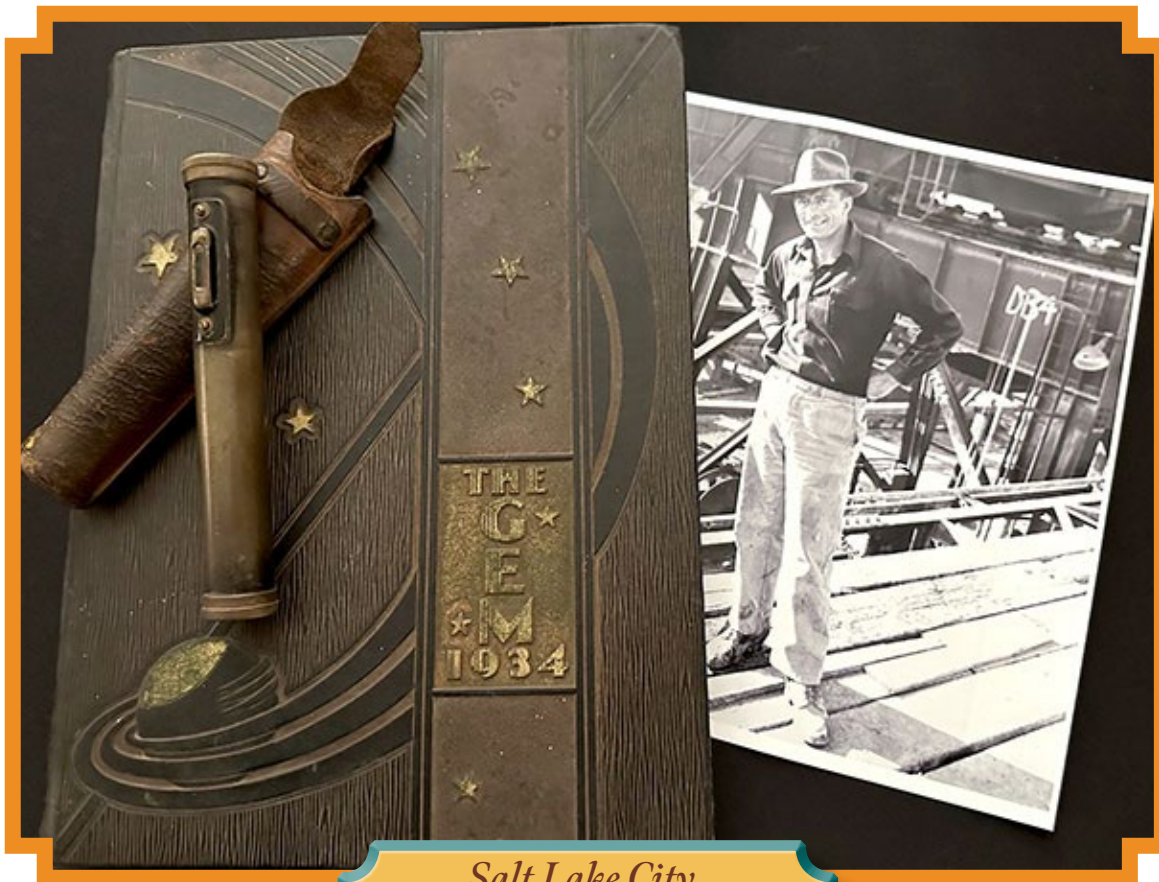




Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Summer 2024 Vol. 49, No.2



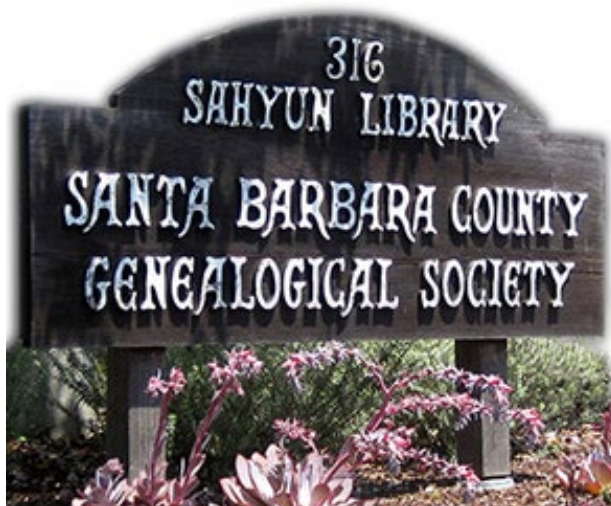
*Salt Lake City,
Discovering Treasures*

Favorite Experience or Story as a Genealogist

A Ship and a Trip Called Success

Book Woman! Bring Me a Book!

The Scandalous Life and Tragic Death of Mary E. Robinson



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

www.sbgen.org

E-mail: info@sbgen.org

Sahyun Genealogy Library (SBCGS facility)

316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara 93101

Phone: (805) 884-9909

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Sunday 1:00–4:00 PM

Third Saturday 1:00–4:00 PM (Except August)

Membership: Benefits include *Tree Tips* monthly newsletter and *Ancestors West* (quarterly publication).

Active (individual)–\$40; **Family** (2 same household)–\$60; **Friend**–\$50;
Donor–\$75; **Patron**–\$150; **Life**–\$1000 (one-time donation)

Meetings: Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. at State Street in Santa Barbara. At 9:30, special interest groups (SIGs) meet that include the following: Writers, JewishGen, DNA, German Ancestry Research, Genealogy and Technology, Italian Roots, French Canadian Genealogy, Civil War, New Member and Beginning Genealogy, and Scandinavian Roots.

The Mission Statement of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society helps people, wherever they are from, discover, document, share, and preserve their family histories.

Vision Statement

We are a premier genealogical resource inspiring discovery of ancestral, cultural, and ethnic roots.

Ancestors West is currently published quarterly in February, May, August, November. Articles of family history or of historical nature are welcomed and used as space permits (see inside back cover for submission details). As available, current and back issues are \$6.00 each plus postage. Library subscription to *Ancestors West* is \$20.00 per year. *Ancestors West* is indexed in the **PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)** published by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

SBCGS Board of Directors 2023–2024

OFFICERS

President: Ted Tazer-Myers
V.P. Operations: Karen Ramsdell
Secretary: Mary Jacob
Treasurer: Robert Goeller III
Membership Director: Kate Lima

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Marilyn Compton
Chris Klukkert
Heather McDaniel McDevitt
Bob Muller
William Noack
Marie Sue Parsons
Liz Smith
John Woodward

TITLED DIRECTORS

Communication: Diane Sylvester
Development Director: Ted Tazer-Myers (Interim)
Education Director: Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal
Library Director: Laurie Hannah
Property Director: Fred Marsh
Technology Director: Molly Gleason

ORGANIZATION & COMMITTEES

Ancestors West Editor: Charmien Carrier
Book Nook Sales: Kristin Ingalls
Book Acquisitions: Christine Klukkert
Budget & Finance: Michel Nellis
Governance: Karen Ramsdell
Investment: Mary Hall
Library Aesthetics: Kristin Ingalls
Public Relations: Liz Smith
Records Preservation: Dorothy Oksner
Social: Heather McDaniel McDevitt
Tree Tips Editor: Diane Sylvester
Volunteer Coordinator: Kathy Cremeen
Webmaster: Rosa Avolio

PAST PRESIDENTS

Art Sylvester 2022-'23
Karen Ramsdell 2016-'21
Marie Sue Parsons 2014-'16
Robert Bason 2012-'14
Mary E. Hall 2010-'12
Art Sylvester 2006-'10
Michol Colgan 2003-'06
Sheila Block 2002-'03
James Friestad 2000-'02
Emily Hills Aasted 1998-'00
Janice Gibson Cloud 1996-'98
Cheryl Fitzsimmons Jensen 1994-'96
Carol Fuller Kosai 1993-'94
Beatrice Mohr McGrath 1989-'92
Ken Mathewson 1987-'88
Janice Gibson Cloud 1985-'86
Doreen Cook Dullea 1984
Norman E. Scofield 1983
Harry Titus 1982
Emily Petty Thies 1981
Bette Gorrell Kot 1980
Harry Titus 1979
Mary Ellen Galbraith 1978
Carlton M. Smith 1977
Selma Bankhead West 1975-'76
Harry R. Glen 1974-'75
Carol Roth 1972-'73

inside this issue...

- 2 From the Editor** *By Charmien Carrier*
- 3 Identity** *By Michel Cooper Nellis*
- 4 The Great House Detective** *By Betsy J. Green*
- 6 Some Highlights from Salt Lake City** *By Laurie Hannah, Ann Picker, Holly Snyder, Judy Thompson, Chris Klukkert, and Kate Lima*
- 9 A Ship and a Trip Called Success** *By Kathryn Field*
- 10 Salt Lake City, Discovering Treasures** *By Judy Thompson and Kate Lima*
- 12 This Old House: A Sesquicentennial Nears** *By Melville R. V. Sahyun, Ph.D.*
- 16 Book Woman! Bring Me a Book!** *By Kate Lima*
- 21 Unexpected Thrill** *By Sharon Summer*
- 21 Surname Index**
- 22 Over a Century of Service: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Military**
By the AAPI Exhibit Committee, compiled by Mary Hancock
- 25 When Our Santa Barbara Chinatown Vanishes, Forever** *By Raymond Douglas Chong*
- 26 Histories of Santa Barbara Asian American Religious Institutions**
- 29 The Scandalous Life and Tragic Death of Mary E. Robinson** *By Christine Klukkert*
- Inside Back Cover: Author Guidelines for Ancestors West**
- Back Cover: Suggested theme for AW fall issue**

Land Acknowledgment Statement:

"The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish."



FROM THE EDITOR

Charmien Carrier

charmien2940@gmail.com

MY EXPERIENCE WORKING on the *Ancestors West* editorial committee for the past ten years has been enlightening. During the process, I've seen how important it is to develop a theme that inspires people to write their stories. Once a theme is suggested, the journal has a life of its own. This issue's suggested theme is "Favorite stories or experiences as a genealogist." Sometimes it can be hard to choose a favorite story or experience. I know that in my case, I've visited the places that my ancestors came from: France, Germany, and Quebec. All of them were special, leaving me with wonderful memories to write about so I won't forget them and can also share them with my family.

Just such experience was when a group of our members went on the society's annual trip to Salt Lake City to visit the FamilySearch Library. They now have many stories to share about their finds and experiences. These stories were so inspiring that it made me want to go on the Salt Lake trip next year. After reading about their discoveries, you may end up feeling the same way.

Kate Lima tells the story of a do-good female relative who was part of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) Packhorse Library, delivering books to people in remote areas of the Appalachians by horseback.... On the other hand, we have stories of ne'er do well relatives. Chris Klukkert made a whopping discovery about a scandalous grandaunt. Michel Nellis found out that her great-grandfather lived under various names and identities. What was he running from?

May marks the annual celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the United States. As part of that, our AAPI Exhibit Committee has produced several articles on the AAPI's participation in the military and in religious organizations.

Have you ever wondered about the history of the old Victorian house on the society's property? Mel Sahyun gives us the whole story.

Our suggested theme for our fall issue is "Settlements and Immigrant Trails." Do you have a relative who helped establish a settlement or town? Do you know how your ancestors traveled? Were they part of a migration? **The fall issue deadline for stories is August 1, 2024.** Do you want to know ahead of time what themes are in store? Soon, *Ancestors West* will suggest themes for an entire year giving you some extra time to plan your writing.

If you have any suggestions for themes (or anything else), we'd love to hear from you. Your input is important to us, so please don't hesitate to speak up and share your thoughts."

We also plan to have a recurring series on:

- Recommended websites
- Obsolete items
- Heirlooms
- Santa Barbara News from the past

Most of us treasure our family heirlooms; I have a pincushion that has been in the family for as long as I can remember. The reason that I think it is special is that it was made by the Iroquois around the turn of the 19th century. It is called an "Iroquois Beaded Whimsy."

"Native American "whimsies" are beadwork attributed to Woodland Indian women during Victorian times, approximately 1840-1900, which were made for sale as souvenirs in the Iroquois areas and Niagara Falls. Beaded bags and non-utilitarian "whimsies" became an important source of income for Iroquois women helping to support their families."*

"Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy practice raised beading, where threads are pulled taut to force beads into a bas-relief, which creates a three-dimensional effect."**

My "whimsie" is a heart-shaped pincushion that features a bird sewn onto purple velvet. It is now faded with age, but one of my favorite keepsakes. I believe that it may have been purchased by my ancestors traveling from Canada to New York.

*KimRitter.com

**Wikipedia.com.

We all look forward to reading about our members' treasures, memories, and stories. Rummage through your memories, and send those stories to *Ancestors West* for publication.



Identity

By Michel Cooper Nellis

GENEALOGY IS ABOUT FAMILIES, family names, geographical locations, and events. To me, genealogy is the biggest jigsaw puzzle I have ever tackled without a picture to guide me in putting it together.

Identity seemed a rather odd subject to write about until I was reminded of the family story about great-grandfather Grafton Sisk who abandoned his family, took on a new name, and moved from Colusa in the Sacramento Valley of California to Humboldt County in rural northern California.

In his younger days, while living in Sutter County, Grafton had a run-in with the law and was arrested for grand larceny. He was jailed but escaped and hightailed it over the mountains to Colusa. It was there he settled. In 1872, he married Annie Riordan, an Irish immigrant. They had six children, one of whom was Anna, my grandmother, born in 1886. Soon after her birth, Grafton left the family and never returned.

Where did he go? In 1888 he was in Tehama County in northern California and listed on the Great Register for that year as Grafton Sisk. Then in 1890, he was listed in Adin township in Modoc County, still using his given name. In an undated recorded interview with

My cousin quickly found him under his assumed name, Granville W. Jackson, on the 1892 Great Register of Humboldt County, and on subsequent census records for Humboldt County in 1900, 1910, and 1920. He always listed his place of birth as Missouri and an age equivalent to being born in 1845 (Grafton's year of birth). She was unable to find any reference to Granville Jackson prior to 1892 so she was convinced she had found Grafton using a new identity.

While living in Colusa, Granville tended livestock, so it is not surprising to learn that he also tended stock when, in his later years, he worked in the dairy run by the Humboldt County Hospital. Although he had abandoned his family, he had sporadic contact with them. My cousin's grandmother had married Granville's son George, and she remembered a strained visit when George and his brothers visited their father in Humboldt. George was particularly angry because he had been the sole financial support for the family after their father had left.

When Granville died, the county called George to ask his wishes on the disposal of his father's remains. George responded, "Throw him in the bay for all I care."

Granville W. Jackson was buried as a pauper at county expense in the Ocean View Cemetery in Humboldt County in February 1924.

3019	Scott, John W.	33	Ohio	Laborer	North	do	Aug. 22, "	do
3020	Stafford, Albert	37	N. Carolina	Farmer	North	do	" 17, "	do
3021	Siss, Grafton S.	43	Missouri	Stock Raiser	Butte	Mountain	" 24, "	do
3022	Smith, Char. Frederic	39	Pennsylvania	Butcher	South	Red Bluff	" 28, "	do
3023	Schafer, David	31	New York	Musician	North	do	" 3, "	do
3024	Smith, John	22	Scotland	Laborer	North	do	Aug. 31, 1861, Nevada county, District	Sept. 25, "
3025	Smith, Fielding Captain D.	22	California	Student	North	do	" 25, "	do

In the 1888 Tehama County Great Register, on line 3021, he was listed as Grafton S. Sisk.*

Lawrence “Sharkey” Moore found in Special Collections in the library at California State University, Chico, Sharkey told of Grafton owing a considerable amount of money (\$7.50). Grafton had somehow convinced a local shopkeeper to lend him the money before he left Colusa. Sharkey recounted, “Richard Moore seen him in Covelo and called him by name. Graft told him he was going by Jackson from now on. I don’t know if he kept his same first name or not. Graft headed north to Humboldt County last Mr. Moore knew.”

Michel Nellis is a Life Member of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and is chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. She is a California native and has lived in Santa Barbara since 1972. A research historian, she specializes in Santa Barbara County surveys of historic structures and sites. She loves traveling and has taken genealogy trips to Washington, Missouri, Kentucky, Canada, Ireland, and Germany.



GREAT REGISTER OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA														
Number	NAME.	VOTED.	Number of Ticket.	Age.	COM- PLET- ED.	Color of Eyes.	Color of Hair.	VISIBLE MARKS AND SCARS.	COUNTRY OF NATIVITY.	OCCUPATION.	LOCAL RESIDENCE.	NATURALIZED—DATE AND PLACE.	POSTOFFICE ADDRESS AT DATE OF REGISTRATION.	Date Registered.
2055	Jackson, Charles.....		586	34	Dark	Hazel	Gray	Lost right eye.	Maine	Saloon Keeper	Eureka 2		Eureka	Apr. 18
2056	Jackson, David Millan.....		411	11	Light	Brown	Gray		New Brunswick	Farmer	Fortuna	Jan. 29, 1884, Humboldt Co	Fortuna	May 28
2057	Jackson, Eliza Benjamin.....		515	8	Light	Blue	Gray		Maine	Longer	Arcata		Arcata	July 28
2058	Jackson, Fannie.....		456	2	Light	Blue	Brown		New Brunswick	Lumberman	Fortuna		Fortuna	July 5
2059	Jackson, George W. Warren.....		473	3	Light	Gray	Gray		Missouri	Miller	Fortuna	July 5, 1892, Humboldt Co	Fortuna	July 5
2060	Jackson, Harry W.....		493	8	Light	Gray	Light		Maine	Laborer	Bridgeville		Bridgeville	Oct. 18

Granville W. Jackson, on the 1892 Great Register of Humboldt County, on line 3059.*

According to family lore, Grafton had assumed the maiden name of his mother, which was Jackson, and moved to Humboldt County. Sharkey's recollection seemed to confirm this. A cousin of mine became intrigued by this story of our great-grandfather so she began looking for him using the Jackson name.

Source:

* *California Great Registers, 1850-1920*. Database. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>: 26 December 2023. County clerk offices, California.

A TOUCH OF OLD SANTA BARBARA

The Great House Detective

By Betsy J. Green

A Home with a Couple of Mysteries

WHEN THE OWNERS OF THIS HOME contacted me, one of their first questions was, "Who was Gladys?" This name was written in the concrete along the side of their driveway. There was also a date in 1945. I love a mystery, so I started combing through local newspapers and other historical resources online.



Once I started my research, I encountered another mystery. I found a building permit for this home in the *Santa Barbara Morning Press* in 1924 for an estimated cost of \$4,500. My next step was to look in the local city directories. These were basically phonebooks, with an important difference – they generally included a reverse index in the back – listings of street names and house numbers with the names of residents at each address.

Once you discover the name of the resident at an address, you can look for that person's name in the alphabetical listing of names in the front of the directory. City directories often included the wife's name, the husband's occupation, and whether they were owners or renters. (You can find SB city directories in person and online via the Historical Museum's Gledhill Library website, in person at the SB Genealogy Society's Sahyun Library, and online at *Ancestry.com*.)

Another Mystery

However, when I looked through the reverse directories, I did not find anyone living at 914 Olive Street until 1931. I also checked a 1928 aerial photo, and the 1930 building map created by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. No house yet. Hmm. I searched some more, and found another building permit for the property in



1931 for \$3,750. Why the delay? We'll probably never know. (Sorry folks. I could not solve this mystery.)

In 1931, when the home was built, the street had its present name of Olive Street. If the home had been built six years earlier, the street was then named Canal Street. The street's original name meant that it led down to the Santa Barbara Channel (canal in Spanish). The name was changed in 1925 shortly before the big earthquake, in part because Canal Street in other cities had a bad rep. "A resident . . . said that because of the unsavory surroundings of 'Canal' streets in several Eastern cities, the local thoroughfare was regarded in an unfavorable light by many who hear of it in the East." – *Santa Barbara Morning Press*, January 3, 1925. And maybe – here's a Betsy theory – the residents of the street got tired of visitors asking, "Where's the canal?"

The olive trees along the street were planted in 1919, and were intended to be money makers. It was predicted that, "The trees will not only be a source of constant beauty, but of profit as well, in fact residents, who are delighted with the completion of the tree planting, declare that within a few years sufficient income should be obtained from the olives to keep the street in splendid repair." – *Santa Barbara Daily News* and the *Independent*, April 24, 1919. (Eventually, residents found that olives needed a lot of processing before they could be eaten or used to make olive oil.)

The family who built this home and lived in it until 1940 were John Thomas Reilly and his wife Ada (Addie). His occupation was listed as driver and sightseeing auto, so he probably owned a car. Car ownership allowed the growth of our city to spread beyond the reach of the streetcar system.

Mystery Solved

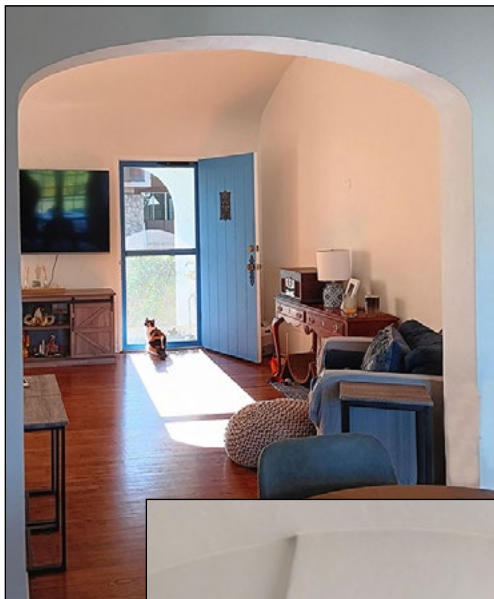
By the 1940s, Mrs. O.W. Anderson lived in the home with – wait for it! – her daughter Gladys V. Jana. In April 1945, Gladys and Corp. Kenneth M. Stone became engaged, and were married in 1946. The inscription may have appeared when Kenneth proposed.

Present owners Reid and Victoria Beermann told me they love the character of their house – with its distinctive fireplace and the abundance of arches. They also appreciate having a clear view of the mountains, and the ability to walk downtown.

Please do not disturb the residents of this home.



Gladys V. Jana and Corp. Kenneth M. Stone were married in 1946.
Photo: *Santa Barbara News-Press*, July 28, 1946



Present owners Reid and Victoria Beermann.

Photos: Betsy J. Green



Betsy J. Green
*Santa Barbara author
and historian.
Check my website for
more information -
www.betsyjgreen.com*

Some Highlights from Salt Lake City

By Laurie Hannah, Ann Picker, Holly Snyder, Judy Thompson, Chris Klukkert, and Kate Lima

MEMBERS OF THE Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society embarked on a week-long research trip to Salt Lake City in March. We all had great stories to pass around; here are a few of them.

LAURIE HANNAH:

My big find was being able to verify where my dad's Canadian second great-grandfather came from in Scotland and what his father's name was, enabling me to go back two more generations. Also, I was able to link that man to a separate family in Michigan, because...they were the same person! He had left Canada and went to Michigan to start a new family and life. And it all came from a newspaper article I found on GenealogyBank!



Laurie Hannah deep into her research at a standing table.

ANN PICKER:

When I moved to Santa Barbara eight years ago and joined the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, I would see the Salt Lake City field trip announced in our newsletter and think to myself that I should sign up to go. However, I always hesitated because I was concerned that I didn't know anyone and might feel isolated. So, in the spring of 2024, I decided to "bite the bullet" and join the group on the trip.

Wow! What a wonderful experience it was, and I am looking forward to going again next year. The group was so welcoming and helpful. We went to dinner together, had wine and snacks at night, and had a great deal of research time in the library which has been completely updated since COVID and includes the latest technology.



Ann in her fave spot.

I have been researching my family history since I retired as a school principal thirty years ago. So, when I research, I do not come across huge breakthroughs but have to be content with tidbits. That's ok because I have mostly "brick walls" to break down. These brick walls usually are with women ancestors and I was able to find some significant and useful information in Salt Lake City.

A major reason why the trip was so successful was because of our leader, Kate Lima. Kate was so organized in every way - including travel, hotel arrangements, social events, photos, and a library tour. She kept us informed about what was happening each day - where and what time to meet, restaurant selections, and even the weather. I think we all appreciated her outstanding organizational skills and her warm personality.

Yes, I highly recommend this trip and hope that you will join us in 2025. You will surely enjoy it as much as I did. Come and have a good time while researching in this world-class library.

HOLLY SNYDER:

The first thing I did when I got to the FamilySearch Library was to pull up my ancestor's Swiss baptism record that I was unable to view at home. I knew I could possibly view it from Sahyun Library, but I didn't have time to go before my trip and knew it would be the perfect record to view at the big FamilySearch Library. I was easily able to pull it up and immediately put in a request for a translator to come help translate it for me. The translator came up soon after and was able to translate the baptism record as well as some other handwritten records I found at the Glarus Archives in Glarus, Switzerland.

I also found some wills and land records on FamilySearch using their full-text search "experiment." Judy Thompson was the guru on this trip for this and using ChatGPT AI to help summarize the records. I found the whole process so easy to use and a time saver. I did take the time to go line by line to make any corrections, but that was faster than me having to type up the whole



Chris questioning Holly's ability to finish all that research.

thing. I had ChatGPT summarize the records, list the people mentioned and their roles, as well as list any places that were mentioned. It provided all of this in seconds. I also like that you can download the transcription on FamilySearch that also includes the image of the record with the highlighted terms showing. Great to have it all together in one pdf.

My last genealogical highlight was locating a book from a Mississippi county that my dad's family lived in for many years before moving to Louisiana. This book contained church minutes in the 1800s and it mentioned one of my female ancestors' death year and listed her parents and family members in the minutes. I haven't researched her line yet so this was pretty neat to find. The best outcome of this was I found that the book was digitized and I was able to download the entire book!

JUDY THOMPSON:

I set out on my recent sojourn to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City hoping to use FamilySearch's Full-text Search. The Full-text Search was announced at RootsTech in early March of this year. It is an experimental program that is offered at <https://www.familysearch.org/labs/>, or you can access the FamilySearch Labs on the home page after you have signed in to your account at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

For my first time using the experiment, I put in the name of my third great-grandfather, Henry Lindenbower. This is an unusual name and I hit paydirt on my first try. I fine-tuned my search with some of the filters provided. "Place" and "Year" were the most important filters for me, so I chose Michigan as the place (a choice of counties is provided) and 1850 as the decade. Results were reduced from several million to 18,395.

Knowing that my grandfather bought land from the federal government when Michigan was being settled, I experimented with a couple of bordering counties

to the original input. Looking at both Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, I found a warranty deed recorded in Hillsdale County, Michigan on September 5, 1857, for the sale of property in New York on September 17, 1835. The deed reads, "...Henry Lindenbower and Betsey his wife of the town of Perinton in the County of Monroe and State of New York of the first part..." BINGO!

I have been searching for Henry Lindenbower's path, progression, movement, and trail between his birth in eastern New York in 1807 and his enumeration in the 1840 Census in Michigan for a very long time. The years between 1807 and 1840 had always been empty of any known or documented locations, until now. Thanks to Full-Text Search I finally found when he got land and where he lived at the time.



Judy helping the library's volunteers.

CHRIS KLUKKERT:

This trip to Salt Lake and the FamilySearch Library was everything I had hoped for. I have not been to the library since the major renovations were done during COVID, and the upgrades and changes were really spectacular. The computer set-up, the book scanning, the free copies (oh my gosh - having to buy and use that old "pay card" for everything was always a pain in the past), and the "HELP" button on all the computers that brought friendly and willing volunteers, made our work much more seamless.

There is also a lot to be said for having your hometown "peeps" near and with you, as you do your own research. There is a feeling of camaraderie and hopefulness for others to have success in their efforts, as well as a shared celebration when there were breakthroughs. (I like that same feeling when I am at the Sahyun library.)

I was able to break through a brick wall this trip! I have been looking for the parents of my George Lyman in Massachusetts for a long time. Most all the other trees on *Ancestry.com* had listed my Mom's 3rd great-grandfather as the moneyed and prestigious Theodore Lyman in Weston, Massachusetts. And why

not wish that were true? They had a palatial home, they were written up in many publications and the early town biography book, and there were indeed some name similarities in the children of that couple. (However, don't you find in these small, early towns with few residents, you did have a small pool of surnames that often get smattered throughout?) I was fortunate that the Salt Lake City FamilySearch Library (SLCFHL) has a film (also digitized) of that families LYMAN PAPERS, so I was first able to view those as part of my negative proof research. Sure enough - there was a George Lyman as part of that family, but he had a middle name that he consistently used and he for sure led a different style of life than my George Lyman. He also paid a heck of a lot more to the tax man! (They have books of the tax records from Weston there in Salt Lake.) Anyway, I dug deep, and most importantly, I looked at the original records, and not just the transcribed ones. It was on George Lyman's death record in Billerica, Massachusetts, where his parents were listed, and his profession "yeoman" (and farmer) were properly identified. His father, David Lyman, it turns out, was an immigrant from England, and as far removed from that well-to-do Lyman family as I am from the Royal family. That sure made more sense in the family scheme of things, and helped take me back now into the early 1700s on my Lyman line. As it is with genealogy, an open door to one generation always leads back to yet another mystery to be solved. Where and when did David Lyman arrive in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and what is his wife's maiden surname? You might see me at the Sahyun looking for the answers to that very question.

Have you ever heard the (other) family secret I discovered in my Dad's family line? (I don't think even he knew this.) Dad's maternal grandmother's sister, Mary Ellen Robinson, of Shasta County, California, left her husband in 1889, took her two children and ran off with a store owner, to outside Flagstaff, Arizona Territory. There she either lost her mind or perhaps she became addicted to drugs (my guess), and was eventually murdered by her gambler pimp in the red light district of Tucson in 1902!! (There was a huge loud public gasp in the Arizona Archives library when I broke THAT brick wall!) Anyway, I found a book on the shelves that listed Mary's (now "Mollie") burial date and place, and also that of her murderer! That find of mine happened

in the last half hour of our last day in the SLCFH Library. How to end with a BANG, eh?

As I mentioned, there was comfort and camaraderie in having other Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society folks around to research next to, to go to restaurants or the break room at the library, or walk together with to the morning openings of the library. Sharing snack breaks together or going to a restaurant together was a treat too.

I will be happily looking for next year's dates and make sure to clear my calendar so I can join in another year of fun.

KATE LIMA:

My favorite memory from our Salt Lake City (SLC) trip was going to lunch one day, and Chris Klukkert started ordering Mexican food - in Swedish! She had been so immersed in research that when we got to Café Rio she was pointing to food she wanted and started talking in Swedish. We all started laughing, and then she couldn't figure out how to talk - Swedish, English, or Spanish. She stopped and started a few times, then ended up just pointing to items. When the worker pointed to cilantro she said "...sí!"

Another favorite memory was meeting Pat Thomas, the organizer for the Ventura County Genealogical Society's (VCGS) Salt Lake City trip. Our trip to SLC coincided with VCGS's trip, and I got to meet Pat and many from their society. Pat, who is also a member of SBCGS, shared tips and tricks to make the trip more enjoyable, and I took many notes. I saw her on the third floor regularly and she always had something to share with me, either genealogy-related or about trip planning. I met a few from their group when I first arrived and Pat invited me to her place for a glass of wine. I saw many VCGS people throughout the week, and the overall feel for me was "camaraderie." We had a group gathering on Ventura's last day, which was so fun. I hope to collaborate with Pat again soon.



Group photo: L to R: Cheryl Hempy, Judy Sahn, Judy Thompson, Irene Macias, Chris Klukkert, Holly Snyder, Kate Lima, Laurie Hannah, Karen Ramsdell, Norma Eggli, and Kathryn Field.
(Ann Picker remained upstairs, she was busy researching!)

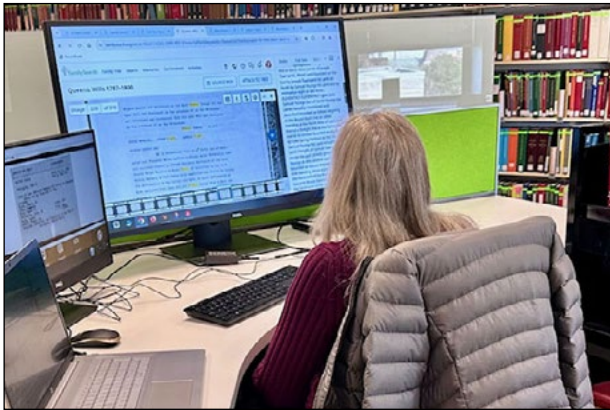
A Ship and a Trip Called Success

By Kathryn Field

IT WAS MY THIRD DAY at the FamilySearch Library, and time to try the experimental Full-Text Search lab I'd heard about. Fellow researcher Judy Thompson shared her successes with this new research option on the Family Search website (familysearch.org/search/full-text), so I put "Captain Thomas Fleet" (my 8th great-grandfather) in the keywords box and clicked "Search." I got zero results.

Next, I tried **+thomas +fleet +suffolk**. More than 1,000 land and probate records from the past 400 years showed up, many related to Suffolk, Massachusetts. My ancestor, however, had settled in Suffolk County, New York. I added **-massachusetts** in the search box, but still got 689 documents. Trying **+York** yielded 372 matches.

It was then I noticed I could narrow the results by century, and selected **1600s**. I tried **+capt** instead of **+captain**, removed "any place," and got eight manageable results.



Kathryn Field researching Captain Fleet at the SLC FamilySearch Library.

After reviewing the first few deeds in the list, I saw a different sort of document. There, in the transcript, was "Capt Thomas Fleet" and "*Jurresse of the Burthen*." This was not a will or a deed, but a 1665 bill of sale for a ship.

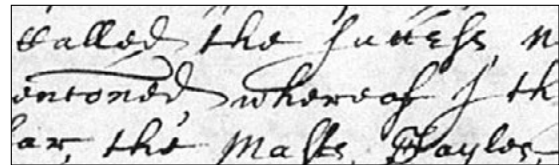
Captain Fleet was an English merchant who landed in colonial America around 1660. He served in the Parliamentary (Royal) Navy, in the First Anglo-Dutch War (1652-54). Perhaps a privateer, he was known for taking cargo across and through the Atlantic and Caribbean. While we can't say where he was born, nor whom he married, he was active in founding the town of Huntington, New York a century before the United States was formed.

Once he settled in Huntington, he farmed, and at various times served as town overseer, commissioner, and assistant commissioner. In 1681, he was appointed deputy to the Assembly (the colonial New York governor of the Assembly was later recalled to England, amidst public discontent). Fleet's Neck and Fleet's Hole, near Huntington, bear his name.

But years earlier, according to the transcript of this hand-written document, he sold "a ship called "*Jurresse of the Burthen*," at anchor in New Haven, to a group of men in Connecticut. In this document, he is referred to as "the last Master and whole owner of ye good ship or vessel." But the transcript, created with artificial intelligence, was not quite right. Fortunately, a photo of the actual document was shown.

I initially thought the ship's name might be *Duress of the Burdened*, in recognition, perhaps, of some who had suffered in England. I emailed a screenshot to my cousin Mary Holland, who lives near where Captain Fleet settled centuries ago.

Burthen, she informed me, was an antiquated measure of a ship's capacity. Sure enough, the word *Burthen* was followed (in the handwritten document, but not the transcript) by "sixty tuns or thereabouts." And from her research, she knew Captain Fleet had ships called *Falcon*, *Friends' Supply*, and *Success*. Success! Artificial intelligence had read the S as a J and the Cs as Rs.



Yes, that third word is *Success*.

The sales price was 62,000 pounds of Muscovado sugar. This, I would learn, is also known as Barbados sugar, a less processed form of cane sugar imported to colonial America.

Judy then offered to run the document through Chat GPT, which prepared a further transcription and analysis, summarizing the parties to the sales contract, and clarifying the antiquated language. It's important to keep in mind, however, that the original 1665 document has been lost, and the one online is a record of the "original examined and proved for to be this 9th day of May 1966."

After returning to Santa Barbara, I discovered a *Wikipedia* article on the *HMS Success*. As it turns out, there were 16 ships by this name built between 1650 and 1943. I got lucky again and found my 8th great-grandfather's name in the description of the first one.

The 1650 *Success* was the first named vessel in the British Navy. She was built in Stockholm and measured 94 by 30 feet (roughly the size of the *Mayflower*). At peak, she had 38 guns and a crew of 150. Her military career was short, and she was sold from the fleet in 1662. Was it to Captain Fleet? My guess is that he bought and refurbished it. Perhaps he brought his family to colonial America in it.

When he sold it three years later, it was with "the masts, sayles, saylyerde, anchors, cables, boats, oars, guns, gunpowder, artillery shot, battle apparel, munition and furniture."

Would it be possible, by researching the names of the three buyers, to trace the history of the *Success* further? Was she scrapped? Did she continue to sail under another name? Is there documentation online with these answers? I'll wait impatiently for the next batch of documents to be added to the full-text search database.

Kathryn Field has been fleshing out her family tree since inheriting boxes of old family photos and daguerreotypes 12 years ago. Sometimes she ventures back to the time before photography.



Salt Lake City, Discovering Treasures

By Judy Thompson and Kate Lima

SALT LAKE CITY! You never know what you'll discover on a trip to this genealogical mecca. We went on the Society's annual trip this past March, spending hours upon hours in the FamilySearch Library. The research findings can be transformative; amazingly, so much information is available. But it's not just the incomparable library where genealogists find information about their ancestors. Oh, no. On this trip in particular, the real gem came from a walk and a chat.

Judy Thompson and Kate Lima, along with a few others from our group, went to Eva's Bakery on Sunday morning (the library was closed). After a latte and toast with avocado and beet, we ambled back to the Plaza. During this walk, Judy told Kate about an interesting discovery. She found out that her father-in-law worked on the construction of Grand Coulee Dam, and so did Chris Klukkert's grandfather. She said they were both civil engineers, and Kate chimed in, "I bet they used my grandfather's textbook when they were in college. His obituary stated that his book was widely used." (Genealogists tend to look for connections everywhere.)

"Where did your grandfather teach?" Judy wondered as they passed the souvenir shop on 100 S Street.

"University of Idaho, in Moscow," Kate replied.

Judy stopped in her tracks. "That's where my father-in-law went to school!"

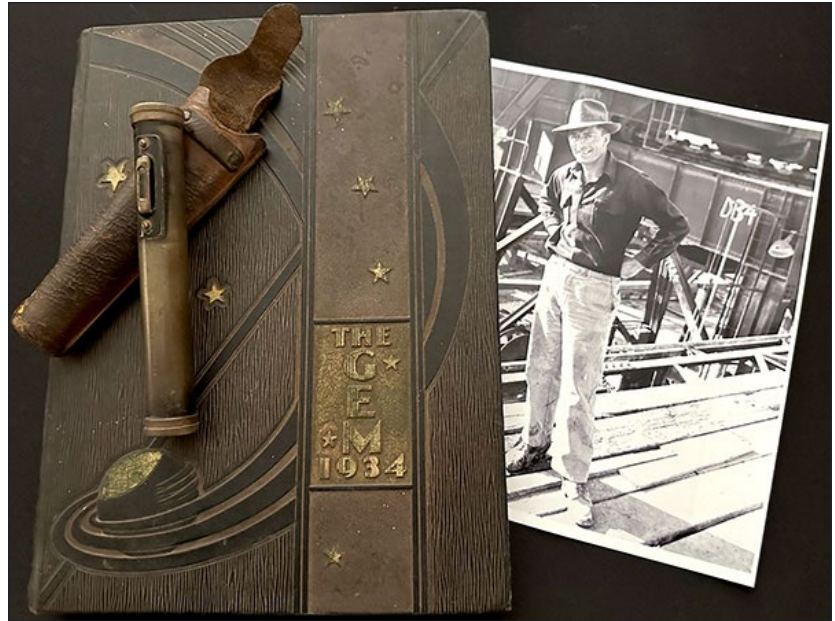
They looked at each other, mouths agape, eyes aglow.

"But wait," Kate began. "My grandfather died in 1940 so he didn't teach after that."

"Well, my father-in-law was there in the '30s!"

Wow. They looked at each other as if they'd discovered they were long-lost relatives. It felt just as exciting. They discovered that they had a shared past, a time when their ancestors were in the same town at the same time. Later that day Judy told Kate that she spoke with her husband about this connection. He was intrigued as well.

Next the two traded web links to "Gem of the Mountains," University of Idaho's yearbook. Judy found both Judy's father-in-law, Charles Thompson, and Kate's grandfather, Isaac Carter, in the early 1930s. They shared pictures from these

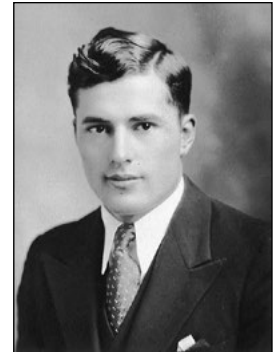


Charles Thompson pictured with *Gem of the Mountains*, University of Idaho's yearbook and level.

pages: Charles was president of the University of Idaho chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Isaac was a professor in Civil Engineering and a faculty advisor for the Society of Civil Engineers.

In later yearbooks, Judy found Kate's grandmother, Louise Shaff Carter. Louise became the Dean of Women after Isaac passed away in 1940; she had been a dean of women before marrying in 1930 but gave up her career for marriage (what a sign of the times). Judy's husband's aunt and uncle were students there at this time in the 1940s and may have interacted with her.

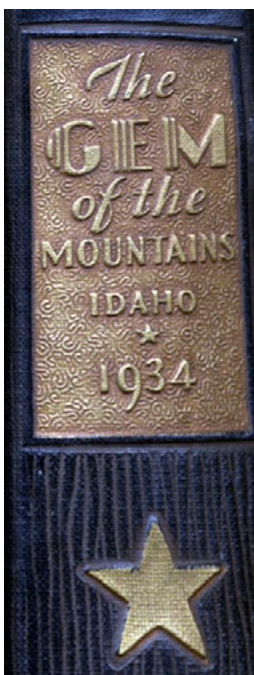
Genealogists are a funny bunch. They find a hidden gem and, just to make sure they're not missing anything, they keep mining all around it. Judy is one such person. Kate got a text from Judy almost two weeks after their discovery. She wanted to let Kate know that she'd been reading her father-in-law's diary and found Kate's grandfather mentioned in it. How amazing is this information for a genealogist! First, there's a diary from the 1930s that's still in the family. How many of us would love to have one of those? Second, Judy combed through the diary, looking for "Carter" "Isaac" or "Professor." She found "Ike Carter" on the pages and more than a few times.



Charles Hinds Thompson



Isaac Carter



around the hotel down to the bath-
 & Kelly till about 10:30. **NOVEMBER 8**
 came home. Got home about 4:30.
 1933: Spent a lot better in
 S.I.S. this morning. I'm
 gradually getting my drag
 with the Carter back. I'm
 going to study that stuff a little
 and put him in the apt. a few
 times. He doesn't know any more
 about sewers than wells. That's
 this morning. Put on my pep
 band out this morn, went to
 S.I.S. lab this aft. for an hour,
 then to ' and then came home
 & got my hair & went to Spokane
 with the pep band. Got there
 about 5:30. Had supper & slept
 around till 8:00. Then we broadcast
 & then went to the elks club & played
 for them. Had a good time there.
 Then we came back to the Dessert
 hotel & put on another broadcast.
 Got done at 11:00 and booked

Thompson Diary, November 8, 1933

APRIL 3
 1934: A full morning of school.
 The Carter is still kept his
 old tricks of giving me childish
 daily gringes. He is a simple
 old thing. Dean Crawford
 sure poured it to us in contrast
 this morning. We haven't had
 class for a week. I skipped
 history this morning & came
 home and took a sun bath.
 This aft. Our trio went over to
 the high school & played some
 trumpet duos & sang some for
 the kids. They seemed to like it.
 Then I came back & did a 4:00
 job of printing. After dinner toml
 we went up to the auditorium
 & practiced singing till 7:00. Then
 I had a date with Paine till 7:30
 then I studied till 9:30 & came home
 & got some clothes ready to take to Spokane

Thompson Diary, April 4, 1934

It's not often that we find little ditties, everyday musings, of one of our ancestors. Judy and Kate met at the Sahyun a few days later to go over Judy's findings. Judy pulled up pictures of the journal, written over 90 years ago. She repeatedly emphasized how judgmental her father-in-law could be, suggesting she thought Kate might take offense at the descriptions of her grandfather. But she wasn't. Charles was 20 years old, a junior at the University of Idaho, and was taking classes from Kate's grandfather. He would write things like "Ike is pretty witty even if he isn't sensible," and "I put old Ike on the spot this morning. I'll get his number yet." He certainly had a strong sense of self, as therapists might say these days.

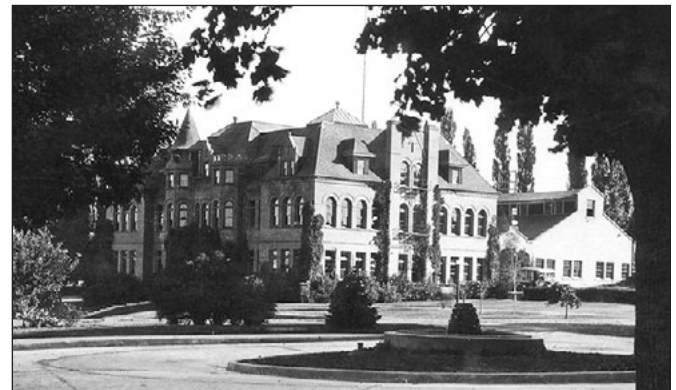
Judy was embarrassed by the sentences she shared, but Kate loved them. Kate thought about how her grandfather must have been both amused and exasperated with Charles. She'd worked with professors and students throughout her career at UCSB; she could imagine the student-professor interactions, and she smiled.

Kate's research had filled in a lot of information on Isaac Carter: birth, early life in Indian Territory (I.T., later Oklahoma), and census records that traced his life. But he died when her mother was only six years old so Kate didn't have a lot of stories of him as a father or husband. Charles's diary pages didn't describe family scenes or family lore, but it gave her insight into "Ike" as a person that she didn't have before. She was thrilled.

Judy and her husband, Don, talked a lot about Charles. Don shared many stories with Judy about how hard-working his father was, the many trips he took in search of natural resources for engineering projects with his employer, Guy F. Atkinson, and what he had learned from his father.

For both Kate and Judy, the discoveries that their ancestors had long ago traded quips and quibbles gave them a bond and a shared story. They loved talking about these two men, and they each had stories to share with their respective families.

When we go to Salt Lake City, we're sure to find historical facts in the pages of the hundreds – thousands – of books they have. But sometimes the casual conversation among friends uncovers gems more brilliant than what's found on published pages.



Engineering building at the University of Idaho, Moscow.



Judy Painter Thompson is a library volunteer, has done indexing for various projects, and is currently an assistant to the Library Director, keeping track of supplies. She and her husband Don live on their avocado ranch with their two cats and a dog.

Kate Lima is our current Membership Director and volunteers on the Outreach Committee and at the Sahyun Library. She joined the Society in 2014 and has been trying to figure out the wild world of genealogy. It still amazes her. She enjoys genealogy, travel, walking her dogs, and writing.

This Old House: A Sesquicentennial Nears

Melville R. V. Sahyun, Ph.D.
sahyun@infionline.net

IN CONJUNCTION WITH the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of our Society in 2022 and the 25th Anniversary of the Sahyun Library in 2023, our late, beloved President, Art Sylvester, asked several society members to research the history of our property, including the Victorian house at 322 Castillo Street which has recently been renovated. The team included Rick Closson, Heather McDaniel McDevitt, John Woodward, and me. We subsequently solicited input from Jane Allingham, who is an expert in the architectural history of Santa Barbara. This report, addressing specifically the Victorian house on our property, is the result of our collaboration, presented in part at the November 2022 General Meeting of the Society under the title of "The Genealogy of 316 Castillo Street."



The Victorian house as it now appears. (Photo by the author).

How Old is the House?

Just as the history of a family is intertwined with the larger history of the society of which it is a part, so is the history of a house intertwined with the history of the community in which it is located. The first relevant landmark event in the history of Santa Barbara that made our Victorian house possible was the construction of the State St. wharf by John P. Stearns in 1872. At that time it was the longest pier between San Pedro and San Francisco. Mr. Stearns' motivation was that, as a lumber merchant and contractor, he needed the wharf to be able to get building materials ashore from the steamers that delivered them.¹ Such materials would have included complete kits, including pre-cut lumber, trusses, doors and windows, etc., for assembling a pre-fabricated house, something any reasonably skilled carpenter could do. Kit houses had come onto the market during the California Gold Rush and became very popular all over the United States after the Civil War.² Jane Alling-

ham, I believe, was the first team member to suggest that our Victorian might be a kit house.

The suggestion was lent credence by the evidence of two identical houses at 322 and 326 Bath St. (the original location of our Victorian) on the 1877 and 1887 "Birds' Eye View" maps of Santa Barbara (author's collection) and on the 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Santa Barbara (Library of Congress).^{*} John Woodward then provided a photo from his collection, showing three more houses, identical to ours, purportedly located in the "Oglesby Block." From legal proceedings involving this property³ we ascertained that the Oglesby Block was the block east of Laguna St. between Sola and Streets, and that the homes on it dated to 1872, the first year that the kits could be off-loaded at Stearns Wharf.



300 block of East Haley St., ca. 1880s. (John Woodward collection)

Heather McDevitt and I searched for evidence of these structures on Laguna St. and found what appeared to be one still standing, though extensively modified with a second story added. Interestingly this structure is included on the City of Santa Barbara's map of Historical Treasures (where it is dated to 1889, possibly the date of addition of the second story).⁴ This led us to contact Nicole Hernandez, an architectural historian who maintains the City's historical resources archive, to have our house included as well. She subsequently brought to our attention another pair of kit houses from the same plan, located at 310 and 312 E. Figueroa St. The house at



1416 Laguna St.; possibly a remodeled kit house. (Photo by the author).



Kit house at 310 E. Figueroa St. (adapted by the author from Google Maps).

310 Figueroa was reportedly⁴ moved to its present location in 1930, perhaps from Haley Street. The tuck-under garage was presumably added at that time.

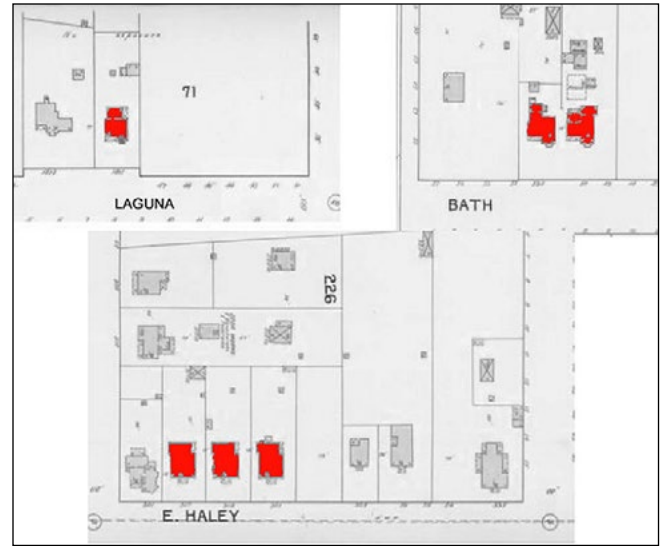
Further research, however, revealed that the historical photo identified as “Oglesby Block” was actually of the 300 block of East Haley St., which is now a commercial/industrial area, with no surviving Victorian structures. Thus, in addition to our house and its twin at 326 Bath St., there were as many as six other houses, one on Laguna St., which probably originally also had a twin, two on Figueroa St., and three on Haley St. built to the same plan. That kit must have sold well in Victorian-era Santa Barbara! *



1877 Birds' Eye view map showing twin houses on Bath St. (Library of Congress; labeled by H. McD.)

An interesting exercise was to compile the sections of the 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing each of the groups of houses for the purpose of comparison. It is apparent from the footprint silhouettes (carefully hand-drawn “back in the day”) that none of the houses were exactly identical. Apparently, most had undergone some form of alteration in the 20 years intervening between their construction and the map.

Since the earliest date for a kit house in Santa Barbara would correspond to the construction of Stearns Wharf, as there being no way to bring the kit into town prior to then, the earliest possible date for our house is 1872. There is evidence for it and our house and its mate on the 1877 “Birds' Eye” map, so that is the latest date. Therefore, our house is a kit house, dating between those



Composite 1892 Sanborn map showing the three groupings of kit houses.

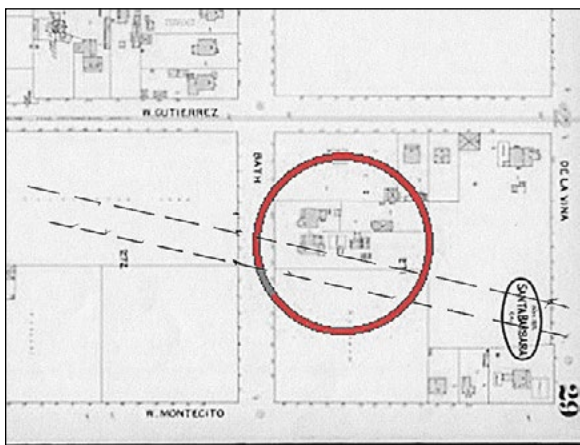
two dates, and so is now between 147 and 152 years old. When should we celebrate its sesquicentennial?

Southern Pacific Days

The history of the house is inseparable from the history of the Southern Pacific (SP) railroad in Santa Barbara. The first train came to Santa Barbara in 1887, routed from Los Angeles via Saugus, Fillmore, Santa Paula and Ventura. In other words, not along the route now served by Amtrak and Metrolink, which was completed and became the main line in 1904. The line to the north, linking Santa Barbara to San Francisco (“The City”) was completed in 1900; through service on the Coast Line was established in 1901.^{5,6} Not until then did the tracks acquire their present routing through Santa Barbara. As shown on the 1887 Birds' Eye map, the tracks initially ran along Gutierrez St., then up Rancheria St. to the train station, located at Anapamu St., but generally called the Victoria St. Station. From there passengers could transfer by carriage to the Arlington Hotel or Lincoln House, now the Upham Hotel. The new route adopted on completion of the Coast Line enabled the construction of a new station in 1902 essentially across the tracks from the elegant and prestigious Potter Hotel, which was scheduled for completion in 1903. This is the station we are still using today.

So, how does this railroad history affect our Victorian house? Initially, not at all, as neither 322 or 326 Bath St. were adjacent to the tracks as originally routed. When the tracks were re-routed to their present alignment, however, the situation changed. On the next page is an overlay of the new right-of-way on the Sanborn map of 1892, showing that the right-of-way encroached on the property occupied by the two houses on the east side of Bath St. At this point SP had no other option than to acquire, after a lot split, the property occupied by the house at 322 Bath, presumably about 1900.

By 1905 the City Directory showed that the house at 322 Bath St. (the more southerly of the pair, adjacent to the track) was occupied by the SP roadmaster. The



1892 Sanborn Map overlaid with 1900 SP right-of-way; houses at 322 and 326 Bath St. in the circle.

roadmaster was the most senior SP employee in Santa Barbara, responsible for the division extending from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo. His responsibility was the maintenance of the roadway over the length of his division, as well as supervision of all SP employees assigned to it (of which my maternal grandfather was one).⁷

So where did the roadmaster live prior to 1900, if the house was not acquired by SP until then? Since the Santa Barbara division stretched west (SP parlance) to San Luis Obispo, there was no Santa Barbara division, hence no roadmaster, in Santa Barbara until the line was completed in 1900. The house continued to be the roadmaster's residence until the 1950s, according to City Directories. These roadmasters included Charles Cole (1911-1924), Harry Watkins (1926-1951) and Thomas Reilly (1952-1954). The other house, at 326 Bath St., was used variously as office space and as a rental property during these years.

Here Comes the Freeway

The next major social change to impact both Santa Barbara and the SP was the growing dominance, with growing prosperity following the end of World War II, of the personal automobile as a preferred mode of transportation. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the patronage of SP passenger trains, including those serving Santa Barbara. According to Nils Huxtable⁸ by 1949 the ridership of SP trains was no greater than it had been in 1929 (though greater than it had been in 1940⁶), and the trend continued downward until the advent of Amtrak in 1972. Highway 101, which had been established in 1926, was growing in importance. In 1947 the Collier-Burns Highway Act provided federal funding for upgrading Highway 101 to a freeway.⁹ Up until this time 101 had followed a route through Santa Barbara like the original SP routing, along Rancheria and Gutierrez Streets. It would now be separated from city streets along a routing that more closely paralleled the SP. With the prospect of losing the property to freeway construction, SP chose to divest itself of the property between Bath and de la Vina Streets north of the railroad track.¹⁰ SP chose to move the roadmaster's house to SP property south of the track, facing Castillo

St.; 322 Bath St. thus became 322 Castillo St., although the parcel on which it was relocated is, according to Nicole Hernandez, legally 320 Castillo St. The move was accomplished in 1947, as documented in Santa Barbara City Directories. A piece of repurposed timber was apparently used to support the relocated house; it is still there, as some of us have seen.¹¹ The house at 326 Bath St. was either moved elsewhere (a common SP practice) or demolished at that time.

An aerial photograph taken late in 1947¹² shows the SP property completely vacant and the roadmaster's house already located on Castillo St. The house continued to be the roadmaster's residence, however, for at least seven more years. It appears from structural evidence that the back room (off the kitchen) was added to the house during this time¹¹; no such additions were made under subsequent ownership at any rate.



SP timber in foundation of Victorian house. (Fred Marsh photo)

Relocation of 101 through Santa Barbara and its conversion to freeway was a gradual process that started in the 1950s and wasn't considered complete until 1991 when the Anacapa St. crossing of 101 was closed off and the last traffic signal on 101 between San Diego and San Francisco was removed.¹³ From 1962 to 1964 this process took the form of construction of the Castillo St. underpass, right in front of the Victorian house. Castillo St. had to be widened by about 10 ft. on each side and, temporarily, the tracks had to be relocated several yards to the south so that work could proceed on that portion of the underpass under the permanent tracks. To this end the Highway Department (now DOT) acquired the SP property on which the house was located.

The Sahyun Years—to Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

My father had acquired the parcel immediately to the south of the SP property in 1948, and built the Sahyun Laboratories building there, opening in 1949, now the home of the Sahyun Library. The building fronted on Castillo St., and the front was landscaped, with an old pepper tree as focal point, and olive trees, which by 1962 were just starting to bear fruit. The construction of the underpass meant that he would lose the front 10 feet of his property, including the pepper tree and olive trees, and leave his front entrance several feet above grade. Of more immediate concern, the driveway would be cut off and the business would lose all street

access. The Highway Department's solution was to give him the SP property on which he could build a driveway which is still there, accessing Bath St. The main entrance to the Laboratory building was then moved to the north side, where it remained when the property was given to the Genealogy Society. The tracks were moved onto the former SP property, now my father's property, and for two years Sahyun Laboratories hosted the daily peregrinations of the *Daylight* and the *Lark*, SP's premier passenger trains. In lieu of rent my father got to keep the property, house included, when construction was complete. Needless to say, the roadmaster didn't live there anymore.



SP Daylight in early 1960s. (Public domain)

During the Sahyun Laboratories years the house was not significantly modernized, and was used primarily for storage (of non-hazardous materials). Replacement of the original wood stoves, used in the early days for heating and cooking, with gas stove and gas furnace must have occurred prior to this time, i.e., in the SP years. After my father's retirement, when the Laboratory building became a commercial rental, the house became a below-market rental for a tenant who doubled as security guard/night watchman for the property. Incursion by transients from the railroad right-of-way was an ongoing problem, as the redwood grove, planted by my father on the former SP property, looked like a safe and enticing campground. The interior of the old house has now been modernized by the assiduous work of the Society's volunteers, including the addition of a lovely chandelier.¹⁴ Now it is home once more to a family, and is set to begin its second 150 years.

Notes

* The 1907 Sanborn map (Library of Congress) labels the two houses as 332 and 334 Bath St. While this is possibly an error on the part of the mapmakers, more likely these may have been street numbers originally assigned to the properties, but which were changed to accommodate subsequent development on the east side of Bath St. The 1911 City Directory gives five addresses between the railroad and Gutierrez St.: 322, 326, 330, 332 and 334 Bath, with 322, the roadmaster's house, adjacent to the tracks, and 334 adjacent to Gutierrez St. Since the "twin"

kit house was immediately adjacent to 322, it must have been 326 Bath St. The listing in the City Directory remained the same through 1946, after which SP sold their property, and the entire section of the block, save for 334 Bath St. at the corner, was cleared. The 1944 Army Map Service map of Santa Barbara (author's collection) shows five structures between the railroad and Gutierrez St. corresponding to the five addresses in the City Directory, i.e., multiple addresses had not been assigned to any one structure.

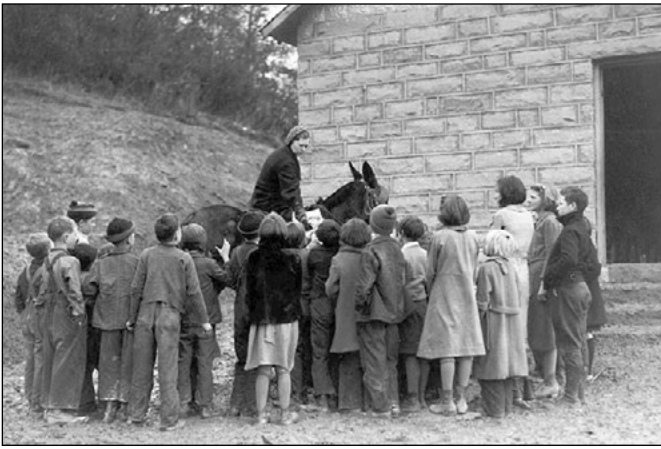
The building shown on the 1892 Sanborn map at the north east corner of Garden and Haley Streets does not appear in the photo, which suggests that the photo predates the map, perhaps by several years. Accordingly, we date the photo to late 1880s.

References

1. <https://stearnswharf.org>.
2. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/prefabricated-homes>.
3. Oglesby v. City of Santa Barbara, 119 Cal. 114
4. <https://santabarbaraca.gov/government/priorities-policies/historic-preservation/historic-resources-maps>.
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_Line_\(Union_Pacific_Railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_Line_(Union_Pacific_Railroad)).
6. *Southern Pacific's First Century*, San Francisco: SP Co., 1954.
7. <https://www.american-rails.com/master.html>.
8. Huxtable, N. *Daylight Reflections*, W. Vancouver, BC: Steamscapes, 2002.
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_101.
10. Nye, R. L. *Historic Structures Report*, prepared for SBCGS, March 7, 2008.
11. Marsh, F., personal communication.
12. <https://www.aerialarchives.com/Aerial-Maps-of-Santa-Barbara.htm>; copyrighted image.
13. Feldman, P. "Lights out on an Era". *LA Times*. November 19, 1991.
14. Klukkert, C. O. "A Happy Home for a Family Treasure". *Ancestors West*, 2024, vol. 49(1), p.40.

Melville R. V. "Mel" Sahyun is a Life Member of SBCGS and son of Dr. Melville and Geraldine Sahyun, who, as described herein, owned the little Victorian house and the property on which it stood for nearly 35 of its 150 years. He is also an aficionado of the history of the Southern Pacific Railroad.





Librarian on horseback, surrounded by children (KDLA)

Book Woman! Bring Me a Book!

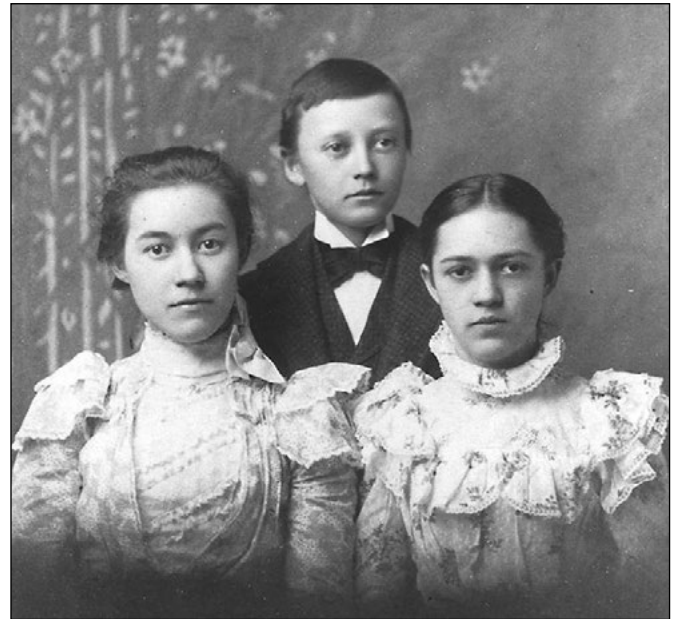
By Kate Lima

HAVE COME TO LEARN that researching collaterals is fun. No, it's more than fun, it's amazing. I always considered the siblings, aunts and uncles, a waste of my precious research time. This year, though, was my first heritage trip and I knew I was going to visit graveyards. I wanted to see if I could find the graves of siblings or other family members while on my trip, so I started adding them to my tree. Wow.

Aside from "unearthing" these ancestors before my trip, I immersed myself in Appalachian culture. I was heading to eastern Tennessee and Kentucky so I listened to Podcasts like "Stories from Appalachia" and watched countless YouTube videos of the people, myths, and folklore. I listened to Dolly, Loretta, and other singers from the area. I found novels to read also, and I happened upon a story about, of all things, a pack

horse librarian. I had never heard of such a thing! Because of my love of books, libraries, strong women and Appalachia, I couldn't get enough of this topic. I dug in.

This library system took place during the Depression in the hills of eastern Kentucky. I learned that earlier, in 1913, a woman had gotten a Pack Horse Library program going, and her name was May Stafford. I thought, "Oh, that's interesting. Stafford is one of my family names and they were in Kentucky." In short order I started a search through all the siblings and in-laws of that line. And what do you know? I found her! May Florence Stafford is my 2nd cousin 3x removed! Well, slap me with bread and call me a sandwich! She's my kin.



Edna, DeWitt and May Stafford (courtesy of Marcus Whitt)

May Florence Stafford was born in Paintsville, Johnson County, Kentucky in 1884. Paintsville is the county seat and the town rests on a relatively large piece of flat land. The rest of the county is hilly and difficult to travel, as is most of eastern Kentucky. (You may have heard of Butcher Hollow where Loretta Lynn was born and raised; that's in Johnson County also, just a 15 minute drive from Paintsville, or 5 minutes as the crow flies.) Around the turn of the 20th century most of eastern Kentucky was hemmed in by the mountains, cut off from the world outside. Progress that moved America into the industrial age didn't make it to Appalachia. There were no roads into the thick, twisting hollows where people had their homes, just a creek or tributary where families had long ago laid a claim.

May was the 12th of 13 children born to Francis and Marrietta (Lavender) Stafford. The family was fortunate; they had a large, comfortable home and all the children had a good education. By 1906 May, age 22, was a teacher in a small school; she saw firsthand the extreme poverty of her pupils. These children had little to eat and their clothes were threadbare. May was aware that some children stayed home in the winter because they didn't have warm clothing or shoes. They stayed away during harvest time, and by the time they were 12 (or younger), they were working the farm full



Librarian going uphill (KDLA)

time. As one hill woman said, "Sometimes living's more important than schooling."

In 1910, the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs (KFWC) persuaded the state to create a public organization for libraries. This, however, did not extend to eastern Kentucky; the terrain, its isolation, the lack of roads, and the small number of residents made it impossible to create and sustain a library of any sort. Stories of new libraries filled the newspapers and May, a reading woman, must have read those articles and fumed. Reading about the importance of libraries and hearing about them opening around the state except in her area, well, she must've been fit to be tied.

As a resident and a teacher, May knew the people in her town and county. She knew what a positive impact a library would have. Instead of sitting around in a tizzy, May started thinking. It's true that Paintsville is small and the surrounding areas inaccessible, so how could she possibly get books to the people? Ideas swirled in her head. She had intelligence and creativity; she also had tenacity and gumption because May Florence Stafford came up with a doozy of an idea.



Rural Kentucky (Library of Congress)

By 1913, at age 29, May had a fully-formulated plan. She would bring a library to her area, but the books would be taken to the people. Her program would have riders carry books on horseback!

May approached one of her father's business partners, John C.C. Mayo, with her idea. Mayo was a millionaire by this time, making it big as a coal baron. He had started out as a teacher, and his father was a teacher before him. He valued education and he loved his home in the hills of Kentucky. He decided to completely fund May's program. Both Mayo and May knew that books would help curb illiteracy, reduce poverty, plus it would make people happy. It made a good deal of sense, and May's library took off.

Unfortunately there are times when life is not fair, as eastern Kentuckians have seen time and again. John Mayo died the following year, and with his death came the end of the funding for May's library. After just one year her pack horse library folded. May continued as a teacher throughout the next couple of decades, in Kentucky as well as in colleges in Massachusetts, Virginia,

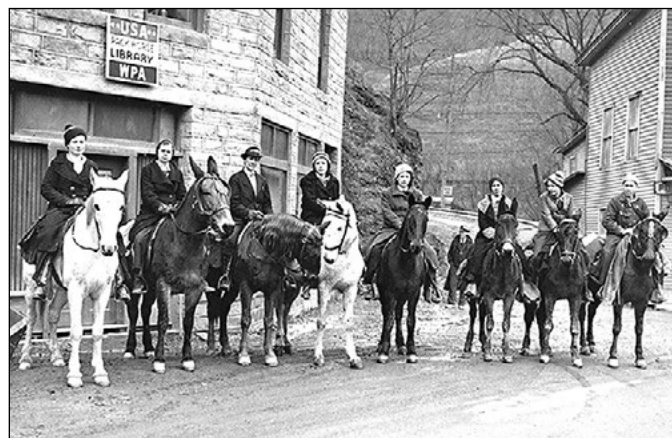
and West Virginia. She always returned to her beloved hills; each census record lists May as living in Paintsville with her family. She was a typical eastern Kentuckian; her heart and soul clung to the roots in the land she called home.



Eleanor Roosevelt (KDLA)

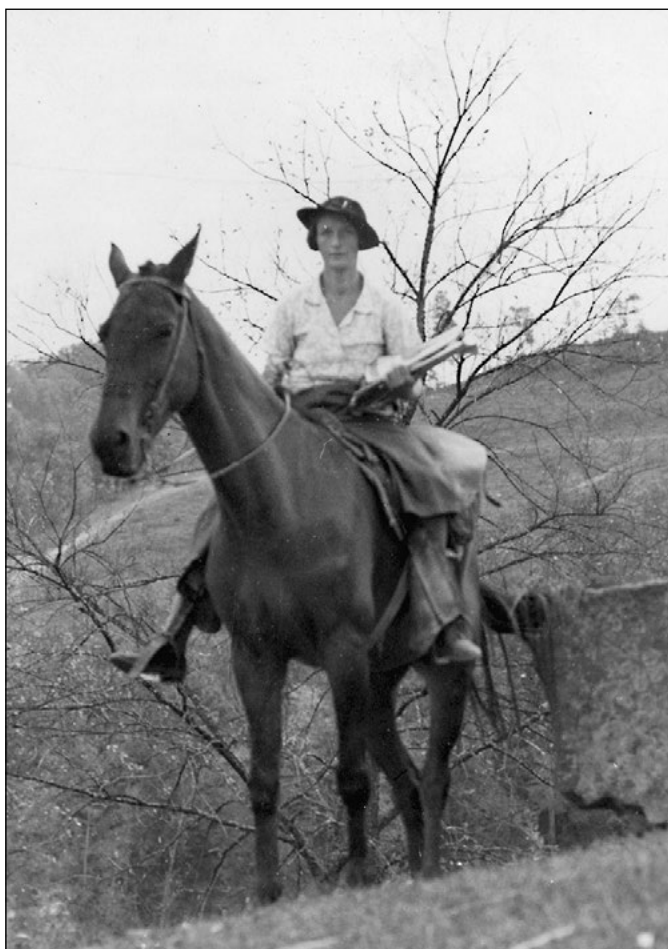
WPA and the Pack Horse Library

Fast forward to the 1930s. When the Depression hit, President Roosevelt created the WPA, or Works Progress Administration, and part of this was the creation, in 1934, of a library-extension program. The intent was to bring employment to the women, promote literacy, and boost morale; Eleanor Roosevelt championed this effort. The people of Eastern Kentucky rose to the occasion and revived May's idea of a roving library. It started with eight counties, and in a few short years hundreds of Pack Horse Librarians headed out for some of the county's most impoverished and isolated communities.



Group of Librarians (KDLA)

May must have been thrilled. In 1937, at age 53, she saw her earlier program spring back to life. She became the supervisor in charge of the Johnson County WPA Pack Horse Library, and at the end of 1938 May supervised 10-12 pack horse librarians. In a single month these carriers rode over 1,800 miles and reached over 1,700 homes.



Single Rider (KDLA)

Communities come together

Unlike other programs in the WPA, though, the Library program did not receive complete funding. The WPA paid a salary of \$28/month to supervisors and riders. (Today's equivalent salary would be ~\$600/mo.) No money was given to cover a building, horses, or books. Do you think that stopped the women of Eastern Kentucky? All they needed was a little nod from the WPA, and they took it from there. Supervisors in a couple of counties wrote letters to state officials. May's campaign for funding and books took off at this time as well. Help was needed at the state level, and these women beat the bushes, sending letters to everyone they could think of. The Chair of Library Services of the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers (KCPT), Lena Nofcier, was apologetic that she didn't have books

HORSEBACK LIBRARY IS IN NEED OF BOOKS

Special to The Post.

PAINTSVILLE, KY., March 18.—“Book women,” horseback riding ladies who travel into all sections of the surrounding rural area to deliver library books, are ready to take to their mounts.

But a pressing need for books for the library to loan has been revealed, and the riders are awaiting the outcome of a plea of May F. Stafford, supervisor of the Works progress Administration library project here. The WPA pays the riders, but has no available funds for the purchase of books, it was announced.

March 1938, *The Kentucky Post*,
Newspapers.com

to send to them, but she did much, much better. She sent letters to schools and libraries, PTAs and women's clubs. She sent stories of the Pack Horse Library to newspapers. She got on the radio. She got in her car and traveled hither and yon making speeches, asking for any reading material that people could give. She worked tirelessly for the fledgling Pack Horse Library program.

Each county had to find a place to house the library. (You would be correct in assuming that no library buildings existed in Eastern Kentucky.) In Johnson County the Pack Horse Library began in the Frew Stafford building which, conveniently, was a short walk across Paint Creek from May's home. (John Frew Stafford is another 2nd cousin 3x removed; he is May's 1st cousin.)

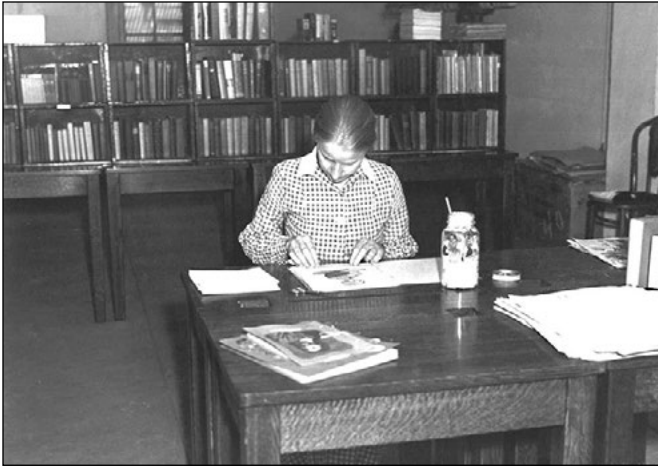
The biggest obstacle was finding enough books to fill the library shelves. What happened next showed the deep commitment of the people of Eastern Kentucky to make the Pack Horse Library a vibrant, successful program. May and other supervisors made quick work of contacting PTAs and various organizations for books. Like Nofcier at the state level, May and others sent letters to newspapers throughout Kentucky, asking for books and other reading material, and for help in getting their needs known to others.

Well, the wheel started turning as people got creative. Numerous penny drives ran throughout the state, which during the depression was no small amount; groups held pie suppers and box suppers; plays were written and performed specifically to raise funds for the library. At one school in central Kentucky children raised and donated \$2.23 so other kids could have books like they had. Stories like these filled the length of Kentucky and many other states as well.

Many of the donated books and magazines were well used, and after traveling throughout the county they started to fall apart. The librarians, undeterred, made scrapbooks from these still usable reading sources,



Rider off her horse (KDLA)



Making a scrapbook (KDLA) (I think this might be May Stafford!)

cutting out pictures and articles and making their own books. They included their own hand drawings and stories as well. The scrapbooks included recipes and quilt patterns that the families gave. Adults didn't understand that this book service was free, and they wanted to reciprocate. It was their kind-hearted way of saying thank you. The scrapbooks became so popular that the librarians created a compendium of just recipe books; scrapbooks of quilt patterns followed. They stand as a testament of how the community worked together; they are a true snapshot to rural life during the Depression.

The "Book Women"

The women – and a few men – rode a horse or mule to get to most of the homes and schools, traveling up to 18 miles a day. There were no roads up the hollows; they rode along cliffs, in creek beds and ravines, and left their animals when necessary to finish the last leg



Finish route on foot (KDLA)

by foot or boat. Going along Troublesome Creek or Cut-Shin Creek meant that slips and slides regularly occurred. The worst route may have been along Hell-Fer-Sartin Creek, known for its deep highs and lows, gravelly terrain where the librarian had to dismount and carefully walk her horse or mule. Stories are told of

women who came home with their boots frozen to their stirrups and feet frozen in the boots. They did their job, rain or shine.

Riders knew the terrain, being mountain folk themselves. They also knew the people; they had to make sure the reading material wouldn't offend the cultural codes. For example, they wouldn't pack magazines like *True Love*, *Love Stories*, or any detective stories. The most popular were *Popular Mechanics*, *National Geographic* and *Good Housekeeping*. Favorite books were the picture books that helped children – and adults – read. They always carried *Bibles* and religious material.



Reading to sick man (KDLA)

Sometimes a rider would stop at a house to read to people who were ill, or while the mother was doing chores. Sometimes the parents didn't know how to read, so the "Book Woman" would sit a spell with a book she'd chosen just for them. The librarians grew to care for their families, and in turn they'd earned the mountain people's trust.

A Paintsville resident, interviewed for the WPA project, said "'Book Women' are among the most popular individuals Johnson County folk ever knew."



Giving book to woman at cabin (KDLA)

An End

WPA began to cut funding in 1941 due to war-time jobs, and in 1943 the Pack Horse Library Project was at an end. Between 1936 and 1943 nearly 1000 carriers had served 1.5 million patrons in 48 Kentucky counties, and their routes had covered 10,000 square miles. The era of the pack horse librarian was over. Fortunately another WPA project had also taken place in the eastern Kentucky hills; men laid roads and erected bridges in the most traveled areas. Because of this project, cars could get deeper into the mountains. In 1957 a bookmobile program began in the counties that once saw book women ride up to their homes.

Throughout my research into this amazing piece of history I found that the eastern Kentucky people have a deeply-rooted love of family and love of the land. This rings true today as well. I got to visit May's home, walk through her town and in the surrounding hollows along creek roads. I talked to people and listened to some great stories of yesteryear. I got a sense of who they were: people filled with pride, intelligence, and deep love of their Kentucky hills.

The last research piece I found of my cousin May was a ship's manifest. At age 68 she was returning from Europe – aboard the Queen Mary. Her life held many adventures, true, but playing on her heartstrings throughout these times was the sweet song of her Kentucky home.



Francis Stafford Family, Edna in mother's lap (courtesy of Marcus Whitt)

ENDNOTES

1. *Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, Kim Michele Richardson, 2019. Also *The Giver of Stars*, Jojo Moyes, 2019.
2. My direct line hightailed it out of Kentucky faster than a barefoot jack rabbit on a greasy griddle, so researching collaterals helped me find May!
3. Reck, Una Mae Lang, and Gregory G. Reck. "Living Is More Important than Schooling: Schools and Self Concept in Appalachia." *Appalachian Journal*, vol. 8, no. 1, 1980, p. 19. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40932356>.
4. Discussion of the pros and cons of his profession must wait for another day.
5. Bevins, Danny K. *Images of America: Van Lear*. 2008, Arcadia Publishing
6. Did May ride a horse through the county? Did she have family and friends help? More research is needed!
7. Renamed "Work Projects Administration" in 1939.
8. In the 1940 Census May is listed as a "Librarian" for the "Pack Horse WPA."
9. Schmitzer, Jeanne Cannella. "Reaching Out to the Mountains: The Pack Horse Library of Eastern Kentucky." *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 95, no. 1, 1997, 73. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23383806>.
10. Urbin, Jeffrey, Education Specialist, FDR Library. "Books, Boots, and Bridles." *YouTube Live*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz-KMKDSU-k> 26 May 2021
11. Schmitzer, "Reaching Out to the Mountains: The Pack Horse Library of Eastern Kentucky." 67.
12. McGraw, Eliza. "Horse-Riding Librarians were the Great Depression's Bookmobiles." *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 21, 2017. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/horse-riding-librarians-were-great-depression-bookmobiles-180963786/>
13. Chapman, Edward A. "WPA and Rural Libraries." *Bulletin of the American Library Association* 32, no. 10 (1938): 708. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25689501>.
14. Schmitzer, "Reaching Out to the Mountains: The Pack Horse Library of Eastern Kentucky." 70.
15. Nessa Vahedian Khezerlou. "Paintsville Public Library Building." *Clio: Your Guide to History*. December 10, 2020. <https://www.theclio.com/entry/122377>
16. In 1956 Kentucky Congressman Carl D. Perkins (who'd benefitted from the Pack Horse Library program as a teacher in Knott County) sponsored the Library Services Act, which provided the first federal appropriations for library service. <https://blueridgecountry.com/newsstand/magazine/pack-horse-librarians-eastern-kentucky/>



Librarian going to cabin (KDLA)

Author's Note: Most photos are from the Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection which was part of the WPA project. These photos can be found in the Kentucky Digital Archive Library (KDLA). Other photos have source listed.



Kate Lima is our current Membership Director and volunteers on the Outreach Committee and at the Sahyun Library. She joined the Society in 2014. She enjoys genealogy, travel, walking her dogs, and writing.

Unexpected Thrill

By Sharon Summer

SOMETIMES OUR GENEALOGY WORK can be a heart-warming contribution to another person. For example, after my brother, son, and I met a newly found fifth cousin once removed, living in Germany, I sent him a write-up of his line in our family. He was overjoyed, never thinking he had so much family or that he would learn so much of his background.

When we met him in January 2020 in Germany, Hinrich Knickrehm showed us many pages of genealogy research his late father had assembled. I was wide-eyed when I looked at one page and recognized a name that was also on my family group sheet. I saw that Hinrich and I shared a Knickrehm ancestor born in 1782!

Later, at home, I wrote Hinrich a narrative with photos. I put together information about his ancestors, some of which Hinrich had shown me from his father, and some that I researched. I added certificates like marriage licenses, pictures of headstones, and the like; the things that genealogists love to find. Then I emailed him a 22 page document about his descendants from our shared ancestor, right down to Hinrich and his daughter.

Hinrich was deeply impressed by what I had been able to come up with. He emailed me in his best English:

Oh Sharon, you are the BEST; I got the first PDF file opened and was able to read your extensive research. I was so amazed at the amount of information you compiled, a masterpiece. My father, who also spent nights collecting old sources of family history, would be deeply impressed by your work.

Glad you meticulously fill in the missing gaps and give the whole thing a historical picture across continents and seas. A big piece of work on the way to our roots.

Thank you with best regards, Hinrich



Hinrich Knickrehm's home, shown in the early 1900s. Hinrich still lives in that house today, in what is now Obernkirchen, Germany, formerly Rösehofe. My Knickrehm family's home was in the village of Ahnsen, Germany, a mere three miles away from Hinrich.

I am gratified that this work had so much meaning for him. I hope his response illustrates the impact we all can have by sharing our research in narrative writing. Perhaps you have a relative that might be similarly appreciative.



Sharon Summer greatly enjoys researching her family history. She has found a wealth of information about her father's Knickrehm side of the family. She serves on the Ancestors West editing committee.

Surname Index

Adams 26	Closson 12	Green 1, 4	Katensteind 31	Motoyama 28	Reilly 4, 14	Sylvester 12
Allen 31	Conard 29	Hagiyas 27	Kawata 26	Moyes 20	Richardson 20	Tadas 27
Allingham 12	Condit 26	Haguri 27	Klukkert 1, 6, 15, 29	Nakada 22	Riordan 3	Takaya 27, 28
Anderson 5	Crawford 24	Hancock 1, 22, 26	Knickrehm 21	Nellis 1, 3	Robinson 8, 29	Tanaka 23
Art 26	Daniels 31	Hannah 1, 6	Komai 24	Nessa 20	Rodriguez 22	Thompson 1, 6, 9
Atkinson 11	DeWitt 16	Hawes 29	Lima 1, 6, 10, 16	Nishimoto 28	Roosevelt 17, 22	Toyota 28
Baggao 23	Eggli 8	Hemphy 8	Lindenbower 7	Nofcier 18	Sahm 8	Uozumis 27
Bartel 26	Feldman 15	Hernandez 12	Lyman 7	Nomura 24	Sahyun 1, 12	Urbin 20
Beaumont 29	Ferguson 32	Hirashimas 27	Macias 8	Nye 15	Sawada 28	Watkins 14
Beermann 5	Field 1, 8	Hirata 24	Marsh 15	Oglesby 15	Schmitzer 20	Whitt 20
Bevins 20	Fink 32	Hitchcock 26	Matsuura 28	Ohmura 27	Sisk 3	Wilson 31
Bruce 26	Flannigan 31	Huxtable 15	Mayo 17	Okamoto 23	Skinner 24	Woodward 12, 25
Butler 26	Fleet 9	Ishimatsu 28	Mayuga 22	Ono 28	Snyder 1, 6	Yee 23, 26, 28
Carrier 1, 2	Foster 29	Ito 26	McDevitt 12	Parker 31	Stafford 16	
Carter 10	Fukumuras 27	Izumi 27	McGraw 20	Perkins 20	Stearns 12	
Chapman 20	Fukuzawa 22	Jackson 3	Mondens 27	Picker 1, 6	Stephenson 29	
Chong 1	Fukuzawas 27	Jacob 24	Moore 3	Ramsdell 8	Stone 5	
Chung 25	Gorham 26	Jana 5	Moris 27	Reck 20	Summer 1, 21	

Over a Century of Service:

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Military

By AAPI Exhibit Committee, compiled by Mary Hancock

EVEN BEFORE THE FOUNDING of the U.S., Asians served in Spanish military forces in North and Central America. In October 1783, Manila-born Antonio Miranda Rodriguez arrived at Santa Barbara's Presidio. He was a soldado de cuera (a soldier who wore leather armor) and a skilled gunsmith. He died here in May 1784 and was buried in the Presidio Chapel on May 26, 1784. Some 200 years later, the Filipino American Association of Santa Barbara placed a plaque in his honor on the floor of the chapel near the altar in 1986.

Since the War of 1812, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have served honorably in the U.S. military, and in increasing numbers with the global conflicts of the twentieth century. The Philippine Scouts were created in 1901 during the early days of the American occupation of the Philippine Islands by the induction of Filipinos into the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. Their mission was to help restore order and peace to a troubled area.

World War I

World War I saw Asian Americans serving as "non-whites" in the National Army. In the Navy, the number of enlisted Filipinos peaked at more than 5,700 by the end of the war. Several thousand Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Filipinos eventually served in the U.S. military during World War I. **Rodrick Mayuga** served in the U.S. Navy from 1919-1920. He was born on February 5, 1897, in Paranaque, Rizal, Philippines and emigrated to the U.S. in 1919, arriving in San Francisco. He came to Santa Barbara shortly after his Navy service and owned the Manila Shoe Shop at 27 ½ E Victoria Street in Santa Barbara from the mid-1920s to 1932.



World War II

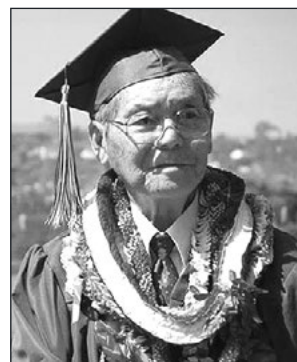
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, most notably Japanese Americans, faced discrimination and forced relocation during World War II. Despite the racial prejudice, many served in the U.S. Armed Forces to fight for their country. Chinese Americans served in a wide array of roles in the U.S. military. Korean Americans also served in small numbers. Filipinos had a long tradition of U.S. Navy service.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt issued Order 9066 which effectively placed over 100,000 residents of

Japanese descent, most of whom were U.S. citizens, into incarceration camps. However, it was not long before the President and the War Department needed more reinforcements in the Armed Forces to fight a world war on multiple fronts and began recruitments of incarcerated Japanese Americans.

The 100th Infantry Battalion was activated on 12 June 1942, composed of more than 1,400 American-born Japanese called "Nisei," or second generation of immigrant parents. The 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the entire history of the U.S. Military. The Team's motto was "Go for Broke." The 4,000 men who initially joined in April 1943 had to be replaced nearly 3.5 times. In total, about 14,000 men served, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor and an unprecedented eight Presidential Unit Citations.

A number of Santa Barbara residents joined the war effort. In April 1942, **Frank Michito Fukuzawa** was just two months away from his Santa Barbara High School graduation. Instead of having the opportunity to participate in his high school graduation, he served in the U.S. Army's 442nd Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company F. For his service, Frank received three battle stars for action, a Bronze Star for bravery, a Presidential Citation with Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Combat Infantry Badge.



Prior to his move to Santa Barbara in 1961, **Henry Nakada**, who had been brought up in the southern California area, was assigned to the Second Battalion of 442nd Regimental Combat Team, known as the Nisei Unit, where he served in I Company as a scout. His brother George later joined him in the 442nd, in H Company. In addition, five other brothers were also deployed. With

seven sons in the Army, the Nakadas gained national recognition for having the most family members in military service. Henry served in Europe for 16 months and his unit was recognized for "outstanding performance of duty in action" in France (1944) and

Italy (1945), including the heroic rescue of the 141st Texas Regiment from behind enemy lines in the Vosges Mountains of France. Henry was eventually decorated with a Good Conduct Medal, an American Theater Service Medal, an Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, a Purple Heart Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, an EAME Service medal with 4 Bronze Stars and, in 2003, he received a Bronze Star based on military review of past records.



Japanese Americans were heavily recruited into the Military Intelligence Service (initially known as the Fourth Army Intelligence School) that began operation in November 1941. The contributions of MIS soldiers were not well known until the passage of the Freedom of information Act in 1974. Upon discharge, they were told not to discuss their war-time work.

On October 31, 1944, **Masato Okamoto** enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan with the 5250th Technical Intelligence Company. He was both an interpreter for civilian scientists collecting technical data from all Mitsubishi Companies and a translator of Japanese documents in preparation for their submission to Washington, D.C. After the war, Masato returned to southern California and married Henry Nakada's sister, Grace. While in training at the Military Intelligence Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, one of Masato's future brothers-in-law, Yoshinao Nakada, would lead them as they marched to class to Sousa marches. Yoshinao, himself, was an instructor at the Military Intelligence Service Language School.

Crucial military support was also provided by medical personnel. Educated in Arizona, **Dr. Paul Tanaka** was a captain in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945, setting up hospitals at the fronts in Europe in World War II. He was a field surgeon in the Medical Corps of the 53rd Field Hospital Unit, participating in the campaigns of northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes. He was awarded a Field Ribbon and five Bronze Stars for his service. After the war, he settled in Santa Barbara, practicing medicine for another four decades.



Asian Americans who served in the military during World War II also included those of Chinese and Filipino descent. The 407th Air Service Squadron and 987th Signal Company were Chinese Americans drafted into World War II and ended up serving in an all-Chinese American unit supporting the 14th Air Force's famed

Flying Tigers. The fighter squadrons, flying the shark-faced P-40s, defended China against Japanese forces. Many Chinese American women served in the Women's Army Corps, the Army Air Forces, and the United States Naval Reserve Women's Reserve.

Chester W. Yee, born in Santa Barbara to Gip Wah Yee and Yee Quong Shee (owners of the Wah Hing Chung Laundry), served in the U.S. Army in the Air Corps. He was an aviation student at the 2523rd Army Air Forces Base Unit which was a specialized pilot school for combat. Chester started as an airplane mechanic and gunner, then became 1st Lieutenant and Intelligence Staff Officer for the 72nd Reconnaissance Squadron. He received ribbons for the American Campaign and Good Conduct.



Two other members of Santa Barbara's Yee clan served in the war. **James Yee** served in the Army Air Corps from May 1943 to June 1946. He was a Tech Sergeant and Supply Technician for the 14th Air Force, 14th Air Service Group, 407th Air Service Squadron. James's brother, **Albert William Yee**, enlisted in the



U.S. Army on February 10, 1943. He served in the Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet and pilot for the Flying Tigers. He served on the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron for a United States Marine Corps aviation facility, 317th Teft Group, and 5th Army Air Forces FTD. He was discharged on January 23, 1946.

The 1st Filipino Battalion was formed on March 4, 1942, and activated on April 1 at Camp San Luis Obispo, California. As the 1st Battalion grew, the unit became the 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments. **Ambrose Baggao**, who emigrated from the Philippines to the U.S. in 1931 and moved to Santa Barbara in the mid-1930s, was inducted into the Army Air Corp of either the Philippines or the United States on April 4, 1942. He continued his military service with the U.S. Army Air



Corp in December of 1945. The Army Air Corp later became the U.S. Air Force, in which he served until his retirement in 1969 with the rank of Master Sergeant. At the time of his retirement, he was serving at Vandenberg AFB.



The 1st Filipino Battalion.

Korean War

After the conclusion of the Second World War, the escalation of conflict between North and South Korea led to U.S. involvement there. Asian Americans with family ties to Santa Barbara joined the war effort. Corporal **Louis Mitsuru Hirata** was a member of the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion 24th Infantry Division in the U.S. Army during World War II. He later served in the Korean War and was killed in action while fighting in South Korea on August 10, 1950.



William Tatsuro Nomura was drafted into the Army in 1951 right after graduating from Santa Barbara High School. He was stationed at Camp Roberts in California and served in the Korean War. He served on the SVC Co 38th Infantry in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1952-1956. His unit's responsibility was to take ammunition to the front line. William

drove the munitions truck. William was awarded the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, UN Service Medal, and a Combat Infantryman Badge.

References:

Ambrose Palmones Baggao. World War II Draft Registration Cards. "California, World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1940-1945", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGY-6XS1: Sat Feb 10 10:37:51 UTC 2024>), Entry for Ambrose Palmones Baggao and Leo Versola, 16 Oct 1940.

"Ambrose Palmones Baggao." Find a Grave Index. "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:68N1-JZMS: 11 August 2023>), Ambrose Palmones Baggao, Burial, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, United States of America, Calvary Cemetery; citing record ID 159695599, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

Baggao, Beverlyn De la Cruz. Interview with Susanne Mori. Santa Barbara, CA. April 2023.

Chong, Raymond Douglas. 2014. "The Yee Clan in Santa Barbara Chinatown: A Family Legacy in Gold Mountain" *Gum Saan Journal* - 2014, pp. 54-63.

"Claim Five in Service Largest" *Manzanar Free Press*, August 5, 1944. Library of Congress Digital Collections, Japanese American Internment Camp Newspapers, 1942-1946 <https://www.loc.gov/collections/japanese-american-internment-camp-newspapers/>

Eldredge, Z. Skinner. (1912). *The beginnings of San Francisco: from the expedition of Anza, 1774, to the city charter of April 15, 1850: with biographical and other notes*. San Francisco: Z.S. Eldredge.

Enemy Alien Case File for Frank Tsumoru Fukuzawa, accessed 4/5/2023, National Archives at Riverside, California

Go For Broke National Education Center Oral History Project Oral History Interview with Frank Fukuzawa, February 24, 2001, Los Angeles, California

"Henry Nakada Oral History Interview, May 6, 2004" Japanese American Military History Collective. <https://ndajams.omeka.net/collections/show/60>

"Henry I Nakada" in "United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, Accessed via FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K853-V1S: 5 December 2014>),

Hosokawa, William. [1969] 2002. *Nisei: The Quiet Americans* (Rev. ed) University of Colorado Press.

Interview with John and Rich Okamoto. Melinda Crawford and Mary Hancock. Santa Barbara, CA. March 22, 2023

Interview with Wade Nomura. Melinda Crawford and Mary Jacob. Santa Barbara, CA. March 26, 2023.

Komai, Chris, ed. 2012 *Proud to Serve: Japanese American World War II Veterans* The Rafu Shimpo: Los Angeles.

Rodrick Mayuga. *Ancestry.com. U.S., Applications for Seaman's Protection Certificates, 1916-1940* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, U.S.A: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Rodrigo Mayuga. *Ancestry.com. U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, U.S.A: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Rodrick Mayuga. "United States Index to Alien Case Files, 1940-2003," *FamilySearch.org*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6FYW-JD34: 16 December 2022>).

Mayuga, Rodrick. Entry in *Santa Barbara City Directory -1940*, p. 201.

Tanaka Paul. *Santa Barbara News Press*, Tanaka Paul, Obituary, January 17, 1995

"William Nomura," Obituary. *Santa Barbara News Press*. August 3, 1988

"William Tatsuro 'Lefty' Nomura." *Discover Nikkei*. <https://www.discovernikkei.org/en/resources/military/378>

When Our Santa Barbara Chinatown Vanishes, Forever

Along the jagged shoreline

On California's Gold Coast

*Santa Barbara – The American Riviera, mystically enchants
With its Santa Barbara Mission – The Queen of the Missions
Between the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Channel Islands.*

The Chinese sojourners and pioneers

Of Sze Yup region

From Imperial China

Arrive on Gum Saan - Gold Mountain

To pursue gold eagle coins.

They harvest abalone

Midst a lush Santa Barbara Channel

They cultivate vegetables and fruits

On the lush farms and orchards

They handle the patrons

At the luxury Arlington Hotel

In their grim bachelor society

Due to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

At Downtown – the heart of Santa Barbara

Across the landmark Lobero Theater

The Chinese discreetly live

At Old Chinatown

On East Canon Perdido Street

*With its general stores, grocery stores, restaurants, Tong halls,
joss house, and Masonic Temple.*

After the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake

Among the Spanish Colonial Revival buildings

Of red tile roofs and white-washed walls

Along the elegant State Street

The palm tree-lined promenade

A New Chinatown gingerly arises

On East Canon Perdido Street

Across El Presidio de Santa Bárbara

With its general, grocery, and herbal stores

And restaurants, laundries, and tong halls,

Adjacent to Japantown – Nihonmachi.

In 1947, the Year of the Pig

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens restaurant opens

For its finest dining and dancing

With saucy Chop Suey, jumbo egg rolls, and Flaming Mai Tai cocktails

As a favorite comfort station and watering hole

Under the entrancing mastery

By Jimmy Yee Chung and Tommy Yee Chung.

In 2006, the Year of the Dog

On a summer Saturday, July 29

Tommy Yee Chung says farewell

To the iconic Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

A waxing crescent moon descends

Into the sapphire Pacific Sea

As a bygone era ascends

When our Santa Barbara Chinatown vanishes, forever.

© 2023 Raymond Douglas Chong



157-E Chinese Joss House - 21 E. Canon Perdido St.
Courtesy of John Woodward



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens



174-A Elizalde Adobe - Gung Sing General Store 36 E. Canon Perdido St.
Courtesy of John Woodward

Histories of Santa Barbara Asian American Religious Institutions

From Chinese Mission to Chinese Evangelical Free Church

By Brianna Bruce

SANTA BARBARA'S CHINESE Evangelical Free Church, currently located at 15 West Calle Crespis in Santa Barbara, traces its roots to the Chinese Mission of Santa Barbara, established in 1873 and shared space with a Congregational church. The Mission grew in size and scope in the 1880s, the product of a joint effort by Dr. Ira Condit (a former Presbyterian missionary to China), Rev. Nam Art (a Chinese Christian missionary posted temporarily to Santa Barbara), and Mr. Adams, a layperson. Their effort began with erecting a chapel and Association Hall in 1885. In 1896, with the support of the Congregational Church, a new chapel, situated at 1006 Chapala, was dedicated to mark the occasion of the Mission's 23rd anniversary. In 1916, the Mission became formally affiliated with Santa Barbara's First Presbyterian Church. It maintained local outreach to the Chinese community, including English language classes, in programs sustained by Chinese clerics and lay congregants, as well as American lay supporters and missionaries, active and retired.



Chinese Evangelical Free Church, Building at 15 W. Calle Crespis.
<https://cefcbs.org>

ing meals for the children and young adults within the Youth and Sunday School ministries, cleaning the church building, and transporting visiting Los Angeles preachers to Mission services. Ruth Hitchcock, a Santa Barbara native and former missionary, dedicated time and energy to the Mission's growth, as did a guest minister, Rev. Paul Bartel.

In the early 1970s, the Mission ended its affiliation with the Presbyterian Church and, as an independent congregation, established formal ties with the Evangelical Free Church of America. It became known as the Chinese Evangelical Free Church and moved into a new facility on Puente Drive, sharing space with another evangelical church. In 1991, the church moved to its current location on Calle Crespis. There it holds services in both English and Mandarin and maintains active outreach to the Mandarin-speaking community in the Santa Barbara area.

The Japantown Roots of the Bethany Congregational Church

By Mary Hancock

The Bethany Congregational Church of Santa Barbara traces its roots to the English-language classes that Harriet Butler, of the First Congregational Church, offered in 1907. The group of women that she tutored were the seeds of a new church community centered in Santa Barbara's Japantown and supported by Mr. Ito, then president of the local Japanese Association, and led by Reverend Tsutomu Kawata. The group met in Mr. Ito's art store and was incorporated as the Japanese Congregational Church in 1913. Tragically, that same year, Rev. Kawata was fatally shot as a result of his intervention in a conflict between church members. The church continued to grow, however, and in 1917 a



Chinese Mission in the early 1900s. Courtesy of Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum

From the mid-1910s to the 1970s, the Chinese Mission blossomed through the dynamic service of former missionaries and several loyal members. A trio of women ex-missionaries, known as the "Three Graces," were prominent and one, Nora Gorham, maintained the longest ties with the Mission, serving until she died in 1966. Through Gorham, a man named June Yee became heavily involved in the Mission, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, during which he assisted in prepar-



Japanese Congregational Church, early 1930s. Courtesy Bethany Congregational Church.

purpose-built structure was erected on 117 East Canon Perdido Street to house it.

Until the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 the church grew with new arrivals from Japan. Later, there was active outreach to the American-born children of immigrants through Sunday schools and youth groups. Members of several families, including the Fukuza-was, Fukumuras, Moris, Mondens, Uozumis, Hagiya-s, Tadas, and Hirashimas, formed a core community. A succession of ministers, most originally from Japan, led the church.

In March of 1942, the church's leader, Rev. Hiroshi Izumi, who had begun service in 1938 a few months after his arrival from Japan, was detained as an "Enemy Alien" and imprisoned at the Alien Detention Station in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and later transferred to the Tulare Assembly Center, where he joined his wife and daughter. The church's assets were overseen by the First Congregational Church and the property rented to another religious group. When detainees returned to their homes in 1945, both the church and Buddhist

temple served as hostels for returnees. Led by Rev. Masayoshi Ohmura, the church helped rebuild the Japanese American community, including by partnering with the Buddhist temple to sponsor a baseball team, the Nisei All-Stars. Japanese-language religious services were complemented by English-language Sunday school classes for the church's Nisei members.

The church's membership grew during the 1950s under the leadership of Rev. George Takaya, its first English-speaking Nisei pastor. Outreach continued, followed by a name change to Bethany

Congregational Church. In the early 1960s the need for a larger meeting space led to the sale of the downtown property and purchase of a plot on Hope Avenue. The new facility was dedicated on July 3, 1966. With its relocation and expansion, Bethany's non-Japanese membership grew; services in English were further expanded as well. Presently, regular English-language services are supplemented by monthly Japanese services. While the congregation has grown in ethnic diversity, the church continues to host Japanese cultural events, such as mochi-pounding and sushi lessons, along with meetings for community groups, including the Bonsai Club.



"Buddhist Church": Ca. 1966. Courtesy of Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Society



Bethany Congregational Church, 2023. Courtesy Melinda Yamane Crawford.

The Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

By Brianna Bruce

A key component in fostering Santa Barbara's multidimensional Asian-American culture involves the institution of the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara. In 1912, nearly twenty years after the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to Santa Barbara, the earliest documented Howakai (a meeting for religious purposes) was conducted by Reverend Gyodo Haguri at the building that currently serves as the Santa Barbara Post Office.



Santa Barbara Buddhist Temple 1923 group.
Courtesy of Kathy Yamada Nishimoto

Over the next decade, the group's efforts continued to strengthen and advance until, on January 22, 1922, the members decided to formalize their fellowship through the construction of a church building at 131 E. Canon Perdido Street. With the help of the church's treasury fund and donations, the Church of Santa Barbara's physical location opened on February 21, 1923.

The church's organized activities soon flourished with the aid of Reverend Junin Ono of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, who helped them establish a Sunday School in April 1923. Reverends Shinun Ishimatsu and Issei Matsuura of the Guadalupe Buddhist Church supplemented the church's teachings with Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The appointment of the church's first resident minister, Reverend Zenki Toyota, on September 29, 1924, also led to the institution of several prominent organizations, including the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA), the Young Women's Buddhist Association (YMWA), the Japanese Language School, and the Fujinkai (initially established as a Mothers' Club). In 1930, the church also created a baseball team that would participate in games throughout the region every summer.

When Reverend Tairyo Sawada succeeded Reverend Toyota in 1929, the church greatly increased its focus on cultural and religious festivities, including an annual

observance of Hanamatsuri (a celebration of Gotama Buddha's birthday); the annual summer Bukkyokai picnic at Hammond Beach; and the end-of-year Seibotokai, which was comprised of skits performed by Sunday School students.

The continuous growth of the Church of Santa Barbara suffered an abrupt halt in 1942, as its members were forcibly relocated to the Gila Relocation Center in Arizona as part of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The church was still utilized as storage for the church members' belongings during this period, and later acted as a hostel for post-internment housing.

With the appointment of Reverend Keisho Motoyama on August 29, 1953, the church officially resumed its original purpose. The members held the first of many Japanese Festivals in 1958 in order to supplement the church's finances, which proved integral in the purchase of land at 1015 E. Montecito Street four years later. In November 1966 the new church building was ready for its congregation, complete with a traditional Japanese garden that incorporated plants from the previous site, as well as donations from community members of various faiths.

Although church membership has fluctuated in the decades following the church's property expansion, the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara remains as a cherished and relevant aspect of the Santa Barbara community and carries over a century of strength, fellowship, and hope.

References

Chinese Evangelical Free Church of Santa Barbara, <https://cefcsb.org/history>

"The Chinese Mission," *Daily News*, Santa Barbara. May 4, 1896, p. 4.

"CEFCB History 2023." Powerpoint, 2023, CEFCB History 2023.pptx.

"The Chinese Mission." *The Daily News* [Santa Barbara, CA], 4 May 1896, p. 4. *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/929604238/>.

"Chinese Mission School Exercises," *Daily News*, Santa Barbara. March 19, 1897.

NA. "A History of Bethany Congregational Church (6th Draft)." 2013 [Photocopy courtesy of Pastor Derek Yee]

Takaya, Steve. "Bethany Congregational Church's 100-Year Anniversary Celebration," *La Campagna* (Fall 2013), Vol. 39, No. 4, pp. 4-13. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Yee, Derek. Interview at Bethany Congregational Church, 2023.

The Scandalous Life and Tragic Death of Mary E. Robinson

By Christine Klukkert

MURDERED?!" I exclaimed loudly, unintentionally filling the somber Arizona State Library with my sudden outburst.

"A Woman of Ill-Fame! A Prostitute??!" also rang out of me before I had a chance to catch myself, and now the many distinguished State legislative researchers were staring right at me. I would have turned red from embarrassment, except I was already devoid of blood in my face as I took in the shocking revelation – my dad's aunt had been a prostitute and shot dead by her live-in lover in Tucson, Arizona, in 1902!

This revelation happened in 2009 when I was in the Arizona State Library and Archives research room. I was diligently trying to fill in the last gap in the Robinson branch of my dad's family tree and to see what had become of his maternal aunt, Mary Ellen Robinson. My Dad had never been able to tell me anything about her, or even what happened to her later in life. She clearly was not buried with the rest of that family in the cemetery in Shasta County. The last record I found about her was on her father's March 1897 probate record in Shasta County, California, where she signed over her rights to any property to her mother, Missouri Robinson. Mary was named in his probate papers as "Mary E. Conard, nee Robinson, a daughter, age 26, residing at Williams, Yucaipa County, Territory of Arizona."

That was just the clue I needed to take my research in a new direction with an updated surname and locality. However, after that probate file discovery, the paper trail disappeared and so I traveled to Arizona to pick up the search from there.

The story of my grandaunt growing up as a young farm girl in Shasta County and ending up murdered in the red light district of frontier Arizona is a tragic and fascinating tale. The story had been long-buried secret until my day in the distinguished, subdued, solemn Arizona State Library. It took me over three years to gather all the evidence and uncover the story that my dad's family had apparently worked so hard to keep a secret.

I first found Mary in the ROBINSON family *Bible* listed on the Birth page as "Mary Ellen Robinson born July 8, 1870." Mary was the second child of Daniel Webster ROBINSON (1834 - 1897) and his second wife, Missouri Alice FOSTER (1851- 1937).

Daniel Robinson had come to Shasta County, California, from Ohio, probably with the hope of finding California gold. In 1858 he married Elizabeth Ann STEPHENSON. She bore him two sons, George Anthony and Thomas Henry, before dying at the young age of 20 in 1863. In 1866, Daniel, then 32, married my

great-grandmother, Missouri Alice FOSTER, who was only 14 on their wedding day.

Missouri had arrived in Shasta County 1861 with her mother and three of her siblings. The family came from Indiana by wagon train across the Oregon Trail. Her father, David Campbell FOSTER had died en route east of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, where he was buried alongside the trail. Missouri's mother was forced to go on to California without her husband, a trip that she had not even wanted to take in the first place. They settled in the Oak Run area of Shasta County. Missouri made acquaintance of Daniel Robinson, perhaps at the dances frequently held in nearby Anderson. They married January 4, 1866. She was to take on the care of his two sons, the oldest only ten years younger than she was, and also to bear Daniel six children of their own on their farm near Anderson. Mary was the oldest girl of the combined family.

Turning to the 1880 census, nine-year-old Mary Robinson is living on the family farm near Anderson, California, with her two stepbrothers and three younger sisters.

Mary had a normal and seemingly happy childhood, surrounded by many cousins and friends from neighboring farms. In March of 1887, she signed her cousin Henry Hawes' autograph book perhaps prophetically writing, "Love many Trust few and always paddle your own canoe."

On June 5, 1887, Mary, then 16, married blacksmith George Henry BEAUMONT, 24, also a resident of Anderson, California.

Their first child, Ada Ethel BEAUMONT, was born on

September 10, 1888, in Red Bluff where George worked as a blacksmith.

Their second daughter, Althea, was born August of 1891.

However, all was not smooth sailing for the couple, as a record from the California State Chico Special Collections Library shows. Papers were filed by George and



Ada Ethel Beaumont
(From Missouri Robinson's photo album).



Althea Beaumont

a divorce from Mary legally granted February 23, 1892. With that date in hand, I went to the Red Bluff Courthouse to obtain transcripts from the divorce proceedings that revealed the first shocking turn in Mary Ellen's life. Following are some excerpts:

"Plaintiff (George) alleges that the defendant (Mary) did on or about the 16th day of November, 1891 commit adultery with one A.M. Conard in Red Bluff, Tehama County, California, at the house where Plaintiff and Defendant were then residing said

house being situated on the west side of Main Street in said town and being the first house north of the Garwood Livery Stable."

Plaintiff further alleges that the defendant has committed adultery with the said A.M. Conard and with other persons the names of whom are unknown to the defendant in the said town of Red Bluff and in the house above referred to and at other places the location of which is unknown to the Plaintiff, on diverse days and times between the 1st day of July 1891 and the commencement of this action.

Plaintiff further alleges that each and all of said acts of adultery were committed without the consent, connivance or previous knowledge of Plaintiff and that Plaintiff has not lived and co-habitated with the defendant since he became cognizant of the commission by the defendant of the acts of adultery above complained of.

Given her traditional upbringing, Mary's promiscuity seems out of place, particularly at that time, and I wondered if it might reflect some kind of underlying mental or behavioral issue. After the February 3, 1892 divorce, George was awarded custody of two-year-old Ada Ethel. Mary was granted custody of Althea, who was only six months old at this time.

Because I was already at the Red Bluff courthouse, I flipped through the indexes and found another marriage for Mary. Amazingly, a mere 11 days after her divorce from George Beaumont, on February 5, 1892, Mary, who now called herself "Mamie E. Beaumont," age 20 years, resident of Red Bluff, Tehama County, married Albert M. CONARD, "native of Missouri, aged 26, resident of Red Bluff," the very man with whom she was accused of committing adultery.

Mary's new husband, Albert Murphy Conard, was quite an enterprising fellow. Born in 1865 in Napoleon, Lafayette County, Missouri, he came out west with his parents sometime around 1875 and ended up in Red

Bluff, California. His family were prominent cattle raisers and ranchers in Tehama County.

I found Mary's ex-husband, George Beaumont, on the 1900 census in Corning, Tehama County, California, now married to Nellie H. TODD, and living with them is Ada, age 12. While I was able to follow Ada Beaumont's life to its end in 1947, I never saw mention or found any further records or even a death record for her younger sister, Athea.

In 1897, five years after her marriage to Albert Conard, Mary, 26 years old, returned one last time to Shasta County from Arizona to visit her bereaved family after



Albert Murphy Conard

the March death of her father. That is when Mary signed the probate records I mentioned earlier, giving her rights to her portion of her inheritance of the family farm to her mother, Missouri "in consideration of the sum of \$1, and in consideration of the love and affection and for her better livelihood and maintenance."

Meanwhile, a search of old Arizona newspapers at the Arizona State Archives I found many articles of the ever-industrious Conard who had started an ice, bottling and brewery business in Williams, Arizona, as described in this article from the October 19, 1895, *Arizona Sun* newspaper:

Williams News: A.M. Conard, the rustling and popular manager of the Williams Brewing Company, is rapidly bringing that institution to the front ranks one of the business institutions of the city. He has just completed a new three-car refrigerator and is making other costly and substantial improvements."

For several years the Conards seemed to thrive in Williams, at least professionally. But in 1899 there were

changes. There was this report in the newspaper the *Phoenix Republic* on June 9, 1899:

"A.M. Conard, a brewer in Williams, is at the Commercial [hotel]. He has leased his brewery and will leave tonight for Nogales, where he will operate a brewery and ice plant recently purchased by him. A. M. Conard speaks hopefully of the future of Williams. **But for the sickness of his wife** (emphasis mine) he would have remained here."

There are more mentions to Mary's "sickness" as her life story continues. Meanwhile, Albert Conard's foray into the business world in Nogales went well, but Mary did not join him there for a full month, and surprisingly, she came from California as this July 22, 1899, Nogales newspaper states that "Tuesday morning Mrs. A.M. Conard came from Los Angeles to join Mr. Conard, the manager of the ice and beer bottling works."

The question arises as to why Mary was coming from Los Angeles. Was this again due to her "sickness?" Just a month after she had joined Albert in Nogales, the newspaper stated, "Mrs. A.M. Conard was quite ill early in the week. She is now reported improving."

Although Conard's ice and bottling works seem to have been successful, it is evident from later newspaper clippings that his interests soon turned to mining, and before long he was involved and quite successful as a copper mining manager and eventual mine owner just over the border in Sonora, Mexico. Whether it was his change of professional heart, or something in Mary, the tide was turning for the health of Albert and Mary's marriage. It was much later that I was to read in the Conard's divorce papers that Albert states that by this time, approximately October of 1900 "Mamie willfully abandoned and deserted him."

On May 28, 1901, Albert had Mary served a summons to divorce in Tucson. She never showed up in court or replied and so on July 9, 1901 the divorce was granted to Albert Conard.

Then came the ultimate shocker. The following report from the *Tucson Citizen* newspaper on April 14, 1902, was the front-page story of the day and the article that had me involuntarily erupt at the Arizona State Library. I include it in its entirety as it is insightful to read the audacious and unabashed dishing of all the sordid and grisly details, full out, no-holds-barred descriptions from those early days of journalism.

TWO KILLED

Gambler Disposed of His Mistress, Then of Himself An Early Sabbath Morning Tragedy in the Tucson Tenderloin.

"A murder and suicide was the result of a quarrel between two members of the fast set, Saturday night. Horace B. Allen, a gambler shot Mollie (sic) Conard through the heart and then sent a bullet through his own brain.

Allen was a well-known gambler. He came to Tucson last September from Bakersfield, California. And since that time has been employed as a faro dealer in different places in this city. For the past few weeks he has been dealing faro at "The Totem" but recently laid off for a short vacation. Since coming to Tucson, he has been living with Mollie Conard at 128 McCormick Street. The

house is two doors east of the Red Light Saloon, and is owned by Pedro Pellon, who rented the three rooms about three months ago to "Mollie" and "Effie," two women of ill-fame. Mollie took the room in the rear and there lived with Allen, and it was in this room that the tragedy occurred.

Mollie came down town about midnight Saturday night in a carryall to get Allen. He had been waiting for her and talking to some friends in front of "The Totem" about that hour. He had been impatient because she did not arrive. Allen had been quarrelling with his mistress of late because she went out on the streets at night, and it is supposed that a quarrel over this matter led to the shooting.

The tragedy happened at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday. At that hour, Officer Flannigan, who was in the vicinity heard shots and started out to investigate. He entered the room occupied by Allen and Mollie and found them both laying (sic) across the bed lifeless. Allen's head was lying in a pool of blood. He at once summoned Officer Katensteind and Coroner Wilson who arrived in a short time and summoned the following coroner's jury to view the remains.

When found Allen had a 45 single action Colt revolver lying near his right hand. Four shots had been fired. The woman was shot three times through the heart and Allen was through the left hand and through the temple. It is supposed that in the struggle which occurred that Allen shot himself in the hand with one of the bullets that entered the woman's body. The bed had not been occupied when found. Allen had removed all of his clothes except his underwear and the woman had on a wrapper.

Coroner Wilson after viewing the remains turned them over to O.C. Parker, who removed them to his undertaking establishment and all day yesterday a throng of people assembled there to look at the ghastly sight. Allen was known as a good fellow and had made a great many friends here and Mollie was well known among the men and women of her class.

Allen was about thirty-six years old. He had been a gambler all his life and for a long time lived in Colorado where he met Ben Daniels and there formed a close friendship with him. When Daniels was last in Tucson, he went to see his old friend and for a long time they talked over the old days in Colorado. Allen was a tall nice-looking man. He had a scar on his face by which one could easily distinguish him. He had a cool eye and was known as a bad man. It is said that he had been in many a fight, with Ben Daniels in Colorado. Allen had eight marks on his body from bullet wounds, the result of a few of the many fights in which he had been engaged.

Mollie Conard was a well-known character also. Allen had met her in El Paso before coming to Tucson and consequently easily fell in with her. She has a husband living in Nogales from whom she separated about three years ago. A partially written letter addressed to him was found on the dresser in her room.

Allen was one of the most expert faro dealers in the county. He always carried a gun with which he committed the desperate deed. He was not known as a man with a jealous disposition among his comrades and they find it hard to account for the deed which he committed. Mollie had been ill recently and the people in the neighborhood where she lived say that Allen was always kind to her during her illness. They say the couple often quarreled, because Allen did not like to have the woman going out on the street at night.

"Effie," who lives in the next room to the one where the tragedy occurred was asleep at the time. She was alone in her room. She was awakened by the shots and heard Mollie cry out something. Then the officers came and found the dead bodies.

The coroner's jury adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock this morning in Judge Wilson's court, when the inquest was held.

The inquest was held this morning at 10 o'clock in Judge Wilson's court when the coroner's jury met and took the testimony of those who arrived at the scene of the tragedy shortly after it occurred. The jury through its foreman, C.F. Fink, rendered a verdict that Allen had met death as a result of a gunshot wound at his own hand and that Mollie Conard met death from a gunshot wound at the hand of Horace B. Allen.

Allen's funeral will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock from Parker's undertaking parlors. Mollie Conard's funeral will be held from the same place tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock."

With this news article giving me another given name for Mary (now Mollie Conard) and date (1902) on the Arizona State Secretary of State site:

The Tucson Citizen of Tuesday, April 17 1902, had this in its City News Section:

"A.M. Conard, who arrived yesterday from Nogales, made all the arrangements for the disposition of the body and personal effects his wife, Mollie Conard, who was murdered by Horace B. Allen. The funeral was private and was held yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from Parker's Undertaking parlors. Rev. Ferguson read the service.

The effects of the dead woman were shipped to her mother in Spence [ville?]. Conard has always been good to his wife since she left him to lead a untoward life. He has sent her money and written to her, but never came to Tucson to see her since they separated. He returned to Nogales today after interring the body here."

I do not know why it was reported that Albert sent Mary's effects back to her mother in "Spenceville," now a ghost town in Nevada County, California, not far from Rough & Ready. Mary's mother, Missouri, never lived anywhere but in Shasta County. Was that report written to protect her privacy or simply a journalist's error? I know that I spent countless hours poring over every Shasta and Tehama County newspaper of that time period and never saw even a mention of the death of Mary Robinson, or condolences to her mother, Missouri, for her loss. Missouri had photographs in her family photo album of both Ada Ethel and Althea as young children, and even a photo of a dashing Albert. Surely, her daughter, Winona, my dad's mother, who was 16 years old at the time of Mary's murder, and living at home with Missouri, had to be aware of all of this.

So... did my father know about all this and not want to talk about it?

Was Mary's behavior due to undiagnosed mental illness, perhaps bipolar disorder?

Did she turn to prostitution to fund her addiction?

How did her life and death affect her older daughter, Ada? Did Ada know about her?

What happened to her youngest daughter, Althea?

RETURN OF A DEATH.

County of Pima. CITY OF
Territory of Arizona. **TUCSON.**

No. of Record. 1603
No. of Death Permit.

NO INCOMPLETE RETURN WILL BE ACCEPTED.

No. 1. Name in full Mollie Conard

2. Color WHITE 3. Sex FEMALE 4. Conjugal Condition NEVER MARRIED

5. Date of Death April 17 1902 6. Date of Birth Year 1874 7. Age 28

8. Occupation Housekeeper

9. Place of Birth California

10. Birthplace of Father _____

11. Birthplace of Mother _____

12. Disease or Cause of Death Gun shot wound

13. Place of Death Red Light Saloon

14. Last Residence Tucson

15. Length of time deceased was an inmate _____

16. Length of residence in city _____

17. Place of Interment City Cemetery

18. Signature of Coroner J. S. Wilson

19. Signature of Physician W. E. Brown

20. Date of Certificate April 17 1902

FILL OUT WITH INK AND WRITE PLAINLY

And what became of everybody else touched by this story? More stories to come!

So now, 122 years later the truth has finally come out. And, although Mary Ellen Robinson, later known as Mollie Conard, had a twisted life path, the places her research took me, and the thrill of unraveling the long-held secret, led me towards resolution and peace in finally knowing what happened to my grand-aunt Mary.

And what of Mary? Her body was originally buried in the old City Cemetery in Tucson. Between 1912 and 1915, Tucson had grown so much that all the graves there were moved to what is now Evergreen Cemetery, then outside city limits.

In 2010 I contacted the cemetery to find out where Mary's body was now, and I learned that efforts were made when the graves were moved to contact all the families of the deceased. But in cases where there was no family guidance, 300 bodies were buried together in what is a paupers-like grave area with one simple stone that reads: "Unknown bodies from Old Cemetery." I made sure to compose a memorial page for her on Find A Grave. (Memorial #5960970)

In 2012, I dedicated a brick at the Commemorative Tree of Life Brick Walk in the courtyard in front of the Sahyun Library. It simply says:

"Mary E. Robinson: Was Lost. Now Found."

Chris Klukkert currently serves on the Library Book Committee Chair, the Education Committee, Volunteer librarian, and as Director at Large on the Board of Directors. She has many more family secrets that she is determined to unravel and reveal.



Author Guidelines - *Ancestors West*

Updated May 2024

ARTICLES FOR *ANCESTORS WEST* focus on useful genealogy or research sources, helpful research strategies, compelling historical accounts, and interesting case studies. The items represent the mutual interests of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society membership. Each issue follows one or more themes that are meant to draw together a selection of content within the journal; submissions are not limited to the themes, however.

Manuscripts

Suggested length is from 250 to 2500 words. Longer pieces or serial pieces are also published. Submit your document in Word format if possible. If not, please submit in text format. Endnotes are recommended, especially for books, articles and websites. Please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* and the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* for usage.

Ancestors West reserves the right to edit and revise submissions as necessary for clarity, substance, conciseness, style, and length prior to publication.

Images

Any piece is enhanced by images. Please provide images if you can to support your piece. The images in general must be over **1 MB, and preferably over 2 MB, with good quality resolution (300 dpi)**—clear and sharp to the naked eye when printed at a reasonable size (e.g., 3" x 4" - plus). Please include a caption for each picture, a photo credit or source, and insert the caption in the location in the document where it should appear. **The images must be sent as separate files and not included within a Word file.**

Author information

Provide one or two sentences about the author(s) along with author(s) photo.

Deadlines

Submissions with images are due the **1st of the month in February, May, and August, and October 15** for the November Issue. Address submissions to Charmien Carrier, charmien2940@gmail.com

Contributor copies

Authors and other special contributors receive a printed copy of the issue by mail. This is in addition to the copy you receive as a member of the Society. In addition, *Ancestors West* encourages contributors (and other interested readers) to share articles online via social media, email, etc. The entire back catalog of *Ancestors West*, all the way up through the current version, is available online, and text inside the journals can be located in Google searches that originate outside the sbgen.org website.

Copyright

Ancestors West reserves copyright to authors of signed articles. Permission to reprint a signed article should be obtained directly from the author and *Ancestors West* should be acknowledged in the reprint. Unsigned material may be reprinted without permission provided *Ancestors West* is given credit. Responsibility for accuracy of material submitted lies with the author.

We ask you to respect the copyright status of our publication. If you post a digital copy on your member website or library computers, we would appreciate it if you include the following copyright notice:

Copyright Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS). Digital copies of *Ancestors West* are provided on exchange to members of your society, organization, or library. Permission is not granted for further distribution in digital or printed format. Copyright of the entire journal remains with SBCGS.

Editorial Team

Editor: Charmien Carrier

Editorial Committee: Mary Jacob, Cathy Jordan, Marsha Martin, Bonnie Raskin, Helen Rydell, Sharon Summer, and Diane Sylvester

Design and Layout: Charmien Carrier

Mailing: Helen Rydell, and Dorothy Oksner



Santa Barbara County
Genealogical Society
316 Castillo St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, CA
Permit No. 682

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ANCESTORS WEST • SUMMER 2024 • VOL. 49, NO. 2



The image shows a family pausing to pose for a picture in Loup Valley, Nebraska, on their journey to a homestead. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed a citizen to claim up to 160 acres of western lands in exchange for farming and improving that land.
Public Domain

Suggested Theme for the Next Issue of Ancestors West

Settlements and Immigration Trails

Did you have a relative who helped establish a new town or settlement?

Do you know how your ancestors traveled?

**Deadline for article submissions:
August 1, 2024**