years on researching his wife's family, the Lundys.

Williams had a copy of an old clipping from the Sacramento Union, dated November 13, 1852. A San Jose newspaper reporter interviewed new arrival P. C. Hodges, who travelled by wagon train from Council Bluffs, Iowa, leaving the previous June with 1,100 sheep, driven by himself and his brother Preston, who was married to Frances Lundy. Along with them came Frances Lundy's younger brothers, Richard and Davis, who was then 15 years old. Together, these two families left their homes in Low Gap, North Carolina, to buy sheep and wagons in Iowa before heading west. P. C. Hodges would become a prominent citizen of Gilroy, a partner in a mill that employed 30 men.

Further research revealed that the first



Researchers: L-R: Pioneers Member Richard Williams, Prof. Andrew Kindon, Park Ranger Huy Mac. (Photo: V. Jordan)



Left, Finds from the excavation of Davis Lundy house at Alum Rock Park.

(Photo: V. Jordan)

Lundy to leave England was Richard Lundy, a Quaker who immigrated to New Jersey in the 1680s. Three generations later, several of Richard Lundy's grandchildren departed New Jersey for Surry County, N.C. The Lundys were in North Carolina about two generations when brothers Davis and Richard migrated west to California. Over the next 15 years, the two were joined by more brothers: Azariah Jr. (who married

(Continued pg. 5)

Lundy Site (Continued)

Isabelle McKee, daughter of Joseph Olcott McKee), Daniel, William and Isaac.

Their parents, Elizabeth and Azariah Sr., made a somewhat more comfortable journey west, taking the train to San Jose when their daughter, Frances Lundy Hodges, died in 1869.

In Santa Clara County, Davis and his brothers were grain farmers and stockmen on adjoining properties along a road that was named for them, Lundy Avenue, near the Berryessa ranch. Later, Davis and his brother Azariah Jr. sold their properties to move to land next to the then borders of Alum Rock Park, where Davis owned 400 acres. He died in 1920. At this time, it's unknown when the Lundy land became part of the park.

Through the years, Lundys appeared in the press many times. In 1890, Daniel Stockton Lundy was thrown from his wagon as he drove his horses down Mount Hamilton Road headed toward town. The University of California had a telegraph wire that hung over the street. After a storm, a rotting telegraph pole listed to one side, causing the wire to drop low enough to catch a wagon spring as Lundy drove past, flinging him from his vehicle. About an hour later, a Bernal from Hall's Valley discovered the body as he too travelled toward town and noticed Lundy's wagon and horses



Davis Lundy and wife Margaret McManus Lundy, c. 1910. (Photo: Lundy Family Collection)

standing driverless on the side of the road. Daniel Lundy's children sued the University Regents for criminal negligence and received a large settlement.

In 1864, Davis Lundy took in his sister Frances and her six children when brother-in-law Preston Hodges was sentenced to San Quentin prison as an accessory to the murder of a Sacramento sheriff.

News accounts from the time said that Preston Hodges was a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, a secret society of Southerners who hoped to guide California to join the Confederacy. When that didn't happen, Hodges'

branch of the group took up robbery to finance their plan to create a "golden circle" of slave-holding territories that would include the American South, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. Hodges, while not a robbery participant, provided his ranch, adjacent to his in-laws, as

a layover for the stage coach heisting Knights who preferred to thief in San Francisco and Sacramento.

New Jersey roots forgotten, most Lundys sided with the Confederacy in the Civil War. Indeed, Davis Lundy's younger brother, Isaac, joined the Confederate army from North Carolina as a drummer boy at the age of 15. The

lone exception to this Southern loyalty was the second brother, William, who struck out on his own for Iowa and settled there in 1847, before the rest of the family trekked to California.

William Lundy, the Great-Grandfather of Pioneers member Linda Lundy Williams, fought in the Union Army. When he settled in Santa Clara County in 1873, William chose to reside in Los Gatos, not San Jose near the rest of his family, nor was he a rancher. He owned a stable on Lundy Lane, near Main Street, Los Gatos. Even today, you can see the cobble stone-lined street is old, dead-ending at a building that looks like it could have been the livery.

Richard Williams isn't finished with looking into the old Lundy place. Soon he will visit the Santa Clara County Archives to check past County Recorder's records to find out exactly when Davis Lundy moved from his Lundy Avenue ranch to the Alum Rock property, and who bought the land after Davis died in 1920. "I'm never finished researching," Williams said. "There's always another piece of the puzzle to find."

(Continued pg. 6)



Palm trees leading the way to Davis Lundy property.

(Photo by V. Jordan)

Back By Popular Demand

2019 History Essay Contest

Prizes Awarded for Best Essay

Essay Subject: Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

For Details and Rules go to: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

Submittal Deadline: April 15, 2019

For more information contact:

Essay Committee Chair Dr. Michael Shea at md6996@sbcglobal.net or CaliforniaPioneers@gmail.com

Lundy Site (Continued)

Ranger Mac said the Park plans to create an exhibit from the items the West Valley students recovered on the dig. In the meantime, thistles and brush creep back to reclaim the Lundy homestead; in a few years, the old house site will regain its privacy in the public park. ❖



Below left, the Lundy site after the Lariat fire in June, 2017.

Below right, a year after the fire, spring 2018, vegetation has grown back and an excavation grid has been set up. Debris on the ground includes slate roof tiles. (Photos: Joe Rosato, Jr.)



“When San Jose Was Young—Making a Living in the Pueblo ”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose's *Evening News* and attributed to Cora Older.

Part II

“The first great effort of the Spanish governor¹ was to make a success of horticulture in San Jose. Even in 1795 the climate of the place attracted attention. The Governor decided that this was precisely the spot for the cultivation of hemp. He sent a quantity of seed for sowing. The crop was lost, but five fanegas (seven and a half bushels) were saved. In 1796 thirty fanegas (forty-five bushels) were harvested. The grain saved was turned over to the Indians for rations.

Rude machines were sent to San Jose for preparing the fiber of hemp. It was shipped to Monterey, from there to be sent to Mexico. Hemp culture was never a success in San Jose.

Better results were had about the same time when flax was introduced. In 1800 flax was called a success in San Jose.

About the same time corn was planted. That failed, but the second sowing was successful. Horticulture never really thrived in the Pueblo. The colonists had bad luck. The dam burst and there was no reservoir.

Governor Pedro Fages, very ambitious for the prosperity of the oldest Pueblo, in 1787 sent

Ignacio Vallejo² to make a new dam and reservoir for the Pueblo. Vallejo was a strong man of action. He built a reservoir, improved the water supply of the town, and the Governor felt that Vallejo had put the Pueblo on a business basis.

In spite of Vallejo's sound economic wisdom he was a sad trial to the Governor, who always reproached Vallejo for his moral delinquency and the evil example he set in a community where the white light of officialdom beat upon him without ceasing. Finally Vallejo was removed from office.

The Governor urged the people in the Pueblo to industry. In 1795 he told them to tan hides for saddles, boots and shoes. If good leather products would be bought by the Presidio during the early Pueblo days the men who could make saddles were always busy.



An early saddle from our exhibit at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

In 1798 Larios³ and Valesteros built a water mill in San Jose. In July, 1799 a man named Villavicinio established a loom. At the Santa Clara Mission so many blankets were made that none were brought from Mexico after 1797. In 1792 two thousand hides were tanned at the Santa Clara Mission.

The real prosperity of the Pueblo came later when the restriction against owning more than fifty cattle was removed. Then stock raising became the popular and paying occupation. Cattle were little work, and that work was adventurous and picturesque.



An example of cow hide from our exhibit at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)

Hides and tallow took the place of money. They could be exchanged for all necessities. Sometimes the trading ships coming to Monterey gave the colonists gold for their hides and tallow.

(Continued pg. 8)

Making a Living (Cont'd)

Early in the Pueblo days cattle became so numerous that they had almost no value. There are records of wanton, terrible slaughter of cattle when the business of cattle raising was overdone. During a drought thousands were driven into the sea and drowned. Over production was usually regulated by bears and wolves who when hungry came down from the mountain and prowled about the plain. Frequently wolves were poisoned with a deadly herb, now probably extinct, Yerba de Pueblo.

For those who wish to compare values in the early days with those of today, here is a list of the prices of a few necessities:

Sackcloth, a yard——	0.25
Woolen stockings——	0.25
Silk stockings ———	1.50
Linen shirts ———	3.50
Ear rings ———	0.25
Copper pots———	3.50
Flour, per ct ———	6.00
Wheat, a bushel ———	1.50
Hens ———	0.25
Eggs, one dozen ———	0.25
Antelope skins ———	1.75
Pigs ———	1.00
Bulls ———	3.00
Cows ———	4.00
Mules ———	6.00
Horses ———	9.00”

— October 4, 1916
San Jose Evening News

¹ Would have been Col. Diego de Borica in 1795.

² Ignacio Vallejo (1748-1831), father of General Mariano G. Vallejo.

³ The spelling of the name “Larios” is not clear in the original newspaper article.

OSH Sign Recovered

The Santa Clara County community is relieved that the Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) sign, previously stolen, has been recovered and as of Jan. 17th, now sits safely at History San Jose. The sign disappeared from the W. San Carlos store location two months ago. Kudos to the San Jose Police Department, specifically Financial Crimes Unit Detective Justin Holliday, for tracking down the sign by using photos and videos. Additional kudos to History San Jose, Preservation Action Council of San Jose, the office of Councilwoman Dev Davis and the office of County Supervisor Ken Yeager. The sign was being stored in Campbell and was taken by a misguided person who “wanted to keep it safe.”

The iconic neon sign, c.1950, is in good condition regarding the painted metal, but all the neon tubing is gone. A photo in August, 2018 shows most, if not all, the tubing was still secured to the sign. Restoration of the neon system will be expensive. According to Ken Middlebrook, Curator at History San Jose, plans are being considered to install the sign, when restored, at History Park at the location of the vintage OSH boxcar close to Senter Road.

Orchard Supply Hardware, founded in 1931, was acquired by Lowe’s in 2013, who then closed all OSH stores in August, 2018. ❖



Cattle from early Santa Clara Mission days. Photo taken from a painting in the Spain/Mexico Room of the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum. Hides and tallow were the economic engines of early El Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe.



Left, a reproduction of the Antonio Suñol branding iron he used to identify his cattle. It is located in the Suñol Room in the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. Iron made by John Grafton.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)

Buffalo in New Almaden—A Sketch and Story By Jim Campbell



Buffalo in New Almaden, no way! Think again. In 1950, my wife's parents came to California for a visit. I asked my father-in-law if he had ever gone trout fishing. He said no, so I said, "let's go fishing."

We drove to New Almaden to the trout farm, and on the way I asked Dad if he had ever seen a real buffalo. He said no, so I drove down the road to a ranch where I had taken my kids to see the buffalo every time we went for a picnic at Club Almaden.

We stopped along the road and took several photos of the huge animals. Dad was surprised to see buffalo in this out-of-the-way location.

From there we drove to the trout farm. We had taken a lunch and planned to make a day of just fishing. The owner was happy to see us and started throwing chum into the pond for the fish. We were doing great; caught six fish in less than twenty minutes.

Then I saw a small sign that told us the size and price of our fish. I suddenly realized we had about \$25.00 of fish. (In those days that was expensive!) I told my father we better call it a day since our catch totaled \$25 so far. Dad said, "Holy Cow, don't tell Mom."

We were home before noon. At the

end of the day, Dad said he never had so much fun in his life. How can you top buffalo and fish!

We never did tell Mom how much our fishing trip cost. I think there are a few old timers living in New Almaden that may still remember the trout farm—and the buffalo! ❖

— Jim Campbell

**Contact our Sunshine Chair
if you know of a Pioneers
member who is ill or
needs cheering up!**

Madeline Streight: 408-259-4422

World Renowned Actress Performed in San Jose

One of the finest actors of the 19th and early 20th century, Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923), came to San Jose to perform, twice!

On Saturday evening, April 29, 1911, Bernhardt appeared at the Victory Theatre in the play "Camille," one of her strongest roles. Performing with her, was a cast of 40 from the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre in Paris. The dialogue was in French so the "cultured and fashionable" guests relied on printed material in order to understand the plot. Even those who spoke French "were trying to keep pace with the story." If the words were not understood, "the action was expressive" and "the entertainment was appreciated by all." The newspaper review concluded that, "Mme. Bernhardt seems to have retained all the powers of dramatic art that have made her the most distinguished woman-player of the age, and of several ages." (*San Jose Mercury News*, April 30, 1911 and *Evening News*, May 1, 1911)

In this production, Bernhardt brought all the elaborate scenery and properties from Paris, some of which were report-



Sarah Bernhardt

ed as historical. Many of the players accompanying Bernhardt were also eminent actors.

Two years later, Sarah Bernhardt again performed at San Jose's Victory Theatre on Thursday, February 6, 1913, which was considered an "unparalleled distinction conferred upon the vaudeville stage."

A matinee and an evening performance included Sarah appearing in the third act from "Lucretia Borgia," the last act of "Camille," and scenes from "Tosca," "Phedra," and "Theodora."

These selections were a cross section of outstanding performances over her long, dramatic career demonstrating, "always the same powerful, seductive and tragic figure" and were examples of her immortal roles where she "reaches all the different heights of which she is capable" (*San Jose Mercury News*, Feb.

2, 1913 and *Evening News*, Feb. 4, 1913).

A one-act play written by Sarah's son, Maurice, "A Christmas Night under Terror," was also presented. Other acts accompanied Sarah's performances that day.

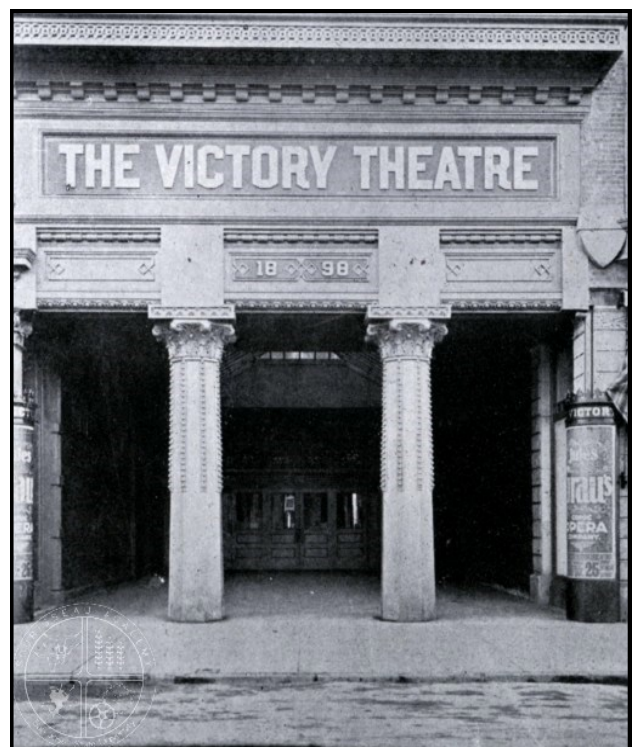
On February 22, 1913, a Saturday morning, Bernhardt and her cast of dozens of French players repeated her son's one-act play, referred to in the news as "One Christmas Night," at San Quentin Prison. Only this time the performance took place "on a rough stage in a corner of the prison yard." The audience of about 2000 prisoners, including twenty women, could understand the story though it was spoken in French. They cheered Bernhardt and the players.

On this occasion, Bernhardt wore red and blue stripes on white in celebration of the American holiday honoring George Washington (*San Jose Mercury News*, Feb. 23, 1913). It was the first time Bernhardt had ever performed inside the walls of a prison.

(Continued page 11)



Bernhardt as "Camille."



The Victory Theatre at 45 N. First St. opened in 1899.

Actress (Continued)



Sarah Bernhardt in 1910.

A Brief History of Sarah Bernhardt

Sarah, born in Paris in 1844 of a Dutch courtesan, was raised in a convent since her mother considered her a burden. One of her mother's lovers, Duke of Morny, arranged for Sarah to attend the Paris Conservatoire at age 16 to learn the skills of acting. By 1862, again with help from the Duke, she joined France's national theater company, only to have her contract canceled after slapping a fellow actor a year later. Sarah then became the mistress of the Prince of Ligne and gave birth to Maurice, her only child.

Her reputation grew steadily from 1866 to 1869 while working with the Odeon Theatre, reaching

the heights of her acting career by the late 1870s. Her actions both on and off the stage were considered unconventional, which, along with her talent, contributed to her great popularity in Europe.

In 1880, Sarah's traveling company embarked on a world wide tour of Europe, Australia, Canada and the United States. Sarah married a Greek army officer in 1882 in London at the conclusion of her successful European tour. By 1893, she was the wealthiest and most publicized actress of her day. Sarah became the manager of the Théâtre de la Renaissance that same year, and by 1899 she relocated the former Théâtre des Nations and renamed it the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt

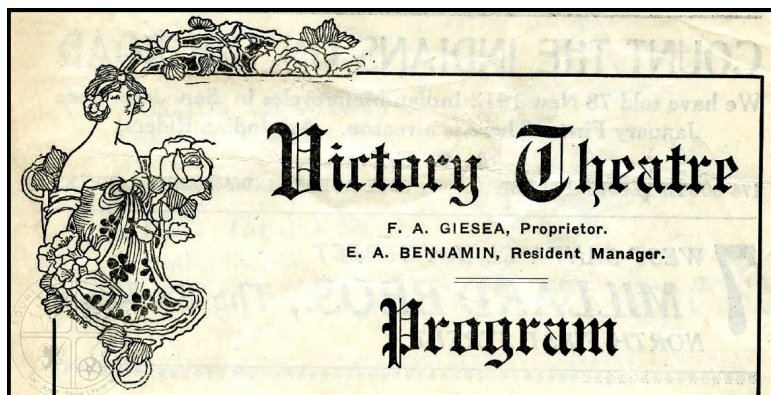


Bernhardt playing the title role of Hamlet in 1899.

One of the first actors to participate in moving pictures, Sarah starred in her first film in 1900. Her most successful movie role was playing the title role in "Elizabeth Queen of England" in 1912.

At age 71 in February, 1915, Sarah's right leg was amputated after a decade of pain from an injury on stage in 1905. After the surgery, she insisted on visiting the soldiers at the front during WWI. In her later years, Bernhardt favored patriotic plays such as Joan of Arc over the more melodramatic roles she was famous for during her earlier decades. During this time, Bernhardt sat in a chair and recited monologues and poems or was accommodated in roles where she could sit. Sarah's last tour of the United States lasted 18 months beginning in 1916. She was a visual as well as theatrical artist, creating many popular paintings and sculptures. To her credit, she also had a weakness for humanitarian causes. ❖

— Gayle Frank



Left, a Victory Theatre program logo from 1912. The large Victory Theatre with two balconies opened in 1899 and was built by Senator James Phelan. Its name honored the Spanish American War victory. The theater became the Crest around 1950 and was destroyed by fire in 1965.

(Victory Theatre photos: Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, San Jose State University)

Wagons in Santa Clara Valley, 1870s-1916

As I was searching the archival San Jose newspapers for information on my ancestors, I discovered an informative article¹ written by R. L. Burgess, who interviewed my great grandmother's brother, Michael Broedel, owner of an established wagon and carriage factory at 554 (also listed as 551-556) South First Street in San Jose. In the article¹ he described various types of wagons used in Santa Clara Valley over the 40 years during his career in San Jose, and their changes over time. He felt that "the history of its wagons is the true history of the region." As industry changed so did the types of wagons (and people). The following is a summary of the interview with Michael Broedel in 1916.

In 1873, when Michael Broedel first came to the Santa Clara Valley as a youth from Pennsylvania, quicksilver mining was one of the largest industries in the area. The Almaden Mines employed 1,500 men while the Guadalupe Mines used 300 workers. Big, sturdy wagons were required to haul quicksilver many miles to the Alviso Port and consequently carried heavy loads of coal back to the mines. A

dozen mules were needed to haul the 12-ton loads on two heavy-duty wagons hitched together.

In addition to mining quicksilver, the lumber industry used large wagons to carry down lumber from the mills in the Santa Cruz Mountains and bring heavy machinery back up to the mills.

Throughout the valley, the big grain ranchers loaded their abundant wheat crops on the heaviest type of wagon that withstood rough use. To ensure safety, it was imperative that the men working these huge wagons were experienced and conscientious operators.

As time marched on, more railroads were built and the automobiles emerged. These modern modes of transportation carried the heavier loads, so now wagons were often used for lighter use. The orchards still required a lighter wagon to pick up the fruit boxes from tree to tree. The year before this interview, in 1915, Broedel turned out 210 wagons for the orchardists. The lighter wagon had a high

"gooseneck" with a driver's seat on top. This allowed the front wheels to turn the wagon around within four feet of its own length among the orchard trees. Broedel stated that he shipped this style of lighter wagon to British Columbia, New Mexico and to the sugar cane plantations in the Hawaiian Islands in addition to closer locales.

Broedel said "wagon making is a fascinating craft." The wagon-maker must learn about many kinds of wood and "tricks of steel wrought by powerful trip hammers and high temperatures induced by glowing furnaces."¹ The trip hammer could strike a two-ton blow or delicately crack the shell of a walnut, leaving the kernel unhurt, depending on the operator's needs. Other machinery in his wagon factory included saws, large turning lathes, drill presses and thread cutters. The shrinking of the steel tire onto the wooden wheel required a delicate adjustment and manipulation by the worker.

Behind Broedel's Wagon Factory, a
(Continued pg. 13)



**I ADMIT THAT I BUILD
THE BEST ORCHARD TRUCK IN CALIFORNIA**
Twenty-five years of experience has taught me how.
AGENT FOR DIAMOND T MOTOR TRUCKS.
Motor Truck Bodies Built to Order.
M. BROEDEL, Write or Call
556 SO. FIRST STREET **San Jose, Cal.**

*An ad for
Michael
Broedel's
business,
and an
example of
his orchard
trucks.*

*From
Pacific
Rural Press,
June 14, 1919*

Wagons (Continued)

large shed held various types of lumber, each “with its own aroma and virtue.” For example, the staunch oak was used for heavy work such as axle beds; the yellow poplar for the body of the wagon; and ash was used when lightness and strength were needed. Broedel attributed hickory wood as the “king,” with its clean, close grain, resiliency and great wearing power. At that time the cost for the hickory was \$200 a thousand feet but Broedel was worried that this excellent wood might become scarce. He sometimes substituted “Australian hickory” for the less important parts of the wagon. Broedel preferred to purchase wood from eastern California that was stored in a hot dry climate like Stockton, rather than lumber stored in San Francisco, where the fog hampered the seasoning.

Broedel’s wagon factory employed 16 men at the time of the 1916 interview. The summer season was always the busiest when orchardists and canneries needed additional wagons along with repair work on existing wagons.

In an earlier San Jose news article² Michael Broedel was described as a blacksmith, thorough mechanic, horse “shoer” and carriage maker. He was “known for turning out work of a very high order and the motto of the concern was work neatly done and satisfaction guaranteed.” The article further stated that he built up a large business, was highly respected by his many patrons and took an active interest in the welfare of the city of San Jose. ❖

—Gayle Frank

¹ “Wagons Have Story, Their Uses Change”, R.L. Burgess, *San Jose Evening News*, Aug. 23, 1916, Vol. 67, page 5.

² *San Jose Sunday Mercury and Herald*, April 21, 1907, Vol. LXXII, Issue 111, page 30.



This building that Michael Broedel built for his carriage and truck factory in 1919 still stands today at 550 S. First St. It is nicely renovated and presently serves as a fitness center, Third Space. It sits just south of the Quilt Museum. But sadly, plans for a proposed development include demolishing this building, along with other historic buildings on 2nd Street, and constructing three tall towers (25-27 stories) on S. First and S. Second Streets.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

HER SIDE OF THE STORY Tales of California’s Pioneer Women

October 10, 2018 – September 1, 2019

Among the treasures in San Francisco’s Society of California Pioneers archives are rare, first-person narratives by pioneer women. After uniting to ensure that future generations could recognize, and would acknowledge, the role women played in the formation of the state, The Association of Pioneer Women of California collected and preserved the experiences of its members. Bound in an unpublished, handwritten ledger, their remarkable stories, annotated by guest curator Marcia Eymann, are the foundation of this museum exhibition and online resource for teachers. Museum is open from 10 AM to 5 PM, Wednesday to Sunday. Free Admission (suggested donation of \$5.00).

Pioneer Hall at The Presidio—101 Montgomery Street—Suite 150—
Presidio of San Francisco—San Francisco, CA 94129
(between The Commissary and The Walt Disney Family Museum)

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Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are only \$35. (Does not apply for Life members.)

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2019 please do so. Dues for 2019 will be accepted at the March luncheon or you can mail your check to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155.

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer

and it will indicate when your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-19, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2019.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution for a tax advantage. ❖

For More Info-

**Membership Chair
Walt Gil**

**If you have questions
about your membership
status, contact**

**Walt at
wgil@cpi-re.com
or 408-978-1090.**

Welcome New Pioneers Members

Larry Ames, San Jose

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

San Jose, Mar 2, 1889: "The grand opening ball of the Hotel Vendome took place last night, Mar. 1. It was the grandest and most successful society event ever witnessed in San Jose and will be a life-long memory to those who were present.

Music was furnished by Ballenberger's Band of San Francisco. About one thousand persons were in attendance and the ballroom was crowded throughout the evening. Supper was served shortly after midnight. Dancing continued till daybreak this morning."

Most of the guests were listed in the Evening News in a lengthy article. The event was described as "a dazzling display of the beauty and fashion of San Jose." ❖



Hobson, N. First, San Pedro, and Empire Streets. The Queen Anne-style hotel included 150 high-class rooms, most with a bath and toilet. The renowned resort hotel offered excursions to Mt. Hamilton, Alum Rock Park, Santa Clara Mission, Stanford University, Los Gatos and Congress Springs in Saratoga. San Joseans took pride that several Presidential visits occurred at the Vendome: President Harrison met with 10,000 citizens at the Vendome for a one-hour visit; President T. Roosevelt visited on May 12, 1903. President McKinley was to attend a gala in May of 1901, but his visit was reduced from three days to one hour.

In April of 1930 a real estate syndicate purchased the site and soon demolished the grand old lady, dividing the land into \$1,500 lots. No one was interested in saving it.

Source: vendome.org/history/hotel.shtml

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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.