

CHAPTER 2

1860-1869

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This decade was one of great change for the United States, and for the little town of Alvarado. The country would become embroiled in a Civil War, and some Alvarado men volunteered to go to the front and were assigned to the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry.

By 1862 there would be three churches in Alvarado, the fledgling salt industry about Alvarado would mature, and by the end of this decade, the sugar industry would be formed in Alvarado.

Also, this decade would see the flood that would be the standard against which all future floods would be judged.

* **COMMERCE** *

The Sugar Mill / Salt Industry

THE SUGAR MILL:

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer was an American businessman who established the first successful commercial beet sugar mill in the U.S., and as such earned he earned the title of "Father of the American beet sugar industry".

Ebenezer Dyer was invited by his brother, Ephraim Herrick Dyer, to come to California to help him farm in Alvarado. Ebenezer Dyer had previously run lumber and quarry companies, and as an 1883 biography stated, "Seeking a wider field he came to California."

Ebenezer Dyer arrived in Alvarado in 1857, and noticed that much of the U.S.'s sugar was being imported from abroad. Although several sugar beet mills had been

established in the U.S., none of the ventures were able to remain in business for more than a few years. Dyer felt that with proper management a sugar company should be able to succeed.

To determine if the land was suitable for the growing of sugar beets, he ordered seeds from Germany to plant on his brother's farm in Alvarado. To his delight, he found that the plants thrived in the California soil.

It happened that in 1868, a small beet sugar factory was built in Fond-du-Lac, Wisconsin, operated by a German entrepreneur that had left his sugarhouse employment in Germany, and came to America in 1867. He partnered with a man of German descent to build a pilot beet sugar factory in the United States. The small plant was sadly undercapitalized, and the small amount of beets processed did not pay for the cost of the building and the equipment, but they did not fail, they were just not well financed.

A. D. Bonesteel, instigator of the project, learned of Eb Dyer's experiment with sugar beets in Alvarado in 1868, and decided to try California for his health and for the development of a "beet sugar estate." Mr. Bonesteel was impressed by the size of the crop produced in the Alvarado soil, and he was also impressed by the \$250,000 in capital the venture planned to raise. The net result was that Bonesteel, and his experts, came to Alvarado. Bonesteel and Otto, the two principals of the Fond-du-Lac plant, also brought with them their beet processing equipment.

In 1869, the California Beet Sugar Company was formed. The location chosen was the farm of Ephraim Dyer at Alvarado. The building contractor would be Benjamin F. Ingalls, father-in-law to both Eph and Eb Dyer. This would be the start of a 100 year industry in Alvarado, and would lead the way for other beet sugar mills throughout the U.S. to be established. In the next chapter we will see start and evolution of beet sugar processing in Alvarado.

SALT INDUSTRY:

Production in Tons / Alvarado Salt Works / California Salt Co. / Carmen Island Salt Co. / Continental Salt & Chemical Co. / Leslie-California Salt Co. / Occidental Salt Works / Pioneer Salt Works / Solar Salt Works / Turk Island Salt Works / Union City Salt Works / Union Pacific Salt Co. / Alvarado Salt Works Operation / Salt Works Photos – Pre 1900

The San Francisco Bay area was perfect for the solar method of the manufacture and harvesting of salt. Prior to 1850, the Spaniards, Mexicans, and Indians used to gather the salt that they found in the tide pools on the marshes along the Alameda County Bay Shore. These pools were filled by the high tides of June, and July; but evaporated when the lower tides of August, and September did not reach them. The natural salt that formed was of poor quality, and its harvest was uncertain. But it was a simple step to increase the yield and purity of salt by the building levees to contain the brine.

The first to use this method in the East Bay was John Johnson, who was born in Hamburg Germany in 1818. He sailed for California in 1849, and in 1850, he entered the Golden Gate. Working as a stevedore for a period of time he crossed the Bay to Oakland where he commenced burning charcoal. In 1852, he moved to Mt. Eden, becoming its first settler.

Johnson began the manufacture of salt by building up levees to contain the salt, then he allowed the salt to evaporate, and then harvested the salt. John Johnson was the first person in the SF Bay area to use this method, and all who followed copied his example.

The next person to follow Johnson was Christian Bothsow, who was born on the Island of Alse, Denmark in 1825. Christian arrived in Union City in 1852, and began the manufacture of salt using the same method of John Johnson. But after a few years he gave up the trade to become a farmer.

Both Johnson and Bothsow manufactured salt of a very low quality, which was dismissed by the users of salt that cured meat and fish as being of too low of quality for the preservation food. For this purpose, San Francisco Bay salt was used for purposes other than preserving food, or for use on the kitchen table. The salt that was preferred by the food processors was the salt brought over from Europe (which was often used as ballast on some ships).

John Quigley, an Irishman, entered the U.S. in 1851, with his mother Mary and brother Thomas. They came to Union City and John established the first modern facility in the Bay in 1862, for the manufacture of high quality salt. He established his Alvarado Salt Co. salt plant just west of Richard Barron's landing & warehouses along the banks of Alameda Creek at Union City. John Quigley ran this facility until 1909.

In 1864, J. A. Plummer purchased some property near Newark and started the Crystal Salt Works. From this venture a large salt manufacturing area grew up around Newark, and the Arden Salt Works was formed.

Production in Tons: (1885)

Union Pacific Salt Company, Union City	20,000
Alvarado Salt Co., John Quigley, Alvarado	2,000
B. F. Barton, Alvarado	1,500
L. Whisby, Mt. Eden	1,500
A. Oliver, Mt. Eden	1,500
F. Lund, Mt. Eden	200
S. Liguori, Mt. Eden	400
Olson & Co., Mt. Eden	800
R. Barron, Mt. Eden	600
Peter Michelson, Mt. Eden	5,000
John Michelson, Mt. Eden	300
American Salt Co., P. Marsicano, Mt. Eden	5,000
C. & D. Pestdorf, Mt. Eden	4,000
J. P. Tuckson, Mt. Eden	800
Peter Christensen, Mt. Eden	800
Plummer Brothers, Newark (Includes Turk Island)	<u>4,000</u>
	47,400

Alvarado Salt Works:

The Alvarado Salt Works was founded by John Quigley in 1862 in Union City along the banks of the Alameda Creek. It was sold in 1908 to West Shore Salt Co., which reported production through 1919.

California Salt Co.:

H.C. Coward formed the Calif. Salt Co. in 1901. It absorbed the Carmen Island Salt Co. of Alvarado. The California Salt Co. also absorbed several other small salt plants in the area into its folds. It had two crude salt plants, and a vacuum refinery near Alvarado, and another crude salt plant near Haywards Landing. It merged with the Leslie Refining Co. of San Mateo in 1924, to form the Leslie-California Salt Co.

Carmen Island Salt Co.:

Located north of Coyote Hills Slough in Alvarado, this was an important 19th century salt plant. It was absorbed and later abandoned in 1901 by the California Salt Co.

Continental Salt & Chemical Co.:

This Continental Salt Company was located in Alvarado north of the Coyote Hills Slough. It was organized in 1900, and included the Union City Salt Co., which it absorbed in 1900. In 1925 the company was sold to the Leslie-California Salt Company.

Leslie-California Salt Co.:

Located in Alvarado & San Mateo, and was active from 1925 to 1935. It was created by the consolidation of the Leslie Salt Refining Co. of San Mateo, the California Salt Co. of Alvarado, and the Continental Salt and Chemical Co. of Alvarado. Leslie-Calif. Salt merged with Arden Salt Co. of Newark in 1936 to form the Leslie Salt Co.

Occidental Salt Works:

Owned by J.W. Sinclair, it was sold to Oliver Salt Works of Mt. Eden about 1901.

Pioneer Salt Works:

See Solar Salt Works.

Solar Salt Works:

Owned by B.F. Barton of the Pioneer Salt Co. the plant was sold to Oliver Salt Co. after the death of Barton in 1916.

Turk Island Salt Works:

Turk Island was built by the Plummer Bros in 1869 in Alvarado. It received the name Turk Island after the Grand Turk Island in the Caribbean, noted for the purity of its salt. About 1927, it was combined with the Leslie-California Salt Company of Baumberg.

Union City Salt Works:

Owned by the Putnam Brothers, it was absorbed by the Continental Salt & Chemical Co. about 1900.

Union Pacific Salt Co.:

The Union Pacific Salt Co. was owned by John Barton before 1900, and W.F. Barton thereafter. Located at the mouth of the Alameda Creek on S.F. Bay, it was located just within the Washington Township boundary. Established in 1872, the plant was sold to Arden Salt Co. in 1927, and ceased operation in 1929.

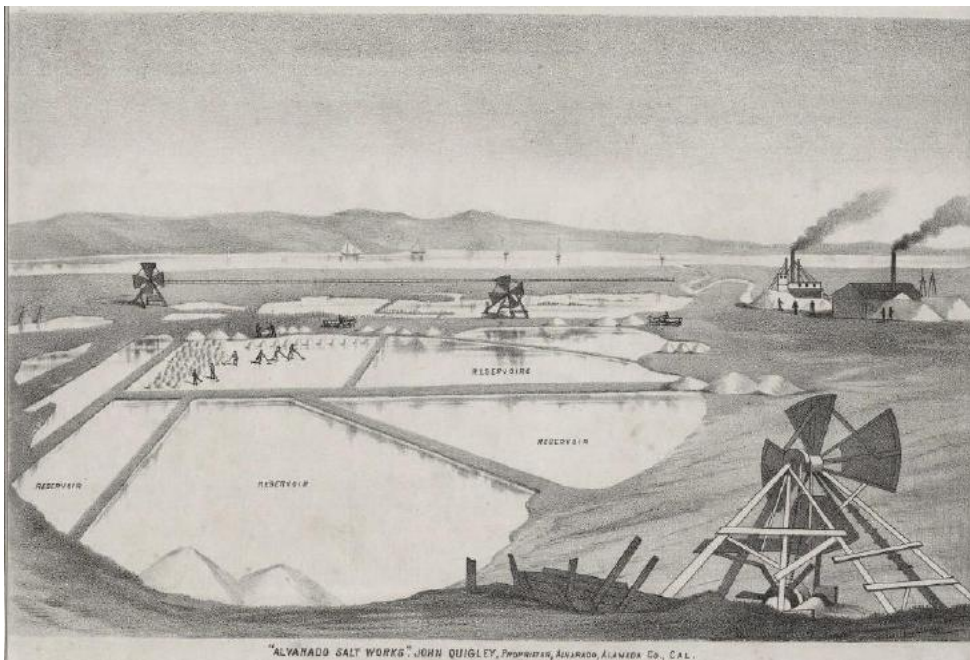
Alvarado Salt Works Operation:

In the year 1862, John Quigley would bring to Alvarado an efficient method of extracting salt from evaporation ponds. Christian Bothsow and John Johnson had both tried salt producing in the 1850's, but they were not in business when John Quigley started his salt plant.

John Quigley established his Alvarado Salt Works 1.1 miles west of today's Veasy Street along the banks of the Alameda Creek. Here he would establish his network of reservoirs and evaporation pond, and windmills to move salt water from one pond to another.

At these works a pond covering 400 acres was surrounded by a levee, which was filled with seawater at spring tide. This pond was divided into tanks. There were a series of tanks side by side, covering the 400 acres. As the density of the water in the tanks was increased by evaporation, it was pumped by windmills from the two outside tanks to the middle tank until it was filled with strong brine. This brine was then pumped into a reservoir of 30 to 40 acres in extent, which was filled to a depth of 12 to 13 inches.

Here the density of the liquid would increase as the salt starts to crystallize. When a crust of one and a half inches in thickness had formed on the floor of the pond, the salt was scraped up. After gathering the salt, whatever mother liquor (bittern) remained was run off, there being no effort to recover any of the elements it may have contained. The best and whitest salt was obtained in warm, windy weather; the wind forming ripples in the solution. It takes about three years for a pond to get into a suitable condition for the production of salt. During that time a peculiar "skin" grows over the bottom, this protecting the solution from contamination by earthy matter.



This is a drawing of the Alvarado Salt Works from the Thompson & West Atlas of 1878.

John Quigley's Alvarado Salt Works was soon joined by the Plummer Bros. who's Crystal Salt Works near Newark began production in 1864.



The photo above depicts where the old works of the Alvarado and Turk Island Salt Works would be found on today's map.

In 1869 the Plummer Bros. opened their Turk Island Salt Works about 1.3 miles due west of the end of Dyer Street at Union City Boulevard. The Plummer's picked the name Turk Island after the Caribbean Island noted for the fineness and purity of the salt produced there.

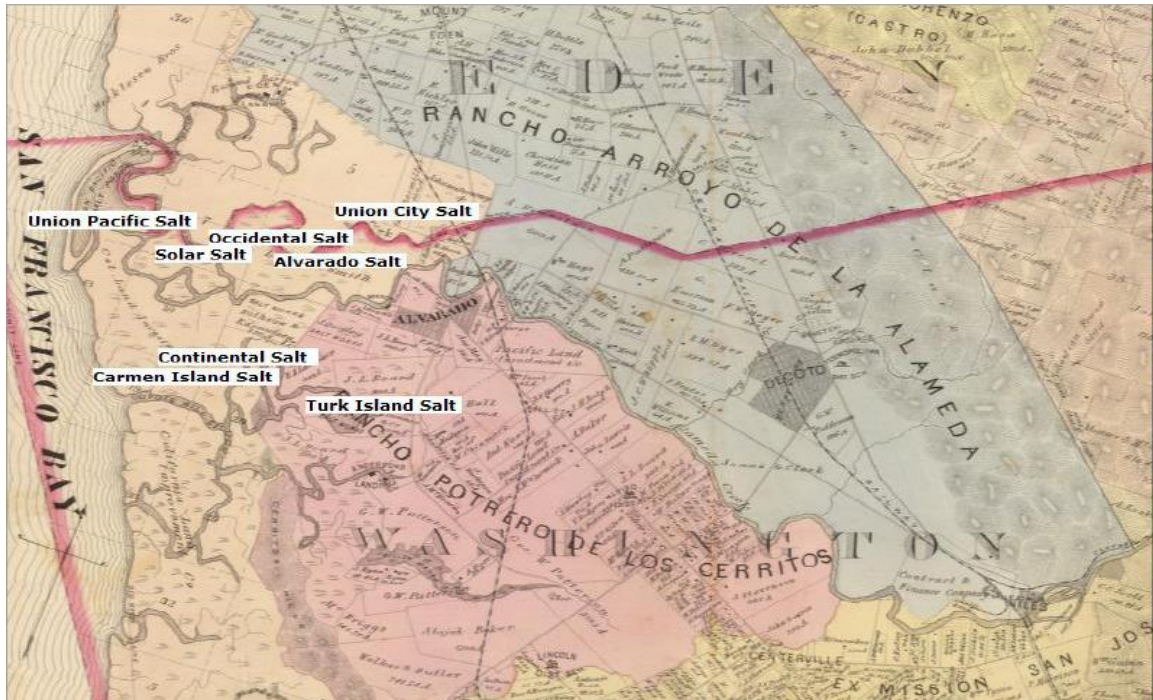
In the 1960's, a refuse dump was built at the west end of Dyer Street across Union City Boulevard. Here the dump was used to raise level of the marsh so that it would be less likely to flood. The dump was called Turk Island. Then new homes were built near the area.

As the decades passed the Alvarado Salt Works and Turk Island would be joined by several more salt producers in the Alvarado area. Starting in 1862 the salt industry became a major employer in the Mt. Eden, Alvarado, and Newark areas.

The work involved in salt production was mostly done by manual labor, and for this the salt companies employed the new immigrants from China, who worked for cheap labor.

The oriental workers began to be deeply despised by the occidental workforce around Alvarado, because they worked for cheap wages, and they replaced jobs previously done by Americans. Prejudices soon grew as the immigration of Chinese workmen was joined by the coolies that had labored to complete the transcontinental railroad through the Sierras, and Chinese returning from the gold fields.

The map below (from Thompson & West Atlas of 1878) shows the major salt companies that were based in Union City/Alvarado. The largest producer of salt at the end of the century was the Union Pacific Salt Works, whose plant sat at the mouth of the Alameda Creek, just within the Washington Township line. Other salt manufacturers were the Continental Salt & Chemical Co., the California Salt Co., the Solar Salt Works, the Occidental Salt Co., the Union City Salt Works, the Alvarado Salt Works, and Turk Island.



The salt industry of the East Bay is a story of pioneers, success and expansion. At the turn of the new century (1900), there began a program of rapid consolidation with all of the small players disappearing and the large companies growing larger.

By 1937 the Leslie Salt Company stood nearly alone at the top of the solar salt manufacturing in the South Bay. Within a decade they had banished the Union Pacific Salt Company, the Arden Salt Company, the Pioneer Salt Company, the Oliver Bros. Salt Company, and all of the Alvarado salt companies.

By the 1940s, Leslie Salt Co. had become the largest private land owner in the Bay Area. By 1959, they were producing more than one million tons of salt annually on over 26,000 acres of bay salt ponds.

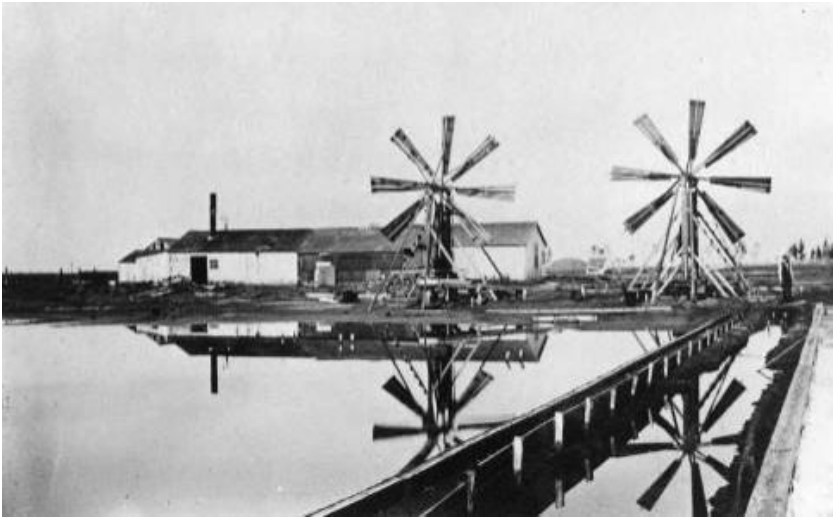
They were purchased by Cargill in 1978, which owns nearly all of the ponds once owned by dozens of smaller companies. Today Cargill and the State of California are returning some of the ponds back to their original state to entice back waterfowl and various other creatures of the salt marshes.

Salt Works Photos - Pre 1900:

Below are photos from salt manufacturing sites about Alvarado.



The Turk Island Salt Company



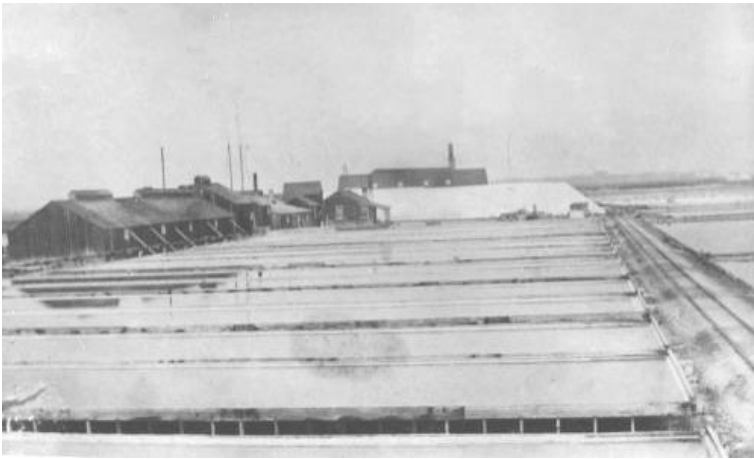
The Turk Island Salt Company



The Turk Island Salt Company



The Turk Island Salt Company



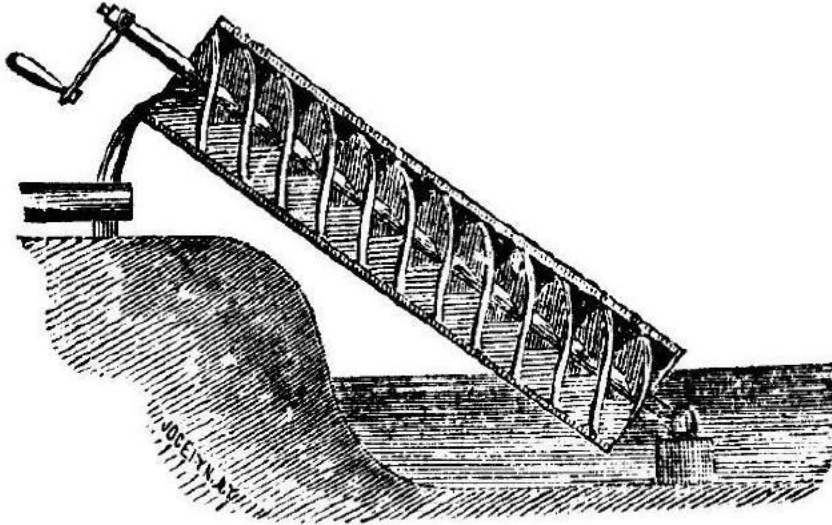
The Union Pacific Salt Company



Source: Leslie Salt Company, 1984

Archimedes Screw Pump

An Archimedes windmill screw pump at work in the Alvarado salt ponds. This type of pump was used to transfer water from one brining tank to another in the process of solar salt manufacturing.



Profile of Three-Bladed Archimedes Screw

The drawing above shows an example of the workings of the Archimedes screw, which is called an augur today. This is a simple apparatus for the moving of solids today, it is usually used in conjunction with the raising of grain to be ensiled.

*** BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS ***

Barber / Blacksmith & Carriage Makers / Butchers/ Carpenters / Druggist / Engineer / Farmers / Hotels / Laundry / Liquor Retailer / Livery Stable / Merchants / Painter / Physicians / Post Master / Saddler & Harness / Saloon / Salt Manufacturer / School Teacher / Shoemaker / Sugar Manufacturers / Supt. Geo. Tay Stove Foundry / Teamster / Well Fargo Agent

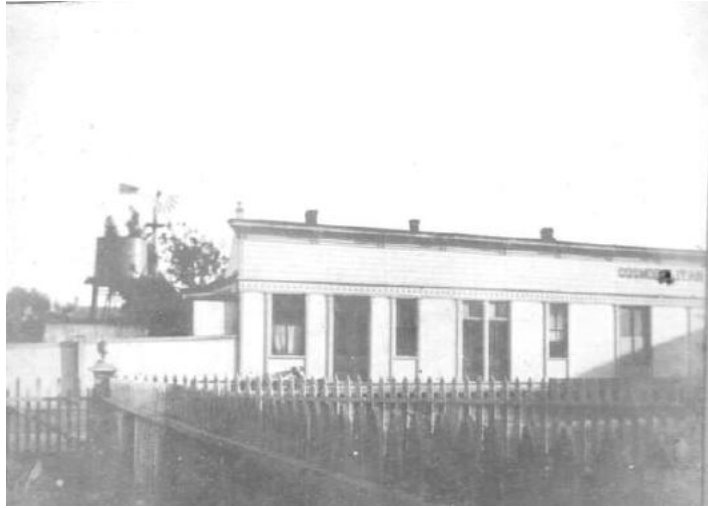
Local merchants, trades people, and citizens that had an influence on the progression and building of Alvarado. These are bios of persons that had an influence on the town of Alvarado bet ween 1860 and 1869.

BARBER:
Antonio Lee, Sr.

Antonio Lee was born in the Azores circa 1843. Exactly when Antonio came to the U.S. is not known, but it is believed to be before 1870. He married his wife Mary sometime after 1870 and they had their first child Leonora in November of 1872. Antone Jr. was born on March 1875 and William was born circa 1879.

Tony Lee opened a barbershop, saloon, and hotel at the premises formerly occupied by S.H. Henry in October 1882. He was a member of the Masons

and the Alvarado Reliance Lodge of AOUW. He was also a member of the Holy Ghost Society and the Portuguese Union.



A photo A.A. Lee's Cosmopolitan Saloon and barber shop. The Cosmopolitan Saloon sat on the corner of Levee and Smith Streets, where the Bank of Alameda County would be built in 1925. This photo was furnished by Tim Swenson.

After a lingering illness of five months Antone Lee, the old pioneer of Alvarado, passed away at his home January 29, 1898. There were 160 carriages filled with people at the funeral. The remains were taken to the IOOF Hall, which was packed to the doors.

William Lee:

William Lee was born circa 1879 to Antonio Lee Sr. William took a liking to San Francisco and settled there in the late 1890's. He was a bookkeeper for a San Francisco liquor firm and he became quite noted in SF as a championship bowler. Little else is known of Mr. Lee.

BLACKSMITHS & CARRIAGE MAKERS:

Robert E. Smith / Patrick Mathews / Ambrose Lattin / Orlando P. Fuller / John Gazetto / Tony Griffin / Christopher Spreen

Robert E. Smith:

Robert Smith was born in Canada in 1842. He married Elisabeth Smith and they had two children, Maggie & Walter. Robert was in the blacksmithing business in Alvarado, but by 1880 he had relocated to Centerville and gone into a blacksmithing business with Charles Riser.

Patrick Mathews:

Patrick Mathews was born in Ireland in June of 1831. He arrived in the U.S. in 1866. His wife, Mary was born in May of 1835 and also entered the United States in 1866. Patrick & Mary arrived in Alvarado in the late 1860's. Here Patrick was employed as a blacksmith, however he eventually located his shop in Decoto and was well known in that town. Patrick and Mary had 10 children, but by 1900 only 5 were still alive.

Miss Mary Jane Mathews was but 25 years old when she passed away in Alvarado on March 19, 1890. She had been ailing for two years with what was thought to be malaria, but at the end was found to be consumption.

Sarah Mathews Smith passed away In San Francisco on September 1, 1895, Sarah was the beloved wife of John Smith, and mother of May Smith. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Mathews of Alvarado, a native of New York, aged 35 years.

Ella Mathews was a charter member of the Alvarado Olivina, No. 61, Native Daughters of the Golden West. Later Ella would move to San Francisco along with her sisters Kate, Frances, and her brother John. Eugene Mathews would work at the Alvarado sugar mill and was seriously injured by a burn when a lime pan boiled over scalding him. Several years later he would go to work in the Sugar refinery in Crockett, California.

On March 22, 1906 Patrick Mathews died at his home in Alvarado from an apparent heart attack. Mr. Mathews was one of Alvarado's oldest residents, having lived here over forty years. He is mourned by a wife, two sons and three daughters. He was a native of Ireland and seventy-four years of age. Mr. Mathews was a member of the Alvarado Reliance Lodge, No. 93, AOUW. Mr. Mathews maintained his home in Alvarado but his employment was as a blacksmith in Decoto.

Ambrose Lattin:

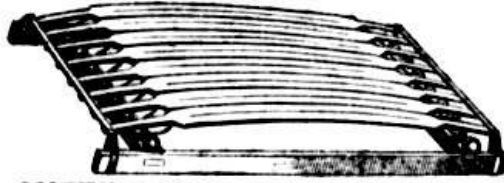
Ambrose Lattin was born ca. 1827 in either the State of New York or Vermont. The 1870 census shows Ambrose and Elmira Lattin having one child, a son William who was married to Bell Lattin and living at home. On December 4, 1872 Bell Lattin passes away at the age of 18 years. The 1880 Alvarado census shows Ambrose as head of the family with his wife Elmira and son William with his new wife Julia and children three children, William, Pierce (could be Percy), and Bell.

October 21, 1868 saw a great earthquake in the East Bay and one of the casualties was the brick building of Ambrose Lattin. It was totally destroyed. Ambrose was a carriage maker in town. His son William was a carriage maker with his dad, then a Constable for Washington Township, and in 1880 he was employed as a carpenter.

On October 31, 1868 Ambrose ran an ad in *The Daily Alta California*:

In Alvarado, Alameda County, a BLACKSMITH, CARRIAGE & WAGON SHOP, doing good business, averages about \$1,000.00 per month. For particulars apply to A.J. Lattin on the premises. Part of the money can remain at interest for one or two years.

In December 1876 and again in October 1878 Ambrose received a patent for certain improvements in the construction of springs for beds, which consisted of a novel construction of the longitudinal slats, which form the bed bottoms, and also in a means of attaching them to the coiled spring at the other end, together with other certain details of construction. The invention also related to the construction and attachment of a head and foot piece, which completed the bed.



SOMETHING NEW, LIGHT, DURABLE,
Comfortable, free from dirt or vermin, warranted
for 10 years; packed in bundles for shipment. Largest
size weighs only 50 lbs. Prices from \$110 - ac-
cording to width. Send for Circulars to
LATTIN SPRING BED COMPANY
1029 Market Street, San Francisco.

In 1878 the Lattin Spring Bed bottom was being advertised for sale. Ambrose had received a patent for his invention. I saw ads as far away (in 1878) as Mariposa.

Ambrose also owned buildings in downtown Alvarado along Levee Street. In 1891 Antone Davilla opened a saloon in connection with his barbershop in the Lattin Building. In 1894 Lattin sold several lots on Levee Street to Manuel and Isabella Foster. In 1897 Lattin sold a lot to I.V. Ralph on Levee Street.

In April 1897 the two old Lattin buildings raised (to prevent flooding) and the interiors were newly remodeled and plastered. A new front was also added to enhance their beauty.

On January 3, 1896 tragedy struck the Lattin family when Percy Lattin was drowned in San Francisco Bay while in a small boat with another Alvarado boy. They were rowing back to Alvarado after having visited San Mateo.

Within five weeks of this tragedy, Mrs. Elmira Lattin became ill, and was brought to the County jail to be examined as to her sanity, she was arrested on a complaint by her husband. Within several days she was committed to the Ukiah Insane Asylum. Mrs. Lattin was then past 70 years old.

Seven months later, in September of 1896, Mrs. A. J. Lattin died in Ukiah after a lingering illness. Owing to the ill health of her husband it was thought best to have the body buried there. The deceased was past 70 years of age. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

I could not find a death record for Ambrose J. Lattin.

Orlander P. Fuller:

Orlander P. Fuller was born in Canada circa 1838. He first shows in Alvarado in the 1870 with his wife Clarissa (or Clara). They are also included in the Alvarado 1880 census, and show having no children.

He showed his occupation as being a carriage painter. He was an active member of the Alvarado IOOF and served in an official capacity while he was a member.

After the 1880 census nothing is found for Mr. Fuller.

John Gazetto:

John Gazetto was born in Canada in 1838. In 1870 John was working as a carriage maker and he was living in an Alvarado hotel. After 1870 nothing was found for John Gazetto.

Timothy Griffin:

Timothy Griffin was born in Ireland in 1834. In 1870 Timothy was working as a wagon maker in Alvarado and he was living in an Alvarado hotel. In 1880 there was a Timothy Griffin residing in San Francisco as a wheelwright. He was married to Ellen Griffin and had two young children.

Christopher Spreen:

Christopher Spreen was born in Germany in 1838. In 1870 Christopher was working as a wagon maker in Alvarado and he was living in an Alvarado hotel. In 1880 Christopher was living in Mt. Eden, married to Maria R Spreen, and was engaged in farming.

BUTCHERS:

William Brannon / Jacob Hellwig / Richard Hyer / Henry May / Detliff Wrago / Samuel Eckstein

William Brannon:

William Brannon was born in Vermont in 1845. In 1870 he was residing with Philip Hellwig and did not show any children or a wife. After 1870 nothing was found for William Brannon.

Jacob Hellwig:

Jacob Hellwig was born in Germany circa 1835. In 1870 he was residing with Philip Hellwig and did not show any children or a wife. After 1870 nothing was found for Jacob Hellwig.

Richard Hyer:

Richard Hyer was born in Maryland circa 1835. In 1870 he was residing with Philip Hellwig and did not show any children or a wife. After 1870 nothing was found for Richard Hellwig.

Henry May:

Henry May was born in Germany circa 1846. In 1870 he was residing with August May Sr., and did not show any children or a wife. Henry May was found in Oakland in 1880 working at his trade as a butcher. He showed he was single. This Henry May is not to be confused with August May's son, Henry May, who was born circa 1871.

Detliff Wrago:

Detliff Wrago was born in Germany circa 1844. In 1870 he was residing with August May Sr., and did not show any children or a wife. After 1870 nothing was found for Detliff Wrago.

Samuel Eckstein:

Samuel Eckstein was born in New York in 1845. In 1870 he was residing with August May Sr., and did not show any children or a wife. After 1870 nothing was found for Samuel Eckstein.

CARPENTERS:

John Rawling / James Murray / Charles Murray / James Dungay / John Brizee / John Joyce / Joseph Fletcher / Harry French / Benjamin F. Ingalls

John Rawling:

John Rawling was born in Kentucky in 1838. In the late 1860's he was residing with Benjamin Ingalls, who at this time, was building the sugar mill plant in Alvarado. After 1870 nothing was found for John Rawling.

James Murray:

James Murray was born in Nova Scotia in 1838. In the late 1860's he was residing with Benjamin Ingalls, who at this time, was building the sugar mill plant in Alvarado. In 1880 James Murray was living in Centerville working as a carpenter. He had taken a wife, Virginia Murray, and had an infant daughter and an infant son.

Charles Murray:

Charles Murray was born in Nova Scotia in 1846. In the late 1860's he was residing with Benjamin Ingalls, who at this time, was building the sugar mill plant in Alvarado. Nothing could be found for Charles Murray after 1870.

James Dungay:

James Dungay was born in England in 1844. In the late 1860's he was residing with Benjamin Ingalls, who at this time, was building the sugar mill plant in Alvarado. Nothing could be found for James Dungay after 1870.

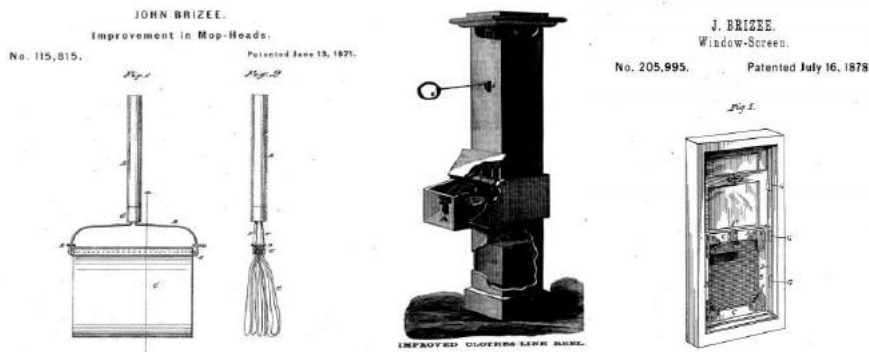
John Brizee:

John Brizee was born in New York in 1833. In the late 1850's John Brizee was involved in an enterprise called the "Alvarado Nursery" with a Mr. McCormick. The Alvarado Nursery had made arrangements with other nurseries in California for the development and supply of nursery products to other retail nurseries in the State. A newspaper advertisement in the Daily Alta of San Francisco dated December 1858 was the only information found on this enterprise.

In the late 1860's John Brizee was residing with Benjamin F. Ingalls, who at this time, was building the sugar mill plant in Alvarado. Mr. Ingalls had a team of six carpenters living with him on his place in Alvarado.

Besides being a carpenter Mr. Brizee was a prolific, inventor having received several patents while he was in Alvarado:

- 1) Mr. Brizee invented an ingenious new mop handle with bent wires that securely holds mop heads in place.
- 2) An apparatus for a clothesline that always keeps the line taut with no sagging and stores the line inside the housing.
- 3) A permanent faucet (tap) for beer barrels.
- 4) A patent for a new development on window screens.



Unfortunately nothing was found on this talented person after 1878 in Alvarado.

John Joyce:

John Joyce was born in New Brunswick Canada in February of 1843. He immigrated to the United States in 1850, and later became a Naturalized citizen. By the year 1870 he was listed in the Alvarado census as a carpenter. In 1875 he married Dora Scribner of New Orleans, Louisiana, who had three children by a previous marriage.

John and Dora had three children, Arthur born in 1877, Dora born in 1879, and Fred W. born in April 1884. Dora's three children by a previous marriage were Alice born in 1864, Louisa born in 1870 and John Scribner born in 1872.

Of John Joyce very little is said other than he listed his occupation as a carpenter.

In 1911 Mrs. Dora Joyce had a cancer removed from her forehead, then it was reported that Mrs. Dora Joyce died at her home here on Tuesday November 25, 1913 after an illness of several years. Mrs. Joyce was a native of New Orleans. She left behind a husband, John A. Joyce and children Mrs. E. A. (Dora Joyce) Richmond Jr., Arthur Joyce, Fred Joyce, and children from a previous marriage Mrs. H. H. (Alice Scribner) Lampher, Mrs. E. M. (Louisa Scribner) Winegar, and John Scribner.

Although I was unable to locate an obituary for John Joyce I did find his name listed as having died in April 1915 in a San Francisco newspaper.

Mrs. E. A. (Miss Dora Joyce) Richmond Jr.:

Miss Dora Joyce was born in 1879 in Alvarado to John & Dora Joyce. She was active in many events in her single years growing up in Alvarado. She married Edwin A. Richmond Jr. in January of 1904. Edwin was the son of the prominent Alvarado businessman E.A. Richmond, whose bio you will find in this work.

Miss Dora Joyce was very active in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church serving officially in the Christian Endeavor Society, and the Ladies Aid Society. In civic and social organizations, Miss Joyce was an officer in the Alvarado Native Daughters of the Golden West, and was active in The Alvarado Improvement

Club, the Birthday Club and the Alvarado Bridge Club. In 1901 Dora attended the McDowell School of Dressmaking in San Francisco.

After her marriage and her relocation in Niles she became associated with the Presbyterian Church of Fremont, and the Orient Chapter, No. 177, Order of the Eastern Star in Centerville, where she served as Worthy Matron. She was also active in the Country Club of Washington Township.

Mrs. Dora (Joyce) Richmond passed away on September 9, 1963 in Fremont California at the age of 83 years. She left her husband, E.A. Richmond Jr. and her brother Fred W. Joyce.

John Scribner:

See separate history in this work under **SCRIBNER, JOHN**.

Frederick W. Joyce:

See separate history in this work under **JOYCE, FREDERICK W.**

Joseph Fletcher:

Joseph Fletcher was born in Ireland in 1831. In 1870 he was residing with John Hall at the SPCRR tracks and the Alvarado Centerville Road. Nothing could be found for Joseph Fletcher after 1870.

Harry French:

Harry French was born in New Hampshire in 1830. In 1870 he was residing with Sylvester Harvey, who was also a native of New Hampshire. Nothing could be found for Harry French after 1870.

Benjamin F. Ingalls:

Benjamin Franklin Ingalls was the son of William Ingalls, and was born in Sullivan, Maine, on July 12, 1812. He was married to Sophronia Thomas, who was born in Eden, Maine, on August 28, 1812. They had seven children:

Marion W.	1835 – 1863	Married to Eb Dyer
Ellen F.	1839 – 1920	Married to Eph Dyer
Olive	1842 – 1919	Married to Eb after Dyer Marion's death
Wilfred F.	1844 – 1929	
John M.	1846 – 1919	
Frank S.	1850 – 1927	
Merrill W.	1854 – 1930	

The first member of Benjamin Ingalls' family to come to Alvarado was Marion Ingalls Dyer, who accompanied her husband Ebenezer Dyer in April 1858. They had just married in 1857

The second reported member of Benjamin Ingalls' family to come to Alvarado was Ellen Ingalls Dyer, who came to Alvarado with her husband Ephraim Dyer. Ephraim and Ebenezer had both married daughters of B.F. Ingalls.

On February 13, 1863 Mrs. Marion Dyer became very ill, and suffering from delirium she arose from bed, rushed out of the house, and plunged into the Alameda Creek, which ran immediately behind their home. Eb Dyer tried to

save her, and although he was an expert swimmer, he could not reach her in time, and she died from drowning. Mrs. Dyer left three children by Ebenezer Dyer: Mrs. Abitha M. Munson of Tacoma, Ellen F. Dyer of Alvarado, and Edward F. Dyer of Cleveland.

In 1865 Mr. Dyer married Olive Ingalls, his late wife's sister, and another daughter of B.F. Ingalls. There were three children by this second marriage, Hugh T. Dyer of Ogden, Guy S. Dyer of Alvarado, and Mrs. Nina Washburn of San Francisco.

It is not known when B. F. Ingalls came to Alvarado, but we do know that Ebenezer Dyer retained his father-in-law to design and build his first sugar mill at Alvarado in Alvarado in 1869. When the mill failed 1873, and the equipment was moved to Soquel in Santa Cruz County in 1874, Mr. Ingalls was hired to erect a building for that mill.

B. F. Ingalls passed away on December 19, 1879. His wife Sophronia preceded him in death on January 31, 1870

DRUGGIST:

James Lively:

James Lively was born in Kentucky in 1845. The 1870 census lists his occupation as druggist in Alvarado. In the 1880 census Mr. Lively is living in a San Francisco Hotel pursuing his career as a druggist.

ENGINEER:

Malcom Fairfield:

Malcolm Fairfield was born in Michigan in 1841. In 1870 he was living with Hiram Davis in Alvarado, and gave his occupation as an engineer. He did not specify what type of engineer he was. After 1870 nothing could be found for Mr. Fairfield.

William Alexander:

William Alexander was born in Canada in 1842. In 1870 he was living in an Alvarado Hotel and gave his employment as an engineer. He did not specify what type of engineer he was. After 1870 nothing could be found for Mr. Alexander.

FARMERS:

Charles S. Eigenbrodt / Beebe Family / John Hall / Edward McDevitt / Peter J. Campbell / Israel B. Haines / James G. Vanderpeer

Charles S. Eigenbrodt:

Charles S. Eigenbrodt was born in Jamaica, Queens County (Long Island) New York on March 20 1825. He was the son of Lewis Ernest Andrew Eigenbrodt (1773-1828) and Sarah Lamberson Eigenbrodt (1788-1863).

Charles came to Alvarado in 1858 from San Francisco, locating on a farm on the outskirts of town. While in San Francisco, Charles had been an active member of the IOOF Templars. He found it difficult to attend meetings in San

Francisco, having to travel from Alvarado, so in 1859 Charles organized the Crusade Lodge of the IOOF in Alvarado. Besides his farming and his interest in the IOOF Lodge, he served one term on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from 1860 to 1862.

When the Civil War broke out Charles Eigenbrodt answered the call to duty. His exploits and his eventual demise can best be summed up by the following newspaper articles:

The *Daily Alta California*, San Francisco, October 2, 1864

"CAPT. CHARLES S. EIGENBRODT

Capt. Eigenbrodt was born at Jamaica, Long Island, in 1825, and was therefore thirty-nine years of age at the time of his death. His ancestors were the old Knickerbockers of New York and well known in the early history of that State.

Capt. Eigenbrodt came to California in 1849, and was engaged for some time in exploring the coast from San Francisco to the mouth of the Columbia River. He was with a party of daring adventurers who met with many hairbreadth escapes from the Indians and other perils, but finally reached San Francisco in the fall of 1850. Soon after this, Capt. Eigenbrodt settled in Stockton and became a partner of John M. Horner, in that city. He then became an active member of Charity Lodge, No. 6, IOOF, an institution that did much for relieving the sick and distressed among the early pioneers of that section of California.

In 1854 he removed to San Francisco, continuing in business there until 1858, when he removed to Alvarado, where he had purchased one of the best ranches in Alameda County. Early in the spring of 1863, he raised a cavalry company, principally among his friends and neighbors, and being placed in command, went with them to the theatre of war in Virginia, where he and his company fought through many a well contested fight.


He fell on the 25th of August at the very front of Sheridan's army, as he was commencing his march south. In the first charge, Captain Eigenbrodt was shot through the breast, fell from his horse, and died instantly. His regiment (for he was then in command) then fell back.

The rebel prisoners, who were captured the next day, spoke highly of the gallantry of the brave Captain, and said that they themselves had carefully buried the body in a soldier's grave. We understand that Dr. Eigenbrodt, of New York City, has gone to Virginia to recover, if possible, the body, and to deposit it in the family vault at Jamaica.

Thus perished one of California's bravest and best men, and when the final roll shall be made up of the gallant sons of the Pacific, the name of Eigenbrodt will occupy a place beside those of Baker, Mathewson, and a host of patriots, who shed their hearts' blood for the honor and glory of our common country.

At the time Captain Eigenbrodt enlisted he was once of the Supervisors of Alameda County, and in this as well as in all the relations of life, he commanded the respect of his friends and neighbors. He was a leading and active Odd Fellow, a member of the Grand Lodge, and did much for the diffusion of the benevolent operations of that Order. His virtues will long be remembered by this fraternity. The old California Guard of this city (San Francisco) will remember him as one of its most efficient officers and members. An old friend does not expect to look upon his like again."

From the *New York Times* of September 8, 1864:

Birth:	Mar. 20, 1825 Jamaica Queens County New York, USA	
Death:	Aug. 21, 1864 Virginia, USA	
<p>Captain Charles S. Eigenbrodt was the commander of the California Cavalry Company attached to the Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry in the Army of the Potomac. He is the son of Lewis E.A. Eigenbrodt, LLD. Killed in action in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia.</p>		<p>CAPTAIN CHARLES S. EIGENBRODT.</p>
<p>Family links: Parents: Lewis Ernest Andrew Eigenbrodt (1773 - 1828) Sarah Lamberson Eigenbrodt (1788 - 1863)</p>		

"On Thursday, Aug. 25, Charles S. Eigenbrodt of Alvarado, Cal., Captain of the California Cossacks, attached to the Second Massachusetts Cavalry; was killed in action near Charlestown Virginia.

The friends of the family, of his brothers George L., Dr. David L. and Rev. Dr. Eigenbrodt, and of his brothers-in-law, Charles Vandervoort and Rev. T.A. Eaton, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, at St. Thomas' Church, Broadway, New York, on Friday, Sept. 9, at 10 o'clock A.M. The interment will take place at Jamaica, Long Island.

From the *Daily Alta California*, September 29, 1864:

"On Sunday, September 25, 1864 at 11 o'clock A.M., the National colors being displayed at half-mast and bells tolling, the members of Crusade Lodge, No. 93, of Alvarado, including many sisters, together with the members of Mission Peak Lodge, No. 114, each wearing the customary badge of mourning, and the I.G., carrying the insignia of rank of the deceased, moved in solemn procession from the Lodge Hall to the Presbyterian Church, where an appropriate and patriotic discourse was pronounced by Rev. Brother B.N. Seymour, after which the procession returned to the hall."

Beebe Family:

Seth Beebe / Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe / George E. Beebe / Miss Ellen (Nellie) Beebe

Seth G. Beebe:

Seth G. Beebe was born in Monroe County New York circa 1834. He was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe who was born in the State of Michigan in

august 1848. They had two children, a daughter Mary Ellen (aka Nellie) born in August 1869, and a son George E. born on July 20, 1871.

Seth was a farmer in Alvarado who passed away on April 19, 1898 at the age of 64 years. After the death of Seth, Elizabeth continued to live in Alvarado, and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and participated actively in the Ladies Aid Society. She was also active in the women's right to vote movement, as well as a member of the Alvarado Birthday Club.

Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe:

After 1910, Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe moved to Centerville to live with her single sister, Jennie McCormick, and their niece Miss Ruth Blair, who taught public school in Newark. On January 8, 1927 Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe passed away in Centerville and was interred at the Centerville Pioneer Cemetery.

George E. Beebe:

George E. Beebe was born on July 20, 1871, to Seth and Elizabeth Beebe. In June 1882, George was nearly killed while riding on a hay wagon, which he fell from and the hay wagon ran over his back. George proved to be resilient and made a full recovery. At the 1870 census George gave his net worth as \$3,500.

In April 1895, there was a Grand Parade of the Native Sons of the Golden West in Oakland. Major throngs of Native Sons from throughout the State were present for the Grand Parade. George Beebe, representing the Alvarado Wisteria Chapter No. 127, said to a local reporter about the artesian water wells of Alvarado, which recently began supplying water to the City of Oakland, "We don't drink anything but water from the wells down our way!"

In January 1899 George Beebe and William Wiegman, both of Alvarado, filed a certificate of partnership for a joint venture in a general merchandise store. The partners then applied for, and received, a liquor license for venture. However, the partnership did not appear to have lasted long as George began a period of wanderlust.

It was reported in late 1899, that George had returned from Camp Nome, Alaska. In March 1900 he headed for the NW Territories and Cape Nome. One month later he was back home, but by May 1900 he went to the Klondike in the Canadian NW Territory to be gone at least six months.

The Alvarado Improvement Club put on a commemoration of George Washington in the IOOF Hall in February 1901. The play was directed by George Beebe, who has had great experience in the past in performing with entertainments.

Circa 1905 George married Miss Anna Bahr, of St. Louis Missouri. The couple then moved to Lakeport, Lake County, California. He gave his occupation as a saloon keeper in Lakeport.

By 1913 he was back in the Bay Area at Walnut Creek, where he had accepted a position at a general merchandising company where he would

have charge of the business in the absence of the proprietor who was in Europe.

In 1920 George and Anna were living in the City of Oakland, where George was a salesman in a dry goods store. George Beebe died on September 24, 1923 in Oakland at the age of 51 years. He was followed to the other side by his wife, Anna, on December 9, 1924, at the age of 38. The couple had no children.

Mary Ellen (Nellie) Beebe:

Mary Ellen (aka Nellie) Beebe was born in August 1869, and grew up to be a fun-loving and socially active young lady of the time, when the young lasses of Alvarado were known collectively as "The Young Ladies of Alvarado."

When the Alvarado Social Club was founded in March 1888 Nellie was the Vice President. The club featured O.J. Emery, President; Miss Mollie Cossett, Secretary and Peter Decoto, Treasurer. Member of the board were John Liquori, H.P. Dyer and Oscar Nauert.

Seven months later in October 1888 the "Young Ladies of Alvarado" organized a Democratic Glee Club with the following members: Miss Bertha May, Miss Nellie Beebe and Miss Mollie Cosset.

The following year a large party was thrown at the Riverside Hotel by Miss Kate Riley. Among those present were: Miss Kate Riley, Misses Annie & Alice Drennan, Miss Nellie Beebe, Miss Sue Harvey, Miss Bertha May, Miss Mollie Cosset, Miss Blanche Ingalls, Miss Annie Ralph, Farley Granger, Hugh Dyer, Mr. Burr, Mr. Walker, Mr. John Scribner, Mr. Jones and Mr. J. Atkinson.

Then in November 1889 a Parlor of Native Daughters chapter was instituted in Alvarado. The new parlor was called the Olivina Chapter No. 61, Native Daughters of the Golden West with twenty charter members. The members of the new Parlor were: Misses Nellie Beebe, Mollie Cosset, Bertha May, Sue Harvey, Minnie Schafer, Roxy Dennis, Mrs. Christina Jung, Maggie Wales, Mary Brown, Mrs. Hattie Nauert, Jennie Decoto, Mary Decoto, Lulu Whipple, Clara Whipple, Dolly Leland, Clara Granger, Ella Mathews, Annie Meyer, Mrs. Mary Nichols and May Hawley. All those eligible in Mt. Eden, Haywards and neighboring towns that wished to join the Parlor were cordially invited to communicate with the President, Miss Sue Harvey.

In February 1896 Miss Nellie Beebe became a founding member of a new Alvarado social club, the Alvarado Choral Society. Thirty names were signed to the constitution and the following officers were elected: President: H. P. Dyer; First Vice President: Mrs. A. S. Perkins; Sec-Treas: Miss Nellie Beebe; Trustees: Charles Wright, Mrs. August May and A. S. Perkins.

Miss Beebe had strong religious convictions as well, and was an active member of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church as well as being an officer in the local Christian Endeavor group.

Then in January 1897 Miss Nellie Beebe married John M. Scribner of Alvarado. John Scribner was the son of Mrs. Dora Scribner Joyce of Alvarado. John had

a new home built and in July 1897 Mrs. & Mrs. Scribner moved into their new home.

Several years later John Scribner would partner with John H. Ralph of Alvarado in the general merchandising business, where both would flourish. Then in August 1924 John and Mary E. (Nellie) Scribner would move to Livermore, where they would remain until April 1949 when John Scribner passed away. They had a son, Dr. J.M. Scribner, a Dentist who practiced on the second floor of a building in downtown Hayward. They also had a daughter, Mavis Scribner, who married Henry May of Alvarado, but who would later become a prominent member in the town of Decoto.

On January 20, 1951, Mary Ellen "Nellie" Beebe died at the age of 81 at a local Hayward area hospital. A lifelong California Native, she had lived in southern Alameda County all of her life. She was the mother of Dr. John M. Scribner, a Hayward dentist, and Mrs. Henry May of Decoto. She was the wife of the late John M. Scribner of Livermore who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary three years ago. Mrs. Scribner was active in the Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star #177, and the Hazel Circle of the Women of Woodcraft.

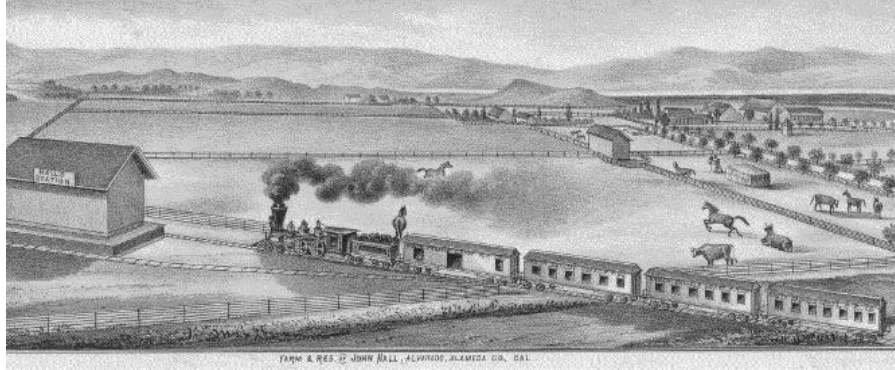
For more on Nellie Beebe and John Scribner, see **"SCRIBNER, JOHN"** in this work.

John Hall:

John Hall was born in Ohio on June 19, 1821. His Wife Phoebe Hall was born on March 8, 1831. They first appear in the Alvarado 1870 census, thus having come to Alvarado during the 1860's. John Hall owned 311 acres of prime farmland south of today's Dyer Street between Union City Boulevard and Alvarado Boulevard. In 1870 John Hall gave his net worth as \$32,000.

Prior to the incorporation of Union City and the mass renaming of streets, that portion of today's Dyer Street, west of Alvarado Boulevard to Union City Boulevard, was known as Hall Ranch Road. John Hall was noted for raising thoroughbred horses. He won numerous show awards at county fairs and the California State Fair. He also bred racehorses. Among his stable was the award winning Woodburn, and in his stall was the award-winning mare, Miss Peggy Ringgold.





Shown at the top is the home and grounds of John Hall. The lower plate shows the South Pacific Coast Railroad crossing Alvarado Boulevard at the Hall Station. This crossing still exists south of the town of Alvarado Boulevard as you head south past Dyer Street. Where the Southern Pacific tracks cross Alvarado Boulevard is the spot where this drawing was made. Just a few hundred feet south of this crossing is the S.P. Harvey Park. This drawing was taken from the 1878 Thompson & West Atlas.

Said of one John Hall's descendants from his Alvarado farm:

"Cousin Peggy is a daughter of Woodburn and Peggy Ringgold of the John Hall stable at Alvarado, was purchased by her present owner from R. Porter Ashe, well known in turf circles as the owner of the speedy Geraldine. She was bred by John Hall of Alvarado, and is now about 18 years old. Her sire, Woodburn, was a son of Lexington, from Heads-I-Say by Glencoe, and her dam was by Ringgold, a racing son of Boston. Bred on such stout lines as these, her get, be it a colt or filly, can hardly help being a crack-a-jack that will one day make his or her mark in the racing world. Had she never produced anything else, Cousin Peggy's name would go down to posterity in the history of the turf as the dam of California favorite sprinter, Geraldine, "Our Gerry," one of the daintiest as well as the fastest morsel of horse-flesh that ever sported silk."

John Hall passed away on June 13, 1886. Phoebe Hall passed away on January 18, 1921. In 1912 R. B. Mott, purchaser of the John Hall Estate from Phoebe Hall, announced that his plan for the Hall Ranch property is to subdivide it into smaller farms and place them on sale.

Edward McDevitt (could also be McDavid)

Edward McDevitt was born in Ireland in 1839. Edward was married to Mary McDevitt and had a son born in January 1850, Edward Jr. Edward gave his employment as a farmer, but in 1880 he was found working as a baker and suffering from consumption. He had also added two daughters and a son. In 1870 George McDevitt gave his net worth as \$6,200.

Peter J. Campbell:

Peter J. Campbell was born in 1806 in New York. His wife Christy was born in Scotland in 1810. They show that no children were living with them. The Campbell's had come to Alvarado in the 1850's. In 1870 Peter Campbell showed that he had a net worth of \$10,000. In 1882 a newspaper article showed that Peter J Campbell was paralyzed, and on May 7, 1885, Mrs. Christy C. Campbell of Alvarado passed away at the age of 75 years. The

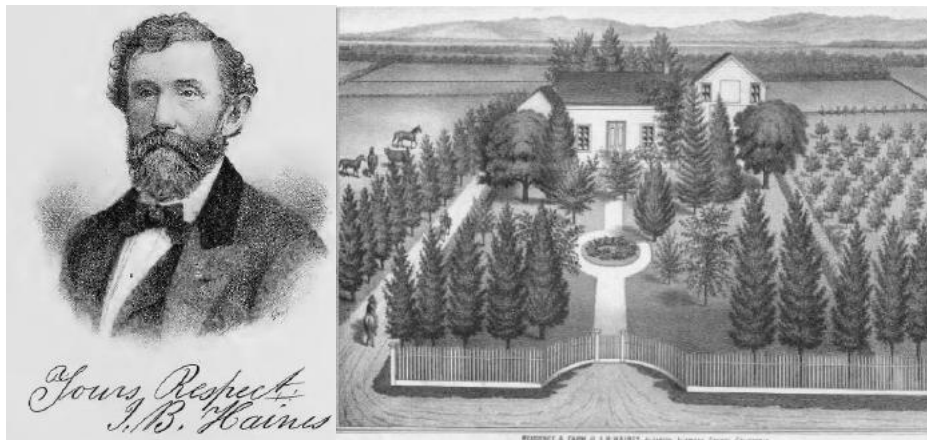
article indicated that Mrs. Campbell was the widow of the late Peter J. Campbell.

Israel B. Haines:

Israel Biddle Haines was born in Philadelphia, January 6, 1829, and was the son of Joseph and Achsah Haines. On account of being unfortunate in business, the senior Mr. Haines put his son in the way of earning his own living at the age of thirteen years.

Commencing on a farm, he there remained for five years, when he returned home and served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade for four years and nine months, afterwards working as a journeyman for two years more. He made his way westward and on April 1, 1855, he sailed for California around the Horn.

He landed at San Francisco at the beginning of September 1855 and after a few days he came to Alameda County where he entered the employ of Mr. Black at Alvarado. He stayed one year in Alvarado and then set out for San Pablo, rented land and resided there until October 1862, he then returned and settled in Alvarado and purchased his present place from J.G. Clark.



A portrait of I.B. Haines, and his home on Whipple Road, is shown above from the 1878 Thompson and West Atlas of Alameda County.

Israel's ranch was in the Decoto School District, the western edge of his property on the Whipple Road being the starting point of the Alvarado School District. At the time Mr. Haines settled in 1862, there was no town of Decoto, and Mr. Haines considered himself to be a citizen of the town of Alvarado.

Israel offered himself as a polling place officer in several Alvarado elections. Charlotte Haines was a member of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church and was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society of Alvarado.

Israel married Miss Charlotte L. Thompson, a native of Ohio on March 9, 1870. His family consisted of: Edward I., Robert T., Joseph B., Henry S., and Florence May. Mr. Haines and his family later became influential members of the town of Decoto, their homestead being near Alvarado-Decoto School District boundary. Israel Haines passed away in May 1902.

James G. VANDERPEER:

James G. Vanderpeer was born in England circa 1834. His entry into the U.S., and when he settled in Alvarado is unknown, however in 1868 John Hanna conveyed to J.G. Vanderpeer 73.23 acres of land on the Creek Road. Here James would raise his children and make a very comfortable living of farming. James gave his net worth as \$7,200 in 1870.

He, and his wife Mary, had three children, two boys: William and George, and a daughter Mrs. Laura Vanderpeer Obermuller.

James was a member of the Alvarado Crusade Lodge of the IOOF, and his wife Mary was a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's. James was also an election official in Alvarado in the 1898 elections.

James G. Vanderpeer passed away on February 7, 1909 at his home in Alvarado. One of the oldest and best-known residents of Alameda County, he was 75 years old and a native of England. For many years Vanderpeer was a successful rancher and he left a valuable estate. Three children, Mrs. Laura A. Obermuller of Hayward, W.H. Vanderpeer and G.B. Vanderpeer survive him.

William H. Vanderpeer

William Vanderpeer was born in August 1864, in Alvarado. By the year 1900, he had a wife, Thyrza, and had three children, two sons and a daughter. In the 1910, census he is shown farming with his brother, George B. who was single. The 1920 census information is the last item found on William Vanderpeer.

George B. Vanderpeer:

George Vanderpeer was born approximately 1869, in Alvarado. In 1910 census he is shown farming with his brother William on the family land on Alvarado Niles Road. In the 1920 census, George is shown farming the land alone.

George was a member of the Alvarado IOOF, Crusade Lodge. George shows as never having been married.

HOTELS:

John & Adelia Taylor / Charles Nauert / Abel W. Gragg

John & Adelia Taylor:

John Taylor was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, His wife Adelia was born in Ohio in 1835. They had four children. In 1880 John and Adelia were in Santa Cruz County where John was operating a hotel. They purportedly operated the Alvarado Hotel, but this is unlikely as the Alvarado Hotel was not built until 1881.

Charles Nauert, Proprietor: American Exchange Hotel:

[See also Supt. Foundry page 34](#)

Charles R. Nauert was born in Buffalo, New York, November 9, 1841. Mr. Nauert came to California in 1858 and soon afterwards he came to Alvarado, where, with the exception of a short period spent in the mining regions of

northern California, he has lived continuously. Charles married Miss Hattie Heyer, daughter of Alvarado pioneer Augustus Heyer, who operated a billiard room and a saloon in Alvarado.

Charles' first business venture in Alvarado, was in operating the American Exchange hotel in Alvarado for four years, after which he became connected with the George H. Tay Company in 1870, which was engaged in making stoves and everything else connected with heating. The Tay Foundry was located on the west end of Alvarado in the former building of the Horner flour mill. Through his faithful and capable efforts, Mr. Nauert received deserved promotions, becoming manager and later supt. of the plant, and remained with that concern for thirty-five years, the foundry being put up for sale in October 1905, after the death of O.J. Backus in March 1905.

Abel W. Gragg: **American Exchange Hotel:**

Abel W. Gragg was born in New York in 1826. He was married to Levina Gragg who was born in Michigan in 1829. In 1860 Abel and Levina were residing with Lewis Smith in Eden Township, where both gentlemen gave their occupations as stock raisers. In 1870 Abel and Levina were in Alvarado, where Abel was the hotelkeeper for the American Exchange Hotel.

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:

"Abel Gragg of Alvarado gave a "China Wedding" for his friends. 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 all 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 they 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 they returned to their 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. The final entry for Mr. Gragg is that he chosen as an Alameda County Grand Juror from Alvarado.

In December 1876 it was reported that the American Exchange Hotel burned to the ground. In 1880 Abel was in Kaweah, in Tulare County working as a carpenter.

LIQUOR RETAILER:

Jacob Greeninger:

Jacob was born in Germany in 1830, his date of entry into the U.S. is not known. His wife Catherine Greeninger was born in Germany in 1836. Jacob was in the retail liquor business in Alvarado until after the 1870's. After this nothing more was found for Jacob or Catherine.

LIVERY STABLE:

Henry & Charles Sumner:

The Sumner brothers were born in Ohio, Charles in 1838 and Henry in 1845. They were in Alvarado in the late 1860's, and both were operating a livery stable. In January 1874, Charles married Miss Emeline F. Michael of Utah.

By the end of the decade the brother's were in the Mission San Jose-Niles area working as hotelkeepers. In 1880 both were living in boarding house in Oakland, Charles was married to Ella (Emma?) Sumner, and was working in a livery stable, and Henry was living in the same boarding house, single, and employed as a carpenter. Charles and Emma had three children that I could locate, Eva Sumner, Edward T. Sumner and Fred W. Sumner.

MERCHANTS:

John H. Ralph Sr. / William F. Nelson

John H. Ralph Sr.:

John H. Ralph was born in Jew Jersey in 1845 to Joseph and Fanetta Ralph. He married Catherine Ralph who came to the U.S. in 1873 from Germany. They had five children: Fanetta, Lizzie, Catherine, Anna and John Jr. John operated a retail grocery store in Alvarado where he also employed his young nephew Ivens V. Ralph.

John H. Ralph Sr. died in January 1877, when his son John H. Jr. was but a year old. Later his son John Jr., would also go into the merchandising business in Alvarado (about 1905), and would operate a very successful General Store in Alvarado until 1950.

William F. Nelson:

William F. Nelson was born in Denmark in 1828. His wife Antoinette was born in Chile in 1839. William was in the retail hardware business in Alvarado in the late 1860's. By 1880 he had moved his family to San Francisco where he was a crockery merchant. He showed having a new wife, Henrietta, who was born in Germany in 1844.

PAINTER:

James Logan:

James Logan was born in Ireland in 1825. His wife, Mary Logan, was born in Ireland in 1830. They did not show any children, and were residing in Abel Gragg's hotel in 1870. James showed his occupation as a house painter. After 1870 nothing could be found for James Logan. This James Logan is not to be

confused with the Alvarado farmer of the 1930's, who would have a high school named after him in Decoto.

PHYSICIANS:

Dr. Charles H. Pratt / Dr. J. M. Selfridge

Charles H. Pratt

Chas Pratt was born in Massachusetts in 1818, his wife Abby was born in Rhode Island in 1831. They had no children listed; by 1880 Dr. Pratt was practicing in Livermore.

J.M. Selfridge

James M. Selfridge was a Physician who lived between Centerville and Alvarado. He was born in 1824 in New York. His wife Elizabeth was born in 1827, also in New York. They had two children, Mary & Arthur. By 1870 Dr. Selfridge was practicing in Oakland.

POSTMASTER:

Daniel C. Owen:

Daniel C. Owen was born in the State of New York in 1838. On May 9, 1869 Dan Owen married Miss Mary Liston of Alvarado. Miss Liston was the daughter of William M. and Catharine Liston.

Daniel served as Postmaster of Alvarado from 1867 to 1876, after which his wife Mary Liston Owen, was appointed as Postmistress on August 22, 1876. On September 26, 1877, Edwin A. Richmond Sr., took over the duties as Postmaster for Alvarado.

In September 1874 Daniel was appointed Notary Public for Alvarado, then becoming the only Notary Public in town.

Daniel served as an officer in the Alvarado IOOF Crusade Lodge, and was also very active in district Republican activities. After 1877 there are no further articles about Daniel & Mary Owen from Alvarado, they apparently having moved to Oakland California. They did, however, continue to visit Alvarado for decades as Mary (Liston) Owen had relatives in town.

SADDLER & HARNESS:

Rodney Allquire:

James Rodney Allquire was born December 16, 1852, in Canada. He entered the U.S. in 1870. J.R. Allquire went by the name Rodney or Rod, and in 1875 he was married to Louisa Allquire. They had four children, one of which died in infancy in 1889. The other children were Adeline, Sadie and William.

Rodney was a harness maker, and also worked as a foreman at the sugar mill. The L.L. Paulson Business Directory for Alameda County, in 1876, shows Rodney Allquire employed making harnesses.

His eldest daughter Adeline married Harry Vandervoort, an Alvarado lad, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Thomas Cronin in 1902. After a short wedding

journey the happy couple would return to Alvarado, but eventually they settled in Palo Alto.

Sadie Allguire married Thomas Cronin (date unknown) and they had one child, John. For a brief time after the turn of the century, the Cronin's came back to Alvarado to live when Thomas accepted a job at the sugar mill. In 1905 the family left for Lyons, New York, where Thomas had accepted a job with a sugar mill there.

William Allguire worked at the sugar mill in Crockett for a time, and then in 1905 he accepted a job with the gas company in Reno Nevada.

M. Allguire of North Dakota was the guest of his brother, Rod Allguire in December 1909. The two brothers had not seen each other for thirty-eight years, when both were mere boys, and their meeting was not only a surprise, but also a time of recalling the frolicsome days of their youth.

James Rodney Allguire died in Palo Alto on January 20, 1913 at the age of 60 years. He left his wife Louisa H. Allguire, daughters Adeline Vandevort of Palo Alto and Sarah (Sadie) H. Cronin of Greeley Colorado and William H. Allguire of Palo Alto. He was a member of UPEC of Alvarado.

SALOON:

John Smithurst:

John Smithurst was born in England circa 1816. Nothing is known of John before he comes to Alvarado in the 1860's. It is known he married Rebecca Perry, who was born in the mid 1830's in Nova Scotia.

John Smithurst ran a saloon in Alvarado for nearly two decades. People in Alvarado referred to the saloon as the "Smithurst Corner," and after the turn of the century it became known as the "old corner." The "old corner" was on the NE corner of Levee Street and Horner Street, where later the Lassen Hotel, and then the Chanticleer Hotel would be located.

Rebecca had been married previously to Samuel Wheeland, and they conceived one daughter, Sophie Wheeland, who married Frank G. Curtis of Alameda.

John and Rebecca had four children, three daughters and a son: Elizabeth (Smithurst) Center, Annie (Smithurst) Tourlelotte, and Mabel (Smithurst) Dunn. They had one son Joseph Albert Smithurst.

Rebecca Smithurst passed away in Alvarado on October 21, 1888. Nine months later John Smithurst sold his saloon to Peter Madsen and Adolph Lassen. After this time John Smithurst disappears and nothing further is known of him. But several of John's children would regularly come back to visit old friends in Alvarado.

Al Smithurst resided in San Francisco and was a friend of William Richmond of Alvarado. Albert visited the Richmond family frequently. In 1904 Albert was in town renewing old acquaintances and visiting with friends. He had been

seriously ill with rheumatism for many years, but it was then noted that of late, he had improved so much that he could get around without crutches.

Albert Smithurst passed away at his home in Oakland in August 1928. Albert was remembered as having been born in Alvarado in 1877, and still had friends in town that recalled the young man.

Mabel (Smithurst) Dunn would visit the Nauert family, and Sophie (Smithurst) Curtis would visit with Mrs. F.B. Granger Jr.

SALT MANUFACTURER:

John Quigley:

John Quigley was born in Ireland in May of 1840. He arrived in the U.S. in 1851. By 1862 he had found his way to old Union City and began to ply the salt making trade.

John Quigley located his salt manufacturing business west of the old Barron's Landing of Union City along the Alameda Creek. Prior to Quigley's coming the only salt manufacturing that had been, to any great extent, done in the South Bay was by Christian Bothsow, also along the bank of the Alameda Creek.

In 1873 John Quigley had 200 acres of marshland for crystallizing ponds, and employed several windmills for pumping. In that year 1,600 tons of salt were produced at the Alvarado Salt Works.

John lived in Alvarado with his mother Mary Quigley and his brother Thomas Quigley. Mary passed away on November 17, 1884 at the age of 75 years. Thomas Quigley passes away on July 24, 1889 at the age of 56 years.

On March 21, 1919, after the passing of John Quigley, his will was filed for probate. The estate was not appraised but the value was placed above \$10,000. The property was to be equally divided between two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Nicherson, and Mrs. Kate E. Sinclair. August May of Alvarado was named as executor without bond. However one month later Mrs. Dagmar Lundgren of Oakland came forward stating she was named beneficiary of the estate in 1904. Mrs. Lundgren was formerly Dagmar Anderson, an Alvarado girl, who was a friend of Quigley's. She supposedly had saved his life out on the marshes and he said he would remember her in his will.

In an odd twist another woman came forward, Aimee Collins of Oakland, who claimed she is named as a beneficiary of \$9,000 as a reward for the care she gave him in the ten years prior to his death. Quigley's two sisters fought her claim by stating that John Quigley was an ingrate who would not reward kindnesses. Mrs. Collins says he was kind and generous, refuting the claim that Quigley was addicted to drink and that he knew no gratitude.

SCHOOL TEACHER:

John Curragh / James Jones

John Curragh:

John Curragh was born in Ohio in 1849. He came to Alvarado with his father, Henry Curragh, and settled in the Union City area. The John is shown living in Alvarado in the late 1860's, employed as a school teacher. The 1880 census shows John as a druggist in the City of San Francisco, he was still single.

James Jones:

James Jones was born in New Hampshire 1836. His wife Martha was also born in New Hampshire in 1836. They had two children, a son James Jr., and a daughter Leslie. The 1870 census shows James as a teacher in Alvarado. But nothing was found for this couple after 1870.

SHOEMAKER:

William Biddinger / Peter Knoch

William Biddinger:

William Biddinger was born ca. 1828 in Germany. William's wife, Sophia, was born in 1835, also in Germany. They had seven children, five sons and two daughters. The sons were named William Jr., Edward, Charles, Frederick and Gustave. The daughters were named Louisa and Lily. William was a boot and shoemaker in Alvarado and his son William Jr., was a barber.

William Biddinger passed on before his wife, but no date can be found. Mrs. Biddinger became the owner of property in Alvarado including a lot on V Street next to the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Biddinger moved to San Francisco in 1895, but she continued to improve and build property in Alvarado. A building she owned on Smith Street was remodeled to house a shoe store. She then contracted with O.J. Emery to build two cottages on her lot west of the Presbyterian Church. Then near the end of 1897 Mrs. Biddinger moved into one of her homes in Alvarado with her daughter Lily.

Mrs. Sophia Biddinger died after a long illness on August 8, 1900, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. Trumpour, of San Francisco. The funeral took place Friday on the arrival of the 12 o'clock train from Decoto. The body was buried beside that of the husband and son in the Decoto cemetery. Many friends from San Francisco and Alvarado were present and many beautiful floral offerings were sent. The deceased was 65 years of age and a native of Germany. She left two daughters and three sons to mourn her loss.

Peter Knoch:

Peter Knoch was born in Germany in 1828. Mr. Knoch was a shoemaker, but by 1880 he had relocated to Oakland where he was a rail road hand.

SUGAR MANUFACTURERS:

August Bonesteel / Andrew Otto

August Bonesteel:

August Bonesteel was born in the State of New York ca. 1826. He was married to Melinda Bonesteel and records available show that they had one

child; Augustus Bonesteel Jr. Mr. Bonesteel was a much-respected citizen of the town of Janesville WI.

In 1869, August met Andrew Otto, a German who professed to have had twenty years' experience in Germany in the beet sugar manufacturing business. Mr. Otto showed Bonesteel the results of his experimenting with the sugar beet. Mr. Bonesteel was so impressed with the results that he and Otto formed Bonesteel & Otto Co. in the spring of 1869, to develop and build a beet sugar manufacturing plant in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin.

They opened their factory based on 80 acres of planted sugar beets and produced 1,000 pounds of refined sugar daily. The company was woefully undercapitalized and the profits were scant because of a lack of capital funds, and the small amount of beets turned into sugar.

At this same time, Eb Dyer in Alvarado was also experimenting with the sugar beet, and Mr. Dyer was getting some impressive tonnage per acre of beets. The production at Fon du Lac, was about 10 tons per acre.

After getting an offer from E.H. Dyer in Alvarado, Bonesteel and Otto pulled up their stakes at Fon du Lac, and moved their equipment to Alvarado for the 1870 season. E.H. Dyer had \$250,000 in capital, and had a fine factory built at Alvarado. The first year results produced a good profit, but subsequent years were not so successful, and by 1873 the news was out that the mill at Alvarado would close. The equipment would be shifted to Soquel, in Santa Cruz County in the spring of 1874.

Here the mill would limp along for half a dozen years before finally falling into the hands of the local sheriff, who had it closed in 1880.

In the end those who were in the business blamed the failure of the first mill at Alvarado on the incompetent management of Bonesteel & Otto.

Andrew Otto:

Andrew Otto was born in Prussia, Germany in 1825. His entry into the U.S. is unknown. He was married to Elizabeth Otto, and they had five daughters, Caroline, Louisa, Minnie, Bertha and Emma.

In 1868 Andrew Otto began experimenting with the cultivation of the sugar beet. Andrew had been a foreman for 20 years in the beet sugar business in Germany, and was familiar with the needs of raising a sugar beet.

In 1869 Andrew Otto met August Bonesteel, a highly respected and successful citizen of Janesville Wisconsin. Mr. Otto showed Bonesteel the results of his experimenting with the sugar beet. Mr. Bonesteel was so impressed with the results that he and Otto formed Bonesteel & Otto Co. in the spring of 1869 to develop and build a beet sugar manufacturing plant in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin.

They opened their factory based on 80 acres of planted sugar beets and produced 1,000 pounds of refined sugar daily in their 1869 run. But the

company was woefully undercapitalized (\$25,000), and the profits from running a full-blown mill with only 80 acres of beets were non-existent.

At this same time E.H. Dyer in Alvarado was also experimenting with the sugar beet and Mr. Dyer was getting some impressive tonnage per acre of beets. The production at Fon du Lac was only about 10 tons per acre. After getting an offer from E.H. Dyer in Alvarado, Bonesteel and Otto pulled up their stakes at Fon du Lac, WI, and moved their equipment to Alvarado for the 1870 season. E.H. Dyer had \$250,000 in capital, and had a fine factory erected at Alvarado.

The first year results produced a good profit, but subsequent years were not so successful, and by 1873 the news out of Alvarado was not good. Early in 1874 the news came out that the Alvarado mill had failed, and the mill equipment would be transferred to Soquel in San Cruz County.

Here Bonesteel & Otto would erect a new mill, but immediately ran into problems with the low tonnage per acre of beets grown. The mill would limp along for half a dozen years before finally falling into the hands of the local sheriff who had it closed in 1880. In the end those who were in the business blamed the failure of the first mill at Alvarado on the incompetent management of Bonesteel & Otto.

SUPT. GEO. TAY STOVE FOUNDRY:

Charles R. Nauert:

[See also under Hotel, Page 26](#)

Charles Reuben Nauert was born in Buffalo, New York, on November 9, 1841, the son of George P. and Catherine Nauert. Charles started for California in 1858, when he was seventeen years of age. He came by way of the Isthmus of Panama, then by an old sidewheel steamer to San Francisco, where he arrived on March 17, 1858.

Charles headed for the mining regions soon after arriving in San Francisco, but remained there only a short time. Soon afterwards he came to Alvarado where he has resided permanently.

His first business venture was operating the American Exchange Hotel in Alvarado for four years, after which he became employed with the George H. Tay Company, which was engaged in making stoves, and everything else connected with heating.

Through his faithful and capable efforts, Mr. Nauert received deserved promotions, becoming manager and later superintendent of the plant, and remained with that concern for thirty-five years, retiring in October 1905, after the impending sale of the foundry. The foundry was put up for sale after the death of O.J. Backus of Oakland, in March 1905.

In 1875, Mr. Nauert was united in marriage to Miss Hattie H. Heyer, daughter of August and Henrietta Heyer of Alvarado. Mr. and Mrs. Nauert had five children, Mildred, August B., Catherine (Dot), Oscarna (Ossie) and Henry P. Also residing in the Nauert home was Charles' brother Oscar.

Mrs. Nauert loved geraniums and the yard about the home was festooned with geraniums. As a matter of fact she referred to her home as "Geranium Nook."



Shown above is the home of Charles R. Nauert on Smith Street. On the photo on the left you can see that the Odd Fellows Hall is shown on the far upper right corner of the photo. To the left of the home would have been the Alvarado Hotel. The home existed as of the 1887 Sanborn Fire Maps for Alvarado. The man in the photo to the right, may have been Mr. Nauert. Today the Nauert home and Odd Fellows Hall are both empty lots, and the Alvarado Hotel is unrecognizable. These were by the courtesy of Tim Swenson.

Hattie B. Nauert, beloved wife of Charles R. Nauert, mother of Mildred H., August B., Kathryn A., Oscarna B., and Henry P. Nauert, and sister to Charles Heyer, died August 9, 1908 at age 53.

Funeral services were held May 23, 1932 for Mr. Charles R. Nauert, for 73 years a resident of Alvarado, who voted for Abraham Lincoln for President. He was married to the late Hattie Nauert, and father of Kathryn N., Boyd, Miss Mildred H. Nauert, August B., Henry P. Nauert and Mrs. Oscarna Heitmuller. A brother, Oscar P. Nauert also survives him. He was 91 years of age.

TEAMSTER:

John Bechtel / Joseph Gantlett

John Bechtel

John Bechtel was born in Pennsylvania in 1843. He was employed locally as a China teamster in the late 1860's. After 1870 nothing could be found for Mr. Bechtel.

Joseph Gantlett

Mr. Gantlett was born in 1824 in England. Locally Mr. Gantlett was a stage coach driver. After 1870 nothing could be found for Mr. Bechtel.

Wells Fargo Agent: **Daniel C. Owen, Agent**

See bio on page 23

 * **NOTABLE CHINESE** *

Boarding House / China Boss / Laundry

BOARDING HOUSE:

Chon Gay / Ing Yee

Chon Gay:

Chon Gay was born in China in 1835; was single and was operating a Chinese Boarding House in Alvarado. Nothing else was found for Mr. Gay after 1870.

Ing Yee:

Ing Yee was born in China in 1840. Mr. Yee was single and was operating a Chinese Boarding House in Alvarado. Nothing else was found for Mr. Yee after 1880.

CHINA BOSS:

Ah Cay:

Ah Cay was born in China in 1842. Ah Cay was the head of a gang of Chinese laborers who lived under his domicile. Ah had 14 Chinese nationals in his labor force. Ah was in Alvarado until about 1880.

LAUNDRY:

Ah Hyloy / Yee Hop

Ah Hyloy:

Ah Hyloy was born in China in 1828, and his wife Foy was born in China in 1840. Their date of entry into the U.S. is not known. Mr. Hyloy was the operator of a laundry in Alvarado for over a decade and probably close to twenty years. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters. They were in business in Alvarado from the 1860's to the 1880's, when the census last showed them in Alvarado. Mrs. Hyloy worked as a seamstress in the laundry.

Yee Hop:

Yee Hop was born in China in 1840. In 1870 he was operating a wash house (laundry). Nothing was found for Yee Hop in 1880.

 * **THE CIVIL WAR** *

ALVARADO'S ANSWER TO LINCOLN'S CALL:

From the Pages of the Oakland Tribune, March 2, 1924

"When Pony Express riders brought the news to California, in April 1861, that the Confederates had fired upon Fort Sumter, and that the great Civil War was on, it threw the whole state into a fever of excitement. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities it had been an unsettled question as to whether it (California), would be slavery or anti-slavery, but with the war being actually fought, Californians no longer hoped to be able to keep out of the struggle, it had to choose sides in the fight to keep the union undivided.

In no other spot in the entire state was the excitement more ardent than in Alvarado, Alameda County. Here a local company of militia was formed known as the Alvarado Guards.*

These men eagerly demanded their rights to go to the front, and with the actual call to arms, met in their little armory hall, elected officers and began drilling. Two men still living remember the stirring days in Alvarado when the women gathered to sew the stars and stripes into a flag for their boys to carry to the front. The two are Farley B. Granger, Jr., and Roderick Church, both native sons of the community, who were mere boys at that time. (Roderick Church would become a Superior Court Judge for Alameda County and a contemporary of Judge Ezra Decoto Jr. formerly of Decoto).

Granger remembers it as if it were yesterday. Stories made the rounds among the women of the scenes of war they had heard their elders paint. They spoke of days when Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Ticonderoga were still fresh in their minds. One woman told how her uncle had sold Paul Revere the horse he had ridden on that famous night when he had spread the alarm through every Middlesex village and farm.

What an excitement when the women finished the flag. And what a reception they had when it was turned over to Charles Eigenbrodt, who had been chosen as captain of the company. Granger was but a youth as was also Roderick Church, but Granger remembers some of the evenings when he was taken with his mother and played around the room while his mother worked on the flag. Some of the women whom he remembers to have helped in making the Alvarado company's battle flag were Mrs. James Hawley, Mrs. F.B. Granger, Sr., (Farley's mother), Mrs. Henry Cockefair, Mrs. A.M. Church (mother of Judges Lincoln and Roderick Church), and Mrs. Ephraim Dyer. A.M. Church was the first county clerk of Alameda County. Ephraim Dyer would later be made captain of the local "Home Guards" company, (called the Alvarado Guards) many of whom went into various contingents that California sent to various fronts.

Both Rod Church and Farley Granger Jr., boys as they were, begged to be taken with the Alvarado Guards as they prepared for their trip to the front. Rod Church, scarcely ten years old at the time, was given the honor later of being "marker" for the home guards, and he drilled with them daily. The position of "marker" was to carry the company colors, precede the formation, and to stand as a marking post with the flag, to show just where the men would turn and wheel.

Alvarado at the time, late 1862, was one of Alameda County's leading towns. The citizenship was proud of its past and hopeful for its future. As the first county seat of Alameda County, its early citizens pointed with pride to the first ferryboat in the East Bay country, the "Union," that was brought from the East in sections and put together here. It ran between San Francisco and Union City. The residents boasted of

days when Alvarado would be the chief manufacturing and shipping metropolis on the coast, and already plans for a sugar industry were being made, the salt business was being panned, and heavy potato crops were being planted.

Shortly after the flag had been presented to the Alvarado Company it was ordered (the unit) to Hayward, where the members went by stage, according to Granger. Thence they were transported to the drill fields near what is now the city of Alameda, and early in 1863 they embarked on a steamer for the East, disembarking at New York City.

Letters that percolated back to Alvarado told of their journey. They had been wined and dined like princes at New York City, they had paraded up Broadway, a reception had been given them, and other Westerners in New York City had united in paying them attention in the way of parties and little side trips for sightseeing, making their brief stay in New York one of the brightest spots in their memory.

California's early enlistments were attached to the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment. From New York in early 1863, they had gone to Readville, Massachusetts, where they joined in taking the oath to the Union with other Massachusetts men. And almost immediately, they were asked to share in picketing the national capital, Washington DC, which at this time seemed to be grave danger.

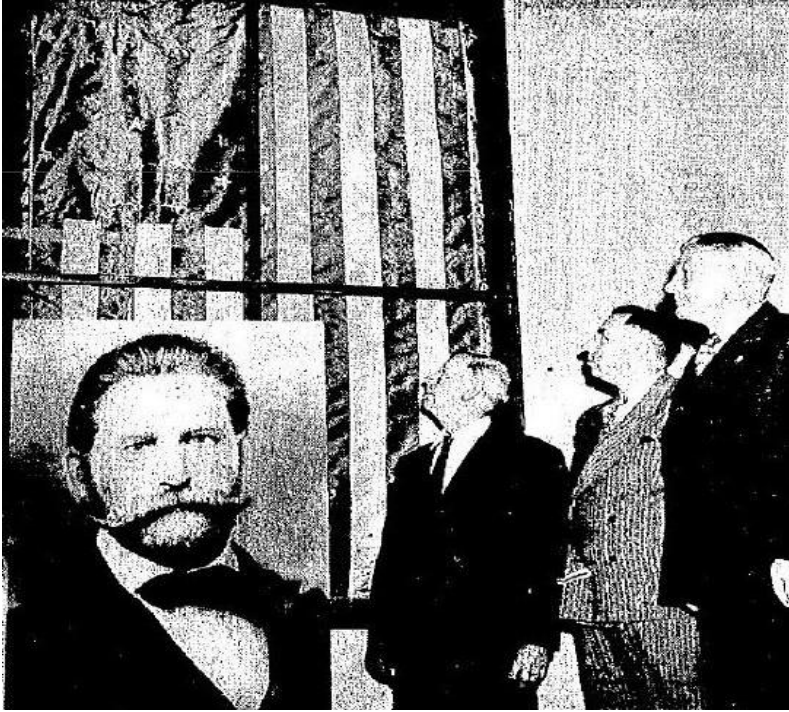
Their captain, Charles Eigenbrodt, whom the boys had petitioned Massachusetts to retain to lead them into battle, was still their commanding officer. Letters from the front told that Eigenbrodt retained his popularity to the end. Eigenbrodt had served as past Noble Grand in the Odd Fellows Lodge before leaving Alvarado. This lodge, Crusade No. 92, one of the oldest in the state, and the first chartered in Alameda County, according to Granger, is still in existence, and now own the old hall where the Alvarado Guards were formed and drilled.

Records show that the Alvarado men under Captain Eigenbrodt experienced their first action June 1, 1863. They chased a heavy detachment of Mosby's guerillas in the Shenandoah Valley. During June and July, they acted as scouts, mostly in fighting Mosby's men, and on July 30, of that year they attacked a large body of Mosby warriors who, flushed with victory, underestimated the vim and vigor of Eigenbrodt's men.

Mosby's men had captured a most valuable food and ammunition train, near the little town of Aldie, VA. The loss of the train of munitions was a grievous one and worried Federal authorities heavily.

Eigenbrodt's men were sent for, and with the remainder of the Massachusetts Cavalry, were asked to recapture the train of thirty-three wagons at any price. They swooped down on the raiders guarding the train, stampeded the rear mules, and by sunset had the thirty-three wagons with the contents back within Union lines. There were many prisoners in addition.

For two and one-half years the Alvarado troopers fought as Massachusetts cavalry until the war was ended. They had been, according to the Massachusetts records, been through more than fifty of the hardest struggles of the war, in addition to many minor engagements."



The Alvarado Battle Flag made by the wives and sweethearts of Alvarado for their men during the Civil War. The picture in the inset is Captain Charles Eigenbrodt, who led Company E, 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment until his death in August 1864. The flag was presented to the Alvarado Guards. The Alvarado Guards mentioned in this article was the actual unit that marched off to war. Another unit, also called the Alvarado Guards, was formed later under the orders of the State government to also be termed the "Alvarado Guards" to act as a hometown militia. Captain Ephraim Dyer led this unit. This second Alvarado Guards never fought in the great conflict.

One of the saddest pieces of news, Granger recalls, was that which brought from the front account of the death of Captain Eigenbrodt, August 26, 1864. The account, briefly told in the relayed news, stated that he had been killed in action in the Shenandoah Valley.

Their battle flag is still in Alvarado, in the Odd Fellow's Hall, there the womanhood of more than half a century ago twined its silken folds into the emblem of an undivided nation. (Note: The battle flag was taken to the IOOF Sycamore Lodge in Hayward in 1947 when Alvarado's Crusade Lodge was combined with the Hayward Lodge. I have since learned that Sycamore Lodge no longer is in possession of the Alvarado battle flag, and it now rests at the IOOF Hall in Mission San Jose.)

The company, lead by Captain Eigenbrodt, was known as Company E, 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. The officer in command was Captain Charles Eigenbrodt from January 23, 1863, to April 17. Then he was promoted to the command of the squadron on March 6, 1864. He was in the field from March to August 25, 1864, when he was shot in action at Halltown, Virginia."

*The Alvarado Guards mentioned in this article were men who enlisted to become active duty Cavalrymen as part of the Massachusetts 2nd Cavalry as part of a California Battalion sent to fight in the Civil War. The article below outlines the Alvarado Guard that stayed in Alvarado to defend the home turf and none ever saw active duty.

* **FLOODS** *

The Alameda Creek Watershed / Great Flood of 1862 / Flood of 1866

THE ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED:

The town of Alvarado is no stranger to floods during the winter and spring months. As a matter of fact the town of Alvarado flooded far more often, and more severely than any other town in Southern Alameda County.

There is only one reason for this nearly annual event; Alvarado is lower in elevation than any town in Washington Township. The reason can be shown by the table below, which shows the elevation at points ranging from the Alameda Creek at the mouth of Niles Canyon, to Fremont, Decoto, Newark and Alvarado. The two lowest towns in the area are Alvarado and Newark, and as you would expect these two areas bore brunt of most of the flooding.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Elevation (in Feet)</u>
The City of Niles	74
The City of Decoto	65
Fremont Blvd and Thornton Ave	52
Fremont Blvd and Washington Blvd	52
Hesperian Blvd. & Jackson St., Mt. Eden	36
Fremont Blvd. & Decoto Road	35
Alvarado Blvd. & Lowry Road	15
City of Newark	16
Alvarado Blvd. & Dyer Road	10
Union City Blvd. & Smith Street	7
Union City Blvd. & Lowry Road	6

When I was growing up, the Alameda Creek flowed near our farm. In the 1950's, the Alameda Creek still produced some note-worthy flooding. But as bad as these seemed to us at the time, they were nothing compared to the floods when this area was first settled. For then, the full range of water from the untamed Alameda Creek watershed poured through the creek (indeed, it was often likened to a river) on its way to San Francisco Bay.

The Alameda Creek watershed is a vast bowl on the other side of the Mission Peak hills that measures some 630+ square miles. The watershed ranges from the southern slopes of Mt. Diablo in the north and encompasses all of the Mt. Hamilton run-off in the south. To the east the water runs from the hills west of the San Joaquin Valley (Altamont Pass, for example), to the mouth of Niles Canyon. Even as bad as the floods seemed in the 1950, this run-off had been tempered by the building of the San Antonio and Calaveras Reservoirs.

All of this water in the Alameda Creek watershed belonged to the Spring Valley Water Co. of San Francisco. From the entire Alameda Creek watershed, through the Niles Canyon, to outflow of the creek past Alvarado to the west, the Spring Valley

Water Co. owned the riparian rights, and in many cases in fee simple, the entire water flow of the Alameda Creek.

Alvarado's floods became so well known around the San Francisco Bay Area that the *Oakland Tribune* wrote a tribute to them in 1890:

"Oh Stoic Alvarado:

Amid all these moving accidents of flood and field, which make the burden of the story of the day, Alvarado stands placidly smiling over the waste of waters, a modern Venice for the nonce, serenely figuring the depth of the mud which will be deposited on her lands, rich with the promise of big crops, caring little for the present discomfort, for her legs are long, if wooden. It may not be as handsome as its prototype, where the famous gondola takes its course, but the lands around are as rich as those from the delta of the Nile, and the cause is very much the same."

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1862:

The Great Flood of 1862, or Noachian Deluge*, was the largest flood in the recorded history of Oregon, Nevada and California, occurring from December 1861 to January 1862. It was preceded by weeks of continuous rains (or snows in the very high elevations), that began in November 1861, and continued into January 1862. This was followed by a record amount of rain from January 9–12, and contributed to a flood which extended from the Columbia River, southward in western Oregon, and through California to San Diego, and extended as far inland as Idaho in Washington Territory, Nevada, Utah in the Utah Territory, and Arizona in western New Mexico Territory.

*Noachian Deluge: A down pouring of rain similar to the Great Flood as described in the *Book of Genesis in the Bible*. Today it is called the "Pineapple Express."

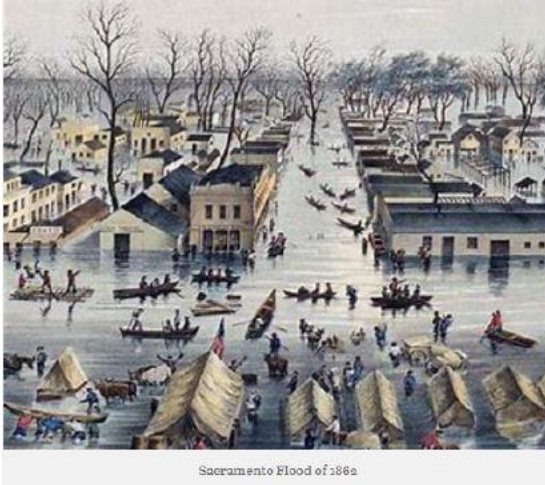
The Great Flood of 1862 was the largest flood in the recorded history of Oregon, Nevada, and California, December 1861 to January 1862. It was preceded by weeks of continuous rains and snows in the very high elevations that began in Oregon in November 1861, and continued into January 1862. This was followed by a record amount of rain from January 9–12, 1862, and contributed to a flood that extended from the Columbia River southward in western Oregon, and through California to San Diego, and extended as far inland as Idaho, in the Washington Territory, Nevada, and Utah in the Utah Territory, and Arizona in the western New Mexico Territory.

The event dumped an equivalent of 10 feet of rainfall in California, in the form of rain and snow, over a period of 43 days. Immense snowfalls in the mountains of the far western United States caused more flooding in Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora, Mexico the following spring and summer as the snow melted. The event was capped by a warm intense storm that melted the high snow load. The resulting snow-melt flooded valleys, inundated or swept away towns, mills, dams, flumes, houses, fences, and domestic animals, and ruined fields. It has been described as the worst disaster ever to strike California.

A correspondent of the *Bulletin* furnished that paper with the following memoranda concerning the rainfall at Columbia, Tuolumne County, up to Jan 23, 1862. The first rain commenced Nov. 10, 1861. Since then there have been 68 rainy days. The

number of inches of water that has fallen up to Jan. 23, 1862, at 9 a. m., was 101.97 inches.

In the City of Sacramento, from December 1861, to January 1862, a series of storms carrying high winds and heavy precipitation left city streets and sidewalks underwater. Photographs show canals in place of city streets and boats docked to storefronts.



On Inauguration Day, January 10, 1862 the state's eighth governor, Leland Stanford traveled by rowboat to his inauguration building held at the State Legislature office. Much of Sacramento remained under water for 3 months after the storms passed. As a result of flooding, the California State Legislature was temporarily moved to San Francisco during rebuilding and renovating the sunken city of Sacramento.



The photos above show the flooding of downtown Sacramento taken during the great flood of 1862.

San Francisco's normal annual rainfall is 22.28". Sacramento recorded 23.68" during the two-month period of December-January (annual average is 19.87"). In San Diego 8.76" was recorded (annual average 10.77"), and estimates of 35" accumulated in the Los Angeles area (annual average 15.14").

In Alvarado it was reported that the town was under six feet of water at one time, and that the inhabitants fired their guns to call attention to their distress, but it was impossible to offer them any assistance. Floods would often visited Alvarado, and the

townspeople became well adapted to handle the overflow from the Alameda Creek. But the flood of 1862 would long be remembered as a bellwether event for destruction and misery.

But Alvarado did not suffer alone in this flood. Washington Township also suffered from the deluge from the sky. On January 16, 1862 a reporter from *The Daily Alta California*, from San Francisco, braved his way into Alameda County, and set up his station to record the ongoing events at Vallejo Mills (Niles). Here is his report of what transpired:

"Nearly everyone in this county have sustained loss by the flood, some having their whole store of worldly goods swept away, and are, in fact, objects of charity themselves. The express messenger started off from Hayward's on the morning of January 7, 1862, on horseback, intending to cross the creek at this spot (Niles) the following day, if possible, but alas for human calculation, he found himself hemmed in by the flood, his resting place resolved into an island, and here he has remained, water bound since.

During the night and morning of the 9th and 10th, all our residents were in danger of being swept away, and, in fact, had the current swollen been a foot higher than it did, we would have all floated away. We have fortunately been spared that infliction, but a large amount of damage has been sustained. A house and machine shop within 200 yards of where I put up, was carried off about 4 a.m. on the 10th.

It was by David A. Phelps, an old man, his son and his son's wife, and a child 15 months old. They barely saved their lives, as we could give them no help for 13 hours. They saved themselves by keeping out of the current in eddies and little knolls. After suffering that long we managed by ropes, etc., to pass them victuals and dry clothing, but could do nothing more for them till 8 o'clock on Saturday morning, after being 28 hours in that condition. They lost everything.

Four men on horseback made an effort yesterday (January 15th) to get over. We went down opposite Centerville to effect a passage, but failed on account of the quicksand. Bamber's express arrived on the 13th with six day's paper, the messengers being on foot. At the mills (Vallejo's Mill), the water was eighteen inches higher than ever known. The walls were inundated and fell into the stream. The damage to the mill property was estimated from eight to ten thousand dollars."

THE FLOOD OF 1866:

On December 23, 1866 another fearsome storm hit the Bay Area with terrible claps of thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, which lasted about an hour. The lightning darted through the heavens in a very careless manner indeed, and the thunder bellowed forth its dreadful notes in a manner truly alarming, frightening the old ladies nearly to death, and the children will not grow any more for a year to come. Such a storm has never been seen in this part of the country before, not even by the oldest inhabitant. The San Leandro Creek was running bank-full last night, the water being within two feet of the high water mark of the great flood of 1862. Any amount of drift came down the creek, such as wood, fencing, trees, wagons, horses, etc.

A resident of San Leandro said:

"The Alameda Creek is very full, and overflowing its banks, and runs through the streets of Alvarado."

Nearly all of the grain sowed has been washed out, and completely so on the hill slopes. The lowland between Alameda and San Leandro are submerged. The storm throughout the county has not been equaled in intensity by any which has visited this coast since 1861 - 1862."

Haywood Items: A Haywood (Hayward) correspondent writes as follows:

"The storm of the last few days has been very severe, and caused considerable damage in this vicinity. The San Lorenzo Creek overflowed, and carried away the bridge on a street leading to the Amador Road, so that all communication is cut off in that direction. Trees have been thrown down, and the banks along the stream have caved in, doing much damage to the landholders. Dr. Kimball's bridge, it is reported, is considerably injured. The culvert near the Castro station was partially carried away, preventing the railroad cars from reaching this side of the Castro station until today. The bridge near the Palmyra schoolhouse was also partially destroyed, and various culverts have been carried away in this neighborhood.

Communications between Haywood and Alvarado has been stopped; the flats in that direction present one sheet of water, and, by appearance, the overflow must exceed that of previous years. The damage to live stock has been heavy. From report received, most of those exposed to the weather were thin, as usual at this time of the year. Owing to the weather no cattle were gathered together in the Brighton Cattle Market pasture, consequently there were no sales."

* **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS** *

Religion in Alvarado / Methodist Church / Presbyterian Church / Catholic Church

RELIGION IN ALVARADO:

As the towns of Alvarado and Union City began to grow in mid-1850, it became evident that the two towns needed organized and regular religious services. There were occasional and sporadic services held by the likes of Dr. Morrow, who would hold Methodist services on the second floor of Red Horner's Hotel two Sundays a month, and John Horner, a Mormon Elder, who would occasionally also hold services at the Brooklyn Hotel, although he had a regular church in Centerville. Also the Reverend W.W. Brier, Alameda County's first Supt. of Schools, who was a minister of the Presbyterian faith, and ministered to a congregation in the town of Centerville, would also visit and minister to the needs of the people of Alvarado & Union City.

Union City also had a showing of members from the Mormon Church. This is not surprising as John Horner was a devout Elder of the Church. In an article in the *Daily Alta California* of May 7, 1855 the following article was printed:

"In a general conference, five branches of the Church of Latter Day Saints were represented in Santa Clara. They were: San Francisco, Union City, Santa Clara, St. Johns, and Sacramento, with about 120 members showing up."

John Horner had built a church in Centerville where he held services for the Church of the Latter Day Saints as Elder. But he also lent out the church for use by other faiths that did not have a building of their own.

METHODIST CHURCH:

Joseph and Julia Thompson came to Alvarado in the 1850's from Berrien County Michigan. They had both been born in New York State, Joseph in 1813 and Julia in 1812. The Thompson's had two children in the 1850 Berrien County census, Edward 16 years of age and George 12 years of age, at the time of the 1860 census of Alvarado the two children were not living with them.

At this time in New Haven/Alvarado history, there were a great many of its occupants from Berrien County Michigan including: Henry C. Smith, August M. Church, Socrates Huff, Ebenezer Farley, Calvin J. Stevens and William M. Liston, but to name but a few who came to prominence in the early days of the town of Alvarado. Joseph Thompson had been a farmer in Berrien County, Michigan, and when he came to live in Alvarado, here he became a dairyman.

Julia busied herself in Alvarado with her great love, the Methodist Church. Through her passion and her unceasing lobbying she rallied many of the citizens of Alvarado to the cause of erecting the first organized congregational church in Alvarado. It would be of the Methodist/Episcopal faith.

By September 1859, the Methodist Church in Alvarado was in the process of being erected, and on December 17, 1859, the new Methodist Church at Alvarado was appropriately dedicated to Divine Worship. The Rev. Dr. Peck of San Francisco, The Rev. M.C. Briggs, together with the pastor, The Rev. C. Cushman, conducted the ceremonies of the occasion.

Because of the effort and love Julia Thompson put into the founding of the Alvarado Methodist Church it was lovingly called "Julia's Chapel." On September 25, 1860, the ladies of Methodist Church held a festival, the proceeds of which were to be used in discharging a balance of debt yet remaining due and unpaid by the church.

The Methodist Church, by removal and death of its members, lost nearly all its congregation, and the church building was eventually sold. A sad testament to this tale was a short article in *The Sacramento Daily Union* of November 25, 1871, which stated:

"A church at Alvarado, Alameda County, has been turned into a bar room, the spirits being dispensed from the pulpit, which serves as a counter."

At this time (1871), there were only three known churches in Alvarado, the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the Catholic Churches. The Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church survive to this day, so this article must be about the sale of the Methodist Church.

By the year 1870 Joseph and Julia Thompson had left Alvarado for Bakersfield California where Joseph was employed as a shepherd.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Almost contemporary with the Methodist Church in Alvarado was the Presbyterian Church. According to the ladies at The Country Club of Washington Township in their book *"The History of Washington Township,"* the Presbyterian Church was dedicated in May 1861 by The Rev. Dr. Hamilton.

As the Methodist Church had Julia Thompson as the lightning rod that spurred the people of Alvarado forward to erect their church, the Presbyterians had their patroness in the form of Mrs. Charlotte Cornell.

Mrs. Charlotte Cornell lobbied ceaselessly for spiritual guidance for the little town of Alvarado. Charlotte's dream came true in May of 1861, and the Presbyterian Church was dedicated. The church would be called "Charlotte's Temple" to honor the lady that worked so hard and persevered to erect the church for benefit of the people of Alvarado.

Charlotte Cornell was married to Chauncey Cornell who was born in New York circa 1814. 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 worked as a grocer in Brooklyn.

Sometime prior to 1860 he and his family came to Alvarado where he was a merchant. Both Chauncey and Charlotte Cornell were fervent Presbyterians with the Cornell's first coming to fame in Centerville with their zeal in the establishment of a Presbyterian Church in that town.



The old Presbyterian Church of 1860 as it stood on 1902 next to its new replacement (on the right).

On June 4, 1853 nine people in Centerville signed a petition for The Rev. W.W. Brier to found a church known as the Alameda Presbyterian Church under the Presbytery of San Francisco. Those who signed the petition were: Charles Hilton, Elizabeth Brier,

Hannah Breyfogle, Chauncey Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Charles Kelsey, Eliza Beard and James Selfridge.

On January 1, 1856 a fine brick edifice was completed and dedicated as the Alameda Presbyterian Church of Centerville. The church was destroyed by the earthquake of 1856 and quickly rebuilt of wood thereafter.

Later in the decade Charlotte began her lobbying for a Presbyterian Church in Alvarado. As stated above the church in Alvarado was dedicated in May of 1861.

The Rev. B.N. Seymour took charge of pulpit at Alvarado and on September 25, 1864, he presided over a service that marked one of the darkest days in Alvarado history.

On that Sunday at 11 o'clock in the morning the National colors were displayed at half-mast and bells began tolling, the members of the Crusade Lodge, No. 93, including many sisters, together with the members of Mission Peak Lodge, No. 114, each wearing the customary badge of mourning, and the I.G., carrying the insignia of rank of the deceased, Captain Charles S. Eigenbrodt, killed in battle during the Civil War in Virginia.

The mourners moved in a solemn procession from the Lodge Hall to the Presbyterian Church, where an appropriate and patriotic discourse was pronounced by Rev. Brother B.N. Seymour, after which the procession returned to the hall.

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Little is known about the building of the original Catholic Church in Alvarado except that it was completed in 1863, and was dedicated by Arch Bishop Alemany of San Francisco in the presence of Father Fredi, the first priest in charge.

The first church people were mostly Spaniards and European immigrants. This church was to become known as "The Church of Lucky Weddings."



In the early days of Alvarado the nearest Catholic Church was located at Mission San Jose. In 1862 St. Anne's Catholic Church was built to provide a closer house of worship. For many years the church would be a mission church, meaning that the priest was from another church and would come in on Sunday for service. At the time most of the parishioners were from Portugal, so the services were given in Portuguese. The photo above is from Timothy Swenson's book "Union City" by Arcadia Printing ©2008

The church fronted Smith Street with Watkins Street on its west side. It was set back from Smith Street so that when the new church was built in 1926 it was erected in front of the old church.

*** SOCIAL & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS ***

California 100 / I.O.O.F. / International Order of Good Templars / Alvarado Guards (Hometown Militia)

California 100:

March 23, 1863: Charles S. Eigenbrodt was appointed Captain of one of four battalions that marched off to join the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. They marched down the streets of San Francisco to board the USS Constitution for their trip east. Joining him from Alvarado were John T. Campbell and Hiram Clark. Among the men were many from throughout Alameda County.

This unit is incorrectly referred to as the "Alvarado 100" and the "Alvarado Guards" in some texts.

I.O.O.F.:

The Odd Fellows continued to be active throughout the 1860's, at the end of the decade the following persons held office: E. Dyer, Noble Grand; William Cockefair, Vice Grand; Wilfred S. Ingalls, R.S.; J.T. Taylor, P.S.; Abel W. Gragg, Treasurer; William Whidden, E. Dyer & William Hayes, Trustees.

International Order of Good Templars:

On November 21, 1862, a lodge of the International Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.), Refuge Lodge, No. 62, was organized in Alvarado. Its members were:

W.H. Hamilton	Miss Ada Williams	Laura E. Gregg	Louisa J. Crane
Asman J. Lowell	Ebenezer Farley	J.H. Stevenson	E.A. Richmond
George Williams	J. White		

The Alvarado Guards (Hometown Militia):



The Alvarado Guards standing in front of the IOOF Hall on Smith Street at the corner of Vallejo Street.

The Alvarado Guards, a home militia, was formed in 1862 to protect the townspeople and their property from sabotage and sneak attacks from Southern sympathizers. California Governor Downey had called for localities to form militias for their own protection.

Ephraim Dyer was appointed Captain and Commander of the Alvarado Guards. His staff included:

1 st Lieutenant:	C. P. Johnson
2 nd Lieutenant:	Joseph McKeown
3 rd Lieutenant:	H. C. Smith
Orderly & Sgt:	Frank Gilman

The first roll call in August 1863 showed 55 members of guard to be active. The Alvarado Guard is not to be confused with the unit that went off to join the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry, known as Company "E" in 1863. The Alvarado Guards was a home town militia and none ever saw or fought in a battle.

After the war the Alvarado Battle Flag, which was present at all of the battles that Company E fought in, was given to the Alvarado Guards as a relic of the sacrifices Alvarado men had made during the Civil War.

In 1864 the IOOF Hall was completed and dedicated and the second floor of the building was used as the armory for the Alvarado Guards.

The guards disbanded in July 1867 as interest in further participation in the unit was waning among the members and their purpose, the guarding of Alvarado during the Civil War had been accomplished.

* **CRIME** *

Judge Saves Man from Rope / Man Hanged at Alvarado Bridge / Notorious Procopio

JUDGE SAVES MAN FROM ROPE:

July 8, 1863

In Alvarado, Alameda County, on the 8th of July, there was quite a concourse of people assembled, people who had come in from the neighboring ranchos for the purpose of jubilating over the fall of Vicksburg. Just as the enthusiasm was at its height (as we are informed) an individual, who proved to be a horse thief, rushed into town, hotly pursued by Harlow Wood, Constable of Eden Township. The excited people joined in the chase, captured the malefactor, and brought him to Judge Crane's Court in Alvarado, where an impromptu jury was impaneled, and the populace were about to hang the thief, when Judge Crane and a few other cool-headed citizens interposed and insisted that the man should not be punished except by due process of the law. Their interposition and arguments prevailed, and the horse fancier, saved yet awhile from stretching hemp, was committed to prison.

MAN HANGED AT ALVARADO BRIDGE:

Alvarado was the scene of a dastardly outrage on the evening of November 23, 1863 when a party of Spanish desperadoes having entered the town and fired into a hotel, smashed all the windows in the Catholic Church, and then started off for the mountains. About a mile from town they met an American named Frank Devol, at whom they fired two shots, which passed through his coat. After a hot pursuit, one of the Spaniards was caught and taken back to Alvarado, where he had a preliminary trial. Last night, about twelve o'clock, a number of citizens of the town overpowered the guard, took the prisoner and hung him over the Alameda Creek Bridge. The gallows was cheated out of a victim this time and the lawyer complained the next morning that he had lost a client.

THE NOTORIOUS PROCOPIO:

The notorious Procopio was born in Sonora, Lower California in 1811 and, as his name indicates, he was of Mexican parentage. His mother was a sister to the notorious Joaquin Murietta, who for year's kept California in terror, and who was finally shot by Harry Love. His real name was Thomas Rondino, but he was better known as Procopio and he also used the name Red "handed" Dick.

In 1853 Procopio's parents moved to Los Angeles County. Here, when just a boy, he became initiated into crime, and in 1859, when but eighteen years of age, he murdered a man named John Raines on the Cucamonga Ranch.

Finding it convenient to leave, he came northward and commenced operations in Alameda County. He organized a gang of bandits, whose residence was in the Livermore Valley, and of whom he was chosen Captain. This gang operated for a year or more, terrorizing farmers, whose cattle they preyed on.

It was about this time that the horrible murder of the Golden family was committed, an atrocity that sent a shudder over the whole coast. A Mexican cattle herder was suspected of this act, but he stoutly denied being the guilty man, and asserted to the last, that he saw Procopio commit the deed. Circumstantial evidence, however, was against him, and he was hung for a crime in which he was only a subordinate accomplice.



Thomas Rondino, alias "Procopio"

In 1863 Procopio and others ran off a drove of cattle from a farmer named Pope. Constable Wood of San Leandro started after him with a warrant and caught him in Alvarado. Knowing him to be a desperado, Wood covered him with his pistol and demanded his surrender. Procopio threw up his hands and said he would surrender, as he was unarmed. Wood put back his pistol, when as quick as a thought Procopio drew out a revolver and shot Wood through the arm and escaped in the excitement. He was followed by a posse of citizens, and his further escape across the bridge was cut off. But he was equal to the emergency, and taking his pistol into his mouth he plunged into the Alameda Creek and swam across. He ran for the salt marsh, closely followed by the citizens. Finding that they were gaining on him he turned at bay and fired at them, wounding a constable. He was captured and tried at San Leandro for stealing Pope's cattle, convicted and sent to the State prison for nine years.

*** MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS ***

March 1860:

New Township Proposed for Alvarado and Union City:

It was proposed to make a township of Alvarado and Union City and call it Madison Township. The proposal failed to arouse sufficient interest to even get it off the ground.

May 10, 1860:

Mrs. Davis judged to be Insane:

Mrs. Davis, of Alvarado, was examined before Judge Lent, on Thursday, May 10th, says the *Alameda Gazette*, by Drs. Payne and Green, and pronounced insane, produced from over religious excitement. Mrs. Davis, in 1854, accidentally overheard the entreaties of a man for life who was hung back of San Antonio (east Oakland) by a Vigilance Committee, near a house where she then resided, which had such an effect on her as to completely disarrange her whole nervous system, and she was confined for several months at the Insane Asylum in consequence. Since her release she has been comparatively sane until quite recently. She was conveyed to the Asylum again.

June 8, 1860:

Union City Mills:

C.J. Stevens is now the proprietor of the former Horner Mills of Union City. He has perfected the machinery of the above mills and pledges himself to furnishing an article of flour equal, if not superior, to its former excellent grade. CJ Stevens used Reynolds & Howell, of San Francisco, as agents for the sale of his flour.

July 18, 1860:

Steamboat:

New steamboat for Union City and Alvarado is to start regular route. The steamer "Dashaway" under the helm of Captain Orrin Swan, will commence regular trips on Saturday, July 21, 1860, leaving Jackson Street Wharf, San Francisco every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock. Returning, leaving Union City every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

October 17, 1861:

The Union Ball:

(Transcribed from the original handbill)

THE UNION BALL
October 17, 1861

The pleasure of your company is solicited at the Brooklyn House, in the town of Alvarado, on Thursday October 17, 1861.

Committee of invitation:

P.C. Johnson, Alvarado
William Hays, Alvarado
Jacob Salz, Centreville
Socrates Huff, San Leandro
J.W. Carrick, San Leandro
C. Cameron, San Antonio
L. Wilson, San Antonio

J.T. Walker, Mission San Jose
Otto Morgan, Mission San Jose
C. Anderson, Mt. Eden
C. Perkins, Mt. Eden
R. Barron, Mt. Eden
B. Benton, Union City

FLOOR MANAGERS:

A.J. Lowell, Alvarado
Wm. Morris Liston, Proprietor
Tickets: \$4.00

F.B. Granger, Alvarado

From the *Oakland Tribune* of October 17, 1961:

"It was a gay party. Gentlemen in their best and ladies in their finest danced under the soft glow of hundreds of candles. The punch bowls were full. Brandy and wine flowed freely. A stringed orchestra played foot-stirring polkas. The leading names of Southern Alameda County were on the invitation committee.

As the ball ended and the guests walked outside, the crisp air of autumn brought a sobering realization of why the party was held. The gentlemen gallantly assisted their ladies into the waiting carriages, picked up the reins and drove home. That was 100 years ago today.

The Civil War was only six months old. The party was held the night of October 17, 1861, to rally support for the Union cause and raise money for the Alvarado Guard. The ball was staged in flag-festooned ballroom of the Brooklyn House Hotel in the town of Alvarado."

February 1862:

New Mail Route:

The new mail route for the next four years will be:

From Oakland, by Brooklyn, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Alvarado, Centerville, Mission San Jose and Milpitas, to San Jose, 48 miles and back, three times a week.

October 1862:

Presbyterian Synod:

The Synod of Alta California met in San Francisco with an opening sermon by retiring Moderator, the Rev. Hamilton of San Jose. Attending the Synod from Alvarado were the Rev. W.W. Brier and Dr. Selfridge, Elders.

October 10, 1862:

Union City Salt:

Bay Area Fair:

Among the articles on exhibition is a specimen of salt from the vicinity of Union City, Alameda County, where there are various ponds, in which large quantities of salt have been made at various times. It is said that in some years as much as 200,000 bags have been made. This year, however, has been very unfavorable; there has been a constant welling up of fresh water in the ponds, so that the salt water of the bay has not a fair chance to get into the ponds. The produce, therefore, for the current year will not exceed 200 tons. Even that production, however, will entitle Alameda County to stand among the first of the State for its yield of salt. The present price of salt is \$18; in ordinary years it has been from \$6 to \$10. It is supposed that 10,000 tons of salt have been sent to Washoe County, Nevada, within a year, to be used there in the process of reducing silver ore.

February 13, 1863:

Mrs. Marion Dyer Drowns:

Mrs. Marion Dyer, the wife of Ebenezer H. Dyer, County Surveyor of Alameda County, while in a state of partial derangement from the effects of a fever, took advantage of the absence of her attendants, left her house, jumped into the Alameda Creek, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

May 9, 1863:

T Orlando Hopkins:

Mr. T. Orlando Hopkins, Alvarado school teacher, attended at the State Teachers Institute Committee meeting. Mr. Hopkins died in Alvarado on January 23, 1866 in his 35th year.

August 1863:

Alvarado Flies Large Banner:

The Alvarado Union League has purchased a splendid flagstaff and one of the largest banners in the State. They intend to hold a grand demonstration at the raising on Saturday the 22nd. Distinguished speakers having been engaged for the occasion; the most imposing display of Union men held in Alameda County during the present campaign may be anticipated.

September 1863:

Serious Injury at Flour Mill:

A serious accident occurred this morning at the Union City Flouring Mills, Union City. Mr. Lindell, one of the lessees of the mill had both of his legs broken by being caught around the main shaft, which revolves about sixty times a minute. It is feared that amputation will be necessary. Mr. Lindell has a family residing at Santa Clara.

September 10, 1863:

Alvarado School Teachers:

Attending the Bay Teachers Institute, held in San Jose, from Alvarado were Miss Laura F. Fowler and Miss A.L. Fuller.

1864:

Alvarado Guard:

The Alvarado Guards took part in a military parade at San Jose and through some mismanagement or misunderstanding they were not handsomely treated, and there arose a newspaper controversy there from as to who was to blame.

July 7, 1864:

Flag Presentation:

The ladies of Alvarado gave a dinner and flag presentation to the Alvarado Guards on July 2, 1864.

September 2, 1864:

Capt. Charles Eigenbrodt Dies in Civil War Battle:

News of the death of C. S. Eigenbrodt, of Alvarado, was received throughout the county and state with great regret. It will be recollected that he recruited a company of California Cavalry, which was sent east and attached to a Massachusetts regiment. He was killed in an action in the Shenandoah Valley, on the 2nd of September 1864 while gallantly leading a charge. He had been a Supervisor for Washington Township and instrumental in the formation of IOOF, No. 93, in Alvarado.

September 23, 1864:

Alvarado Guards:

The Alvarado Guards held a dedicatory ball on September 23rd, to celebrate the new IOOF Hall in Alvarado. This was considered one of the principal events of the year.

November 10, 1864:

John Buchanan marries Rachel Ross:

John Buchanan married Miss Rachel Ross on November 10, 1864, near Alvarado.

March 17, 1865:

Catholic Church holds Charity Ball:

The 17th of March was celebrated at Alvarado by a ball, the proceeds of which were donated for the purpose of paying off the debt of the Catholic Church in Alvarado.

July 4, 1865:

Capt. Eigenbrodt:

Beyond the village of Alvarado, on the road leading to Centreville, a beautiful farm and fine dwelling house was pointed out to us as the residence the lamented patriot and brave soldier, Capt. Eigenbrodt, who at the outset of the rebellion forsook ease and plenty, wealth and friends, to do battle and to die that his country might survive. The good people of Alvarado, who knew the Captain so well and intimately, whose noble aspiration, manly bearing, and generous nature, made him a general favorite among his acquaintances, will as they have occasion to pass his now vacant and cheerless homestead, gratefully remember his many virtues, and breathe a silent prayer for their martyred soldier.

January 1, 1866:

Alvarado Guards:

On January 1, 1866, a shooting match took place between the Haywards Guards and the Alvarado Guards at Haywards. Thirty men from each unit fired three shots each at the target. The Alvaradan's made 985 points and the Haywardians made 1,030 points. Haywards prevailed by 45 points. In the evening the contestants were entertained by a ball at Hayward's Hotel, at which many lovely ladies were present to smile upon the gallant defenders of the state.

March 6, 1866:

Jesse Beard Passes:

On March 6, 1866, Jesse Beard, one of the pioneers of the county and father of Elias Beard of Mission San Jose, died at Alvarado in his 78th year.

April 11, 1866:

Alvarado Improves Town:

The people of Alvarado are busy gravelling the roads, making sidewalks, setting out trees and generally improving the town.

May 26, 1866:

Married, Sinclair & Quigley:

J.W. Sinclair was married to Catherine Quigley on May 19, 1866, in San Francisco.

June 1866:

Michael McNamara married Mary Sheehan:

Married in June Michael McNamara to Miss Mary Sheehan, both of Alvarado, Alameda County

June 8, 1866:

Presbyterian Church:

The ladies of Alvarado gave an entertainment on June 21, 1866, for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church. The programme consisted of tableaux, acting, and singing.

January 1867:

Alvarado to Mt. Eden Road in poor Condition:

The main county road over the marsh, immediately north of the village of Alvarado (the Mt. Eden – Alvarado Road), is said to be in a villainous condition, in fact almost impassable.

June 6, 1867:

Union City Mills:

For sale or lease, The Union City Flouring Mills, located in Union City, Alameda County, has been put up for sale or lease. For particulars inquire at E. Stevens & Co., 204 Clay Street, San Francisco; or of C.J. Stevens on the premises.

October 1867:

Squirrels too Plentiful in South County:

The Sacramento Bee asserts that in the Alameda and Santa Clara valleys the farmers have actually been driven by ground squirrels off of some of their best lands; that their settlements, like that of the prairie dogs extend for miles, each burrow sheltering between one to six inmates; and that would hardly be an exaggeration to say that they devour one fourth of the wheat crop.

October 1867:

Chicory to be raised in Alvarado:

A company was formed in San Francisco with the intention of raising chicory, a plant much used in the preparation of ground coffee. F. B. Granger sowed twenty-five acres on his ranch in Alvarado for this company, which produced an abundant crop. The same company was desirous of growing the sugar beet, which was found to do well in the same locality.

January 1868:

Haywood Guards and Alvarado Guards to hold a Dance:

Some of the members of the Haywood Guards (Haywood is the former name of Hayward) propose, as a wind-up to their being disbanded, to have a ball and invite the Alvarado Guards.

June 1868:

Sugar Mill Planned:

We are glad to hear that California proposes to engage earnestly in the production of beet sugar. Her valleys have a rich, immensely deep soil, her six months of hot, dry, cloudless summer insure a great growth of beets of exceedingly saccharine quality; she will have no weeds to fight after the first two of those months and we judge that very deep plowing will obviate all necessity for irrigation. Beet sugar is the child of protection, but has outgrown the need of parental nourishment. It is destined to make the circuit of the globe, following its temperate zone and to increase largely the comfort and luxury of the poorer classes. Lower Illinois ("Egypt") will yet supply beet sugar cheaper than we can buy that condensed from the juice of the cane. Tea, silk, wine, sugar, raisins, these, with the olive, the fig, the peach, are destined to render California the Garden of the Pacific. Her valleys will yet be as populous as China.

October 5, 1868:

Lattin Blacksmith Shop:

For sale in Alvarado, the blacksmith and carriage shop of A.J. Lattin, doing a good business of about \$1,000 per month. Part of the money may remain at interest for one or two years.

October 21, 1868:

Severe Earthquake:

A few minutes before 8 o'clock in the morning on October 21, 1868, a severe earthquake struck the east bay. From damage reports it appears that the center of the quake was near Haywards. In Alvarado the brick house of A. J. Lattin was entirely destroyed. The store of J. J. Stokes was damaged, with great loss of goods. There were no reported deaths in Alvarado. Further south the Mission at Mission San Jose collapsed.

Today we know this fault as the Hayward Fault, and although not as long as the famous San Andreas Fault, it is equally as deadly. The fault has not had a severe earthquake as the 1868 quake, and in the past it has had severe shocks every 130 years, so we are overdue for a large shock on this fault. The fault is on a line from the Mission San Jose to just beneath the Masonic Home and continues north to the football field at UC Berkeley.

October 22, 1868:

Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Society Fair:

John Hall of Alvarado took top prize in the Best Stallion, 8 years and up, with "Woodburn."

The top award for best Sucking Colt went to John Hall for "Norfall."

The top award for best mare, 3 years and up, went to John Hall for "Peggy Ringgold."

The top award for the best mare, 1 year old, went to John Hall for "No Name."

May 9, 1869:

D.C. Owen marries Mary Liston:

Daniel C. Owen was married to Miss Mary Liston Married in Alvarado on May 9, 1869. Both were from Alvarado.

June 29, 1869:

Albert Lyser marries Alice Wares:

Married at Alvarado on June 29th Albert Lyser to Miss Alice S. Wares.

November 6, 1869:

Suicide in Alvarado:

Mr. A. Webber, a native of Germany, committed suicide at Alvarado by burning charcoal in an enclosed room. He left a letter stating his intention to take his own life.