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Pioneers' Historian Solves Quest

Christian Lonneux, living in Belgium, contacted the Daly City History Museum in California to solve a genealogical quest. Using a translator, he asked the Museum for information on a U.S. soldier who died fighting in WWII named Christ A. Christiansen. Lonneux sponsors the Belgium grave of this soldier and wondered if there were any living relatives. The only information Lonneux had for this Private was his serial number, rank, regiment/division, home address in Daly City, CA, and a few other details. Lonneux asked for assistance with further research.

As soon as Bill Foley, the Pioneers' Archive Film Chair, saw the posting from the Daly City History Museum, he forwarded the research request to Pioneers' Historian Rick Helin, who just loves a good mystery. Helin went to work right away, searching databases, making phone calls and gathering information. He soon confirmed

much of the same information noted by Lonneux: Christiansen enlisted in the U.S. Army on December 12, 1943 in San Francisco. His enlistment papers established that he was married, worked as a farmer/laborer, and had completed a grammar school education.

Initially, Helin found two other Christiansens who enlisted into the Army from San Fran-

tensen, born August 2, 1910 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. His parents, Magnes and Marie, were born in Denmark and migrated to the U.S. in 1879 and 1893 respectively. They were dairy farmers and operated a creamery. Axel had three sisters, Dagnar (born 1903), Marie (born 1913) and Doris (born 1915).

The 1940 Census records show Axel C. Christiansen was married to Edith Lindquist (born 1911) and they lived in Larimore, Grand Forks, ND. At that time Axel worked as a truck driver on a government sewage project. The couple had a daughter, Cleo Jean (born 1932) and a son, Charles (born 1934).

Daughter Cleo was raised by her grandparents and still lives in the Larimore area of North Dakota. Her four children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are Axel's descendants.



WWII US soldier Axel Christ Christiansen is buried here at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium.

cisco during WWII and may have been the soldier's cousins. Because young men sometimes altered their names and gave incorrect birth dates when enlisting, Helin entered all different combinations of the Christ A. Christiansen name into various databases. He was rewarded with a discovery of Axel Christ Chris-

(Continued p. 2)

Quest (Continued)

Helin was able to glean much of this interesting information from a cousin of Axel Christiansen, Gabrielle David. Along with the family history, Axel's cousin's contact information was forwarded, with permission, to the Daly City History Museum.

The Daly City History Museum sent Mr. Lonneux the family information for soldier Christiansen, whose grave Lonneux sponsors. In that correspondence, the Museum representative, Mark

Weinberger, expressed his amazement and gratitude that the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County was quickly able to find answers to this quest.

Weinberger also thanked Lonneux for tending Mr. Christiansen's grave and told him, "You are a very fine human being! America thanks you. We are grateful for your bringing this valiant American's noble sacrifice to our attention and enabling us to learn about

his life and heroic deeds." The Pioneers enthusiastically concurs.

The Pioneers members are proud that Rick Helin's time and effort uncovered the information on one of our soldiers who fought in WWII. We hope that the Christiansen's family is heartened from learning that someone is caring for their ancestor's grave site and that his sacrifice has not been forgotten. ❖

- Gayle Frank

Christ Christiansen

ID: 39145234
Entered the Service From: California
Rank: Private
Service: U.S. Army, 36th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Armored Division
Died: Tuesday, September 19, 1944
Buried at: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Location: Henri-Chapelle, Belgium
Plot: F Row: 16 Grave: 36
Awards: Purple Heart

*Above, data from the Cemetery's website.
This Cemetery in Belgium holds 7,992 members
of our American military who died in WWII.*



*Rick Helin, Pioneers Historian
extraordinaire, who was able to
locate soldier Christiansen's relatives.*

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Gayle Frank, Editor

Contact us at
info@CaliforniaPioneers.com
408-293-2641
P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155

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Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 2014

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

“FROM MEDICINE MAN TO MEDICAL DOCTOR”

presented by

Dr. Michael Shea (retired)

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Dec. 10th

Email, copy, paste 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 now \$30

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

Grilled Salmon

Above served with Anna Potatoes and fresh vegetables

Pasta Primavera

Veggies tossed with Penne Pasta and Marinara Sauce

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert

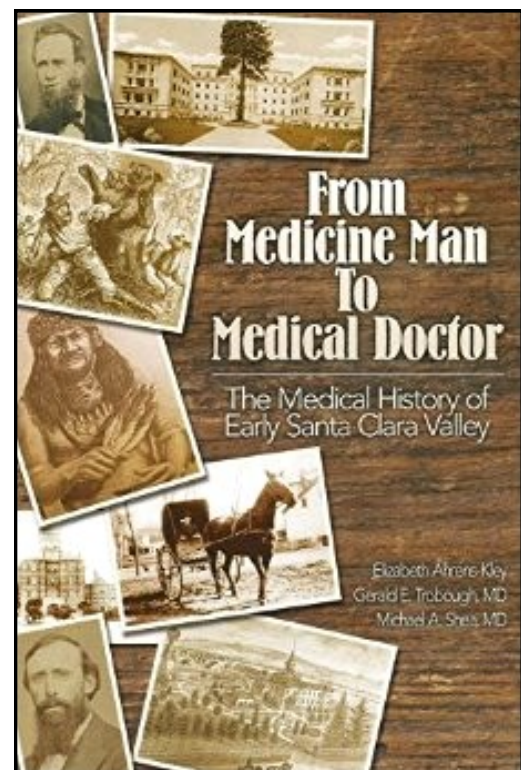
No Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

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

About Luncheon Presentation

Michael A. Shea MD, long time Pioneer Member, with co-authors Dr. Gerald Trobough and Beth Ahrens Kley have written a new book, on local history, “FROM MEDICINE MAN TO MEDICAL DOCTOR.” It begins with the Ohlone Indians and passes through the Spanish-Mexican Period and concludes with the American Period. The origin of local hospitals (Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, O’Connor Hospital, San Jose Hospital, and Agnews State Hospital) are also included. The history of medical schools such as UCSF and Stanford are detailed along with their founders. Biographies of pioneer physician men and women are also covered in the book.

Dr. Shea with his co-authors will discuss the book (pictured right) and offer it for sale at the December Luncheon. The profits from the book will go to the proposed Medical Museum at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. ❖



Hard at Work at the Adobe

The Pioneers of Santa Clara County have been hard at work transforming the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House into a museum where the public can enjoy and learn about local history.

Some of the many contributors are pictured on this page. Gordon Chun was hired as a designer for the exhibits, signage and fixtures. John Grafton has forged metal tools and decorative items. Paul Bernal has coordinated the teams, researched a multitude of facts and obtained an array of interesting artifacts to exhibit. Mel Basuini, who lived in the house for many years, has contributed artifacts and interesting information about the site. The work continues and the Pioneers look forward to a museum opening in 2015. ❖



*Above, Mel Basuini and Paul Bernal
in the Roberto Adobe*



*Left, Gordon Chun and John Grafton
working on exhibits on the
second floor of the Suñol House*

(Photos by Rick Helin)



*Right, Gordon Chun and John Grafton
inside the Roberto Adobe*

Hard at Work (Continued)



Pictured left, Pioneers President Ken Machado and Immediate Past President Paul Bernal carry an 8-foot cross out the door of the University of Santa Clara. The cross will be installed at the Pionners' **Roberto Adobe & Sunol House** as part of just one of the exhibits. One room in the Sunol House will display artifacts and information on Mission Santa Clara and the native Indians who worked for the Mission. Roberto, who built his adobe in 1839, was one of those Indians.

Machado and Bernal did not carry the cross all the way to the Roberto Adobe in Willow Glen. They used Machado's truck. ❖

Pioneers Sunshine

If you know of a California Pioneers of Santa Clara County member who is ill or needs a bit of cheer, please notify Madeline Streight, our Sunshine Chair. She will send an appropriate card to the member. You can contact Madeline at 408-259-4422 or send email to madeline.streight@att.net.



Happy Birthday San Jose!

Celebrate San Jose's 237th birthday at the Peralta Adobe Historic Site on Sunday, November 23, from 1pm until 4pm. San Jose, previously called El Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe, became the first pueblo in California on November 29, 1777.

Meet members of founding families, participate in hands-on-activities and enjoy birthday cake.

Tours of the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House will be available; child tour-\$5 and adult tour-\$8.



Best Christmas Wishes

Anza Campsite Marker to be Installed in 2015

By Beth Wyman

On March 24, 2015, the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) will be placing an historic marker at the site of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition Campsite #92. Anza's group camped here along the Llagas Creek where the City of Morgan Hill stands today. This site is also listed as a California Point of Interest SCL-040. The wording on the plaque, embedded in a stone marker, appears under the rendering of the marker pictured right.

Earlier in 1976, a bi-centennial celebration was held by the City of Morgan Hill and members of the Anza Expedition Trek group re-enacted the journey with costumed horseback riders who actually camped overnight.

These participants included then City Mayor, Virginia Mae Days, and our own Paul Bernal, a descendant.

At that time, the City Parks and Recreation Commission produced a large engraved bronze plaque approximately 5' wide by 2.5' high. Because the actual site along Llagas Creek was unprotected, the plaque was placed for safekeeping in the back yard of a nearby Woodland Estates Mobile Home Park resident.

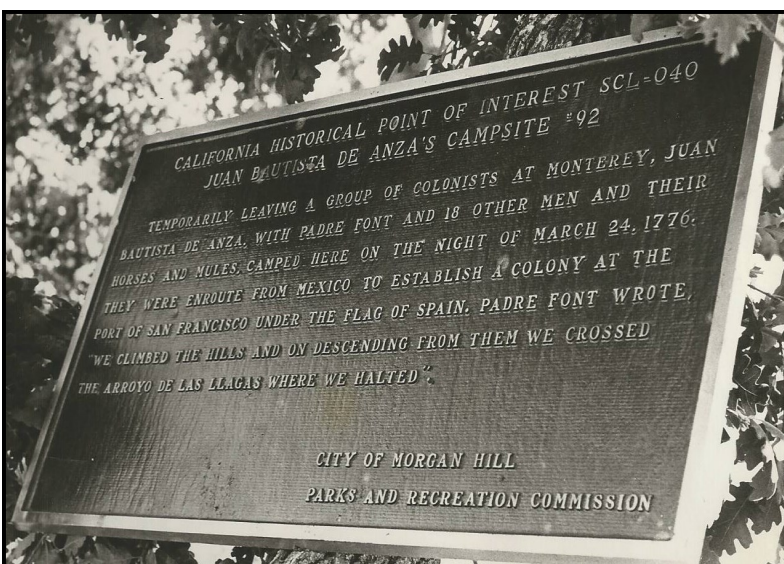
However, as the years progressed, the plaque was evidently forgotten and has since been "missing in action." The Woodland Estates residents, the City and the Historical Society have all been searching for the 1976 Plaque, but to date their efforts have been unsuccessful. ❖



Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition Campsite Plaque

Members of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition camped in this vicinity near Llagas Creek, March 24, 1776. The Anza expedition led to the establishment of the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe, Mission Santa Clara de Asis, Mission San Francisco de Asis and the Presidio of San Francisco.

*California State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Carol Oakley Jackson, State Regent
Sally Bolster Holcombe, State Historian
Gabilan and Presidio Chapters, NSDAR*



Above, the missing Morgan Hill City Plaque that commemorated the 1976 Re-enactment of the 1776 de Anza Trek with a stop on March 24 at Arroyo de Las Llagas.

(Images courtesy of Beth Wyman)

Anza Expedition Background

The 1776 Anza Expedition changed the course of California history. The leader, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, and the expedition chaplain, Franciscan priest Pedro Font, both documented the struggles, successes and details of their long journey. The traveling town, consisted of over 300 people (about 240 settlers; 30 families of men, women and children) and more than 1,000 head of livestock. The Expedition also included military escorts, cowboys, mule packers and Indian guides. They left the Tubac Presidio, south of present day Tucson, Arizona, on October 23, 1775 and arrived in Monterey in March of 1776.

Anza's smaller exploratory group traveled on through today's Gilroy and on March 24, 1776, they set up camp near Llagas Creek in the area we call Morgan Hill. Along the way, many native Ohlones were encountered. Anza and his men continued north to the Bay, choosing the sites for the Mission and Presidio in what is now San Francisco. On June 27, 1776, the expedition's Lt. Josef Joaquin Moraga brought the settlers from Monterey to establish the San Francisco Presidio and Mission Dolores. Then Moraga traveled south from the Presidio with some of those settlers, 15 men and 51 women and children, to found the Pueblo of San José near the Guadalupe River on November 29, 1777, the first civilian, non-American Indian settlement in California. ❖

Establishment of Fort Ross – Part II

By Mary Lou Lyon

During Nickolai Rezanov's visit from Alaska to the San Francisco Presidio in 1806, which was discussed in the September issue of the Trailblazer, he successfully carried out trade with the Spanish colonies. He traded Russian-made utensils and tools, which were welcomed, for vegetables, beef, wheat and other grains that were badly needed in Sitka. Californios also had an overabundance of cattle to trade for Russian iron and cloth. Rezanov then headed for St. Petersburg and Madrid where he hoped for reciprocal trade that would have been greatly appreciated in the colonies.

Georg von Langsdorff, a Russian diplomat, explorer and naturalist, wrote the narrative of Rezanov's 32 day voyage to Nueva California in 1806. He recounted their reception at the San Francisco Presidio by Commander Arguello's family. (This is the same trip depicting Rezanov's romance in Part 1 in our last Trailblazer issue.) Langsdorff described their welcome dinner, which was served in a nearly bare room with poor furniture but a full service of silver tableware.

When the visitors were called to dinner, they were served an appetizing soup seasoned with herbs, roast fowl, leg of mutton, vegetables, salad, pastry, preserved fruits and many dishes prepared with milk. The wine had come from Baja California, the tea was of poor quality, but the chocolate was excellent!

The Russians learned that the kitchen gardens at Mission San Francisco were inferior because of the northwest winds, dry sandy soil and other obstacles. The only vegetables that grew well included asparagus, cabbage, lettuce, onions and potatoes. Peas, beans, soy beans and corn were cultivated in outlying more protected fields. Similar problems would later exist at the northern Fort Ross location on the coast.

In the succeeding days, the Franciscan padre escorted the Russians to Mission San Francisco and Mission Santa Clara,



Fort Ross, painted by Il'ya G. Voznesensky, 1841.

two of the 19 missions built at that time, where they saw the productions of cattle, horses, farming, and the weaving of woolen cloth. Langsdorff noted that the Indians were served bread and a thick soup composed of meat, vegetables and "pulse" three times a day. (A translation of pulse: a mixture of peas, beans, soy beans and legumes.) The Russians watched where melted tallow was used to make candles and soap. They observed other workshops such as blacksmiths, locksmiths, carpenters, cabinet-makers and noted the storerooms.

When the Russians departed San Francisco, the Spanish sent four large, fat oxen, two sheep, onions, garlic, lettuce, cabbage and other vegetables to the Russians' ship.

In the meantime, Alexandr Baranov, who managed the Russian-American Company at Sitka and was a strong proponent of Russia's southern expansion, appointed Timofei Tarkanov to lead Native Alaskan hunting parties to California to look for otters. Furthermore, between 1808 and 1811, Baranov's deputy, Ivan Kuskov, was ordered to find possible settlement sites in "New Albion," north of the Spanish settlements. Several sites were examined for suitable ship anchorage, good soil, timber, pasturage and a water supply. Although Bodega Bay had better deep-water anchorage, he chose a less accessible but more defensible northern site.

In March, 1812, Kuskov returned to the chosen site with 25 Russian craftsmen and farmers, and 80 Aleuts and Kodiaks. The hunters brought 40 two-man baidarkas (Aleutian kayaks) for hunting fur seals and sea otters and a few baidaras (larger skin boats) to transport the furs. Earlier, Kuskov had built the company fortress on Sitka Island in 1802 so the workmen immediately began to construct a similar enclosed fort with log houses. Blockhouses were built for defense in two corners of the redwood log stockade. The site sat within the redwoods with nearby fields proposed for agricultural use.

The dedication of the redwood stockade was held on August 30, 1812, the

(Continued on pg. 8)



Portrait of Ivan Kuskov

Fort Ross (Continued)

name day of Czar Alexander I. The 7-sided northwest blockhouse and the 8-sided southeast blockhouse were both two stories high. Although the commercial site was not a military outpost, sentries bore flintlock muskets along with 12 to 40 cannons, depending on the time period. The flagstaff held the flag of the Russian-American Company with the imperial double-headed eagle in the center. The outpost had several names including Ross Settlement, but “Fort Ross” has been used by Americans since the mid 19th century.

By 1820, the interior of the stockade also included the Kuskov House, quarters for other officials, employee barracks and various storehouses. The Russian Orthodox chapel surmounted by a Greek cross was added in 1825. The Rotchev House, built in 1836 and named after the last manager, had glass windows and was comfortably furnished. A well inside the stockade furnished water to the colonists in case of an emergency.

Outside the stockade a windmill, cattle yard, bakery, threshing floor, cemetery, farm buildings and bath-houses were constructed along with plantings of a vegetable garden, an orchard and vineyard. By the seashore outside the walls of the stockade were a shipyard, forge, tannery, boathouse and storage shed for the baidarkas. Many of the working Russians chose to live in villages outside the fort. In addition, there was the village of the Aleut and Kodiak hunters and the village of the Kashaya Pomo Indians. The three groups got along well with some intermarriage among them producing Creoles.

Fort Ross and Bodega Bay were used as entries into the interior by parties of explorers and natural scientists, who produced learned reports and artistic renderings of the area. The Russian River we know today was named Slabianka by Kuskov in 1808. By 1828, Kuskov's men had traveled up the Sacramento River, 70 miles above Sutter's Fort.



Fort Ross: Officer's barracks left, and Rotchev House on right, the only original building on the site from circa 1838. A well sits in center of site. (taken Oct. 2014)

In 1816, Captain Otto von Kotzebue with the naturalist Adelbert von Chamisso, artist Louis Andreyevich Choris, and entomologist-zoologist Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz travelled through California. Chamisso assigned the official Latin name for the California Poppy. Eschscholtz described the animals and geological curiosities such as the geysers in Sonoma County. Kotzebue left detailed reports which are available and have been translated.

Later in 1828, the French explorer and diplomat, Eugene Duflot de Mofras, recorded his impressions of Fort Ross and noted there were about 60 Russians, 80 Kodiaks and 80 Indians, living harmoniously at the site. He commented that the Russians treated the Indians with the utmost kindness, paid them fair wages and never abused them.

He also reported that the Russian farms at Fort Ross produced about 2,500 fanegas (1.58 U.S. bushel/fanega) of wheat, which they could have purchased cheaper from the missions. In 1814, the Russians built the first wind-powered mill in California to grind grain into flour. A later, second windmill could grind 30 bushels of grain

per day. The third mill was animal powered. Flour produced by the mills was stored and used locally or shipped to Sitka.

At Fort Ross European fruit trees thrived; the first peach tree was planted in 1814. Grapes from Peru were introduced in 1818. Eventually, their orchards included apples, peaches, grapes, cherries and pears. But the large fields of wheat were hindered by poor soil, coastal fogs, encroaching wild oats, gophers, mice and blackbirds. Smaller, private inland plots fared better.

Stock-raising was more successful. They raised cattle, horses, mules and sheep and subsequently sent large shipments of wool, tallow, hides, salt beef and butter to Alaska. They only made a small number of woolen blankets and saddlecloths because they lacked skilled workers. Besides the candles and soap made from tallow, combs and powder horns were crafted from the oxen horns. Shoe soles and boot uppers were constructed from tanned hides.

Timber was abundant so the colonists at Fort Ross made redwood barrels and

(Continued p. 9)

Fort Ross (Continued)

navigational equipment from the bay tree lumber. They boiled the pitch from pines and firs. Two wind driven mills crushed tan oak bark, producing tannic acid for their tannery. They sawed 21 foot-long beams from redwood trees and even sold prefabricated housing.

With the abundance of trees, in eight years the Russians built three brigs and a schooner. However, the oak they used was green, not seasoned, and it proceeded to rot quickly. Those ships were used in coastal trade from Monterey to Alaska. Their smaller boats were more successful, which were sold to the Californios in the San Francisco Bay region.

Commercial undertakings that were most successful included tanning, milling, brickmaking, blacksmithing and foundry work. By the late 1820's, the Russians were shipping 70 to 90 tanned hides to Sitka annually. A good clay was discovered to make bricks, but its production was moved south to Bodega in 1832.

Although it was expressly forbidden for the Spanish-Mexicans to trade with the Russians, the Russians need for food and salt and the Californios need for ploughs, axes, nails, wheels, metal cookware, longboats, tanned leather and wooden items made continuing interchange inevitable. Once Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821,

trade continued with competition from the British and the Americans. Bodega Bay was the main Russian-American port with landing rights for storage and supply facilities. It took five hours from the Fort to Bodega Bay by land or sea.

Alexander Rotchev was sent to Fort Ross in 1836 along with his wife Helena, the Princess Gagarina, and their three children. (Mt. St. Helena is said to be named after her.) Rotchev spoke several languages, was a prominent writer and literary translator and by 1838 he became the colony's last manager. Fort Ross improved drastically with vigor and sophistication these last few years.

But in 1839, the Czar approved the Russian American Company's plan to sell off all their California holdings. The otters were largely gone and the agricultural products cost more to raise themselves than purchasing food from the Californios. Rotchev quickly grasped the problems of the colonial outpost, and although he opposed the decision to sell, he carried out his orders. He offered the holdings to the Hudson's Bay Company and to the French military attaché in Mexico City, Captain Eugene Duflot de Mofras. Both turned him down, so he offered it to the Mexican government and to General Vallejo of Sonoma, but they also declined.



Rebuilt chapel inside Fort Ross.

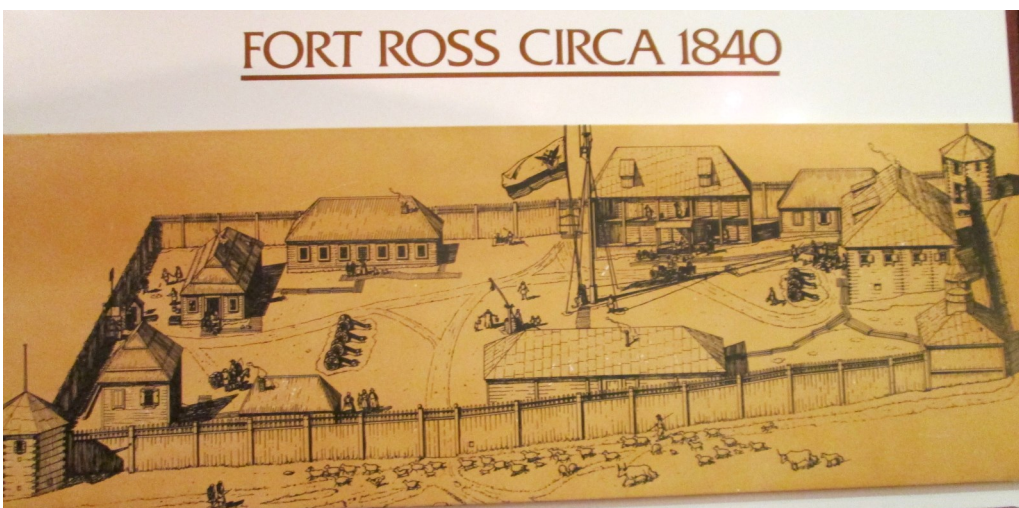
(Photos pgs. 8 & 9: Gayle Frank, taken Oct. 2014)

Then Rotchev approached John Sutter at his ranch in the Sacramento Valley and in late 1841, Sutter agreed to buy their assets. This included all the buildings, livestock and implements, but not the land, which was claimed by Mexico. The contract stipulated that Sutter pay Rotchev, in installments, \$30,000 with cash and produce. (A comprehensive list is found in the book by Farris.) Sutter sent his assistant, John Bidwell to bring back the cannons, livestock and other valuable items.

Sutter never finished paying for what he purchased. On January 1, 1842, Rotchev and 100 colonists sailed from Bodega Bay on the last Russian ship, the *Constantine*, bound for Sitka. ❖

Sources:

- Kalani, Lyn, Lynn Rudy, John Sperry, *Fort Ross*, Fort Ross Interpretive Assn.
- Farris, Glenn J., Ed., *So Far From Home: Russians in Early California*, Heyday, Berkeley, CA, 2012.
- Caughy, John & la Ree, *California Heritage: an Anthology of History and Literature*, The Ward Ritchie Press, Los Angeles, 1962.



2014 Santa Clara Historic Home Tour By Mary Hanel

The tradition of the Santa Clara Historic Home Tour, which began 36 years ago, will proudly continue this December. The event will be celebrated Friday evening, December 5th from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, December 6th from noon to 5 p.m. The Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara sponsors the tour with the assistance of the Old Quad Residents' Association for the benefit of historic preservation projects and non-profit groups in Santa Clara.

This year's tour will feature four private residences—the **Fassett House**, a circa 1905 Period Revival whose early owner Ceylon A. Fassett was a distinguished Civil War veteran and whose wife, Mary was a prominent member of the Santa Clara Methodist Church; the **Wise House**, a circa 1900 Vernacular Queen Anne Cottage/Shingle, owned in the early days by a family of German descent; the **Munch/Coeke House**, a circa 1905 Neoclassical Bungalow once owned by a blacksmith and later by a popular Santa Clara High School teacher; and the **Rumbolz House**, a circa

1910 historic farmhouse once surrounded by prune orchards and near the property where the Harris-Lass Museum Tankhouse was once located. The public building on this year's tour, where restrooms will be available, is the **Berryessa Adobe**. Built in the 1840s by Juan Galindo, the adobe was later sold to a member of the Berryessa Family. In 2002, during the City's Sesquicentennial year, this property at 373 Jefferson Street was dedicated and opened to the public as a City Museum.

The **Pena Adobe**, 3260 The Alameda (off Benton Street), headquarters of the Santa Clara Woman's Club for 100 years (since June

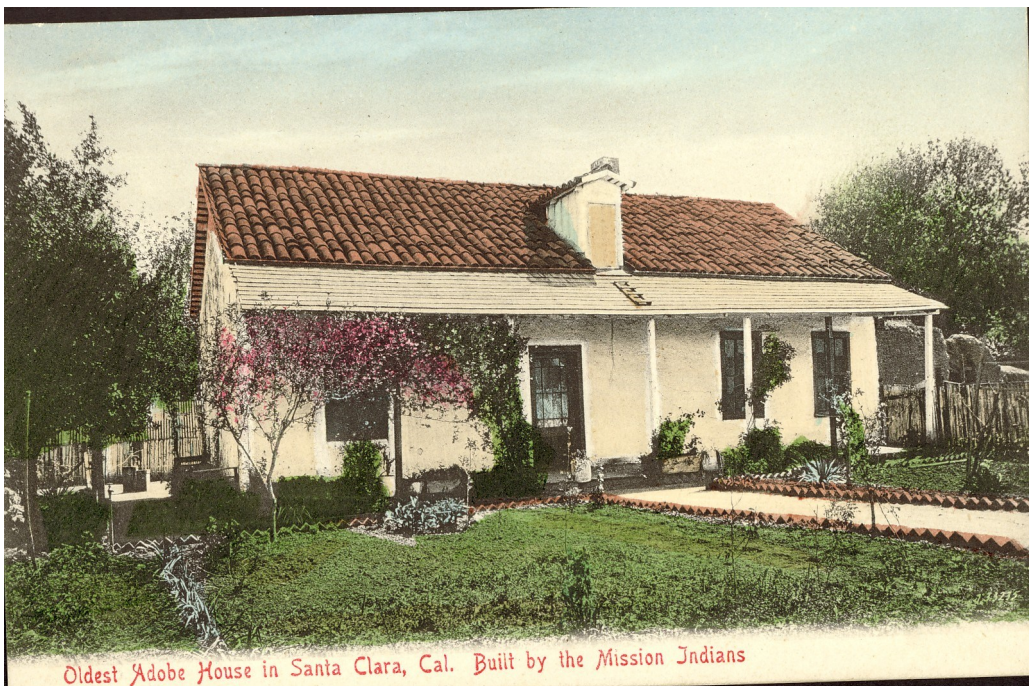


Fassett House, a 1905 Period Revival.

1914) will be the location for refreshments and an opportunity drawing which will benefit the Santa Clara Arts and Historical Consortium. This will also be a restroom stop and a place to purchase days-of-tour tickets.

As of November 1st, prices are: \$30 General Admission, \$25.00 Seniors (60+) and Youths (5-21). If still available, tickets will sell for \$35.00/person on days-of-tour. No children under the age of 5 will be admitted. Tickets may be purchased by mail from Santa Clara Historic Home Tour 2014, c/o HPSSC, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311. (Tickets will be mailed out to purchasers beginning November 1st.) Mail-in purchases must be post-marked no later than 11/29/14.

(Continued p. 11)



Above, vintage postcard of the Pena Adobe on The Alameda in Santa Clara, circa 1789.

(Image Courtesy of Santa Clara City Library)

Meet a Paulson House Docent Submitted by Jonna Baker

Joanne Souza, pictured right, volunteers as a docent at the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's Paulson House at History San Jose. She enjoys being a docent because she meets new people from all over the world and takes pleasure in sharing the Paulson house history with others. An added benefit is the new historical information she acquires from the visitors.

Joanne's family name is Pemental. Her ancestors were share croppers on the Downey Ranch in Milpitas, which may be why she is an avid gardener. In earlier days, she cut apricots for several farms.

Joanne has two stepchildren and three grandchildren. These days, one of her hobbies is playing Bingo. ❖



Joanne Souza in period costume

Home Tour (Continued)

Tickets also may be purchased at either City Lights Espresso (1171 Homestead Road in Santa Clara) or the Antiques Colony (1881 W. San Carlos St., San Jose) from October 1st through December 5th, as available.

Please call the Historic Preservation Society's Harris-Lass Museum Message Line for further information at (408) 249-7905 or email info2014@sc-hometour.com or view the Tour website <http://www.sc-hometour.com> which also offers the opportunity to purchase tickets online. ❖



Left, the Berryessa Adobe on Jefferson Street in Santa Clara, built circa 1840s.

(Photos courtesy of Michael Kohl)

World Premiere—A San Jose Movie

A new movie about the working people, political leaders and dreamers who built the City of San Jose will be shown on January 22nd, 2015, at the California Theatre, 345 S. First Street.

This World Premiere, *Changing Boundaries: The History of San Jose*, will be presented by CreaTV San Jose, Norman Kline Productions and History San Jose. The film was directed by Tricia Creason-Valencia, narrated by actor Peter Coyote and features an original musical score by Grammy nominee Robert Berry of Soundtek Studios.

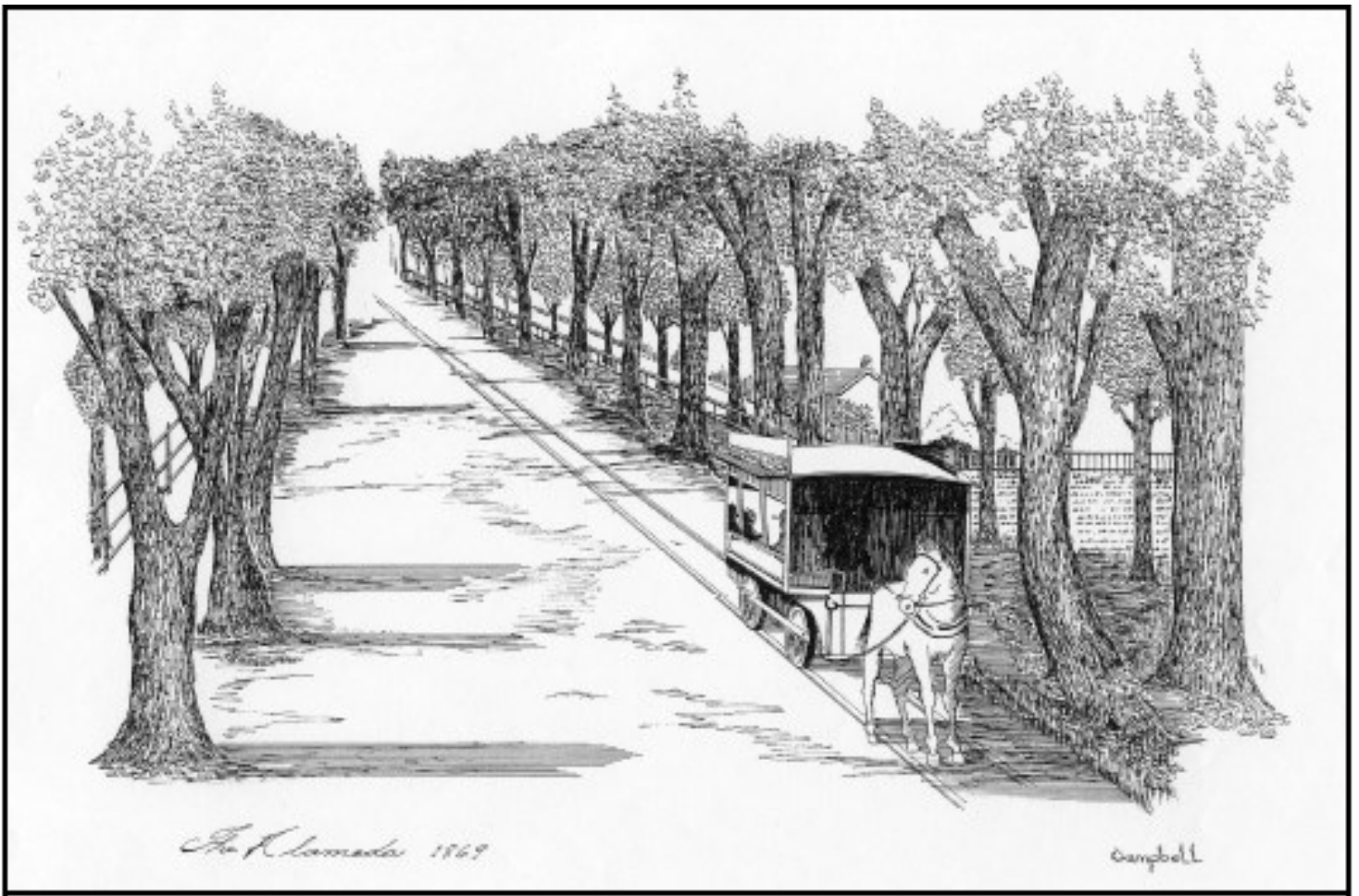
This first-of-its-kind documentary features historic footage from the Pioneers Film Archive and interviews with key historical figures, from farmers to civic leaders, including Tom McEnery, Blanca Alvarado, Norm Mineta, our own Paul Bernal and Jimi Yamaichi, of the Japanese-American Museum of San Jose. Other notable interviewees include historians Terry Christensen, Nannette Regua and Steven Millner.

Tickets to see the film, shown at 7 pm, will run \$25 with \$50 tickets for an additional VIP reception at 5:45pm.

A question and answer period will follow the film. ❖



Horsecar Days on the Alameda—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



The tree-lined Alameda was once San Jose's first horsecar route. The trip from First and Santa Clara Streets to the town of Santa Clara, 3 ½ miles away, took approximately 45 minutes.

On November 4, 1868, San Jose and Santa Clara Horse Railroad established regular service between the two communities and the west had its first interurban horsecar line.

The Alameda (meaning tree-shaded or beautiful way) was laid out and planted in 1799 by Father Magin de Catalá. Two hundred Indians planted willow trees and cleared out the dense growth of wild mustard plants that grew head-high along the road. The Alameda became a show place and was regarded as the safest road from San Jose to the Mission Santa

Clara. On Sundays, San Joseans would ride their fine horses along the road to Santa Clara. During the week, herds of sheep or cattle were driven to the corrals along the way. It was also used by the stage lines of the 1850s.

Unfortunately, the road surface was often in poor physical condition. The beautiful arching trees shaded the roadway and kept it boggy long after the surrounding open land had dried up. The avenue was not paved or even graded. During the winter months, it was nearly impassable. Because the horse car ran on tracks, it was not bothered by the mud that hindered road travel.

From the beginning, the horsecar line enjoyed great popularity. The fare was 10 cents between the communities, while

the stage lines charged 25 cents. The conductors managed to keep their cars running despite all obstacles.

Particularly troublesome were the school boys, who would ride on the roof. They would station themselves at the back of the car, teetering it so that the front rose and fell. Sometimes the students would take over the reins and tell the conductors to go inside while they drove to Santa Clara.

Another trouble spot was at the edge of Cook's Pond (whose proximity later led to the passage of an ordinance forbidding duck hunting from the streetcars.) Firecrackers thrown under the cars during Fourth of July week would scare the horses and make for more adventure. ♦

What's in the Paulson House?

The Wedgewood wood and gas stove in the Paulson House kitchen came from the Clyde Arbuckle family. In fact, Clyde's son, the late Jim Arbuckle, used it until the 2000s. This cream-colored Wedgewood is the "high leg" style from the 1920s. It has a high back splash and four burners with handles that lift the solid covers. To the left side, a large wood-burning unit has slides to open for heating the home. Below, a pan can be pulled out for emptying the ashes. The stove has a drawer for storage, a regular oven with a drip pan and a broiler oven.

The Wedgewood line of stoves were first produced in 1919 in Newark, Calif. The Wedgewoods were renowned for their quality and durability.

Earlier, the company was founded around 1882 by James Graham who designed and created wood stoves at his foundry/factory, located at the terminal of a narrow gauge railroad. James Graham opened his foundry in Newark when Senator James Fair proposed that Graham produce railroad castings for his narrow-gauge railroad. When Southern Pacific bought out the railroad from Fair and moved its headquarters, Graham began casting stoves on a small scale. The stoves were so successful that within four years Graham had hired thirteen employees.

Graham's enterprise was the first company to manufacture appliances on the West Coast. His sons took over and expanded the business after he passed in 1902, while maintaining its prestigious reputation.

By the 1930s, 350 men were employed by the James Graham Manufacturing Company with sales and display rooms in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. Production peaked in the 1940s, manufacturing about 75,000 stoves per year. Today, these vintage stoves are still loved and used by antique lovers and experienced cooks. ❖



The Arbuckle family Wedgewood stove sits in the Paulson House kitchen at History San Jose.

Photo: Gayle Frank

Docent Opportunity

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Paulson House Museum in San Jose's History Park illustrates what life was like before the birth of Silicon Valley. Come join our group of docents who educate, learn and share with others our knowledge of history.

Here are a few reasons to become a docent:

- Learn about Santa Clara County and California history
- Be involved in an important community
- Make new friends with similar interests
- Meet visitors from other parts of our world
- Enjoy the surroundings of History San Jose and the beautiful Paulson House

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jonna Baker at (408) 533-3256 or J234belle@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Pioneers Members!

John Haydon is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. His pioneer ancestor is Charles H. Hayden who arrived in San Ysidro around 1850-52. John is a retired CPA and enjoys Santa Clara County history.

Eric Kristofferson was born in San Francisco and now lives in San Jose. He recently retired as a librarian and researcher. Eric has lived in the Santa Clara Valley since the 1970s and received a Masters degree from San Jose State University in Library Science. Eric mentioned that he only lives a few blocks from our Roberto Adobe in Willow Glen.

Mary Anne Maloney joined the Pioneers at our September luncheon. She lives in San Jose and is known for her parties.

Caroline Clark Ritchey lives in San Jose and was a teacher. Her Pioneer ancestor was Minnie Lester Clark. Her family arrived in California in 1925 from the eastern United States. Her mother and father were Virginia Von Berg and Bernard Gilmore. Caroline is interested in history, flower arranging, reading and music.

Betty Skov is a native of Pennsylvania and arrived in California in 1957. She lives in Los Altos and worked in marketing communications – many years for

Logitech. After retirement Betty served as a contractor archiving the Logitech's historic products and documents. She was honored to do this since she was keenly aware of the work and pride of accomplishment that went into so many technologies we now take for granted. Betty is involved with the Friends of the Winemakers, who preserve the art and history of winemaking in the Santa Clara Valley. Friends of the Winemakers would like to create an online "virtual" museum about wine with an ultimate goal of a brick-and-mortar wine history museum. Betty also would like to be actively involved in our general local history. ❖



Have you paid
your 2014 dues?

They were owed on
January 1st, 2014!

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are due on January 1st every year. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues for 2014, you may pay them at the December luncheon or you can mail them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Dues for 2015 are owed in January.

Your mailing label for the Trailblazer will show when your dues were owed.

For example, if right after your name it says, Dec-13, that means your dues for 2014 still have not been paid.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. And please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning.

If you have questions, please contact April Halberstadt at 408-293-2860 or email her at aprilhalb@gmail.com. ❖

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Family Level	\$45
Loomis Level	\$75
Lifetime Level	\$250
Arbuckle Level	\$500
Younger Level	\$1000
Murgotten Level	\$5000

Time Travel (Past news from San Jose Newspaper archives)

San Jose, August 1893: “The Council allowed the \$10 for the installation of two telephones in the City Justice’s and City Attorney’s offices. The Finance committee reported that on July 1st there was \$86,580.50 in the city treasury.”

San Jose, June 1907: “The San Jose Ostrich Farm, located in the eastern part of the city, opened a branch office and salesroom in the St. James Hotel. Mr. C. P. Leitch, owner of the bird farm spared neither time nor expense to promote interest in the sales office operation. On display were hundreds of costly multi-colored feathers, while ostrich eggs were artistically suspended from electric light and gas fixtures. Mr. Leitch believed that tourists, as well as local citizens, should be aware of the wonders of Santa Clara Valley.”

Santa Clara, June 21, 1919: “The annual Portuguese Fiesta was in gala session here. During the popular auction at Espirito Santo Hall donations were being auctioned off at a rapid pace. When it came time for a plump turkey to be featured, it had just laid an egg. The auctioneer held the turkey in one hand and the egg in the other. The turkey sold for five dollars and the egg brought the church society \$0.65.”

San Jose, August 1925: “A half million dollar program of a supposed oil dome in the Lone Hill District, covering 10,000 acres, was assured by an organization from Los Angeles. Oil bearing shale and sand said to be of superior grade and equal to Pennsylvania crude was being found in the area.”



San Jose, June 1931: “Again for the last time, a machine destined to revolutionize one of the valley’s top industries, prune picking, made its appearance by a local inventor. It can go without saying, it somehow failed to impress prune growers as hands and knees continued to outwit mechanical claims “hands down.”

Archival Film of Mercury News Posted by Pioneers

After 48 years, the Mercury News moved back to downtown San Jose at 4 N. Second Street. In October the Mercury personnel at 750 Ridder Park Drive, just off Highway 880, packed up their workplace and made the big move.

Mercury columnist, Sal Pizarro, wrote an article (Oct. 27, 2014) mentioning the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County’s archival film on the history of the newspaper and the construction and dedication of the 1967 Mercury headquarters building. Bill Foley, the

Pioneers Film Archivist, posted the film on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkH3HH6BuuA) for public enjoyment. Pizarro enjoyed the film and said it brought back great memories for those who lived and worked during the old newspaper days.

Long-time Pioneers member, Jerry Rosenthal, remembers that the San Jose Mercury move in 1967 from downtown San Jose caused problems for businesses located on W. Santa Clara Street. The Mercury employees supported the barbershops, coffee

shops, restaurants and bars. The De Anza Hotel with its bars and restaurant went into decline after the Merc left. The barbershop moved to Los Gatos. The lunch counter in the bowling alley shut down as did several other shops.

Rosenthal reminds us that before the 1967 move to Ridder Park Drive, the newspaper was located at Notre Dame and West Santa Clara Streets in the former Sears Roebuck building. Healds College was located above the store and a large grocery market shared the building with Sears.

See more Pioneers Archive films at www.youtube.com/sccpioneers. ❖

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Leila Cilker
Edwin C. Lanini



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PBernal411@gmail.com

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Mary Berger, Member-at-Large; mary.berger@prk.sccgov.org

Gayle Frank, Member-at-Large; gaylefrankCA@gmail.com

Mary Hanel, Member-at-Large; maryhanel6608@comcast.net

Tim Peddy, Member-at-Large; miltpeddy@aol.com

Bill Foley, Film Archives; film@californiapioneers.com

Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for Calif. Pioneers of SCC

Madeline Streight, Sunshine Chair, 408-259-4422 or
madeline.streight@att.net

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.