

Vol. 65, Issue 1

March 2024

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1772 Impressions of Bay Area

In 1772, Captain Pedro Fages¹, in charge of the Royal Presidio of San Carlos de Monterey, led a Bay Area exploration party extending 71 leagues² (~200 miles) north along the East Bay beyond Portola's and Ortega's discovery trail in 1769. An earlier exploration by Fages and Fray Juan Crespi³ in 1770 was disappointing so this was a second attempt traveling an interior route to find a good harbor above Monterey and suitable new mission sites. During the previous 200 plus years, the San Francisco Bay eluded previous explorers because of its well-hidden geography, fog, and fear of a shipwreck if sailing too close to shore. Finally, Gaspar de Portola's party discovered the Bay in 1769 by accident, not understanding at the time the harbor's importance for the Spanish Crown.

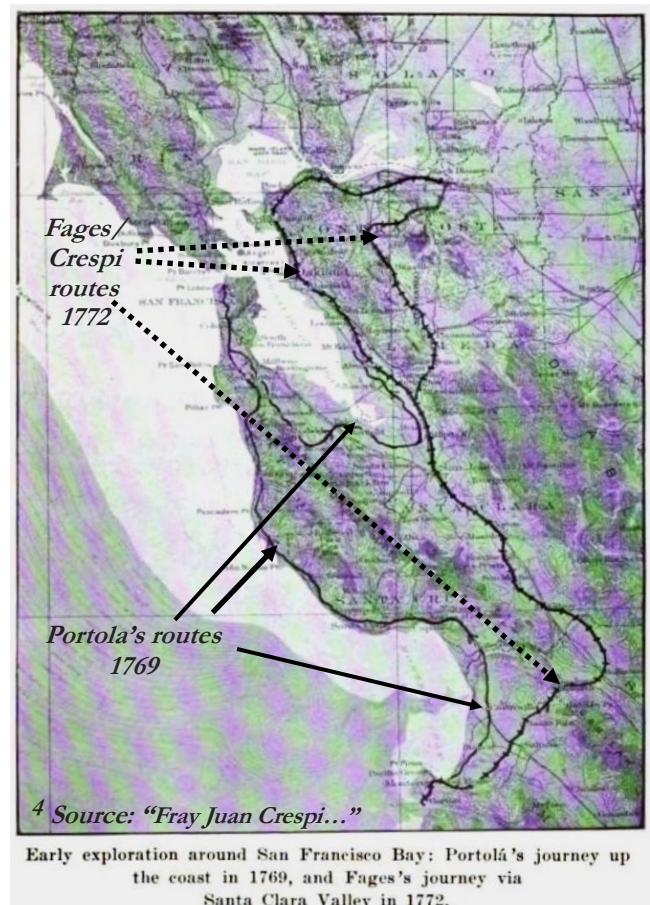
Out of concern with Russia's encroachment into Alta California, a viceregal order was signed in 1771 by Viceroy Croix and delivered to the Monterey Presidio—resulting in the 1772 Fages exploratory journey beginning on day one, **March 20**. Included on the trip were leader Captain Don Pedro Fages and Father Juan Crespi (both writing diaries of the trip), twelve soldiers (six volunteers and six leather-jackets), one muleteer and an Alta California Indian for the pack mules. Fages and Crespi noted plentiful rivers (arroyos), springs, lakes, and lagoons; described the trees (usually oaks, live oaks, alders, willows, cottonwoods, and redwoods on summits); and animals (mostly deer, antelope, mule-deer, and occasionally bears). The descriptions of mountains, marshes, valleys, plains, hills, and topography were recorded daily in the diaries. Each time they encountered the Native Americans, called the heathen in translations, the native's activities and reactions to the explorers

were noted and described. Below in the following summary of the diaries, focus is placed on meetings with the natives. Comments when meeting the natives are included. The italic geographical descriptions refer to present day names to understand where in the Bay Area the Fages party traveled, as offered by author H. E. Bolten.⁴

On **March 21**, the exploratory party passed through *Salinas* and camped near *San Juan Mission*, noting on this day, tracks made by the natives. Later, they found two huts made of branches and covered with grass, but the ten occupants fled after seeing the explorers.

On **March 22**, reaching a level valley with lagoons and plentiful grass, the group met up with four villages of natives, who were fishing

(Continued pg. 3)



Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Mar. 2nd, 2024

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

Chinese Labor & Immigration in Santa Clara Valley in 1850-1900s

By

Daryl Lee

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 28th

**Email to CaPioneerMembers@gmail.com
or call 669-223-8476 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.

**Pay online or bring checks payable to
California Pioneers or credit card 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

[All above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rosé

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

All 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.***

Pioneers Luncheon Topic

While researching his own family's immigration history, Daryl Lee became much more aware of the Chinese contributions to the Santa Clara Valley, reaching from the Gold Rush era to the present. He also became more aware of the harsh lives and struggle they experienced.

What attracted the Chinese to California and the Bay Area in the 1800s and early 1900s? Why would they risk their lives to travel to a foreign land and put up with isolation and bigotry? How did the Chinese become such an important labor force to the economic engine in the Santa Clara Valley that continues up

to the present? Attend the luncheon and find out the answers!

About Our Presenter

Daryl Lee was born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley. He is a software engineer who for 25 years worked at Apple and obsessed about the latest greatest product. Recently he has retired and turned to his second favorite obsession—researching history in books, journals and newspapers.

He enjoys traveling with his wife and hanging out with his three children and pet poodle Dandy.

Trailblazer

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Gayle Frank, Editor

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1772 Impressions (Continued)

from rafts in the lagoons or trapping ducks. The natives were mild and friendly. A nearby larger village was described as having 30 grass houses. The explorers' braying mules frightened these natives who ran into their houses, so they missed the Spaniards' gift of glass beads. The next valley was filled with marshes and tule patches and contained thousands of cranes and geese. This area was noted for a suitable mission site. Eight leagues were traveled that day, estimated as moving through *Hollister Valley* and entering *Santa Clara Valley* along the *Monterey-San Jose highway*, passing *Tequisquita Slough*, *San Felipe Lake*, and *Llagus Creek north of Gilroy*.

On **March 23**, the group camped near *Coyote*. Evidence of native well-worn paths and distant shouting indicated natives nearby but were not seen on this day until a few shouted from a hill above.

March 24 was spent overnight near *Milpitas* after traveling through a valley covered with oak and live-oaks [*Santa Clara Valley*]. The river [*Guadalupe*] to the west was noted. The black, mellow soil with herbs and grass, and many oaks were described as the troop followed the river. Two villages with friendly natives were encountered at the end of the day.

The party passed five villages of natives along the banks of the arroyos on **March 25**. The natives were "very mild and have well-made houses." The men passed five more arroyos but few trees were seen. At the end of this day, they could see the estuary [*San Francisco Bay*], about four leagues wide and about three leagues away.

The party trekked north-northwest [*toward Alameda*] on **March 26** and noted many deer and after five leagues saw mule-deer tracks. When camped four leagues from "the principal estuary or arm of the sea," the men thought it was the sea. Here they saw bears, more deer and other animal tracks.

Still moving northwest on **March 27**, they entered an immense plain three

leagues from the estuary. From here they could see the [*golden*] "gate." This important entry into the bay was carefully noted on their map. They observed that the gate was about three-quarters of a league wide with three islands, widely separated, in front of the gate [*Alcatraz, Goat Island (Yerba Buena), and Angel Island*]. Two other smaller islands were noted off to the side. About a league later, the soldiers were able to kill a bear for fresh meat. Seven more arroyos and many lilies and sweet marjoram on the plain were encountered. Here, very few natives or their tracks were seen. The day was more difficult since the men were much molested by mosquitoes.

On **March 28** the group turned inland to travel around the estuary where they noted marshes emerging from the hills [*estimated in Oakland area and Lake Merritt*]. Two leagues later they reached the hills with a deep arroyo and saw a village of natives, very fair and bearded, who were happy to see them in their village. The natives gave cacomites (bulbs), amoles (roots such as soap plant), and two dead geese, dried and stuffed with grass to use as decoys in hunting other geese. The Spaniards in turn gave the seemingly grateful natives glass beads. Some of the natives traveled with the exploration party to a second village.

The explorers described "a second arm of the sea" [*San Francisco Bay from Golden Gate to San Pablo Bay*] "resembling a great lake of about eight leagues in size." Here they saw four young whales blowing and an island [*Mare Island*]. Because the whales indicated a sizable depth, the party concluded that, "all the fleets of



Photo: Gayle Frank

"Tule house, approximately 1/3 to 1/2 the size of a typical tule house, created by Norm Kidder and Jan Southworth in collaboration with members of the Ohlone community in 1985."
de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University.

Spain could find room in it." An anchor could easily be dropped because the sea was always calm on this great estuary, bay, or great lake [*San Pablo Bay*]. The explorers were not sure what they were seeing.

Again, eight more natives arrived bringing gifts; the explorers reciprocated with glass beads. [*Here they likely were traveling across Berkeley, Albany and eastern Richmond where they turned into the hills.*]

On Sunday, **March 29**, the party climbed the [*Berkeley*] hills above the bay to see Point Reyes which they considered as the best candidate for their important port but realized the estuary [*Carquinez Strait*] would hinder a land path to Point Reyes. At this northern point, the men agreed that progress toward Point Reyes was impossible without more supplies, men, and extra time.

(Continued pg. 4)

1772 Impressions (Continued)

From the opposite banks, the natives with “pleasant faces, fair complexions, beards, and long hair tied with twine,” called out to the explorers and gestured to cross over to visit. When the explorers started to leave, the natives traversed the water on rafts and gave them “their wild food.” The bearded Indians “admired but perhaps feared” the strange newcomers. Moving on, the men encountered five more villages with similar natives who also gave them more “wild food.”

On **March 30**, the party travelled along a deep arroyo and entered a beautiful plain or valley with loose black soil covered with grass, oaks, and lagoons. Crespi remarked it would make an excellent settlement. Four natives shouted at them “making signs that we should go and receive a bow trimmed with feathers, the pelt of an animal, and arrows which they had thrust in the ground,” a symbol of peace. The captain and a soldier retrieved the gifts and gave the natives the beads “with which they were well pleased.” The party passed two more valley villages, received seeds, and gifted more beads, “making them very happy.”

After hiking over more medium hills, the explorers ascended into a “great plain, level as far as the eye could reach.” Near a pass [*Pacheco Pass*] they reached a beautiful valley (*Concord*) where their animals enjoyed grazing. From there, they climbed a mountain where they were most likely the first Europeans to see the massive *Sacramento Valley*, the *Suisun Bay* to the north, and the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*. Here they noted the estuary was formed by the two large rivers. Crespi named the largest river the *San Francisco River* [*San Joaquin River*] and commented that it was “the largest river discovered so far in New Spain.” [*Here it was estimated that they traveled through Pittsburg, Antioch, and the western spur of Mt. Diablo.*]

At this point, the men realized that they had gone as far as they could—it was estimated they were about 71 leagues

from Monterey. Beyond were the Sierra foothills. Taking a more direct route home toward the interior, the explorers returned covering much new ground.

As they turned south on **March 31**, they came upon three villages with grass houses but the natives “ran away shouting and panic-stricken without knowing what had happened.” Soon they came across another “charming” valley that was ideal for a settlement site. [*Passed through Concord, Walnut Creek, Danville, and San Ramon Valley.*]

On **April 1**, the party made their way down a southern, easy path on a level valley with many trees, good arroyos, and grass. The men thought this area was “a very suitable place for a good mission, having fertile lands, much water, firewood and many heathen.” They covered 10 leagues this day traveling through *Livermore Valley*, *Pleasanton* and *Sunol Valley*.

Still progressing south on **April 2**, they encountered small ravines, oaks, and a large arroyo. The valley widened with good land and was “well forested with trees.” Two good-sized arroyos united at a junction forming a large river also made this site a good possibility for a mission. Continuing, the party came upon a village on the arroyo bank. After 5 leagues more they arrived at another arroyo and two more villages, traveling 10 leagues that day. [*Estimated through Sunol Valley and Milpitas and San Jose.*]

April 3 took seven hours in a valley full of oaks (*San Martin and Gilroy*) and where 16 antelopes were seen at camp.

April 4 covered about 10 leagues, camping at the foot of a high mountain range after passing the “valley of San Bernardino” and the “valley of San Benito.” Camp was made on hills near *San Martin*. The **April 4**, camp was made near the present *San Juan Mission*, and on Sunday, **April 5**, about 20 leagues later, the group arrived at the royal presidio of Monterey. The trip was reported as

traveling a total of 71 leagues north and only 57 leagues on the return alternate route. That same day after resting, Fray Crespi and the entire party continued to the Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo (founded 1770) to visit Fray Junipero Serra and deliver the diaries that night.

One conclusion drawn from this exploration trip was that Point Reyes should be reached by ship since the large bodies of water impeded access by land from the south. So Crespi, suggested that the harbor mission be established on the south shore of the great San Francisco Bay, which it was (Mission San Francisco de Asis founded 1776). Other Bay Area Missions followed. As the party traveled the Bay Area, many sites were noted as excellent candidates for missions to convert the “heathen”—the church’s primary goal.

For the natives, experiencing gun shot noise and meeting men on horseback with their strange clothing and equipment must have been remarkable but frightening moments for the natives. Yet in some cases, admirably, the natives were willing to overcome their concerns and fears, reach out to offer gifts, and satisfy their curiosity about these foreign people. ❖

—Gayle Frank

See photo on next page

¹ *Pedro Fages (1734–1794) was a Spanish soldier, explorer, first Lieutenant Governor of the Californias under Gaspar de Portolá, and second (1770–74) and fifth (1782–91) Governor of Alta California.*

² *A Spanish league was slightly less than 3 miles.*

³ *Fray Pedro Crespi explored the North American wilderness for three decades and was a student and close companion of Father Junipero Serra.*

Sources:

⁴ *“Fray Juan Crespi: Missionary Explorer on the Pacific Coast, 1769-1774,” by Herbert Eugene Bolton, 1927*

“Fages as Explorer, 1769-1772,” by Theodore E. Trentlein, California Historical Quarterly, Vol. 51, No. 4 (Winter, 1972), pp. 338-356.

“The Discovery of San Francisco Bay (1542-1769),” Historical Essay, by K. Maldetto

New National Trail Designation Planned

The National Park Service—National Trails System is beginning the planning process for the newly designated Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. Back in 1857, entrepreneur John Butterfield was awarded by Congress, a contract establishing an overland mail route from eastern U.S. to the Far West. From two terminals, St. Louis, MO and Memphis, TN, the trail traveled southerly through Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and finally California, ending at San Francisco. The Trail, sometimes referred to as the Oxbow Route, was especially useful because winter climate was not a deterrent for getting through.

Stagecoaches left twice a week carrying passengers, freight and mail, averaging 100 miles per day. San Francisco was reached in 25 days. The operation lasted for three years from 1858-1861, until the telegraph was a better option. The Trail route in California extended north from Los Angeles through Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose on its way to San Francisco, so Santa Clara County is included in the National Trail. Stay tuned for more information as the plans develop. ❖



The dark yellow line illustrates the path of the Butterfield Overland Trail from the East to San Francisco.

(Photo: www.nps.gov/buov/index.htm)

1772 Impressions (Continued)



Left, “preliminary mural concept design provided by Linda Yamane, Ohlone Cultural Consultant, in artistic collaboration with Amy Hosa. Tule boat created by Linda Yamane. Tule boat paddle, bone tipped harpoon, net, and uncovered tule duck decoys created by Norm Kidder. Covered duck decoy created by Norm Kidder with Linda Yamane.”

(de Saisset Museum)

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

To see the *California Stories from Thámien to Santa Clara* exhibit visit

de Saisset Museum
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053
(408) 554-4000

Tues.—Sun.
11 am—4 pm

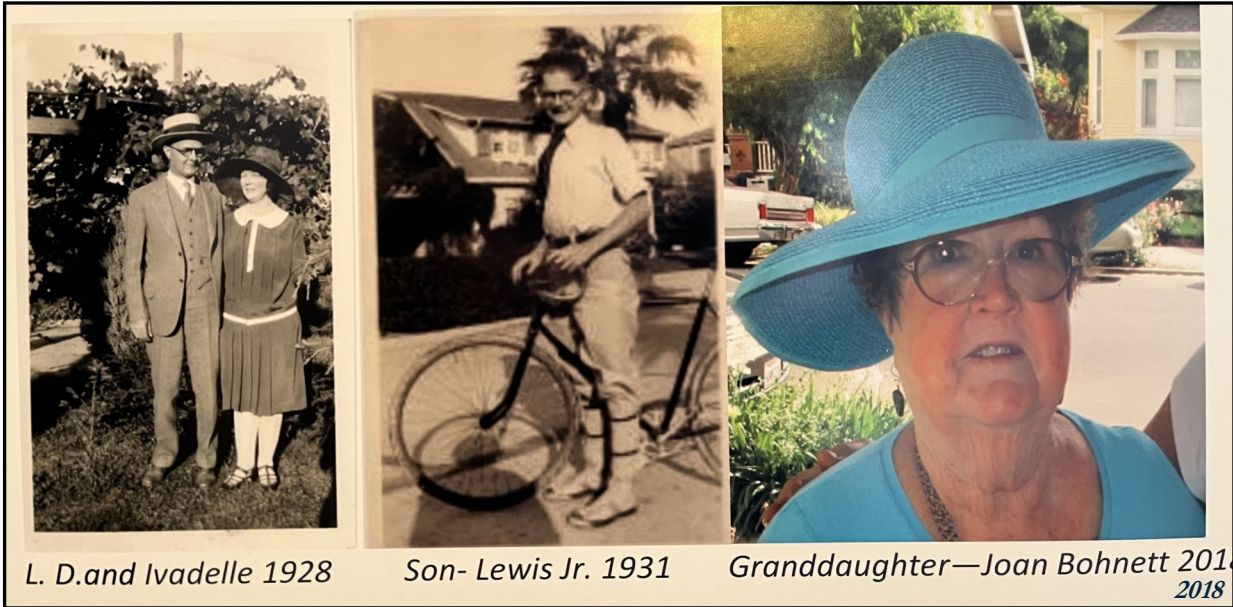
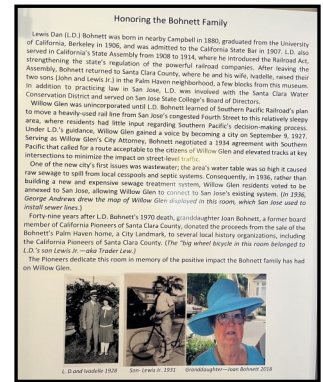
Free Admission

“Life on the Water” at de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University

Honoring the Bohnett Family

Inside the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House, the Pioneers created one of its rooms as the “Willow Glen Room,” displaying photos, video, and artifacts related to the neighborhood’s history. Recently, the Pioneers have added a dedication of this room

to honor the Bohnett Family, who lived in Willow Glen and made important and positive impacts on the region. Below is the text of our dedication (photo right), which has been placed on the wall of the Willow Glen Room inside the Suñol House.



L. D. and Iva delle 1928

Son- Lewis Jr. 1931

Granddaughter—Joan Bohnett 2018

“Lewis Dan (L.D.) Bohnett was born in nearby Campbell in 1880, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1906, and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1907. L.D. also served in California’s State Assembly from 1908 to 1914, where he introduced the Railroad Act, strengthening the state’s regulation of the powerful railroad companies. After leaving the Assembly, Bohnett returned to Santa Clara County, where he and his wife, Iva delle, raised their two sons (John and Lewis Jr.) in the Palm Haven neighborhood, a few blocks from this museum. In addition to practicing law in San Jose, L.D. was involved with the Santa Clara Water Conservation District and served on San Jose State College’s Board of Directors.

Willow Glen was unincorporated until L.D. Bohnett learned of Southern Pacific Railroad’s plan to move a heavily-used rail line from San Jose’s congested Fourth Street to this relatively sleepy area, where residents had little input regarding Southern Pacific’s decision-making process. Under L.D.’s guidance, Willow Glen gained a voice by becoming a city on September 9, 1927. Serving as Willow Glen’s City Attorney, Bohnett negotiated a 1934 agreement with Southern Pacific that called for a route acceptable to the citizens of Willow Glen and

elevated tracks at key intersections to minimize the impact on street level traffic.

One of the new city’s first issues was wastewater; the area’s water table was so high it caused raw sewage to spill from local cesspools and septic systems. Consequently, in 1936, rather than building a new and expensive sewage treatment system, Willow Glen residents voted to be annexed to San Jose, allowing Willow Glen to connect to San Jose’s existing system. (In 1936, George Andrews drew the map of Willow Glen displayed in this room, which San Jose used to install sewer lines.)

Forty-nine years after L.D. Bohnett’s 1970 death, granddaughter Joan Bohnett, a former board member of California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, donated the proceeds from the sale of the Bohnett’s Palm Haven home, a City Landmark, to several local history organizations, including the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. (The “big wheel” bicycle in this room belonged to L.D.’s son Lewis Jr. — aka Trader Lew.)”

New Electronic Gate Installed at Roberto Adobe Site

A new automated electronic driveway gate (photo right) was installed at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House Museum site on Dec. 1.

In front of the gate's metal frame installation, the wooden gate pickets are attached and were designed and created to complement the rest of the site's fencing. Then they were primed and painted. On December 22nd the pickets were installed onto the electronic gate's metal frame.

Thank you to the Pioneers Board for approving this considerable expenditure and a special thanks to Phil Johnson and Paul Bernal for getting this important project completed. This new gate improves the appearance of our Museum and increases our safety and convenience when passing through the driveway. ❖



The gate secures our driveway to the museum site at 770 Lincoln Avenue.

More Facility News

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County President Tim Peddy and the Board of Directors thank Veronica Jordan and Phil Johnson for their 2023 extra efforts at the Hacienda Cemetery and at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

Plans are readied to replace our sign and front walkway gate in the front yard of the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

At our Hacienda Cemetery a huge oak tree with two trunks, in poor condition, and threatening safety, has been removed. Select cuttings have been saved for possible use as tables and seating. Heavy brush throughout the cemetery and creek was also removed. One of the deteriorating cribs will soon be restored by

an Eagle Scout under the supervision of Veronica, Phil, and Bruce Bartlett. Old growth redwood and paint have been donated for the cribs.

2024 maintenance and repair plans for the Paulson house at History San Jose include exterior painting and carpentry repair, gutters cleaned, the rear porch sewing room renovated, and the lift enclosure needs repair or replacement.

Taking care of these three sites is a big expense and requires much organization, management, and hard work. Thanks to all who help. ❖



Wood from Cemetery tree removal showing the extensive rot.

“When San Jose Was Young: The Pathfinder’s Victim ”

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

“Yesterday I went to see Mrs. Engracia Hernandez’s wedding dress. The wedding dress was richly embroidered, beaded, and beautiful in spite of the half century since it had been worn. But I forgot its beauty in listening to the story of the strange tragic life of the woman who had worn the gown [Mrs. Don José Berryessa].

Mrs. Fernandez now lives in a small house on Vine Street, but she is the daughter of Don José de los Reyes Berryessa, the discoverer of the Almaden mine.¹ In 1846 Don José was shot in San Rafael by Kit Carson at the supposed suggestion of Captain Fremont.

Mrs. Fernandez was born at the Santa Teresa ranch. Her mother was a Bernal. The lives of Mrs. Fernandez and of her father, Don José Berryessa, cover much of California’s history.

Don José was born in San Francisco in 1787. A man of education, at one time was a teacher in San Jose for which he received \$10 a month. Later he was secretary to Don Luis Arguello, one of the early Spanish governors of California. For his services to Arguello, Don José Berryessa received the grant of San Vicente Ranch near Almaden.

Directly after the padres arrived at Santa Clara, they heard rumors that there was a mine near Loma Prieta. The Indians always talked about it. To the fathers they brought pigment for painting their own faces as well as for decorating the Mission at Santa Clara. A part of the Mission chapel was painted with this pigment.

One of the dreams and ambitions of the Spaniards was to locate the mine. They thought it was on Don José Berryessa’s ranch. In the early 1820s, Berryessa, Secundido Robles, the major domo of the Santa Clara Mission, and Father José Maria Real set out to look for the cave that the Indians said led into the mine.¹

For days they wandered over the mountains. Finally, Don José Berryessa exclaimed, “I have found it, the Indian’s mine.” He pointed to a pile of leaves. “That’s nothing but leaves,” said Father Real and Mr. Robles.¹

Don José brushed aside the leaves to convince the doubting prospectors. Right under the leaves was the opening that led to the mine. Father Real and major domo Robles² both became wealthy from the mine. Father Real returned to Spain, but Don Jose Berryessa was never given credit for his discovery, nor did he receive any profits from finding the greatest quicksilver mine of modern times.³

Part 2

Don Jose Berryessa’s life, until its very close, did not differ greatly from that of other wealthy ranchers. He reared a large family of children of which Mrs. Engracia Fernandez of Vine Street in San Jose is the youngest and only one surviving. However, in 1846, everything changed in the Berryessa family as well as in California. Mrs. Fernandez was a very little girl in 1846, but she recalls well the last days of her father’s life.

The fear of the lean, lank Gringo grew rapidly in the early 1840s among the Spanish Californians. As yet the Gringos had appeared in small numbers. Perhaps there were not more than five hundred in the state, but they showed in their relations with the Spaniards such disregard of established rights that always they were the black cloud in sunny California. When Captain Fremont came to explore, and when the Bears raised the flag at Sonoma the Spanish Californians knew that the storm had broken.

Don Jose’s four sons, Francisco, Santiago, Jose, and Ygnacio were in the thick of the struggle between the Bears and the Spanish. All had ranches near Sonoma. One was the Alcalde. Don Jose was anxious about his sons when a messenger brought the news from the north that all four boys had been placed in jail in San Rafael by the Bears after they declared California’s independence. When Don Jose heard this, he started to rescue his sons.

“We were terribly frightened,” said Mrs. Fernandez. “Everyone believed that the Gringos had come to kill us all. That was seventy-two years ago, but I remember how my father looked when he said, ‘I am going to help your brothers.’ He took my mother and the children in a carretta to the Santa Clara Mission where he left us. All the other Spanish people were frightened, and the women and the children huddled in the mission. My father said goodbye. The next thing we heard was that he was shot at San Rafael. They told us how my father had begged the Gringos for his life. ‘I never did anything to hurt you. Why should you kill me?’”

“But they killed him. When my mother heard the news of my father’s death she fainted. Afterwards, when they mentioned my father to my mother, she fainted. The Gringos were a bloodless people. They lived on tea and potatoes. Years afterward, a Gringo wanted to marry my sister, but my mother refused, saying, ‘The Gringos killed your father!’”

—Evening News, November 3 & 4, 1916

¹ This version does not agree with recent research finding that Secundino Robles discovered the Ohlone mine in 1824 at age 13 with his father.

² Robles may have made some profit from the mine but he died in poverty.

³ See Editor’s note on next page.

Group Preserves San Jose High's Long History

As we closed out Year 2023 and welcomed 2024, there were more historical events happening around us. One notable event is that San Jose High School celebrated its 160th Anniversary in 2023!

The Centennial year in 1963 brought a nice banquet at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 18, 1963. For the Sesquicentennial year in 2013, the **Bulldog Foundation** members became event chairs to celebrate our 150th Anniversary by hosting events for that entire year. Some of the notable 2013 events were an Opening Luncheon on Sunday, January 13th at the San Jose Country Club on Alum Rock Avenue; the very first Bulldog Parade on Saturday, September 19th where the Bulldog Alumni Band made its debut; and a Closing Gala Benefit Dinner and Celebration Party on Wednesday, November 27th at the Double Tree Hotel.

Rick Aning was the event chair for the Bulldog Parade and coordinated all the planning and execution for this parade. For his fun after all this preparation, Rick played his trombone alongside the other alumni band mates. Barbara Peddy drove her VW Bug in the parade which was decorated to represent all the Junior High Schools that fed into San Jose High. As always, Tim Peddy was instrumental in his support as he is with other events.

The Bulldog Foundation has been in existence since circa 1983 and went dormant in the early 2000s. The principal for the 2009-2010 school year was Tom Shied, who resurrected the foundation. Since 2010, the Bulldog Foundation meets every first Tuesday of the month but takes a break while school is out of session in the summer months.

Our Mission Statement focuses on supporting the students and the faculty needs that are not funded by other sources. We get donations from alumni, former teachers, and private organizations. Part of our budget is allocated to scholarships. Each year, the San Jose High Scholarship Committee advertises for us—then students have to submit their applications by mid-April. The Bulldog Foundation will receive the candidates' applications and rate them using a grading sheet. Numbers are assigned to each applicant so that the students' names are not disclosed.

In 2023, Senior Awards Night was on Thursday, May 25th in the school's cafeteria. The Bulldog Foundation was able to award ten student scholarships. Out of the ten, two had expressed interest in Law Enforcement. As one of our board members had contact with the San Jose Police Association, they agreed to give each of these two students an additional \$500 scholarship.

Another part of the Bulldog Foundation is overseeing the Heritage Room. It is a historical museum documenting memorabilia, yearbooks, school newspapers, cheerleading uniforms, letterman's sweaters, etc. Our oldest yearbook is from 1874 and there are pendants in Purple & White which are the old school colors. Barbara Peddy and Rick Aning are co-curators. We encourage students to visit the room for either an assignment or just to learn something new about their school. We occasionally have alumni stop by to visit too. Members from the Class of 1962 paid us a visit recently and were very impressed with our collection.

There was less fanfare for the 160th Anniversary this last year, although a Special Edition yearbook was created to recognize this milestone.

Another fun fact is that our own Pioneers Past President Jim Zetterquist's father is one of our alumni from the Class of 1935.

Barbara Peddy is on campus and opens the Heritage Room on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. If anybody would like to view our Heritage Room, we would love to have you visit us.

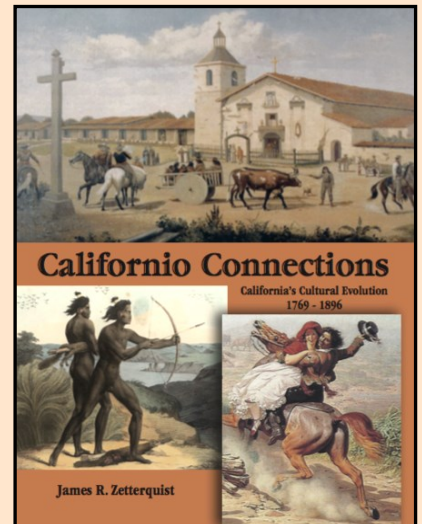
Contact Barbara Peddy at sjhs1956@aol.com or Rick Aning at raning1965@gmail.com for questions. Go Bulldogs!!!

—By Rick Aning

Pathfinder's Victim, Editor's Note:

³ A more accurate account of the discovery of the New Almaden mine can be found in *California Connections* by James Zetterquist, published by the Pioneers and is on sale at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House or on our website. It should also be pointed out that Antonio Suñol was the first person Secundino Robles' father talked to about Secundino's discovery in 1824.

They were hoping the mine would produce silver or gold, not realizing the presence of mercury until later. The Berryessa family did have a very close connection to the mine. This year is the two-hundred-year anniversary of Secundino's discovery.



December Luncheon Guests



Here are a few of the Pioneers' December Luncheon guests who enjoyed the day.

Top left, Mike Cox, Veronica Jordan standing; Sharon Cleveland and Jim Jordan seated.

Top right, Joane Souza (left), and Madeline Streight.



Above, Joseph Ehardt, Bill Hare, and Catherine Pelizzari



Left, Richard Sheenan (re-joined the Pioneers at the luncheon) and Dave Sargent

Luncheon Guests (Continued)



Above, Paul Boehm and Phil Johnson

Right, Kim Rifredi and Faye Faulhaber



Below, Cal Lantrip and Scot Hayes



Pioneers Dues Renewals

We still have over 30 members
who have not paid their
2024 dues.

Please mail in your dues or go to the
Pioneers website to pay.
Prices have not gone up!

**MARCH
IS
WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**

Highlights from Dec. Luncheon Presentation

Here are a few of the many highlights from Veronica Jordan's presentation on New Almaden cemeteries at our December Pioneers Luncheon.

—The New Almaden mines were a dangerous place to work, where deaths occurred from blasting accidents, falling boulders, cave-ins, mercury toxicity, falls, and faulty equipment. Additionally, there were deaths from infections, ailments, and murders. Inhabitants of New Almaden were sometimes buried in San Jose at Oak Hill Cemetery, but more conveniently, three cemeteries were established at the mines.

—The most well-known cemetery in New Almaden is the Hacienda Cemetery on Bertram Road, established by the Barron Forbes Company in the early 1850s as a non-sectarian burial site. At the luncheon, Veronica showed photos of the Hacienda Cemetery near Casa Grande, taken by Carleton Watkins in the 1850s.

—The Hacienda Cemetery is owned by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and about fifty graves enclosed by cribs remain. Miners, their wives, and children of mining families are buried here, such as 10-year-old Roberto Berryessa, son of Jose Berryessa, who was awarded the Rancho San Vicente, including parts of the New Almaden mine area, by the Mexican Governor of California in 1842 but lost land from squatters and legal/boundary complexities.

—The Quicksilver Mining Company soon realized that experts in explosives were needed to successfully find new mercury (cinnabar) deposits, so Cornish miners were hired from England with previous experience in blasting. But even with experience, the men sometimes died from dynamite accidents or falling large boulders. One example was Richard Wedlake, Jr., who in 1883 was blasting rock in the Santa Isabel shaft. One of the four blasts did not explode and while Wedlake investigated, a 200-pound boulder fell on his head, striking him dead. The mining company investigated the accident and concluded they were not responsible since Wedlake didn't follow procedures, resulting in absolving

the company from paying for the burial. Luckily, Wedlake paid into a burial society fund, provided by the New Almaden Mining Company, so Wedlake was buried at the costlier Oak Hill Cemetery along with three other Cornish miners.

—When a dead relative was transported to Oak Hill Cemetery, the event was financially difficult, since the two-day venture of about 15 miles by rugged wagon cost family members two days of wages—plus hotel and food expenses. The coffin was purchased from the mine store.

—Miners, who worked six days a week, were paid by the tonnage of cinnabar taken out of the mines. Their haul was weighed and recorded to calculate their pay.

—Veronica's 4X Great Grandfather, Francisco Avila, earlier that same year (1883), died in an Almaden Mine tram accident. Avila and another miner were told to ride up the hill with the foreman in the tram car attached to a cable, which was prohibited by the mining company. The cable had just been repaired but broke, sending the car flying down the hill. Avila was crushed by the car. Avila was only 41 years old and the father of seven children. The inquest concluded that no blame was connected to anyone from the company. (There seems to be a pattern here.)

—The Mexican miners buried their dead at Oak Hill Cemetery or at the Guadalupe or Hidalgo cemeteries, on the hills above the Hacienda Cemetery. The miners contributed to one of two burial societies, ensuring if tragedy occurred, the unfortunate victim's funeral and family would be taken care of. One of the burial societies used the Guadalupe Cemetery near the Catholic church in Spanish town (aka Mexicantown). No records were kept and all the wooden grave markers are gone. By 1900, the Spanish town Guadalupe Cemetery was neglected since most families left.

—The third cemetery at New Almaden, the Hidalgo Cemetery, was near the

Guadalupe Cemetery and also had no records so we know little about who was buried there. Little evidence of this cemetery has been discovered in modern times.

—One grave in the Hacienda Cemetery contains a young man's arm. The arm belonged to Richard Bertram Barrett, who lost it in 1898 at the age of 13. He was called Bert and was the son of a quicksilver miner, Peter Barrett, at New Almaden. (The rest of him was buried 61 years later at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose in 1959.) He was hunting with a friend and when getting off his horse his rifle accidentally discharged and shot off his arm. In those days, there was a law that a severed limb must be properly buried. The gravestone for his arm is still there today (photo below).

Other facts about Bert included that he was married twice, kidnapped his child from his mother-in law, and was Chief of Sanitation for the Santa Clara County Health Department.

The luncheon guests enjoyed the presentation and had many questions at the end of the talk. Thank you, Veronica, for an engaging day. ❖

—Gayle Frank

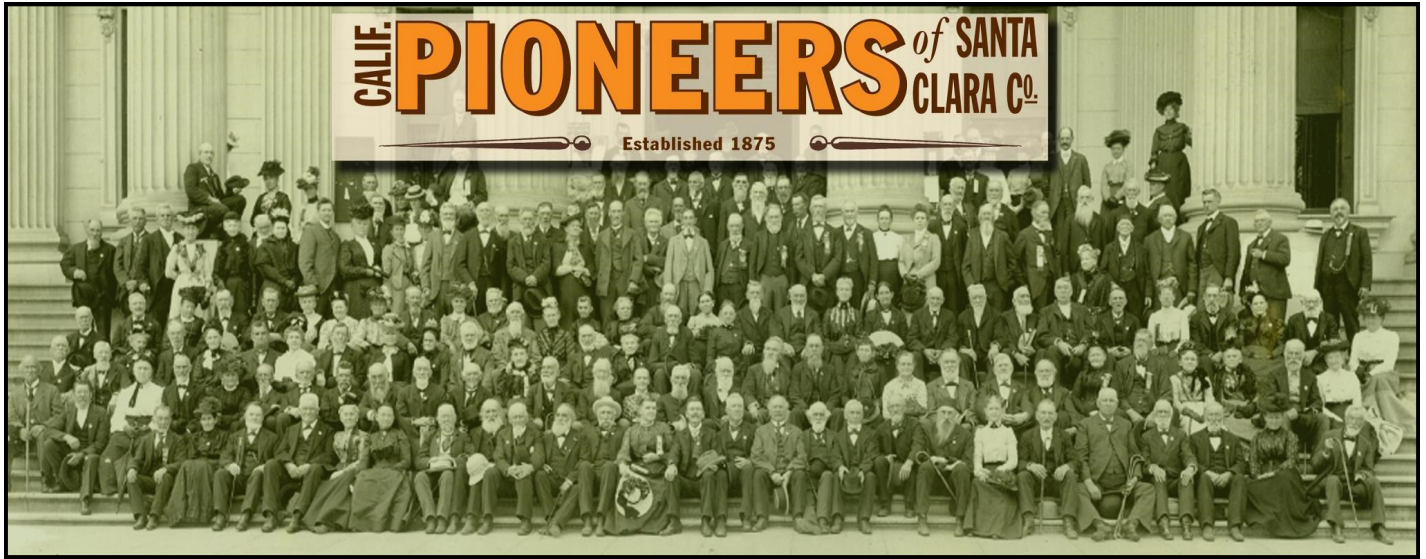


Photo: Tim Paddy

Be Part of Our 150th Anniversary Bash

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County will be celebrating 150 years in 2025! We are one of the two oldest pioneer societies in California. Would you like to participate on the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee and offer ideas for such a notable event? If so, please email President Tim Peddy at miltpeddy@aol.com.

Yes, the Pioneers was founded in 1875 so we've been around a long time. What is the best way to celebrate this distinguished accomplishment? Give us your input and volunteer to participate in this celebratory event next year



The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County in 1900 in front of the Santa Clara County Courthouse, N. First Street, San Jose.

Pioneers' Paulson House at Christmas



The Pioneers' Paulson House at History San Jose was decorated for Christmas again this year.

Visitors also enjoyed the decorations inside during Sundays in December.

(Photo: Joe Coughlin)

The Paulson House is open most Sunday afternoons for visitors.

CA Pioneers of SCC
New Members—
Welcome!

James Anderson, San Jose

Tim Dooling, San Jose

Abby Duran, San Jose

Karen Hansen, Campbell

Carol Irani, San Jose

Join Us As a Greeter or
Docent for the

Paulson House or
The Adobe & Suñol House

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

Or Sylvia Hew at
 408-265-5371 or
hewmum@gmail.com

Roberto Adobe &
Suñol House

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NOW OPEN

Saturday Free Tours—12-2 PM
 Not open on major holiday weekends



The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

2024 dues for CA Pioneers of Santa
Clara County are due
on January 1st, 2024

Regular membership is still only \$35 (Family \$60)

Please Mail your check to: CA Pioneers of SCC.
 Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208,
 San Jose, CA, 95155

OR Pay at March 2nd Luncheon!
 Renew online at: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

How to Make Payments to
CA Pioneers of SCC Online

At www.CaliforniaPioneers.com, click on 'Support' at the top of the page and then 'Contribute.' Choose the amount you wish to pay (as an example, \$35 for regular membership renewal or \$60 for family renewal). Don't type in the \$ sign. Then click the box saying "I would like this donation to go to a specific fund," followed by choosing "Renew Membership" or memorial donations or contributions to certain projects.

Membership

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are always **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are still only \$35 (\$60 for family).

If not already paid, please pay your membership renewal for 2024 soon. Dues can be paid online (see page 14) or mailed to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Or—renew easily at our March Luncheon on March 2nd (see page 2).

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer

and it will indicate when your dues expire. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-2023, your Pioneers membership has expired.

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 to lower your taxes. ❖

**For Questions
contact
Membership Chair
Tudy Johnson
at
johnson2dee@gmail.com**

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

San Jose, early 1800s: Once upon a time, a fruit orchard was planted at First and Santa Clara Streets and wild game was being bagged near the St. James Park area.

San Jose, 1853-1880s: Burnt clay brick was the preferred building material as early as 1853 in San Jose by Americans. The town boasted at least five brick yards in just a few years. By the 1880s during construction of Lick Observatory, a brick yard was provided near the telescope site on Mt. Hamilton.

Bloomfield Farm, Gilroy Area, 1879: Tragedy befell the cattle baron, Henry Miller, when his youngest daughter, 7-year-old Sarah Alice (called "Gussie"), was thrown from a horse which proved fatal. The shock was so severe Miller suffered a nervous breakdown. The town of Gustine, founded by Henry Miller in Merced County, is named in her memory. Henry Miller (1827–1916) was

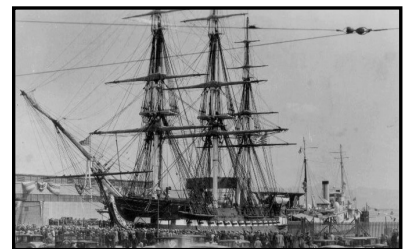
a German-American rancher known as the "Cattle King of California" who at one point in the late 19th century was one of the largest land-owners in the United States.

New Almaden, 1886: Greystone and Alamitos were small train stations created when the Southern Pacific RR ran a branch line to New Almaden from 1886 until 1898. Greystone was a spur that carried sandstone from the Goodrich Quarry. Southern Pacific built their New Almaden line just four months after South Pacific Coast RR built their line to New Almaden.

Santa Clara: 1912: Sing Kee was the weather expert of his day. Disregarding barometers, thermometers and other data, Sing Kee's only instrument "was a pet bull frog" who somehow assisted. Sing's weather forecasts were highly regarded by our valley ranchers. This renowned Chinese weatherman

with a strong accent gave his reports by a daily press release.

San Jose, April 1933: The USS Constitution (pictured below), the hero ship of a once-young 1812 American navy, was visiting San Francisco. San Josean Fred Dealing, years before, served as a young first-class seaman aboard the restored Man-O' War when she was a training ship during the Civil War. Mr. Dealing was marking time, hoping to tread once again the decks of the old frigate, but he lacked funds for the trip. A few of his friends heard of Dealing's plight and in no time brought the old sailor on deck of Old Ironsides that once swept the seas like a meteor. ❖



Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills

Nancy Hill

Maryann Bulich Snitter



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Rick Helin, Pioneers Film Archives

Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for CA 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.