

CHAPTER 1 1850 – 1859

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*** PRE CALIFORNIA STATEHOOD ***

Agua Caliente Land Grant / Arroyo de la Alameda Land Grant / Potrero de los Cerritos Land Grant / Ex-Mission San Jose Land Grant

California was admitted into the Union on September 9, 1850. At the time of their admittance into the State, there were twenty-seven counties in the State of California. Alameda County was not among them. What would become Alameda County in 1853, was divided between Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County. The dividing line between these two counties was the Alameda Creek.



A map of the State of California, showing the extent and boundary of the different counties according to an act passed by the Legislature on April 25th, 1851. This map shows Contra County (in a pinkish hue), and Santa Clara County in a pale yellow hue. You can see the Mission San Jose (which is shown some distance from the foothills), and the "Potrero de S. Jose," which is the Alameda Creek. The Alameda Creek was the dividing line between the two large counties.

Part of the towns of Vallejo's Mill (Niles) and Alvarado were located in two different counties. The town that would become Decoto was totally located in Contra Costa County. All other towns would be located in Santa Clara County. At this time (Statehood) there was no Washington Township.

AGUA CALIENTE:

The first Mexican land grant in what would be Washington Township, was the "Agua Caliente" (Warm Water), given in 1836 by Governor Nicolás Gutiérrez to Antonio Suñol and Fulgencio Higuera, and confirmed in 1839 by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Fulgencio Higuera. The Rancho Agua Caliente was a 9,564-acre grant that was located about the Warm Springs area in Southern Fremont today.

ARROYO DE LA ALAMEDA:

The "Arroyo de la Alameda," was a 17,705-acre Mexican land grant presented to José de Jesús Vallejo in 1842, by Governor Juan B. Alvarado. The grant extended north of the Alameda Creek and encompassed present day Union City (north of the Alameda Creek, Niles (north of the Alameda Creek), and Mt. Eden.

POTRERO DE LOS CERRITOS:

The Rancho "Potrero de los Cerritos" was a 10,610-acre Mexican Land Grant given by Governor Manuel Micheltorena to Augustine Alviso and Tomás Pacheco in 1844. The grant name means "pasture of the little hills," and included the Coyote Hills. The three square league grant made up the town of Alvarado (south of the Alameda Creek), the entire old Alviso School District, the northern part of the town of Newark, the northern part of the town of Centerville.

EX-MISSION SAN JOSE:

The Rancho "Ex-Mission San José" was a 30,000-acre Mexican Land Grant in present-day Fremont, given in 1846, by Governor Pio Pico to Andrés Pico and Juan B. Alvarado. The grant derived its name from the Mission San José, and was called ex-Mission because of the State of California refused to patent the claim.

The church was able to retain only a 27-acre plot of land of the original 30,000-acres. The refusal of the government to patent the claim was based on the appearance that Pio Pico made a last moment decision to grant the land before the Treaty of Guadalupe de Hidalgo that ended the Mexican-American War. The grant extended to the lands of present-day Fremont including the former towns, now the districts of, Centerville, Irvington, and Mission San Jose.

In the early 1850's, the population of what would become Washington Township was in the hundreds of persons. North of the Alameda Creek the population was even sparser (Hayward-Oakland), which would play an important role in the formation of Alameda County in 1853. What would become Washington Township grew faster than Oakland before 1853 for two reasons, one was the road to Stockton near the Mission San Jose, which attracted many miners on their way to the gold fields.

The other reason was Horner's steamboat, which began operation in September 1851, with three round trips a week between San Francisco and Union City. For the first few years after statehood, Union City was the Ellis Island for the East Bay, as for being a port of entry. At this time there were no *regularly* scheduled ferries across the Bay to Oakland except by Union City.

 * **UNION CITY** *

Map of Alvarado, Union City, & New Haven / Best Description of Union City / Early Map of Union City / Union City is a Busy Port Town / Union City Progresses / Union City Growth Stalls



The map above was drawn to show the towns of Union City, New Haven, and Alvarado. The map shows many streets which never came into existence. What is important about this map is that it did include streets that were to come into existence, and those streets I have highlighted with thick black lines.

Two streets, Watkins and Granger Ave. did not come into prominence until decades after this map was drawn, but are included here to highlight a point, and that is that this is the same Alvarado street layout that existed at incorporation in January 1959. Not a single street had been added to downtown Alvarado in the 103+ plus years after this drawing was made. To see the streets more clearly, use the enlarge feature.

Note the path of the Alameda Creek, it flowed down into Alvarado just a few yards short of Maiden Lane, and then turned north, then turned west towards the Bay, only to flow south again west of 10th Street (today's Veasy Street).

There was also a bridge built across the Alameda Creek, just west of the Alvarado Hotel. This bridge was in a form of a drawbridge to accommodate the sugar mill's sloop, the Rosa. In the early 1870's the shipment of refined sugar from the sugar mill passed under this drawbridge to get to the Bay.

An article in February of 1874 of the *The Sacramento Daily Union* noted that it took “nearly the entire population of Alvarado to raise and lower the celebrated drawbridge in order to squeeze a boat through.”

There are colored dots on the map to indicate where important buildings where buildings were located as a reference.

Red Dot: Below the word “Drawbridge,” the first county courthouse on Levee St.

Blue Dot: The Brooklyn House Hotel, later the Alvarado Hotel

Pink Dot: The Alvarado Grammar School at Alvarado and Smith Streets

Brown Dot: Joseph McKeown’s Carriage House and Blacksmith shop

Yellow Dot: Water Works and Stove Foundry

Green Dot: The Landing at Union City

Finally, if you look at the letter **A** under the word “drawbridge” you will see a faint line that crosses Levee Street at a diagonal. This was the border between Union City and New Haven (Alvarado). If you look at the line you will notice that the west side of Levee Street north of Maiden Lane is in Alvarado, and everything west of Levee Street below Maiden Lane was in Union City.

BEST DESCRIPTION OF UNION CITY:

The best description of Union City during this period is given in some detail in the “History of Washington Township” by the Country Club of Washington Township. The ladies of the County Club wrote:

“The first retail grocery store in Union City was kept by Capt. Bulmer. This establishment first occupied a tent, but was later moved into a wooden structure. Capt. Bulmer, Union City’s pioneer merchant now sleeps in “Lone Tree” Cemetery at Haywards.

The first dwelling in Union City was originally occupied by Capt. Bulmer, and today (1904), it still does duty as a home. It stood where the buildings of the water works now are until it was moved to its present location opposite the foundry (both of these locations were on today’s Veasy Street, or 10th Street as it was known at the time).

This house was said to have been built of dry goods boxes, but later to have been improved by additions of lumber. It was first occupied as a home by Mr. Joseph Ralph and family, later by Capt. Marston and family, A.E. Crane, Mr. & Mrs. Ashley Cameron, and then Mr. & Mrs. Churchill. It then passed into the possession of one John Miller, who sold it to G. Platt, who in turn transferred it to a man named Quigley.

Afterwards it became the property of Capt. C.C. Scott, and at present (1904) is owned and occupied by Mr. Dennis Harrington. During these years its uses have been extremely varied. It has done duty as a store, a saloon and gambling house, and as a men’s furnishing store.

It afterward was used again as a dwelling house, then a boarding house, later as a saloon, and later still, again, used as a home.

Another old house is the one occupied by John Moffitt, built by Capt. C.C. Scott in 1852. This historic landmark was lived in by the Curragh's, one of the earliest families of Union City, the members of which, with the exception of Dr. John Curragh of San Francisco, have years ago passed to their long home.

In 1851, William M. Liston came to Union City to take charge of the two warehouses that had been built there by Henry C. Smith. In addition to these warehouses, the two dwelling houses mentioned were then in existence, and Mr. Liston constructed the third.

Union City was the site of the first flourmill of any size established within the limits of the state, this being the enterprise of the Horner's, (John & William) who, in 1853, built at the little port, a mill having a run of eight burrs, costing at the time \$85,000. It was operated by steam power, and the flour gained a statewide reputation through the award, at the first Agricultural Fair in California, of the first premium.

The Union City flour competed with eight samples ground from California grain, and in the united judgment of three New York merchants, was awarded the premium for excellence to the sample from "Horner's Mill at Union City." This premium was a silver cup.

Union City had a rival in Alvarado, which was located one-half mile to the east, and was first called New Haven. It was claimed that Alvarado (actually New Haven) was the outgrowth of political spite on the part of Mr. Henry C. Smith. Having once been honored by being the county seat of Alameda County, Alvarado may claim precedence over other small towns in Washington Township."

The passages above are taken directly (word for word, except those in parentheses which are mine) from the Country Club of Washington Township's "History of Washington Township" as no better description exists.

EARLY MAP OF UNION CITY:

The map reproduced below shows the location of Benson's Warehouse (originally John Horner's Landing), and later to be called Barron's landing. It also shows the location of John Horner's Union City Flourmill (which he built in 1853), and the home of Henry Curragh. All of these were within the town of Union City.

The map also shows the location of a "brick house," between the bridge leading into town and the southern terminus of Alameda Creek, which was known as New Haven before the creation of Alameda County in 1853. The brick house was located roughly on the spot where the first County Court House would later be located.

This map was drawn in 1860, but seems to portray the time of about 1853, or later, as it shows Horner's flourmill. The irregular boundary line drawn across the middle of map would have been the path of the Alameda Creek as it was the northern boundary of the Potrero de los Cerritos land grant.

The purpose of this map was to verify the claims of Pacheco & Alviso before the U.S. District Courts for the rights to their property located in the Potrero de los Cerritos.



UNION CITY IS A BUSY PORT TOWN:

Union City's prominence grew because of the Alameda Creek, which in some writings was described as the Alameda River. This early description was probably well earned, as the Alameda Creek was the only waterway that ran entirely through the township, and was the only outlet for the Alameda Creek watershed.

The Alameda Creek was fed by the Alameda Creek watershed, a basin of over 630 square miles. From north to south, the watershed ran from the southern slopes of Mt. Diablo in the north, to the entire outflow of Mt. Hamilton, in San Jose, in the south. From east to west, the watershed ran from the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley (Altamont) in the east, to the foothills about Mission Peak in the west. From this gigantic bowl, water was fed down the Niles Canyon towards Alvarado, and then into the Bay.

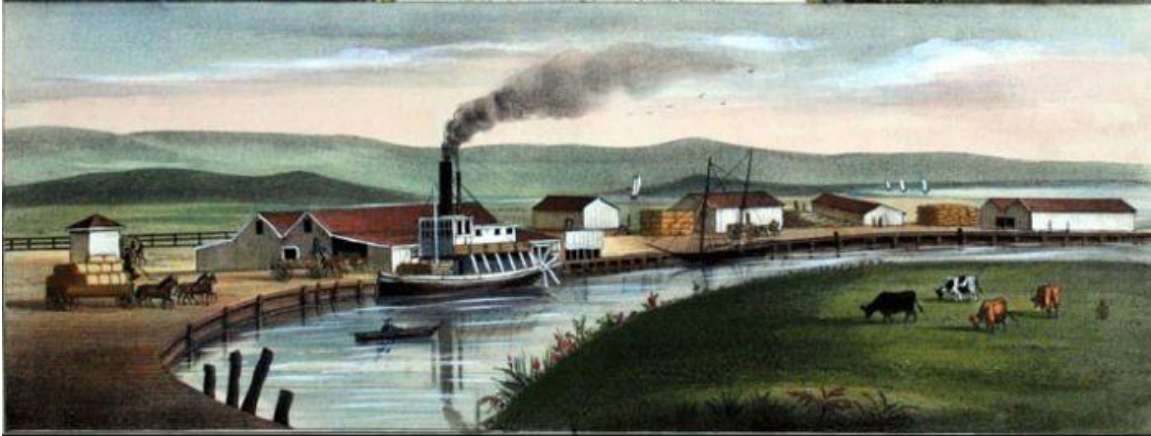
Prior to 1848, the padres from Mission San Jose would come down to the "Devil's Elbow" at Union City to trade with Yankee whalers. The whalers would row up the Alameda Creek in their long boats to meet with the padres and trade for fresh fruits and vegetables in exchange for whatever the whalers could offer.

In 1850, John Horner bought land from Augustine Alviso, which would become the town of Union City. Horner planted potatoes that year, from which he made a fortune. John Horner not only owned some farmland in Union City, but he also farmed a large part of the 30,000 acre ex-Mission Lands.

In the fall of 1850, John Horner laid out the town of Union City, and in December 1850 he made arrangements with P.H. Messmore of San Francisco to sell town lots in Union City. John Horner set about to improve the padres landing at the Devil's Elbow. He built a dock and several warehouses. During the summer of 1851, John Horner entered into negotiations to acquire the steamer "Union." To read more about the steamer Union, see the "Steamer Union" below under "Transportation."

UNION CITY PROGRESSES:

Union City's prominence grew because of the Alameda Creek. Here on the banks of the Alameda Creek John Horner built his landing and warehouses.



This is the landing at Union City on the Alameda Creek, from a plate produced from the Thompson & West Almanac of 1878. The landing was operated over the years by John Horner, Captain Richard Benson, and then the Captains James & Richard Barron. The road, which disappears on the lower left of the picture, is actually the east bank of the Alameda Creek at this point, and was adjacent to today's Veasy Street.

Horner's landing certainly brought progress to Union City. The initial progress was mostly along the Alameda Creek, on what was known as 10th Street in those days, but today is known as Veasy Street. However, over time, the populated part of old Union City would be located between 15th and 19th Streets (today's Bulmer Street to Union City Boulevard).

The little port became quite busy, and so John Horner took in a manager for the operations. This man was Dr. Benjamin Bucknell, who had come to Union City from San Francisco for his health. He was seeking a warmer climate, for the damp and cool temperatures of San Francisco had a negative effect on his pulmonary problems.

Dr. Bucknell took over the operational end of the landing, and the steamer "Union." In November 1851, Union City received a U.S. Post Office branch, of which Dr. Bucknell was appointed as Postmaster. This post office was officially known as the "Union" Post Office of Santa Clara County. At this time Union City was located in Santa Clara County, for there was not yet an Alameda County at this time. Dr. Bucknell was also the physician for the area, and was popular with the indigenous people for he spoke fluent Spanish.

Dr. Bucknell also added the title "Justice of the Peace" to his duties. On November 5, 1851, at Union City, Dr. B.F. Bucknell officiated at the marriage of Redbon C. Horner to Miss Ann Luby. Redbon "Red" Horner was the younger brother of John M Horner. But in 1853, Bucknell's health began to fail him and he moved to Centerville where he died in 1859.

The progress of Union City in the first three years was a story that mirrored the success John Horner. At the end of the year of 1850, John and William Horner reported a gross income of \$150,000. In this year John Horner had purchased and farmed land at Union City; he had also developed the Union City landing, and he had also established a commission house in San Francisco under the firm name of J. M. Horner & Co., to sell his and others' produce.

In 1851, Horner reported that his crops were large and a ready market was found for everything that he raised, though at reduced prices from former years because the amount of farmers in the township area had multiplied. In the fall of 1851, John Horner purchased the steamer "Union" to carry his produce to market. This year Horner's gross sales amounted to \$270,000.

In 1852, John Horner extended his agriculture operations, by purchasing more lands. After the planting was over, John sent his brother William back to New Jersey on business, and William brought back Stacy and Sarah Horner, his father and mother, and all their children and grandchildren, two sisters of John Horner's wife, a brother, and some other young people, for a total of some twenty two persons.

William arrived home safely in the fall of 1852, in time to help sell Horner's large crop which was then ready for market. John and William continued their energetic and prosperous career by buying more land and farming it themselves, or letting them out to tenants until their potato crop reached the enormous quantity of twenty two million pounds in 1853. They had also, in 1853, put in fifteen hundred acres of wheat and barley, besides cabbages, tomatoes and onions in quantities. California had not only supplied herself with vegetables this year, for the first time, but she produced a large surplus which could not be sold, and was never sent to market.

John Horner, had at this time a rather small farming operation in Union City, as well as his steamboat and dock at Union City. However, John Horner's main venture was in the Ex-Mission lands that comprised some 30,000 acres. The year 1853 saw the great potato glut. Potatoes could not be sold at any price, and most of the potatoes were allowed to rot where they sat. Horner was more fortunate than most, for he had made some contracts to sell the potatoes at a set price. But John Horner did suffer some losses because of this glut. At this point, this was the high water mark of Horner's fortune in Washington Township.

Although 1853, was not the success it had been in previous years', John Horner saw the need for a flouring mill. In 1853, he built a steam powered flour mill next to his Union City landing, the mill had eight run of burrs, and cost John Horner \$85,000. Here John would grind his grain and that of others.

All of this created the perfect storm for John, for between 1853 and 1859, there was a money panic in the U.S. At this same time John faced pressure to make good on notes he had guaranteed for the benefit of others, and payment was demanded from John when the original note holder was unable to pay. Also, John had bought land with questionable titles, and he was forced to pay twice, for the same property.

Property values then plummeted. Horner's property, for which he paid \$290,000, was then valued at only \$48,000. His steamer, the Union, for which he paid \$18,000, was sold for \$7,000. In parting with his flour mill, Horner said the buyer having bought it (J.J. Noe of San Francisco) in the start of the money panic, could not hold onto it, and he was forced to sell it for only \$5,000 in 1858.

John Horner began selling his assets. He sold his Union City landing to Capt. Richard Benson. Benson's landing was known for having an extremely active artesian well. Its overflow was distributed into a natural depression, which Capt. Benson first covered with rock and gravel, thus forming a pretty little lake about 300 feet in diameter, and about 8 or 10 feet deep.

The Benson landing then passed into the possession of Capt. Richard Barron in the late 1850's. Captain Barron built up an island in the center of the little pool, upon which were planted all kinds of vines, while the banks of the lake were fringed with a hedge of calla lilies. Small boats were kept on the lake, and it became one of the attractions of the country side, many people coming from miles away to view the beautiful hedge with its wonderful growth of white flowers. As well as having a small lake of some notoriety, the Captains Benson and Barron also maintained the landing's forwarding and warehouse business.

John Horner's flourmill was sold to Jose de Jesus Noe of San Francisco in 1858. Noe owned land in San Francisco known as the Noe Valley. J.J. Noe had received this land as a Mexican land grant as the Rancho San Miguel. Noe had sold a good bit of his Noe rancho to John and William Horner.

Noe would sell Horner's flour mill to Calvin J. Stevens in 1858. Stevens was at this time an Alvarado merchant. Stevens would later move to Centerville to open a general merchandise store. In 1868, the earthquake of that time collapsed the upper floor of Stevens' store, and several tons of sacked grain came crashing down, nearly costing Stevens his life. Calvin then sold his general store in Centerville, and moved to Livermore, where he also relocated Horner's flour mill, leaving the building which had housed the flourmill empty in 1869. Stevens' flourmill in Livermore would later burn to the ground.

In 1853, New Haven, the town just east of Union City, became the first county seat for the new county, Alameda County. At the time Alameda County was created, one of the stipulations of acquiring the county seat was that the town of New Haven be renamed Alvarado to honor our former Mexican governor. With the county seat came the legal profession, and the most prominent was a group of lawyers from San Francisco, Townsend, Coombs, and Hamilton. Coombs would eventually reside in Centerville, but Hamilton resided in Alvarado until the county seat was lost to San Leandro in 1855.

Noble Hamilton married the daughter of Capt. Jotham S. Marston. Mr. Hamilton was also a historian, and to this end he gives us a view of Union City in a newspaper article he wrote in 1889:

"In the early part of 1853 Red Horner (John Horner's younger brother), who had recently married a young wife, built a large hotel in Union City, to which all hands resorted of nights and Sundays to drink whiskey and play poker, as such were about the only amusements that were practical, as there were but few ladies there at that time to form other society, and a new comer had a choice of four things, that is, to drink, to gamble, to smoke, or get out.

But for the advent of the Rev. Dr. Morrow, a faithful Methodist minister of the old school who made his appearance on Sunday, twice a month at the hotel, and held services in the dance hall just above the bar room where the drinking and sporting were going on, it is doubtful if many would have remembered when, if at all, Sunday came.

It was not an uncommon thing in the midst of the religious services overhead to hear the jingle of the coin in the room below, and it was not small coin

either, but California made eight sided \$50 slugs that were more common then than the \$10 pieces are now.

Once in a while the ladies, the few that were at Union City and Alvarado, would get up a party at the Horner Hotel, at which time the whole country would turn out and dance until daylight in the morning. The ladies being but few, men never lacked for partners, and comparatively few of the men could even get one for a dance."

From the ladies at the Country Club we get this fact of an early birth:

"The first white child born in Union City was the daughter of Edward D. and Mary Gading Clawiter. The Clawiter's had emigrated to California from Bremen, Germany, coming around Cape Horn on the ship "Reform" and arrived in Union City in 1851. Their daughter was born on August 7, 1851. Her birth was a great event. People came from all directions to see the wee stranger, and many brought gifts. From John Horner she received a town lot (Union City), and by him was christened "Union." At twenty years of age Union Clawiter married Converse Howe, of the well-known Drexler family of Southern California. She became the mother of four sons. Mrs. Howe passed away on January 19, 1890."

Union's brother, Edward, was born 15 months later in Union City. Near 1860, the Clawiter's moved to Mt. Eden, where they would become a prominent family in the town. Edward became Mt. Eden's historian, and was also prominent in the town's progress. There is a street in Mt. Eden named after the Clawiter's.

The only church services known to be held in Union City in the early 1850's were at Red Horner's Hotel with the Rev. Dr. Morrow. Centerville would establish a Presbyterian Church in the mid 1850's under auspices of the Rev. W.W. Brier, who would come to Alvarado to preach to the people in the Horner Hotel. John Horner, being an elder in the Mormon Church, held services in Centerville at his church, which he also lent out to Presbyterians and Methodists before they built their own edifices

In Alvarado, Mrs. Charlotte Cornell lobbied ceaselessly for religious direction for the towns of Union City and Alvarado in the late 1850's. In 1860 Charlotte's dream was fulfilled when Presbyterians completed a church on "V" Street and 17th Street in Union City. It was known as "Charlotte's Temple."

UNION CITY GROWTH STALLS:

In 1853 Union City reached its zenith. John Horner had improved on the old embarcadero with his landing at Union City, started a transportation system from Union City to San Francisco every other day, and built a steam powered flour mill of some repute at Union City. In San Francisco he added a commission house, and in 1854 he bought a large part of the Rancho San Miguel in San Francisco from Jose de Jesus Noe, known today as the Noe Valley. John and William Horner called their land they bought as "Horner's Addition." This plot of land would become a thorn in the side of the Horner's well into the 1890's, as the children of J.J. Noe sued to have the land returned to them under the claim that their father had illegally sold the property after their mother's death.

In 1855, the Horner's Union City Flourmill, was sold to J.J. Noe of San Francisco. The mill was ready for operation under Noe in June 1855. At that time orders for grinding wheat were being taken at the mill. Payment for services would be taken in wheat or cash. The agent for the Union City Flourmill was J.W. Cheswill of San Francisco.

But the times being financially tough, Noe sold the flourmill to Calvin J. Stevens in 1858. Stevens would eventually move to Centerville, and then onto Livermore in 1869, taking his flourmill at Union City, and re-establishing it in Livermore. In 1882 the Stevens' flourmill at Livermore burned to the ground, destroying all the machinery. Meanwhile, the old flourmill buildings at Union City stood empty for about a year, when the Geo. Tay Foundry was established in the old flourmill buildings circa 1870. The company would stay in business until about 1905, when it was abandoned and the building lay empty.

Horner's landing would pass into a succession of hands. From John Horner the Union City landing went to Capt. Richard Benson, then to the brothers Richard and James Barron. Capt. James Barron sold the landing (32.23 acres) to Moses Wicks for \$2,340 in October 1886. Then William Wicks and C. Miller sold the landing to Farley B. Granger Sr. of Alvarado in June 1887. Circa 1894, F.B. Granger sold the landing, and its 32 acres, to Wm. Dingee of the Oakland Water Company of Oakland. The Oakland Water Company would build the Alvarado Water Works, a pumping station that sent Alvarado artesian water to the City of Oakland.

* **New Haven** *

Henry C Smith Founded New Haven / Creation of Alameda County

Henry C. Smith Founded New Haven:

The town of New Haven was established by Henry Clay Smith when he bought 800 acres of land from Augustine Alviso in January 1851. Henry Smith had served with Captain John C. Fremont in 1846 to drive the Mexican loyalists south, out of Northern California, in the Bear Flag Revolt of Sonoma, Calif. For this he was rewarded by being named "alcalde" (or "Mayor") of the area about Mission San Jose. Here he opened a general store from which he made a small fortune in selling goods to gold miners going through the pass near Mission San Jose on their way to the gold fields.

Henry purchased 800-acres of land in January 1851, on the Mt. Eden to Centerville Road (Levee Street), one-half mile to the east of John Horner's landing and warehouses. Henry laid out a new town, which he named New Haven, after the hometown of his father.

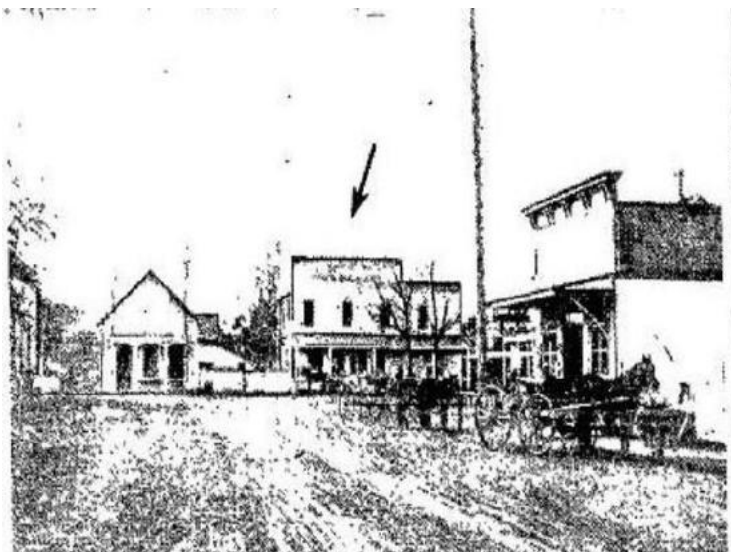
Along with buying land for his town, Henry Smith also bought fine farmland in New Haven, from which he invested heavily in potatoes in 1851, and for which, like John Horner, he reaped a great profit. At the end of 1851 Henry returned to his hometown of St. Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan. He returned with 19 people who came to settle in New Haven. While he was away, he had his home built at the end of Vallejo Street, where he and his family would settle.

In 1852 Henry Smith went into partnership with A.M. Church in the opening of a general store on the banks of the Alameda Creek in New Haven. Church had spent the previous winter with three partners hunting deer and elk in foothills about Washington Township.

The year 1852 was a disaster for Henry Smith. He, unlike John Horner, had not made contracts prior to the season for the sale of his crop. Henry faced ruin in the great potato glut of 1852. Potatoes could not be sold at any price. Smith had lost almost everything. Friends encouraged Henry to go into politics; which he did, and he was elected to the state legislature for Santa Clara County in 1852 (at this time Alameda County did not yet exist, and New Haven was located in Santa Clara County).



The abandoned home of Henry C. Smith at the end of Vallejo Street in Alvarado in its later years.



Alameda County's First County Courthouse is pictured above from an *Oakland Tribune* file photo. This was the general store of A.M. Church and Henry C. Smith, located at the west end of Smith Street at Levee Street. A room on the upper story of this Alvarado store building (indicated by arrow) served as the first seat of government of Alameda County. The first meeting of the Court of Session met here on June 6, 1853.

After taking his seat in the California Legislature, Henry Smith became disenchanted with the representation that Washington Township area received from the county seat at San Jose. He felt the needs of the citizens of Washington Township area were being overlooked.

In the state legislature, Henry Smith found an ally who felt same way about his county, Contra Costa County, which lay just across the Alameda Creek from Santa Clara County. Contra Costa County included present day Oakland and its suburbs. But its representation came from Martinez. The man who befriended Henry Smith in the California Legislature was Horace Carpentier, and he, like Henry Smith, was disenchanted with the representation his city (Oakland) received from their county seat.

Between the efforts of these two men, Alameda County would be carved out of Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County in 1853, the dividing line between the two having been the Alameda Creek.

CREATION ON ALAMEDA COUNTY:

In 1852 the State Legislature passed an act incorporating the town of Oakland, which then had barely 100 people. The force behind this venture was Horace W. Carpentier, a person whom the year before had been the Enrolling Clerk for the State Senate. At this time the City of Oakland was located in Contra Costa County, and its representation came from the City of Martinez.

South of the Alameda Creek, in Santa Clara County, Henry Clay Smith had been voted to the State Assembly after he suffered a disastrous season of potato farming. Henry Smith had founded the town of New Haven in January 1851, on land he had purchased from Augustine Alviso. New Haven would eventually become the town of Alvarado, but at this time it was still known as New Haven, and was located in Santa Clara County.

In the State Assembly, Horace Carpentier and Henry C. Smith found a common ground, neither felt that their districts were receiving the attention they deserved. So both men began lobbying for a new county, Alameda County, to be carved out of Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County.

Henry Smith, from New Haven, championed the cause of the new county, and on March 10, 1853, presented in the State Assembly the petition of the citizens of Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties, praying for the establishment of a new county, to be called Alameda, out of territory then belonging to those counties. On March 11, 1853, the committee to which it was referred reported the bill back with the recommendation that the same be passed. On March 12th, Mr. Thomas, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, reported the bill as correctly engrossed, and the report was adopted.

On the March 13, 1853, the bill went to the Senate, where the Senate changed the name of the county seat from New Haven to Alvarado, in honor of former Governor Juan B. Alvarado. On March 18th, the Assembly concurred with the Senate amendments. The County of Alameda was created by the California Legislature.

Horace Carpentier and Henry C. Smith had worked together to form, and pass the creation of Alameda County. But when New Haven (Alvarado) was chosen as the county seat, Carpentier and Smith became rivals for the coveted county seat.

Carpentier wanted the county seat for his city (Oakland), and lobbied the Legislature to have the location of the county seat be the City of Oakland, rather than the town of Alvarado. A vote was taken on the amendment, and was turned down with 19 voting no, and 17 voting yes. For the time being Southern Alameda County held the numerical edge over the less populated Oakland and its environs.

* **ALVARADO** *

THE FIRST COURT OF SESSIONS:

The form of county government when Alameda County was first created was known as the Court of Sessions, in which body was vested the entire general civil business of the county.

The first Court of Sessions was held at Alvarado on June 6, 1853, on the second floor of Henry C. Smith's and A.M. Church's General Store at the west end of Smith Street at Levee Street (see photo on page 12).

This was the official location of Alameda County's first County Seat. The members seated at this historic meeting according to Mr. M.W. Wood's "History of Alameda County" were:

Addison M. Crane	County Judge
Augustus M. Church	County Clerk
Andrew H. Broder	Sheriff
William H. Coombs	District Attorney

County Officials who were not at the first Court of Sessions meeting was:

Capt. Jotham S. Marston	Treasurer
Joseph S. Watkins	Public Administrator
William H. Chamberlain	Coroner
George W. Goucher	Assessor
Rev. W.W. Brier	Supt. of Schools
H.A. Higley	Surveyor

Joseph S. Watkins would later become the first choice for Assemblyman from Alameda County.

The First Court of Sessions was busy, as the bulk of county business was transacted here. Of largest import at their first meeting on June 6, 1853, were two major issues, road districts and Township boundaries. The first Court of Sessions ordered that the county should be partitioned into the following seven Road Districts:

- 1) The highway leading from Union City to the Mission San Jose, extending two miles each side thereof, of which Charles Breyfogle was appointed Supervisor.

- 2) The highway leading from the Mission San Jose, running in the direction of the Pueblo de San Jose, to the county line of Santa Clara County, of which William H. Chamberlain was appointed Supervisor.
- 3) The highway leading from Mission San Jose in the direction of Stockton, through the Amador Valley, to the crossing of the Creek, of which A. Marshall was appointed Supervisor.
- 4) To embrace that part of the highway leading from the Mission San Jose to Stockton, which lies, between the Alameda Creek and the house of Robert Livermore, of which Robert Livermore was appointed Supervisor.
- 5) To commence at a point opposite the house of Robert Livermore and thence embrace all that part of the main traveled highway leading to Stockton, up to the east line of the county, for which a Supervisor would be appointed.
- 6) To commence at the town of Oakland and run thence along the highway extending two miles each side thereof, to the house of Vicente Peralta, of which Francis K. Shattuck was Supervisor.
- 7) To commence at Oakland and run thence to the north line of the county, near the house of Vicente Peralta, of which R.M. Randall was appointed Supervisor, his jurisdiction was to extend two miles each way from the above line.

At the same time it was ordered that Road Districts 2, 3 & 5 (above) should also extend two miles each side of the highways.

Another important duty of The First Court of Sessions was the establishment of townships in the county and their boundaries. The First Court of Sessions produced six townships; they were Oakland, Contra Costa, Clinton (East Oakland), Eden, Washington and Murray.

These divisions remained intact until December 12, 1853, when the county was divided into five townships by eliminating Contra Costa Township.

On March 10, 1856, a resolution that was introduced by Supervisor Eager (and passed) that the places called San Antonio and Clinton should be consolidated, and the township known as Clinton should be changed to Brooklyn Township.

The five townships stood until January 5, 1878, when a sixth township was added, Alameda, which encompassed the little island town.

But Alvarado was not a popular county seat among some of the cities and towns in Alameda County. Alvarado had some serious issues that needed to be addressed.

In the winter the roads to Alvarado became almost impassable and they were worse when they flooded. In the spring and summer Alvarado was thick with mosquitoes from the marshes.

One traveler told the tale of coming to Oakland from San Jose via the Newark Road near the marshes. He explained that when he reached Alvarado the mosquitoes on his horse were so thick that he could not make out the color of his horse.

In 1854 a local county judge called for a vote to determine if the county seat should remain at Alvarado. It was a hotly contested election, but the town of San Leandro won the election, and the county seat was moved to San Leandro on December 30, 1954.



This is the 1878 "Thompson & West Atlas" map depicting the townships of Alameda County.

However this decision was nullified when citizens challenged the right of a county judge to call an election on the relocation of a county seat. The judiciary ruled that only the State Legislature could call for a vote on the moving of a county seat. So the county seat was returned to Alvarado on August 16, 1855.

However, on March 6, 1856, the State Legislature called for a vote on the contentious issue of whether the town of Alvarado should continue to maintain Alameda County's County Seat. Alvarado lost that election, and with it they lost ownership of the County Seat. It was moved to San Leandro where it remained for some twenty years before being moved again, this time to the City of Oakland, where it would permanently remain.

 * **TRANSPORTATION** *

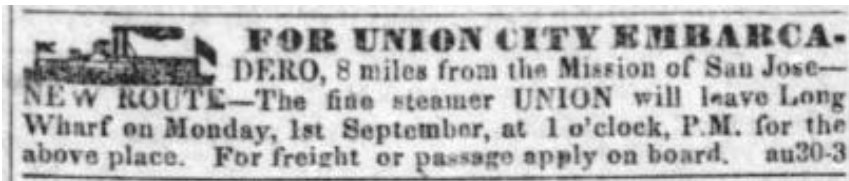
The Steamer Union / Other Union City Steamers / Union City Fades Away / Overland Stages

THE STEAMER UNION:

So what was transportation like in early Union City? Well, if you were close to water you could go by boat, otherwise you walked, rode a horse, or went by carriage.

In the fall of 1851 John Horner bought the steamer Union to transport his produce from Washington Township to San Francisco, where Horner had established a commission house with his brother William Y. Horner.

The steamer Union offered a regularly scheduled transport to and from San Francisco. The Union began service on Sept. 1, 1851, going from San Francisco to Union City, it would then return to San Francisco on the following day. The boat ran three times a week, and rested on the Lord's Day.



John Horner announces the initiation of service from San Francisco at the Long Wharf to the embarcadero at Union City on September 1, 1851. Note: The master of the vessel was not named at this time.

NEW ROUTE FOR SAN JOSE.
UNION LINE.—Through in 6½ hours.—The fine steamer **UNION**, T. W. Seely master, will leave her berth, in the basin between Pacific and Broadway wharves, for Union City, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, connecting with carriages for San Jose Mission and San Jose. Returning, will leave San Jose and Union City on alternate days, Sundays excepted.

FARE.	
Through to San Jose.....	\$8 00
" " Union City.....	5 00
" " San Jose Mission.....	6 00
From San Jose Mission to San Jose.....	3 00
" Union City to San Jose.....	4 00


For further information apply to **HORNER & CO.**,
 Front st, corner of Broadway.
 Or to the Captain, on board. au28

On September 29, 1851, John Horner shows the regular schedule that the Union had followed through most of September, leaving San Francisco on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for Union City, returning the following day to San Francisco. Also on this date, Horner announced the beginning of his stage coach line, advertising a schedule of times and fares. Horner names the captain of the Union in this ad, the first time the captain of the boat was identified. The captain was Thomas W. Seely, the same captain who had guided the Union in the Sacramento Delta from December 1850, to when John Horner bought the Union. Near the end of November 1851, Capt. Jotham S. Marston replaced Captain Seely.

Near the end of November 1851, Capt. J.S. Marston replaced Capt. T.W. Seely as the captain of the steamboat Union. The steamer Union, and the Horner stage coach line, would continue on this schedule under Capt. Marston until January 30, 1852, when John Horner stopped advertising the stage coach line, but continued to advertise the Union's schedule from San Francisco to Union City.

On January 19, 1853, Captain J.A. Trefry replaced Captain Marston as the Captain of the Union, and the schedule was changed to just two days a week leaving San Francisco on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On August 4, 1853 the Union went back on her Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays schedule under Capt Trefry.

Then on September 17, 1853, the steamer San Jose, under the command of Captain T. Huntington, advertised daily scheduled trips to Union City and Alvarado. The San Jose would run the daily trips three times a week, opposite the days the Union was running the schedule. This meant that Union City and Alvarado had daily steamers coming into the landing Monday through Saturday.



FOR UNION CITY, ALVARADO and the Mission of SAN JOSE—The fast steamer **SAN JOSE**, Captain T. Huntington, will leave foot of Clay st. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, connecting with the stages for Mission San Jose. Returning, leaves Union City Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For freight or passage apply on board, or to
WM FORST, Clay st wharf.


On October 26, 1853, the San Jose stopped advertising this route, and presumably stopped their trips to and from Union City.

Then in November 1854, the following notice was placed in the *Daily Alta California*:

SHERIFF'S SALE—By virtue of two executions, one issued out of the Third Judicial District Court of the State of California, at the suit of **WILLIAM T. WALLACE vs. ELIAS L. BEARD and JOHN M. HORNER**, duly attested the 4th day of October, 1854, and one issued out of the Superior Court of the city of San Francisco, at the suit of **EDWARD H. MOORE and JOHN H. BEAMAN vs. E. L. BEARD, MOWRY W. SMITH, JOHN M. HORNER and CHARLES HOPKINS**, duly attested the 17th day of October, 1854, I have seized and taken into execution the following property, to wit:
The steamer **UNION**.
Notice is hereby given that on **SATURDAY**, the 18th day of November, A.D. 1854, at 12 o'clock M., at Broadway wharf, I will sell said property to the highest bidder for cash.
W. R. GORHAM,
Sheriff.
n13-18

Notice.—The above sale is postponed until **WEDNESDAY**, 29th day of November, 1854, at 11 o'clock, A.M., at Broadway wharf, by order of plaintiff's attorney.
WM. R. GORHAM,
Sheriff.
n20-25-29

The ongoing financial problems of John Horner had cost him the possession of his steamer the Union.




FOR SALE.—Steamer **UNION**, now lying at Broadway Wharf. Said steamer is in perfect running order, and the best boat of her size for short routes, there is in the State. She will be sold low for cash.
All information required will be given on board, or at Horner & Co's store ship, at Broadway Wharf, or of
MR. SIMMONS,
134 Clay street.
d16

In February 1855 an advertisement shows the steamer Union under the agency of Spang and Blake of San Francisco. The Union then began her new career with three trips a week from San Francisco to Union City and Alvarado under the command of Captain Charles Thorn.

At its arrival at Union City, a stage coach line had been arranged to meet the boat and ferry the passengers to Mission San Jose and the City of San Jose. This stage line connected with the steamer Union.

On March 22, 1855, the new owner of the steamer Union advertised the following route for the Union.

FOR SAN JOSE, SANTA CLARA AND ALVISO.



Steamer UNION, Capt. Chas Thorn, will continue to run regularly to the above places, leaving San Francisco from Long wharf, every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, at 9 o'clock, A. M., returning will leave Alviso on TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

For Freight or Passage, which will be at the lowest rates, apply on Board, at Long wharf. m20

OTHER UNION CITY STEAMERS:


The San Jose:

As stated above, the steamer San Jose scheduled regular stops at Union City three times a week starting on September 17, 1853, in direct competition with the Union. But this lasted only until October 26, 1853, when the steamer San Jose ceased advertising their route to Union City.

The Erastus E. Corning:

The E. Corning advertised its service to the landing at Union City on September 11, 1855. The Erastus E. Corning served under the agency of Spang & Blake, with Captain John Hawkins at the helm. It would offer three trips a week between San Francisco and Union City. It would carry passengers and freight. The steamboat left the Broadway Wharf on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

FOR UNION CITY,



Connecting with stages to ALVARADO, CENTREVILLE, and SAN JOSE MISSION. The steamer E. CORNING, Capt. John Hawkins, will leave Broadway wharf every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Returning, will leave UNION CITY on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

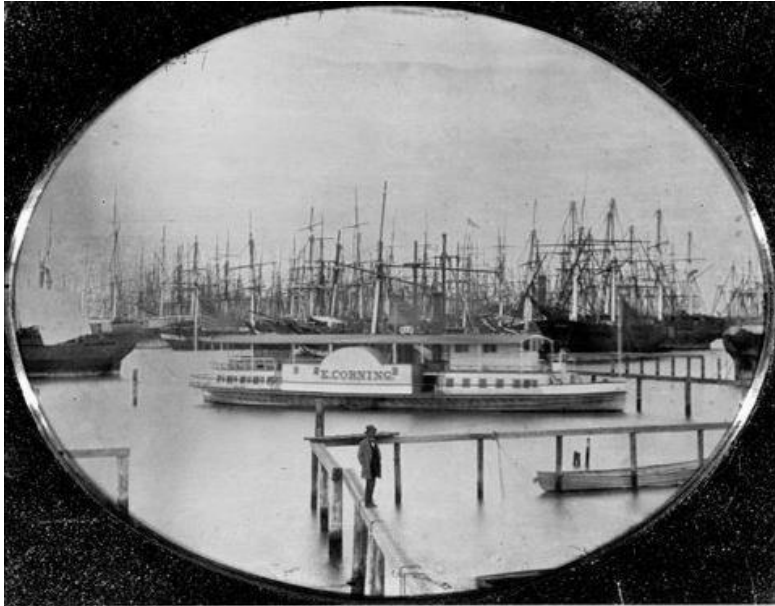
For freight or passage, which will be at the lowest rates, apply on board, at Broadway wharf.

N.B.—The CORNING has superior accommodations for carrying stock of all kinds, which will be taken at the lowest rates.

For further particulars apply to the captain on board, or to Me-srs. SPANG & BLAKE, Broadway wharf.

s10-1m

Pictured below is a photo of the E. Corning taken in 1851 leaving the port in San Francisco.



The Erastus Corning's last advertisement of service to Union City was dated December 13, 1855. After this date there was no further mention of E. Corning in the San Francisco Bay area.

The E. Corning was the last regularly scheduled, and advertised, steamer or sloop to offer service from San Francisco to Union City in the 1850's. There were other vessels that came to Union City, but they were not advertised or regularly scheduled.

UNION CITY FADES AWAY:

1853 seems to be the high-water point for Union City. The *Sacramento Daily Union*, in an article of August 26, 1853, noted:

“That adjoining Alvarado was another small town called Union. This latter is also a flourishing place, and is considered as *merely* an extension of Alvarado.

This was said just after Alvarado had just become the county seat for Alameda County. Already, at this early date, Union City was beginning to fade, and the E. Corning's abandoning the Union City route in December 1855, only speeded up the demise of the fame of Union City. Also speeding the demise was regularly scheduled trips of steamers from San Francisco to Oakland in 1854.

OVERLAND STAGES:

Pioneer Stage Line / California Stage Co. / San Francisco & Contra Costa Express / Charles McLaughlin / Duncan & Ashley Cameron / Cameron vs. Hilt Duel / John Bamber & Co.

Along with this nautical activity there was a great deal of activity in overland transportation, I have already mentioned the stage line of John Horner, which was connected to his steamboat the “Union” in the latter part of 1851.

Pioneer Stage Line:

On May 19, 1854, the Pioneer Stage lines began advertising service from San Francisco to San Jose, via Oakland, Union City, Centerville, Mission San Jose, and intermediate points. The stage would leave Oakland every morning on the arrival of the 9 o'clock boat from San Francisco, and would leave San Jose every morning at 8 o'clock, and arrive at Oakland in time to connect with the 3 o'clock boat to San Francisco. Now there were regularly scheduled boats leaving San Francisco for Oakland, and connecting with stage lines to the north, Sacramento and the gold country; and to the south, Washington Township, and Santa Clara County.

The California Stage Co.:

On December 11, 1854, J. Birch of the California Stage Co. reported that his company had bought the interest of James Tallmadge, and Pioneer Stage Lines now running between Oakland and San Jose via the Mission San Jose (and intermediate points), together with the stables on the road now owned by the California Stage Co.

The California Stage Co. began operating the stage line in January 1855. The coaches left Oakland each morning for Union City, Mission San Jose, Warm Springs, and San Jose. It also operated a stagecoach that left San Jose each morning at 7 a.m. and arrived at Oakland in time for the 7:30 p.m. boat for San Francisco.



A Concord style stagecoach

In June 1855 the California Stage Line advertised their Concord Stagecoach service, which carried passengers and the U.S. Mail to towns along the route from Oakland, Union City, Alvarado, Centerville, Washington Corners (Irvington), and the Mission San Jose.

San Francisco & Contra Costa Express:

In November 1855, Mr. J.W. Hoag started his San Francisco and Contra Costa Express. He offered two lines going through Washington Township. Both lines were daily by the California Stage Company's Line of Coaches from Oakland, via Clinton, San Antonio, San Leandro, Hayward's Hotel, Mission of San Jose, to Warm Springs.

The second line, also by the California Stage Company and Williams' Line of Stages went to the Mission of San Jose, via San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Alvarado, Union City, and Centerville.

Mr. Hoag boasted of expanded service including a Weekly Express throughout the Valley as far as Warm Springs, calling at every ranch, thereby giving to farmers and others the opportunity of having business transacted without the expense of a trip to the city. They would also deliver daily papers on either of the above mentioned Stage Routes at city prices, and weekly papers "at a trifle more," delivered at their doors, together with Atlantic States, Foreign Papers, and Magazines as low as can be purchased in the city. They also offered general express business, such as collecting bills, forwarding letters, parcels and packages, to all parts of California or elsewhere, being connected with Wells, Fargo & Co., and the Pacific Express Companies. Mr. Hoag was in partnership with John Bamber and C.D. Goble.

Charles McLaughlin:

Transportation changed in August 1856, when the California Stage Line routes from Oakland to Union City, through to the Mission San Jose, was sold to Charles McLaughlin. His line carried mail and passengers, with a run leaving Oakland every day after the arrival of the 10:00 a.m. boat from San Francisco for points at Union City, Mission San Jose, and the City of San Jose, and points in between.

Duncan & Ashley Cameron:

From the ladies of the Country Club in their book *The History of Washington Township*, we get this stirring account of early transportation in Alameda County and Washington Township:

"In 1856 the Cameron's (Duncan & Ashley) put on opposition coaches, and exciting times followed. The fare came down to \$1 or less for the trip. Old settler's laugh now when they speak of Cameron's galloping broncos, and the famous runs they made. Ashley Cameron of Centreville held the reins, and never failed to deliver the mail on time, although sometimes obliged to forsake the stage and walk the fences across stretches of high water. He also carried and threw with unerring hand the Alta Californian to subscribers along the way as the broncos flew onward. It is said that when they were fairly underway, no stop could be made for way passengers. In times of high water, mud wagons were used instead of coaches, and even these were not infrequently "stuck in the mud." At such times the male passengers were, of necessity, compelled to get down, and help pry out before the journey could be continued. Although this seems a prosaic employment, at least one romance began in the Alvarado slough, for it was there that two of our old settlers first met.

An interesting feature of these trips was the fact that the steamer at San Antonio could not wait for the stage, if it chanced to be late, for the boat had to go with the tide, which waits for no man. Then, Mr. Cameron would hurry his passengers into light wagons and rush them across to what is now Alameda, arriving before the steamer made the landing at that point. The stages continued to run to San Antonio until the railroad was completed to Haywards, when that was made the objective point."

Cameron vs. Hilt Duel:

The Daily Alta California of San Francisco printed this article of confrontation between Duncan Cameron and Lewis J. Hilt, stagecoach drivers:

"On July 28, 1857, between three and four o'clock, a difficulty took place on the San Antonio landing (Oakland) between Cameron Duncan, one of the

proprietors of the lower lines of stages to Union City, and Lewis J. Hilt, driver on Charles McLaughlin's mail line. Hilt had driven his stage ahead of Duncan's, and taken the stand at the landing which Duncan usually occupied. Duncan became incensed and called Hilt rough names, and attempted to push him away from his own stage door. In a few minutes afterwards they met again, and Hilt renewed the conversation by taking Duncan to account for the names he had called Hilt a short time before, and returned his words with interest.

Duncan then struck Hilt in the face and kicked him. Hilt drew a slung shot (a hard object, such as a metal ball, attached by a strap or thong to the wrist and used as a weapon, akin to what David slew Goliath), and hit Duncan under the left eye, cutting him slightly. They were then separated; Duncan went to wash the blood from his face, and Hilt went into the stable nearby.

About fifteen minutes afterward Duncan came into the stable with a knife in his hand and made an attack upon Hilt, who was unarmed. The first blow cut through Hilt's coat and vest, and was only prevented by striking an account book in his breast pocket from going into his heart. Hilt then ran and got behind a horse, which was in one of the stables. Duncan followed him up and stabbed him twice, once in the right shoulder, penetrating to the bone, and once under the left arm, inflicting an ugly wound. Duncan later obtained a warrant for the arrest of Hilt, on a charge of striking him with a slung shot."

In November 1857 the Grand Jury of Alameda County met and considered all the evidence of the trouble between Duncan Cameron and Lewis Hilt of July 28th, and handed down the following ruling: Duncan Cameron was fined \$30, which he paid. Hilt pleaded not guilty and was released after paying \$500 for bail.

John Bamber & Co.:

In 1858 Washington Township continued to be serviced by a large stage line out of Oakland. This was Bamber & Co.'s Contra Costa Express, whose office was on Davis Street opposite the Oakland Ferry. Their daily schedule was:

Daily Express to:

Oakland	Union City	San Antonio	Centerville
Alameda	Vallejo's Mills	Mission San Jose	Washington Corners
San Pablo	San Leandro	Hayward's Hotel	San Lorenzo
Warm Springs	Milpitas	Alvarado	

They had connections throughout the State, with forwarding agreements with Wells Fargo and Co. and Freeman & Co. Expresses. They also boasted that due to the great increase in their facilities they were able to reduce the price of their stamped envelopes to 12½ cents.

 * **EARLY RESIDENTS** *

The early arrival of some of the historic people in Alvarado (which includes New Haven and Union City) in 1850 were:

1850: John Horner (farmer), Ephraim Herrick Dyer (farmer), and Henry Clay Smith (farmer & politician)

1851 - 1853: William Morris Liston (hotel Keeper), Lewis Cass Smith (farmer), Ebenezer Farley (farmer), Ben Williams (lawyer), Noble Hamilton (lawyer), Horace M. Vesey (hotel keeper), Red Horner (hotel keeper), William Y. Horner (farmer), William Hayes (farmer), Joseph Black (farmer), J.A. Trefry (steamboat Capt.), Jotham S. Marston (Capt. & County Treasurer), Joseph S. Watkins (politician), Andrew H. Broder (sheriff), A. M. Crane (county clerk), Joseph Ralph (farmer), A.M. Church (store keeper & politician), A.M. Crane (judge), William Coombs (district attorney), Henry Cronkhite, George Fay, and Riley Gregg (hunters), Hiram Davis (farmer), Dr. Bucknell (postmaster @ Union City), Calvin J. Stevens (merchant), William Cockefair (carpenter), George W. Patterson (farmer), John Buchanan (farmer), Farley B. Granger (farmer), Edward Clawiter (merchant), Christian Bothsow (salt Mfg), Sylvester P. Harvey (farmer). These were some of the names that I was able to cull from the archives, but they were certainly not the only ones.

*** BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS ***

Baker / Blacksmiths, Carriage Makers, Wheelwrights / Butchers / Carpenters / County District Attorney / County Judge / County Public Administrator / County Recorder & Clerk / County Sheriff / County Supt. of Schools / County Treasurer / Farmers & Livestock Ranchers / Freight Forwarders / Hotel Keepers / Hunters / Justice of the Peace / Lawyers / Livery Stable / Merchants / Mexican Governor / Mexican Landowner / Millers / Notary Public / Nurseryman / Painter / Physician / Plasterer / Post Master / Religious Pioneer / Restaurateurs / Saddler & Harness / Saloon Keepers / Shoemakers / Surveyors / Teacher / Tin Smith / Well Borer

BAKER:

Conrad Funk:

Conrad Funk was born in Hesse-Cassel Germany in 1824, his wife Helena was born in Holstein Germany in 1822. The Funk's do not appear in Alvarado after the 1860 census, nor could I find where they were located then. However, Helena Funk was back in Alvarado in the 1880 census, showing as being a widow.

BLACKSMITH:

Joseph McKeown / Edward (Asa) Putney / Thomas Ricker / Samuel M. Wilson

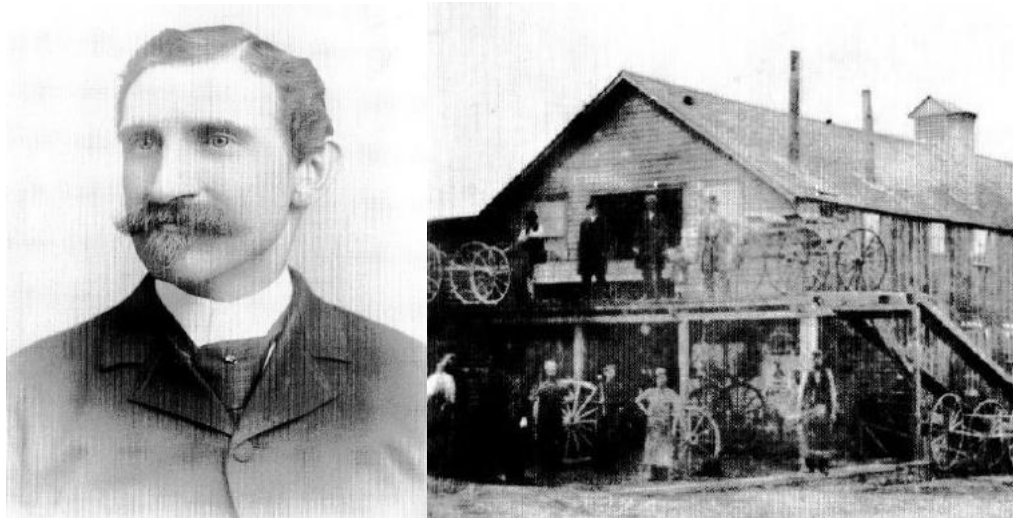
Joseph McKeown:

Joseph McKeown was born in Kerry, County of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, on November 9, 1832. Joseph emigrated to the U.S. in 1854, and settled at Alvarado. He took up the trade of blacksmith. In the 1860 census he shares an abode with Thomas Ricks, whose employment is listed as a carriage maker and painter.

McKeown's place of business was located at the SE corner of today's Union City Blvd. and Horner Street, and became a very successful business.

Besides his success as a blacksmith in Alvarado, Mr. McKeown was also a civic-minded man, who gave much of his time back to his community. In November 1863, he joined the Alvarado Guards as a Second Lieutenant. The guards were formed as a militia unit to guard Alvarado from Rebel sympathizers during the Civil War. The guards had their armory on the second floor of the IOOF Hall and were disbanded after the Civil War, having never fired a shot against an enemy.

Joseph was also a member of the Crusade Lodge, IOOF in Alvarado, where he served as Noble Grand in 1875. He was also a member of the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees for many years.



Joseph McKeown and his blacksmith and carriage shop in Alvarado at the SE corner of today's Union City Boulevard and Horner Street. On August 21, 1900 fire destroyed the two-story blacksmith shop that was once owned by Joseph McKeown. Henry Henrickson was then the proprietor of the business. Photos from "Images of America, Union City," by Tim Swenson

In the late 1880's Joseph served as Assemblyman from the district representing Washington Township. Said *The Haywards Journal* in March of 1889 about Alvarado's esteemed Assemblyman:

"Our Assemblyman; the Honorable Joseph McKeown of Alvarado, returns to his constituents free from one single stain or insinuation. His career has been most satisfying to us. Every act of his has been recorded, and he has stood nobly by the people every time. He was "all right" by the insurance bill, and, in fact, every measure presented for the benefit of the people against the greedy corporations."

Joseph McKeown was the most eligible bachelor in Alvarado, and would have made an excellent catch among their fairer sex of Alvarado. But time would not allow Joseph to find a suitor, for on February 7, 1890, Joseph McKeown died in Alvarado at the age of 67 years. His heirs were Nancy Moore, a sister, the children of Michael McKeown, now deceased, who reside in County Kerry Ireland, and his brother James McKeown of Alvarado, who was administrator of the estate. Joseph's beloved carriage shop would burn to the ground in the year 1900. Henry Henrickson, an Alvarado blacksmith was operating the shop at the time.

Edward (Asa) Putney:

Asa Edward Putney was born in New Hampshire in 1826, and was married to Fanny Putney. In 1870 Edward was in Los Angeles, employed as an artesian well-borer, living with wife Fanny and five children.

Thomas Ricker:

Thomas Ricker was born in Nova Scotia in 1826. Thomas arrived in Alvarado in the 1850's and in the 1860 census Thomas was living with Joseph McKeown, and showed his occupation as a blacksmith, wheelwright & painter. After 1860 nothing was found for Thomas Ricker.

Samuel M. Wilson:

Samuel Wilson was born in Pennsylvania in 1833 and was married to Caroline Wilson who was born in Ohio in 1834. They had a son and a daughter. Sam showed his occupation as a blacksmith and wagon maker. The Wilson's came to Alvarado in the 1850's. Nothing further was found for the Wilson family after 1860.

BUTCHERS:

August May Sr. / Philip Hellwig / Charles Nonnemann / Robert C. Bacon / Henry Hahn / Thomas Nansell / Philip Holwich / Jacob Breil

August May, Sr.:

August May was born in Germany on May 11, 1831. He came to California in 1852 and settled in Alvarado in 1854. In Alvarado he entered into a partnership with A. Main in the butchering trade, which he continued until 1874.

On September 27, 1862 August May Sr. married Miss Sophia Platte, a native of Germany born on January 13, 1843. They had four children: George, August Jr., Bertha and Henry.

After leaving the butchering business August purchased some 1,700 acres from Jonah Clark, mostly in the town of Decoto. Part of the purchase was the famed Decoto Picnic Grounds. Late in life August May Sr. retired and continued to live in Alvarado, although he had extensive land holdings in the Decoto area. August May Sr. passed away on July 2, 1887 at the age of 56. Sophia May followed him to the other side on February 22, 1930 at the age of 87 years.

Phillip Hellwig:

Phillip Hellwig was born in Germany on August 15, 1830. Having been apprenticed as a baker until he was fourteen years old, he left Germany for London England in 1844, and continued his trade there until he left for the U.S. arriving in San Francisco in May 1856. He spent some time in mines, but eventually came to Alvarado join his cousin in the butcher business. In 1860 Philip was living with the Henry Hahn family in Alvarado along with fellow butchers Thomas Nansell and Jacob Breil. The 1870 census showed Philip Hellwig living in Alvarado with his wife Elizabeth and Jacob Hellwig.

In 1874 Philip purchased the business from his cousin and then formed a partnership with F.D. Wiegman and William Jung in Alvarado. They operated under the firm name of P. Hellwig & Co. Mr. Wiegman eventually sold his interests to August May Jr., with whom Mr. Hellwig continued in business until 1891. Philip's son Frederick then purchased his interest, and the partnership continued as it was until 1899.

Mr. Hellwig's son George, then purchased Mr. Jung's interest, and two years later the brothers purchased Mr. May's interest. In 1903, the firm incorporated under the business under the name of the Hellwig Meat Company.

Their business in Alvarado was located in a brick building, which their father erected, while they also had a shop in Haywards and Pleasanton. They had nine wagons, and did a large and lucrative business.

The marriage of Philip Hellwig occurred April 19, 1869, and united him with Elizabeth Schweitzer, who was also a native of the same locality in Germany as was her husband. She came to California when she was sixteen years old, landing in San Francisco in April, 1865. She remained a resident of that city until her marriage, since which time she made her home in Alvarado.



Hellwig Meat Company delivery wagons lined up on Levee Street in Alvarado, circa 1890.

Of the four sons born of their union, only two survived, namely: Frederick P., president and manager of the Hellwig Meat Company; and George P., secretary-treasurer of the corporation, and manager of the plant at Alvarado. In addition to his commercial interests Philip Hellwig owns seventy acres in this community, which was used for pasture, and also owned six hundred and fifty acres in the hills, which was rented out by his widow after his death. Mr. Hellwig was well known in fraternal circles, being a member of thirty-two years standing in Crusade Lodge No. 92, I.O.O.F., of Alvarado. Elizabeth belonged to the Rebekah's, and both Philip and Elizabeth were members of the Lutheran Church.

The death of Mr. Hellwig, which occurred May 29, 1901, removed from the community one of the most prominent and successful business men, and an earnest and helpful citizen, one whose word was acknowledged as good as his bond, whose integrity was ever unquestioned.

Charles Nonnemann:

Charles Nonnemann was born in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1839. Charles came to Alvarado in the 1850's, and in 1860 he was shown living with August May, and was employed as a butcher. He showed having no family while in Alvarado. In 1870 Charles was residing in San Francisco, married to Barbara Nonnemann, with a son and a daughter. Charles was in the butcher trade at this time.

Robert C. Bacon:

Robert Bacon was born in Maine circa 1811. Robert came to Alvarado in the 1850's, and in 1860, he was shown living with Mr. August May, where he was employed as a butcher. He showed having no family. Nothing was found about Mr. Bacon after 1860.

Henry Hahn:

Henry Hahn was born in Prussia (Germany) in 1824, his wife Charlotte was born in Prussia in 1832. They had a son and a daughter. Also living with the Hahn's were Thomas Nansell, Phillip Holwich and Jacob Briel, who were also butchers in Alvarado. The Hahn's were in Alvarado in the 1870's and by 1880 they had relocated to San Francisco, where Henry carried on in his butcher trade.

Thomas Nansell:

Thomas Nansell was born in Holstein Germany in 1823. Mr. Nansell came to Alvarado in the 1850's, and was shown as residing with Henry Hahn, with his occupation as a butcher. He showed having no family. Nothing further was found for Mr. Nansell after 1860.

Philip Holwich:

Phillip Holwich was born in Prussia (Germany) in 1830. Mr. Holwich came to Alvarado in the 1850's, and was shown residing with Henry Hahn, and showed his occupation as a butcher. He showed having no family. Nothing further was found for Mr. Holwich after 1860.

Jacob Breil:

Jacob Breil was born in Prussia (Germany) in 1833. Mr. Briel came to Alvarado in the 1850's, and was shown residing with Henry Hahn, and showed his occupation as a butcher. He showed having no family. Nothing further was found for Mr. Breil after 1860.

CARPENTERS:

Jacob F. Meyers / William Cockefair / James Hawley

Jacob F. Meyers:

Jacob Meyers was born in Pennsylvania in 1836. Jacob came to Alvarado sometime in the 1850's, where he worked at his trade as a carpenter. In the 1860's, he was married to Mary Meyers, where they had three infant children by 1860. Jacob continued to ply his trade in Alvarado into the 1860's, but by the time the 1870 came about, he was living in Livermore with his family.

William Cockefair:

William was born in Essex County, New Jersey, January 25, 1833, where he resided until he attained the age of nineteen years, and here he learned the trade of carpenter. Sailing from New York May 10, 1852, he crossed to the Pacific Coast by way of the Nicaragua route arrived in San Francisco July 7, 1852.

William first went direct to Mission San Jose, and after working on a farm for six months, moved to the vicinity of Alvarado, and here he engaged in a like calling until February, 1854. He then proceeded to Nevada County and engaged in mining for six months, when he returned for a short time to Alameda County.

In the fall of 1855, Mr. Cockefair transferred his mining operations to Indian Creek and Scott's River, Siskiyou County, for two years, finally coming back to Alameda County, and worked at his trade for a year.

In December 1858, he moved to Arizona, and at the end of six months went on a visit to the Eastern States, with the intention of remaining, but longing for the sunshine of the Pacific Slope, in September 1859, he married, and turned his face towards California.

Settling in Alvarado, he there dwelt until 1862, when he moved to Nevada, but two years thereafter came back to his favorite county of Alameda, and maintained a domicile there until 1876, at which date he proceeded to Oregon in the employ of the Government as a constructor of light-houses. He remained in its employ some six years, at the expiration of which he found his way again to Alvarado, where he permanently resided following his trade of carpenter and builder.

Mr. Cockefair was a member of the Washington Township Society of Pioneers and was a member of Alvarado's Crusade Lodge, IOOF.

William Cockefair was married in September 1859, to Miss S. J. Ball, a native of New Jersey, and had two children: Ellen A. Cockefair (a teacher in the Decoto School System for many years), and Charles P. Cockefair.

William Cockefair died on April 26, 1915

James Hawley:

James Hawley was born in Birmingham, England on September 14, 1822. He came to the U.S. in 1825 and spent the early part of his life in New York and New Jersey.

In 1845 he married Hettie Munn who was born in 1822. Coming west in 1849 he built the Red Hotel in Mission San Jose in 1850. The lumber for the Red

Hotel came around Cape Horn, and was purchased by James Hawley, who then built and conducted the hotel for two years. In 1852 he moved to the Alviso District on the Centerville-Alvarado Road, near Beard Road.



A close up of the Hawley family showing James and wife Betty with daughters. The above photo was taken from the book, "Images of America, Union City" by Timothy Swenson.

There being no school near here James and some citizens living near him organized the Alviso Grammar school District, which Mr. Hawley helped build. James farmed there but also supplemented his income with his carpentry skills. James also served as the road overseer for the Alviso District.

James was an Odd Fellow since the age of 21 years. In November 1859 he joined several other Alvaradan's and became a charter member of Crusade Lodge No. 93, IOOF of Alvarado. Several years later he helped build the new IOOF Hall on Smith and Vallejo Streets in downtown Alvarado. Mr. Hawley was a member of the Republican Party in Alvarado.

Mrs. Hettie Munn Hawley:

Hettie Munn Hawley was one of the earliest members of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, but she transferred to the Centerville Presbyterian Church in 1892. She was also a charter member of the Alvarado Rebekah Lodge.

Miss Charlotte Hawley:

Charlotte Hawley married Charles Whipple. Their children included James Whipple, who became a star football player, mining engineer, and the husband of Laura Thane.

Miss Emily Hawley:

Emily Hawley married John Ingalls, the son of Benjamin Ingalls who built the first sugar mill in Alvarado. He was described as the only Hawley son-in-law who was not a local pioneer. However, he was the secretary of the Cypress Cemetery Association formed in 1873. Emily was a member of the 1853 school class held in the mission adobe.

Miss Clara Hawley:

Clara Hawley married George Patterson, the largest landowner in the area, and owner of the present Ardenwood Historic Farm. Their children were Henry and Donald. Clara married the Rev. William Layson after George died. Clara became a community benefactor and noted social hostess. She wrote a booklet in 1907 entitled, "The Hawley's in the United States."

Miss Elizabeth Hawley:

Elizabeth Hawley married John Lyman Beard, and they raised six children. They lived in Warm Springs before establishing their home by the Alviso School. John was chosen a state senator in 1896.

Edwin Haley:

Edwin Hawley, the only son, married Belle Coulter, and their son was named James.

Miss Hettie May Hawley:

The youngest daughter, Hettie May, named after her mother, remained the only single Hawley.

James was described as "a man of sterling character, honest, upright in business and a kind, accommodating neighbor." Hettie maintained an active interest in social affairs and charitable concerns. They were married 61 years. James Hawley passed away on February 8, 1906 at the age of 83 years. He had been a proud member of the Odd Fellows in the U.S. for over 62 years. His beloved Hettie followed him to the other side on July 11, 1911. Hettie and James had six children, five daughters and one son.

COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

William H. Coombs:

There is not a lot of information about William H. Coombs, except to say that he was one of the first residents of Centerville, building a home there in 1852. In June 1853, Mr. Coombs, known as "Black Hawk" Coombs, was the first District Attorney of Alameda County. Later (1873), he would practice law in San Leandro with Noble Hamilton, a lawyer that was well known in Alvarado, for he had married Lydia Marston, daughter of Captain J.S. Marston, who was the first Alameda County Treasurer and former Captain of the Steamship Union.

COUNTY JUDGE:

Addison M. Crane:



Addison M. Crane was born at the town of Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York, on July 2, 1814. His grandfather, Isaac Crane, of New York, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was a commissioned officer. Addison was one of ten children. In 1835 Addison entered employment in a New York law office and received his law license in 1837. In 1843, he moved to Lafayette, Indiana, and entered the law business in that state. In 1847, he was elected by the Indiana Legislature as a Judge in Lafayette in the Court of Common Pleas.

In the spring of 1852, he journeyed west and arrived in Stockton. Eventually he made his way to Squattersville (San Lorenzo), and began farming. His neighbors were in such need of legal help that he eventually abandoned farming for the law profession.

In 1853 Alameda County was formed out of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties. In April of that year the first election of county officers was held, the candidates having been nominated without regard to political party.

In this election Mr. Crane was elected County Judge at the courthouse in Alvarado. He remained County Judge for four years. He resided for six years at Washington Township, thirteen years in Alameda and the rest of his life in Oakland.

Judge Crane later would become a State Senator from Alameda County, becoming the president of the Senate in 1862. He was elected Superior Court Judge in 1880.

Addison Crane passed away on October 20, 1887 in Oakland. He was survived by his wife Gertrude A. Crane. The Crane's had the following children:

1. Catherine Augusta, born, Oct. 12, 1840.
2. Lauren Elliot, born July 18, 1842; died February, 1897.
3. Anna Frances, born May 18, 1845, date of passing is not known.
4. Mary Gertrude, born March 8, 1847; died Jan. 2, 1856.
5. Ashley Addison, born May 18, 1849; died at sea. October, 1871.
6. Albert Emerson, born June 7, 1851; died May, 1859.
7. Helen Eliza, born April 1, 1855; died March, 1858.
8. Gertrude Ashley, born Sept. 24. 1857.
9. Maria Dubois, born Oct. 27, 1859, date of passing is not known.

COUNTY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR: Joseph Watkins:

Joseph S. Watkins first comes to light in early 1853, when he was appointed as one of the commissioners to designate the necessary election precincts in Alameda County for the election, and to appoint the judges and inspectors (election officials) to issue certificates of election to the parties receiving the highest number of legal votes. Serving with him on this commission were James B. Larue, Michael Murray, J.S. Marston and Gustavus Harper.

Then on April 10, 1853, there would be an election held for county officers at which time the qualified voters of the county would choose one county judge, one district attorney, one county clerk, who would also be the county recorder, one sheriff, one county surveyor, one county assessor, one coroner, one county treasurer, and one Public Administrator.

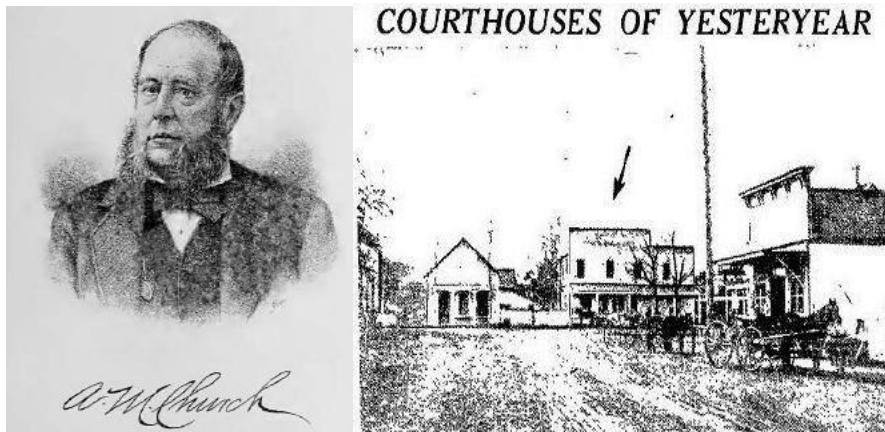
At this election Joseph S. Watkins was chosen as the Public Administrator for Alameda County. Then Mr. Watkins served in the California State Assembly in 1854 to 1856 (4th District) and 1857 to 1858 (19th District).

In all of my time spent researching the town history, Mr. Watkins is the only "Watkins" in Alvarado likely to have a street named after him. Nothing was found on Mr. Watkins before 1853 and after 1858.

COUNTY RECORDER: Augustus M. Church:

Mr. Augustus M. Church was born on June 19, 1816 in Allen's Hill, Ontario County, New York, to Lovett and Sally Church. Mr. Church came west in 1849 attracted by the reports of the gold found near Sacramento. Mr. Church managed to acquire \$1,800 with the intention of going back to Michigan. The money was stolen from him and he arrived back Michigan as he had left the year before, with little or no money.

Mr. Church remained in Michigan until the spring of 1851, when he returned to California and started a hunting partnership with Henry Cronkhite, George Fay, and Riley Gragg. They took up hunting deer and elk in the hills behind the Mission San Jose. They killed fifteen to twenty animals a day, which they took to New Haven (Alvarado), butchered and dressed the carcasses, and then transported them to San Francisco for sale.



Augustus M. Church, 1st County Clerk and Recorder.

First County Courthouse at the end of Smith Street in New Haven, later to be named Alvarado.

In the spring of 1852, Augustus opened a merchandising store in partnership with Henry C. Smith, the *Alcalde* of Mission San Jose. When Alameda County was carved out of Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties, Mr. Church served as the first county clerk and recorder. The first County Seat was the second-floor of the two-story general store of Church and Smith.

In 1867, Mr. Church was elected to the State Legislature as a representative from Alameda County. After his service in the legislature, Mr. Church moved to Livermore where he owned a ranch. In 1877, he sold his residence in Livermore and moved to Oakland where he died on September 1, 1889.

Two of Mr. Church's sons became prominent Oakland public servants. Roderick Church was born in Alvarado in 1855, and was a former Oakland City Clerk. He died at age 91 on May 6, 1946. The other son, Judge Lincoln S. Church, was born in Alvarado on May 12, 1865. He had an illustrious career in

the legal field, and retired as Superior Court Judge. He died on December 17, 1948.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Andrew H. Broder:

Andrew Henderson Broder was born in Canada on April 13, 1826. Nothing is known of his early life, and he comes into view at Alvarado at the time of the formation of Alameda County when he runs for the office of County Sheriff.

Some accounts of the election seem to indicate that he ran for sheriff under the name of "Tom Snooks," and when the election was complete they had elected A.H. Broder as Sheriff. Broder took office in the first Court of Sessions at Alvarado on June 6, 1853.

In one of his more daring exploits, A.H. Broder and a posse captured two gentlemen named Hill & Harris, and their two Mexican accomplices for cattle stealing. The men had an examination before Justice Millard, of Alvarado, on a charge of having stolen some eight head of cattle from a Mr. L. Gates, who resided about three miles from Union City, which resulted in their conviction.



Andrew Broder & Sarah Smith, from the book "Images of America, Union City," by Tim Swenson

The four men were locked up in the Brooklyn House Hotel, there being no jail in town. The two Mexicans escaped and Broder and his posse rode out after them. Meanwhile the townspeople were outraged and stormed the hotel and took Hill and Harris out to the Alviso Ranch, about four miles from Union City, on the San Jose Road, at which place, on the branch of a tree, at about 5 o'clock in the morning of November 29, 1855, both Harris and Hill were hung by the neck. The bodies were then cut down and buried on the same spot where they were executed.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Broder and his posse were still out on the trail of the two Mexicans who had escaped, but they were never caught and escaped the hangman's noose.

On October 12, 1854, Andrew H. Broder, the Sheriff of Alameda County was married to Miss Sarah A. Smith, the sister of Henry C. Smith, in the town of Alvarado by the Rev. W.N. Brown.

Andrew Broder was the Sheriff of Alameda County from 1853 to 1858 and thereafter he disappears from sight only to be found in a San Francisco obituary

The Daily Alta California of August 29, 1883 carried the following obituary:
"In this city (San Francisco), August 27th, Sir Knight Andrew H. Broder of Visalia, a native of Canada, passed away at the age of 56 years.

Another obituary in *The Daily Tulare Register* of September 16, 1913 gave further details of the life of Alvarado's Andrew Broder:

"News was received in Tulare this morning of the death of Mrs. Sarah A. Broder at her home in Visalia. Although she was upwards of eighty years of age, and had long been in a feeble condition, her death was not expected at this time and came very suddenly. The deceased was the widow of Andrew Broder, who died years ago, and they were among the very earliest settlers of Tulare County. There are two sons living, Louis and Robert. Another son, John, died two or three years ago. The Broder's were stockowners way back in the days when this county was a cattle range. Sarah Anna Smith was the daughter of Timothy Seymour Smith and Susan Caroline (Crippen) Smith. She married Andrew Henderson Broder."

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Reverend William Wallace Brier:

Rev. Brier was born in Dayton Ohio on November 6, 1821, and was married to Elizabeth Naylor Brier of Indiana, who was born on August 20, 1830. They were married circa 1849. They would have five children: Lizzie, Mary, Carrie, William Jr., and Louisa.

In 1850 they took a ship to the Isthmus of Panama on their way to California. In August 1850, while in Panama several passengers from the Columbus Ohio perished from the journey. The Rev. William Brier held services over their earthly remains.

September 1850, the Rev. W.W. Brier was preaching in the Marysville Court House. In the summer of 1852, he moved to the Mission of San Jose. His health had been broken by over-work of eighteen months, while he established the church of Marysville. Mr. Brier, with his wife and child, lived in the Mission a few months where he taught the first public school, for which funds were drawn from Santa Clara County, for Alameda County, as yet, had no existence.

In 1852 Rev. Brier came to Centerville and preached in the little chapel that John Horner had built for Mormon worshippers. John Horner generously lent out his chapel to the Methodists and Presbyterians every other week on Sunday mornings. John would then preach his sermon on Sunday afternoons. It was reported that John Horner preached the Mormon faith to thirty or forty people on Sunday afternoons, while Mr. Brier had twelve to fifteen hearers in the morning.

In the month of May, 1853 W.W. Brier was elected superintendent of schools for the new Alameda County.

In June of 1853, the interest in church services had so increased in Centerville that, on request, the following persons were organized into a Presbyterian church: Charles Hilton, Elizabeth A. Brier, Hannah Breyfogle, Chancey Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Charles Kelsey, Mary C. Kelsey, Eliza Beard, and Dr. J. M. Selfridge. This church was called the Alameda Presbyterian Church, and was located in the town of Centerville. The Rev. Brier was chosen pastor and Charles Hilton was chosen as Elder.

On October 14, 1860, a new Presbyterian Church was built in Marysville, this being the same place where Rev. W.W. Brier preached his first sermon in California. One of his contemporaries took the podium to tell of his first view of Rev. Brier's Holy abode:

"It was in April 1851. Our brother, Rev. W.W. Brier invited us to his pulpit, a shabby desk in a forlorn and unfinished court House. (It was) a mere shell rather than a house. We remember how it was out of the city then, in the prairie where men went out a gunning, and how, in the midst of a sermon, some careless gunner gave the congregation the contents of his fowling piece through the window. Times have changed since then, greatly changed."

Rev. Brier would attend many Presbyterian Synods, moderating and leading many of them. His talents were much in demand, and on February 12, 1871, in Laddsville (Livermore) at a meeting held in a school house, he organized the First Presbyterian Church of that town. Rev. Brier had been preaching there for semimonthly for several months under direction of the Board of Home Missions.

The Rev. William W. Brier would pass away on June 3, 1887. Elizabeth Naylor Brier would pass away on January 16, 1920.

COUNTY TREASURER: **Capt. Jotham Sewall Marston:**

Jotham Sewall Marston was born in Addison, Washington County, Maine, on October 8, 1804, to Samuel Marston and Sarah Hall. In 1850 he was residing in Whitneyville, Maine, with his wife Cynthia Ingersoll Marston and ten children. At this time he had six sons: Samuel, George, Benjamin, Henry, Kenny and Charles; and he had four daughters: Judith, Laura, Mary and Lydia; all of the children being born in Maine.

Jotham Marston and family, came to California shortly after 1850. He settled in the home that had been occupied by Joseph Ralph, this being the first house built in Union City by Capt. Bulmer. Here the Marston's had their eleventh child, Charles.

In August 1851, John Horner purchased the steamer "Union" to ply the route between the Union City and the wharf in San Francisco. The first trip of the "Union" was advertised for September 1, 1851. The first reported captain of the Union was not named until three weeks after the Union had been

operating. Then, T.W. Seely, who had operated the steamer Union in the early years from San Francisco to Sacramento was named the captain of the steamer. Capt. Seely operated the Union City to San Francisco run of the "Union" until mid-November 1851, when Captain J.S. Marston became captain of the little ship. Captain Marston guided the destiny of the steamship until January 1853, when Captain Trefry took over command of the ship.

When Alameda County was created in March of 1853, the county seat chosen was New Haven, with one proviso, that the name of the County Seat would be changed from New Haven to Alvarado to honor Alta California's former Mexican Governor.

After the Legislature had named Alvarado as the County Seat, an election was held in May 1853 to seat public administrators. Jotham S. Marston was elected as the first county treasurer for Alameda County. The county's valuables were stored in a safe on the second floor of the county seat, which was located in the General Store of A.M. Church and Henry C. Smith Levee Street on Alvarado.

In February of 1855, the safe on the second floor of the store was rifled and \$12,555.31 was stolen. Some recovery of funds was made, but the loss still stood at \$7,156.44. The blame was laid at the feet of Mr. Marston, as he was the county treasurer, although there was no indication that he had any involvement in the theft. The county tried to recover the loss of funds over the next few years from Jotham Marston, the county refusing to pardon the amount lost.

On March 2, 1857, Jotham Marston petitioned to be released from all liabilities due to the robbery of the county treasury in 1855. His petition was refused. Many people in Alvarado still believed that this was one of the reasons that Alvarado had lost the county seat to San Leandro.

Finally in August 1857 \$3,441.40 was paid to the county treasury to settle the missing funds and Capt. Marston, and his bondsmen, were finally released from liability of the robbery.

Jotham Marston then moved his family to Centerville, where he commenced farming along with his sons Samuel and Benjamin. Capt. Marston stayed in Centerville until his retirement when he moved to Oakland and lived with his daughter Lydia, and her husband, Judge Noble Hamilton.

Judge Hamilton had been a lawyer in Alvarado when that town was the county seat. On December 31, 1854, Noble Hamilton married Jotham Marston's daughter, Miss Deleana (Lydia) Marston of Union City. The Hamilton's left Alvarado for San Leandro when the county seat was lost. When San Leandro lost the County Seat the Hamilton's moved to Oakland.

A newspaper article in the *Oakland Tribune* date September 22, 1888 reports the death of Capt. Jotham S. Marston:

"Captain J.S. Marston, an old resident of Oakland, and a pioneer of Alameda County, was instantly killed by the Sacramento local train at 9:15 o'clock Saturday morning (September 22, 1888). Marston was wandering along Seventh Street toward the Oakland Sanitarium with

the intention of taking a bath, and passing the railroad track, which curves around at that place on the way to the pier, was struck by the swiftly-passing Sacramento Local. Marston evidently did not hear the train, as he was slightly deaf. He was also very slow in his movements, being over 80 years of age.

Mr. Marston was the father-in-law of Judge Noble Hamilton, and a well-known citizen. Mr. Marston was an old pioneer of California, having arrived here in 1849. He was also one of the commission that established the boundary of Alameda County, and was this county's first Treasurer."

FARMERS:

George W. Patterson / John Meirs Horner / Henry Clay Smith / Joseph Ralph / Farley B. Granger, Sr. / Ephraim Herrick Dyer / Ebenezer Farley / William Hayes / Hiram Davis / John R. Buchanan / Sylvester Harvey

George W. Patterson:

George W. Patterson was born in East Berlin, Adams County, Pennsylvania, on July 22, 1822. He arrived in San Francisco on August 29, 1849 and after trying his hand at gold mining settled in Washington Township in January 1851. In 1877 George married Miss Clara Hawley, daughter of James and Hettie Hawley of the Alviso District.

Over a number of years he accumulated nearly 4,000 acres of land in and near today's Newark, California, along the old Jarvis Landing Road and the Newark Alvarado Road (Marsh Road). George Patterson placed a drawing of his home at Ardenwood in the Thompson & West Alameda County Atlas of 1878. The title of the drawing was "Residence & Grounds of G. W. Patterson, Alvarado."



The George W Patterson home in today's Newark, but in 1878 G.W. Patterson titles this drawing of his home in Ardenwood as being in Alvarado rather than Newark.

The George Patterson ranch was located in Newark, but Newark in 1877, like the town of Decoto, had existed for only a few years, and Alvarado was a more fashionable address at that time, only being two decades from the loss of the county seat. In Decoto J.C. Whipple and I.B. Haines, both used the town of Alvarado as the home address of their property in the Thompson & West Atlas of 1878.

His two sons Henry and William continued to loom large in Washington Township civic affairs and many of the towns in the township can attribute their accomplishments as having influenced their history. Both Henry & William have their bios in this work. In January 1900, Mrs. Clara Hawley Patterson married the Rev. William H. Layson, a preacher from Santa Anna California. However, by 1910, she was again widowed and living at home with her son Henry in Newark. On May 29, 1917 Mrs. Clara Hawley Patterson passed away.

John Miers Horner:



John M. Horner was born on June 21, 1821 in Monmouth County New Jersey to Stacy and Sarah Horner. Early in his manhood John struggled over the question of religion and eventually he settled on becoming a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, the Mormons.



The Mormon ship "Brooklyn"

John followed the Prophet Joseph Smith to Illinois, where Smith was assassinated in the Carthage, Illinois jail (22 miles from Nauvoo, Illinois). John Horner then returned to New Jersey and, along with Samuel Brannan, took 238 Mormon souls on a journey on "The Ship Brooklyn" from New Jersey to San Francisco.

They started their journey on February 4, 1846, and they arrived in Yerba Buena (then the name for San Francisco) on July 31, 1846. It was the intent of the persons on the ship to found a Mormon colony in Northern California. Their plans to establish a colony in northern California were dashed when they found that Captain John C. Fremont, one of the leaders of the Bear Flag

Revolt of Sonoma, was driving the loyalist Mexicans south out of California towards Mexico.

Some of the Mormons stayed and became farmers and citizens in the area, while others made the trek east to Salt Lake City to meet up with the Mormon colony that was to be established there.

Among those who stayed and farmed in Washington Township were John M. Horner, Earl Marshall and nephew Simeon Stivers, and Barton and Origin Mowry.

John Horner struggled his first few years as a farmer. But in 1849 he made a modest profit from his farming venture around the Mission San Jose. He then decided to enlarge his venture in Washington Township. In 1850 John Horner, in concert with his brother William Horner, bought some additional land from Augustin Alviso where the Mission Father's had built their embarcadero on the banks of the Alameda Creek. Here in the fall of 1850, he laid out a town he called Union City. The new town's western terminus was today's Veasy Street, and continued east to Levee Street (today's Union City Boulevard). He made town lots available for sale to individuals who wished to settle there.

In December 1850, John Horner then made arrangements with a San Francisco realty firm to sell lots in his new town of Union City. He followed this up with the erection of warehouses, and a landing on the Alameda Creek.

In 1851, John Horner invested heavily in potatoes in both his ranch in Union City and the much larger ranch he farmed on the Ex-Mission Lands. He was well rewarded for his efforts by having another good year. John Horner then established a commission house in San Francisco, where he could sell his produce to local merchants and produce vendors. To this venture he added a steamboat, the Union, in September 1851, in which he would transport his produce and passengers to San Francisco, and on the following day would transport people and supplies back to Union City. Later Horner would add a stage line that would run from Union City to Mission San Jose, and then on to the pueblo of San Jose.

In the year 1852, John Horner again invested heavily into potatoes, as did everyone else. The results were disastrous, and there was a tremendous potato glut of potatoes in Washington Township. Many farmers were ruined, and it started a downward spiral for John Horner from which he was never able to recover. Still John Horner managed to open a steam-powered flourmill in 1853 on the banks of the Alameda Creek near his warehouses. John Horner won a competition among California millers for finest milled flour in the state, and for this he won a silver cup. The flourmill produced top quality flour, but the financial times were against John Horner.

Besides the tremendous losses in the potato glut of 1852, these were tough financial times throughout the U.S. To compound Mr. Horner's problems, he had purchased a lot of land with defects in title, and sometimes had to pay twice for the same land. Add to this the fact that John Horner had acted as a surety on financial documents to help those who needed credit. By endorsing these documents John Horner became liable for the payment of the obligation when the debtor failed to pay on the loan.

The bad financial times continued in the U.S.; land prices plummeted, as did the financial worth of John Horner. John Horner faced financial ruin and by the end of the decade he was in a desperate situation. Several decades later he would move to Hawaii where he was made manager of a sugar cane plantation. There he died on May 14, 1907. John Horner was a man of strict piety, who in all his dealings looked on the good side of men. He always had an open hand for those in need, and would regularly lend out his Mormon church in Centerville for use by other faiths. In the end it was his trusting nature of all men that was partly his undoing. He was known as the "Father of Union City," and "California's first farmer."

Henry Clay Smith:



Henry C. Smith was the son of Timothy S. Smith, a U.S. Army Major from New Haven, Connecticut. Henry Smith was born in Fort Defiance Ohio on October 25, 1824, but when he was but two years old, his family relocated to South Bend, Indiana where they lived until 1827. They then again relocated to St. Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan. In July 1845 Henry Smith arrived in California.

Henry Smith served with Captain John C. Fremont in 1846, to drive the Mexican loyalists south out of Northern California in the Bear Flag Revolt of Sonoma. For this he was rewarded by being named "*alcalde*" (or "Mayor") of the area about Mission San Jose. Here he opened a general store from which he made a small fortune in selling goods to gold miners going through the pass near Mission San Jose on their way to the gold fields.



The abandoned home of Henry C. Smith at the end of Vallejo Street in Alvarado in its later years.

Henry purchased 800-acres of land in January 1851, on the Mt. Eden to Mission San Jose Road (Levee Street), one-half mile to the east of Horner's

warehouses. Henry laid out a new town, which he named New Haven after the birthplace of his father. Along with buying land for his town Henry Smith also bought fine farmland in New Haven from which he invested heavily in potatoes in 1851, and for which, like John Horner, he reaped a great profit. At the end of 1851 Henry returned to his hometown of St. Joseph, Michigan. He returned with 19 people who came to settle in New Haven. While he was away he had his home built at the end of Vallejo Street, where he and his family settled.

The year 1852 was a disaster for Henry Smith. He like John Horner faced ruin in the great potato glut of 1852. Potatoes could not be sold at any price. Smith had lost almost everything. Friends encouraged Henry to go into politics; which he did, and he was elected to the state legislature for Santa Clara County in 1852 (at this time Alameda County did not yet exist and New Haven was located in Santa Clara County).

After taking his seat in the California Legislature, Henry Smith became disenchanted with the representation that Washington Township received from the county seat at San Jose. He felt the needs of the citizens of Washington Township were being overlooked.

In the state legislature he found an ally who felt same way about his county. Contra Costa County lay just across the Alameda Creek from Santa Clara County. This large county included present day Oakland and its suburbs. But its representation came from Martinez. The man who befriended Henry Smith in the California Legislature was Horace Carpentier, and he like Henry Smith, was disenchanted with the representation his city (Oakland) received from their county seat.

Between the efforts of these two men, Alameda County would be carved out of Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County in 1853, the dividing line between the two had been the Alameda Creek.

But after Alameda County was created there arose a conflict between Carpentier and Smith over whose city would get the new County Seat. Carpentier favored Oakland and Smith championed New Haven. When it came to a vote in the legislature, in March 1853, New Haven won the County Seat with one proviso; the new County Seat would be renamed Alvarado in honor of California's former Governor.

Hence the town of New Haven would be changed to Alvarado by order of the legislation that created Alameda County. At this time Washington Township held a slim edge in population over the growing City of Oakland and its suburbs. This would be a circumstance that would forever disappear in just a few short years, and the northern part of Alameda County became the predominant entity in Alameda County.

In August of 1853, Henry Smith was named the first postmaster of Alvarado, and in March 1855, he was elected a Supervisor from Washington Township, a position he held until December 1, 1856, when he was succeeded by Joseph R. Mason. In 1859, he was the candidate of the Democratic Party for County Clerk, but was defeated by his opponent Joseph R. Mason.

In 1861 he moved to the State of Nevada with his family, and remained there until the summer of 1864, when he returned to Alameda County. While in Nevada, he ran for the Assembly, but was defeated. In 1867, he moved to Livermore Valley, where he settled on a quarter section of Government land, and continued to reside there until a few weeks before his death.

He was elected a Justice of the Peace for Murray Township in October 1871, and assumed the duties of his office on January 1, 1872. He resigned in December 1872, and died in Livermore November 24, 1875.

Mr. Smith was a very genial and warm-hearted man, who never tired of serving his friends and making himself useful in the community. Married in California in the year 1846, to Miss Mary Harlan Van Gordon, a native of Niles, Michigan, and left a family of four children: Julia A., Emma L., Franklin Pierce, and Charles Henry.

Joseph Ralph:

Joseph Ralph was born in New Jersey in the year February 8, 1819, and lived there with his parents until he was twenty-three years old, at which time he went into the hotel business in New Egypt, Ocean County, New Jersey.

Joseph was married in 1842, to Fanetta Horner, sister of John Miers Horner. In 1852 Joseph and Fanetta left New Jersey for California by way of Nicaragua. After landing in San Francisco, he immediately crossed the bay to Washington Township. Fanetta's younger brother John Horner had been in California since 1846, and had been in Washington Township since about 1849. In the 1852 Santa Clara County census (there was no Alameda County at this time) showed that almost the entire Horner family was in Centerville-Alvarado-Irvington area.

Joseph Ralph moved into the first dwelling in old Union City, it having been built by Capt. Henry Bulmer as the first general store in the area. It was supposedly built out of dry-goods boxes, and was later reinforced with lumber. Joseph Ralph was the first to occupy this place as a home, which would later be passed onto Captain Marston as his home.

Horace M. Vesey built the first hotel in the area, and Andrew Forbes built the second. Andrew Forbes was married to Miss Lucretia Horner, niece of John Horner. The Andrew Forbes's hotel soon came into the possession of Joseph Ralph who expanded and improved the hotel.

Joseph then sold the hotel and turned his attention to farming. He acquired a ranch of one hundred acres, which abutted the southern border of the Sylvester P. Harvey ranch near Alvarado.

He was married in New Jersey, in 1842, to Miss Fanetta Horner (sister of John M. Horner), by whom there were four surviving children: William T., Ivens V., George C., Francis, and John H. Sr. (who died in January 1877).

Joseph Ralph passed away on May 27, 1875. He was buried at the Decoto Cemetery.

Mrs. Fanetta Horner Ralph:

Miss Fanetta Horner was born March 2, 1820, in New Jersey to Stacy & Sarah Horner. She married Joseph Ralph and came west to settle in Union City, and then Alvarado in 1852.

Fanetta's brother was John Horner, who had been in California since 1846 and in Washington Township since about 1849. Almost the entire Horner clan came west in 1852. Mrs. Fanetta Horner passed away on January 20, 1898 in Alvarado.

Farley B. Granger, Sr.:

Farley Benjamin Sr. (F.B.) was born in Ontario County New York on November 17, 1829. When Granger was able to leave his father's farm he went west to the lumbering section of the Michigan peninsula and hired out as a shingle-maker. Later he became a storekeeper in Chicago, and from here he joined the Church of Latter Day Saints and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois.

In 1844 he crossed the plains with a Mormon immigrant company and helped found the City of Salt Lake under the direction of Brigham Young. Here he formed a pack train company between Salt Lake City and the Idaho settlements of the Mormon Church. On several occasions the desert Indians attacked his pack train of mules and the lives of some of his packers were lost.

In 1851 he came to California and started a freight line between the Sierra mines and San Bernardino, and from Sacramento to the Mormon towns in Utah and Idaho.

The first mention of Farley Granger in our area was a newspaper article dated October 4, 1855 from *The Daily Alta California*, of San Francisco, saying that Farley Granger, along with Calvin Stevens, H. Clark, E. B. Plummer, G. W. Sherbourne and William J. Connor, all of Union City, had registered at the Railroad House in San Francisco.

In 1861 he purchased his first 45 acres of land in Alvarado, which later became the site of the narrow gauge railroad station when the South Pacific Coast Railroad came through his property. He settled near the SPCRR depot on Granger Road, and devoted his future to farming and stock raising.

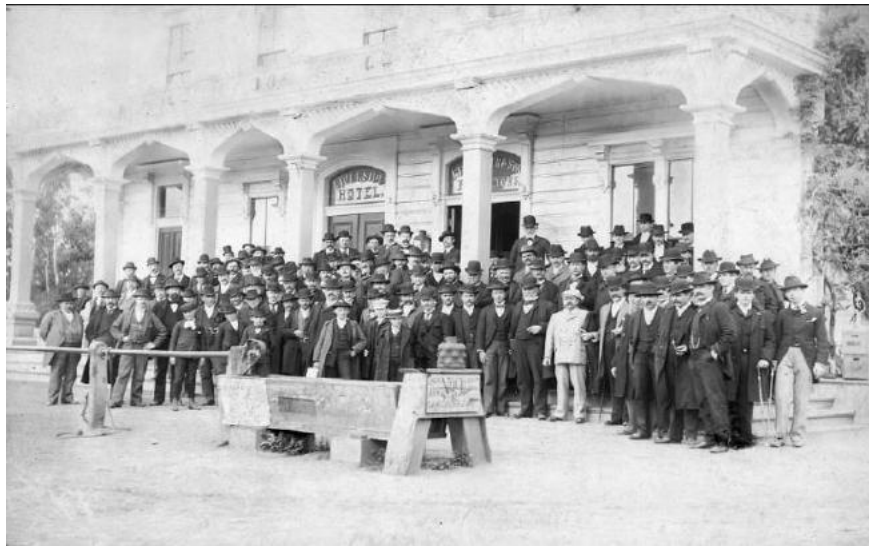
He added another 100 acres along the Alameda Creek to his property and introduced the crop of chicory to Washington Township. In 1867, Farley organized a company in Alvarado to grow chicory, a plant much used in the preparation of ground coffee at this time. F. B. Granger sowed twenty-five acres on his ranch in Alvarado for this company, which produced an abundant crop.

At this same time Farley's company also looked into the advisability of growing the sugar beet, which Eb Dyer had recently proved to do well in the Alvarado vicinity.

The South Coast Pacific Railroad, narrow gauge railroad came to Alvarado in 1878, and bisected Granger's ranch at what is now New Haven Street, but for

many years was known as Granger Road, which is not be confused with Granger Avenue off of Smith Street near the Alvarado School. At the railroad crossing of Granger Road a train station depot was built to serve Alvarado. Granger took advantage of this windfall to build the Riverside Hotel near the train depot on New Haven Street.

The Riverside Hotel stood in the midst of one of the finest natural groves in California. Amidst this sylvan loveliness, Granger built a pavilion where bands could entertain guests and people could dance on a wonderful ballroom area. The entire area was surrounded by a grove of trees, which was described by one visitor as among the prettiest grove of trees in the area. Among the grove of trees was a vast picnic area where guests could relax and enjoy the serenity of the grove.



The Riverside Hotel (above)

Across the road from the hotel in a triangle, formed by Granger Road and the railroad tracks, stood a grand garden area, meticulously kept with benches for guests to rest upon and take in the rustic beauty.

Later the hotel was lit by gas, the first place in Alvarado to be so illuminated. Granger also erected a splendid aviary on the grounds where his guests could enjoy the chirping of the birds. Today there is an apartment building where the old Riverside Hotel used to be and New Haven Street, which used to cross the railroad tracks and connect to Alvarado Blvd. on the west, which is now closed off.

When Alvarado became the site of the first sugar mill in California, Granger sold his 100 acres of land to the Alameda Sugar Beet Company for its mill. In June of 1887, Farley Granger Sr. & Jr. bought the old Benson landing at Union City. In April 1890, Granger sunk a well at Benson's Landing and struck water at 170 feet. It was a most satisfactory trial as to the amount of water stored in the artesian belt under his property. When water was struck a stream of water gushed up that so powerful it shot up a full five feet over the top of the pipe. It looked like a young river rushing over the pipe.

Two years later Farley Granger gave a \$70,000 bond to convey title to the artesian wells at Alvarado to Mr. Willard B. Farwell of Oakland. It was Farwell's intention to run a water line to Oakland to supply them with Alvarado water.

W.J. Dingee purchased the Alvarado artesian wells in March 1893, and laid pipes from Alvarado to Oakland to supply the City of Oakland with Alvarado artesian water. A year later a suit was brought in the Superior Court against Willard B. Farwell, and the Alvarado Artesian Water Co., and five other defendants, to foreclose a mortgage securing the payment of a promissory note for \$7,500 executed in May of 1890 for property near Alvarado.

Mr. Dingee formed the Oakland Water Company, built a pumping station near the old Horner Flouring Mill and laid the main to the City of Oakland. On December 1, 1894 the Oakland Water Co. turned on the pump at the water works in Alvarado, and on the first day sent 3,000,000 million gallons of pure Alvarado artesian water to the new customers of Oakland.

Within several years Alvarado would become the beneficiary of this water works, as the Oakland Water Company also supplied the town of Alvarado with water. By July 1899, there were 31 wells, with depths of 197 to 1,000 feet, and diameters of 4" to 10" in the Alvarado artesian water belt. They were scattered over a 500 acre tract and were all connected with reservoirs at the pumping plant. The daily capacity of the wells was 10,000,000 gallons a day, although less than 5,000,000 gallons a day were being pumped.

Farley Granger Sr. was active in Alvarado IOOF Crusade Lodge, and was a charter member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Wisteria Chapter of Alvarado. He also served as the first president of the chapter. He was a staunch Republican and served as one of the Washington Township delegates to the Republican Convention in California.

Farley married Anna Robbins had four children: Farley B. Granger Jr.; Clarence A. Granger; Edith Anna, who married Elmer E. Chase, a San Jose businessman; and Harvey T. Granger. Mrs. Anna Granger passed away on July 2, 1898. Farley Sr. followed her in death on December 5, 1899.

DYER, EPHRAIM HERRICK:

Ephraim Dyer was born March 2, 1828, in the town of Sullivan, Hancock County, Maine. He was the son of Joshua and Elizabeth Dyer, both natives of that State. Ephraim spent his early boyhood on his father's farm, and was educated in the public schools, and under private instructors.

In the spring of 1850, gold fever overtook Ephraim, and at the age of twenty-two he sailed from New York on the 15th of June 1850. After a long passage he arrived at San Francisco on the 17th of September 1850. The city was bustling with men who were preparing to go to the mines.

One of the things that Ephraim noticed was that no vegetables were served with meals except potatoes, as all others were exceptionally high priced. Mr. Dyer engaged in various employments for several months, and then took passage on a sloop for Union City in November 1850, which was then the

embarcadero from whence nearly all vegetables raised in California were being shipped.

His object in going there was to get a chance, if possible, to engage in farming operations on his own account. In two days the passage was effected. This was his first arrival in what is now Alameda County. He found that nearly all produce shipped here was raised by John M. Horner, there being, however, a few others who were small producers.

He took conveyance on a lumber-wagon to Mission San Jose, ten miles distant. This he found to be a most lively place. Elias L. Beard lived here, who, together with John M. Horner, and Andreas Pico, laid claim by purchase, to the whole tract of the ex-Mission San Jose (30,000 acres). Mr. Beard was carrying on farming operations to some extent, and to him Mr. Dyer applied for land to farm, but without success.

In passing from Union City to Mission San Jose, on the then traveled road, only one house, a Spaniard's, was to be seen. The whole country presented the appearance of a barren waste, dry and verdureless. No trees, except a few scattering ones on the creeks, which had been left by the browsing cattle, thousands of which roamed the plains, and it was a deep mystery to him upon what they subsisted, as, according to his Eastern experience, the dried up grass strewn in every direction was utterly worthless.

On his way back to San Francisco, he made a detour, passing through the Horner Ranch, where he found them digging potatoes and shipping them, and other farm produce, to market. Farm hands, potato-diggers, here were paid fifty dollars per month. When he reached Union City on his return, he found the opportunity, which he so much coveted.

A Mr. Cheney living near Horner's ranch, offered him his board, land, seed, feed, and team to carry on farming operations, charging a rental of one-half for their use. He accepted this offer, but Mr. Cheney, upon the death of his wife, which occurred shortly after, found himself unable to carry out his part of the agreement. It being then too late to seek another opportunity of that kind, which it was almost impossible to obtain among strangers, he engaged himself to J. M. Horner, to work on his ranch for one year in hopes that he might get another chance to farm by the end of his term.

Produce that year had ranged very high, potatoes selling for ten cents per pound, cabbage one dollar per head. John Horner's principal crop was potatoes. His total profit for that year must have been very large, indeed. He was the largest farmer in California by far, and was known throughout the United States as the great California Farmer.

Mr. Dyer found it difficult to get into farming himself, but he learned that large quantities of grapes were raised in Los Angeles, and could be bought very cheap owing to the extreme difficulty of shipping them to San Francisco in good order, where they bore a very high price. He remembered that in his boyhood that grapes packed in sawdust, had been shipped from Spain and arrived in good order in the United States, he resolved to try the experiment on the Pacific Coast.

He entered into partnership with William H. Graves and departed for Los Angeles. They found the grape business there was such as it had been represented, so they rented a vineyard as the nucleus of their operations.

In meantime Mr. Graves returned to San Francisco to superintend the buying and shipping of boxes and sawdust, while Mr. Dyer remained in Los Angeles to attend to the buying, packing, and shipping of the fruit.

The year 1852, the first year he was in Los Angeles, was an exceedingly prosperous one with farmers. The larger portion of the land from the Mission San Jose to Union City was ploughed up and put in potatoes. The farmers exhausted the profits of the year before, and put all they could obtain on credit to put in their crops. The yield was very good. Many could have sold their crops in the field, at largely remunerative prices, but they were looking for a bonanza. There was a perfect mania on the potato question. Very few sold, and most of the crop of Washington Township was piled up in cribs on the banks of Alameda Creek at Union City.

Returning to San Francisco after an absence of two years, Eph found the whole farming community of Alameda County involved in inextricable financial ruin. The potato supply in California proved in excess of the demand three to one. Most potatoes rotted on the banks of the creeks, a total loss to their owners. J. M. Horner, who, up to this time, had been the financial and agricultural king, and oracle of these parts, was also involved in the common ruin.

Mr. Dyer having spent two more years at Los Angeles, returned to reside permanently in Alameda County. His grape venture had put him on a sound financial footing.

In 1858 he wanted to purchase improved cattle in the Western States and to drive them to California. To explore the feasibility of this he covered the ground over which the cattle would be driven. He took passage at Placerville August, 1858, in the overland stage, arriving at St. Joseph, Missouri, in forty days, being detained in Salt Lake City ten days of that time. He was the first through passenger across the continent on the Overland Mail Line.

Mr. Dyer, while in Illinois, married Ellen Frances Ingalls, a former resident of his native town, and second daughter of B. F. Ingalls, a prominent ship-builder in that portion of Maine. They returned by steamer to California in the fall of 1859, and settled in Alvarado. In 1861, after the election of Lincoln, he was appointed by Lieutenant Beale, United States Surveyor General, United States Deputy Surveyor, and was engaged in the Government surveys, under him and his successors twelve years, surveying, in addition to other tracts, the lands lying on the eastern boundary of the State, extending from below Lake Tahoe nearly to the Oregon line, embracing the region about Lake Tahoe, Sierra, Honey Lake, and Surprise Valleys.

In November 1863, he was elected Captain of the Alvarado Guards, which position he held until the general disbanding of the military companies of the State, by Governor Haight, in 1867. The Alvarado Guards was a hometown militia and saw no fighting during the Civil War.

He united with his brother Eb in building a beet-sugar factory in Alvarado in 1870, which proved an utter failure, as the management fell into incompetent hands. A second factory built on the same ground, under a different management proved to be a success.

In 1874 he moved with his family from Alvarado to live on a farm he had bought some years before near Altamont, Murray Township, and also to take charge of some landed interests that he held there in common with other parties

Ephraim and Ellen had six children: Harold Parker, Henry Sawyer, Hubert Paul, Edith, Ernest and Ephraim Ingalls.

Ephraim Dyer passed away on October 31, 1883. Ellen Dyer passed away on February 26, 1920.

Ebenezer Farley:

Ebenezer Farley was born in Canada on January 9, 1811, to Amos & Lucy Farley. Ebenezer lived in the St. Joseph area of Michigan (Berrien County), before moving to Alvarado. In 1840 he married Eliza Smith. They had five children, four of which lived to adulthood. James was born ca. 1846 in Michigan; Mary was born ca. 1849 in Michigan; Annie was born ca. 1853 in Michigan; and was Newton born ca. 1861 in Alvarado. One daughter, Lucy, died at age 10 months in September 1859 in Alvarado.

Eb Farley farmed in Alvarado north of Smith Street, and on the west side of the creek from the Dyer farm. In 1976 Eb sunk a new well on his property and hit water at 283 feet, one of the deepest wells in Alvarado at this time.

Eb was a member of the Crusade Lodge of Alvarado and served several terms in official capacities of this organization. He was also a member of the Non-Partisans (political affiliation), and was voted as a delegate to the organization joining John C. Whipple and August May Sr.

On Friday, August 8, 1879 Ebenezer Farley was found dead in the orchard he loved to tend. Mr. Farley was an Alvarado pioneer and devoted much of his time to the politics and well-being of the town. He was 68 years old.

William Hayes:

William Hayes was born in Stafford County, New Hampshire, August 21, 1815, and was the eldest son of Isaac and Nancy Hayes. Having resided in his native state until he reached his twenty-second year, during which time he attended school, and learned the carpenter's trade, afterwards working at it in Manchester, New Hampshire, Newbury Port, and Boston Mass.

In February 1849, he sailed to San Francisco arriving in the spring of 1850. He at once commenced working at his trade, and followed it until the spring of 1851, when he came to the Contra Costa (now Alameda County) and worked for John M. Horner, first in his mill at Union City, and afterwards on the Steamer Union plying between Alvarado and San Francisco.

In the summer of 1852 he took up his present ranch, which was located at the west end of Whipple Road. That fall he erected a small dwelling and commenced farming in earnest, and occupation he has since continued, his farm consisting of one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. Hayes' farm was peculiar, in as much, that for the entire length of Whipple Road from the east end near the foothill, to the eastern border of the Hayes farm, all lined up perfectly.

But the Hayes farm did not line up with the rest of farmers on the Whipple Road, it was longer than all of the other farms on Whipple Road. Whipple Road either had to cut off a snippet of the Hayes farm to make the road straight. But this was not done, instead Whipple Road followed the outline of the Hayes farm. This created a dog leg that endured until 1957 when the Eastshore Freeway went through his property, which bypassed the dog leg.



The dog-leg on Whipple Road was created by William Hayes' irregular farm dimensions.

William Hayes was a charter member of the Alvarado Crusade Lodge of the IOOF.

On July 27, 1845 William Hayes married Miss Adeline Watson. Mr. Hayes passed away February 24, 1898 at the age of 83 years. Mrs. Adeline Hayes passed away on May 26, 1902. She left behind an adopted son and daughter.

Hiram Davis:

Hiram Davis was born in Genesee County, New York, March 2, 1830. At the age of nine years he was taken by his parents to Michigan, and in the following year accompanied his uncle, Samuel Holmes, to Hancock County, Illinois, where he received his schooling and resided until 1847. In that year he emigrated with a company of Mormons to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and thence to Missouri, finally, in the spring of 1848, going to Salt Lake City, where he dwelt until 1849.

Late in the fall of that year he started for California, and on arrival commenced mining in Mariposa County, which he continued until 1850, when he came to Alameda County. In 1854 purchased a farm in Alvarado. He resided on the Alvarado farm until 1865. He married in Michigan in 1856, Miss Martha Fairfield, a native of that State. Hiram and Martha had four children while they were living in Alvarado; Martha A., born April 6, 1858; William Lee, born January 6, 1861; Mary L., born October 8, 1862; Sarah J., born June 18,

1864. The Davis' stayed in Alvarado until 1865, at which time they moved and settled on Dry Creek in Decoto. In 1870 the family moved to Centerville, where they added five more children.

John R. Buchanan:

John Buchanan was born May 1822 in Edinburg Scotland. John left his native land at the age of fifteen years and followed the sea for fifteen years. Landing at New York City, he enlisted in the United States Navy during the war with Mexico (1846). He was made quartermaster of his ship, which was sent to Vera Cruz.

Subsequently he went to Norfolk, Virginia, where Mr. Buchanan was discharged sometime later. On June 24, 1850, he arrived in San Francisco, California, and soon afterward came to Alvarado. He operated a boat from that point to San Francisco, but later engaged in mining on the Middle Yuba River.

On November 10, 1864 John married Rachel Ross of Ireland in Alvarado. Rachel was born in January of 1834 and arrived in the U.S. 1856. The Buchanan's had three children, John R. Jr., Margaret, and Simeon A. D.

John Buchanan was a member of the Argonaut Society whose members must have been residents of Washington Township prior to March 26, 1853. They held a meeting at the Gregory House in Centerville on April 20, 1901. From a membership of 111 they had dwindled to eight. Those present at the April 20th meeting were:

Henry Dusterberry	Centerville
John C. Whipple	Decoto
William Barry	Niles
F.C. Rose	Niles
John Buchanan	Alvarado
Sebastian Franz	Alvarado
Ed Niehouse	Centerville (absent)
C.G. Healy	Newark (absent)

The pioneers first met November 29, 1876 at the suggestion of William Barry of Centerville and William M. Liston of Alvarado. To be a member of the Argonaut Society required that you must be a member of the Washington Township Pioneer Society, although not all members of the Washington Township Pioneer Society were members of the Argonaut society.

John and Rachel Buchanan were both active in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. John was an active Director on the building of the new church, and Rachel was active in the Ladies Aid Society.

John Buchanan passed away at his home Sunday, January 22, 1911. He was 88 years of age. Rachel followed John in death on July 13, 1917 at the age of 83 years.

John Buchanan Jr.:

John Jr. was born in December 1869, and died at his residence in San Francisco on January 10, 1910 at the age of 40 of a chronic heart defect.

Miss Margaret Buchanan:

Margaret was born in August of 1866. She graduated from the grade school at Alviso on December 15, 1884. Margaret Watson Buchanan, age 29, was married to Ormond Joel Emery, age 34 (both of Alvarado) in December of 1895.

For more on Margaret Buchanan see, "Orman J. Emery" in this work.

Simeon Augustus Dunn Buchanan:

Simeon Augustus Dunn Buchanan was born in Alvarado in 1871 to John & Rachel Buchanan. Simeon was a native of Alvarado. He was a bachelor and was the brother of Mrs. Margaret W. Emery of Alvarado, and was the uncle of Weston B. Emery, and Mrs. Orma Emery Decker, both Alvarado natives.

Simeon was a descendant of a pioneer Alvarado-Newark area family, and was a partner in a general store in Newark for many years with the late supervisor, Ralph Richmond (also an Alvarado native). Following his retirement he lived on the family farm on Lowry Road, Alvarado.

Sylvester Harvey:

Sylvester Harvey was born in New Hampshire on November 25, 1832. He came to Alvarado in 1853. He purchased a 100-acre farm between the Alameda Creek and the Alvarado Centerville Road.

The northern edge of his ranch was the dividing line between the Alviso and Alvarado School Districts, and today it remains as the dividing line between the cities of Fremont and Union City. He built a home on this property and then returned to New Hampshire to marry Miss Sarah Hills, who was born in New Hampshire on December 12, 1839. The home still exists today at the S.P. Harvey Park on Alvarado Boulevard south of the S.P. tracks.

Sylvester lived a rather quiet life as a farmer and raised three children, all of whom would have an impact on the town of Alvarado. Susan was born in October 1868; Edward was born in June 1870; and Frederick was born in March 1873. Sylvester and Sarah were members of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church.

Sylvester died November 4, 1888 and his wife Sarah passed on July 15, 1911. Sarah was a beloved icon of Alvarado, and her funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Southern Alameda County.

FARMING:

From the ladies of the Country Club of Washington Township we get the following early farming experience of a traveler viewing the horticultural success of the Padres of the Mission San Jose. This description was given by Bayard Taylor, the traveler, poet, and scholar, who went through the Mission San Jose in 1849, tramping to Monterey, and going mule back from San Jose to Stockton. In 1853 he came again with his wife, this time staging from San Jose to San Antonio, now East Oakland. Of his trip in 1849 he writes:

"The valley is well watered, and may be made to produce the finest wheat crops in the world. It is dotted all over its surface with clumps of magnificent oaks, cypresses, and sycamores. Sheltered from the cold

winds of the sea the climate is like that of Italy. The Mission (San Jose), a spacious stone building with a courtyard and long corridors, is built upon the lower slope of the mountains dividing San Francisco Bay from the San Joaquin valley, and a garden extends behind it along the banks of a little stream. The sight of a luxuriant orchard peeping over the top of its mud walls was too tempting to be resisted, so, leaving Lieut. Beale to jog ahead with Tompkins, and the loose animals; Col. Lyons and myself rode up the hill, scrambled over, and found ourselves in a wilderness of ripening fruit. Hundreds of pear and apple trees stood almost breaking with their harvest, and cartloads lay rotting on the ground. Plums, grapes, figs, and other fruits not yet ripened filled the garden. There is no such wheat country in the world. Even with the imperfect plowing of the natives, which does little more than scratch the surface, the earth produces a hundred fold.

Vegetables thrive luxuriantly, and melons, squashes, beans and potatoes require no further care than planting. A Frenchman named Vigne made 100 barrels of wine from a vineyard of about six acres at Mission San Jose. Many clusters of grapes weigh four or five pounds and in bloom, richness, and flavor rival the choicest growth of Tuscany and the Rhine."

John M. Horner, also of the area about Mission San Jose, received several honorary titles, among them the "Father of Union City," and "California's First Farmer." John Horner arrived in Yerba Buena (then the name for San Francisco) on July 31, 1846. At the time, John Horner said there were about forty souls in Yerba Buena. When the ship "Brooklyn" arrived it added 268 persons to the forty that were already there. These 268 souls had left New Jersey for California with the intent to develop a Mormon city in Northern California. Unfortunately, the Bear Flag revolt was in progress and this stunted the Mormon effort to develop a settlement. Many decided to go to Utah to join Brigham Young.

But several stayed to pit their fortunes in the Bay Area. Among them were John Horner, Origin Mowry, Earl Marshall, and Simeon Stivers. John Horner farmed several years in the San Joaquin Valley before finally settling in Irvington, then known as "The Corners." John Horner then farmed on the ex-Mission grant, along with Elias Beard of the Mission. His farming was so successful in 1851 that John Horner wrote in his autobiography: "This year (1851) our crops were large, and a ready market was found for all we raised, though at reduced prices from former years since farmers had multiplied. We secured by purchase the steamer Union to carry our produce to market. This year our gross sales amounted to two hundred and seventy thousand dollars. During the fall of this year, Professor Shelton, a botanist, held in San Francisco the first agriculture fair ever held in California to which I was the largest contributor. Some months afterwards I received the following letter and a silver goblet (the largest premium) from the professor:

"John. M. Horner, Esquire. Although you were recently presented with the accompanying testimonial of the public appreciation of your efforts to develop the agriculture resources of California, yet I cannot refrain from adding my individual congratulations to those so universally accorded by our fellow citizens if it be but to assure you that I heartily

participate in them and fully recognize your right to the title of pioneer in this branch of public industry. Sir, it is true that the premium was not awarded by me personally nor by those who could be influenced by any preferences I may have indicated, but I have the consciousness of knowing that Messrs. Fremont, King, Snyder, and Saunders, whose pleasing duty it was to select the most worthy of the candidates for the honor, did nothing more than to echo the public voice in presenting you with this goblet. Take it then sir, no less as the evidence of the public esteem that as proof of my individual regard keep it as a memento of successful enterprise and as a pledge of private friendship. And believe that no member of your family however remote may be his generation from our own, but will recognize it as an honorable token of the worth of his ancestor with more pride and pleasure.

Sir, Very Truly,
Your friend and obedient servant
C.A. Shelton

San Francisco, 30th March 1852"

After this John Horner was acclaimed as "California's First Farmer!"

As good as John Horner's farming acumen was, the quality of the soil about Washington Township was just as outstanding. People flocked to the Bay Area on their way to the gold fields. After much hard work and meager earnings in the rivers, many found gold in the soil most everywhere east of the marshes of the San Jose Valley, and what would later be Washington Township.

Early on letters were written home about the great opportunities in farmland in the East Bay. Alvarado had great soil, climate, and a long growing season, which were all things to write home about. Here are some letters home from the early period of the 1850's:

Here is an account of the experiences of a Mr. Doane who left home January of 1849 for California. Printed in *The Sheboygan Mercury*, Sheboygan Wisconsin, on February 1, 1851:

"He dug some (gold) with some fair success for a raw hand, bought a drove of gaunt cattle from the states in the mines, took them down to Sacramento and sold them at satisfactory prices. He secured some very choice land in the delightful valley of San Jose (which also included Washington Township), and will probably return in the spring to cultivate it. He has a good opinion of the agricultural expectancies of California, and thinks good farming there is a much better business than gold digging.

He saw one man who had planted two acres of potatoes late in June, simply turning over the sward, dropping the seed in every fourth furrow, and never touching the ground afterward; and, though there has been no rain since planting, and no live thing but potatoes had started in the field, yet the owner laughed at an offer of \$1,200 for his crop just as it was. Mr. Doane thinks the soil in the valleys abundantly moist without irrigation."

T.M. Coombs' letter printed in *The Fort Wayne Times*, Fort Wayne Indiana, on February 6, 1851:

"...As for mountain and valley scenery, the most romantic eye is fully satisfied. Here is a high and beautiful range of mountains on all sides surrounding the finest Bay in the world, and a plain sixty miles long and from ten to fifteen miles wide, the soil of which, for depth and richness exceeds any of our western prairies or bottom lands. You can see at any and all times, ten thousand wild cattle and horses on this plain, besides the cattle by the thousands in the hills in the distance. There is an everlasting abundance of all kinds of wild game, such as deer, bear (grizzly), geese, ducks, curlew, etc., etc.

As for climate I do not believe there is a more salubrious or delightful place on the face of the round world. O, you poor Hoosiers, how you are shivering with freezing, snowy weather. One day struggling through the mud and sleet, and the next froze up, cold as Greenland; while we Californians (in the valley of San Jose) with the exception of two or three warm rainy days in the week, are enjoying the finest May and June weather. There is no mistake about this being a delightful climate. If ever I leave this place I can assure you that I have learned better than to suffer out my life in so unpleasant a clime as northern Indiana.

Francisco. Well, you have probably heard the truth. But strange as it may seem, there is as much difference between San Francisco and this valley, as there is between Fort Wayne and Lexington Kentucky. I am not only speaking of what I have seen and experienced myself, but what good and responsible men who lived here for years have told me. I tell you the truth.

You may think I am stretching the yarn a little when I tell you that Mr. Horner has made an actual profit off of 100 acres, three thousand dollars, and other men have made in the same proportion off their grounds. There is plenty of money in this country, and anyone can get it that will work for it."

J.B. Cocanour writes to *The Fort Wayne Sentinel*, Fort Wayne Indiana on April 5, 1851:

"My trip from Livermore took me to Mission San Jose, which once was one of the richest missions in California, and is now owned by a Mr. Beard from La Fayette, Indiana. There is a fine orchard here and a vineyard. They raise an immense amount of vegetables. Here is where the big cabbages grow; I have been told they raise cabbages here measuring four feet across the head; or 12 feet around, this is a big cabbage, but I do not doubt it."

This letter was printed in *The Janesville Gazette* of Janesville, Wisconsin on March 20, 1852:

"...From Mr. Horner tomatoes weighing two pounds each, pumpkins and squashes from one hundred to one hundred and forty pounds; cabbages two feet in diameter and weighing fifty pounds, onions,

beets, and potatoes of enormous size, not isolated, but by the hundreds of bushels.

The San Francisco Herald, dated August 26, 1853 says of Alvarado and Union City:

"A correspondent gives the public some interesting statistics of the new county created by the last Legislature, out of the counties of Santa Clara and Contra Costa. The soil is said to be inferior to none in the State. Three-fifths of the land under cultivation is in grain, the rest in potatoes, onions, etc. Of the grain crops at least three-fifths is wheat."

In a letter written home from Union City, dated October 11, 1854, and printed in the *Defiance Democrat*, Defiance, Ohio, on December 2, 1854 gives us yet another glimpse of the early farm life of Alvarado and Union City:

"Dear Brother:

...Our rainy season has not yet set in, although we have had two or three fine showers within the last week, we have beautiful weather now with a prospect for fine weather for four or five weeks to come, this is a busy time among farmers, they are hauling their wheat to market or to store, our little place is sending in her shares of supplies for San Francisco and the gold mines. We ship not less than 100 tons of produce independent of the flour which is manufactured here which is from 350 to 400 barrels a day, wheat is low here, it is only 1½¢ to 2¢ per pound, flour is selling at retail at \$10 per barrel, potatoes are 2¢ per pound, barley 1¼¢ per pound, beef 12 to 15¢ per pound, fresh pork from 10 to 14¢ per pound, and other articles of provision are proportionately the same.

John Travis"

The Potato Glut of 1852:

The year 1851 was a financial success for farmers like Henry Smith and John Horner. The quantity and price of potatoes were both good. Smith, Beard, and Horner (and many other farmers) made fabulous sums of money that year.

M. W. Wood explains the potato glut in his "History of Alameda County"

"...The following year (1852) everybody cultivated them (potatoes), and there was a plethora. Messrs. Beard and Horner (Mission San Jose) made contracts for the disposal of theirs in advance; they sold them for two and two and a half cents a pound to the San Francisco Commission Merchants, Brigham, Garrison, and others. Garrison took a million pounds of them; they were never removed and were allowed to rot in the ground in consequence of the low price caused by the great abundance of the crop. The firm of Saunders & Co. purchased a large quantity of them, which they stowed away in a hulk (vessel) in the bay. The warm weather coming on, they commenced to grow and threatened to burst the vessel open. When the owners ordered them to be removed, they commenced casting them overboard into the Bay at San Francisco. But the Harbor Master interfered and stopped it, necessitating the expense of removal to some other locality."

The glut ruined Henry Smith who did not have the foresight to contract out his crop in advance. Beard & Horner also sustained losses, but had recouped some of that by having a contract on their crop. At about this same time, land prices in California plummeted, making Horner's vast acreage worth much less. Added to this was the fact that Horner had bought, in some cases, land titles with defects, for which he was forced to pay for a second time (and a few cases a third time). Being a trusting Christian soul, he had made loans for which he was not repaid. The great bank panic of 1857 sealed his fate, and several decades later he left California for the Hawaiian Islands where he managed a sugar plantation.

LIVESTOCK RANCHING:

Philip Hellwig / Lewis Cass Smith

Philip Hellwig:

[See complete bio under Butchers page 26](#)

Philip was primarily a butcher, but he was also a retail meat merchant, and he raised his own stock for slaughter.

Lewis Cass Smith:

Lewis Smith was born in Berrien County, Michigan, August 15, 1829. He was the son of Major Timothy S. Smith, U.S. Army, who was one of the revolutionary heroes of 1812, who immigrated to California in 1854, and died in Alvarado, his remains being buried in Centerville.

Lewis Cass Smith passed his early years on a farm, and on June 4, 1851, left for California to be with his brother, the Honorable Henry C. Smith, and sailing from New York, he made the voyage via the Isthmus of Panama. On arrival at Monterey, his sister was so ill with fever contracted at Panama that it thought advisable to land at that place. This was in the early part of 1851.

After a sojourn of two weeks in the ancient capital, the journey was continued to his brother's residence at Mission San Jose, where, residing but a short time, Lewis proceeded to Stockton for three months.

Returning then to Alvarado, he associated with his brother Henry C. Smith in mercantile pursuits for a year, then he went to the mountains and embarked in stock raising, an occupation he followed for ten years.

After this he purchased about five hundred acres west of the old town of Union City, where he combined general farming with beet and vegetable growing. He engaged heavily in the real estate market about Alvarado, and in 1899, offered some of his property in the heart of the Alvarado artesian water belt to the City of Oakland for \$50,000.

Lewis Smith passed away on August 15, 1899.

FREIGHT FORWARDING:

John Horner's Landing / Capt. Richard Benson's Landing / Capt. Richard Barron's Landing / Capt. James Barron's Landing / Capt. Thomas W. Seely / Capt. Jotham S. Marston / Capt. James A. Trefry

During the 1850's, it was not uncommon to see steamboats, including side wheel steamboats, come up to Union City. Of course there was John Horner's

steamboat the Union, Captained by T.W. Seeley, J.S. Marston, and later by J.A. Trefry. By March 1855, the "Union" was under the leadership of Captain Charles Thorn under the agency of Spang & Blake in San Francisco. After this the "Union" was put up for sale.

Another steamer that plied the Alameda Creek was the "San Jose," which began regular service three times a week to Union City in October 1853. The ship carried both freight and passengers from Clay Street at the wharf.

In September 1855 another steamship began regular runs to Union City. This was the steamer "E. Corning" guided by Captain Hawkins.

John Horner:

[See complete bio under Farmers page 39](#)

Horner's landing:

The area about where Alvarado/Union City would be founded was first mentioned as an *embarcadero* (landing) when the Fathers from the Mission San Jose would conduct trade with Yankee whalers, prior to the 1846 Mexican-American War. In 1850 John Horner, in concert with his brother William, bought some land from Augustin Alviso near where the old Mission Father's had built their embarcadero on the banks of the Alameda Creek. Here in the fall of 1850, they laid out a town they called Union City. They followed this up with the erection of warehouses and a landing on the Alameda Creek. This landing became a freight forwarding site to the City of San Francisco via the Alameda Creek. When John Horner ran into financial problems in 1853, the landing came into the hands of Capt. Richard Benson.

Captain Richard Benson:

Benson's landing:

Captain Richard Benson was born in Norway about 1830. His wife, Ellen Benson, was born in Ireland about 1833. They had two children, Mary Alice born 1857, and Clara born 1859.

When John Horner ran into financial problems in 1853, he sold his Union City Landing and it ended up in the hands of Captain Richard Benson. Here Capt. Benson carried on the freight forwarding business that Horner had started.

Captain Benson was most remembered by the little lake that formed when he sunk an artesian well on his property. The well's overflow was distributed into a natural depression, which Capt. Benson first covered with rock and gravel, thus forming a pretty little lake about 300 feet in diameter, and about 8 or 10 feet deep. After Capt. Benson the Union City Landing came into the hands of Capt. Richard Barron.

After the 1860 Alvarado census no evidence can be found of Captain Benson locally.

Capt. Richard Barron:

Barron's landing:

Captain Richard Barron was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland in 1821. He was the son of Edmund and Ellen Barron and the brother of Captain

James Barron. He immigrated to the United States during the potato famine of 1834, and made his way with his parents down the Erie Canal route to Cleveland on the lakefront.

Barron was in the drayage and transportation business in Cleveland until 1850, when the gold rush attracted him. As he was in poor health he chose to come across the plains with horse and wagon, hitting the California Trail from St. Joe, Missouri, landing in Hangtown (Placerville) 90 days later.

He sold his horses and prairie-crossing outfit and tried dry gulch mining in Hangtown Canyon, but found that the hard work of sinking a shaft to the river gravel was more than his weakened body could stand. He sold his claim after a week and with the proceeds came down the Sacramento River to San Francisco where he started a dockside draying business.

In five years he had accumulated enough capital to buy 75 acres of arable land at Union City, adjacent to 1500 acres of marshland near to the Alameda Creek.

The agricultural land bought by Captain Richard Barron had been developed by Captain Richard Benson around a 10-inch flow artesian well. Around the well was a natural depression, which was developed into a fresh-water, lake about 300 feet in diameter and from 8 to 10 feet deep.



The color picture is from "Washington Township – A Pictorial History" by the Washington Township Hospital of Fremont Calif. It is a colorized version of the original drawing that first appeared in an 1892 *San Francisco Call* article (above left).

Captain Barron built up an artificial island in the center of the lake and covered it with vines and shrubs. He built an arbor and picnic area on the island, and kept boats on the lake so that visitors could row themselves to the picnic isle. Captain Barron's lake was known far and wide by summer visitors to Washington Township.

In 1862 his brother, Captain James Barron, came to Union City to help his brother with the freight forwarding business. Richard passed the title to the landing onto James, and Richard Barron left Union City for Mt. Eden.

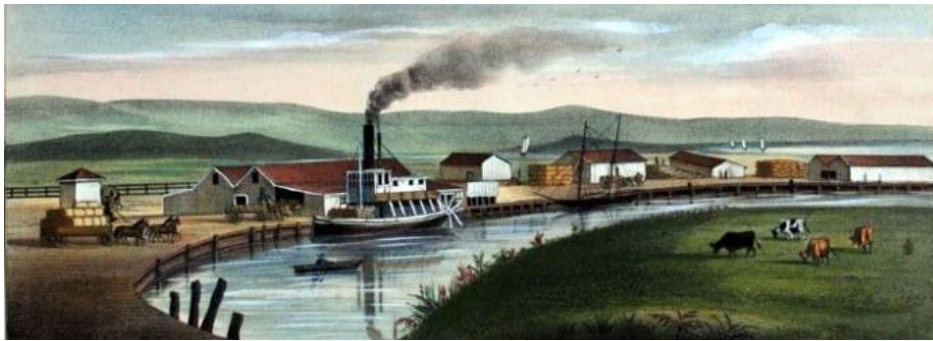
In Mt. Eden Richard would build another landing (also known as Barron's landing), and would continue in the warehousing and freight business, and he also added salt making to his enterprise. Captain Richard Barron married Miss Mary Foley, an Irish colleen in San Francisco in 1852. They had five children,

Ellen, Katie, Emma, Richard and James Barron.

Barron's landing: **Capt. James Barron:**

James Barron was born in Clonmel, Tipperary, Ireland in 1828. He was the son of Edmund and Ellen Barron and the brother of Captain Richard Barron. After he reached the U.S., he was employed as a barge captain on the Erie Canal.

In 1861 he came to Union City to work with his brother Richard at his freight forwarding business, known as Barron's landing. Soon thereafter Richard Barron transferred title to the landing to his brother James and proceeded to Mt. Eden where Richard founded another landing, also known as Barron's landing.



Union City Warehouses & Landing of Capt. James Barron, Alvarado Alameda County, California

James continued in the warehouse, freight forwarding, and steamship business until October 1886, when he sold the 32.23 acre landing to Moses Wicks. Less than a year later in June 1887, Wicks sold the landing to Farley B. Granger Sr. of Alvarado. After James sold the landing nothing further was found other than his obituary.

James Barron married Agnes Myler (born ca. 1831 in Ireland) August 12, 1851 in Wayne Co., Missouri. The Barron family consisted of Mary, Matilda, Agnes, Isabelle, James Jr., Grace and Gertrude. Captain James Barron passed away on November 28, 1890 in San Francisco.

Capt. Thomas W. Seely:

Captain Thomas W. Seely was born in New York in 1823. Although Captain Seely may have never lived in Union City, he was the first captain named as the skipper of the steamer Union for John Horner. The first three weeks of service by the Union were advertised without a named skipper. Near the end of September 1851, to the middle of November 1851, Capt. T.W. Seely was the named skipper of the Union. Capt. J.S. Marston would take Capt. Seely's place in November 1851.

When John Horner bought the steamship Union in August 1851, Captain Seely had been the captain of the boat in the Sacramento River delta area where the Union had been making runs.

In 1860 Captain Seely was living in San Francisco with a large group of sailors of which he was the head of household. On April 27, 1863, he was in command of the Ada Hancock when the boat exploded in San Pedro Bay and killed several people, among them Captain Seely. They were transported back to San Francisco aboard the "Senator" and Captain Seely was buried on May 1, 1863.

Capt. J. S. Marston:

[See Complete Bio on Page 36](#)

Captain Jotham Marston, and wife Cynthia, came to California shortly after 1850. He settled in Union City in the home that had once been occupied by Joseph Ralph, this being the first house built in Union City by Capt. Bulmer.

In late November 1851, Captain Marston became the Captain of John Horner's steamboat, the "Union." Captain Marston guided the destiny of the steamship until January 1853, when Captain Trefry took over command of the ship. When Alameda County was created in March of 1853, J.S. Marston was elected County Treasurer of the fledgling county.

Capt. James A. Trefry:

J.A. Trefry was first known in Washington Township as Capt. J.A. Trefry, Master of the steamboat "Union" for John Horner at the Union City Landing. Capt. Trefry was the third Master of the "Union," after it was initially berthed at Union City. Capt. J.A. Trefry took command of the little steamboat on Jan 29, 1853, and commanded her until July 10, 1854, when the Union made her last trip from San Francisco to Union City under the agency of John Horner. Seven months later, on February 6, 1855, the Union again made her trips from San Francisco to Union City under Capt. Charles Thorn.

J.A. Trefry was born in Nova Scotia in June 1828. His wife Hester was born in New York in 1848. They show children, Ella, Lotta, and Elizabeth, and a son William.

The ladies of the country club noted that:

"Captain James R. Trefry came to the township at an early day, and was captain of the steamer "Union," which ran from Alvarado (Union City) to San Francisco and other points. He built one of the first houses in Centerville and was constable for many years and a terror to evil doers. He has a fund of interesting reminiscences of pioneer days; in 1902 he moved to Newark where he still resides."

From the time that James Trefry left the steamer Union, and before he became Constable in 1870, he spent some years as a farmer in Centerville. By 1870 he had been voted Constable for the Centerville District, it would be a calling he followed for some twenty years. But these were not his only duties he performed for the people of Centerville. In 1883 he was appointed road overseer for the Centerville District, and then he was appointed Centerville Poundmaster on May 1, 1888.

In January 1895, S.B. Vandevort defeated J.A. Trefry by 3 votes (365 to 362) for the position of Constable for Centerville.

James A. Trefry passed away on October 3, 1910. He was a member of the Centerville Grange, No. 120; the Alameda Lodge No. 167, F. and A.M.; he was a charter member of Centerville Council No.34, I.O.C.F.; and he was one of the founding members of the Washington Township Pioneer Society.

HOTEL KEEPERS:

Horace M. Vesey / Andrew Forbes / Joseph Ralph / Redbon "Red" Horner / Norman L. Hastings / Lewis W. Newman / Amos Leland / William M. Liston / Abel Gragg

This was the toughest category to research. The information on Alvarado and Union City hotels were incomplete, in most cases, as to who built them, or when they were built, or what the name of the hotel was, or even where the hotel was located. The ladies of the Washington Township Country Club said of early Alvarado area hotels:

"The first hotel was established by A. M. Veasy, who afterward gained political prominence as county clerk of Alameda County."^①

Almost contemporary with Mr. Veasy's hotel, a second hotel was opened by one Andrew Forbes, the building being added to and improved by Joseph Ralph. Later Mr. Ralph turned his attention to farming near Alvarado."^②

From the historical work of Joseph Baker in "Past & Present of Alameda County," he gives us insight into Red Horner's hotel:

"Red Horner built a hotel at Union City in 1853. It was a wild place then. A new comer was given his choice of four things to do, drink, smoke, gamble or leave."^③

^①

Horace M. Vesey:

The ladies of the Country Club cite A.M. Veasy as the builder of the first hotel in Alvarado. This is not true, an A.M. Veasy could not be located in Alvarado at this time. However, he was also cited as being the county clerk in Alameda County. This, then, would have been Horace M. Vesey, Alameda County Clerk, who showed in the 1860 census that he was a hotel keeper.

Horace M. Vesey was born in Vermont in 1820. His wife, Mary Ann, was born in Connecticut in 1825. In 1860 they had a son Edward living with them.

After building his hotel, and serving as Alameda County Recorder in the mid to late 1850's, Horace would move to Gold Hill, Nevada. Here he bought the Gold Hill Hotel. The Gold Hill Hotel, a mile south of Virginia City, was not ornate or fancy. But it was the oldest operating hotel in the State of Nevada, set against the sweeping backdrop of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was one of the few original structures left in Gold Hill, and there is very little left of the original town.

The hotel was built sometime before 1862. Horace Vesey acquired the building and changed the name to the Vesey Hotel, which appears in several historic photos. It became the Gold Hill Hotel in the 1950s. Four of the hotel's 16 rooms date from its construction. Two of those original rooms have brass

beds, while the third's bed is sleigh-shaped. The remaining original room has a canopy bed and a large, claw-foot antique bathtub.

②

Andrew Forbes:

Joseph Ralph:

[See Complete Bio on Page 43](#)

The *History of Washington Township* by the township ladies states that "Almost contemporary with Mr. Veasy's hotel, a second hotel was opened by one Andrew Forbes, the building being added to and improved by Joseph Ralph."

Here again we do not have a date opened and where this hotel was actually located. But we do know this about Andrew Forbes, he married Lucretia Horner, niece of John Horner and "Red" Horner. We also know that Joseph Ralph married the sister of John and Red Horner. But more than that could not find on the hotel.

②

Andrew Forbes:

Andrew Forbes was born in New York State circa 1822. Lucretia Horner Forbes was born in New Jersey circa 1835. The couple had three children, Emaline, Andrew, and Maria, all born in Alvarado.

③

Redbon "Red" Horner:

"Red Horner built a hotel at Union City in 1853. It was a wild place then. A new comer was given his choice of four things to do, drink, smoke, gamble or leave."

What became of this hotel is a mystery. It is known that Red Horner's niece married Andrew Forbes, a hotel keeper in the area, and that Joseph Ralph had married Red's sister. Joseph Ralph was also a hotel keeper in the area during this same time. But no other mention of Red Horner's hotel was found.

Norman L. Hastings:

Norman L. Hastings and wife Elisabeth, both of Ohio, were born in 1833 and 1835 respectively. In 1860 they had two children, Andrew and Lucy. In November 1858 Norman and Elizabeth Hastings had their one-year old son, Lyman, pass away at Alvarado.

Norman gave his occupation as the proprietor of a hotel in Alvarado, but did not specify which hotel. In 1870 Norman was operating a livery stable in Alvarado and had added four more children to his family, Byron, Eva and twins Jenny and Jethero. In 1880 Norman and family were living in Lafayette, Calif. Norman was operating a hotel there. Norman L. Hastings passed away on January 17, 1894 in Redwood Canyon, Alameda County.

Lewis W. Newman:

There was a hotel in Alvarado known as the Newman Hotel and on April 30, 1858, a Grand Ball was held at this hotel. An ad was even placed in the *Daily Alta California* in San Francisco advising the citizens of the ball to the availability of cheap transportation from their residences in San Francisco to Alvarado aboard Mr. P.B. Smith's coaches from the International Hotel. They would also return via the same coaches for only \$2 roundtrip.

But the times seemed to be against Mr. Lewis Newman, for in December 1858 he filed a petition for bankruptcy for his Newman House (Hotel). His liabilities amounted to \$4,000 and his assets nothing. Nothing was found after this for Lewis Newman.

Amos Leland:

Amos Leland was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, his wife Jane was born in New York in 1840. They had two children, a son and daughter. In the 1860 census Amos listed his occupation as a hotel keeper. In the 1860's Amos Leland turned to farming in the Alvarado area. In November 1875 Jane Leland was granted a divorce from Amos Leland.

William Morris Liston:

William M. Liston was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1813, and his wife, Catherine Kelly was born in Canada in 1828, to Irish parents. William and Catherine were married on November 18, 1847, in Michigan. William first went to Michigan in 1831, then returned to Indiana, and then went to Michigan again in 1846, settling in St. Joseph in Berrien County.

He purchased a saw mill in 1848, and conducted it until November 30, 1850 when his mill was consumed by fire. After settling his affairs, he found himself with just sufficient money to take him to California.

On June 1, 1851, he started with his wife and child for New York, and there taking passage on the Prometheus sailed for the Isthmus of Panama. On the Pacific side he made the voyage in the 'Sea Bird,' but being extremely ill he was put ashore at Monterey. After a few weeks in that ancient city, he made the journey northwards and arrived at Mission San Jose July 29, 1851, and was for twenty-seven weeks in the employ of Henry C. Smith. He was afterwards engaged in the building of a warehouse for the same gentleman at New Haven, after which he moved to San Francisco, and for a few months conducted the old Montgomery House, situated on the thoroughfare of that name between California and Pine Streets.

The ladies of the Country Club of Washington Township said of Mr. Liston:
"In 1851 William M. Liston came to Union City to take charge of the two warehouses that had been built there by Henry C. Smith. In addition to these warehouses, the two dwelling houses mentioned were then in existence, and Mr. Liston constructed the third."

Like everyone else, Mr. Liston took a turn at the mines, but one day's work was sufficient to prove to him that it required a maximum of toil to produce a minimum of gold, he therefore returned to Alvarado and worked for wages on a farm until the fall of 1852.

He then embarked in a grocery business located on Maiden Lane. At the end of eighteen months he went into the stock business, which he followed until the fall of 1861.

In 1861 William Liston purchased the Brooklyn House Hotel in Alvarado. At the same time Mr. Liston was engaged in a stage coach line from Warm Springs to Haywards, San Leandro, and Oakland, but this enterprise was administered a crippling blow in August 1867, when a deadly fire broke out in the stable of the Warm Springs Hotel. William Liston saw his four horses and his stagecoach consumed by fire.

In March 1873 Mr. Liston was awarded the mail route from the contract division of the Post Office Department in Washington D.C. for the San Leandro to Alvarado mail run. Mr. Liston held this run until 1881.

In May 1876 Mr. Liston returned to private life. In 1877 things were looking up with Alvarado showing signs of a renewal. The Brooklyn House began to fill up, and about this time Mr. Liston was about everything in the town of Alvarado, Road-Master, Notary Public, and Mail Carrier, and in reality, postmaster.

In September 1877 *The Oakland Tribune* printed this article about the Brooklyn House Hotel in Alvarado:

"On September 18, 1877, between the hours of midnight to 1:00 a.m. the Brooklyn House in Alvarado, owned and occupied by William M. Liston, was discovered to be on fire. The flames broke out in an unoccupied upper room on the north side of the building, and the house, being dry as tinder, was soon enveloped in a sea of fire. A man named Davis was sleeping in a room underneath that where the fire originated, and was the first person in the house to discover that the building was on fire. Simultaneously, the wife of Antonio Lee, who resided in the vicinity of the fire, discovered the flames and gave the alarm. As the town of Alvarado had no organized fire department, little could be done to quench the flames and the building was totally destroyed.

The cause of the fire was deemed to be caused by incendiaries (arson). Some time since, Mr. Liston had rented to some Chinamen a small tract of land for them to build shanties upon, and since then he and his family have received two or three warnings that something like last night's occurrence would take place unless he rescinded or annulled his agreement with the Chinamen."

On September 26, 1877, a letter was written to the editor of the *Oakland Tribune* asking that this letter be printed. This is the exact wording of his letter by letter with all the incorrect grammar and spelling:

"Dear Sir: noticing an item in your Paper in regard to the Burning of the Brooklyn Hotel in Alvarado few days since stating that the Proprietor was notified of danger if he did not Cancil his leace in regard to land he leaced to chinanon that so he was notified but did not seem to notice it further wheare you statid the building Partly Insured, (now sir what we are trying to get at by writing this letter is this we do not wish to Ingure any Pirson or Pirsons only those who reant land and

houses to Chinamon therefore we will keep the Insurance Campanys Postid on Buildings & Property that will be in danger for the future through the columbs of your Paper & give them sixty days to cancell Pollacays if they choose to do so, & give the Owners of such Property sixty days to get read of Chinamon that are now living on & farming land belonging to the folling named Persons,

Browen Alameda
Sather Banker Oakland
Galigor Alameda (Prop) Melrose
Derby Fruite Vale
Bray do "
Chittidin Property last chance
Simpson near Mills Seminary
Isac Yokhan Prop fitchbug & Brooklyn
J.O. Eldrige sanfrancisco
The above are all land Owners in Alameda co
Yor & co Workingmen"

William Liston had been very successful in Alvarado and owned a great quantity of property, among which was the north side of Smith Street, between Ed Farley's lumber yard (located on the corner of Watkins and Smith Streets) east to nearly where the grammar school was located. This stretch would become known as China Town, and in the 20th Century as "Little Tijuana."

Besides being in the hotel business at this time, William was also the road overseer for the town of Alvarado, and he was also the Notary Public for the town. William was also a Justice of the Peace for Washington Township, and he was also a member of the local Pioneer Association; having been one of the persons that was the driving force behind inception of society. Mr. Liston was also one of the Charter members of the Alvarado Crusade Lodge of the IOOF in November 1859.

William Liston was the secretary of the Alvarado Artesian Well Company, which supplied the people of the town with water from a well on the property of A.J. Lowell. The company has been in business for about six years and in 1883 paid a dividend to its shareholders. Joseph McKeown was the president of the company.

On December 30, 1878, the *Oakland Tribune* writes:

"Just two years ago the American Exchange Hotel, and a little over fifteen months ago the Brooklyn Hotel in Alvarado were burned to the ground, since which time there has been no hotel in Alvarado. Since that time the South Pacific Coast Narrow Gauge Railroad has been constructed, and the need of a good hotel has been felt for a long time.

The railroad depot is about a quarter-of-a-mile east of the town, and as no one in town had the means or the inclination to build a hotel, some months ago F.B. Granger and son have conceived the idea of building one at the depot.

Then on October 3, 1881, the Alvarado Hotel was opened by William M. Liston, upon the very spot where the Brooklyn Hotel once stood.



The Alvarado Hotel, built in 1881 by William Liston on the very spot where the Brooklyn House Hotel once stood. Here it is shown as owned by the Henningsen Brothers circa the turn of the century. The Henningsen Brothers bought the hotel from the estate William Liston.

On July 1, 1885, William K. Liston passed away and was buried at the Mt. Eden Cemetery. His wife Catherine joined him on May 4, 1898. The couple had these surviving children: Maggie Liston, now Mrs. W.F. Ingalls; Mary Liston, now Mrs. Daniel C. Owen, and Jonathon J. Liston.

Abel Gragg:

Abel Gragg was born in New York circa 1826. His wife, Livinia, was born in Michigan circa 1829. The 1860 and 1870 census shows them residing in Hayward, but they did have some influence in Alvarado in the very early years.

Abel Gragg listed his employment as a stock raiser in the 1860 census, and as a hotelkeeper in the 1870 census.

But an October 15, 1876 newspaper article from *The St. Joseph Herald*, of St. Joseph MI carried the following article about the Gragg's of Alvarado:

"The following is of a "China Wedding" which came off in Alvarado California. The old residents (of St. Joseph) will recognize every name, for they were former citizens of this vicinity and have many friends and relatives here.

"On Monday, August 15th, we had what is styled a "China Wedding." Abel W. Gragg and his wife, of the American Exchange Hotel, concluded some months ago that on the twentieth anniversary of their marriage they would give a "Chinese Wedding," and to that end invited all their relatives in accessible distant, nearly of whom were present, including Socrates Huff and wife, Lucien Huff, N. B. Smith and family of Martinez, Captain Edward Smith of Livermore, Eli Emlay and family of Gilroy, Eb Farley of Alvarado and N. L. Hastings also of Alvarado.

The dinner was a splendid affair; innumerable gifts were given them, and all genuinely had a good time. In the evening we got up a little dance in the rooms of the hotel, and enjoyed tripping to the light fantastics, etc., till about 12 o'clock when we returned to our homes, much pleased with the pleasures of the day and night.

The 1876 rolls of the IOOF Crusade Lodge of Alvarado show that Abel Gragg was an active member the lodge. In 1880 Abel W. and Livinia Gragg were found to be living in Mineral King, which is a subalpine glacial valley located in the southern part of Sequoia National Park of Tulare County, where Abel was in the carpentry trade.

HUNTING:

Augustus M. Church:

[See Complete Bio on Page 33](#)

H. Cronkhite:

Riley Gragg:

George Fay:

An early enterprise in New Haven was that of August M. Church and his partners, H. Cronkhite, George Fay, and Riley Gragg who hunted deer in the Alameda Hills (presumably in the foothills of eastern Washington Township) in 1851. They killed 15 to 20 deer a day and then would take the carcasses to New Haven where they would dress the meat and then ship it to San Francisco. The following year (1852) A.M. Church would partner with Henry C. Smith in opening a general store in New Haven. This store would become Alameda County's first County Seat and the first Court of Sessions met here on June 6, 1853.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:

Benjamin F. Bucknell:

Dr. Bucknell was born in the town of Hiram, Maine, in the month of October 1821. Suffering from ill health, he entered Dartmouth College and graduated in 1846. Health problems continued to plague Mr. Bucknell, so he embarked on a trip to California, and on April 24, 1851, he reached San Francisco. Near the end of 1851, while searching the other side of the bay for a warmer climate, he met John Horner who offered him the agency of a steamboat at Union City. The steamer was to run daily from Union City to San Francisco and back, loaded with vegetables and other produce raised by Mr. Horner and other farmers in the vicinity.

Dr. Bucknell established a U.S. Post Office at Union City on November 8, 1851. Known as the "Union" Post Office, it was located in what was then Santa Clara County. At this same time he was also appointed Justice of the Peace of Union City. Besides attending daily to the loading and unloading of the steamboat and being the Postmaster, he also married couples that could not find a minister. As he was a doctor, he also helped the sick, and because he could speak Spanish he also was in demand to the Spanish occupants around Alvarado.

In 1852-1853, he suffered so much from rheumatism that he left Alvarado, and eventually ended buying a farm between Centerville and Irvington. Here he died on April 19, 1860.

LAWYERS:

Nobel Hamilton / Benjamin Williams

Noble Hamilton:

Noble Hamilton was born at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, in 1822. Noble Hamilton was reared, and received his education in his native State, and also studied law there. He was admitted to the bar in 1845. Soon after war was declared with Mexico and he entered the Army and served through the war.

After his return in 1850, he was elected Collector and County Treasurer of Dearborn County, Indiana, of which Lawrenceburg was the county seat. In 1852, he came to the Pacific coast making a trip through the gold country.

In 1853, he settled in Alvarado, then the county seat, and formed a partnership with Joseph Combs in the practice of law. In 1854 he became associated with J.B. Townsend. In December 1854 he married Lydia D. Marston, daughter of Captain Jotham S. Marston.

His shingle while in Alvarado is reproduced below:

TOWNSEND, COMBS & HAMILTON

James B. Townsend, Joseph Combs, Noble Hamilton
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Offices:

Room No. 47, Montgomery Block, San Francisco,
Alvarado, Alameda County

He practiced law in Alvarado until 1859, when he relocated to San Leandro, then the new county seat. While in San Leandro, he was appointed by Governor Stanford to fill a vacancy on the bench. Later he was nominated on the Union ticket, and then elected County Judge, serving four years before he resigned to engage in mining.

This venture, however, proved disastrous. In 1871, he moved to Oakland. In 1881, under the provisions of the law to increase the number of Judges of the Superior Court, he received the unanimous recommendation of the bar, and was appointed by Governor Perkins to the bench, and after serving two years, he received the nomination without opposition. He remained on the bench until January 1888, and then resumed the practice of his profession in San Francisco

In September 1903 former Judge of the Superior Court of Alameda County, Noble Hamilton, died at age 81. In 1853 he had resided in Alvarado, then the County Seat for Alameda County, where he practiced law. His career flourished and he served with distinction. Judge Hamilton was a Republican in his political views, and was connected with the Masonic rites.

Benjamin Williams:

Benjamin Williams was born in Canada circa 1817. He arrived in Alvarado sometime early in 1850, probably about the time of the creation of Alvarado as the County Seat. The first mention of Mr. Williams in the Alvarado area is in October of 1855, when he and several other Alvaradan's registered at the Railroad House Hotel in San Francisco. He came to Alvarado to practice law, and was the town's only known lawyer that permanently resided in Alvarado.

Benjamin came to Alvarado with his wife Laverne (or Lorenia) and their children. In 1872 Benjamin Williams was appointed a Notary Public in Alvarado by the Governor.

In May of 1875, a fire burned the Williams residence to the ground. They were able to save the furniture and wearing apparel however. The building was a total loss and was uninsured.

After the fire there is no mention of Benjamin Williams in Alvarado, and Noble Hamilton states that Mr. Williams then relocated to Haywards.

LIVERY STABLE:

James Gregg:

James Gregg operated a livery stable in Alvarado. Records show him in Alvarado as early as 1855. His last entry shown is on the 1870 Alvarado census, at which time James' occupation was as a retired merchant.

James Gregg was born in Virginia in 1798. His wife Maria was born in Massachusetts (or Ohio) in 1812. In 1860 they had a daughter, Ella Gregg, 17, living with them. Ella was born in Illinois.

On March 30, 1871 Maria Gregg passed away in Alvarado at the age of 55 years. In 1880 James Gregg was found living in Westminster, Calif. with his cousin, Sarah Bibb. Both James and Sarah showed they were widowed.

MERCHANTS:

Henry C. Smith & August M. Church General Store / Capt. Henry H. Bulmer / Albert E. Crane / William F. Meyer / Joseph Stark / Chauncey & Charlotte Cornell / H. Fonner / Calvin J. Stevens / James J. Stokes Isaac A. Kenny / Clawiter Family

Smith & Church's General Store:

See Page 41 for Bio of Henry Smith & Page 33 for Bio of Augustus Church:

Henry C. Smith and August M. Church were partners in a general store in New Haven, early in 1852. Mr. Church had spent the previous winter hunting deer and elk in the hills behind Mission San Jose and sending the dressed meat to San Francisco.

Henry Smith had joined U.S. Army and served under Captain John C. Fremont during the Bear Flag Revolt of June 1846. For his participation he was named *alcalde* of Mission San Jose by Governor Riley. Smith prospered and bought land from Augustine Alviso, and established a town that he would call New Haven.

Here he partnered with Church in opening the general store. On June 6, 1853, the second story of the general store would be used as the first courthouse

for Alameda County. By the end of 1853, Henry Smith had suffered severe financial losses and sold his interest in the store to Church. The building burned to the ground in 1890.

Capt. Henry H. Bulmer:

Captain Henry H. Bulmer was born in Leeds, England, in the year 1818. Mr. Bulmer opened the first store in Union City. He also put up the first dwelling in Union City, which was reportedly made of dry goods boxes. It initially stood on the ground where the old water works was built. Later it was improved with lumber and was moved to a permanent location across from the Tay stove foundry. This would be on today's Veasy Street.

Capt. Bulmer did not stay long in Union City, and he quickly moved on. He became a prominent businessman in the town of Hayward's, and was the first Hayward citizen to be buried in the Lone Tree Cemetery in Decoto. He passed away on August 4, 1877 at the age of 59 years.

Albert E. Crane:

Albert E. Crane was born in New York in 1827. He came west with his brother, Addison M. Crane, who would become the first county judge for Alameda County in 1853. Albert came to Alvarado and married Miss Louisa Briggs on June 24, 1857. The couple had two children while in Alvarado, Henry and Carlton C. Crane.

During his time in Alvarado, Albert amassed a small fortune as a merchant. Subsequently in 1865, he became the partner of William Whidden, and together they owned large tracts of land in Alameda County. In 1870, he was an agent for Remington Fried Co. in San Francisco. In 1880, he was a real estate agent in San Francisco and showed he was divorced.

Albert E. Crane passed away in July 1901 at the home of his son, Carlton C. Crane of Decoto.

Carlton C. Crane:

Carlton Crane was born in Alvarado circa 1859 to Albert E. and Louisa Crane. Carlton would leave Alvarado and take up residence in San Francisco where he was an agent for the New York Central Railroad.

Carlton retained residences in San Francisco and Oakland, at one time or another, but he always maintained a home in Decoto, which he called "Carlton Orchard." Carlton remained with railroading all of his life, maintaining ties to San Francisco, Oakland and Decoto. Carlton was a pillar in the growth of the town of Decoto, his daughter, Miss Helen Crane, was a vaudeville and theater circuit star of the early 1900's, being graced with a beautiful voice.

William (Frederick) Meyer:

William Meyer was born in Germany in 1824, and his wife Helen was also born in Germany in 1825. William and Helen had four children, daughters Alvina and Amelia; and sons Freddy and Alfred. He was a storekeeper in Alvarado 1860, by 1870 he was a farmer near Alvarado. In 1880 he was farmer in Decoto and a prominent citizen of that town.

Joseph Stark:

Joseph Stark was born in Nova Scotia in 1823, his wife Grace was born in Nova Scotia in 1825. They had three daughters and a son. Joseph was a merchant in the town of Alvarado in the late 1850's and early 1860's. In 1870 Grace Stark was widowed and living in San Francisco, her oldest daughter, Florane, aged 20, was a teacher in San Francisco supporting the family.

H. Fonner:

H. Fonner was born in Saxony Germany in 1830, his wife Eliza was also born in Saxony Germany in 1828. They had a daughter Maria, born in Alvarado in 1859. Nothing else appears for this family after 1860.

Calvin J. Stevens:

Calvin J. Stevens was born in Brownsville, Jefferson County, New York, on October 23, 1828. He resided on a farm with his father until he attained the age of twenty-three years. Then in May 1852, accompanied by one sister, he started for California by way of the Nicaraguan route, arriving in California on July 7, 1852.

He settled in Alameda County in the town of Union City, and embarked in a mercantile business in the town of Alvarado. Later he added John Horner's flourmill to his holdings. Calvin remained in Alvarado until 1858 when he transferred his merchandise business to Centerville.

In 1868, the great earthquake of that year destroyed his general store in Centerville.

In 1869, Mr. Stevens moved the Horner flourmill to Livermore, where he was extensively engaged in producing flour, grain buying, as well as in general mercantile affairs. On October 16, 1882, the Stevens flourmill of Livermore burned to the ground.

Mr. Stevens then largely pursued his agricultural business, he owned much farming property about Livermore, as well as land of value in the city of Oakland. Only once was Mr. Stevens an occupant of a public office. In 1874-75 he served Alameda County as tax collector.

On November 8, 1887 Calvin J. Stevens, aged 59 years, was thrown from his buggy and within an hour was dead from the injury received. Mr. Stevens was married and had three children: Albert B., Mellie, and Daisy.

James J. Stokes:

James J. Stokes was born in Gloucestershire, England, October 7, 1816, and there resided until the year 1829, at which time he sailed for the U.S., but soon returned and there resided continuously in part of England and in Merionethshire, North Wales, until 1831, in which year he again crossed the Atlantic, going to Canada, from whence he visited the cities of New York and New Orleans, sojourning for a while in each. He then proceeded north, residing awhile in Buffalo and Sandusky City, until the fall of 1848, when, on learning of the discovery of gold in California, Mr. Stokes made up his mind to go to the New El Dorado.

Finding his way to New Orleans, he sailed from that port in the month of October 1848, for the Isthmus of Panama, whence he voyaged to San Francisco, arriving in May 1849.

Having arrived in California he at once proceeded to the mines near Auburn, where he remained eighteen months, and was subsequently engaged in different places at various occupations, until 1859.

In the year 1859 he came to Union City, Alameda County, and was engaged in merchandising, but afterward he moved to Alvarado. He purchased a store on Levee Street and he conducted his business here. The earthquake of 1868 caused damage to his building and his merchandise. He recovered his business, but in 1876 the store was destroyed by fire. The following year he built a new one.

The business became known as J.J. Stokes & Son, and in 1880 his sons Frank and Philip Stokes took over the store from J.J. Stokes. James Stokes then reportedly retired to San Francisco.

In 1884 J.J. Stokes was a founding director in the Russian American Packing Co of Berkeley Calif. Mr. Stokes then moved his residence to Berkeley.

James J. Stokes was married to Mrs. M.S. Hart at Brentford Canada on October 16, 1854. They had ten surviving children: Frank R., James J. Jr., Henry H., Philip A., Edward A., Harold L., Walter S., Guy H., Mary E.S., and Tom.

An obituary notice dated April 13, 1896 delivered the following news: J. J. Stokes, an Alvarado pioneer, and for many years a resident, died suddenly in his home in Berkeley where he and his family had resided for a number of years.

Isaac A. Kenny:

Isaac Kenney was born in New Hampshire in 1821. Isaac was described as a merchant in Alvarado in the 1850's, to the 1860's. In the 1870 census Isaac was found in the Brooklyn Township (East Oakland) working as a clerk.

Clawiter Family:

Edward D. Clawiter:

Edward D. Clawiter was a native of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, and in 1847 he started for the United States making the long voyage in a vessel around Cape Horn. In 1849 he went to the mines and was successful in his search for the yellow metal. During his operations he secured a nugget of extraordinary size, which he took to Berlin, Germany, where it was put on display at the Berlin Museum.

In 1851 he settled in Union City, where he established a store and also raised cattle, which he butchered and delivered to San Francisco with the help of Spanish sailors in small boats. Later he acquired five hundred acres of land in Mt. Eden, where he planted grain. By 1860 Mr. Clawiter had relocated his family to Mt. Eden.

Mr. Clawiter was a man of attainments, speaking three languages. He took a keen interest in matters relating to the development of his locality, and was very influential in local affairs. He became a member of the Society of California, and his portrait hung in the Museum at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Edward was married to Mary Gading Clawiter and had two children in Alvarado, Union and Edward H. Clawiter.

Union Augusta Clawiter:

Union was born on August 7, 1851, to Edward D. and Mary Gading Clawiter. Union was the first white child to be born in Union City. Her birth was a great event in those days. People came from all directions to see the wee stranger, and many brought gifts. From Mr. John Horner, she received a town lot, and was christened by him "Union."

Union Clawiter grew to be a handsome woman, cultured, refined, and possessing a lovable disposition. At twenty years of age Miss Clawiter married Converse Howe, a member of the well-known Drexler family. She made her home in southern California and became the mother of four sons. Mrs. Howe passed away on January 19, 1890, and her husband followed a year later, both finding a resting place at Pomona.

The Pomona Progress, in its account of the death of Union Clawiter Howe said:

"She was universally esteemed as a lady of noble character. She was of a quiet, unassuming disposition, possessed a kind heart, and was at all times ready to lend a helping hand to the distressed, and to smooth the pillow of the afflicted, yet all her good deeds were done without ostentation. The rule of right was her guide in all the relations of life, both social and domestic, and from that rule she never swerved. In fact, she was possessed of all those attributes of true womanhood that endeared her to all who knew her."

Edward H. Clawiter:

Edward H. Clawiter was born in Union City on November 27, 1852. His parents moved Mt. Eden when Edward was still an infant. He attended the Pacific Business College after his public school education. He then joined his father in the ranching business in Mt. Eden. He remained an historian for Mt. Eden and Alvarado all through his life, recounting stories of the mid and late 1800's. On February 3, 1943 Edward H. Clawiter, prominent rancher, civic leader and businessman from Mt. Eden died at his home after a short illness. His wife Annie S. Clawiter preceded him in death the previous year, they having been married in 1877.

MEXICAN GOVERNOR:

Juan Bautista Alvarado:

Juan Bautista Alvarado was born on February 14, 1809 in Monterey, Alta California, to Jose Francisco Alvarado and Maria Josefa Vallejo. His first public service and regular employment began when, at age 18, he was chosen as secretary for the *Diputacion*, a group of elected men who acted as legislature and advisor to each new territorial governor dispatched north from Mexico City. By the time Juan reached full adulthood, his generation of native-born

Californians were calling themselves Californios, and favored home rule over obedience to the unfair laws of far-off Mexico City.



Juan Bautista Alvarado was California's longest-tenured governors under Mexican rule. He held office for six years from 1836 to 1842. Favorable comments by historians report that Alvarado was conspicuous for his industry, his sincerity of purpose, his high sense of justice, and his interest in education.

Here is it important to take note of the Governors of *Alta California* before the arrival of the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846:

1836 – 1837: Juan B. Alvarado, self-declared Governor following a coup.

1837 – 1838: Governorship disputed between J.B. Alvarado & Carlos Carrillo.

1838 – 1842: Alvarado appointment reconfirmed by central government.

1842 – 1845: Brig. General Manuel Micheltorena

1845 – 1846: Pio Pico

Land Grants granted by Governor J.B. Alvarado, and land granted to J.B. Alvarado:

Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda – 17,705 acres; Gov. J.B. Alvarado to Jose de Jesus Vallejo; 1842

Rancho ex-Mission San Jose – 30,000 acres was granted by Governor Pio Pico to Andres Pico and Juan B. Alvarado, 1846. This land grant encompassed Centerville, Mission San Jose, Irvington, and a very small slice of Niles. The Northern District Court Case of 1859 nullified the land grant and stripped all but about 27 acres of land from the Mission San Jose. Claimants to title of the land could then buy back their land at \$1.25 an acre from the U.S. Government

After the Mexican-American War, which was settled by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1846, Alvarado was offered the governorship but declined, instead retiring to his wife Martina's family estate at Rancho San Pablo in 1848. Alvarado did not participate in the California Gold Rush, instead he concentrated his efforts on agriculture and business. After Martina's death in 1876, Alvarado wrote his "Historia de California." He died on his ranch in 1882, and was buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Oakland.

In March 1853 the California State Legislature met at Benecia to discuss the formation of a new county drawn from the counties of Contra Cost (north of the Alameda Creek) and Santa Clara County (south of the Alameda Creek). On March 16, 1853, the California State Assembly passed the bill creating Alameda County. Before the bill was forwarded to the State Senate the Assembly added that the name of the new seat would be changed from New Haven to Alvarado to honor former Governor Juan B. Alvarado. That afternoon, the State Senate also passed the bill, including renaming New Haven to Alvarado. There is evidence that the town of Alvarado had existed before March 16, 1853, and was part of an area that included Horner's Union City, Smith's New Haven, and a third town called Alvarado. Nothing ever came from this third town until New Haven was renamed Alvarado by the State Legislature.

MEXICAN LANDOWNER:

Augustine Alviso:

Augustine Alviso was born at the Presidio of San Francisco, on the 28th day of August 1809, the son of José Ygnacio Alviso and Margarita Bernal. At an early age he moved with his parents to the Mission of Santa Clara, where he grew to manhood.

Here he was engaged, under his father, who was then administrator of that mission, in various capacities, mostly in the cultivation of the soil, overseeing and directing improvements then being made. On the 1st day of May 1840, he was appointed by José Maria Amador, foreman (Major-Domo) of the Mission of San José. He received from his predecessor as property belonging to said mission over 25,000 head of cattle, 40,000 head of sheep, and over 1,000 head of horses, there were also over 1,000 tame Indians, most of them engaged in various industries, and under the control of the mission authorities.

In the year 1844, he took part in expelling the Mexican Governor Micheltorena from the country, and was taken prisoner by Gen. John A. Sutter. He escaped his captivity with the assistance of the Robert Livermore in the autumn 1844. Augustin Alviso and Tomas Pacheco, his brother in law, were granted the 'Potrero de Los Cerritos' land grant by Governor J.B. Alvarado. The grant included all land south of the Alameda Creek and north of the Sanjon de Los Alisos. Today this land would include most of Alvarado, Old Union City, the old Alviso Grammar School District and a portion of land north of Thornton Ave to the Alameda Creek near Peralta Boulevard in today's Fremont.

Augustine sold part of his land of Old Union City to John Horner in 1850, and sold the property of New Haven to Henry Smith in January 1851.

Alviso's son, Valentin was elected County Supervisor for Murray County in 1875, and served for two years. He was also an employee of the Federal Government in connection with the naval office in the port of San Francisco, in which place he, being a Republican, resigned in 1885.

MILLERS:

John Horner / Jose de Jesus Noe / Calvin J. Stevens

John Miers Horner:

[See Complete Bio on Page 39](#)

Union City Flour Mill:

From "*The History of Washington Township*" by the Country Club of Washington Township:

"Union City was the location of the first flourmill of any size established within the limits of the state, this being an enterprise of John M. and William Y. Horner who, in 1853, built at the little port, a mill having a run of eight burrs (grinding stones), costing at that time \$85,000. It was operated by steam power, and the flour gained a state reputation, through the award at the first Agricultural Fair in California of the first premium.

The Union City flour competed with eight samples from California grain, and the united judgment of three New York merchants, awarded the premium for excellence to the sample from 'Horner's Mill at Union City.' The premium was a silver cup."

Jose de Jesus Noe:

Union City Flour Mill:



Jose de Jesus Noe was born in Puebla, Mexico in 1805, and he came (now San Francisco). From 1842 to 1843, he served as alcalde, and he served again in 1847. Noe was the last Mexican alcalde, as the city fell to the United States on July 9, 1846, during the Mexican-American War.

On December 23, 1845, J.J. Noe received the Rancho San Miguel land grant from California Governor Pio Pico. The grant comprised some 4,443 acres in San Francisco on the Mission Hills and extended some four miles south. Today that area is known as the Noe Valley in San Francisco.

On March 30, 1857, a patent was issued to Noe. By an agreement, Noe had conveyed the property to Charles B. Strobe on August 2, 1853, and then on August 3, 1853, Strobe assigned it to John M. Horner.

In 1895 the heirs of J.J. Noe brought a \$24,000,000 lawsuit to reclaim their rights to the San Francisco property under Spanish law. Noe's wife had died prior to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe de Hidalgo, which ceded Alta California from Mexico to the United States. Under Spanish law (and Mexican law), J.J. Noe could not transfer the title to the Rancho, as Spanish law dictated that half of the property is invested in the name of the children of Mrs. Noe.

Mr. Noe also becomes a player in the history of early Alvarado, as he bought the John Horner flourmill when bad economic times, and poor decisions by John Horner brought him into economic turmoil. Noe was only able to operate the Union City flourmill for a few short years, as the economic downturn also put him in a financial bind. He then sold the Horner flourmill to Calvin J. Stevens.

Calvin J. Stevens:

[See Complete Bio on Page 72](#)

Union City Flour Mill:

Calvin J. Stevens, an Alvarado merchant, purchased the Horner flourmill from J.J. Noe circa 1856 to 1857. In 1858 Calvin Stevens moved his general store to Centerville. The store was destroyed in 1868 earthquake, and Calvin Stevens took up residence in Livermore, moving the Horner flourmill to that town in 1869. The flourmill was destroyed in a fire in the 1880's.

NOTARY PUBLIC:

John R. Wares:

John Wares was born in New York in 1827. Living with him in Alvarado were his two daughters, Alice S. & Mary. John did not show a wife, and he showed his occupation as Notary Public.

The last entry for this family was the marriage of Alice S. Wares to Albert Lyser in Alvarado in June 1869.

NURSERY:

The Alvarado Nursery:

The Alvarado Nursery was under the ownership of Messrs. Brizzee and McCormick, in conjunction with a Mr. E. Fales. The Alvarado Nursery was able to offer one of the largest stocks of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery, grape vines, gooseberry, currant and raspberry bushes, strawberry, blackberry, and flowering plants offered in this market, embracing all the varieties known in the State, age from one to three years.

Nothing else was found about this nursery after the lone advertisement was published in the 1850's.

PAINTER:

James Smith:

James Smith was born in Indiana in 1822. His wife Lucy was born in 1832 in Massachusetts. They had no children at this time. James showed his occupation as a painter, and he had been in Alvarado since at least as late as the 1850's. In the 1870 census he was shown as being single, and living in the Alvarado Hotel. His occupation was shown then as a painter.

In 1880 he was shown living in his own household in Alvarado. He was still a painter and he was still single.

PHYSICIAN:

Dr. Benjamin F. Bucknell:

[See Bio on Page 68](#)

Dr. Bucknell managed Horner's landing, established a U.S. Post Office at Union City, and was also the Justice of the Peace of Union City. Besides attending daily to the loading and unloading of the steamboat, and being the Postmaster, he also married couples that could not find a minister.

Because he was a doctor he also helped the sick, and because he could speak Spanish he also was in demand to the Spanish occupants around Alvarado.

PLASTERER:

Henry Curragh:

Henry Curragh was born in Ireland about 1820. His wife was Janet Curragh, a native of Canada born about 1826. They had two children, John M. and Zue.

Henry was one of the first settlers of Union City, and made his living as a plasterer. He served as a ballot official in 1876 for Alvarado, and was selected in 1877 to sit on the Grand Jury of Alameda County.



Early Alvarado Map showing the home of Henry Currah in Union City.

Henry Currah lived in the house built by Captain C.C. Scott in 1852, in Union City. Henry had the distinction of having his home on one of the first maps of Alameda County

After 1877 there are no further entries found for Henry Currah.

POSTMASTER:

Dr. Benjamin Bucknell / Henry C. Smith / Augustus M. Church / Albert E. Crane / Augustus M. Church

Dr. Benjamin Bucknell:

[See complete Bio on page 68](#)

Dr. Bucknell established a U.S. Post Office at Union City on November 8, 1851. Known as the "Union" Post Office, it was located in what was then Santa Clara County (Alameda County had not yet been established). The Union (Union City) Post Office was abandoned on August 8, 1853, when the Alvarado Post Office was established.

Henry C. Smith:

[See Complete Bio on Page 41](#)

Henry C. Smith was named as the first postmaster of Alvarado on August 8, 1853.

Albert E. Crane:

[See Complete Bio on Page 71](#)

Albert E. Crane was a merchant in Alvarado in the 1850's. He was the brother of Judge Crane of Alvarado. In August 1858 he was named the Postmaster for Alvarado.

Augustus M. Church:

[See Complete Bio on Page 33](#)

Augustus M. Church became Postmaster for Alvarado in June 1856. He was replaced by A.E. Crane in August 1858, but by April 1859 he was reappointed Postmaster of Alvarado.

RELIGIOUS PIONEERS:

Chauncey & Charlotte Cornell:

Chauncey Cornell was born in New York circa 1814, his wife Charlotte Hawley Cornell was born in England circa 1818. In 1850, Chauncey and Charlotte Cornell were living in Brooklyn New York with their four children, Robert, William, Anson and daughter Ellen. Chauncey came to Washington Township

in 1852. Chauncey was an early merchant in Centerville, but later went to work for the Spring Valley Water Co. for many years.

In 1853 Charlotte helped found the Centerville Presbyterian Church. Then in the late 1850's, Charlotte Cornell began lobbying for a Presbyterian Church in Alvarado. The church was completed and dedicated in May of 1861. Because of her untiring efforts, the Alvarado Presbyterian Church was known as "Charlotte's Temple."

Charlotte Cornell passed away in March of 1910 at the age of 91 years. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ella R. Baker, the widow of Washington Township pioneer Abijah Baker.

RESTAURANTEURS:

Louis Cameron / Antonio Reata / Philip Thorn

Louis Cameron:

Louis Cameron was born in Hanover Germany in 1827. His wife Harriet was born in Bremen Germany in 1825. They had one child, Ida. Nothing was found after 1860 about the Cameron family.

Antonio Reata:

Antonio Reata was born in Mexico in 1824 and was married to Ennis Reata, who was born in 1826 in California. They show as having five children. Nothing was found after 1860 about the Reata family.

Philip Thorn:

Philip Thorn was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1833. His wife Barbara was born in Bavaria in 1838. They had one child, Mary, who was born in California. Nothing was found after 1860 about the Thorn family.

SADDLER & HARNESS:

Eli Emlay:

Eli Emlay was born in Canada in 1830. He was married to Helen Emlay. The 1860 Census shows they had no children. Eli had one employee, William Brown, in his employ. In 1870 Eli and family (now with 5 children) were in Gilroy, where Eli was following his trade as a saddler.

SALOON & BARKEEPERS:

Augustus Heyer:

August Heyer was born in Hanover Germany circa 1825. The date of his arrival in the U.S. is not known. August came to California in 1852, and settled in Alvarado in 1855. He married Hattie Goldsmith, his fiancé from Germany, shortly after arriving in the U.S. They had two children, a son Charles born in 1857, and a daughter Hattie, who was born in 1855.

For the first few decades in Alvarado August ran a saloon, and then he added a billiard parlor to his operation. By 1880 he had entered the bakery business in Alvarado, and operated that enterprise until his retirement.

His son Charles was employed in the banking business in Oakland. His daughter Hattie married C.R. Nauert of Alvarado, and remained in Alvarado until her death on August 9, 1908.

August Heyer passed away on November 20, 1889. His obituary gives an excellent story of the life of August Heyer:

“August Heyer, the genial old timer of Alvarado, who is well known throughout this valley, was suddenly taken from his loving wife and children last Wednesday evening, November 20, 1889. He had just returned from a visit to San Francisco, and appeared in his usual robust health. He ate his supper, went to bed, and while talking with his wife partly fell out of bed, gasped three times, and was dead.”

Mr. Heyer was a native of Hanover Germany, and at the time of his death was 65 years old. He had passed through many stirring scenes in the early days, particularly during the gold excitement on the Frazier River.

Mr. Heyer arrived in California in 1852, and a year later was married to Miss Hattie Goldsmith, to whom he was engaged to in Europe. Mr. Heyer at that time owned some of the most valuable lots in San Francisco, and sold the lots where Platt’s Hall now stands for \$500.

He went to the Frazier River, lost all his earnings, and in 1855 came to Alvarado, where he has since resided. He then sent for his younger brother, Julius Heyer, who afterwards died at Haywards.

He was most happily married and leaves a wife and two children, the son Charles Heyer, is a bookkeeper for the German Bank in San Francisco, and his daughter is the wife of C.R. Nauert, Superintendent of the Geo. Tay Stove Foundry in Alvarado. He also leaves three nephews of Hayward, Charles, Julius and William Heyer.”

SALT MANUFACTURING: **Christian Bothsow:**

Christian Bothsow was born on the island of Alse, Denmark, August 26, 1825. He followed the life of a sailor until he reached the age of 21 years of age. He then returned to his home, and remained there for two years. Afterwards he learned the trade of ship-carpenter, at which time he worked on board different vessels until his arrival in California in 1850.

He settled in Union City, and he became the first commercial salt producer in the South Bay Area. The salt works of Mr. Bothsow was on the banks of the Alameda Creek, which would later give rise to the salt works of John Quigley and his Alvarado Salt Works. He remained in the Union City until 1852, when he moved to Mt. Eden where he engaged in salt making and farming.

Christian’s wife’s name was Jane. She was born in Scotland circa 1831 and entered the U.S. in 1853. The Bothsow’s had four children, three daughters: Mary, Anna, and Harriett, and one son Henry. In 1900 Jane Bothsow was a

widow, still living in Mt. Eden with her daughter Anna and her husband Henry Duckman.

SHOEMAKER:

Nicholl McMansary:

Nicholl McMansary was born in England in 1833. He appeared to be single and was living with the Asa Putney family, as was Miflin Buckley, a carpenter, and Maria Conroy, an Irish servant. After 1860 nothing further was found on Mr. McMansary.

SURVEYOR AND SUGAR MAGNATE:

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer:

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer was born at Sullivan, Hancock County, Maine April 17, 1822. Ephraim Dyer, his grandfather, was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Ebenezer was educated locally, and upon manhood embarked in business in his native town as a merchant.

Seeking a wider field he came to California, via the Isthmus in 1857, and finding a promising new country, he returned in the fall of the same year for his family consisting of his wife, Olive Ingalls and their two children. He arrived the second time in April 1858, and settled at Alvarado near his brother Ephraim's farm where he stayed.

He first engaged for a short time in stock raising, then in the fall of 1859, he was elected Alameda County Surveyor, and re-elected in 1861. Later that year he was appointed U.S. Deputy Surveyor and served in that capacity for about ten years.



Ebenezer H. Dyer



Ebenezer Dyer's Home on Dyer Street

Coming to Alvarado in the infancy of the new county, he was quick to see her necessities and her possibilities. Ebenezer was quick to see the fertile soil about Alvarado, and he married this with the realization that Californians

spent millions of dollars each year on foreign sugar supplies. This led him to experiment at Alvarado with the growing of the sugar beet. He found the plant thrived in the Alvarado soil. He also knew that a beet sugar mill had never been successful in the U.S. Upon further study he concluded that a sugar beet mill could be successful in the U.S. if it met certain criteria, and he felt that Alvarado had all of these criteria.

In 1869 Ebenezer Dyer led a consortium of investors that raised \$250,000 in capital to build a sugar beet mill in Alvarado. The new company would be called the California Beet Sugar Manufacturing Co.

Benjamin F. Ingalls; father-in-law to both Ephraim and Ebenezer Dyer, was the Master Carpenter on building the mill on land owned by the Dyer brothers. Messrs. Bonesteel and Otto moved their sugar making equipment from Fond du Lac, WI to Alvarado to manufacture sugar. Bonesteel and Otto would act as managers of the plant. Ground was broken on May 9, 1870.

The mill produced its first barrel of sugar on November 17, 1870. The barrel was made of glamorous polished black walnut staves, bounded by resplendent brass hoops, and filled with refined coarse grain sugar, and was dispatched to Washington DC, and President Grant.

Eb Dyer would continue to be in the beet sugar manufacturing business until the early 1890's, when he would sell his interest in the Alvarado sugar mill and form the E.H. Dyer Co. of Alvarado and Cleveland Ohio to build and staff new sugar processing plants in the United States. Eb would partner with his son, Edward F. Dyer and his nephew Hugh P. Dyer in operation of E.H. Dyer and Company.

Eb Dyer would design new sugar processing plants at his home in Alvarado, and E.F. & H.P. Dyer would build and staff the plants for their clients. Together they built mills in Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Louisiana, Colorado and California.

Eb Dyer was a staunch supporter of the Republican Party having served as a local delegate to Republican conventions. He was also an early member of the Crusade Lodge of the IOOF of Alvarado.

Eb Dyer had married Marion Wallace Ingalls, daughter of B.F. & Sophronia Ingalls of Sullivan Maine on June 15, 1850. They had three children: Abitha Marion Dyer (Munson), Ellen Frances Dyer and Edward Franklin Dyer.

Marion died on February 13, 1863, when, in a fit of fever, she threw herself into the raging Alameda Creek and drowned.

In 1865 Ebenezer married Marion's younger sister, Olive Sophronia Dyer and together they also had three children: Guy Sawyer Dyer, Hugh Thomas Dyer and Nina Ingalls (Washburn) Dyer. Marion passed away on February 6, 1919

Ebenezer Dyer passed away on July 15, 1910.

TEACHERS:

Fred P. Dann:

Fred Dann was shown as a teacher living in Alvarado during the late 1850's and into the early 1860's. He was living alone at this time. During the 1870 census Fred Dann was found in San Francisco, newly married and working at law.

Charles P. Johnson:

Charles P. Johnson was born in Maine in 1836. He arrived in Alvarado in the early 1850's, and was noted as the first permanent teacher at the Alvarado School in 1854. In 1856 the Alviso Grammar School opened, and Mr. Johnson was their second teacher.

In June 1860 C.P. Johnson was appointed 1st Lieutenant in the Alvarado Guards, the unit that was formed to protect Alvarado citizens and property from Rebel sympathizers.



C.P. Johnson, Alvarado's first teacher at the Alvarado School. Charles Johnson is shown here on May 30, 1925, at the Memorial Day celebration held in conjunction with the opening of the new Alvarado Grammar School. Mr. Johnson is standing before the Civil War Battle Flag, sewn by the wives and sweethearts of the men of Alvarado, and presented to Captain Eigenbrodt as the men of Alameda County marched off to war to join the Massachusetts 2nd Cavalry.

On April 14, 1863, Charles' wife gave birth to a son in Alvarado. After this we do not hear about Mr. Johnson again until Memorial Day of 1925, when he came back to Alvarado to partake in the unveiling of the 64-year old Alvarado Civil War Battle Flag during the Alvarado Memorial Day parade.

TIN SMITH:

Asman J. Lowell:

Asman J. Lowell was born in New York circa 1829. In the 1860 census Asman is living in Alvarado, and boarding at the home of Eli Imlay, the Alvarado saddler and harness maker. Asman showed his occupation a tinner, or as it is better known today, a tinsmith. A tinsmith made or repaired tin pots and pans. At this time Asman showed he was single. In August of 1861, Asman

was appointed Postmaster of the Alvarado Post Office by Special Mail Agent Watrous of Sacramento.

Sometime thereafter he married and had four children with his wife Ada, who was born in Maine in 1847. Their children were: Kate b. 1867, Maude b. 1869, Jesse b. 1871 and John b. 1876. John L. Lowell died at the young age of 33 on January 15, 1909.

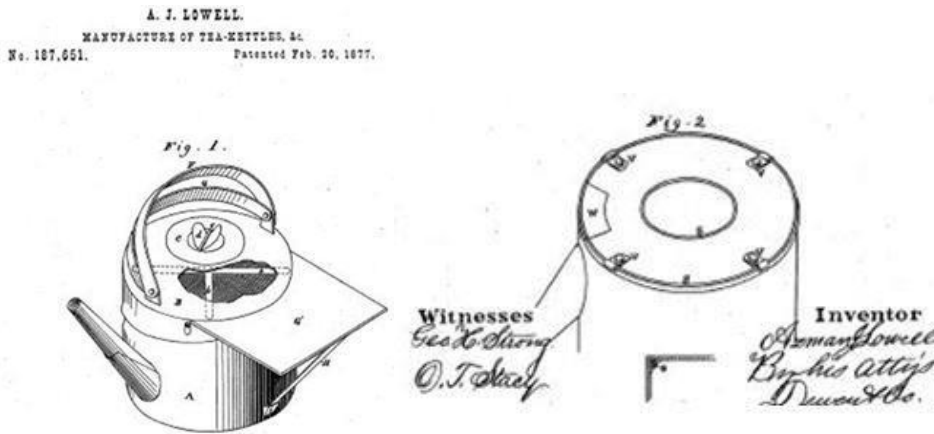
In September 1862 Asman Lowell penned this letter, which included the hefty sum of \$50, in response to a call on behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers of the Army and Navy:

"Friend Smith: I very much regret that I cannot be with you to enjoy the ceremonies of today; but I trust that such a glorious free will offering will go up from the citizens of Alameda County for the cause of civil and religious liberty, as will carry dismay to all the rebels in our beloved country, and joy to the hearts of all patriots and Union soldiers. I forward to you \$50, which you will place to my credit in the Patriotic Fund, and I promise to pay \$5 per month until the last rebel is shot or returns to his allegiance.

A.J. LOWELL; Alvarado, Calif"

November 1862, Asman Lowell was among the charter members of the International Order of Good Templars of Alvarado. The new lodge was dubbed the Refuge Lodge No. 62 of Alvarado. The I.O.G.T. was the premier global interlocutor for evidence-based policy measures and community-based interventions to prevent and reduce harm caused by the use alcohol and other drugs.

Asman was also a member of the I.O.O.F. Crusade Lodge No. 93 of Alvarado. In January 1876, Asman J. Lowell was elected as Conductor of the Alvarado Crusade Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows.



On February 20, 1877 Asman was granted a patent on his improved teakettle. The top of the teakettle was made perfectly flat, and instead of making the opening through which the kettle is filled in the center of the top, it was made at one side of the center for extra strength.

In 1880 the Lowell's were still living in Alvarado, and Asman was still a tin smith. In the 1900 census Ada Lowell is shown living in San Francisco, where she was operating a boarding house as the landlady, and showed she was widowed. There were no children living with her.

WELL BORER:
Uriah Higgins:

Uriah Higgins was born in Massachusetts in 1804. Uriah was in Alvarado in the late 1850's, and the early 1860's, and he was shown as living with the Farley B. Granger family.

It is interesting that an artesian well borer is living with Farley Granger Sr., or it shows that Mr. Granger may have been interested in artesian water far before he built the Riverside Hotel, and bought the landing area around Union City, which he later sold to William Dingee of Oakland to start the Oakland Water Company in 1895. As for Uriah Higgins nothing could be found before or after the 1860 for the gentleman.

* **CRIME** *

A seemingly constant problem in the new county was one of rampant crime. San Francisco's Barbary Coast was, at this time, legendary for its lawlessness and its vigilante justice. San Franciscan's even went as far as burning the Governor of California in effigy for his disdain of bringing justice to the peninsula city.

Across the Bay, in Alameda County, things were not much better, although they did have an active force of constables. But justice seemed to be meted out sparingly in the minds of the locals.

The Oakland Leader of December 1, 1855 recalls events from the town of Alvarado, which occurred on the evening of November 29th. The article in question states the following particulars of the escape of two Mexicans, who had recently been arrested on the charge of cattle stealing, and the lynching for the same offense of two notorious individuals named John Hill and William Harris, both Americans. The article follows:

"These men, it appears, had a day or two before their death, had an examination before Justice Millard of Alvarado, on a charge of having stolen some eight head of cattle from a Mr. L. Gates, who resided about three miles from Union City, which resulted in their conviction. On the night of Wednesday last (November 28, 1855), at about 12 o'clock, two Mexican prisoners, who occupied the same apartment (in the Brooklyn House Hotel, for the county had no jail in Alvarado) with Harris and Hill, had succeeded by some means in effecting their escape. At the time when the occurrence took place, the prisoners were entrusted to a special guard.

Sheriff Broder and Under Sheriff Edmondson having become exhausted by watching and pursuing a band of cattle thieves, which infest that part of the country, for several days and nights, without interruption, had retired but a short time previous for the purpose of availing themselves of a little temporary rest. Upon learning the result, the sheriff and under-sheriff started immediately in pursuit of the fugitives from justice.

In the meantime, the people, so long the victims of a gang of merciless pillagers, became greatly exasperated, and immediately resolved not to allow the American prisoners a similar opportunity to make good their escape.

A Vigilance Committee was instantly organized; the prisoners, Hill and Harris, were quickly wrested from the guard and placed in a wagon, which was guarded by the committee, who proceeded to the ranch of Augustine Alviso, about four miles from Union City on the San Jose Road, and at which place on the branch of a tree at about 5 o'clock in the morning of 29th, both Harris and Hill were executed.

A Coroner's inquest was held the same day over the dead bodies, and a verdict rendered in accordance with foregoing facts. The bodies were then cut down and buried on the same spot where they were executed."

On June 14, 1856, a meeting was held in San Leandro for the purpose of forming a vigilante committee to expedite and perfect the swift execution of those alleged to have committed crimes punishable by death. Chairing this meeting was Dr. Travis from Alvarado, and he had as one of his co-secretaries on the committee, J.M. Reynolds, also of Alvarado. Citing recent tragic events that had transpired the City of San Francisco, and the crisis these events had brought down upon the innocent populace of that City, the meeting convened in the name of justice.

A Resolution was passed citing that our government derives its powers from the *people*, and was established for their well-being. The committee felt they were therefore obligated to act, when the agents deputed to execute the enactments of Government *fail to do so*. It was also cited that all authority emanates from the people, and they have the right to resume the administration of justice, and to execute their own will when our elected officials neglect to do so.

As a result of the resolution passed at this meeting, for a brief time, vigilante justice prevailed in Alameda County and in Alvarado.

*** SOCIAL & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS ***

Alvarado Grammar School / IOOF / Washington Township Pioneer Society / U.S. Post Office

Alvarado Grammar School:

In 1853 a private school, with five pupils was opened in Alvarado, the rate of tuition being \$5 per month. Not long after Mrs. Warren taught the public school, the school was in the residence of Captain J.S. Marston.

Also teaching during this decade was C.P. Johnson who later was a Lieutenant in the Alvarado Guards.

IOOF:

(International Order of Odd Fellows)

Charles Eigenbrodt came to Alvarado in the late 1850's from San Francisco. He purchased a ranch and commenced to farming. Charles missed one thing about San Francisco, and that was his membership in the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). He soon tired of making the long trips to San Francisco to attend meetings so he started a movement to start an Odd Fellows Lodge in Alvarado.

Under his leadership some of the citizens of Alvarado and the surrounding area formed an Alvarado lodge of Odd Fellows. On November 26, 1859, Crusade Lodge No. 93, of the IOOF was founded in Alvarado. The following were the charter members:

Charles S. Eigenbrodt	Albert E. Crane	James Hawley
William M. Liston	William Morrison	William Hayes
W. H. Hawthorne	George Simpson	N.B. Eldred

Washington Township Pioneer Society:

This is a list of pioneers in Washington Township Pioneer Society. From Alvarado (Union City) we will find the following men:

John M. Horner	Henry Clay Smith	James Hawley
William Morrison	Addison M. Crane	William M. Liston
C.J. Stevens	Caleb C. Scott	W.W. Brier
Ephraim H. Dyer	Redbon Horner	William Y. Horner
A.M. Church	William H. Cockefair	Ed Huff
William Hayes	Joseph Ralph	Hiram Davis
Dr. Benjanin Bucknell		

U.S. Post Office:

The first Post Office in our area was the Union Post Office established November 8, 1851, in Union City. The first Postmaster was Dr. Benjamin Bucknell. This Post Office was then located in Santa Clara County, as was New Haven at this date.

The Union (Union City) Post Office was abandoned and replaced on August 8, 1853, when the Alvarado Post Office was established.

Henry C. Smith was named as the first postmaster of Alvarado on August 8, 1853. In June 1856, Augustus M. Church replaced Henry Smith as Postmaster for Alvarado. A.M. Church was then replaced by Albert E. Crane in August 1858, but by April 1859 Augustus Church was reappointed Postmaster of Alvarado.

* **MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS** *

November 1850:

Early Washington Township Postmasters:

The first postmaster in what was to become Alameda County was Jose Jesus Vallejo at Mission San Jose. The second postmaster was Robert Livermore at his ranch in Murray Township. The third postmaster was Dr. Benjamin Bucknell in Union City.

January 1851: Cholera Epidemic:

The Indians and Mexican population in Santa Clara Valley have been the principal sufferers of a terrible cholera epidemic. Whole communities have been entirely swept off in the course of a few days, and the only evidence left of those who once inhabited the fertile plains and valleys, is the remains of their rancheros (Indian settlements) on the banks of the stream. Not a rancho was passed, we saw one or more bodies lying on the ground unburied, abandoned by relatives and their tribes. In 1850 Washington Township south of the Alameda Creek was part of the Santa Clara Valley.

September 1, 1851: The Steamboat Union:

The steamboat Union had a novel history, having been originally constructed in New Jersey and brought in sections, aboard a ship around Cape Horn, and imported to the coast by Charles Minturn. Its original runs were from San Francisco to the Sacramento Delta.

When this steamer first entered upon the service between Union City and San Francisco on September 1, 1851, it was owned by Mr. J. M. Horner, and was placed on the route to carry Horner's produce to market. It had limited accommodations for chance passengers.

November 8, 1851: Post Office Opened in Union City:

The Postmaster General has established the following new post office the week ending November 8, 1851:

Office: Union

County: Santa Clara

State: California

Postmaster: B. F. Bucknell

This post office was located Union City, which at this time, was located in Santa Clara County.

1853 First Bridge across Alameda Creek:

The first bridge across Alameda Creek was built and wholly paid for by the Horner Brothers. It stood on the exact location of the present bridge near the sugar refinery, and cost those enterprising citizens \$1,100. They also constructed the second bridge at Alvarado on the Mt. Eden road, but the cost of this one was later paid for by the county.

March 16, 1853: New County of Alameda Established:

Benecia, Wednesday, March 16th:

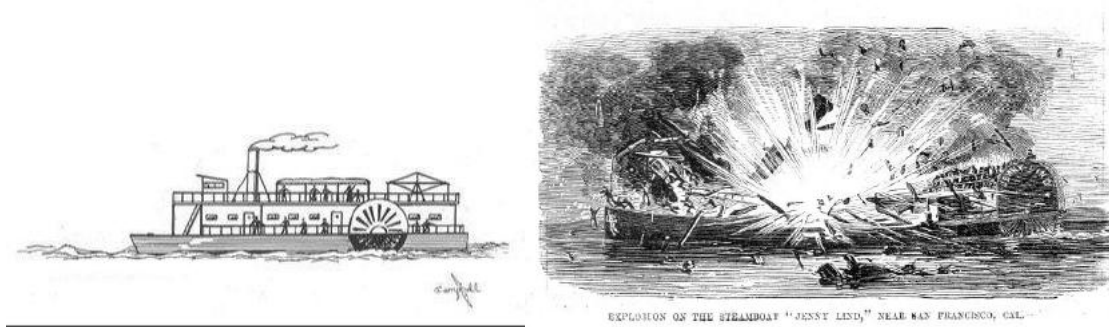
The Senate this day passed the bill establishing the new county of Alameda and changing the name of the county seat from New Haven to Alvarado. It was formed from the counties of Contra Costa and Santa Clara.

April 11, 1853:

Explosion of the Jenny Lind:

On April 11, 1853, the steamer *Jenny Lind* was making a run from Alviso (Santa Clara County) to San Francisco when it suffered a terrible boiler explosion, which instantly killed 18 of 130 passengers, seven from one family.

Over 50 persons eventually lost their lives, including every woman and child on board. They were terribly scalded by the hot water and died in excruciating pain. The explosion occurred opposite the bay from San Mateo.



Fortunately, the steamer "Union," berthed at Union City under the command of Capt. J.S. Marston, appeared from the mouth of the Alameda Creek, and took the survivors and the remains of the unfortunate victims to San Francisco.

August 8, 1853:

Alvarado Post Office Established:

The Alvarado Post Office was established August 8, 1853, when the Union Post Office at Union City was abandoned. Henry C. Smith was the first Postmaster for Alvarado.

April 7, 1854, San Joaquin Republican:

Table of Distances:

The San Joaquin Republican published mileage from the County Seat at Alvarado to the State Capital at Sacramento, the Lunatic Asylum at Stockton, and the State Prison at San Quentin:

State Capitol at Sacramento	175 Miles
The Lunatic Asylum at Stockton	185 Miles
State Prison at San Quentin	50 Miles

October 12, 1854:

Andrew Broder Marries Sarah Smith:

Andrew Broder married Sarah Smith on October 18, 1854, in Alvarado by the Rev. W.N. Brown. Miss Sarah A. Smith was the sister of Henry C. Smith.

December 1854:

Alvarado Loses County Seat to San Leandro:

An election was held to move the county seat from Alvarado to San Leandro. The final result of the election was 1,301 to 1,067 in favor of removing the county seat to San Leandro. Alvarado was no longer the county seat!



Samuel Marston marries Abba Griffin:

Samuel Marston was married to Miss Abba Griffin near Union City by the Reverend W. Morrow on December 31, 1854.



Noble Hamilton Marries Lydia Marston:

Noble Hamilton was married to Miss Delana (Lydia) Marston on December 31, 1854, near Union City by the Reverend W. Morrow. Noble Hamilton was an Alvarado lawyer representing a San Francisco law firm, while Miss Marston was the daughter of Country Treasurer Capt. Jotham Marston.

January 20, 1855:

Alameda Creek:

Mr. Watkins (our district State Assemblyman) presented a petition from the citizens of Union City, asking that the Alameda River (Creek) be declared a navigable waterway to a certain point. This was apparently never passed. The measure would have forbidden any encumbrance to water traffic beyond a certain point in Union City to the Bay. This meant that bridges over the navigable part of the creek could not be bridged by anything other than a drawbridge.

February 13, 1855:

County Treasury at Alvarado Robbed:

On February 13, 1855, the Alameda County Treasury was robbed of \$12,575.31 by an unknown individual. The county treasury was kept in a safe on the second floor of the general store of Augustus Church and Henry Smith. A subsequent search of the grounds about the county seat building turned up \$4,410.00 of the money that had been missing. That amount still missing was \$7,545.31. This amount was never recovered, and the blame for its loss was placed upon the County Treasurer, Capt. Jotham S. Marston, who vehemently proclaimed his innocence.

The county continued to hound Mr. Marston for payment over the years, finally settling for an amount half the size of the loss. Capt. Marston moved to Centerville where he farmed with his two sons, Samuel and Benjamin. Many people never forgave Marston for this loss, as they felt it was the reason why Alvarado had lost the county seat to San Leandro.

March 1855:

Earthquake:

Alvarado: About 5 o'clock this morning a very severe shock of an earthquake was felt here, preceded by a low whistling sound, which for severity and length of duration surpasses any shock felt here-to-fore in this vicinity. Slight shocks have been of frequent occurrence for the last two years; the one this morning lasted for a full fifteen seconds, and the earth vibrated from North to South; atmosphere clear and unclouded. A shock of equal severity in your city would test the firmness of your (S.F.) brick edifices.

November 1855:

Road from Alvarado to the Mission:

From the *Sacramento Daily Union*, November 1855:

"The road from Alvarado to the Mission, which is nearly a bee line, is 60 feet wide, and so raised in the center as to render it, in the rainy season, comparatively dry and pleasant traveling. Gentlemen owning farms and country seats bordering on this highway, have manifested much public spirit in planting ornamental shade trees along its margin, which will in a few years contribute greatly to the picturesque beauty of the valley and to the comfort of the noon-day traveler. There are many handsome residences on either side of this splendid thoroughfare, with grounds in a high state of cultivation, tastefully laid out and ornamented with trees, shrubs and flowers. This road passes through Centerville, one of the most attractive villages we have seen in the State, and if its enterprising citizens carry out their present design of bordering the streets with shade trees, it will be far the pleasantest point in the valley. They have already built two fine churches, one of wood, and the other of brick, a *bijou* of a church, just completed and beautifully furnished by the ladies of the place."

June 1857:

Albert Crane Marries Louisa Briggs:

Albert Crane was married in Alvarado to Miss Louisa J. Briggs, both formerly of Western New York, in June 1857. Albert E. Crane was the brother of Addison Crane, Alameda County Judge at Alvarado.

June 27, 1857, Daily Alta California:

Horner's Flour Mill:

John Horner's steam flouring mill in Union City is up for sale. Sold in 1855 to Don Jose de Jesus Noe, of San Francisco, the mill is now up for sale again. Full particulars could be gained at the office of A. Marius Chapelle, 97 Merchant Street, San Francisco.

December 28, 1857:

Killing at a Dance:

At a fandango dance held in Alvarado on the 28th, an American named Charles Chilson and a Mexican were killed when a fight broke out. Fandango definition: a lively Spanish dance for two people.

October 1858:

William Poinsett Marries Annie Horner:

William Poinsett of San Pablo was married to Miss Annie Horner of Alvarado in October 1858. Miss Horner was related to John M. Horner, founder of Union City.

April 19, 1859:

Benjamin F. Bucknell Passes:

Died, April 19, 1859 at Centerville, Dr. Benjamin F. Bucknell, formerly of Union City where he was caretaker of the Horner Landing Warehouses, Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and physician. Dr. Bucknell had left Union City for Centerville to improve his health.

June 1, 1859:

Married, Russell & Thompson:

James W. Russell was married to Mary Thompson in Alvarado on May 22, 1859.

July 8, 1859:

Married, Emlay and Farley:

Eli Emlay was married to Miss Helen E. Farley in Alvarado on July 3, 1859. Eli and Helen were both from Alvarado.

October 1859:

Death Takes Lucy Farley:

Died at Alvarado, September 20th, Lucy V., daughter of Ebenezer and Eliza M. Farley, aged ten months and nine days.

December 14, 1859:

Postmaster:

John R. Wares was appointed Postmaster at Alvarado on December 14, 1859. On December 23, 1859, John was appointed a Notary Public in Alvarado for Alameda County. John was replaced as Alvarado Postmaster by Azman Lowell on July 29, 1861.

December 24, 1859:

M.E. Church:

The new Methodist Episcopal Church, at Alvarado, was dedicated by appropriate services to Divine worship, on Sunday, December 17, 1859, by Rev. Dr. Peck, of San Francisco; Rev. M. C. Briggs, together with the pastor, Rev. C. Cushman, conducted the ceremonies of the occasion.

March 10, 1860:

Alvarado and Union City:

The people of Alvarado and Union City, two contiguous burghs in Alameda County, are discussing the propriety of consolidating the two, and adopting the name Madison.