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The Keesling Trees By Beth Wyman

Whenever I drive to San Jose from Morgan Hill along Monterey Road I am forced to think about Horace Greely Keesling who died in 1940. This stretch of road was, of course, the original route of the Spanish explorers who established the 600-mile chain of California Missions from San Diego to Sonoma. It was the *El Camino Real*, the "Royal Road" or "King's Highway." In Santa Clara County it was also more recently less affectionately referred to as "Blood Alley" prior to the construction of the Highway 101 bypass in the 1980s. But in 1900, Keesling was the champion who, with his sons and nearby property owners, began planting Black Walnut

Tree seedlings along the then two-lane road. They grew in a double row 100 feet apart along each side of *El Camino Real*. They continued this practice for eleven years until there was a continuous stretch of trees for 30 miles, from San Jose to Gilroy.

As a pioneer advocate of highway beautification, Keesling was a staunch promoter of shade and his purpose was to provide a more comfortable journey for travelers, including his own family who made the trip each summer to Pacific Grove. Although no adequate early data about the first tree planting can be found, a photo of the double row of trees appeared in the

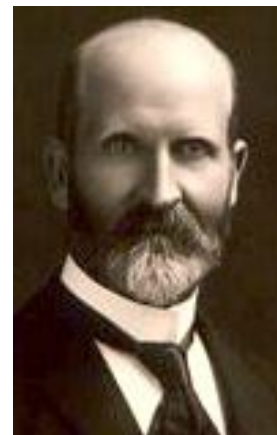


Photo courtesy of Charlene Duval and Sourisseau Academy

Horace Keesling
Father of Monterey Road
Black Walnut Trees

Gilroy Dispatch in 1985. Keesling had plenty of credentials for taking on this project. He was the long-time Farm Editor for the *San Jose Mercury News* and also manager of the Hayes Estate in Edenvale. This lavish home was built by wealthy Wisconsin mine owner and spiritualist Mary Hayes Chynoweth, and included spacious separate quarters for her two prominent sons and their families.

The eastern row of Black Oak trees was removed when the Monterey Highway was widened to four

(Continued p. 2)



Left, Keesling Trees on Monterey Rd. near Blossom Hill Rd. in 1984. Trees gone to make way for new Walmart.

Photo:
Beth Wyman

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Join the Pioneers at the *Three Flames* Saturday, March 9th at 11:00 AM for our awesome quarterly luncheon. Make reservations by Wednesday, March. 6th. For more details, see page 4.

Keesling Trees (Continued)

Photo courtesy of Charlene Duval and Sourisseau Academy



Keesling's walnut trees near Coyote in the 1920s.

lanes. Two west-side trees were lost to the Bailey Avenue overpass in 1991 and a few more were removed for the construction of the Cal Pine plant at Coyote in 2002. Subsequent "topping" by PG&E has severely diminished the intended effect. However, even with these intrusions, it is remarkable that so many of the trees remain today and continue to produce a plentiful Fall harvest of nuts. This production is amazing—the trees are up to 112 years old! In the past, the San Jose bakeries sent their employees to gather crops



Clyde Arbuckle stands next to the Keesling Trees bronze plaque at the 1985 dedication. The Pioneers partnered with the Clampers on this project.

in San Martin, and continue on the east side of the road to Leavesley Road in Gilroy.

My personal interest in the trees began as a former County employee. With no designated County historian at the time, I often fielded "historic" inquiries. Whenever the County Roads crew was planning a work schedule I received a call from Julie, a County Roads employee, who asked, "Remind us about those trees?" I would repeat again, "They are historic! Leave them alone!" And they always did.

The trees were designated a *California Point of Interest* in 1986, which was initiated by the members of the local Mountain Charlie Chapter of *E. Clampus Vitus*. A large Clampers plaque is located on the west side of Monterey Road near Skyway Drive.

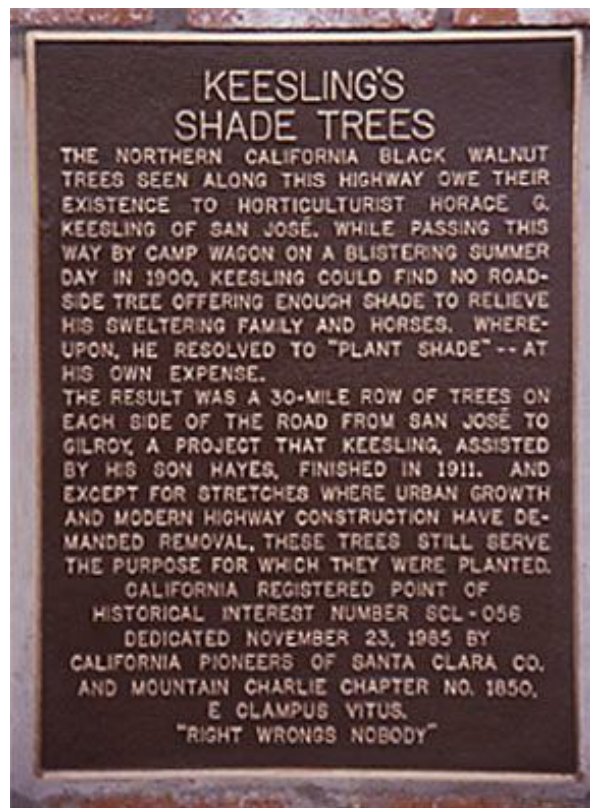
Later to my surprise, there was a more recent inquiry from a High Speed Rail consultant, working on the Environmental Impact Report, who asked about the eleven-mile gap through the City of Morgan Hill. An educated guess is that the trees were removed when Monterey Highway was widened to four lanes through town in 1939, although, curiously, the trees do not appear in early 1900s photos of Mor-

gan Hill. And, a long-time native daughter does not remember the trees ever being in the downtown area.

gan Hill. And, a long-time native daughter does not remember the trees ever being in the downtown area.

The descendants of Horace Greely Keesling are still to be found in Santa Clara County. They include Nancy Bartholomew Bean, who is the official Keesling family historian and great-granddaughter of Horace; Cupertino Historian Audrey Butcher (who just recently passed away in December) and was the grand-daughter of Alva Curtis Keesling; and Judge Fritz Kunzel (a long-time college friend) who is descendant of the San Diego branch of Kuechels and Keeslings. His wife, Klonie, and I were roommates at Berkeley in the 1950s. It surely is a small world. So the next time you have an extra few minutes, you might want to drive down Monterey Road and appreciate true longevity—those remarkable historic trees. ❖

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County member Beth Wyman is former Mayor of Morgan Hill and long time member of the County's Historical Heritage Commission.



Message from our President

During the last few wet months, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County has enjoyed many sunny connections with groups on the same path as ours. The cooperative spirit of the history community in Santa Clara County is unparalleled. It is wonderful working shoulder to shoulder with sister organizations toward the common goal of celebrating our local history. Sharing historic information with our Valley (and, through the internet, our world) is greater when the approach is via group effort.

Recently we have connected with these organizations:

The Milpitas Historical Society has taken advantage of the Pioneers Speakers Bureau, and will have various history experts from the Pioneers give presentations to their membership.

History San Jose, a close partner of the Pioneers, continues with their generous spirit and vision of "getting the word out" to the people. Recently, our Film Archive Chair Bill Foley and our Marshall Rick Helin have collaborated with History San Jose's archivists Jim Reed and Ken Middlefield to convert films and images so they are usable and accessible to the public. Buried in the warehouses at History San Jose are valuable glass plate photographs and moving film. By partnering with us, History San Jose will have the benefit of the Pioneers properly cleaning, preserving, storing and digitizing treasured images from our past. Austen Warburton Award recipient Tim Peddy is spearheading that effort.

At History San Jose's History Park, we are also the sponsors of "The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County present: Westward Ho!" It is an interactive hands-on program for school children, with the goal of having the students experience the perils and rewards of long treks taken on by pioneering

families. With the educational guidance of Barbara Johnston and others, the children even get to sit in a covered wagon! History San Jose is at www.historysanjose.org.

We have been working with the Sourisseau Academy on exciting projects. The Sourisseau is based within San Jose State University archives. They are the premiere collector of images from Santa Clara County's past. The Pioneers often bid on images of interest on EBay, and we were always bidding against the Sourisseau. I made the decision that the Sourisseau is better able to index, preserve, and make available to the public those images that were "up for highest bidder" online. So, we find images and contact the Sourisseau to obtain them – and, more importantly, we don't bid against them. Our Marshall Rick Helin is like a modern day Sherlock Holmes, finding all the images worth finding. Retired SJSU Professor Tom Layton heads up Les Amis de Sourisseau, a non-profit that secures images and donates them to the Sourisseau Academy. I cannot tell you how much fun we have had working with Tom. (We are thrilled Tom has joined the Pioneers as our newest Life Member.) The Pioneers has also designated our Board Member April Halberstadt as liaison to the Sourisseau. Learn more at www.sourisseauacademy.org/

Another connection we have made recently is with Santa Clara University. I will be presenting a course there, through their Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, ably run by History Professor Bob Senkewicz. The course will be "The History of San Jose: 300 Years of Significant Events." I encourage our membership to peruse the catalog and attend some Osher programs. www.scu.edu/osher/

Finally, I want to recognize some of the "heavy hitters" of local historic collections. When we come up against a wall,



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Paul Bernal, President
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

for example when trying to locate an elusive image for our Trailblazer journal, we call upon certain experts, including: Charlene Duval, Mary Hanel, Beth Wyman, Franklin Maggi, Tom Layton, Ralph Pearce, Jim Reed, Ken Middlebrook, and Leilani Marshall. Many of them are in several history organizations. Franklin and Charlene are associated with the research team "Archives and Architecture." You can see their great works at www.archivesandarchitecture.com/AboutUs.html.

On our joint education adventures, the synergy, creativity, and spirit within our history community makes for an exceptional ride.

-Paul Bernal

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The Pioneers is a 501(c)3
not for profit organization

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, March 9th, 2013

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Make Reservations by Wednesday, March 6th

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

Cost \$25 (make checks payable to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon)

Presentation

The *Jenny Lind* Disaster

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak
tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms.

Greek Chicken

[Above served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes]

Pasta Primavera

Penne Pasta Marinara and Vegetables

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.

December Luncheon Awards



Above, Parker Jackson received the Outstanding Service Award for his work at the Hacienda Cemetery from Pioneers President Paul Bernal.

Below, Walter and Patricia Moorhead each received Volunteer of the Year awards at the December Pioneers luncheon. They have served as docents at the Paulson House for many years.



Photos: Tim Peddy

Joseph Olcott McKee – Letters Tell a Tale

By Russell H. Robinson

Joseph Olcott McKee was a successful ship captain, architect, builder, farmer and orchardist. He had a farm near what is today McKee Road and a portion of his farm later became the site of San Jose High School. The home he built there was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. Joseph died in 1907. However, one of the homes he designed and built for his daughter, Isabella McKee Lundy, still stands at 592 North 17th Street in San Jose, between Jackson and Empire Streets. The mantel from Joseph's destroyed home is preserved in the Isabella McKee Lundy home.

In 1991 descendants of the McKee family, Donise and Scott Ferrel, painstakingly transcribed into text over 100 letters hand-written by Joseph's father, Captain Henry McKee. There are also a few letters from Joseph McKee. Henry and Joseph arrived on separate ships to the Bay Area in 1850.

The Ferrels took care not to change any aspects of the letters, but rather transcribed the material exactly as written. They presented a book of the transcribed letters to Kenneth McKee Coykendall, grandson of Joseph Olcott McKee, on Kenneth's 93rd birthday. The letters reveal what life in this area was like in the mid 1800s.

January 20, 1852 - A Letter by Joseph McKee

Joseph McKee writes to his mother Sarah, who lives on the East Coast, and tells her about his farm in San Jose. He writes he employed a new improved style of plowing. Joseph has rigged the plough so that it does not need a man to hold it, but only requires a man to drive the team. This eliminates \$50 per month wages paid to an extra man. With this method he tells her he can break two acres of

ground in a day, and do the best plough job in Santa Clara County.

Joseph writes that he is very pleased with the daguerreotypes that she has sent his father, Captain Henry McKee. He writes he was up river with a load of cargo and returned to San Francisco where he was told that his father was away on his vessel. Joseph wrote that he stayed in San Francisco for a few days and would not think of leaving until his father came back. He says at last, the happy day arrived with the return of his father and he (Joseph) received "great pleasure to once more be able to behold my dear mother, brother and sisters" in their daguerreotypes.

Joseph says he looks forward to the hopeful day in the not far distant future of again seeing them in reality. He tells his mother that his father is so proud of them, showing the daguerreotypes of his family to everyone he knows.

In a striking account of the times, Joseph writes that he went into town (San Jose), and saw a Spaniard hung (sic) for horse stealing. This was the seventh man hung (sic) in this town. He goes on to say that hanging is so common here that it is thought of no more than stringing up a bullock. He tells of the gallows being erected in the center of the square and that it has stood there for a year, standing there still, waiting for more victims. Joseph writes that the Spaniards think it rather tough for Americans to come here and string up their countrymen for horse stealing. He says the Spaniards consider it an honor for a man to steal and not to get caught, for it



Photo of Joseph O. McKee who was active in starting the South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso and was its first Commodore. This photo hangs in the clubhouse and was probably taken when he was in his 60s at the wheel of his sailing vessel, Comrado.

displays so much cunning and is considered a highly esteemed trait.

Joseph further writes that the Spaniards deal with theft by requiring the thief to return the stolen horse or one of equal value. He reflects that there is quite a contrast between the Americans versus the Spaniards mode of operation. ❖

Russ Robinson is the Historian and Honorary Staff Commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso, California. Robinson generously donated copies of the McKee letters to the Archives of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and to the California Room at the Martin Luther King Library.

The Last Liberty Ship

By Gayle Frank

At the December luncheon of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Dennis Koller and Paul Vezinaw entertained Pioneers members and guests with the history, images and stories of the United States Liberty ships. Liberty ships were cargo ships built during World War II. They were known to be inexpensive, could be built quickly and came to symbolize the mighty U.S. wartime industrial output. Koller described three miracles associated with the Liberty ships: 1) America had excellent manufacturing abilities to build the ships, 2) the English ship design, adapted by the U.S., was extremely functional, and 3) to this day, a Liberty ship is still a sea-worthy vessel after seven decades.

There were 2,710 Liberty ships built in America during WWII but they were generally not recognized for their importance and significance in the war, even though Churchill said, "The war would not have been won without the Liberty ships." At the time, President Roosevelt required England to pay the United States in gold instead of currency for the transport of goods and recruits by Liberty ships, just in case England was forced into bankruptcy or worse.

Between 1940-1945, many Liberty ships were built in the Bay Area. Henry J. Kaiser devised a way to build ship components at various locations and then bring them together for assembly. The cargo ships were designed to carry up to 10,000 long tons. They were quickly built because riveting replaced welding when seaming the parts together.

Koller's and Vezinaw's presentation focused on the last of the Liberty ships - the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* pictured below. She was built in 1943 in Maine. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* was named for the first American to capture a British naval vessel during the Revolutionary War.

The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* made seven World War II voyages to various continents. She accomplished eleven crossings of the English Channel, carrying personnel and supplies to Normandy in preparation for D-Day.

After the war she was maintained afloat in the "mothball fleet" of Suisun Bay, near Benecia, California. United States Maritime Administration Regional Director Rear Admiral Thomas J. Patterson (a former Liberty ship sailor) was responsible for saving the *SS Jeremiah*

O'Brien by moving the vessel to the rear of the reserve fleet each time ships were sent to the scrap yard. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* was the only vessel to steam out of the mothball fleet under her own power, 33 years after she was anchored there! Many generous donations of money, supplies and restoration work brought the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* back to her former glory.

Only two intact Liberty ships exist today. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* is the only authentic Liberty ship remaining that can sail on her own power. She was the lone Liberty ship that sailed to Europe in 1994 for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. She is a rare survivor of the 6,939-ship armada that stormed Normandy on

(Continued on p. 7)

Photo: Tim Peddy



Paul Vezinaw and Dennis Koller, speakers at the Pioneers December luncheon



The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* sails under the Golden Gate

Photo: <http://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org/>

Jenny Lind Disaster Monument Dedication Scheduled

By Claire Britton-Warren

The December 2012 issue of Trailblazer Vol. 53, Issue 4, featured the story of the steamboat Jenny Lind disaster. Last month, the Santa Clara County Parks Commission unanimously approved the installation of an historic marker commemorating the disaster in Alviso Marina County Park.

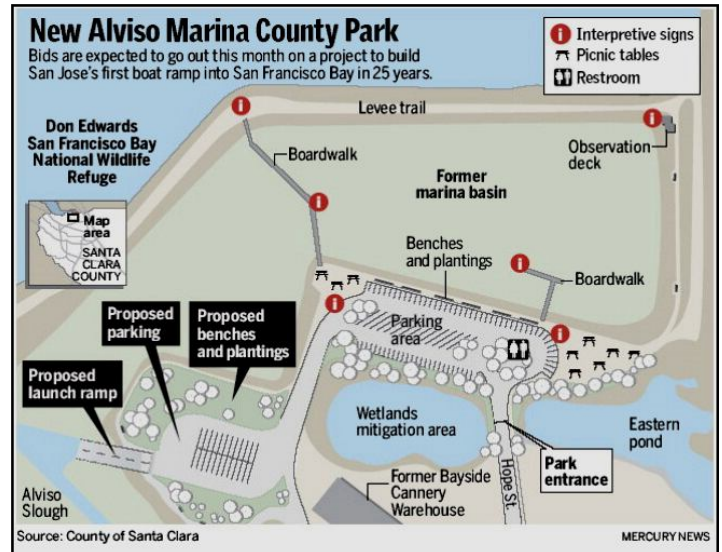
The marker is to be placed in the Alviso historic district, near the site of the old Port of Alviso from which the Jenny Lind departed on that fateful date in 1853. The marker proposal was approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on January 29th, 2012.

The formal dedication of the Steamboat Jenny Lind Disaster monument is scheduled for 11am on Saturday, April 13th, 2013, at the west end of the Alviso Marina County Park main parking lot. The dedication coincides with the 160th anniversary of the tragedy and the public is invited to attend.

Speakers at the dedication will include Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese, local historians and the 'The Jenny Lind Gang', the research team who worked on the project.

Re-enactors in historic costuming will be on hand to answer questions, so bring your camera! The South Bay Yacht Club will host a brief, traditional non-denominational memorial for those lost at sea with the ringing of a ceremonial ship's bell. 'Eight bells' signified the end of a sailor's watch and meant that all was well and that it was time to rest.

This event will take place rain or shine. ❖



Directions to Alviso Marina County Park are available on the Parks Department web site at <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Maps%20Here/Pages/Alviso-Marina-County-Park.aspx> or by calling (408) 262-6980.



Liberty Ship (Continued)

D-Day. At the historic celebration, the Queen of England reviewed the ship and crew from her royal yacht and U.S. President Clinton visited the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* in Normandy.

The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* is the only Liberty ship with its original configuration. The ship still contains the original radio room and engine. Consequently, for the filming of the movie "Titanic," a Hollywood crew filmed the engines in motion, and recorded the massive churning metallic sounds of the pistons. Sadly, no mention of the *O'Brien* was given in the movie credits, much to the

consternation of the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* staff and volunteers.

The rare *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* is a significant living museum and is historically accurate. This National Historic Landmark serves as a prime San Francisco tourist attraction and is open to the public most days. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* offers a youth overnight program and several Bay cruises during the year, including two for Fleet Week. ❖

Close to home at Pier 45 in San Francisco, the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* stands ready for visitors to travel back to the past. Phone: (415) 544-0100; Email liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org.

Would you like to go green and read the Trailblazer online? Do you toss the Trailblazer after reading it? Why not save paper and receive an email notification and link to read the newsletter online? Just notify Gayle Frank at 408-275-6889 or gaylefrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email and Trailblazer link as soon as the newsletter is ready.

Using less paper means saving trees and reducing water consumption from paper manufacturing. Did you know that the United States uses a quarter of the world's paper products – more than 748 pounds per person per year? ❖

Famous Grizzly Bear Attack in 1854

By Michael A. Shea, M.D.

Charles Henry McKiernan built his ranch in the mountains southwest of Los Gatos in June of 1851. Mountain Charley, his local name, was more of a hunter than a rancher. He hunted deer and sold the venison to buyers in San Francisco. He was also known for his grizzly bear hunting.

Grizzly bears abounded in the area. According to one Franciscan padre in Santa Cruz, they were numerous, "prowling about in herds, like hogs on a farm." These animals, known for their ferocity, could reach eight feet in height and weigh up to eight hundred pounds.

On May 11, 1854, Charley and a man named Taylor, were deer hunting near his ranch when they encountered a very large grizzly bear. Taylor fired the first shot and missed. Charley fired and the ball struck the bear in the head, but did not penetrate. The bear, stunned, fell to the ground. Charley struck him on the head with his gun, breaking the barrel. The bear immediately arose with his huge jaw wide open and snapped at Charley crushing his skull and tearing out a piece of bone just above the left eye. After biting the victim on both arms, the bear crashed through the brush and headed down the mountain.

Dr. T. J. Ingersoll was called to attend to Charley and the following is his actual account of the incident and the treatment. " My partner, Dr. A. W. Bell, went out, and found him next morning about sunrise, with the front part of his head terribly mangled and some wounds on both arms, but rational. The piece of skull taken out by the animal, was sent in with a request that I should have a plate of silver made and come out immediately to assist in dressing the wound.



Making all necessary preparation, I hastened to the patient, getting there about 9 o'clock pm, when I found that the piece of bone of Os Frontis [forehead bone] sent in was only about half of the bone taken out. On the next morning [I] returned to San Jose to have another plate made, sufficiently large to cover the brain - getting back to the patient the same day at 8 o'clock pm.

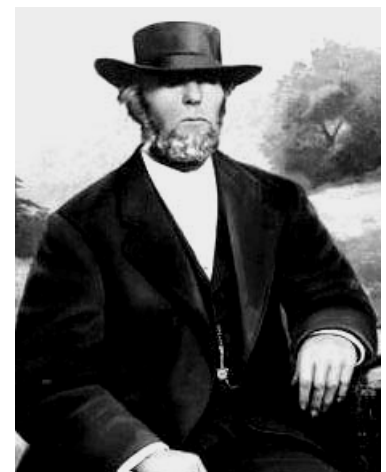
Dr. Bell and myself proceeded to apply the plate and dress the wounds; got through about 11 o'clock p.m. The part of the bone detached was all that portion of the Os Frontis [forehead bone], above the left eye and nose, and in the orbit about three fourths of an inch—taking a portion of the zygomatic process [side skull bone above ear], ranging up about four inches parallel with the coronal suture, from that point, irregularly to the right of the root of the nose, about three and three quarter inches on each of the three sides. The muscles and integument [surface skin] were brought together and secured with sutures—soon closed by first intention, with the exception of two or three points for the matter to flow, and where the parts would not meet.

By general bleeding and cold applications to the head, very little disturbance took place. After the expiration of a week, I found that the plate was irritating the parts so much that it was impossible for them to become sound, and immediately took it out, very much against the wishes of the patient.

I would mention that it was at the urgent solicitation of the patient that the plate was used in the first place, notwithstanding the exhortations of his physicians. The wound healed kindly with the exception of

the two points on each side of the nose, where there were some spicula [spikes] of bone, which kept up some irritation and discharging of matter. The left eyeball, in consequence of the muscles above it contracting not having sufficient support, turned up about eight degrees. General health good.

Some twelve months after the events above, the patient, having suffered from an intolerable pain in the head,
(Continued on p. 9)



Charles Henry McKiernan
*wearing his hat low
to cover his scars.*

Grizzly Bear Attack (Continued)

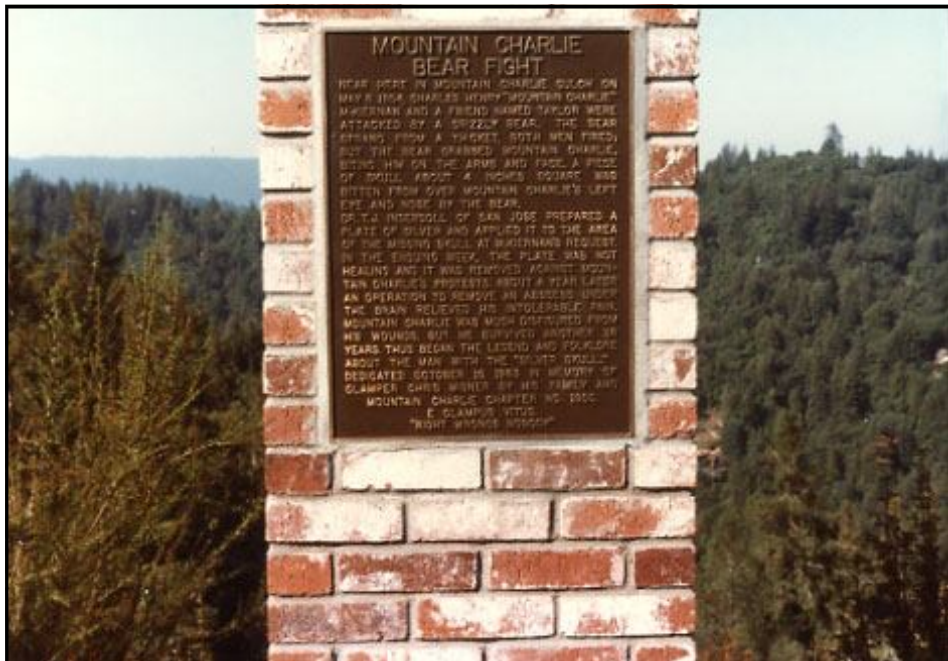
came into town, and consulted Dr. Spencer and myself. It was decided to perform an operation. Accordingly, we with some others, waited for him at the National Hotel, where after administering chloroform, the operation took place.

We cut down and found a deep seated abscess under the anterior lobe of the brain, at least two inches deep. Above and behind the nasal process, which was discharging through the small sinus above the left eye. The operation had the desired effect—the abscess soon got well, and the patient was relieved of the pain he had been suffering some time before.

His health is good, but as a matter of course his face is much disfigured. He does not think that his mind or memory has been affected by the injury he received from the bear, but he sometimes complains of a dull sensation in the region of the brain."

Mountain Charley survived another thirty-eight years, passing away January 16, 1892. ❖

Dr. Michael Shea is a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and serves as Chair of the Leon P. Fox History Committee, Santa Clara County Medical Association. He especially thanks William A. Wulf, Los Gatos Historian, for providing the correspondence from Dr. T. J. Ingersoll.



Mountain Charlie Bear Fight Plaque installed by the Mt. Charlie Chapter, E Clampus Vitus (the Clampers), whose chapter is named after famed Charley McKiernan.

Photos & sketch from www.mountaincharlie1850.org

WANTED:

YOUR FILMS



The Pioneers Film Archive wants to preserve your home movies and provide you DVD copies. For info, contact us!

(408)317-8249

Films@CaliforniaPioneers.com

Visit Pioneers' Calendar

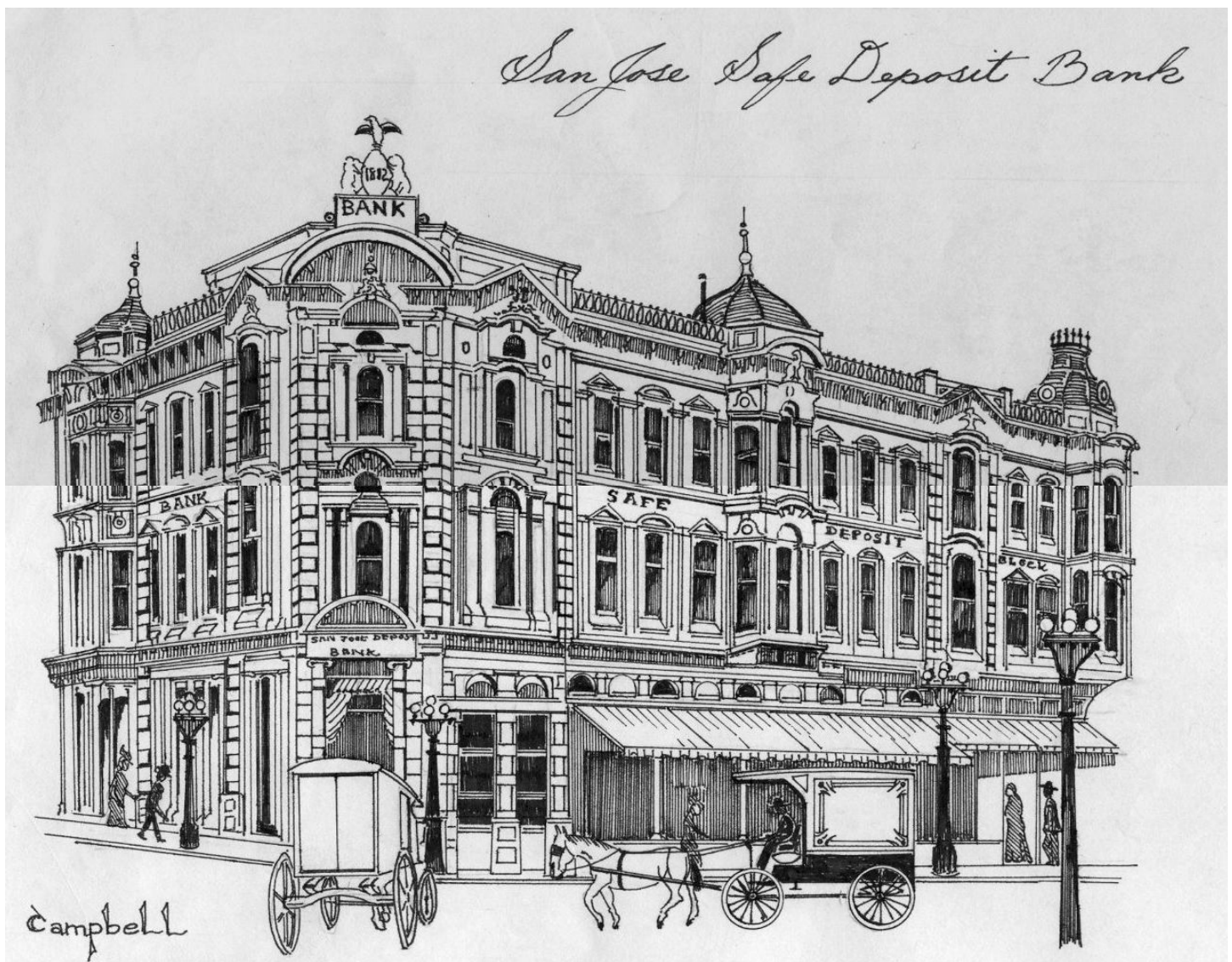


The "History Calendar - Santa Clara County" is on our website at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com and then click on "Calendar."



Please remember to renew your 2013 membership!

San Jose Safe Deposit Bank by Jim Campbell



San Jose Safe Deposit Bank

In 1872 this building was built for the Commercial and Savings Bank on the southeast corner of First and Santa Clara Streets. By the mid-1880s, the building housed the San Jose Safe Deposit Bank with E. McLaughlin as president and John E. Auzerais as cashier. It sat across the street from San Jose's first bank, the Bank of San Jose.

The banking rooms in the San Jose Safe Deposit Bank were described in 1888 as elegant and equipped with one of the

largest and best safety deposit vaults in perhaps the whole country, being fire and burglar proof with double doors and time-locks.

However, a most daring robbery took place in 1892 with \$10,000 worth of gold coins stolen and never recovered. Following this incident, cages and steel safeguards in banks became the norm.

This building had much to offer with its architectural finery. However, as

beautiful as this building was, it was razed to make way for a 13-story Bank of Italy, later to become known as the Bank of America building. ❖

-From "Down Memory Lane"

J. Howard (Jim) Campbell, a Pioneers member, formed his own company reproducing his original art into prints that can be found in prestigious galleries, maritime museums, and shops around the country. Many of his drawings have won awards in competitive art shows. Jim also wrote and illustrated "From Cinnabar to Quicksilver."

Film Archive News By Bill Foley

The Pioneers Film Archive continues to grow and contribute to local museums and education. We have several new films and photos that will soon be online.

Thanks to Ralph Pearce of the San Jose Public Library's California Room, the Pioneers Film Archive is currently digitizing the collection of Ralph Horio, a former Willow Glen rancher and baseball player, who owned a large prune orchard between Foxworthy, Koch, and Almaden Roads in the 1940s. Several high-quality color films depicting the working of that orchard by Horio and his family, before and after they were interned during World War II, have been donated to us.

These films also include footage of the Japanese-American baseball teams, the Asahis and Zebras, playing in makeshift sandlots as well as San Jose Municipal Stadium. The films also include several

local auto races, including the Moffett Field Road Race in 1953 as well as the San Jose Road Race at the Fairgrounds in 1954.

Mark Jordan of Tahoe City, California, has generously donated many of his family films depicting the Bay Area in the late fifties, including fantastic footage of Storyland in San Francisco.

History San Jose has entrusted the Pioneers Film Archive with digitization and restoration of their motion picture holdings, and many of their glass plate slides, thanks to Ken Middlebrook and Jim Reed. This allows us to preserve hundreds of significant films in our database, and enables us to partner with History San Jose more closely, providing many new digital resources for exhibits and online content.

The Pioneers Film Archive Youtube Channel has had over 75,000 people

view our films online thus far. Viewers love what they see, and consistently leave excellent feedback, comments, and reviews.

As a community service, an outreach program, an educational tool, an entertaining way to see history, and as an amazing way to fulfill our charter, we continue to be successful. Thanks to the Pioneers and all of our donors for making this work possible.

Lastly, thanks to Tim Peddy and Rick Helin for their tireless work in the past months transferring film and carting boxes around!

Enjoy the Pioneers Film Archive online at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com. ❖

J. J. Montgomery Gets His Due



J.J. Montgomery at Evergreen in 1911

Local inventor, Santa Clara University Professor and aviation pioneer, John J. Montgomery, finally is being recognized for his contributions to aeronautical innovation. A book titled "Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West" written by Craig S. Harwood and Gary B. Fogel was just published in October of 2012. They tell his pioneering story and reveal his daring accomplishments between 1883 and 1911, the year he died in a test flight in Evergreen.

In 2007 a monument sculpture of a glider wing honoring Montgomery was erected at San Felipe and Yerba Buena Roads in San Jose.

Now it seems a movie may be made about his life. John Giddings and Veronica Craven are raising money to fund their feature movie on Montgomery. It's time we learn more about John Montgomery's fascinating life and his search for controlled flight. ❖

G. Frank

What's In the Paulson House?

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County member Jan Paull donated a Civil War era sword and scabbard to the Pioneers for exhibition at the Pioneers' Paulson House Museum. The sword originally belonged to Charles Brown, who was the stepfather of Jan's grandfather.

Around 1858, Paull's grandfather, Charles Parsons, traveled from Massachusetts to California at about four years of age with his mother Ellen Parsons and sister Minnie. They left Massachusetts because Ellen's husband Thomas Parsons died.

The family set out for Carmel, California, where Ellen's sister, Ann Matilda, lived with her husband, Captain John Clenford. The Parsons traveled by way of the Isthmus of Panama, then sailed on the ship *Golden Gate* to San Francisco. From there it took three days by stage-coach to reach Monterey.

Shortly before the Civil War began in 1861, Ellen was married for the second



Photo: G. Frank

Civil War sword donated to Pioneers by member Jan Paull

time, to Charles Brown in Monterey. When the war broke out Charles Brown enlisted in the infantry—Company K of the Fifth Regiment of the California Volunteers. The family, including Paull's grandfather Charles Parsons, then took a schooner to San Francisco when Company K was stationed at Benicia. The Company made several transfers: Fort Alcatraz, Camp Latham (near Wilmington, south of Los Angeles), and then to Arizona to fight Indians. Ellen and the children stayed near Wilmington until the end

of the war. By 1867 the family crossed the Santa Cruz Mountains and located in San Jose.

Much later in 1885, Paull's grandfather, Charles Parsons, grew up, married Luella Ranne Foster in San Jose and raised Paull's mother and uncle. After Charles Brown's death, his stepson (Paull's grandfather) proudly kept his stepfather's Civil War sword. ❖

Dare to be a Docent

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County offers a unique opportunity to become a docent. Our Paulson House at History San Jose holds a multitude of historical furniture, art and artifacts that makes it easy to talk about with visitors; a version of show and tell. The Paulson House is open on most Sunday afternoons.

We are holding an open house on Sunday, February 17th for those who might want to learn more about becoming a docent. There is no commitment, just information and a tour through the house.

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

Please let us know if you plan to visit us or if you have questions by calling Bev at 408-274-1625 or email her at bev@blockie.com. See you on Sunday, February 17th, 2013, between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. ❖

Photo: Tim Peddy



Above, Diane Alves and Madeline Streight, two Pioneers docents, wear vintage outfits to our last Pioneers luncheon in December.

(Docents do not wear vintage dress when working at the Paulson House unless they want to.)

More About California Volunteers & Company K

By Gayle Frank

Under President Lincoln's second call for troops from the State of California, California Governor John G. Downey authorized and called upon the citizens of this State to form and organize themselves into "volunteer companies." Governor Downey made the request for volunteers on August 23, 1861. Consequently, the Fifth Regiment California Volunteer Infantry was organized at Sacramento in September and October, 1861.

The Fifth Regiment Infantry was part of the Union Army during the American Civil War. The State of California was not called upon to furnish troops for immediate service against Confederate soldiers, and no quota was assigned. With the exception of those enlisted for Massachusetts, the California forces took no part in any of the great battles of the war; yet the service they rendered was of great importance as that rendered by those from other States. The Regiment spent its entire term of service in the western United States, attached to the Departments of the Pacific and New Mexico.

The soldiers in the Fifth Regiment were engaged in hundreds of fights with Indians and small forces of Confederate troops on the frontiers, in Texas and Mexico, and they never knew defeat. It was a constant source of regret among them that they were never ordered East. By their loyalty they preserved peace in the western States and Territories, and the flag of rebellion was soon driven beyond the Rio Grande.

Company K, of the Fifth Regiment, was organized at Santa Cruz by Captain Thomas T. Tidball. Company K was mustered into service at Camp Union (Sacramento area) on November 22, 1861. In 1862 Company K appears to have served in Southern California at Camp Drum, Camp Wright, Camp Latham and Fort Yuma. In 1863-1864 the Company was positioned at Cas

Blanco, Tucson, and Fort Bowie, all in Arizona Territory, and at Fort Craig, New Mexico. They were engaged at Cajou de Arivaypo, Apache Pass, April 25, 1863 and on the Gila River Expedition in Arizona from May to July of 1864. On another skirmish in Arizona Territory, Sergeant Charles Brown, Jan Paull's relative, was mentioned in Captain Tidball's report for his "zeal and energy."

Company K was ordered to Las Cruces, New Mexico, on October 8, 1864 and was mustered out on November 27, 1864, except those enlisted men whose terms had not expired. Those soldiers were transferred to the First Veteran Infantry, California Volunteers. Army records show that Charles Brown of Monterey enlisted on December 4, 1861, mustered in on December 13, 1861 as a private and rose to the rank of sergeant. He was one of the soldiers transferred from Company K to Company F in the First Veteran Infantry on November 26, 1864.

The following quote describes a Company K skirmish: "Remarks on Return of Company K, for May, 1863: Fifteen enlisted men of Company K composed part of the expedition sent against Apache Indians in Canon de Arivaypi, Arizona Territory. The expedition left Tucson on May 2 at dusk; made five successive night marches; built no fires; hid during the day. Surprised and attacked an Apache rancheria on the morning of the seventh. Killed forty-seven Indians; took ten children prisoners; captured sixty-six head of stock, with the loss of one man – a citizen of Arizona. Returned to Tucson on the eleventh, having marched one hundred and eighty miles in five days.

-Brigadier General L. Thomas" ❖

Source: *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867*; revised and compiled by Brigadier Gen. Richard H. Orton, Adjutant – General of California, 1890.

"There is a strong Union feeling with the majority of the people of this State, but the Secessionists are much the most active and zealous party, which gives them more influence than they ought to have from their numbers. I have no doubt but there is some deep scheming to draw California into the secession movement."

April 28, 1861, E. V. Sumner,
Brigadier-General, U.S. Army,
Commanding. Headquarters
Department of the Pacific, San Francisco.

"Outwardly everything is quiet in this country, but I know that there are many men on this coast who are traitors at heart, and who are at this moment writing under the defeats of the Rebels. They are harmless now, however, because so greatly in the minority, but such men require close surveillance. In the southern portion of this State there are more sympathizers with the Rebels than anywhere else."

April 30, 1862, George Wright,
Brigadier-General, U.S. Army,
Commanding. Headquarter
Department of the Pacific, San Francisco.

2013 ANNUAL HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

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FOURTH GRADE WINNER - \$100.00; a seat at the award luncheon plus a seat for a parent or guardian; a one year subscription to the *Trailblazer*. Winner's classroom receives a *History San Jose Westward Ho!* field trip up to \$400.

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ADULT EDUCATION WINNER - \$500.00; a seat at the award luncheon; a one year subscription to or ADULT the *Trailblazer*.

To read past winning essays and rules go to www.CaliforniaPioneers.com. For questions, contact Essay Committee Chair April Halberstadt at aprilhalb@gmail.com, or Paul Bernal at President@CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Time Travel

- **In California, July 1, 1862:** A bill prohibiting marriage without a license was just signed by Governor Leland Stanford.
- **In San Jose, 1878:** The Fredericksburg Brewery delivery wagons were being painted and readied for the summer trade. A number of new wagons were being supplied by Hatman and Normandin, local wagon makers.
- **In San Jose, 1879:** Newspaper ad: "Order your fresh German milk bread from Dellwig's California Bakery. His delivery wagon will take it home for you."
- **In San Jose, 1885:** A hotel room notice said, "This room is equipped with Edison Electric light; do not attempt to light with match. Simply turn key on wall by the door. The use of electricity for lighting is in no way harmful to health nor does it effect the soundness of sleep."
- **In San Jose, 1899:** Pranksters were invading the belfry of the Trinity Church and scandalizing the area by playing such tunes as "Johnnie Get Your Gun" and "A Hot Time in the Old Town" on the chimes.



News
From
the
Past

New Pioneers Member - Welcome!

Greg Annable

Greg is a native San Josean and the son of Pioneers member Gayle Frank. His California ancestors go back to the 1870s with the Reineggers, Broedels and later, the MacLeans. Greg's grandmother Ethel Reinegger is a long-time Pioneers member and San Jose native. Greg works as a computer engineer for Accenture. He enjoys water sports and is an avid kite-surfer.

Lois Karnes Gil

Lois is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. Her parents came to California in 1933. She and William are related to Pioneers member Walter Gil.

William Gil

William also is a native Californian, is married to Lois Gil and lives in San Jose.

Ernest Guzman

Ernest is a native Californian and lives in downtown San Jose. He works as an Executive Analyst for the City of San Jose.

His parents, Anna and Melchor Gil came to California in 1909.

Norine Dodge Kimmy

Norine is a native Californian, lives in San Jose and was a teacher primarily in the South Bay. She is interested in the emigrant routes to California and has participated in locating traces of wagon trails, reading pioneer diaries and visiting historic landmarks. She is an active member of the Argonauts, OCTA (Oregon California Trails Association), and Trails West. Her ancestor was James T. Butterfield who came to California in 1853 and had quite a history of various occupations in Oregon, Hawaii and Arizona. James wrote about his experiences in "Journeys of James Butterfield, 1836-1898, which is on file at the Bancroft Library and the California State Library. James' brother William established Butterfield and Butterfield Auctioneers and Appraisers in San Francisco.

Tom Layton

Tom lives in San Jose and has been a California resident for 56 years. Tom holds a doctorate degree from Harvard in Anthropology and is Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus at San Jose State University. After retiring from teaching in 2003, he continued to record the history and prehistory of Mendocino County. He has published numerous books and articles and has received many awards, including designation in 2003 as President's Scholar at SJSU, the highest university award for scholarly achievement by a member of the university faculty. He presently serves as the Acquisitions Curator for Sourisseau Academy of State and Local History at San Jose State University.



Membership Report

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 469 members as of January, 2013. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues for 2013, you may pay at the March luncheon or you can mail them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA. 95155. For members who have not paid their 2013 dues, this will be your last newsletter.

Please go to CaliforniaPioneers.com and select "Membership Information" from the menu on the left. There you will see the various benefits and categories of membership. Additional donations are appreciated. Please remember the Pioneers in your estate planning.

If you have questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.

Membership Categories

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

Pioneers Gone on to the Golden Hills



***Audrey Edna Butcher
Barbara Johnsen
Nicholas Mlinarich***



CALIF. PIONEERS of SANTA CLARA CO.

Established 1875

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San Jose, CA 95155

Tel: 408-293-2641
Email: info@CaliforniaPioneers.com

We're on the Web!
www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

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

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