

CHAPTER 05 1890 – 1899

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* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** *

Sugar Mill / E.H. Dyer & Co., Industrial Design & Construction Co. / Salt Industry / Alvarado Artesian Water Co. Water / Water / Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Co.

SUGAR MILL:

On February 22, 1889, the Alameda Sugar Company filed articles of incorporation. A deed was placed on record with the Alameda County Recorder on March 29, 1889, wherein the Pacific Coast Sugar Company (of Alvarado) deeded to the Alameda Sugar Company, its property in Alvarado California, the consideration being \$150,000. With this action the E.H. Dyer family was no longer in the beet sugar refining business in Alvarado, although they did maintain a one-year consulting arrangement with the Alameda Sugar Co.

In February of 1890, the Alameda Sugar Company filed suit against the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco. The suit promised to be a very important one. The sugar mill asserted that it was the owner of 78-acres of land near Alvarado, on which buildings and machinery have been erected at a cost of \$350,000. The suit was filed to keep the Spring Valley Water Co. of San Francisco from diverting the waters of the Alameda Creek, just below Sunol, and divert that water to the City of San Francisco. The Alvarado sugar mill relies upon that flow of water in the creek, and any attempt to divert the waters would seriously affect the operation of the Alvarado mill.

In May 1891, at a meeting of the stockholders held in San Francisco, President Isaac Hecht of the Alameda Sugar Co. at Alvarado, reported that the books showed a profit for the year, 1890-1891 of \$21,000, which, with the profit of the previous year of about \$6,000, made a net balance for the two seasons of \$27,000. This money was applied, in part payment, for permanent improvements made, leaving the company still in debt \$35,000, against which there was on hand \$15,100 in seed, material, and molasses. To cover this indebtedness, and put the company on a solid financial basis, the Alameda Sugar levied an assessment on its shareholders of \$4 per share.

President Hecht thought it was discouraging that an enterprise so legitimate, and with so much promise, should be barren of returns for the capital invested and the risk involved. He hoped, but was not certain, that the immediate future would prove to be more satisfactory.

The president also referred to the probable necessity of removing the company's works from Alvarado, because the Spring Valley Water Company was diverting the waters of Alameda Creek from their regular course to the refinery. "The beet sugar industry," said Mr. Hecht in conclusion, "must in time become one of first importance to the state and to the country. The income last year from 1,320-acres in beets averaged about \$100 an acre for farmers, while \$25 an acres for wheat land is considered to be very good."

To help the continental U.S. beet sugar production, the U.S. Treasury had been paying U.S. continental sugar refineries a bounty (today it would be referred to as a subsidy), of 2¢ a pound for the past several years. This has been an important part of the ability of American beet sugar processors and refineries to be profitable.

The start of the 1892 campaign saw the sugar mill paying extensive attention to the farmers in Pleasanton. J.W. Atkinson, superintendent of the Alvarado mill said beet tonnage from Pleasanton in 1891 proved to be far beyond his expectation, and expressed the desire to see more than 3,000 tons shipped from Pleasanton in the 1892 campaign.

The 1894 campaign opened with the news that the 2¢ bounty on each pound of sugar produced had ended. The sugar mill entered into contracts with farmers to supply 3,000-acres of beets, or 500 acres more than were planted last year. This was done before the tariff legislation took shape, and the price to be paid to the farmer was \$5 per ton.

In November of 1895 the Alameda Sugar Company and the Spring Valley Water Company settled their difficulty over their rights to the water from the Alameda Creek on the former's land at Alvarado. The Alameda Sugar Co. agreed to withdraw all their claims and dismiss all their suits against the water company touching the question of ownership of the riparian rights in the creek and its tributaries and feeders on the sugar company's land.

An interesting adjunct to the beet campaign of 1895 was the disposition of the pulp after the sugar has been extracted. The company had a dairy ranch, which it leased to parties, who keep 150 head of cows on this site. But this number of animals can devour only a fraction of the immense quantity of the pulp produced, and an effort was made to sell the residue.

Farmers were generally not informed about the value of the pulp of the beet for cattle food, and they were slow to recognize it, even at the low price of 50¢ per ton. The company had been giving away the material to any dairyman who would go for it, and the manager of the mill stated that he has seen as many as twenty-six farmers' wagons in line at 6 o'clock in the morning waiting their turn to pass under the chute and obtain a load of beet pulp.

The exact number of pounds of sugar produced at the mill at Alvarado during the 1895 campaign was 5,400,000 pounds, from 27,385 tons of beets. From Pleasanton 445 railroad cars, or 8,500 tons were received. The balance was raised about the

factory in Alvarado. There were 1,548-acres of beets around Washington Township. Pleasanton had 853 acres planted. One hundred and twenty four men were employed in the factory during the campaign, and about \$25,000 was paid out as wages. The pulp, or leavings after the sugar had been extracted, was given away this year, and farmers for miles around came to carry it home to feed to cattle. Last season a charge of 50¢ per ton was made for this pulp. An average of fifteen tons of beets to the acre was raised this year, for which the farmer received \$4 per ton, delivered at the mill. The company had a great deal of this season's product stored in their warehouse, owing to the low price of sugar.



Farmers lined up to deliver their beets to the Alvarado Mill circa 1895. Note the eleven smokestacks, which would be replaced by one 240-foot smokestack in 1936.

The sugar mill opened their 1896 campaign on August 25th and was expected to run day and night for the next five months to consume the beets raised by farmers. A political sidelight of the 1896 presidential campaign, was the McKinley/Bryan election in November. A canvass of the men employed at the sugar mill revealed that of the 140 employed there now, the number that favored McKinley was 140.

The 1896 beet crop was one of the longest runs it had ever known. It did not finish the season's crop before the end of January, the year's crop being an enormous one. The sugar produced in 1896 by the Alvarado mill was extremely fine. The beets contained a larger percentage of sugar, and the quality was pronounced by sugar experts to be of an unusually superior grade. One Hawaiian cane planter, who visited Alvarado gave us the opinion that the sugar given to him for examination could not be excelled by any cane sugar anywhere in the world. Unlike the Spreckels beet factories, the Alvarado plant refines the sugar it makes.

The 1897 campaign kicked off at the sugar mill in February with the large building being remodeled. A large force of carpenters had made great changes in the looks and the size of the building. It took several months to make the contemplated changes and place new machinery for the increased capacity. The machinery was all housed in one big building instead of two or three as in the past. The output of the mill almost doubled when the changes were completed, and in the neighborhood of 1,000 tons of beets per 24 hours could be converted to sugar.

In April 1897, a humorous things happened when someone at the Alvarado sugar mill mindlessly mailed out petitions to entities along the West Coast. The mailing elicited a humorous reply:

The editor of the *Santa Ana Blade* is facetious at times, and evidently believes the editor is worthy of his hire:

“The Alameda Sugar Company has kindly forwarded the editor of this paper a blank petition asking the repeal of the reciprocity treaty now existing between this country and the Sandwich Islands. With the petition comes instructions to circulate the same for signatures of the voters of Orange County, after which, it is to be forwarded to Washington. The Alameda Sugar Company has our hearty thanks for thus giving the editor of the *Blade*, who of course, has nothing else better to do for the next two or three weeks. When the task is completed to the entire satisfaction of the company, we hope to get another job.”

But on the opposite coast of the U.S. there emerged a new threat to the beet sugar industry, and it wasn't humorous. It was called the Sugar Trust, and the Sugar Trust had many West Coast factories on its list:

“Gentlemen very closely allied with the Sugar Trust stated to a representative of this journal (*Syracuse Standard*, Syracuse, N.Y.) that the Sugar Trust regarded the growth of the sugar beet with more concern than any other for competition. The reason for this condition was the fact that the beets could be grown, and the sugar refined sufficiently to go immediately into consumption in the adjacent territory without being subject to the freight charges from the seaboard, or from the South that competing sugar would necessarily be subject to. The question that confronted the sugar refiners, according to the gentleman in question, was whether the refiners, by entering upon beet growing in an extensive scale, by selecting land especially suited for the best development of the beet and by erecting an extensive refinery, could compete favorably with the growers and secure a profit at prices that the growers could not.”

At this time there existed these sugar factories in the U.S.:

<u>Name of Factory:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Western Beet Sugar Company	Watsonville, Calif
Chino Beet Sugar Factory	Chino Valley, Calif
Alameda Sugar Company	Alvarado, Calif
Norfolk Beet Sugar Company	Norfolk, Nebraska
Oxnard Beet Sugar Factory	Grand Island, Neb
Eddy Beet Sugar Factory	Eddy, New Mexico
Utah Sugar Company	Lehi, Utah
O. K. Lapham & Co.	Staunton, Virginia

It would be until 1910, which saw the labeling of the American Sugar Refining Company, familiarly known as the “Sugar Trust,” as a lawless combination. On November 10, 1910, the federal government filed its long expected suit for the dissolution of the corporation. The petition was filed by Henry A. Wise, district attorney in the United States circuit court for the Southern District of New York, which brought the suit under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, and it was expected to be one of the most important actions of its kind ever undertaken in this country. The

Government's petition was a lengthy one, taking up 221 pages, and was a sweeping arraignment of the defendant companies. There were dozens of defendant companies controlled by the Sugar Trust, including the Alameda Sugar Company of San Francisco and Alvarado California.

The sugar trust notwithstanding, sugar processing must go on, and by the end of May 1897, the Alvarado sugar mill had contracts covering 6,000 acres of land with 420 farmers. This included an additional 160 acres of beets to be grown in the Napa Valley. The factory management paid \$400,000 annually to farmers for sugar beets. Near the end of the 1897 campaign the mill announced that it would implement transportation from the delta and islands around Sacramento in 1898. The mill was looking to sign up interested farmers. One hundred thousand tons of sugar was the new record of the Alvarado beet sugar factory set at the 1897 season. Alameda County farmers awakened to the possibilities of the expanded business, and the following year would find a thousand more acres sown to the crop.

The 1898 campaign ended a short but successful run at the end of November. The tonnage of beets was lower than expected due to a drought this year, although the beets from the low country around the sugar mill proved to be the best.

The following factories were in operation in 1898, with a statement of daily capacity in tons:

<u>Factory/Location</u>	<u>Daily Capacity/Tons</u>
Alameda Sugar Co., Alvarado, California	800
Binghamton Beet Sugar Co., Binghamton, New York	350
California Beet Sugar & Refining Co., Crockett, California	500
Chino Valley Beet Sugar Co., Chino, California	1,000
First N.Y. Beet Sugar Co., Rome, New York	200
Los Alamitos Sugar Co., Los Alamitos, California	700
Michigan Sugar Co., Bay City, Michigan	350
Minnesota Sugar Co., St. Louis Park, Minnesota	350
Norfolk Beet Sugar Co., Norfolk, Nebraska	350
Ogden Sugar Co., Ogden, Utah	350
Oregon Sugar Co., La Grande, Oregon	350
Oxnard Beet Sugar Co., Grand Island, Nebraska	350
Pecos Valley Beet Sugar Co., Eddy, New Mexico	200
Utah Sugar Co., Lehi, Utah	350
Wisconsin Beet Sugar Co., Menominee, Wisc. (In liquidation)	<u>200</u>
TOTAL	6,400

The following factories are presently being built and nearing completion:

<u>Factory/Location</u>	<u>Daily Capacity/Tons</u>
Spreckels Sugar Co., Spreckels (Salinas), California	3,000
Pacific Beet Sugar Co., Oxnard, California	1,000
Union Sugar Co., Santa Maria, California	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	4,500

The year 1899 opened with torrential rains that flooded the lowlands around Alvarado. Several good things came of the rain; first, it was needed to help prepare

the ground for the growth of the beets; and second, it drowned thousands of gophers, which have for years been a great nuisance to raisers of sugar beets and truck gardeners.

E. W. Burr, Superintendent of the sugar refinery announced in May 1899, that they will pay farmers \$4.60 a ton for sugar beets this year.

The 1899 campaign kicked off on September 11th this year. The first beets came in from Lodi, and those were followed by beets from Pleasanton.

It was expected that the yield of the 1899 crop was going to be double that of the 1898 season, so a long run was expected. About 200 men were employed.

E.H. DYER & CO.

Industrial Design & Construction Co.:

E.H. Dyer & Co., were sugar chemists, engineers & draughtsman, and practical manufacturers of beet sugar. E.H. Dyer & Co. advertised:

“The members of this firm have spent many months in the largest beet sugar factories of Europe, studying the details of German and French methods of manufacturing sugar from beets, and also at works of the leading manufactories of beet sugar machinery.

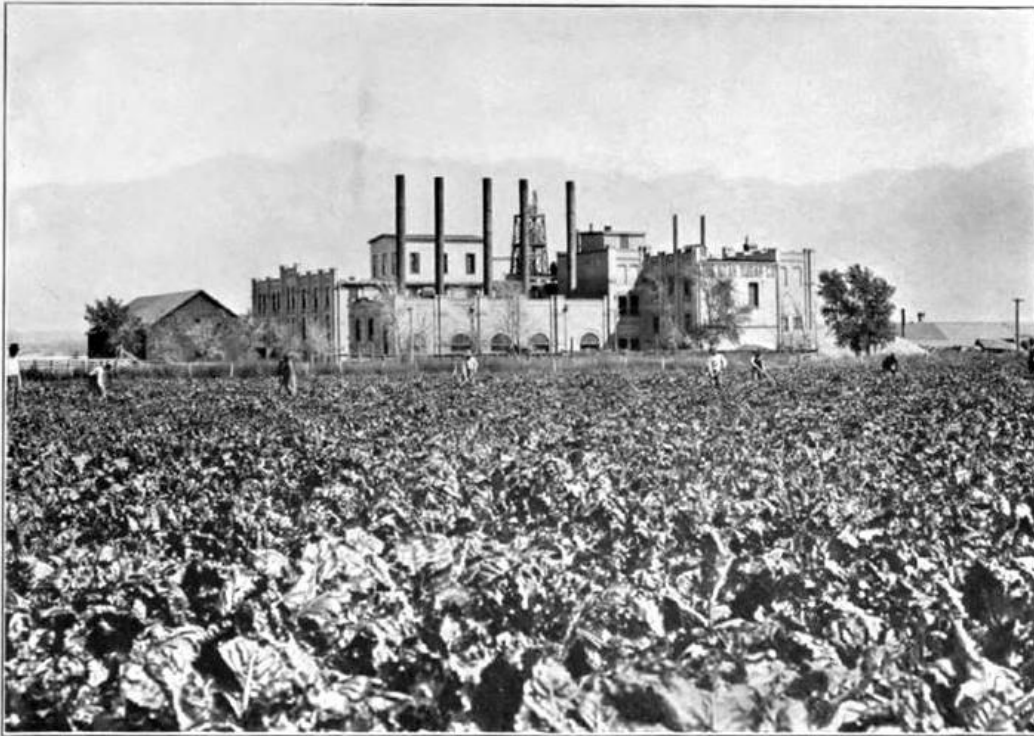
Having had many years' experience in manufacturing sugar from beets in California, and having fully demonstrated the feasibility of producing sugar from beets in this country in almost unlimited quantities, and in successful competition with cane sugar imported from foreign countries, we are prepared to furnish designs for factories, plans and drawings of the latest improved machinery now in use in Europe and this country.

We can also furnish skilled engineers to superintend the construction of factories, and the necessary technical skill to operate the works successfully when completed. (Our company) will make personal examination of localities with regard to their fitness for the production of beet sugar, free of expense, except traveling expenses. Successful results are guaranteed when the conditions are considered favorable.”

Ebenezer Dyer was no longer associated with the Alvarado Sugar Mill, but that did not mean that he was not out of the beet sugar business. He started the E.H. Dyer Co. of Alvarado & Cleveland, Ohio, in the business of designing, building, and if necessary, staffing of beet sugar plants.

Today that would be referred to as a “turn key” operation. Ebenezer Dyer, in conjunction with his son Edward F., began the E.H. Dyer Co. to design, build, and staff beet sugar mills about the U.S. Edward F. would manage the company's headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, while Ebenezer ran the design operation from Alvarado.

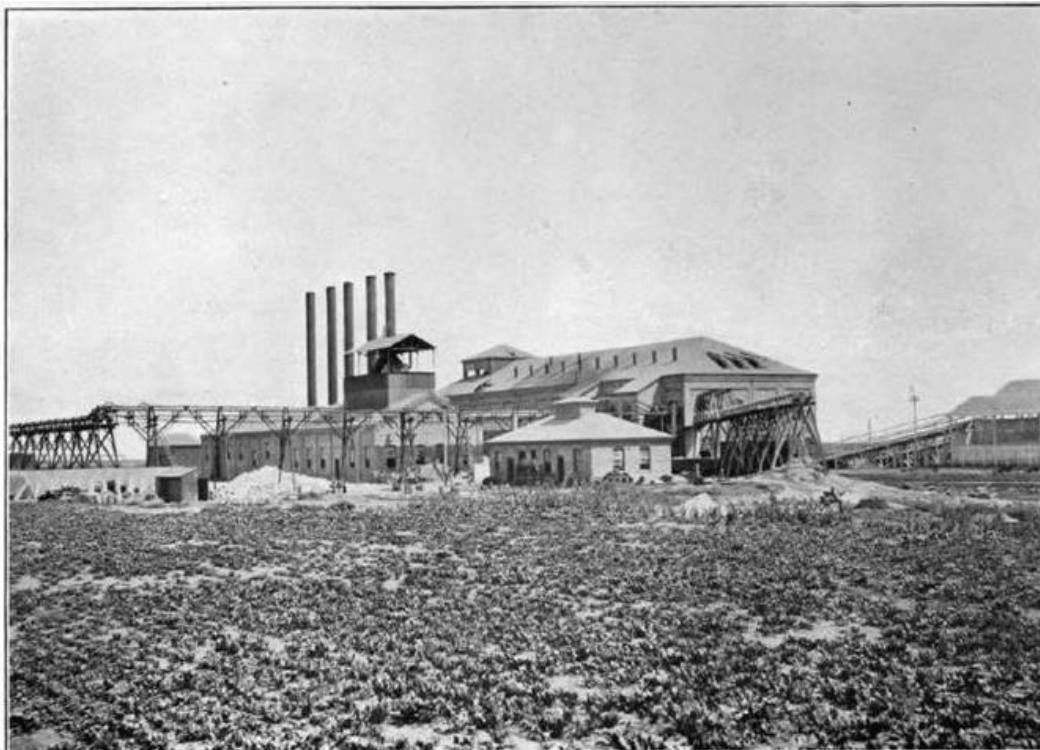
Both would, however, oversee the analysis of the soil to be used for the growing of the beets, the water, and the power supply, and also the transportation needs to insure that the mill would be on solid footing.



UTAH SUGAR CO., LEHI WORKS. —CAPACITY 400 TONS

Built in 1891 by E. H. Dyer & Co.

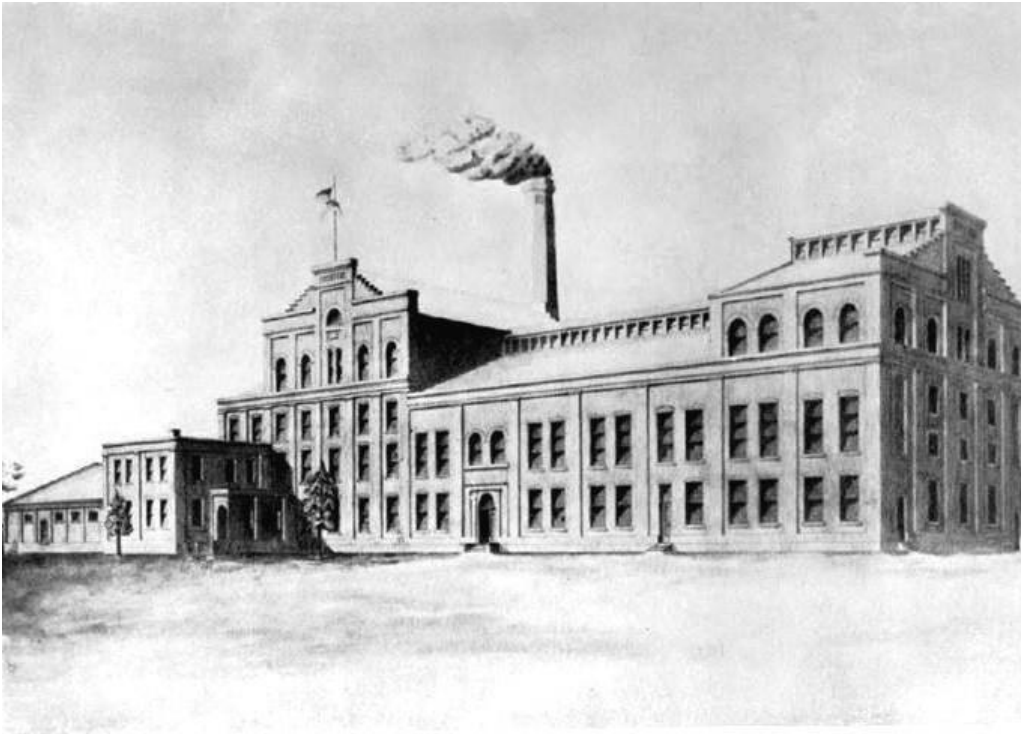
Utah Sugar Co., Lehi Utah, Built in 1891 by E.H. Dyer &Co.



LOS ALAMITOS SUGAR CO.

Built by E. H. Dyer & Co., 1897.

Los Alamitos (Santa Maria) Sugar Co., Built in 1897 by E.H. Dyer & Co.



THE GREELEY SUGAR WORKS.—CAPACITY 600 TONS DAILY

Built in 1902 by E. H. Dyer & Co

Greeley Sugar Works (Colorado), Built by E.H. Dyer & Co. in 1902



UTAH SUGAR CO. WORKS. CAPACITY 1000 TONS DAILY

Built in 1910 by E. H. Dyer & Co.

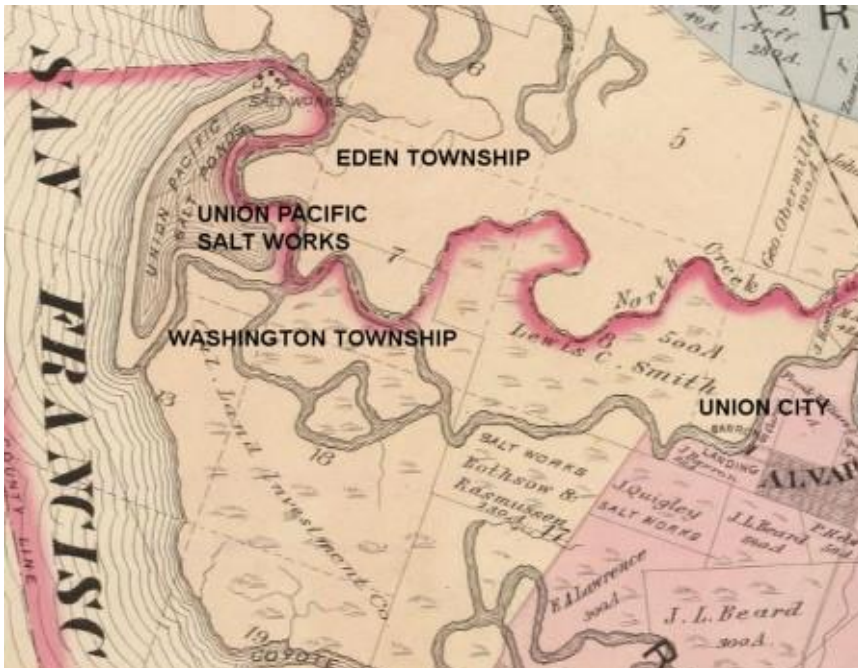
The Utah Sugar Works, which was built in 1910 by E.H. Dyer & Co.

SALT INDUSTRY:

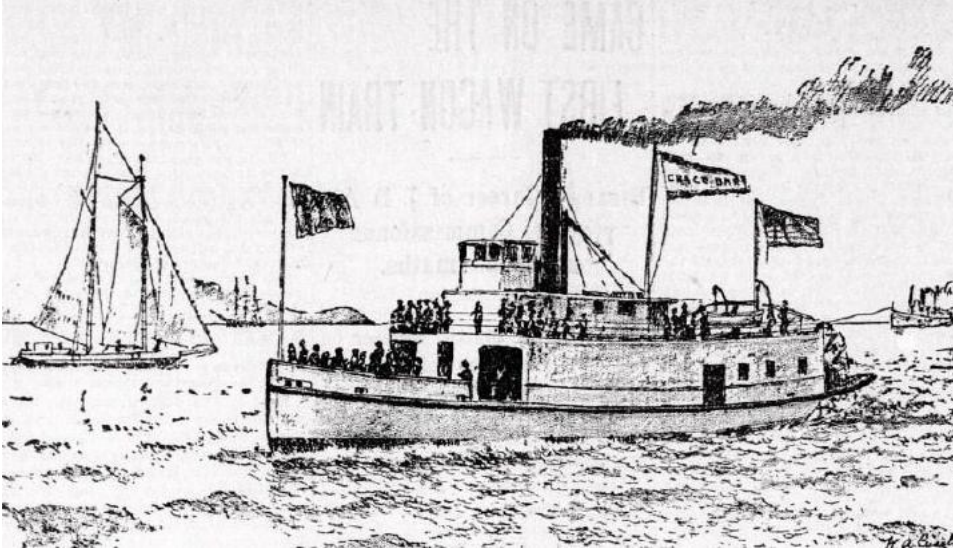
The Union Pacific Salt Company was organized in 1868 by John Barton, a San Francisco capitalist, who was also on the boards of Fireman's Fund Insurance and the Sutter Street Railroad. The salt company was one of largest on the Bay. This property spread over 1,000 acres at the confluence of the Alameda Creek and Eden Creeks. This company also owned the Rock Island Salt Co. in Mt. Eden, and at its plant there in 1882, employed over 100 men, produced 7,000 tons of salt per year, and had invested over \$100,000 in the venture. It shipped its salt to Pacific Coast consumers from Arizona and Baja California to British Columbia.



The Union Pacific Salt Works at the mouth of the Alameda Creek in Union City. Shown in the background is its salt transport, the "Grace Barton."



The location of the works of the Union Pacific Salt Company is shown on this map at the mouth of the Alameda Creek and San Francisco Bay. The rose colored line is the boundary between Eden and Washington Townships.



"The Grace Barton" was named after Grace Barton, daughter of John Barton. The trial trip of the stern-wheel steamer was made March 13, 1890. It was most satisfactory, the steamer developed twelve miles an hour. She was built by George Damon at North Beach for the Union Pacific Salt Works Company, and would be used in running between Union City and San Francisco. Captain Charles Knudsen would take command of the steamship.

The Grace Barton would make the salt runs from Union Pacific Salt Co., in old Union City, to San Francisco for several years before she was retired from the salt trade, and put on various runs about the Bay. But her usefulness ended after the turn of the century, and the Grace Barton lolled in decay near Sausalito until a Hollywood director found her. She was exactly what he had been searching for. He had the Grace Barton stripped of her boilers and had her towed to Rio Vista where a movie titled "Jim Bledsoe," a now lost film, showed the burning of the Grace Barton going down to Davy Jones' Locker near Rio Vista.

ALVARADO ARTESIAN WATER COMPANY:

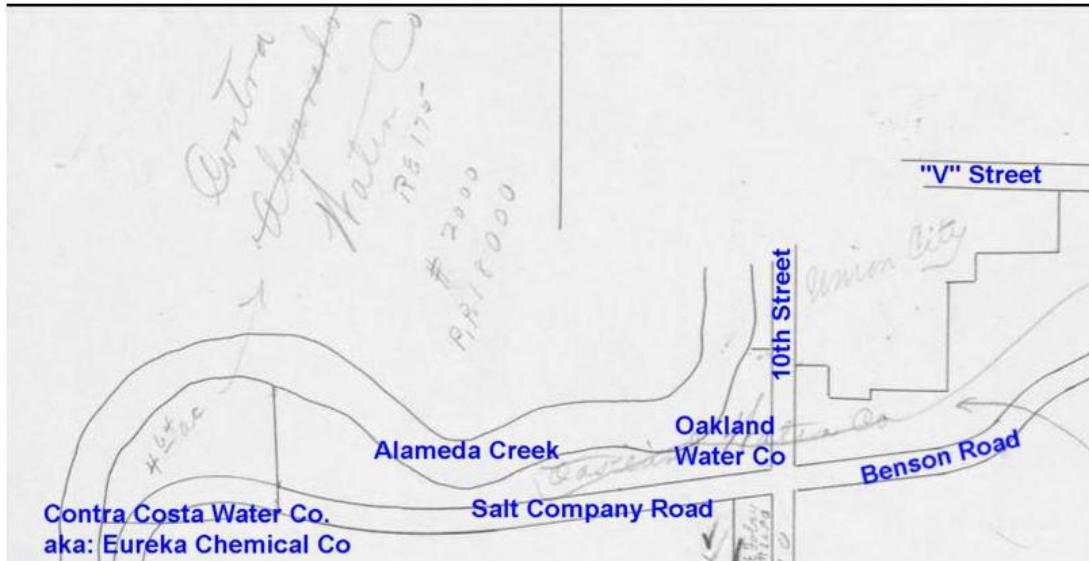
The Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Company started in old Union City in 1873 by Frank Fernholtz for the purpose of making glue. It lasted only a few years because the humidity about the plant prevented the production of first quality glue. Between 1875 and April 1890, nothing is known about this parcel of property, Frank Fernholtz, or who actually owned the property.

The property's value came back to life in April 1890 when Willard P. Farwell commenced an action against several plaintiffs (farmers and corporations) to secure water rights supply the city of Oakland with water from the artesian wells at Alvarado.

The plaintiffs included: Pacific Land Investment Co. (James G. Fair), Abijah Baker, Andrew Kerr, J. McKeown, Sylvester P. Harvey, Philip Hellwig, Mrs. Poorman, Farley B. Granger, Jr., John Quigley, J. W. Sinclair, Lawrence Whisby, J. Nicholson, Union Pacific Salt Works, and the Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Co.

In May 1890 the Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Co. conveyed to Willard B. Farwell, of Oakland, Calif., 4.64-acres of land near the old town of Union City. This parcel of property had been formerly known as the "Alvarado Glue Factory" in the

early 1870's, a failed attempt at making glue in Alvarado that was abandoned in 1875.



Shown above is the 1902 Alameda County Assessor's drawing of old Union City showing the property of the Oakland Water Company, the Alameda Creek, and the 4.64-acres formerly owned by the Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Co. This was the same site of the failed old glue works of the 1870's of Frank Fernholtz. This map shows that the 4.64-acre parcel that the old glue factory that was now owned by the Contra Costa Water Co. Drawing courtesy of the Washington Township Historical Society.

This property was described in an October 28, 1916, article in *The Recorder*, a San Francisco newspaper, describing the lands owned by the People's Water Company, the East Shore Water Company, the Contra Costa Water Company, and the Oakland Water Company. Described in this lengthy legal document was the description of a parcel of land of 4.64-acres west of the old Oakland Water Works near 10th Street in old Union City.

"...Saving therefrom the property known as "The Glue Factory," containing about four and 64/100 (4.64) acres of land, being described in a certain deed from the Eureka Chemical & Manufacturing Company to Willard B. Farwell, recorded in Liber 399 of deeds, page 247, Alameda County Records, to which said deed and the said record thereof reference is hereby made.

The Alvarado Artesian Water Co. was conceptualized in April 1890, when Willard B. Farwell presented to the City of Oakland, a water scheme to supply Oakland with pure water from the artesian well water belt at Alvarado for a set price. A delegation of citizens from Oakland then went to Alvarado to inspect the artesian water supply.

At the end of April 1890, W.B. Farwell brought a condemnation suit against the Pacific Land Investment Company, Abijah Baker, Andrew Kerr, Joseph McKeown, S.P. Harvey, Philip Hellwig, Mrs. Samuel Poorman, F.B. Granger, Sr., John Quigley, the Eureka Chemical Manufacturing Co., Lewis C. Smith, J.W. Sinclair, Lawrence Whisby, J Nicholson, Mr. I.V. Ralph, Mr. William Incell, and the Union Pacific Salt Works. The avowed purpose of the suit was to purchase the land, build reservoirs, and sink artesian wells about the land west of Alvarado to supply the City of Oakland with Alvarado water.

In May 1890, The Eureka Chemical Manufacturing Co. conveyed to W.B. Farwell, 4.64-acres of land near Alvarado. F.B. Granger and others also agreed to convey to W.B. Farwell, a tract of land in Union City for \$15,000.

On May 21, 1892 W.B. Farwell again brought a condemnation suit, again, against twenty-six defendants. He wanted to condemn the land between Alvarado and the Bay. The plaintiff wanted to supply the City of Oakland with fresh water from the artesian well belt west of Alvarado.

On July 1, 1893, The Alvarado Artesian Water Company of San Francisco, filed Articles of Incorporation, with Capital Stock \$3,000,000. The directors were J.T. Bradley, J.F. Uhlhorn, H.R. Bradley, W.S. Jones, and A.P. Bacon. Of the \$3,000,000 in capital, \$1,501,000 had been subscribed, of which \$1,499,000 was subscribed by J.T. Bradley. W.B. Farwell would be named president of the company.

Within one week of filing their articles of incorporation, the Alvarado Artesian Water Company had a rival for Alvarado water. William Dingee, a small-time supplier of water to Oakland, who also took an interest in the artesian well tract of Alvarado, and was in full-blown competition with W.B. Farwell. There was now a clash between Dingee and Farwell, but it seemed that Dingee may have had superior rights to the property.

On September 2, 1893, Mrs. Fannie M. Farwell, wife of W.B. Farwell, transferred 4.64-acres of land to the Alvarado Artesian Water Company, commencing at a point formerly owned by James Barron, near the town of Alvarado.

On December 18, 1893, things began to fall apart for W.B. Farwell in Alvarado. His law suit against Alvarado landowners in the artesian belt of old Union City was dismissed in court. Mr. Farwell (the Alvarado Artesian Water Co.) did own some land in Union City (4.64-acres), but the dismissal of his suit severely handicapped his ability to supply water to Oakland or Alameda.

Nevertheless, on December 19, 1893, W.B. Farwell, as president of the Alvarado Artesian Water Co., reiterated that he would be able to supply water to the city as outlined earlier in the year.

At the beginning of 1894, William Dingee of the Oakland Water Company, acquired the Poorman and Granger tracts of land in the Union City Artesian Belt, and now had control the water from the Alvarado area (less the 4.64-acre tract of the old Eureka Chemical Co.).

On April 24, 1894, a suit was brought in the Superior Court of Oakland by Simeon Wenban against Willard B. Farwell, and the Alvarado Artesian Water Co., and five other defendants, to foreclose a mortgage securing the payment of a promissory note for \$7,500 executed in May of 1890. The property was near Alvarado.

On July 1, 1894, more woes befell Willard B. Farwell. His venture as a mining speculator failed for \$70,281.13. The Nevada Bank was a creditor for \$6,848.15. The debtor's assets consisted of 14,990 shares in the Alvarado Artesian Water Company, of which there was no value whatever.

The final nail was driven into the coffin of the Alvarado Artesian Water Company on September 14, 1908, when the California Secretary of State listed the Alvarado

Artesian Water Company as one of the corporations in California, which have failed, neglected, or refused to pay the license tax as a California Corporation.

OAKLAND WATER CO.:

In the 1890's there came upon Alvarado a growing threat from the north; namely Willard B Farwell of San Francisco, and William Dingee from Oakland. W.B. Farwell was an ex-San Francisco Supervisor, who championed the cause of the Alvarado Artesian Water Company to deliver Alvarado water to the City of Oakland.

William Dingee, an Oakland entrepreneur, also saw potential for profit in the artesian well fields on the marshes of Alvarado. These two forces would go head-to-head to drill wells in Alvarado and pipe the water to Oakland, where they would have to do battle with the powerful Contra Costa Water Co., which supplied water to the City of Oakland.

In the 1890's, the artesian wells of Alvarado were thought to be "inexhaustible." It was a mistake that several generations of Alvarado and Washington Township farmers had to pay for. With the Spring Valley Water Co. taking water from the Alameda Creek Watershed, and usurping the water necessary to recharge the Niles Cone Aquifer; and the Oakland Water Company draining the western end of the aquifer at Alvarado, it spelled doom for some Washington Township farmers who relied on the aquifer for irrigating their fields and orchards.

The tale of water in Washington Township is a story of double dealing and greedy men making a profit at the expense of the people in Washington and Murray Townships.

The Daily Alta California, a San Francisco newspaper, was the first to print a story of the Alvarado artesian wells, and the probability of them supplying water to the City of Oakland in the near future. The paper referred to "a big subterranean stream in and about Alvarado, as a future water supply for Bay cities"

In April 1890, the war on Alvarado water opened with Willard Farwell of Oakland bringing suit to secure the water rights at Alvarado. Named in the lawsuit were the Pacific Land Investment Company (James G. Fair), Abijah Baker, Andrew Kerr, J. McKeown, S.P. Harvey, Philip Hellwig, Mrs. Samuel Poorman, Farley B. Granger, John Quigley, J.W. Sinclair, Lawrence Whisby, J. Nicholson, the Union Pacific Salt Works, and the Eureka Chemical Manufacturing Co., et al.

The following month it was announced that the Eureka Chemical Co. had conveyed to Farwell, 4.64-acres of land near Alvarado. Farley Granger (and others) agreed to convey to Mr. Farwell a tract of land in Union City for \$15,000.

The profiteers from Oakland had succeeded in obtaining a small sample of Alvarado marshland and water rights, but not enough to command an enterprise that would be worth the effort to transport the supply of water to the city of Oakland.

One year later (1891) *The San Francisco Call* again ran an article on the water available at Alvarado. It pointed to a well owned by Farley Granger that "is so near the Bay that it is on the very edge of the marshland. It is one of the finest wells on the Coast, and sends out a steady stream large enough to nearly supply a city of the size of Oakland with water; indeed, the subject of purchasing the well for Oakland's

water supply was seriously considered not more than a year ago, and it may be considered again."

In July 1892 *The San Francisco Morning Call* sent a reporter to Alvarado interview Mr. Granger, who took the reporter on a trip out to the marshland owned by Granger. In part the article stated:

"The colonel (Farley Granger) drew rein near a group of men who were driving a 10-inch well, the largest yet put down. Nearby was another well, consisting of a 4½-inch pipe. Like the others, it was closed, the only use for them at the present being for the purposes of irrigation. At Colonel Granger's request, however, one of the men turned the water on, and immediately such a stream rushed out as the reporter had never before dreamed could flow from a pipe. Out it poured, tumbling over itself in its hurry, and flowed along a deep ditch that carried it off across the fields. With such an irrigation system as that, those fields ought to be converted into veritable gardens of Irene. This was originally a 7-inch well, but the stream proving unmanageable for the purposes for which it was desired, a smaller pipe was substituted, about three years ago. After watching it for some time the colonel prepared to drive on. "Just let it run today," he called to the man.

"You surely don't mean to let that water run all day, colonel?" gasped the reporter. "Why that pipe will send out 100,000 gallons before night."

"Nearer a million," was the careless response, and the colonel drove on to the next one, pointing out the remains of the old embarcadero, and chatting of olden times."



(Left): Artesian well at Alvarado belonging to the Oakland Water Co. bored in 1894.

(Right): Artesian well at Alvarado also belonging to the Oakland Water Co. bored in 1869.

Granger's remark of allowing the artesian water to flow uselessly onto the marshland, and eventually into the bay, showed the lack of understanding some early pioneers had for such a precious resource.

Finally, in March of 1893 it was announced that the W.J. Dingee had purchased the artesian wells at Alvarado, and that he contemplated running pipes to Oakland. He formed a stock company to furnish water to Oakland residents.

Beaming with pride, W.J. Dingee promised an abundant supply of pure water from the Alvarado artesian wells and that work would commence shortly to lay pipes to Oakland.

Within a radius of 300-yards of the site of the old landing at Union City were four flowing wells, which, tapped ten feet below the surface, would supply more than enough water than the City of Oakland needed. The main water pipe from Alvarado to Oakland would be 30 inches in diameter with the capacity of supplying 7,000,000 gallons of water daily, double what the need was at Oakland at the time. The length of the main was about twenty miles and the pumping would be done by a 500 horse power engine.

To show the extent of knowledge at that time, in January 1894, the *San Francisco Call* wrote that the artesian wells at Alvarado, which had been recently purchased from F.B. Granger, had as their source of supply the mountains about Mt. Hamilton in San Jose (this is partially true). But recently that idea was changed to the belief that the water under Alvarado were all fed from the same source, and that being the Santa Cruz Mountains (this is untrue).

In October of 1894 the pumping machinery for the water plant of the Oakland Water Co. arrived at Alvarado from Milwaukee, WI. Equipment from the plant continued to arrive at the Alvarado S.P. Depot until November 1st. Engineers from Milwaukee also arrived in Alvarado to superintend the building of the pump station.

On December 12, 1894 3,000,000 gallons of water was pumped from the artesian wells at Alvarado, through the pumping station, and to the City of Oakland.

Far from the quiet little town of Alvarado trouble was brewing for Oakland, as now two water companies vied to serve one city. One was the powerful Contra Costa Water Co., the other was the upstart Oakland Water Co. When questioned by newspaper reporters, Mayor Davies of Oakland had this comment:

"As mayor of this city I do not care to be quoted, but there ought not to be much trouble for you to make a correct surmise. One company must maintain a large catchment basin, and withstand the criticisms of the expert with the microscope, and the analysis of the chemist. Read your own paper for the week past and see what is found in the (Contra Costa) water. In addition to this, it is burdened with an indebtedness of something like \$1,690,000 on which it must pay interest. The other company is modern in every respect. Its source of water supply *are those inexhaustible wells at Alvarado* and anyone who knows anything about the difference between Artesian water and catchment water knows that the former is pure and the latter is...well, read the scientific analysis in the *Tribune* last Friday..."

In July of 1895 the Oakland Water Company laid pipes in Alvarado, and the locals were served water from their own (now Oakland's actually) artesian wells. Not only was this a boon for the townspeople, but also would aid in the fighting of fires by having a ready supply of water at hand.

At this same time the Oakland Water Company was the subject of a string of acts of sabotage. Its customers were subjected, for an hour or two, to the surprise of having salt water from their pipes. The cause of the trouble was soon discovered. A wooden pipe from one of the newly dug wells crosses a small salt slough on its way to the pumping works. Somebody, who had not yet been discovered, cut a hole in the pipe and the salt water was sucked up by the pumps. The break was easily remedied and the water company offered a large reward for the detection of the offender.

The sabotage continued into the beginning of August 1895 when it was discovered that millions of gallons of fresh artesian water were being pumped daily and allowed to flow onto the marshes about Alvarado and eventually out to the Bay. The culprit was found to be the Contra Costa Water Company. Said George W. Baker, a prominent Oakland attorney:

"I went to Alvarado yesterday not only free of all bias favorable to the Oakland Co. and devoid of prejudice against the Contra Costa Co., but utterly disbelieving the newspaper reports concerning the actions of the latter company and the allegation that their agents were endeavoring to deplete their rivals water supply by pumping from wells tapping the same source and running the water obtained wastefully and wantonly into the marshes. I say that I did not believe, for I considered such methods too contemptible for honest men and beneath the dignity of businessmen under any stress of business rivalry."

Christian Schreiber, another Oakland citizen added:

"Like the others who went with me to Alvarado I could not believe anybody could be guilty of the acts we saw committed there. I cannot find the words strong enough to express my opinion of the men who would assist in such a dastardly waste of pure water as those people are pouring over the marshes of Alvarado. I am a patron of the Oakland Water Co. I prefer the fresh pure water of these Artesian wells to the filthy compound that the Contra Costa Water Company serves to its patrons. My neighbors prefer the Oakland Water Company and are using it. And because we refuse to patronize the Contra Costa Company an effort is being made to deprive us of this supply is outrageous."

Finally, in October 1895, the Contra Costa Water Co. ceased its pumping of water from the artesian well at Alvarado onto the marshes and into the Bay.

On April 20, 1896, Alvarado was visited by merchants from the City of Oakland. The day was beautiful, there was a breeze blowing from the Bay, the keenness of which was modified and given rather a bracing and inspiring effect by the genial warmth of the sun. Seventy merchants from Oakland disembarked at the Southern Pacific Train Depot in Alvarado where they found conveyances ready to take them to the water works on the Union City side of town (about one mile from the train depot). The drive was made in a short space of time, although some of the merchants decided to walk instead.

As the visitors passed through Alvarado they were greeted by the merchants of the place, a complement of which was also intended for the projector of the works which had done so much to bring the name of the little town into prominence.

The merchants had been brought to Alvarado to tour the Oakland Water Company's Alvarado Water Works. The Oakland merchants were impressed by the friendliness and warm reception given them as they passed through town.

At the west end of town the merchants were guided around the grounds of the water works and shown how pure fresh water was pumped to their homes some twenty miles distant.



The Alvarado Pumping Plant of the Oakland Water Company, shown here from a July 1917 photo from the EBMUD (successor company to the Contra Costa, Oakland, and the People's water companies) company newsletter.

July 6, 1896, from the *Oakland Tribune*:

"The Contra Costa Water Co. has started its pumps again in the old glue factory." This was the message, which came over the phone to Wm. Dingee, President of the Oakland Water Co. An investigation proved this to be true.

The Oakland Water Company obtains its water from a system of Artesian wells near the town of Alvarado. These wells have been flowing for a third of a century and the quality of the water they furnish for softness and purity is unsurpassed in America. The Contra Costa Water Company, the desperate and vicious water monopoly from Oakland, in an effort to undermine and bankrupt its new rival set up pumps at the old glue factory in Alvarado and pumped pure water into the marshes and the Bay night and day for months. Billions of gallons of clear soft water were wasted by their effort. Last August a public outcry was heard and the Contra Costa Company stopped their wastefulness. But now they are back it again, pumping pure Alvarado Artesian water into marshes."

Things finally came to a head in January 1899, when the announcement that the stock of the Contra Costa Water Company had taken a sudden jump from \$50 to \$65 per share. Within several days stock that could not be sold for \$50 was suddenly worth \$65. Then it was openly stated that the Contra Costa had absorbed the Oakland Water Company, and that henceforth there was to be no competition.

The Contra Costa Company had been forced to open an immense pumping plant at Alvarado, and this has cost it nearly one fourth of its entire bonded indebtedness. Both companies fully realized that their combined plants were necessary to tide Oakland over in a dry year, and they also realized that for the protection of their stockholders they must come under one general management.

By July of 1896 there were 31 wells, with depths of 197 to 1,000 feet, and diameters of 4" to 10". They were scattered over a 500 acre tract and were all connected with reservoirs at the pumping plant. The daily capacity of the wells was 10,000,000 gallons, although less than 5,000,000 gallons a day were being pumped.

*** BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS ***

Accountant / Barbers / Bartenders / Blacksmiths / Clerks / Dentist / Dress Makers / Druggists / Engineer / Hotels / Lumberyard / Merchants / Milliners / Photographer / Physician / Plumbing / Post Master / Pound Master / Railroad Agents / Restaurants / Saloons / Shoemaker / SPCCR Train Depot / Superintendents / Teachers / Upholsterer

ACCOUNTANT:
Adam P. Bryden:

Adam Bryden was born in May 1855 in England. He entered the U.S. in 1889 and later became a naturalized citizen. He married Margaret D. Bryden, date unknown. Adam showed that he was divorced by the year 1900, and was living alone as a boarder with the Sarah Adle family in Alvarado. Mrs. Bryden ran a millinery shop in Alvarado, and in 1896 a Miss Brown from San Francisco opened a dress shop in connection Mrs. Bryden's millinery shop. In April 1898 Mrs., Bryden retired from the millinery business and by 1903 she had left Alvarado. In December 1907, it was noted that Mrs. Sarah Bryden received an interlocutory decree of divorce from A. P. Bryden of Alvarado.

BARBERS:
Antone Davilla:

Antone Davilla was born in St. George, Azores (Portugal) in 1868. The date he entered the U.S. is not known. He received a license to marry Marie Foster in September 1890, and he married Marie on October 20, 1890. Antone was 22 and Marie was 18 years of age. They had eight children, six of which lived to adulthood: Antone Jr., Isabelle, Clara, Mamie, Genevieve and Maurice. A daughter Edna showed at 10 months in the 1910 census does not appear after that initial entry.

Antone's initial profession in Alvarado was as a barber. But he soon added a saloon to his enterprise. His business was located in a building on Levee Street known the Lattin Building. In March of 1892 Antone applied for a liquor license in Alvarado.

By 1904 Antone had the barbershop, a saloon, and a rooming house in his business holdings on Levee Street. In August 1904 Antone tried to rent out his saloon and rooms. Two months later he put up his barbershop for sale;

\$80 for all furniture, chairs and towels, rent on the building would be \$6 a month. At this same time he also tried to sell an eleven-month St. Bernard dog.

A fire destroyed five buildings on Levee Street in April 1905, and due to a lack of water the fire had full sway until a building was torn down and the spread of the flames stayed. The fire started in an upper room of the Davilla Building, which was occupied by two Portuguese who were using a gasoline stove to cook their supper. An explosion of the gasoline spread the burning gas over the entire room and its contents, and severely injured both occupants before they could escape.

The fire quickly consumed the Davilla Building, in which was a saloon, and then attacked and consumed in rapid succession the barbershop of Frank Dabrovich, the residence of Harm Lees, an old church building (the old Methodist Church), which has been used for some time as a public meeting hall, and the drug store of Charles Wenkle. These buildings were completely gutted by the flames and the buildings and contents destroyed. The progress of the flames was stopped by tearing down a building next to the Lee's residence, and the burned out area was bounded on the side of Davilla saloon by an empty lot.

The Davilla's rebuilt their business, and the family moved into their new building in October 1905. At the same time the watchmaker, Phil Roach opened his new store in the new Davilla building.

In July 1914 Mr. Davilla ran this ad in the *Oakland Tribune*:

"BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:

For Sale: Four rented stores and building; cheap; leaving state. For particulars call at A. Davilla, Alvarado California."

In August 1920 Mr. Davilla ran this ad in the *Oakland Tribune*:

"LODGING HOUSES, ETC.:

20 room hotel in Alvarado, garage, large yard; \$4,000, terms.
Mr. A. Davilla, Alvarado, Alameda County."

On February 2, 1925 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors accepted a gift of deeds to property to be used to widen the highway curves into Alvarado. The Bank of Alameda County and Antone Davilla, and his wife Marie, were the donors of the property. At this time the curves into Alvarado heading north to Mt. Eden were treacherous. This was the site of the old drawbridge over the Alameda Creek when that waterway came south as far Maiden Lane in downtown Alvarado. Although the curves were acceptable for horse and wagon traffic, they were not acceptable for high-speed automobile traffic.

In March 1929 Mr. Davilla ran this ad in the *Oakland Tribune*:

"BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

Soda fountain store, we want to rent or sell. All complete.
Phone: Alvarado 46, A. Davilla"

By 1936 Antone Davilla was living in Santa Clara, and the 1940 census showed he and Marie Davilla had been divorced.

In January 1940 Antone lost his brother John Davilla, who lived on the Creek Road. He was 64 years old. In August 1946 Antone lost his sister Rose Nunes of Centerville.

In June 1948 Antone Davilla passed away and funeral rites were held at the All Saints Church in Hayward. He left his wife Mrs. Mary Davilla, four daughters, Mrs. Isabelle Davilla Menezes, Mrs. Clara Davilla Jacinto, Mrs. Mae Davilla Santos, Mrs. Genevieve Davilla Dutra, and a son Morris Davilla; all from Alvarado.

Antonio P. Machado Jr.:

A.P. Machado Jr. was born May 20, 1868 in California to A.P. Sr., and Maria G. Machado. The senior Machado was a farmer in the Alviso District of Alvarado. Antonio P. Machado Jr. was one of twelve children of the elder Machado's that reached adulthood.

A.P. Jr. was employed in Alvarado as a barber in the year 1900, but by 1910 he was in the retail grocery business in Alvarado. A.P. had not yet married by 1910.

An article in the *San Francisco Examiner* of December 1909 gave an account of the burglary at the general store of A. P. Machado Jr. The newspaper gave the location of the store on Alvarado-Centerville Road between the two towns. This would most likely be in the Alviso District near the Decoto Road. The news article said a large quantity of groceries, ribbons, shoes, and a brass bird cage were taken. The thieves used a wagon to haul away the goods.

As of 1920 A.P. Jr, was still single, living at home with his parents with his single siblings John and Helen, and unmarried nephews Tony and Edward. In July 1921 the Machado's moved into their new home after a fire had consumed their previous home and household goods.

In 1930 A.P. Jr. was living with his brother John, and his sister Helen, both of whom showed they were single, as was A.P. Jr. At this time A.P. Jr. showed he was retired. His brother John was in the cattle raising business. Antonio P. Machado Jr., passed away on January 17, 1937.

Frank Mattos:

Frank Mattos was born in Portugal in February 1861. He entered the U.S. in 1879. His wife Mary was born in Massachusetts in March 1865, of Portuguese parentage. They married in 1892. The date Frank and Mary came to Alvarado is not known, however Frank was barbering in Alvarado in the late 1890's and in the early 1900's, however by 1910 he had established his own shop in Centerville.

George F. Dutra:

George Dutra was born in California in March 1875. His wife Anna was in Portugal in September 1879. Anna entered the U.S. in 1892. Frank & Anna were married just about at the turn of the century. George was barbering in Alvarado in the late 1890's and early 1900's, but by 1910 he had relocated to Pleasanton where he had his own shop.

Joaquin Munyan:

Joaquin Munyan was born in California March 1872. He married Philomena Munyan in 1906, and they had one daughter as of the 1910 census. Joaquin was a barber in Alvarado in the late 1890's and the early 1900's. By 1910 he had relocated to Newark, where he was in the General Merchandising business.

BARTENDERS:

Peter Rudolph:

Peter Rudolph was born in Denmark (the census gives Germany as the place of his birth) in February 1847. He entered the U.S. in 1868 and became a naturalized citizen. In 1900 he gave his employment as a bartender and he was boarding with Adolph Lassen family in Alvarado. Newspaper articles give Peter living in Alvarado as early as 1895. Peter died at the County Infirmary in March 1907 at the age of 60 years. He never married.

BLACKSMITHS:

George P. "Het" Machado:

George Machado was born in April 1871 in California. His wife, Annie S. Machado, was born in October 1873. They were married in 1899. In the late 1890's George and Annie lived near the Alviso School District, but at this time (1900) most of the Alviso School District was part of the Alvarado Precinct and the Alvarado census district.

In the late 1890's George started his blacksmithing career in the Alviso District. George lived and operated his blacksmith shop at the corner of the Alvarado-Centerville Road and Decoto Road. This spot in the road is still remembered by some old timers as Machado's Corners.

In 1949 *The Oakland Tribune* did a small article on the George Machado. Here it is:

"A scrapbook of yellowed newspaper clippings in which he had made headlines a quarter of a century ago is the most prized among the memoirs of George P. "Het" Machado, 78, former blacksmith and harness jockey. Interviewed recently on the occasion of his 51st wedding anniversary, both Machado and his wife, Annie, are obviously still interested in the horses as they were when he was making a name for himself and his magic shoes, at Pacific Coast race tracks.

Machado's Corners, a wide place in the road between Alvarado and Centerville at the intersection of Jarvis Road and the Alvarado-Centerville Highway, was named for Machado's blacksmith shop, which he operated here for many years." In 1930 and 1940 George and

Annie were residing in Stockton where George worked training horses for the local racetrack.”

“Don’t look a race-horse in the mouth,” says Machado, “look at his feet!” The right kind of shoe will make a winner out of a no-good, he always claimed, and it was this theory that was credited with the phenomenal wins of horses that had been banished from the tracks in disgrace, and sold for a few hundred dollars, only to be properly shod and subsequently declared winners.”

Henry Henrickson:

Henry Henrickson was born in Denmark in August 1867. He was married to Elizabeth Henrickson, who was born in California in December 1875. They were married in 1895 and they had no children. Henry operated the old blacksmith shop of Joseph McKeown in Alvarado at the corner of Levee and Horner Street.

Mrs. Lizzie Henrickson applied for divorce from Henry H. on grounds of cruelty in April 1901. Five weeks later the decree was granted.

On August 21, 1900, fire destroyed the two-story blacksmith shop of Henry Henrickson. The building belonged to the estate of Joseph McKeown and was valued at \$3,000. The tools and materials in the barn were valued at \$2,000.

George Simas, aged 23, a native of Alvarado, who was sleeping on the second floor, was burned to death. His mother was lying at the point of death and had not yet been notified. It is supposed that he carelessly threw a match or a cigarette on the floor when retiring.

In February 1902, Henry became an investor in the new Bank of Alvarado by subscribing to 40 shares of stock @\$40 each. After this nothing could be found for Mr. Henricksen in Alvarado.

Charles Riser:

Charles Riser was born in Germany in January 1845. In the late 1880’s and early 1900’s Charles was boarding with Farley B. Granger, and was employed as a blacksmith in Alvarado. He showed having been married for 31 years in 1900, but he did not have his wife living with him. In 1910 he was living in the Riverside Hotel, still employed as a blacksmith, still married, and still not yet showing his wife living with him. The 1910 census shows his name as being spelled Reiser.

CARPENTERS:

Lovejoy; Willard & Willard Jr.:

The Willard’s were father and son, and both were carpenters in Alvarado, with Willard being an apprentice carpenter. Willard Sr. was born in Massachusetts in October 1850. He married Carrie Lovejoy in 1878, who was born in April 1851 in Massachusetts. They had three children, two daughters and a son. Willard Jr. was born in California in October 1880. Willard Sr. left Alvarado and was found living in San Jose working as a carpenter for the railroad.

Martin J. Peach:

Martin J. Peach was born in Maine in 1841. His wife Lizzie was born in Maine in 1841. In 1870 they were living in Duluth Minnesota where Martin worked as a stonecutter. They came to Alvarado in the 1870's where Martin followed the trade of carpenter.

In August 1883, a sad event overtook the Peach family, when Mrs. Lizzie Peach was preparing dinner when she fell over and died suddenly. On February 15, 1885, Martin J Peach, 47, married Mrs. Nellie Cosset, 44 of Alvarado by Justice of the Peace E.A. Richmond. Mrs. Cossett's daughter, Mollie Cossett is well known in Alvarado, she having belonged to several social clubs. In July 1900, Miss Mollie Cossett married Charles Cone of Reedley.

Orman J. Emery:

Orman J. Emery was born in Maine in 1860 to Weston F. and Dianthe Emery. Orman came west with his parents to Alvarado in the 1870's. He learned the carpenter trade from his father, and took up that avocation in Alvarado. In December 1895 he married Margaret Buchanan of Alvarado. The Emery's had two children, a son Weston B. and a daughter Orma J.

Orman Emery built many homes and barns about the Alvarado area, but in his later years he specialized in mainly building dairy barns, in which he was an acknowledged master. In this field he earned a wide reputation, and his operations extended as far as Los Angeles.

Orman and Margaret Buchanan were active members of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. Margaret Emery was a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's, and in 1935 she joined with Frances Robie, Frances Luna, Mrs. John Scribner and Lois Hendrick in trying to revive a chapter of the Women of Woodcraft in Alvarado.

Orman was a long time member of the IOOF Crusade Lodge of Alvarado. Orman also served as Master Workman for the Reliance Lodge AOUW in Alvarado. While acting as a fire commissioner in 1927, he helped organize the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department under John Ralph. Orman was also active in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, especially the Boy Scout committee.

Orman J. Emery passed away in Alvarado at the age of 76 in November 1937. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Emery and two children, Mrs. Orma Decker and Mr. Weston B. Emery, survived him.

Dewitt C. Parish:

Dewitt Parish was born in New York in September 1832. His wife Eliza was born in Indiana April 1834. By 1880 they had come to Alvarado where Dewitt was employed as a laborer. They had married in 1873 and had three daughters. Carrie, their eldest daughter was a teacher in the Alvarado School System. After his job as a laborer in 1880 Dewitt took up the carpenter trade in Alvarado. Mrs. Parish died in September 1903. Nothing was heard of Mr. Parish after this although his daughters continued to participate in Alvarado events until about 1907.

Manual Abreu:

Manuel Abreu was born in Portugal in February 1870. He entered the U.S. in 1884. His wife, Maria Abreu, was born in Portugal in July 1874. Maria entered the U.S. in 1894. They were married in 1894, and settled in Alvarado where they had six children, only two of which lived to adulthood, both were daughters. Manuel was a carpenter by trade and nothing was found about him after 1908.

CLERKS:

Louis Ruschin:

Louis Ruschin was born in Germany in May 1870. His wife Margaret was born in Ireland in 1879. They were married in 1906 and had two children. Louis was a grocery clerk in Alvarado, but soon after 1900 he moved to Newark where opened a saloon and ran that until prohibition, when he opened a soft drink parlor in Newark.

Simeon Buchanan:

Simeon Buchanan was born in California in March 1871 to John and Rachel Buchanan. John and Rachel had been long time Alvarado residents where John Buchanan was a farmer. In the late 1890's Simeon became a grocery clerk in Alvarado. By 1910 he had his own general merchandise store in Newark.

DENTISTS:

Dr. B. F. Simmons:

Dr. B. F. Simmons, Dentist, of Hayward, would attend to patients in Alvarado on Wednesday of each week. He would maintain his office in the Alvarado Hotel starting in April 1896.

Dr. George F. Vanderlip:

In February 1897 a notice in the newspaper announced that Dr. George F. Vanderlip of San Rafael would be at the Riverside Hotel February 20, 1897 to attend to those needing any dental work. Dr. Vanderlip comes highly recommended. It was noted that Mrs. Vanderlip was the niece of Mrs. S. Harvey of Alvarado. It was also noted that the Vanderlip's continued to live in San Rafael after the turn of the century.

Dr. Jones:

Dr. Jones has rented a store in the Lyle Building, which will be fixed up as a dental office. This was in September 1898. After this there was no further mention of the practice of Dr. Jones in Alvarado.

DRESS MAKER:

Miss Mary Joyce:

Miss Mary Joyce was born in Connecticut in May 1875. She was the daughter of Patrick and Harriet Joyce and spent her youth growing up in the town of Alvarado. After the year 1900 not much was found for Mary Joyce other than she was a dressmaker in Alvarado in the late 1890's.

In June 1891, Miss Mary Joyce would marry John L. Olsen, who was born in California in 1875. Olsen, an Alvarado boy had graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in 1892. John had worked as a clerk in the general store of I.V. Ralph in Alvarado up until 1900.

In June 1903, Mr. and Mrs. John Olsen moved to the town of Decoto, where Mr. Olsen started his career as a storekeeper with his business partner from Alvarado, John Ralph Jr. After a few years John Ralph returned to Alvarado to enter into business at his own general store.

A gloom was cast over the town of Alvarado when the sudden death of Mrs. John L. Olsen (nee Miss Mary Joyce) of Decoto on August 29, 1906. As Mary Joyce she was well-known and loved in the town of Alvarado. Most of her life was spent in Alvarado, and it seems just a few years ago that John L. Olsen, one of the Alvarado boys, led her to the altar.

Mrs. Patrick Olson, and daughter Harriett, came to live with John and Mary Olson. John Olson is shown living in Decoto as a merchant and being a widower in the 1910 census. Living with him were his mother-in-law Mrs. Harriet Joyce and her daughter Miss Harriet Joyce. Near the end of 1911, the frequently mentioned name in Decoto of Miss Harriet Joyce goes missing, and John Olson now has a wife named Harriet. The unions of Miss Mary and Miss Harriet Joyce with Mr. John L. Olson did not produce any children.

DRUGGISTS:

O. G. Day, Proprietor:

O.G. Day had conducted a drugstore for three years when he sold his interest to Lincoln Fitzell, a young pharmacist of Jackson, Amador County in October 1899. The departure of Mr. & Mrs. Day was regretted by a host of their friends whom they made during their stay in Alvarado. The Day's moved to the town of Fruitvale.

Lincoln Fitzell, Proprietor:

Lincoln Fitzell was born in Iowa in February 1867. His wife Bertha was born in California in February 1869. They had no children while they were in Alvarado. The Fitzell's arrived in Alvarado in October 1899. By 1910 Lincoln and his family had left Alvarado for the Escalon area in San Joaquin County where he had established a retail pharmacy.

ENGINEER:

William S. Nicol:

William S. Nicol was born in Scotland in October 1861. He entered the U.S. in 1888. His wife Rosamond Nicol was born in California in March 1879. They had three children, two sons and a daughter.

William worked as an engineer at the Alvarado sugar mill. He was still with the sugar mill in 1910 but by 1920 he had relocated to Berkeley where he was working as an engineer in an oil works.

Herbert E. Wagner:

Herbert Wagner was born in Switzerland in August 1856. He entered the U.S. in 1878. His wife Mary Wagner was born in Oregon in July 1860. In the 1900 Census they show no children, but did have a nephew and niece living with them. Herbert was the lead engineer at the Alvarado Water Works pumping station on 10th Street in old Union City. In October 1901 Herbert Wagner resigned his position as engineer at the Water Works and moved to Berkeley.

HOTELS:

Henningsen Bros.:

John & Peter Henningsen:

Alvarado Hotel:

John Henningsen was born in 1855 (probably in Germany). His date of entry into the U.S. was 1883. He married Mary Tuckson of Mt. Eden in March 1896. By 1909 John had relocated from Alvarado to Castro Valley. Peter Henningsen was probably born in Germany, he died in 1946. He was married to Mary Henningsen who was born in 1869 (whereabouts unknown) and she passed away in 1840.

The Henningsen brothers operated the Alvarado Hotel from the mid-1880's to 1891, when they sold the hotel to George Alsing of San Rafael, Calif. The brothers then left to spend their declining days in Germany.

George Alsing 1891 - 1896

Alvarado Hotel:

George Alsing was born in Germany in September 1865. He entered the U.S. in 1884. His wife Katie was born in Germany in November 1871, and entered the U.S. in 1885. They had four children, Emma, Clara, Walter, and Georgie.

In 1891, George Alsing, would take over the operation of the Alvarado Hotel. The Alsing's resided in Mt. Eden, but Mr. Alsing ran the hotel business.

On Saturday, February 29, 1896, George Alsing held an auction at the Alvarado Hotel and sold at public auction all the furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, bar fixtures, cow, horse buggy and all else connected with the Alvarado Hotel. In the evening a large social dance was given to celebrate the ending of their ownership.

From newspaper articles it appears the Alsing's also departed Mt. Eden and ended up living in Alameda.

Farley Granger & Son:

Riverside Hotel:

Farley Granger Sr. was the principal owner of the Riverside Hotel up until his death on December 5, 1899. Farley married Anna Robbins and had four children: Farley B. Granger Jr.; Clarence A. Granger; Edith Anna (who married Elmer E. Chase, a San Jose businessman); and Harvey T. Granger.

Mrs. Anna Granger passed away on July 2, 1898. Farley Granger Jr. would take over the operation of the Riverside Hotel following the death of father.

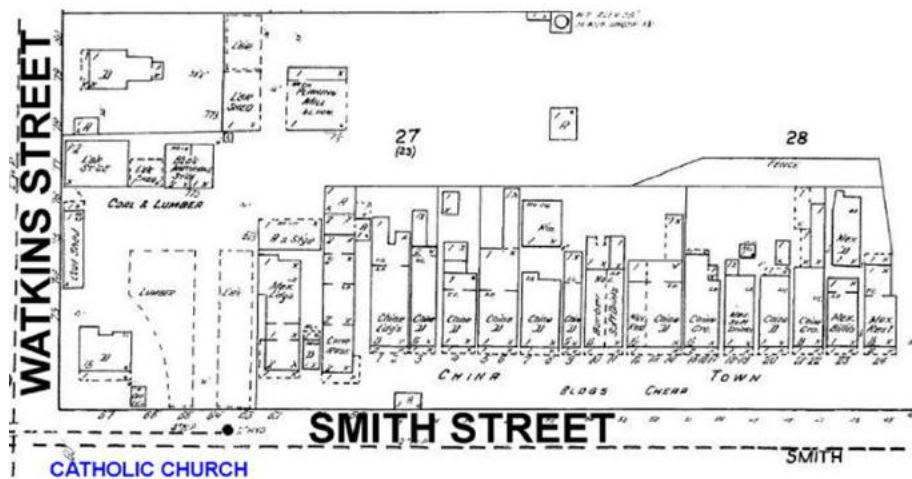
LUMBERYARD: Edward L. Farley:

Ed Farley was born in Canada in March of 1866. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1880. He was married to Annie I. Farley, a native of California who was born in July 1866. They had one child, Beryl I. Farley, who was born in February 1895 and attended San Jose Normal School (forerunner to San Jose State University). Beryl became a teacher in Needles Calif.

The first appearance of Edward in Alvarado was July 1895, when it was reported that he was working at the Hellwig slaughterhouse, when he fell from a fence with a knife in one hand badly injured himself.

Edward then became the owner of a lumberyard and coal sales business on the NE corner of Smith and Watkins Streets, just across from the Catholic Church. Over time he would purchase the entire north side of Smith Street from Watkins to the eastern edge of Alvarado's China Town from the estate of William Liston.

This entire section north of Smith Street would become known as Alvarado's China Town. After 1900 when the Chinese element began to dwindle, the Hispanic influence settled the area and crime became common. The little enclave became known as Little Tijuana, or as Earl Warren (then Alameda County District Attorney) would call it, "that hell hole in Alvarado."



This is a layout of Alvarado's "Little Tijuana" in the 1920's. On the far left you can see Ed Farley's coal and lumberyard, which directly across the street was the Catholic Church.

Ed Farley would sell his lumberyard in about 1914 and he reportedly moved to Portland Oregon. He did, however, maintain the land and buildings that comprised "Little Tijuana" and continued to collect monthly rents from the location until the enclave was boarded up in 1926.

Ed Farley was a member of the Alvarado Eagles, Aerie 1695 (F.O.E.), and the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. At the time of the sale of his lumberyard Ed Farley was also a Deputy Sheriff for Alameda County.

Mrs. Annie Farley was a member of the Women of Woodcraft in Alvarado, the Alvarado Whist Club, the Butt Ins, the Alvarado Birthday Club, and was also active in the Suffragette Movement in Alvarado.

In 1923 attempts began in Alvarado to close down the Little Tijuana section of Alvarado due to the numerous fights, shootings and stabbings affrays. Closing this section of Alvarado proved to be more difficult than planned, and the crime problems with this area continued to occur.

In October of 1926 Edward L. Farley, as owner of "Little Tijuana" (a group of 26 buildings in Alvarado), would have to answer before Judge James A. Quinn why his buildings should not be closed down as sought by Earl Warren under abatement proceedings.

Two suits designated as "The United States versus Edward Farley and others" and "The People versus Edward Farley and others," were brought as a result from a raid of "Little Tijuana" made in March 1926, when twenty-six wooden houses, connected by alleys, runways and underground tunnels, were entered by federal and county officials and wholesale arrests were made. Mrs. August May, sister of former District Attorney Ezra Decoto, was among the character witnesses summoned to testify concerning the activities of the notorious "board walk row."

As a result of the lawsuits the businesses in Little Tijuana were padlocked and closed, making that part of Alvarado silent and peaceful.

Then on July 4, 1927 Little Tijuana, known for years as the toughest place in Alameda County, was no more. It was destroyed in one of the most spectacular fires in this part of California, with five Fire Departments fighting the flames. Only by prompt and efficient efforts, did fireman prevent the fire from spreading to an adjoining lumberyard, and for a time the entire Alvarado community was threatened.

The fire was believed to have been started by a group of hoboes who had camped in one of the buildings. The entire two blocks of buildings comprising that notorious district had been padlocked several months ago, so that aside from hoboes they were unoccupied. The frame shacks proved to be kindling wood, and within a short time they began eating toward the Catholic Church and the Alvarado School across the street.

Little Tijuana obtained its name from the Mexican city where vice was given a free reign. This district consisted of two blocks of shacks in Alvarado, where the prohibition law was openly flouted, there were scenes of kidnappings, holdups, and was the refuge of lawbreakers. Violation of the law became so flagrant that authorities finally stepped in and padlocked the entire district, at the same time starting abatement proceeding against all of the buildings. In November of 1941 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors agreed to purchase part of the land from Ed Farley on Smith Street in Alvarado for the purpose of constructing a new firehouse. The purchase price was \$750.

MERCHANTS:
Mathew R. Lyle:

Mathew R. Lyle was born in Iowa in 1859. He was married to Difina Lyle who was born in Illinois in 1869. They had two children, Helen and Floyd. In 1896 Mathew built and opened the two-story general store on Smith Street in Alvarado. In 1901 he sold the store to F.B. Granger Jr., and moved to Berkeley, where by 1910 he was widowed.

In January 1896, Mr. M.R. Lyle purchased three lots from Daniel R. Murphy on Smith Street in downtown Alvarado. Several days later Mr. Lyle announced that he was going to build a store on the property. The cost of the building was set at \$3,000.

Laying the foundation of the building began on February 3, 1896. Headway was made quickly on his new store as he had eight carpenters at work on the new building.

On February 21, 1896, Mr. Lyle said his new store will carry the Victor brand of bicycle while his competitor (who was already open for business on Levee Street) Mr. I.V. Ralph said he would carry the McKeon brand of bicycle.

On April 21, 1896, Mr. Lyle opened for business at his new store on Smith and Vallejo Streets in downtown Alvarado. The first floor was a general store and the second story housed apartments and business offices.

The first occupant (other than Mr. Lyle) in the building was Dr. Hauber who took an office on the second floor for his practice. In June 1896, Mr. Lyle added a soda fountain to his store where his customers could come in for a cool drink in the summer. In September 1898, Dr. Jones opened a dental office on the second floor of the Lyle building and in June 1899, Dr. Clazie reopened his dental office on the second floor of the Lyle building.



The above photo is of the general store of M.R. Lyle, which was located on the corner of Vallejo & Smith Streets. Photo courtesy of Tim Swenson

In January 1901 Farley B. Granger Jr. purchased the Lyle building with an eye to expanding and improving the structure. In March 1902 Mathew Lyle and family moved to Oakland where he would open a retail grocery store.

Meanwhile, F.C. Harvey, Farley Granger's brother-in-law, took up proprietorship of the building. F.C. Harvey would run the general store business until the late-1920's when his wife Selma passed away.

While in Alvarado the Lyle's were very active in the Presbyterian Church, including the Young Person's Society of Christian Endeavor and the Ladies Aid Society.

Miss Helen Lyle would come down to Alvarado occasionally from Oakland to visit her young friends in Alvarado, especially Miss Lottie Jung. Miss Lyle had been a teacher in the Alvarado Grammar School in August 1914, with Mr. T.E. McCarty Principal, Miss Helen Lyle, intermediate dept. and Miss Celeste Bunker, primary department. M

Ivens Vernet Ralph:
Frederick C. Harvey:
Ralph & Harvey General Store:

Frederick C. Harvey was born in Alvarado in March 1873 to Sylvester and Sarah Harvey. Fred first comes into prominence as a businessman in November 1896 when he shown as the partner of Ivens V. Ralph in a general store on Levee Street in Alvarado. Ralph & Harvey expanded their store into the sales of liquor and then added a drug store in 1898. They also gas lit the store in 1898. In October 1899 the business was no longer listed in the names Ralph & Harvey partners.



General Store of Ralph & Harvey on Levee Street, Alvarado. Photo courtesy of Tim Swenson

Ivens Vernet Ralph:

Ivens Vernet Ralph was born in Alvarado in 1856 to Joseph & Fanetta Ralph. In 1870 he was living with his older brother, John H. Ralph Sr., and was learning the retail grocery trade by clerking at his brother's store. John Ralph Sr. passed away in Alvarado, in January 1877, and nothing was heard from Ivens again until October 1889 when he ran for a seat on the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees.

In August 1890 Ralph is mentioned as a partner in the Alvarado firm of Ralph & Perry. The following year the firm advertises in the Oakland Tribune for "Valentine's Throat and Lung Syrup," which was guaranteed to relieve a cough in 10 minutes. But in October 1894, Ivens Ralph is given a liquor license in his name alone.

By 1896 he had partnered with F.C. Harvey in a grocery-dry goods business in Alvarado. He invested in Alvarado real estate purchasing lots on Levee Street from Ambrose Lattin in 1897. He followed this by purchasing some lots, also on Levee Street, from Mrs. S. Stokes. In February 1898, Ralph and Harvey partitioned off their store to include a drug store, something that was sorely needed in Alvarado. In September 1898, Ralph and Harvey took another step forward when they added gas lighting to their business. They joined the Riverside Hotel as initiators of the new trend.

In May of 1899 Ivens was appointed Postmaster of Alvarado, that position being taken away from E.A. Richmond Sr. of Alvarado who had been Postmaster since 1877. No reason was given for the change. The town was outraged for no man in the county had seen continual service longer under Uncle Sam than Mr. Richmond, and it was the wish of nearly every resident of this district that he might continue in office.

Mr. Richmond had been commissioned Postmaster of Alvarado by President Hayes in September 1877. From that day to this day (May 16, 1899) Mr. Richmond has gone along attending to the work of his office, serving under Presidents Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, Cleveland and McKinley in turn. Finally in March of 1903 E. A. Richmond was reappointed Postmaster of Alvarado.

In October 1899, I.V. Ralph announced that he was an agent for the gramophone and sold five machines within a week. What was interesting about this article is that it did not mention the name of partner F.C. Harvey.

By the year 1900 Ralph had his own store on Levee Street, which was destroyed by fire on June 16, 1900. The fire started behind A. J. Fitzell's Drug Store and before the flames were extinguished it had consumed the drug store and I.V. Ralph's furniture store. One of the burned buildings was formerly the Alvarado Methodist Church that had been remodeled a number of years before.

I.V. Ralph was one of the founders of, and original investors in, the Bank of Alvarado. He was named Vice President and served on the Board of Directors of the Alvarado bank.

Ivens served many terms as a trustee of the Alvarado Grammar School. He was also an active member of AOWU Lodge of Alvarado, and was also a member of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, and he had achieved the 32nd Degree in the Masonic Lodge.

In April 1903, I.V. bought an interest in the F.L. Lea flavoring extracts business in Oakland, and quit his business in Alvarado. He sold his stock in the business to the Ellis Brothers.

Ivens & Alice Blacow Ralph had four children, sons: Joseph and Robert, and daughters: Edna and Ivy Belle. Mr. I. V. Ralph passed away on August 2, 1922.

Frederick C. Harvey:

F.C. Harvey & Co.:

Frederick Harvey was born in March 1873 to Sylvester P. and Sarah Harvey on the ranch where the S.P. Harvey Park sits today at Alvarado Blvd. and Falcon Drive. Prior to 1897, Fred Harvey married Miss Selma Ingemundsen of Napa and settled in Alvarado. The couple had two children, Frederick Ingemund Harvey was born in December 1901. Sadly, Frederick passed away on December 12, 1907, just before his sixth birthday. Fred's second son, Theodore Perkins Harvey, was born in 1904.

In 1896 Fred Harvey was in business with Ivens V. Ralph, whose father Joseph Ralph was one of Alvarado's oldest families. In 1898 Ralph & Harvey partitioned off their retail store to include a drug store, and in that same year added gas lighting.

In March 1902, Fred Harvey took over the general store of M.R. Lyle, on the corner of Smith and Vallejo Streets in Alvarado. Mr. Lyle had sold his store in January 1901 to Farley Granger Jr., Fred Harvey's bother-in-law.



This is the M.R. Lyle Building rebranded as the F.C. & Harvey Co. merchandising company. Photo courtesy of the Union City Historical Museum

In March 1902 Mathew Lyle and family moved to Oakland where he would open a retail grocery store. Mr. Lyle had just sold his general store to Farley B. Granger Jr., the year previous. Farley then leased the store to his brother-in-law, Fred C. Harvey.

In January 1901 Farley B. Granger Jr. purchased the Lyle building with an eye to expanding and improving the structure. In March 1902 Mathew Lyle and family moved to Oakland where he would open a retail grocery store. Meanwhile, F.C. Harvey, Farley Granger's brother-in-law, took up proprietorship of the building. F.C. Harvey would run the general store business until the late-1920's when his wife Selma passed away.

For the next two and half decades the F.C. Harvey store in Alvarado was a beacon of the wealth and prosperity of the town of Alvarado. Because of the cavernous size of the store, Harvey could carry many articles the smaller stores in Alvarado could not.

Fred Harvey built a new home on a lot just across the street from his store. Here he lived with his wife and son Theodore. Fred's beloved wife, Selma, passed away on November 26, 1924. Fred remarried, and in October 1920, he sold his general merchandise store to Sam Dinsmore and took a trip around the world with his new bride.

The Harvey family was one of the most prosperous families in Alvarado, with Susie Harvey marrying into the Granger family, Edward marrying into the McKeown family, and Fred, who amassed a small fortune in his general store and investment in farm properties.

Fred had more than just his general store, in August of 1903 Fred joined with Dan Jackson, F.B. Granger Jr. (Fred's brother-in-law), Mrs. Sue H. Granger (Fred's sister), and T.F. Jackson in incorporating the Jackson-Granger Dairy Company, one of the largest dairies in Southern Alameda County.

Fred joined several other Alvarado influential members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce when the news broke, in 1922, that there would a bridge built from San Mateo to the east shore of the Bay. Fred Harvey, and other Chamber members lobbied, to have the proposed new bay bridge from San Mateo go through Alvarado. For a time the chances looked good for Alvarado obtaining the on-ramp to the bridge, but eventually Alvarado lost out to Hayward.

In April 1924, as part of general scheme to improve Alvarado, Fred Harvey, August May, John Ralph and P. C. Lowrie moved a complete block of houses from Vallejo Street to Watkins Street. The houses were completely remodeled with modern conveniences installed and painted white. Garages were built for each of the houses. Owing to the fact that Watkins Street was impassable in wet weather, a petition was presented to the county board of supervisors, asking them to take over this street.

Fred was a long time trustee for the Alvarado Grammar School and was instrumental in getting the funding for the new Alvarado Grammar School in 1925. Fred was also a member of the IOOF, and was appointed a fire commissioner in 1926.

After his return from his trip around the world, Fred engaged in farming in Alvarado and was a long-time and prominent member of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association with his brother Edward, his son Ted, and nephews George Harvey and Harvey T. Granger.

Fred C. Harvey, 75 years of age, passed away on December 5, 1948. He left his wife, Bessie, and his son Theodore P. Harvey. In 1949 his estate was valued at \$230,000.

MILLINERS:

Mrs. A.P. Bryden:

Miss Brown:

Mrs. Adam P. (Margaret) Bryden ran a millinery shop in Alvarado in the 1890's. In 1896 a Miss Brown from San Francisco opened a dress shop in connection the Mrs. Bryden's millinery shop. In April 1898 Mrs. Bryden retired from the millinery business and by 1903 she had left Alvarado. This is all the information I have on Mrs. Bryden other than she was the divorced wife of Mr. Adam P. Bryden, an accountant in Alvarado.

PHOTOGRAPHER:

E.H. Ives, Proprietor:

Edward H. Ives was born in Missouri in July 1863. His wife Carrie Ives was born in California in March 1860. They had four children, Elyda, Alberta and the twins, Velma and Verda. Mr. Ives was a photographer in Alvarado from 1896 to 1903, after which the family relocated to Benecia. Mrs. Ives was an active member of the Alvarado Native Daughters of the Golden West.

PHYSICIAN:

Dr. Charles A. Hauber:

Dr. Charles A. Hauber was born in the State of Washington in November 1866. His wife Ellen E. was born in Washington in August 1872. They had a son Lorin, who was born in Washington in 1891. Dr. Hauber first appears in Alvarado in 1895, and in April 1896 is one of the first tenants on the second floor of the Lyle Building on Smith & Vallejo Streets. In April 1897 he began construction of a new cottage in the Granger tract (Granger Ave.) off of Smith Street. It was reported that in March 1899, Dr. Hauber got a new buggy, which gave him the appearance of the consummate country doctor. The 1900 census for Alvarado is the last mention of Dr. Hauber in Alvarado. On January 1, 1905, a Walla Walla, Washington newspaper reports the marriage of C.A. Hauber, age 36, to Miss Eletta Wiltz, 21, of San Jose, Ca. After this there are many articles in the Walla Walla region of Dr. C.A. Hauber.

PLUMBING:

Henry Crosby:

Henry Crosby was born in California in June 1868. His wife, Mary Decoto, was born in Decoto in May 1866, to Ezra and Elizabeth Decoto. Henry was from Centerville and established a plumbing concern there. In February of 1891, Henry announced that he was opening a branch of his plumbing and tinning business in Alvarado.

One year later Mr. Crosby said that under the supervision of Mr. Eaton, his plumbing concern in Alvarado was doing good business. That was the last

article on Mr. Crosby's plumbing business in Alvarado. Henry and Mary had one other connection to Alvarado, and that was Mrs. Jennie Decoto May, sister of Mrs. Mary Crosby, and the wife of August of May Jr., the Alvarado banker.

POST MASTER:

E.A. Richmond

E. A. Richmond was the post master for Alvarado from September 1877 to May 1899.

Ivens V. Ralph:

I.V. Ralph was made post master in May 1899, replacing Mr. E.A. Richmond.

POUND MASTER:

G. Rojas:

Phillip Gebbert:

G. Rojas resigned his position as Pound Master of the Alvarado District and Phillip Gebbert was appointed to succeed him in June 1898. This is all that is known about these two.

John Brugge:

John Brugge was born in Germany in July 1857. John entered the U.S. in 1875. Wilhelmina (Minnie) Brugge was born in Germany in January 1865, and she entered the U.S. in 1889. The Brugge's had two children; a daughter Wilhelmina, and a son John E. Jr.

In July 1899 John Brugge was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to replace Phillip Gebbert, who had resigned. By 1910 John Brugge rented a piece of land and became a farmer, and by 1920 Wilhelmina was a widow.

Brugge's son, John E. Jr., became a partner of George Hellwig's in the Alvarado slaughterhouse in the 1940's.

RAILROAD AGENTS:

Boyd H. Ford:

Boyd H. Ford was born in August 1867 in California. His wife Emma was born in March 1870 in California. They were married in 1891 and they had three children, two daughters and a son. Boyd was the station agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Alvarado.

The Ford's first appear in Alvarado in 1895. In 1897 Boyd Ford had a cottage built in the Granger Tract on Granger Avenue. While in Alvarado Boyd was a member of the Alvarado Crusade Lodge of the IOOF, and was a charter member of the Alvarado Woodmen of the World Encampment. After about 1904, nothing is found for Mr. Ford in Alvarado, although the 1910 Alvarado census shows Mrs. Ford as married, and having her three children living with her, but Boyd Ford is not present. She is still living in Alvarado in 1920 with her three children, but without Boyd Ford. In 1930 she is living in Oakland with her daughter Genevieve and her husband Boyd Ford.

Mrs. Ford was a charter member of the Alvarado Circle of Women of Woodcraft in August 1902. Mrs. Ford was also an active member of the Alvarado Rebekah's, the Butt Ins, the At Homes, and the Alvarado Birthday Club.

Archibald N. Lindsey:

Archibald Lindsey was born in California in November 1874. Mr. Lindsey came to Alvarado in about July 1895. He was single and boarding with Mr. Farley Granger Sr. Mr. Lindsey was the assistant Southern Pacific railroad agent in Alvarado to Mr. Boyd Ford. Like Mr. Ford Mr. Lindsey was a member of the Alvarado Woodmen of the World. In March 1901 Mr. Lindsey announced that he was giving up his place at the SP Station to become and organizer for the Woodmen of the World in this state.

RESTAURANT:

George Sylvester:

American Restaurant:

Alvarado in June 1897. However, by March 1898 the family had moved to San Francisco. Nothing else is known about the Sylvester's.

SALOON:

Jose S. Amaral, Proprietor:

Jose Amaral was born in Portugal in December 1867, and entered the U.S. in 1888. He was married to Anna Amaral, who was born in Portugal in October of 1875. She entered the U.S. in 1893. In that same year Jose and Anna were married and then settled in Alvarado where Jose opened a saloon. Jose and Anna had three children, a son and two daughters.

In November 1898 Jose's application for a saloon license was protested by eighteen residents of the Alvarado School District because he had bought a lot near the schoolhouse with the intention of opening a saloon there, much to the detriment of the morals of the children. In July 1900 the Board of Supervisors ruled favorably on issuing a liquor permit to Jose Amaral of Alvarado. The article did not state where the saloon was located however.

The 1910 census shows Anna Amaral living as a widow in Alvarado although an article said that she would move to Fruitvale to live with her sister.

SHOE MAKER:

Manuel Sequeira:

Manuel was born in Portugal in May 1874. He entered the U.S. in 1893. He settled in Alvarado near the end of the 1890's, and took up the occupation of shoemaker. He was single.

In September 1900, a disastrous fire broke out in the rear portion of the Hellwig block, occupied by the butcher shop of P. Hellwig and Company, and the residence of Samuel Foster. On the other side of the Hellwig block were the saloon and the shoe maker's shop belonging to Manuel de Sequeira,

which was also destroyed. After this there is no further mention of Manuel Sequeira.

SPCRR TRAIN DEPOT:



Train pulling into the Alvarado train depot, circa late 1890's. This photo was courtesy of the Washington Township Historical Society.

James G. Fair was the president of the SPCRR. His bio is told in Chapter 3, Page 32, 1870 to 1879 in this work.

The Central Pacific (which went through Decoto) eventually became the Southern Pacific Railroad and in 1887 the local battle of the two was settled when the SP leased the line of the SPCRR. The SP would begin changing the line from narrow to standard gauge in the 1890's, but the task was not completed until 1908 because of the SF earthquake.

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Emil Willard Burr:

Emil Burr was born in California in November 13, 1869 to Clarence C. and Emilie Burr. In November 1900 Emil married Ada Belle Jewett of San Francisco, they would have five children.

In March 1889 Edmund C. Burr, in concert with other investors, would buy the Pacific Coast Sugar Co. from E.H. Burr. The new company was called the Alameda Sugar Company and E.C. Burr was named manager of the new Alvarado sugar company. In 1896 Emil Willard Burr was named the new superintendent of the plant with J.W. Atkinson as manager. I was never able to find out the exact relationship of E.W. Burr to E.C. Burr.

Emil Burr had quite an influence over Alvarado activities, both as a young man and as a business and civic-minded individual. Emil was a founding member of the Alvarado Tennis & Social Club in the late 1890's as well as an active member of the Alvarado Improvement Club, which in the early 1900's

put on entertainments to raise funds for a wooden walk from the railroad depot to the downtown section. Emil was on the board of the Alvarado Grammar School in 1905 and in 1909 was on the board of the high school in Centerville.

Emil's wife Ada was also active in Alvarado society being a member of the Whist Club, the 500 Club and the Country Club of Washington Township. Both were active in the Presbyterian Church.

In March 1911 Emil Burr resigned his position at the Alameda Sugar Company to relocate to Cherryland (in the Hayward district) where he built a \$14,000 mansion.

John W. Atkinson:

John Atkinson was born in California in 1863. His wife, Kathryn Ralph, was born in Alvarado 1872. In July 1895 John and Kathryn were married at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Kate Ralph in Alvarado. They would have two children, Ralph W and Elizabeth Atkinson.

John came to Alvarado just before the sale of Pacific Coast Sugar Mill from E.H. Dyer to the Alameda Sugar Company on March 30, 1889. E.C. Burr took over the management of the company and by October 1889 a young John W. Atkinson was on board at the company plant in Alvarado. By May 1890 John W. Atkinson was superintendent of the Alvarado sugar mill with Emil W. Burr as manager of the plant.

John Atkinson also began the process of branching out from Washington Township for growing beets into areas that could transport beets into Alvarado by rail lines. One of the first areas outside our township area was Pleasanton, where John found that the crop had proven far beyond his expectation, and that he expected no less than 3,000 tons shipped from Murray Township. For the year 1891 he expected to have a much larger acreage in that township.

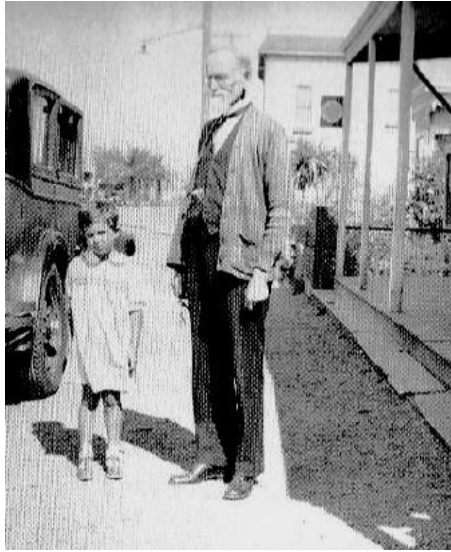
Just before the turn of the new century John and Kate relocated to Betteravia in Santa Maria California to head the Union Sugar Company plant in that town. John Atkinson retired after 39 years in the sugar industry having entered the industry at the old Alvarado factory (Standard Sugar Company) in 1887, at the time the only beet sugar processing plant in the United States. Atkinson had seen the industry grow from its lone plant in 1887 to ninety-eight beet sugar factories in nineteen states in 1918.

TEACHERS:

Albert Norris:

Albert Norris was born on February 25, 1851, in Farmington, Iowa, to Robert and Rebecca Ann (Ray) Norris. In 1853 his parents placed him in a cot in a covered wagon, and brought him to California. Norris says he does not remember much of the trip. A few years later, however, after hearing his father tell of the hardships of the voyage, he set out at the age of sixteen in 1867, to retrace his father's steps and see for himself if it was as hard as he

had pictured. He found it was worse than that. He reached Silver City, Idaho where he remained four and a half years.



In 1872, he went to San Francisco where he took a commercial course at Heald's Business College, and later had charge of the bookkeeping department for A. Roman and Company in San Francisco. Mr. Norris eventually settled down in Pleasant Valley where he taught school, and was Justice of the Peace for eight years. From there he went to Colfax where he was principal of the school for nine years, and served on the Board of Education for four years. In 1898, Albert Norris came to Alvarado as the principal of Alvarado Grammar School. He filled the position admirably for ten years, when his health broke down and he had to spend 10 months in a sanitarium.

Albert Norris with grand daughter Marjorie. The general store of Sam Dinsmore is in the background. If I can guage this photo correctly this photo was taken in front of the old Alvarado Post Office & Library behind the Bank of Alameda County on Smith Street. Photo from "Images of America: Union City," by Tim Swenson.

Albert Norris would eventually lure part of his extended family from the gold country to live and work in Alvarado. First was his niece, Mrs. Laura Orelli (Bio in this work) in 1925 to teach school at Alvarado, she stayed on until her death by stroke in January 1942. In 1930 Albert invited his sister, Mrs. Alice Hughes, to move to Alvarado with her daughters, Mary and Hila (Hilda) Hughes (Bio in this work) to join Laura Hughes Orelli, Mrs. Hughes third daughter who had been teaching at Alvarado since 1925. In December 1910 Alvarado launched a new library for the town residents. It was located in the IOOF Hall and Albert Norris was the first librarian. On June 20, 1915 he was also appointed Postmaster at Alvarado.

In 1875 Albert Norris married Miss Rosalie D. Colman in San Francisco. They had six children, Albert M., William H., Oliver P., Lester, Joseph, and Alma Rose. Albert Norris died at his home in Alvarado on September 27, 1934 at the age of 83 years. Mrs. Albert Norris, of Alvarado, died in her home April 26, 1924 at the age of 71 years.

Besides his Alvarado duties as Postmaster and Librarian for Alvarado he was also remembered as the Alvarado Grammar School Principal for ten years. Albert was also a member of the Masonic order for over 60 years, he also was active in the Alvarado Tennis Club, the Alvarado Whist Club, and was the President of the Alvarado Republicans club. Albert was also a member of Alvarado's Chamber of Commerce being among those who lobbied for the admittance of women into the organization.

Of the Norris children, Lester died in March of 1902 from diphtheria. William worked in the sugar refinery business and finally ended up in Cuba as superintendent of sugar mill. Alma Norris married W.R. Robie Jr., of Alvarado.

William Robie's mother, Fanny Robie, was clerk of the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees for over 30 years.

E. E. Hollipeter:

E.E. Hollipeter of Gridley, Butte County, was elected principal of Alvarado School after the resignation of Mr. E.H. Walker. Principal Hollipeter drew his first month's salary in August 1890. He reported that the school was in a flourishing condition and says that he will try to make it one of the best town schools in the county.

A.B. Thompson:

Mr. Thompson, ex-principal of the Sissons School was elected principal of the Alvarado School in December 1890, and will receive a salary of \$90 per month. He succeeds Mr. Hollipeter, who resigned after teaching one term. Mr. Hollipeter did not like the action of the school board in reducing his salary from \$100 to \$90 per month, so he quit the school. It was stated that there was some friction between the teacher and trustees. In January 1891, a temporary grammar grade was granted to A.B. Thompson, the new principal of the Alvarado School. In June 1891, Mr. C.V. Osborn replaced Mr. Thompson as principal of the Alvarado School. Whether Mr. Thompson desired to leave the school was not stated.

C. V. Osborn:

Mr. C.V. Osborn was first noted in Alvarado in 1880, as principal of the school with Miss Paddon as a teacher. He was at Alvarado until about 1883, when he went to teach at the Centerville School. By 1884 he was teaching in Elk Grove, in the Sacramento School District.

In July 1891, Mr. C. V. Osborn was named the new principal for the school at Alvarado to replace Mr. A.B. Thompson. Mr. Osborn was for many years a teacher at Alvarado, and resigned about several years ago. He was very popular in the district and was expected to bring the school up to a high standard. This school is one of the important country schools. Mr. Osborn formerly taught at the Elk Grove District near Sacramento.

Augustus S. Perkins:

Augustus S. Perkins was born in California in 1867 to John A. and Sarah A. Perkins, the youngest of six children. Just before 1870 the Perkins family moved to Athens Penn. where John engaged in farming, but by 1880 the Perkins family had moved back to California and settled in Gilroy, California, where John lived and farmed with his brother-in-law and wife, S.M. and Amanda M. Maze.

Augustus then attended college to become a teacher. In February 1893 Augustus received his educational diploma for the grammar school grades. In 1894 he married Manla Ingemundsen of Napa California, they would have no children. Then Augustus continued working on his advanced teaching degree and on September 11, 1898 he received his life diploma of grammar school grade. Augustus and Manla Perkins were settled in Alvarado by December 1894. Mr. Perkins was reported to be a former principal of the Alvarado Grammar School.

Mr. Perkins was a charter member of the Alvarado Camp of the Woodmen of World in April 1898. Mrs. Perkins was very active in Presbyterian Church of Alvarado, and the local Christian Endeavor Society. In 1896 Manla was a charter member of the Alvarado Choral Society, being voted First Vice President.

Manla Ingemundsen Perkins had several sisters in Napa who regularly visited Alvarado, and became familiar names to Alvaradans. Selma, Perna, and Josephine Ingemundsen, were regular visitors. Selma Ingemundsen came to visit in July 1896 and stayed on until August.

Then in September 1896 Selma Ingemundsen moved to Newark, California. In 1898 Selma Ingemundsen was married to Fred C. Harvey of Alvarado, one of the most influential men of Washington Township.

By 1899 Augustus and Manla had moved to West Park, in Fresno County, to live with his mother and father on their farm. Augustus would farm and teach in 1900, but later would give up teaching and just farmed in the Fresno area.

Mrs. Manla Perkins would frequently visit Alvarado to visit old friends and visit with her sister Mrs. F.C. Harvey. Selma Harvey would also spend much time in Fresno with her sister Manla.

Carrie Parish:

Carrie was born in Indiana in June 1875 to Dewitt C. and Elizabeth Parish. Carrie attended the San Jose Normal School (forerunner to San Jose State University) in 1895 with her good friend Laura Emery of Alvarado.

After graduation Carrie taught at the Alvarado Grammar School. In 1899 Carrie joined the Alvarado Whist Club.

UPHOLSTERER:

C.A. Preston:

In August 1897 John Henningsen completed a store he had built that was adjacent to his Alvarado Hotel. His first two tenants were a photographer, and a Hayward upholsterer, C.A. Preston. This is about all that is known of C.A. Preston other than less than a year later John Henningsen sold this building, which was moved away to be a residence. Mr. Preston was found to be employed in a large furniture store in San Francisco in 1902.

* **NOTABLE CHINESE** *

Farm Labor Contractor / Laundrymen / Merchants

Hong Lee:

Hong Lee was born in China in May 1860 and entered the U.S. in 1884. He was married for 22 years but did not show a wife living with him in Alvarado. He was the head of a Chinese laundry house and had two Chinese nationals working for him.



This is the Hong Lee Alvarado Laundry on Smith Street in Alvarado's Chinatown. Photo courtesy of Tim Swenson.

* **FLOODS** *

Floods were again a topic of Alvarado people during this decade. And what better way to start the decade with a flood! The Alvarado Grammar School was set to open on Monday, January 20, 1890; but recent rains had accumulated on the school grounds causing a lake of water. School had to be postponed. Just one week later the water was still present, and reports of the flooding indicated that the water was still over the narrow-gauge railroad tracks at Alvarado, Halls Station, and Russell City.

One week later on January 27, 1890 a dispatch from Centerville read:
"The damage from Friday night's storm is just beginning to make itself known. The Alameda Creek is the highest that the oldest pioneers have seen it. In some places at Crandall's Slough (between Newark & Alvarado) the water is running through with great swiftness. It is going over the bridge and around each side. There is some danger of it being carried away. The road between this bridge and Alvarado is one sheet of water, axle deep, and the current is quite strong, making travel in both hard and dangerous. The Bell Ranch Bridge is reported as unsafe, and it may have very large driftwood floats against it, and the bridge may wash away. Cattle, fence rails and posts have been seen coming down the stream. On the lowlands the farmers are working hard drowning squirrels and gophers."

A tongue in cheek assessment of Alvarado's recent flood and its seemingly annual watery ways from the *Oakland Tribune* of January 27, 1890:

"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 of the delta of the Nile, and the cause is very much the same."

On the night of February 19, 1894, the water came down from the foothills in torrents and covered the whole country about Alvarado as far south as Newark. The banks of Alameda Creek were too full to hold the great flow, and the great volume of water washed out the railroad in many places. At one point just below Hall's Station, between Alvarado and Centerville, 200 yards of track were washed away entirely from the roadbed and carried over against a fence 30 feet away. The ties and rails held together, but the roadbed was cleaned out entirely, and a perfect torrent of water swept under and over the track.

In February 1896 Alvarado people have had to resort to boats to get about town since the big storm.



Going to downtown Alvarado during a flood, painting, circa 1890's.
From the "Pictorial History of Washington Township"
From the Washington Township Hospital Foundation

The flood of February 1896 was bad, but it seems that the flood of November 1896 was worse:

"The rainfall has worked much damage in this section of the county that it has filled the creek so that now it is little short of a raging torrent. The water has burst its bounds and has flooded acres of this country. In Alvarado, all of Chinatown is under water, and the inhabitants have to sleep on the second floor, as the lower floors are flooded.

On February 2, 1897 Alvarado was again hit by a flood. This one was described as the heaviest flood that has been known here since 1871. The heavy rain that fell during the night gradually overspread the swampy side surrounding the town until there were two or three feet of water upon many square miles of land in that

vicinity. About 9 o'clock the water rose suddenly, and two houses lying of the outskirts of the town were washed out and their inmates were forced to retire to higher ground in a boat. Up to noon the water continued to rise and rushed toward the creek, which was altogether inadequate to carry it into the Bay.

Fortunately a *San Francisco Examiner* was in town and filed the following article appeared in the February 3, 1897 issue.

"Alvarado, down in Alameda County by the Bay, water is everywhere through the town, standing in low places in placid lakes, trickling along in streams along the streets. The Alameda Creek runs beside Alvarado and the overflow from that brook inundates the prosperous village almost yearly, to the great satisfaction of the growers of beets and vegetables, and the delights of the youthful population, which paddles and muddies itself at will. The Alameda Creek drains a large watershed. The stream heads on a slope of Mount Hamilton and carries to the bay all the seepage of the Livermore and Calaveras valleys, as well as much water from other sources.

On Friday, January 29, 1897, the creek was turbulent and began to chafe as it rose near the level of the banks about Alvarado. The increased rain during the succeeding days, had so raised the creek on Monday, February 1st, that water was all over the countryside for a space of two miles square, and as far as could be seen the flood promised to be as severe as any since the great Noachian flood of 1862, when the water was four feet deep. Monday night brought only an increase in the depth of the water, and the business of Alvarado was suspended, except as to waders.

The narrow-gauge railroad embankments through the town were backed up with broad areas of water, and the few culverts and escapes, which the economy of the Southern Pacific Railroad permits it to use proved wholly inadequate to carry off the turbid water. The track itself suffered when the wind drove waves toward it and a washout stopped the Santa Cruz morning train on February 2nd.

The Fair Ranch, a large tract just east from the Alvarado train depot, was covered with water. All about the Riverside Hotel there was a lake averaging fifteen inches deep, and when "Uncle John" Whipple drove into town yesterday from Decoto, the old dog which travelled behind his cart had to swim a long distance between the County bridge (Smith Street), and the high road from the railway track to the Post Office.

From the veranda of the Riverside Hotel, looking across the track toward town, the residences formed islets in a muddy sea, dreary and desolate. The property of William Hayes, (at the corner of Whipple and Sugar Mill Roads), E.H. Dyer (on the sugar mill grounds), and the Alameda Sugar Company could not have been shown to advantage. It was all under water. The sugar mill itself was not drowned out, because it had been built on a high foundation.

The grammar school stood above the water level, but only a narrow strip of dry land was left for the use of the children, who attended school as usual. The Wigwam Orchard, and the Althausen tract (across the creek from the sugar mill, north of Smith Street) looked to be navigable, the fine residences of William Jung, the Hellwig's, August May, John Ralph, A. Larsen, and

Antonio Lee (on Vallejo Street) had the semblance of strange craft, the water so closely surrounded them.



The Alvarado Grammar School, with the town to the right.



The flood at the Odd Fellows Hall

The Odd Fellows Hall had been set so high it was thought to be above danger, but the swift stream ran down both Vallejo and Smith Streets and poured under the hall, but did not endanger the foundation. Storekeeper Lyle (his store was on the SE corner of Smith and Vallejo Streets) had just filled his yard with earth and gravel, but the flood swept the stuff away and ran like a millrace about his store.

Alvarado's Chinatown was dismal. The Chinese were perched on the benches of their wash-houses and exchanged New Year's greeting, as the Tiber-colored water flowed all over their premises. The usual Cantonese hilarity of the season was water-logged, as the sound of myriads of firecrackers going off was silenced by the waters.



Alvarado's Chinatown during the flood.

Several ladies put on rubber boots and tried sailing, but Mrs. Bryden's experience (our milliner), were carried off her feet in trying to cross Smith Street. Mrs. Bryden went badly into the seething stream and under it, but was assisted ashore unhurt.

At the crossing of Smith and Vallejo Streets, butcher William Jung's little boy sought to cross through a swift current, and was overcome and was carried down toward the Bay rapidly, until Max Fleischer waded out and brought the lad to land.

Through all the wild sweep of the water the citizens smiled and looked sanguine, and hoped for just another such submersion each winter as long as water runs and beet sugar is sweet."

But mother-nature was done with Alvarado in February 1897, for on February 17, 1897, for the first time in many years the hills around Alvarado were covered with snow. During the past two days snow has fallen at intervals, and although it melted quickly in the lowlands, there was a thick covering on the hills that was added to this morning. On account of there being so much snow and hail with the storm, there is not as much flooding as in the storm two weeks ago. In the district where the Chinese live, which is very low land, there were several feet of water in some of the huts, and the inhabitants had to move to higher ground. Much of the scanty household furniture of the Chinese was washed out into the creek, and the poor fellows spent hours in trying to save it. One of the Chinamen nearly lost his life trying to save a soaked straw filled mattress.

1899 went out as 1890 came in, with 7 inches of rain has fallen filling the Alameda Creek and causing farmers to cry in March 1899. The resulting flood was very high and portions of the railroad track at the Sugar Mill spur were washed out. The Chinese section was under water with the Chinese roosting on the tops of their houses. On the bright side, the heavy rain has flooded the low land around Alvarado and has drowned thousands of gophers, which have for years been a great nuisance to farmers of sugar beets and vegetables.

* **DUCKS** *

In the 1890's Alvarado became a hotbed of new duck clubs and duck hunting. Duck hunting was still much a wealthy man's sport in those early days. Not that it was uncommon for an Alvaradan to steal away to the marshes and bring down a few ducks for the week's meal, but the marshes were soon being rented out to gun clubs from all around the Bay area, and they guarded their grounds jealously.

An example of this was Judge Henshaw and Deputy D.A. Nusbaumer of Oakland, who were members of the Willow Lodge (gun hunting club) in the Alvarado marshes, who in mid-December 1890 returned home with 58 ducks, seven of them being canvasbacks. Judge Henshaw later crowed that he made a lucky shot during the night, firing into the dark sky where he heard the birds moving, and bagged three of them.

Two weeks later Nusbaumer and Charles B. Gould came back from their lodge with 68 ducks, thirteen of which were canvasback, and nearly all the rest sprigs.

In October 1891 Judge F. W. Henshaw and Thomas Prather brought back nearly a hundred ducks, mostly mallard, sprig, widgeon and teals. Then in December 1891 Judge Henshaw and A. A. Moore Jr. returned from their Alvarado gun club near Alvarado with 124 ducks. While there they were there they arrested two poachers.

While duck hunting like this may have seemed like good sport to the judge and friends, in reality it was a slaughter. It would not take long for many complements of hunters, and the large number of dead ducks brought home made a decided drop in the supply of ducks. Eventually, it would lead to limits on the number of ducks you could bag.

The slaughter continued, and Alvarado shooters were also in on the binge. Mr. Rief, our Alvarado butcher, was out shooting on October 15, 1895 and bagged 101 ducks. He supplied his friends with duck enough to last a week.

A new gun club, which would be known as the Swan Gun Club, was organized, with A. Sattler as president, and L.T. Crams as secretary. The club was founded in September 1896.

The club was composed of twelve members, who have leased some grounds near Alvarado for duck shooting purposes, which are said to be perfectly dry and free from salt water. They expect to get good morning and evening shooting in the stubble fields.

In October of 1898 the Indian Gun Club leased the Louis Smith preserves near Alvarado for duck shooting, comprising some 500 acres; and would make a number of needed improvements, such as erecting a windmill for flooding the ponds, etc.

The Hayward Gun Club prepared its grounds for the 1899 season. A windmill was erected on its preserves near Alvarado being the latest improvement.

*** ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL ***

Alvarado Grammar School / Washington Township Schools / Union High School #2, Centerville

ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

The Alvarado Grammar School extended its curriculum when they hired Professor White from San Francisco, to give penmanship classes in March 1890.

Graduates from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1897 were:

Kathryn Nauert Harriet T. Joyce Emma Christine Sandholt

In June 1898 Miss Dot Nauert, Ralph Richmond, and Percy Gilman announced that they would attend Union High School No. 3; this was the name first given to Hayward Union High School. The three decided not to attend Union High School No. 2, the name first given to the township high school at Centerville.

Students in Alameda County Grammar Schools had the option to attend any high school in the county they desire, if they score a certain grade on their final examinations.

Trustees of the Alvarado Grammar School mentioned during this decade were:

Orman J. Emery, Danial Jackson, and I.V. Ralph.

On May 10, 1896 the boys from Alvarado Grammar School played the team from Hayward School on the grounds in front of the store. The Alvarado team, though considerably smaller in size, completely laid out the larger Hayward boys.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHP SCHOOLS:

The County Superintendent of School's Frick, made an apportionment of \$81,424 county school money. The apportionment was made among the various school funds on January 1891 as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Number of Teachers</u>	<u>County Funds Approved</u>
Alvarado	2	\$732
Alviso	2	\$485
Centerville	3	\$732
Decoto	2	\$488
Lincoln	1	\$214
Mission San Jose	3	\$732
Mowry's Landing	1	\$214
Newark	2	\$488
Niles	2	\$488
Warm Springs	2	\$488
Washington (Irvington)	3	\$732

UNION HIGH SCHOOL #2, CENTERVILLE:

Early in 1891 the State Legislature passed a bill entitled "An act for the establishment of high schools in the State of California." The act allowed for a city, or incorporated towns of more than 1,500 citizens by a majority of voters, to establish a union high school. The first three areas in Alameda County to vote in such union districts were 1) Livermore; 2) Centerville; and 3) Haywards. The names of these union high schools were officially: Union High School #1 (Livermore); Union High School #2 (Centerville); and Union High School #3 (Haywards). There were other union high schools but I have only mentioned these three for our purposes here. The official names were unwieldy, but there were times when they were used. Mostly though, people referred to them by their town or city names. Thus Union High School #2 was usually referred to as Centerville High School or the Union High School at Centerville. It was not until about 1920 when Union High School No. 2 was replaced by Washington Union High School.

In June 1891 it looked like there was going to be trouble in Washington Township over the proposed union high school. A petition was sent to the County Supt. signed by residents of Centerville, Irvington, Decoto, Newark, Lincoln, and Alviso school districts. They asked that an election be called for the purpose of establishing the high school.

People of Niles, Mission San Jose, and Alvarado commenced to object when they found that they had not been consulted and had been left out in the cold. It was pretty certain that the three districts could not form a high school by themselves, and the only thing left to do was for them get "aboard" with the other districts. The election originally would have been called on June 29, 1891, but it was agreed that it would be postponed in order to allow the three districts out in the cold to "get in."

But the trouble in this township over the union high school had just commenced. Each town made claims for the location of the high school building. It would be a fight to the finish. Niles wants the school and so did Irvington. Mission San Jose says they are entitled to it, and Decoto made a bid for it. Alvarado demanded it, but Centerville would claim it. So it would appear that there was bound to be a little ill feeling over the proposed location of the new high school.

By the end of June 1891 the contest over the location of the union high school in Washington Township was just warming up. Centerville, Mission San Jose, Irvington, and Niles were each making determined efforts to have the school located in their respective towns. The Mission was objected to because it was off the line of the railroad. Irvington was objected to because they already had located there a large private college.

Niles came in with the claim of being the proper place for the school, and so did Centerville. It was stated that if Centerville didn't secure the school, the people of that town would join with Alviso, Newark, and Lincoln districts, and form a district of their own and locate the school at Centerville. The matter was beginning to get complicated.

A meeting was held on September 25, 1891, with the School Trustees of the school districts of Washington Township, at which 35 Trustees were present; a vote was taken to determine the location of the new union high school. The vote was: Centerville, 18; Niles 16; and Irvington 1. Centerville got the high school.



Centerville Union High School. Photo courtesy of Washington Township Historical Museum.

A meeting of the new Washington Township High School Board was held in the Masonic Building in Centerville on Friday, October 18, 1891. H.A. Mayhew was chosen as chairman and Leonard Jarvis as clerk.

The site of two acres, near Masonic Hall, offered by Howard Overacker Jr. was accepted for a building. An executive committee was appointed, comprising H.A. Mayhew, Niles; Leonard Jarvis, Newark; and Mr. Robertson, Centerville to make arrangements for a building, or for the rental of rooms, and the opening of the school during the present year. A second meeting of the board would be held on Friday, October 30, 1891 to receive and consider applications for the principal of the school.

In 1893, the school was built at a cost of nearly \$11,000. The school was two stories in height, with a commodious basement floored with cement. In the basement was a large chemical laboratory, with furnace, gas, etc. On the first floor were two large classrooms, cloakrooms and a library.

The upper floor was an immense assembly room. The district was particularly fortunate in having so thorough an educator as Principal Prof. W.H. Wentworth. His assistants are Miss G. Crocker and Miss Carrie Brier.

In 1892 there was one graduate and in 1893 there were two. Here is a list of graduates from Centerville High School from opening to 1899:

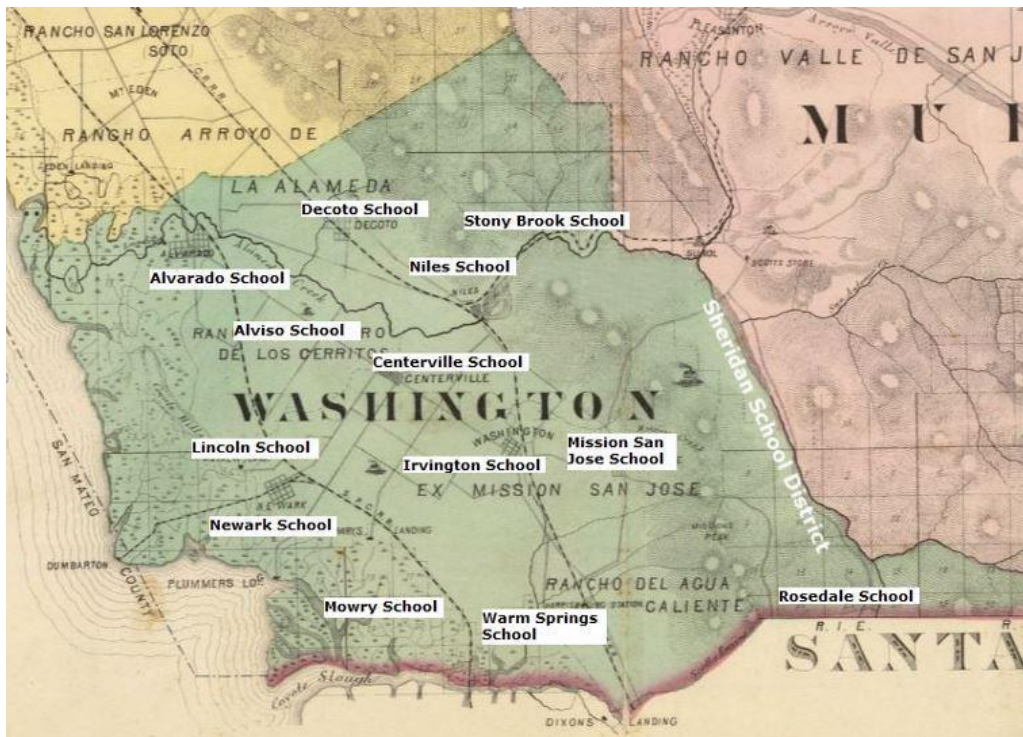
1892: May Burdick

1893: Daniel Crosby, William Jarvis

- 1894: Ezra Decoto Jr., Charles Fitz Jarvis, Joseph R. Jarvis, Olive Lamb, Clarence E. Martenstein, Manuel Quadros, Laura Thane, James R. Whipple
- 1895: Joseph Haines, Leonard Jarvis, Eugene Mathews, Maxwell McCullough, Justice Overacker, Anne Sandholdt, Bartlett Thane, Mabel Yates
- 1896: John R. Blacow, Kate Ellsworth, George Emerson, Arthur W. Haley, Stella Healey, Bertrand Moody, Mary Louise Olney, Henry Patterson, Fred Robertson, Constance Rose, Harry Salz, Arthur Yates
- 1897: Jessie L. Beard, Blanche E. Blacow, Louis Decoto, Antone C. Dutra, Herbert C. Eller, Frank C. Garcia, F. May Haines, Harry S. Haines, Elsie G. Woods
- 1898: Mary Alice Connors, Rob Roy Denny, Gertrude Alice Gibbons, Francis John Girard, Florence Trevitt Hudson, Elbert Abram Hugill, Florence Marie Mayhew, Kenneth Franklin Reynolds, Mila Osgood Rix
- 1899: Helen Haley, Leland Jacobus, Oscar Kraft, William Patterson, Grace Peterson, Maggie Rogers, Fern E. Smith, John Whipple

The course of study had to be prepared, or sanctioned by the Board of Trustees, and must be approved by the County Board of Education; the text-books must be those recommended by the State Board.

The school was fully accredited and prepares for all courses in the State University.



The thirteen elementary school districts in the Centerville High School District.

The attendance in the elementary public schools in Washington Township in May 1898 were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>No. Pupils</u>
Alvarado	117
Alviso	79
Centerville	182
Decoto	140
Mission San Jose	136
Mowry	28
Lincoln	22
Newark	116
Niles	132
Rosedale	17
Stony Brook	23
Sheridan	29
Warm Springs	124
Washington (Irvington)	147

The total enrollment is 1,293 pupils; 650 boys and 643 girls.

The Union High School #2 (Centerville High) opened on January 14, 1895. Pupils from a district not included in the Union High School district would be charged \$15 per term payable in advance.

The Livermore, Centerville, and Haywards Union High School's (Union High School's #1, 2, & 3 in the State) held a carnival at the picnic grove in Niles Canyon in May 1897. The occasion was a union picnic of the three institutions. About forty pupils from each school were in attendance besides Prof. John Gamble of Hayward, Prof. F. Liddike from Centerville, and Prof. Connel, Miss Moore, and Miss Thayer from Livermore.

The merry-makers went in private conveyances, all intent on enjoying themselves to the utmost. Dancing, boating, and other sports and games were indulged in until late in the day. The picnic was such a success and everybody, from the rollicking boys to the staid and dignified professors so thoroughly enjoyed themselves that it was voted an annual outing. The Centerville High School received accreditation from UC Berkeley in June 1896 as up to standard, so our graduates could enter the university without examination.

Mrs. H.C. Allen, secretary of the Board of Union High School #2, transmitted a resolution of the Board's asking for an appropriation of \$4,500 for 1897 - 1898. In support of their claim she says: "I wish to bring to your notice the fact that Union High School #2, Centerville was fully accredited in every study by the University of California this year." She underscored "every."

*** SOCIAL, CIVIC & RELIGIOUS ORG'S ***

Alvarado Social & Tennis Club / A.O.W.U. Men, Reliance Lodge, No. 93 / A.O.W.U. Women, Mistletoe Lodge, No. 54 / Choral Society / Christian Endeavor Society / I.D.E.S., Lodge No. 2 / I.O.O.F., Crusade Lodge, No. 1695 / Ladies Aid Society / N.D.G.W., Olivina Chapter, No. 61 / N.S.G.W., Wisteria Parlor, No. 127 / Rebekah's, Lodge No. 142 / S.S. Society / U.P.E.C., Lodge No. 16 / Woodmen of the World, Alvarado Camp, No. 429

Alvarado Social & Tennis Club:

Alvarado organized a Social and Tennis Club. Among the persons in the Tennis Club were: Albert Norris, W. Lawson, Miss Laura Emery, Will Burr and Ralph Richmond. On September 18, 1899 they gave their first dance at the IOOF Hall.

A.O.U.W. Men, Reliance Lodge, No. 93:

The Ancient Order of United Workmen was a fraternal organization in the United States and Canada, providing mutual social and financial support after the U.S. Civil War. It was the first of the "fraternal benefit societies", organizations that would offer insurance as well as sickness, accident, death and burial policies. The Alvarado Chapter (Reliance Lodge, No.93) was formed on April 15, 1881.

The officers as of January 31, 1896 were:

P. M. W.:	Weston F. Emery
M. W.:	M. D. Gilman
Overseer:	Charles River
Recorder:	Ed Farley
Financier:	E. A. Richmond
Receiver:	Ivens V. Ralph
Guide:	A. Muller
I. W.:	Antonio Lee
O. W.:	Patrick Mathews.

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The Alvarado Lodge of Workman entertained a large group of Hayward members on March 9, 1898. They received a fine welcome from the Alvarado folks and were treated to a reception and a fine banquet, and the affect of the opposite sex so affected Brother A. Harrington, that he made a most eloquent speech. Brother Gödel was about in the same boat (both of these men were from Hayward).

### **AOUW Women, Mistletoe Lodge, No. 54:**

A new Degree of Honor Lodge was organized in Alvarado on May 8, 1895. There were thirty-three members, and it was expected that many more would soon join. The lodge was christened Mistletoe Lodge No. 54.

Mistletoe Lodge, No. 54, Degree of Honor, AOUW, would give a dance in honor of its first anniversary at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado on Friday May 8, 1896. Admission, including supper, \$1.00 for gents, ladies free. The Mariner Brothers of San Francisco would furnish the music.

The ladies of the Degree of Honor Lodge at Alvarado made preparations to give a grand masquerade ball on February 18, 1898 in the IOOF Hall, Alvarado. Good music was been engaged and it was expected that a large number of persons would be present.

Miss Mildred Nauert was elected by the Mistletoe Lodge, Lodge No. 54, Degree of Honor, A. O. U. W. as delegate to the Grand Lodge, which convened in San Francisco in April 1899.

## **Choral Society:**

A meeting was called at the schoolhouse February 4, 1896 to organize a Choral Society. Thirty names were signed to the constitution, and by February 21, 1896, the membership had grown to about 45 people. The following officers were elected:

|            |                    |                 |                |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| President: | H. P. Dyer         |                 |                |
| 1st V.P.:  | Mrs. A. S. Perkins |                 |                |
| Sec-Treas: | Miss Nellie Beebe  |                 |                |
| Trustees:  | Charles Wright     | Mrs. August May | A. S. Perkins. |

## **Christian Endeavor Society:**

The Presbyterian Church at Alvarado organized a Christian Endeavor group. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is a nondenominational, evangelical society, founded in Portland, Maine, in 1881 by Francis Edward Clark. Its professed object was "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintanceship, and to make them more useful in the service of God."

Although not known exactly when the society was formed in Alvarado, the first meeting that was publicized mentioned August 4, 1895, when Miss Millie Nauert gave a talk on leading "A Clean Life."

Besides Miss Nauert others who had led the Christian Endeavor meetings held at the Presbyterian Church were:

|                     |                    |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. M.R. Lyle      | Mrs. M.R. Lyle     | Miss Alice Jackson |
| Miss Nellie Beebe   | Mrs. J.M. Scribner | Mrs. A.S. Perkins  |
| Mrs. August May Jr. |                    |                    |

The following officers were elected July 3, 1896 to serve the Christian Endeavor Society for the ensuing year:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Past President: | John M. Scribner     |
| President:      | Miss Mildred Nauert  |
| Vice President: | Miss Nellie Beebe    |
| Secretary:      | Mrs. August May      |
| Treasurer:      | Miss Dora Joyce      |
| Work Committee: | Mrs. Fred C. Harvey. |

## **I.D.E.S., Lodge No. 2:**

The Brotherhood of the I.D.E.S. Society (Sociedad da Irmandade do Divino Espirito Santo, The Society of the Divine Holy Spirit) in Alvarado was organized on October 30, 1892. The I.D.E.S. was first organized in Half Moon Bay in the year 1871. It bears the emblem of the Red Flag and Crown, which is recognized the world over as the symbol of the Holy Ghost Festival.

The annual Holy Ghost festa is put on annually in towns and cities throughout California as towns take turns putting on lavish celebrations, in which anyone can attend. The history of the event dates back to the days of Queen Isabel of Portugal (1503 – 1539), a good ruler with two passions in her life, care of the poor, and the adoration of the Holy Ghost. Birth of the celebration dates to a year of famine, the story relates.

A religious procession to the church, to pray for food, was halted by the queen while she placed her own crown on the head of a small child, to teach that all are equal in the eyes of God. As she set the crown on the head of the child, a ship bearing food was seen entering the harbor. Thereafter the king declared the day one of celebration.

The festival (festa) vows to combine religious and social observances. Queens are chosen through a succession of years of service. A little queen rules each year beside the major queen. As the years pass, she progresses through her role of attendant to side maid, and from side maid to queen. A queen must be unmarried, and must have served the required years in attendant roles before she is eligible to reign.

The founders of the lodge in Alvarado were J.S. Martin and J. M. Meneze.

### **IOOF, Crusade Lodge, No. 1695:**

Mr. Farley B. Granger, Jr., addressed the body of the lodge meeting on the topic of the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1895) of the founding of Crusade Lodge, No. 1695. The date the lodge was founded was November 26, 1859, and the impetus behind the creation was Charles S. Eigenbrodt; farmer, civic leader, Captain of the famous "Alvarado Hundred," and Civil War Hero who died in battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

Before the inception of the Alvarado Lodge, Capt. Eigenbrodt was a member of the Templar Lodge, IOOF, in San Francisco. When locals balked at belonging to a lodge so distant, it was decided to establish an Alvarado IOOF. This was spearheaded by Capt. Eigenbrodt, and brought to fruition on November 26, 1859. Some of the early members included: Capt. Eigenbrodt, Joseph Hawley, William Hayes, A. E. Crane, R. J. Horner, W. M. Liston, W. H. Hawthorne and George Simpson.

In September 1897 improvements were made to the IOOF Hall. The dining room was enlarged and a new kitchen and dressing room were built. The hall is now one of the most convenient in the county.

The IOOF held many dances and fund raising events during the 1890's. Besides this the IOOF Hall was the meeting place for Alvarado events and social gatherings for many clubs and lodges in Alvarado.

### **Ladies Aid Society:**

On October 18, 1895 the ladies of the Presbyterian Church announced that they would form a Ladies Aid Society in Alvarado. The Ladies Aid Society is an arm of the Presbyterian Church.

Meetings were held at the homes of the following named ladies over the course of this decade:

|                         |                     |                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. J.W. Atkinson       | Miss Tina Bergmann  | Mrs. O.J. Emery   |
| Mrs. F. B. Granger, Jr. | Mrs. I.B. Haines    | Mrs. Sarah Harvey |
| Miss Mary Jackson       | Mrs. August May Jr. |                   |

In July 1896 the Ladies Aid Society gave a bazaar and entertainment to benefit the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. The bazaar was a decided success, both socially and financially. Over \$60 was realized. The booths were perfectly beautiful, in fact, the most elaborate ever seen in the vicinity.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church gave a very enjoyable and successful entertainment and bazaar in December 1899 in the IOOF Hall. Refreshments were served during the evening. The program included piano duets by the Misses Emery and Jackson; and Misses Walker and Johnson; two pantomimes and solo, Misses Gould and Rice; vocal solos, Miss Rice and S. M. Buck; whistling solo, Mr. Rice; dialog, the Misses Dora Joyce and Dot Nauert.

### **NDGW, Olivina Chapter, No. 61:**

A Parlor of Native Daughters was instituted in Alvarado on October 20, 1890. The new lodge was dubbed the Olivina Chapter, No. 61, Native Daughters of the Golden West," with twenty-one members. Following is a list of the members of the new Parlor:

Misses:

|                |                     |                    |                   |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nellie Beebe   | Mollie Cosset       | Bertha May         | Sue Harvey        |
| Minnie Schafer | Roxy Dennis         | Maggie Wales       | Mary Brown        |
| Jennie Decoto  | Mary Decoto         | Annie Meyer        | May Hawley        |
| Lulu Whipple   | Clara Whipple       | Dolly Leland       | Clara Granger     |
| Ella Mathews   | Mrs. Christina Jung | Mrs. Hattie Nauert | Mrs. Mary Nichols |

All those eligible in Mt. Eden, Haywards and neighboring towns were invited to join the Parlor by contacting the President, Miss Sue Harvey.

Installation of new Officers took place Saturday, August 10, 1895. The NDGW installed the following officers:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Past President:    | Miss Ella Mathews    |
| President:         | Mrs. Ella Mathews    |
| First Vice Pres.:  | Mrs. Mary Crosby     |
| Second Vice Pres.: | Miss Millie Nauert   |
| Third Vice Pres.:  | Miss Alice Jackson   |
| Recording Sec.:    | Miss Sue Granger     |
| Financial Sec.:    | Miss Nellie Beebe    |
| Treasurer:         | Miss Grace O'Donnell |
| Marshal:           | Mrs. Jennie May.     |

Installation of new Officers took place June 16, 1896. The NDGW installed the following officers:

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Past President:             | Mrs. Mary Crosby        |
| President:                  | Miss Mildred Nauert     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.: | Miss Alice Jackson      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.: | Miss Christina Anderson |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Pres.: | Miss Emma Teuscher      |
| Recording Sec.:             | Mrs. Jenny May          |
| Financial Sec.:             | Mrs. Hattie Nauert      |
| Treasurer:                  | Miss Nellie Beebe       |
| Marshal:                    | Mrs. Nellie Foley       |
| Inside Sentinel:            | Miss Annie Meyer        |
| Outside Sentinel:           | Mrs. Clara May          |

Installation of officers of the N. D. G. W. took place September 2, 1898; District Deputy Jeannette Decoto May installed the following:



|                   |                      |                  |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Past President:   | Mrs. Nellie Foley    |                  |
| President:        | Mrs. Nellie Scribner |                  |
| 1st V.P.:         | Mrs. Sue Granger     |                  |
| 2nd V.P.:         | Mrs. Carrie Ives     |                  |
| 3rd V.P.:         | Miss Dora Joyce      |                  |
| Recording Sec.:   | Miss Mildred Nauert  |                  |
| Financial Sec.:   | Mrs. Jeannette May   |                  |
| Marshal:          | Mrs. Eva Corey       |                  |
| Inside Sentinel:  | Miss Anna Miller     |                  |
| Outside Sentinel: | Miss Nellie Wills    |                  |
| Trustees:         | Miss Mildred Nauert  | Mrs. Mary Crosby |
|                   | Mrs. Hattie Nauert   |                  |

### **NSGW, Wisteria Parlor, No. 127:**

The Native Sons of the Golden West was a fraternal service organization founded in 1875, limited to individuals born in the state of California, and dedicated to historic preservation, documentation of historic structures and places in the state, and the placement of historic plaques. Founded in Alvarado in 1888, very little was published during the 1890's about the NSGW and their meetings or activities, hence there is little to report this decade. The only news article is printed below:

In March 1890 Farley B. Granger Jr. was elected as delegate to attend the convention at the Grand Parlor.

On September 9, 1890, more than 16,000 men joined the big NSGW celebration in San Francisco. There were 21 divisions in the parade, the Wisteria Parlor from Alvarado had a contingent of forty-four Native Sons in the parade. The members wore striped shirts and brown hats and got a lot of applause.

A very pleasant entertainment was tendered to the Native Sons of the county on October 21, 1897 by the Wisteria Parlor, NSGW, at Alvarado. The oriental degree was conferred upon the visiting members and much amusement was occasioned. A team from Warm Springs had the matter in charge. Later in the evening a banquet was served. Eloquent toasts were proposed and responded to. A good contingent of members from the Oakland Lodge were also present.

### **Rebekahs, Lodge No. 142:**

The Daughters of Rebekah, also known as the Rebekah's, and the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, is an international service-oriented organization and a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It was initially designed as the female auxiliary of the IOOF, but now allows both female and male members.

Alvarado organized an Alvarado Rebekah Lodge on October 10, 1888. It was known as Lodge No. 142.

The Rebekah's, the ladies branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), will meet in Memorial Hall, IOOF Building on the morning of May 12, 1896, at 10 o'clock. Attending and representing Alvarado was Mrs. Mary Vandeppeer.

The Alvarado Rebekah Lodge celebrated its eleventh anniversary in the IOOF Hall on October 21, 1899. A number of other Rebekah Lodges joined with them.



### **S. S. Society:**

The S.S. Society met with Miss Oscarna Nauert Wednesday afternoon December 2, 1896. (I have no idea what the S.S. Society is). The next meeting was held at the home of Miss M. Jackson. The following officers were elected:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President:      | Miss O.P. Nauert     |
| Vice President: | Miss Mildred Jackson |
| Secretary:      | Miss J.B. Ralph      |
| Treasurer:      | Miss E.A. Ralph      |

### **U.P.E.C., Lodge No. 16:**

#### **Uniao Portuguesa do Estado da California:**

The Portuguese Union of the State of California, known by the acronyms UPEC or U.P.E.C., was a fraternal association of citizens of Portuguese descent founded on August 1, 1880, in the city of San Leandro, California, by a group of immigrants of mostly Azorean origin (all founding members were from the Azores, with the exception of one, who was born in Coimbra). In addition to its functions as mutuality (fraternal association of mutual benefits) in the field of personal and family insurance, UPEC maintained an important cultural activity, which included the granting of scholarships, support for the maintenance of Portuguese Language, and Culture chairs at the University of California (Santa Barbara and Berkeley) and San Jose State University.

#### **Founded in Alvarado:**

Founded March 31, 1895, with 34 members.  
Founders, J.S. Martin and J.M. Meneze

### **Woodmen of the World, Alvarado Camp, No. 429:**

The organization Modern Woodmen of America (MWA) was started on January 3, 1883. It began as a fraternal organization with benefit paid to the families of its members when the member died. This was at first accomplished by the 'passing of the hat' and the contents were given to the widow. Membership was limited to white males over the age of 18 years. There were some other membership restrictions also but those were probably the main ones. After a while it was discovered that the passing of the hat was not really working out so the organization began selling life insurance to the members, and that is what is happening to this day. The MWA still exists as a strong insurance company with its head office in Rock Island, Illinois.

A Camp of the Woodmen of the World was organized in Alvarado on March 8, 1898. The Camp was christened Alvarado Camp No. 429 of the Woodmen of the World. On April 1, 1898 the following officers were installed:

|             |              |               |           |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| O.P. Nauert | A.S. Perkins | J.M. Scribner | B.H. Ford |
| E. Foley    | C.P. Lang    | W.F. Emery    |           |

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The dance held by the Woodmen's Camp of Alvarado on October 30, 1899 was announced as a decided success both socially and financially. The neighboring towns were well represented, as was Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose. At 9:30 p.m. the Grand March was led by Mr. and Mrs. John Scribner, followed by ninety couples. From that time to the wee small hours the merry throng tripped to the light fantastic.

Barney's Orchestra furnished the music. The committee in charge of this successful affair was: Dr. C. A. Hauber, O. P. Nauert and A. N. Lindsey.

*** MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS ***

News articles that are not by themselves large enough to warrant their own category, but help tell the story of Alvarado by events, the people of Alvarado, or by the town itself.

January 20, 1890:

Death of Mrs. Sarah Horner:

Mrs. Sarah Horner, widow of Tracy Horner, died Monday evening, January 20th at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Fanetta Horner Ralph in Alvarado. Mrs. Horner was 99 years of age. She was the mother to John M. and William Y. Horner. John M. Horner is regarded as the father of Union City, and was also known as "California's first farmer" and the founder of Centerville.

Sarah's sons, John M. and William Y. were in Washington Township by 1850. Sarah Horner came west with the bulk of her family in 1852. Stacy Horner built on of the first homes in Centerville in 1852, near the corner of Fremont Boulevard and Thornton Avenue.

Also coming west to Washington Township from New Jersey in 1852 seven of the Horner's ten children. John and William were already in Washington Township. Alfred Horner decided to stay in New Jersey.

The Horner Family:

Parents:

Stacy Horner	10/13/1794 - ??/??/1862	d. Centerville Calif.
Sarah Horner	12/24/1796 - ??/??/1890	d. Alvarado, Calif.

Children:

Alfred Horner	03/25/1818 - 08/23/1851	d. Chesterfield, NJ
Fanetta Horner	03/02/1820 - 01/20/1898	d. Alvarado, Calif
John Horner	06/15/1821 - 05/13/1907	d. Kukalau, Hawaii
Isaac Horner	??/??/1817 05/26/1897	d. Washington Township
Redbon Horner	03/02/1823 Unknown	
Elizabeth Horner	03/22/1827 Unknown	d. Irvington, Calif
William Horner	10/21/1827 Unknown	d. Lahaina, Maui
Roulif Horner	10/14/1830 - 02/17/1901	
Emeline Horner	02/14/1832 Unknown	
Edward Horner	04/20/1838 - 04/11/1902	d. Hawaiian Territory

Jan 29, 1890:

Death of Mrs. Converse Howe, nee Union Augusta Clawiter:

Mrs. Converse Howe, nee Union Augusta Clawiter, aged 39 years, of Pomona, California, died on January 29, 1890. She leaves a husband and four sons, ranging in age from 9 years to 19 years. She was the first white child to be born in Union City,

California, on August 7, 1851. *The Pomona Progress*, in its account of her death wrote:

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

Locally she left a brother, Edward Clawiter, of Mt. Eden.

February 7, 1890:
Death of Joseph McKeown:

Joseph McKeown, aged 67 years, died in Alvarado on February 7, 1890. A native of County Kerry in Ireland, he was a member of the Crusade Lodge No. 93, IOOF in Alvarado.

Mr. McKeown served on the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees and the California State Assembly. Locally he leaves a brother, James McKeown, of McKeown Road (Lowry Road).

March 9, 1890:
Death of John Laughlin:

John Laughlin, one of the best-known men in Southern Alameda County, died on Sunday, March 9, 1890, from an attack of influenza. He was a member of the firm Lowrie Brothers, which has a butcher business between Alvarado and Centerville. “Johnny” Laughlin, as he was popularly known, was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Alviso School District. He had been ill for several years. His funeral took place from his residence in Alvarado.

March 19, 1890:
Death of Miss Mary Mathews:

Last Wednesday, March 19, 1890, death took from our midst one of the sweetest and most beloved young ladies of Alvarado, Miss Mary Jane Mathews, aged 25 years. She had been ailing the past two years with what was thought to be malaria, but at the end was found to be consumption. She was survived by her parents, Patrick and Mary Mathews.

April 1890:
Alvarado School and American Flag:

The Alvarado School claimed the honor of having raised the first flag over any school in California. James Smith, of Alvarado, bought a 6 X 12 flag in San Francisco twenty-six years ago (1864) with money raised by the pupils, and it was raised with appropriate ceremonies at that time.

July 1890:
Senatorial Candidate:

Alameda County Republicans are feuding over the local state senatorial candidate. The city of Alameda is claiming that this election it is their right to name the state senatorial candidate, as Alvarado had that right during the last election. Murray Township (Livermore & Pleasanton) is insisting that it is their turn to name the candidate, as Alvarado is only the halfway point in Alameda County. Alameda wants

that honor to go to northern Alameda County this time, while Murray Township is insisting that it should go to southern Alameda County.

October 31, 1890:
School Janitor Falls:

The janitor of the schoolhouse, Mr. Hoyer, made one of the most remarkable jumps on record last Friday, October 31, 1890. He was engaged in washing windows in the second story when he lost his balance, fell, and struck on his head, causing a concussion of the brain. Dr. Hood of Haywards was called, and the latest report is that the injured man will pull through all right. Mr. Hoyer stood the shake up uncommonly well for a man of seventy summers.

April 1891:
Debating Society Formed:

Miss Sue Harvey had a group of young ladies at her house with the intent of forming a debating society. We expect to hear more about this soon.

April 8, 1891:
Death of Mrs. Hattie Tay:

Mrs. Hattie Tay, widow of the late George H. Tay, died at her home in San Francisco April 8th. George Tay was the largest stockholder in the stove works in Alvarado, and a member of the firm of Geo. H. Tay and Company of San Francisco. The stove works closed for three days out of respect to her memory. Attending the funeral from Alvarado were C. R. Nauert, O. P. Nauert; and Mr. O.J. Backus a partner from Oakland, who visited Alvarado frequently in connection with the Geo. Tay Co.

August 1, 1891:
Birthday Party of Fred Hellwig:

The IOOF Hall was the scene of a grand birthday party on August 1, 1891. The occasion was the twenty-first birthday of Mr. Frederick Hellwig, and the party was given by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Hellwig. 150 merry young people attended the affair. The ballroom was beautifully decorated. At 9 o'clock the orchestra struck up a beautiful march, which was led by the young host and Miss Christine C. Luhrs, a charming blonde of San Francisco, who helped to entertain the guests. At midnight a bounteous supper was served in the immense dining hall, and merry making continued until late. Mr. P. Hellwig is a wealthy cattle owner on the Pacific Coast, and is both an Odd Fellow and a Native Son of the Golden West.

September 1891:
Death of Wiegman Children:

Fred D. and Catherine Wiegman had four children. In September 1891, diphtheria visited the Wiegman household and took Anna Emma Wiegman, who was born on March 27, 1887 and died on Sept. 2, 1891; Dora Wiegman, who was born on Sept. 22, 1883 and died on Sept. 2, 1891; and Henry Wiegman, who was born on February 7, 1885 and died on Sept. 5, 1891. Freida Meta Wiegman was declared out of danger after the death of Henry, but the disease was not finished at the Wiegman home and took Freida on September 12, 1891.

But fate did intervene on behalf of the Wiegman's and on November 11, 1893 they had a son, Frederick H. With his four siblings having all passed away in September 1891, for all intents and purposes, Fred H. was raised as an only child.

September 2, 1891. Henry died on September 7th at the age of 6 years. Frieda, aged 2, looked like she was going to survive but finally succumbed on the 12th of September.

November 3, 1891:

Pawnee Medicine Company:

Alvarado was treated to fine show at the IOOF Hall on November 3rd. The Pawnee Medicine Company put on a great show, admission was 25¢

April 1893:

Alvarado Potatoes are the Best:

The rich bottomland on either side of the Alameda Creek in the neighborhood of Alvarado grows the best potatoes sent into the markets from any of the Bay counties. The land is plowed and planted late, and a rich midsummer potato is raised, the land is so wet and subject to overflow that early potatoes cannot be raised.

March 24, 1893:

Alvarado Artesian Wells Sold:

W.J. Dingee has purchased the Alvarado artesian wells and contemplates running pipes to Oakland from that place as well as from the wells at Piedmont, also owned by him. He will form a stock company to furnish water to Oakland residents.

May 15, 1893:

Alvarado Water:

On May 15, 1893, the Mayor, members of the Oakland City Council, and a number of prominent citizens visited Alvarado, the source of the artesian water supply, by invitation of W.J. Dingee, the promoter of the scheme to supply Oakland with pure water. The capacity of one well was stated by W.T. Boardman, the well-known engineer, to be upward of 3,500,000 gallons per day, which is just about that supplied to the City of Oakland by the Contra Costa Water Company. Another well a few yards away is stated to be able to supply 1,500,000 gallons per day, and this without diminishing the flow of the other one. Mr. Dingee's proposition is to be shortly discussed in council.

January 4, 1894:

Oakland Water Company:

W.J. Dingee, for the recently organized Oakland Water Company, which has secured control of the Alvarado wells, will in a few weeks let the contract for laying the great main to tap the wells and convey the water to Oakland. Gangs of men will be put to work at the Alvarado end, the Oakland end and probably midway, and just as soon as it is possible the water will be brought to this city, probably within the next six months, and within the year it is expected that the Alvarado water will be piped all over Oakland.

March 8, 1894:

Henry H. Behrmann Dies:

In Alvarado, March 5, 1894, Henry H., beloved husband of Helena M. Behrmann, and father of Frank E., Henry G., and Christina H. Behrmann and Mrs. W.C. Jamison, he was 55 years old.

July 1, 1894:

Alvarado Artesian Water Co.:

Willard B. Farwell, mining speculator, has failed for \$70,281.13. The Nevada Bank is a creditor for \$6,848.15. The debtor's assets consist of 14,990 shares in the Alvarado Water Company, which are of no value whatever.

November 1894, Myron A. Whidden:

Myron A. Whidden, the Republican nominee for County Auditor has served two terms as such so satisfactorily, that there is absolutely no public desire for a change to the office. He is a native of this county, having been born in Centerville in 1860. When he was five years old his family moved to Alvarado. Here he attended the public school. Afterwards, removing to Alameda he took a business course at a San Francisco business college. He afterwards resided at Haywards, and later returned to Alameda where he went through the High School.

December 31, 1894:

Closure of Benson Road:

C. R. and O. P. Nauert, J. C. Whipple and others have petitioned the board to close Benson Road, leading from the westerly side of 17th Street (Bulmer) to the easterly side of 10th Street (Veasy Street), near the old Barron's landing at Union City. They claim that it is not necessary, because the points referred to are connected by a much better road.

January 1895:

Bad Roads:

The roads in the southwestern part of Alameda County in the neighborhood of Alvarado are in a most dreadful condition. Nearly \$10,000 was spent this last summer in putting them in repair, and hardly a vestige of the work remains. As the sugar mill and the Oakland Water Company's works are both located in or near Alvarado, an immense amount of heavy teaming for the past four months had cut the roads up so badly, that they were in prime condition to be washed away by the heavy floods, which the continuous storms of the past month have sent to the busy little town. Alameda Creek, which is fed by a dozen or more good-sized tributaries, flows from Niles Canyon through the valley, having its outlet into the Bay, near Alvarado. The lowlands thereabout are as rich as any in the county, and have been cultivated longer than any other in the State.

July 1895:

Marriage Atkinson & Kate Ralph:

At the residence of Mrs. K. Ralph of Alvarado, Miss Kathryn Ralph and Mr. J.W. Atkinson were united in marriage. The bride has lived in Alvarado from childhood and, and has won the esteem of all who know her. The groom is the Superintendent of the Alameda Sugar Mill, located in Alvarado. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson took the afternoon train for Los Angeles and other southern points, where they will spend their honeymoon. On their return they will make their home at Alvarado.

July 16, 1895:

Alvarado Water:

The Oakland Water Company has laid pipes along the principal streets of Alvarado and is now ready to supply all demands for water. This fresh and bountiful supply comes at a very fitting time. Not only is it a great comfort to have the water, but in case of fire it might be the means of saving the entire town.

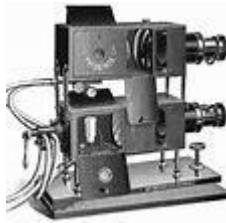
September 1895:

Death of George Patterson:

The people of Alvarado were shocked to hear of the sudden death George W. Patterson on September 19, 1895. Mrs. Patterson has been in the state since 1850, with most of the time spent in Alameda County. He was born in Indiana 75 years ago.

October 1895:
Stereopticon Views:

The stereopticon views and lecture given in the IOOF Hall by Dr. Rice of Oakland, for the benefit of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church on the evening of November 1st was well attended. During the intermission Miss Dot Nauert favored the audience with a recitation. At the conclusion of the entertainment popcorn, coffee, sandwiches, ice cream and cake were sold from which quite a sum was realized.



A stereopticon was a slide projector or relatively powerful "magic lantern", which had two lenses, usually one above the other, and has mainly been used to project photographic images. These devices date back to the mid-19th century, and were a popular form of entertainment and education before the advent of moving pictures.

November 1895:
Death takes William Faig:

Died in Alvarado, November 29th, William Faig, who has resided here the past six years, died at his home Friday the 29th. Mr. Faig was taken sick about six days before his death and in that time suffered untold agony. During his residence here, he and his family made many warm friends. William Faig was the beloved husband of Caroline Faig and brother of Charley, Willie and Alice Faig, a native of Germany, aged 35 years. His wife, Caroline would open a hotel, Alvarado's third, on the SW corner of Levee and "V" Streets.

December 1895:
Marriage of OJ Emery – M. Buchanan:

Miss Margaret Watson Buchanan, 29, was married at the home of her parents near town to Mr. Ormond Joel Emery, 34, of Alvarado, on Wednesday, December 18th by the Rev. Mr. Robinson. Both are natives of Alvarado. After a short wedding journey the newly married couple will make their home in Alvarado, having rented the Althausser house.

February 1896:
Voting Precinct for Decoto:

The Board of Supervisors received a petition from some citizens of Decoto in February 1896. It set forth that the voters of that district were put to great inconvenience in voting, having to go to Alvarado or Niles to cast their ballots. They asked the board to remedy the difficulty by establishing a voting precinct in Decoto. The application was granted, and the county surveyor was instructed to survey the district.

February 1896:
Medicine Show:

An Alvarado critic took in a performance gave this review of the entertainment held in Alvarado in March: The Wigwam Medicine Co. is in town giving shows. The performances are very fine (not).

April 1896:

Baseball:

The game of baseball is becoming quite popular in the area. A game was played between Mt. Eden and Alvarado at the formers grounds last Sunday. The object of the game was to get the Mt. Eden players in trim for the return game to be played between Mt. Eden and Hayward, when the former will attempt to make up for the crushing defeat it met two weeks ago. At the end of the third inning, when the rain interfered with further play, the score stood at Mt. Eden 12 and Alvarado 4. In a return game played in April, the Mt. Eden baseball team was defeated by the Alvarado baseball team. Alvarado, which has recently strengthened their team, avenged an earlier loss to Mt. Eden. The final score was 18 to 13.

May 1896:

Fire!

About 1 o'clock Monday morning, June 1st, the town was aroused by the cry of "Fire!" The back part of the saloon and barbershop of Mathew Davilla was in flames. It took quite a while to rouse the sleeping family upstairs. Owing to the speedy work of our firefighters and a good supply of water, the fire was quickly under control. Damage was limited to \$75.

August 1896:

Death Takes Dr. Bateau:

Dr. S. A. Bateau died after a lingering illness at his home in Oakland Friday. The deceased practiced for years in our town, but for last five years has resided in Oakland. The widow and children have the heartfelt sympathy of all our people.

October 24, 1896:

Leap Year Dance:

The young ladies of Alvarado will give an invitation Leap Year Dance Friday evening, October 24th in the Odd Fellows Hall. A committee has been formed to produce the event and includes:

Miss Blanche Emery

Miss May Laurie

Miss Kate Riley

Miss Edna Babb

Miss Mildred Nauert.

The last Leap Year Dance given by them some months ago was such an enjoyable affair and decided success that they deemed it well to do it again.

November 1896:

Oldest Odd Fellow in the U.S.:

Some time ago *The Oakland Tribune* discovered a gentleman who claimed that he was the oldest Odd Fellow in the United States. Since then the gentlemen in question has gone to his reward. Now Alameda County and California comes to the front a second time and claims the distinction of having within their borders the oldest member of this well-known order. He is James Hawley of Alvarado, California. He asserts that there is no Odd Fellow in this state older than himself and that he makes the statement after having looked into the matter with a great deal of care. He is now 74 years old and says that he has been a member for 53 years. He was born in Orange, New Jersey in 1822. He joined the Odd Fellow Lodge at that place in 1843, remaining there until 1848. He came to California in 1849 and joined the Templar Lodge. In 1859 he helped found the Crusade Lodge at Alvarado, in this county, being one of five persons to contribute \$10 each for that purpose. Alvarado Lodge is one of the oldest lodges in the state of California. Mr. Hawley has been through all the

chairs twice, and having been the recipient of all these honors contents himself with occupying the senior seat

November 1896:

Voting, Women's Suffrage Act:

Listed below are the returns for voting in Washington Township for the Woman's Suffrage Act:

Town:	Yes	No
Alvarado	52	93
Centerville	30	142
Decoto	27	40
Niles	44	81
Newark	33	103
Mission San Jose	26	102
Irvington	74	71

January 1897:

Chinese Wedding:

Society in Alvarado will be treated to a first class oriental wedding on January 16th, because of Hing Ball, a prosperous young merchant, who will lead to the altar or more properly the forum, for Justice Richmond has been retained to tie the knot between Hing Ball and the pretty Si Ying. The groom, accompanied by the justice and Howard Tong, a friend, dropped into the County Clerk's Office this morning and Hing informed Deputy Ewing that he would "like cathch'em lisansey." The paper was made out and, at the request of the groom, a picture of himself and his wife were attached thereto. By special invitation Clerk Ewing agreed to pass a week with the young couple, and Hing, with his face wreathed in smiles, departed.

The groom with his three brothers conduct a store under the name of Sun Kee Company at Alvarado and the firm has made money. Miss Si is 24 years of age, or six years the junior of her prospective lord and master. She came from China about four years ago to visit her brother at Alvarado, and suitors were numerous, for the girl is, according to oriental ideas, bright and pretty. She finally decided to give her hand to the young merchant.

March 1897:

Miss Carrie Parish:

Mr. Parish, one of the oldest ranchers near Alvarado, is anxious to run across three tramps that intercepted his daughter a few days ago while she walking from the ranch into town. The farmer declares that he will have use for his gun should he meet these gentlemen. Last Thursday afternoon Miss Hattie Parish, sister of the schoolteacher at Centerville, was on her way to Alvarado from her home. When about halfway between the two places, she was met by three tramps. One of them at accosted her and continued the conversation for a few minutes, trying to make it appear that he had met Miss Parish at a mask ball recently given in Alvarado. The other fellow kept on behind and finally the first one asked her if she were going into town to make purchases, and suggested that such a journey would necessitate the use of money.

Miss Parish had several dollars in her purse, and when her companion reached this point in the conversation the other two started to close in around her. Frightened to death, she jumped off the railroad track on which she had been walking and started

back toward her home. The tramps ran after her, but she was so frightened that she succeeded in leaving them behind until they came to a plowed field in which was about two feet of mud. Without hesitating a moment Miss Parish started to cross the field, every step she took landing her in mud up to her knees. One of the tramps followed her half way across, but then gave up the chase.

The young lady arrived home a few minutes later in a highly nervous condition and has since been suffering from prostration. Her father started out with his gun and, procuring the aid of the constable, went in search of the tramps. That part of the country is at present all under water they could not travel very fast and the band of villains have not yet been captured. Miss Parish is very popular at Centerville, and it will go hard with the men who intercepted her should any of her friends run across them.

April 1897:
Sack of Flour:

The State Board of Trade now has the first sack of flour manufactured in California. The flour is in a sack of white satin, upon which a label setting forth that the contents were milled at Horner's Mill in Union City, California from the wheat crop of 1850. A certificate is also attached to the sack stating that it was exhibited in 1853 and awarded a prize of \$100. If we are not mistaken the mill was in Alameda County, as there was a Union City near Alvarado, where some manufacturing plants were operated.

April 1897:
Alvarado Booms:

Talk about "booming" no town in the county can compete with Alvarado. The two old Lattin buildings are being raised and the interiors are being newly remodeled and plastered. A new front will also be added to their beauty. Mrs. Faig's new hotel will also be a great improvement and will have 25 rooms. The Machado house, occupied by H. Henrickson, has been moved from where it stood to the extreme east end of the lot. The house just finished on the same lot, owned by S. Beebe, is now occupied by Mr. E. Weston and family. Also progressing is Dr. Hauber's cottage, where the foundation is being laid, Mrs. Bryden has had lumber delivered for the construction of her little cottage. Among those who will also be building shortly are W. Richmond, O.J. Emery, P. Sutherland, F.B. Granger Jr., J.M. Scribner, H. Goodall, and B.H. Ford. All of these houses will be built on the Granger tract with the exception of Beebe's and Scribner's.

July 1897:
Sunday Closings:

An effort is being made in the interior of the county to effect a Sunday closing of Saloons and stores. Citizens of Niles, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Centerville, Alvarado and Decoto are interested in the movement, and one of the leading mercantile firms at Niles has already set the example of Sunday closing.

August 1897:
Alvarado's Mosquito Legions:

The inspectors of the Board of Health have invaded the domain of the Alameda County dairyman, but will probably be compelled to retreat without accomplishing as much as they expected to. It is not threats of the law that daunt them, however, but the swarms of mosquitoes that attack them every time they venture out of doors,

and the difficulty of breathing the odors of the beet pulp on which the bovines are fed.

Dutton & Wright, the Alvarado dairymen, made no objection when the San Francisco inspectors called and announced their intention of testing the 180 cows of the establishment, for they desired to know themselves whether their cattle were afflicted with the dreaded tuberculosis, but the pests of the marsh were not so kind, and before the inspectors had been at work ten minutes they saw that they had something worse than injunctions to right. Mosquitoes came in squads and platoons and settled on every inch of exposed flesh that they could see.

They bored and bit until the inspectors were well nigh frantic, and they finally went indoors and held a consultation, deciding to finish that herd, if possible, and then quit.

Ben Davis came over yesterday with his head badly swelled from the effects of the bites, and said that all who were left behind were suffering intensely from the pests. Chief Food Inspector Dockery went over last evening to take charge, and carried a quantity of a lotion guaranteed to kill mosquitoes on sight.

As a result of their investigations at the Alvarado dairy of Dutton & Wright in August, the inspectors of the Board of Health found twenty out of fifty-nine cows affected with tuberculosis. The sick bovines will be brought to San Francisco and killed.

November 1897:

HP Dyer to Cleveland:

Mr. & Mrs. Harold P. Dyer and daughter, Jeannette, left their old home here for Cleveland Ohio, where they will reside for awhile. The E.H. Dyer Company has an office in Cleveland from which they operate the E.H. Dyer & Co. sugar refinery building business. Their many friends regret to see them leave.

January 20, 1898:

Death Takes Mrs. Fanetta Horner Ralph:

Mrs. Fanetta Ralph Died in San Francisco, January 20th. Mrs. Ralph was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Ralph, and mother of W.T. and I.V. Ralph and Mrs. F.W. Randolph. A native of New Jersey and late of Alvarado aged 77 years. She was the sister of John M. and William Y Horner.

January 20, 1898:

Band of Tramps:

A band of tramps, some fifty strong, have pitched their camp on the outskirts of Alvarado, and from this point of operation is terrorizing the contiguous country. The camp is on the line of the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge R.R. On January 21st a freight train was boarded by several of the desperadoes and relieved of considerable burden. They made off with three cases of ham, eggs, boxes of flour and coffee, and then jumped off themselves to rake up the scattered booty. On Wednesday night the deed was repeated. The gang makes a regular practice of traveling between Alvarado and Roberts Landing (Hayward). Southern Pacific authorities are at work on the case.

January 20 1898:

Death Takes Antone Lee Sr.:

After a lingering illness of five months Antone Lee, the old pioneer of Alvarado, passed away at his home Friday evening, January 20th, he was 55 years old. There

were 160 carriages filled with people at the funeral. The remains were taken to the IOOF Hall, which was packed to the doors. He was a member of the Masons and the Reliance Lodge of A. O. U. W. He was also a member of the Holy Ghost Society and the Portuguese Union.

February 24, 1898:

Death Takes William Hayes:

William Hayes, who has lived continuously on his ranch near Alvarado since 1852, died February 24th, at Alvarado at the age of 83. The deceased came to California in 1850, around the Horn, and at first began to work at his trade as a carpenter in San Francisco. Soon after he moved to Alvarado and worked in the first flourmill in the State.

March 1898:

Illegal Fishing:

For some weeks prior to the late storm the residents of Alvarado have been catching large steelheads in the tidewaters of Alameda Creek by means of nets and spears. The attention of the Fish Commissioners was called to this fact and Deputy Cross paid a visit to a slough near Alvarado, where the fish were lodged in deep pools. He discovered that nets had been used for the capture of the fish, and before leaving the deputy notified the people who were fishing unlawfully that if they persisted in netting or spearing steelheads the commissioners would make their sport cost them more than they bargained for.

April 1898:

Alvarado Entertainments:

Alvarado is not dead. On the 23rd of this month a grand ball was given by the UPEC. UPPEC is a Portuguese order, which numbers among its members some of our best citizens and businessmen. On May 13th, the Wisteria Parlor, No. 127, NSGW, will give a ball. On May 27, the Olivina Parlor, No. 61, NDGW, will give an entertainment and dance. The new Camp of the Woodman of the World, recently organized here, will follow suit.

July 2, 1898:

Death Takes Mrs. Anna Granger:

The many friends of Mrs. Anna Granger were shocked to hear of her sudden passing on July 2nd. She was interred at the Decoto Cemetery accompanied by many friends and relatives. She was 63 years old. She is survived by her sons, Farley B. Granger, Jr., of Alvarado and Clarence Granger of La Grande, Oregon and a daughter Mrs. E. E. Chase of San Jose.

July 1898:

DC Cameron Killed:

D. C. Cameron, a sheriff's deputy from Alvarado, was one of six people who died in an explosion at the site of the Western Fuse and Explosives Company, a short distance from High Street in Oakland. A desperate Chinese, Gung Ung Chang, took refuge from the sheriff's deputies in a powder magazine at the plant after having shot one of his countryman and hatched another, who died a short time later. Chang had taken shelter in the magazine and threatened to blow it to atoms if anyone came in after him. Eight people went in and only two were lucky enough to make it out.

September 1898:

Riverside Hotel Lit with Gas:

The Riverside Hotel presents a fine appearance illuminated throughout with its gas lights, as also are the following; the store of Ralph & Harvey, and both their residences. We understand that a plant will be put in at the residence of C. R. Nauert next week. No doubt our town will soon be illuminated throughout with gas.

February 26, 1899:

Death takes Weston F. Emery:

Weston F. Emery died in Alvarado, February 26th. Weston F. Emery was the beloved husband of Diantha F. Emery, and father of Orman J., Guy C., Blanche Richmond, Laura, Roy, Inez, Barbara and Aldythe Emery, a native of Maine, aged 59 years.

August 1899:

George Simpson's Gold:

\$10,000 in gold coin (1899 pricing, over \$200,000 at today's value) lies buried in downtown Alvarado. It was buried years ago by a tight fisted miser, George Simpson, who despised his wife, and made sure she would never come across it. He did make a map of the treasure and entrusted it to two close friends before his death. The two persons that inherited the map were William Kent, a well-known Alvarado liquor man, and John Aylward of Livermore. No record has ever been found that shows they located the buried treasure (in an oyster can), which means that it must still be there for the taking. The location of the site? Lot 7, Block 35, on the corner of Levee Street and Maiden Lane.

October 1899:

New Post Office Boxes:

The old post office boxes at the post office have been replaced with new ones, which are much more convenient.

October 1899:

Chinaman Attacked:

While intoxicated, Mr. Rose of Hayward knocked down a Chinaman, and made deep gash on his eye and three gashes on his nose. When getting up, the Chinaman resented the assault and was wiping the street with Mr. Rose, when George Horne separated them. Mr. Rose ran away.

October 1899:

Traveling Medicine Show:

A traveling medicine company gave open-air concerts for two evenings, and the third night ended up with an entertainment at the IOOF Hall. Dancing was indulged in until 12 o'clock.

November 1899:

Lazy Chickens:

Eggs are higher in price this fall than a year ago, and were higher last fall than they were the year before. An observing Alvarado farmer accounts for it by the fact that people are raising more fancy poultry. He says the new kind are so high bred and so lazy that they have to be lifted to their roosts at night and they are too lazy to lay eggs.

November 1899:

Backward Horse:

A young man from Alvarado put on quite a show in Hayward the other day. It seems as though try as he may, the horse would not go forward. Even after a genius experimented by drawing a rope rapidly across the horse's forelegs and started him

going, the brute stopped short after about fifty yards. The horse's specialty was backing up, and this he did to the queen's taste backing and falling in all directions at once. At last the young man from the sugar city had a happy thought. He turned the horse's head towards Hayward, the rear of the buggy towards Alvarado, and plied the whip vigorously. The horse resumed his backing tactics, and when last seen was backing down the Alvarado road at a two mile gait, more or less.

December 5, 1899:

Death takes Farley B. Granger Sr.:

Farley B. Granger, Sr., one of the oldest residents of Washington Township, died in his sleep in Alvarado December 5th after an illness of two weeks. Mr. Granger was 70 years old at the time of death. He came to Washington Township about forty years ago and settled in Alvarado. For the last sixteen years he was the proprietor of the Riverside Hotel at Alvarado. He also owned extensive farming interests. He was the father of Mrs. E.E. Chase, Farley B Granger Jr., and Clarence A. Granger.

News articles that are not by themselves large enough to warrant their own category, but help tell the story of Alvarado by events, the people of Alvarado, or by the town itself.